

## SUPPORT AND MEMBERSHIP

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Completed membership form to be sent:

~ by email to [contact@louis-appia.ch](mailto:contact@louis-appia.ch)

~ by post to

Soci t  Louis Appia

Route du Grand Lancy 92

1212 Grand-Lancy

Suisse

## LOUIS APPIA SOCIETY

Created in Geneva on the 4th of March 2017, the society aims to study and bring wider recognition of the personality and work of Dr Louis Appia, particularly his contribution to the foundation and influence of the Red Cross with Henry Dunant, General Guillaume Henri Dufour, Gustave Moynier and Dr Th odore Maunoir.

~ **Louis Appia Committee:** Laurence Appia, Louis Appia, Val rie Appia, Roger Durand, Val rie Lathion, Bertrand Pictet, Olivier Pictet;

~ **Scientific Council:** Gabriella Ballesio, Roger Durand, Filippo Maria Giordano, Val rie Lathion, Guy Le Comte, Olivier Pictet, Philipp Rieder, Rainer Schl sser, Paolo Vanni.

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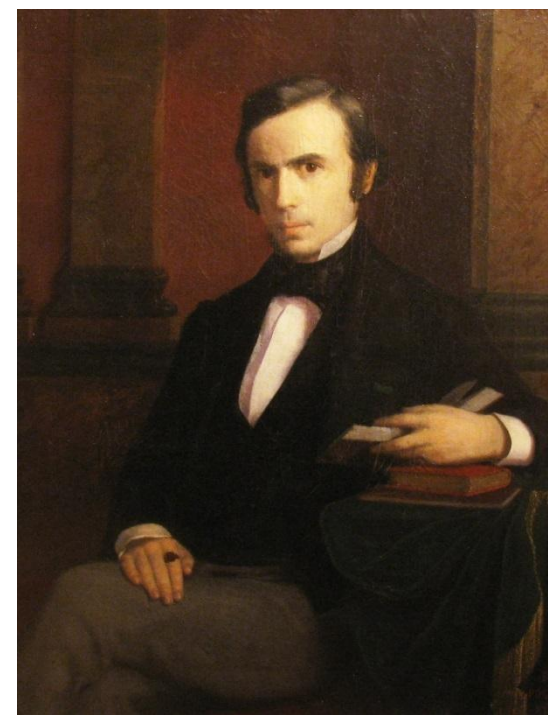


Picture of Louis Appia, project of a stretcher on wheels

# Dr Louis APPIA

## 1818 ~ 1898

**Bicentenary of birth  
of a doctor, philanthropic and  
pioneer of humanitarian action**



Portrait of Louis Appia by Fran ois Poggi, 1859

## PRECURSOR, ACTOR AND WITNESS

### EUROPEAN CONNECTIONS

~ **Germany**: born in Hanau where his father was a pastor, student in Frankfurt then Doctor of Medicine at the University of Heidelberg.

~ **Switzerland**: moves to the canton of Geneva in 1849, becomes a citizen of Geneva in 1860.

~ **Italy**: member of a family originating from the Valdese valleys in Piedmont where his father was born and where his brother George became a pastor.

~ **France**: family connections in Paris, doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Medicine of Paris.

### EARLY COMMITMENT

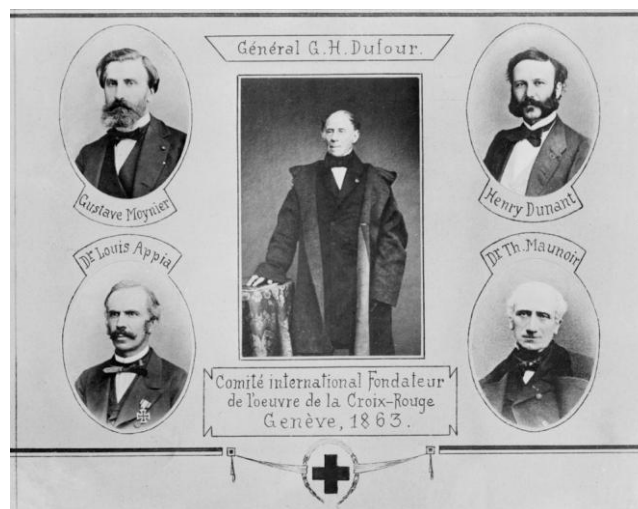
~ **philanthropist and doctor**: expounds principles of hygiene in Geneva in public lectures, promotes pediatric care, militates against alcoholism;

~ **emergency physician**: champions first aid and the “gesture that saves”, assists the wounded during the Revolution in Paris in 1848;

~ **pioneer of humanitarianism**: Louis Appia describes his experience as a military physician in the war in the North of Italy in the *Ambulance Surgeon* in 1859, three years before Henry Dunant’s *A Memory of Solferino*, which launches the basic principles of the Red Cross;

~ **committed Christian**: member of the Evangelical Society of Geneva, he puts his faith and convictions into practice in serving his fellow men;

~ **co-founder of the Red Cross**: in 1863 becomes one of the five members of the *International Committee founder of the work of the Red Cross* (ICRC); he becomes the Secretary of the ICRC after Henry Dunant’s resignation in 1867.



International Committee founder of the work of Red Cross, Geneva in 1863

~ **first delegate of ICRC**: in April 1864 with Charles van de Velde during the Second Schleswig War. On their return they publish a significant report about the feasibility of the Red Cross before the diplomatic Conference in August 1864, which led to the Geneva Convention.



« *The sign which you are wearing is a sufficient recommendation; we all know what it means. You are here for the wellbeing of all* » says marshal Wrangel to Louis Appia wearing the armband which is kept at the *Museum of the International Red Cross and of the Red Crescent in Geneva*.

### A LONG LASTING COMMITMENT

~ **field surgeon**: tests the approach of the Red Cross on battlefields in 1866 during the battle of Bezzecca (Trentin) where he meets Garibaldi, then in 1870 during the Franco-German war;

~ **servicing the institution**: member of the ICRC he attends meetings and participates in the conferences of the International Red Cross for more than thirty years; ambassador and key theoretician of military and civil humanitarian action;

~ **promoting the humanitarian message**: with Gustave Moynier he publishes the standard work *War and Charity*; communicates with Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross; presents the Convention of Geneva and the action of the ICRC in Cairo.

## COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENARY

### Four countries, four events:

~ **Switzerland, 2018 October 12 - 14**

in Geneva, exhibition, scientific symposium, placing a memorial plaque, visits to various historical places.

~ **Germany, 2018 November 3 - 6**

in Hanau, exhibition, conference, baptism of a place dedicated to Louis Appia, as part of the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Red Cross in the town.

~ **France, 2018 November 7**

in Paris, exhibition, conference.

~ **Italy, 2019 October 12 - 13**

in Torre Pellice, exhibition, colloquium, baptism of a place dedicated to Louis Appia.

### Some publications:

biography of Louis Appia; Louis Appia's letters to Samuel Lehmann; catalogs of the exhibition ( French, English).

Read more on: <http://www.louis-appia.ch>