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ARNOVA

Presents the

The 2022 Peter Dobkin Hall History of Philanthropy Book Prize

to

Shai M. Dromi

for

Above the Fray: The Making of the Humanitarian Relief NGO Sector

The 2022 Dobkin Award Committee members, Lauren Azevedo, Sheela Pandey, Shuyang Peng, and Michael J. Worth, are delighted to report that *Above the Fray* by Shai M. Dromi wins the award for the published book that makes the most significant scholarly contribution to understanding of the history of philanthropy.

Shai M. Dromi's *Above the Fray* provides fresh new insights into how international humanitarian NGOs have become hallowed institutions in contemporary society, politics, law, and culture. To understand the evolution and expansion of humanitarian NGOs, Dromi examines the history of the oldest and largest network of humanitarian organizations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and its founding committee, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He reports that in the 1860s, when ICRC spread the ideas of impartiality, neutrality, universality and advocated for "volunteer humanitarian organizations as an autonomous sector", the ICRC faced intense ethical criticism. Dromi highlights how the ICRC established itself, expanded its scope and operations, persevered for more than a century, and created the groundwork and infrastructure for other humanitarian NGOs that followed. ICRC's organizational model has now become the gold standard for humanitarian work worldwide. Using the example of the Geneva Convention, Dromi notes that the ICRC was instrumental in providing legal protections to humanitarian NGOs which have a long history of providing aid in conflict zones. Dromi's historical account provides much needed perspective on what nonprofits serving challenging goals need to do to meet their ideals.