

MELANIE OPPENHEIMER  
CAROLYN COLLINS

To commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the creation of the IFRC (formerly known as the League of Red Cross Societies), we commissioned two historians to write a short biography of Henry Pomeroy Davison, our visionary founder.

In the aftermath of the First World War, he sought to develop the Red Cross Movement across the world, to improve health, prevent disease and relieve suffering in peacetime. Using a range of archival sources and images, the book charts the story of Henry Davison from small town America to uncompromising Wall Street Banker and global philanthropist and humanitarian. He had the capacity to bring people together, to lead with talent and passion, and to encourage others with his energy and commitment to the Red Cross Movement.

The book provides us with a fascinating insight into the character of our founder and outlines the historical background to the first years of what became the IFRC, that today has more than 190 national society members and 13,7 million volunteers.

**Melanie Oppenheimer** is Professor and Chair of History within the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, Flinders University, Australia. She has been researching and writing about Red Cross history for over 30 years. Melanie is the centenary historian of Australian Red Cross and wrote, *The Power of Humanity. 100 Years of Australian Red Cross* (2014). She is also an Ambassador for Australian Red Cross. [Melanie.oppenheimer@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Melanie.oppenheimer@flinders.edu.au).

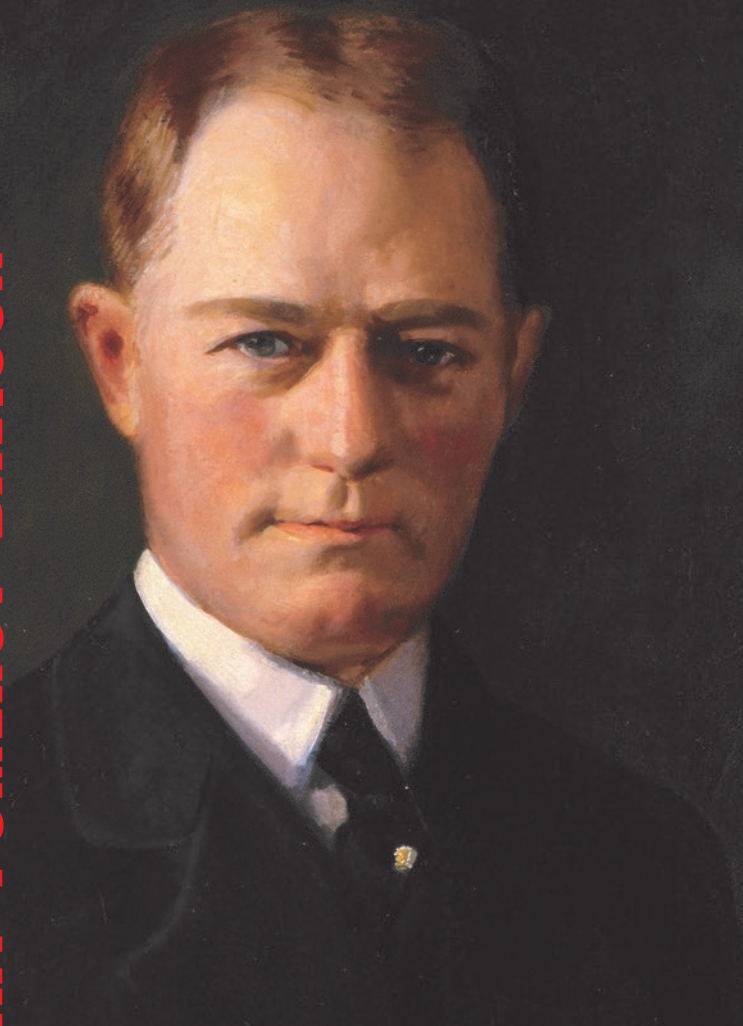
**Carolyn Collins** is a Visiting Research Fellow in the Department of History at the University of Adelaide, Australia. Her PhD thesis based on a history of the anti-conscription group Save our Sons (SOS) during the Vietnam War was awarded the University Doctoral Research Medal in 2016. [Carolyn.collins@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:Carolyn.collins@adelaide.edu.au).



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Société Henry Dunant  
International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

