

THE 1944 OLYMPIC MOVEMENT and POLISH RED CROSS

The Woldenberg "Red Cross" CANCELLER

Olive branches 80 1864 – 1944 Red Cross Miluj blizniego
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The intention behind the design of this canceller is misrepresented in the literature – auction catalogues, philatelic historiographies, specialist articles – is reviewed by the author. The canceller is philosophical in nature and speaks for itself. It NEVER was intended to celebrate the foundation of the Polish Red Cross; and the appropriateness of its use in relation to Cinderellas marking THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT REMEMBERED is questionable.

The Polish inscription reads "**Miluj blizniego**" which translated means Love Thy Neighbour (Matthew 22.39).

The First Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field, held on 22 August 1864, was the first of four treaties of the Geneva Conventions. It defines "the basis on which rest the rules of international law for the protection of the victims of armed conflicts." After the first treaty was adopted in **1864**, it was significantly revised and replaced in 1906, 1929, and finally 1949. It is inextricably linked to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which is both the instigator for the inception and enforcer of the articles in these conventions.

The Polish Red Cross (*Polski Czerwony Krzyż*, abbr. PCK) was founded in **1919** by Dr. Benjamin Reschovsky of the Warsaw City Hospital and recognized by the International Red Cross on 24 July 1919, its first President Paweł Jan Piotr Sapieha. A Polish aristocrat.

