

A PUBLICATION ON RED CROSS STAMPS

The Centenary Commission of the Red Cross in Switzerland formed, as is known, by the three Red Cross institutions established in Switzerland, the ICRC, the League and the Swiss Red Cross has just published a General Catalogue on Red Cross Stamps, a fine work, lavishly illustrated, of 296 pages¹.

This is due to Mr. Max-Marc Thomas who has for many years been collecting Red Cross stamps of which he has made systematic documentation. Being in touch with the principal collectors of Red Cross stamps throughout the world, he has asked their advice in doubtful cases.

Presented in a handsome cover and printed on glossy paper, this catalogue contains nearly a thousand reproductions of stamps listed.

These are divided into three categories :

- a) Usual postage stamps commemorating the Red Cross in words, by illustration or on the edges of sheets, issued in agreement with the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society.
- b) Usual postage stamps without Red Cross indications, but sold for the benefit of the Red Cross or for its use.
- c) Stamps with topical or historical Red Cross subjects and activities, but not recognized by the Red Cross.

Mr. Thomas has had the excellent idea of indicating for each country the date of foundation of the National Red Cross (Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun) Society and also the date of those countries' accession to the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

The work is completed by a list of International Conferences of the Red Cross and Diplomatic Conferences which drew up the

¹ *Catalogue général des timbres Croix-Rouge*. Can be obtained from the League of Red Cross Societies (Chemin des Crêts 17, Petit-Saconnex, Geneva) for 20 Swiss francs.

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Geneva Conventions, a list of the ICRC's Presidents and of the League's Chairmen and Secretaries-General and a list of sessions of the Board of Governors and Regional Inter-American Conferences. It also contains a brief outline of the organisation of the International Red Cross.

Written in French, the catalogue has an explanatory introduction in English, Spanish and German, thus facilitating its use.

Several catalogues have already been produced of which mention has been made in the *International Review*. This is, however, the first time that such a complete catalogue has appeared. It will certainly render much service to collectors and will encourage amateurs to collect Red Cross stamps.

C. P.