

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

**Band:** - (1972)

**Heft:** 1648

**Nachruf:** Alfred Schmid

**Autor:** [s.n.]

#### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

#### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

#### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 22.02.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

also reached about half the Swiss population abroad by the four-yearly handout of official information. This will also reach the Swiss of English-speaking countries.

Personal assistance and information continues to remain one of the most important concerns of the Secretariat, which has dealt with a great many individual cases. The year has seen important changes as regards Old Age Pension. It is now possible to subscribe to AHV after 41. Invalidity benefits have been equalised with those implemented at home.

The 49th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad took place in Brunnen and dealt with the particular situation of the Swiss abroad, submitted to the influence of the Motherland and their country of residence.

The Youth Service of the Secretariat, apart from its counselling and information through the "Weltwoche", organised four holiday camps in which 186 teenagers participated. The hundred young Swiss abroad who had come voluntarily from 24 countries to carry out their national service were not forgotten. They received a traditional parcel of goodies and some of them accepted an invitation to an outing to Mitholz. Eight recruits took part in the Assembly for the Swiss Abroad at Brunnen.

The Solidarity Fund for the Swiss Abroad had 516 new members subscribing a yearly 57,650 francs and laying down a sum of 413,550 francs. Nine Swiss nationals in Egypt, Bolivia, Algeria, Chile and Sudan had reason to be thankful for their mem-

bership to the Fund. They were entitled to draw assistance valued at 145,000 francs. Both columns of the income and expenditure account of the Secretariat stand at 739,988 francs. The main items of expenditure are "Echo", which costs 224,790 francs to run (but has an income of 201,735 francs), the Youth Service (128,000 francs), communications with colonies abroad and personal counselling (83,000 francs). Nearly 44,000 francs were spent on the Brunnen Assembly.

Revenue (besides that of "Echo") mainly comes from the Foundation for the Swiss Abroad (305,000 francs), and a Federal subsidy of 105,000 francs. Excess of expenditure was slightly short of 14,000 francs.

(PMB)

## NEWS FROM THE COLONY

### 30 YEARS OF SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION

*In a recent survey of Swiss Events in London 30 years ago, we omitted to mention the creation of the Swiss Catholic Mission, which was founded on the National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving 1942. It was on this day that the foundation AGM was held. In the following, Father Bossard recalls an event which was not recorded in the "Swiss Observer" at the time:*

When, in 1936, Rev. Attilio Lanfranchi was appointed Chaplain for foreigners at the Westminster Cathedral, it became more and more desirable and necessary for the Swiss Catholics to have a chaplain of their own to look after the many Swiss aged and infirm. A decisive move came from the Swiss Benevolent Society. Under Colonel Bon, who was then president, and Mr. J. J. Boos, a small committee was formed in April 1942 and supported by the Swiss Minister, Mr. W. Thurnheer, an appeal was made to Cardinal A. Hinsley of Westminster to release Rev. A. Lanfranchi from Cathedral duties in order to devote his time to the service of the Swiss Colony who had approximately 2,000 catholics. The request was granted under the condition that the Swiss provide for his maintenance and that suitable accommodation could be found. It was stressed that the Committee together with their Chaplain would work in close collaboration with the Swiss Benevolent Society, the Eglise Suisse un die Deutsch-Schweizerkirche in the true Swiss Spirit of tolerance and co-operation for the spiritual and moral welfare of the Colony.

With great effort, untiring and often frustrating work, Rev. Lanfranchi, supported by the members of the committee, began to organise the Swiss Catholic Mission, undertook the spiritual and social work among the Swiss with great zel, baptising the children, hearing confessions, celebrating weddings, attending to numerous sick calls and many funerals, especially during the war.

He made social contact with many young Swiss and established a Swiss Youth Club in Westminster, then known as "Alpenrosen-Club", and was even able to form and conduct a church choir. Besides that a suitable and permanent accommodation had to be found, which proved a very difficult task for the Committee. Different churches, presbyteries and private accommodation had to be tried out until, in October 1952, with the co-operation of the Swiss Minister, M. de Torrenté, St. Ann's Church in Abbey Orchard Street was made available. It became a centre of contact and pastorale for the Swiss in London until 1972.

After having prepared the foundations solid and strong Rev. A. Lanfranchi returned to Switzerland and was replaced in 1958 by Rev. J. Scherer who continued and consolidated the work, especially the care for the many young people who come to London in ever increasing numbers.

Unfortunately St. Ann's Church in Abbey Orchard Street was not in a position to celebrate the 20th anniversary as residence of the Swiss Catholic Mission. It was sold and closed down on 18th February, 1972 for demolition. It still stands untouched, but empty and sealed, perhaps for a few more years to come.

But the work of the Swiss Catholic Mission is carried on in 48 Great Peter Street and it is hoped that the new premises, as old as they are, will soon become a home and a centre of contact for the Swiss Youth in London in close collaboration with the Swiss Protestant Community and the local Community of the neighbourhood.

