SUPPORT AND MEMBERSHIP

Subscription:

~ youth / student: 10 € or 10 CHF ☐
~ individual: 50 € ou 50 CHF ☐
~ couple : 70 € ou 70 CHF ☐
~ support: from 100 € or 100 CHF ☐
amount .....

Payment:
Transfer to the Louis Appia Society to
PostFinance SA - Mingerstrasse 20, CH - 3030 Bern
- Switzerland:

- bank account in CHF
  IBAN : CH84 0900 0000 1403 5132 9
- bank account in EUR
  IBAN : CH91 0900 0000 9161 7068 6

BIC : POFICHBEXXX
Euro SIC Clearing n° : 090002
(Please do not send cheques)

Name .....

First name .....

Address .....

.....

Email .....

Phone numbers .....

Completed membership form to be sent:

~ by email to contact@louis-appia.ch
~ by post to
Société Louis Appia
C/O Centre Henry Dunant
Route du Grand Lancy 92
1212 Grand-Lancy
Suisse

GOALS AND COMMITTEE

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 Théodore Maunoir.

~ Louis Appia Committee: Louis Appia, Françoise Dubosson, Roger Durand, Nevart Kristensen, Valérie Lathion, Natacha Mottas, Bertrand Pictet, Olivier Pictet;

~ Scientific Council: Maria Grazia Baccolo, Gabriella Ballesio, Françoise Dubosson, Nicolas Durand, Roger Durand, Valérie Lathion, Olivier Pictet, Rainer Schlösser.

~ Email address: contact@louis-appia.ch

~ Website: https://www.louis-appia.ch

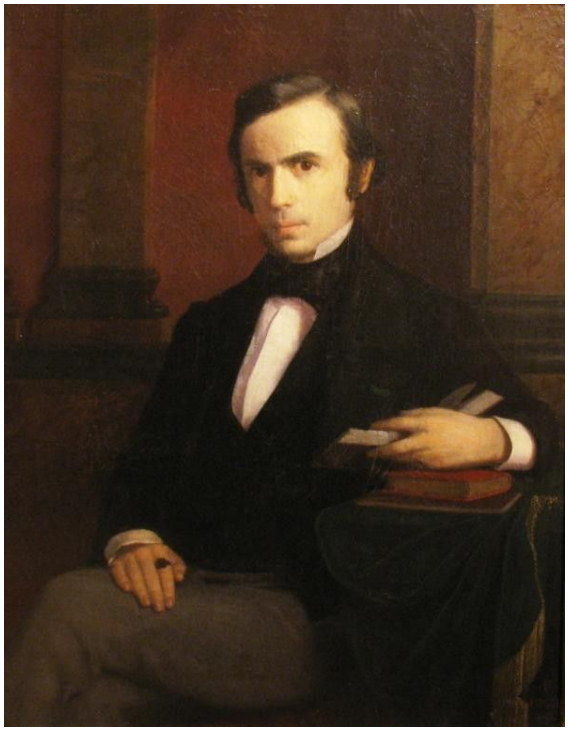
~ Phone: +41 79 666 58 23

Picture of Louis Appia, project of a stretcher on wheels

OP : 28.03.2026

LOUIS APPIA SOCIETY

Dr Louis APPIA (1818-1898) precursor, co-founder and pioneer of humanitarianism



Portrait of Louis Appia by François Poggi, 1859

Read more on: https://www.louis-appia.ch

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.

EARLY COMMITMENT

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

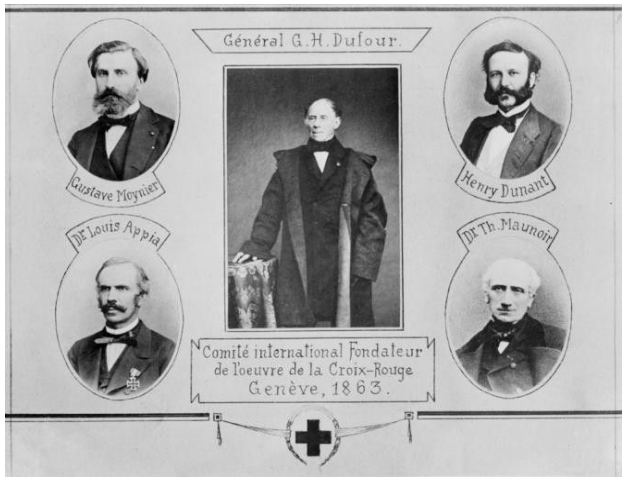
~ emergency physician: champions first aid and the "gesture that saves", assists the wounded during the Revolution in Paris in 1848;

~ pioneer of humanitarianism: Louis Appia describes his experience as a field surgeon 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.

~ 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.



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

"*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's aide-de-camp to Louis Appia wearing the armband which is kept preserved 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;

~ serving 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.

PROGRAM 2026

For more information, please consult the website : www.louis-appia.ch

~ 21 January: Meeting with members of the Appia family in Paris.

~ 25-29 March: Study trip to Paris, Nesle-la-Vallée and Limeil-Brévannes. Session with the French Red Cross, visit to a Red Cross museum, exhibition on *the five founders of the ICRC*.

~ 9 May: World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day at the International Red Cross Museum.

~ 28 April, 10am : General Meeting at the Henry Dunant Centre, 92 Route du Grand-Lancy, 1212 Grand-Lancy. Presentation of the new biography of *Louis Appia, 1818–1895*, by Roger and Nicolas Durand.

~ 9-12 June: Study trip to Torre Pellice. Launch of the booklet *The School for Poor Girls of the Coppiers*, founded by Georges Appia and Joséphine Berio d'Espine. *The Appias and Social Christianity*, edited by Olivier Pictet.

~ 18-25 August: Study trip to Copenhagen and Schleswig. Launch of the *Complete War Diary of Louis Appia, March–May 1864*.

~ Autumn: Study trip to Paris, following in the footsteps of Caroline, Louis, Louise, Georges and Henry Appia.

Among the publications:

Louis APPIA, Journal de guerre, Kriegstagebuch, War diary, Krigsjournal, Diario di guerra.
Letter to his wife Anna, for the attention of Gustave Moynier, Berlin, 26 March 1864.
Geneva, Dybbøl and Düppel, 22 August 2024, 220 pages;

Louis Appia, missionnaire de l'humanitaire. Contributions pour son bicentenaire.
Louis Appia, Apostel der Menschlichkeit. Beiträge zu seinem zweihundertsten Geburstag,
Munich, AVM.edition et Société Henry Dunant, 2023, 253 and 243 pages.

Louis Appia, 1818-1898. Premier mondialiste de l'humanitaire, exhibition catalogue, in French, English and Italian, Geneva, 2018, 52 pages

Article on "Advice from the doctor Louis Appia to his nephew theologian Louis Appia".