Paul Bossard

### ALFRED SCHMID

In the issue of 25th August we reported the death on 10th August of Mr. Alfred Schmid, of "Westfield", School Lane, Hatfield, Herts. With him a well known personality has gone from the Swiss community in London, although bad health had for some time kept him from attending special events of the kind he used to delight in coming to.

Alfred Schmid was born on 2nd September, 1887 at the "Schwert", Oberstammheim, Zurich. By tradition he was destined to a career in catering, and he certainly made a success of it. He served his apprenticeship as cook at the Hotel St. Gotthard in Zurich, followed by a period as cook in Paris ("Chez Laurens") and at the Deauville Casino.

In 1914, he did his military service in the Swiss Cavalry, but he got leave of absence very soon and came to London at the end of that year. During the First World War, all public restaurants had to be closed by 8 p.m. and all dinners were held in private suites on the floors. Thus the duties of Floor Head Waiter were of great importance, and it was as such

that Alfred Schmid worked at the Savoy Hotel in London until early 1919.

On 12th May, 1919 began the fame of the Glendower Hotel in Kensington when he started this thriving business which is still run by the family today. Many were the dinners organised at the Glendower, both privately and by Swiss societies. It became the home of the Swiss Rifle Association of which Alfred Schmid was a founder member and active supporter right to his retirement. He was also a member and Honorary Member of the Union Helvetia, and he was a member of the City Swiss Club which he joined in 1933. Mr. and Mrs. Schmid were created Life Members by the Swiss Philatelic Society; this organisation, too, enjoyed Glendower hospitality for many years and benefitted from Alfred Schmid's talent for turning the austerity meals of the war and afterwards into minor banquets. His catering abilities were also enjoyed by thousands at the annual "Fête Suisse" at Westminster Central Hall.

Alfred Schmid and his family have been supporters of the Swiss Church in London, and at the beginning of the war, he was instrumental in setting up a Home for Swiss people in conjunction with the Swiss Benevolent Society. This was at "Westfield" at Hatfield, which later became the family's home. But best remembered by his friends is the "Bernerstube" in his flat across from the Glendower Hotel where many a happy hour was spent by his special cronies.

He was an energetic man with a jovial personality, though he could be very stern and hard, which no doubt helped him in making a success. He was lucky in having a capable wife who was his loyal mate throughout his life in London. May we be permitted to repeat the expressions of condolence already expressed to her and her family. The loss of a companion after 56 years and only a few years after the tragic death of their son, is a heavy blow, but we trust that the many happy memories and the sympathy of her friends will be a consolation in her grief.

In October Alfred Schmid's ashes were to be interred in the family grave at Gsteig near Interlaken. A faithful Swiss will thus return to his homeland.

MM

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### SWISS CHURCH:

- Bazaar. Saturday, 4th November, 12 a.m. at the Westminster Central Hall.
- Doyens Evening. Saturday, 2nd December, 5 p.m.
- Christmas Tree Celebration. French-speaking Parish: 10th December at 3 p.m. German-speaking Parish: 17th December

at 4 p.m.

—Christmas Service on 25th December at 11.15 a.m. for French-speaking Parish.

**NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE:** Thursday, 16th November, 7 p.m. at Swiss Embassy, 16-18 Montagu Place, W.1. Open Meeting. Talk in English on the Activities of a Swiss Member of Parliament by Councillor of States, Dr. Louis Guisan, President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad. All Swiss and their friends welcome.

**SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY:** Wednesday, 8th November, Swiss House, 7 p.m. Monthly Meeting.

**LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** 27th October, Swiss House, 7.30 p.m. "Informal philately" by K. F. Chapman, FRPSL.

## CULTURAL EVENTS

Wednesday, 8th November, 8 p.m. Royal Festival Hall, First performance of a new work for choir, soloists and orchestra by *Heinz Holliger*, commissioned by the BBC.

Until 3rd November at the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London, SW7: Exhibition of "Swiss Graphic Design".

Until 28th October at the Cooling Galleries, 38 Albermarle Street, London, W1: Exhibition by the Swiss Artist Marianne Grant "Kaleidoscope of Switzerland".

**We are looking**  
for a qualified, mature  
**BOOK-KEEPER/ACCOUNTANT**

Knowledge of German desirable.  
Please submit applications which will be kept strictly confidential to:

The Company Secretary,  
Buhler Brothers (England) Ltd.,  
The Wood House, Cockfosters,  
Barnet, Herts.

## ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS

We send congratulations and best wishes to three couples who will be celebrating their wedding anniversaries shortly: Monsieur l'Ambassadeur and Madame Jean de Stoutz (Moscow) and Consul General and Mrs. Enrico Tosio (Karachi) will both have been married for 30 years on 24th October. On 6th November, Dr. H. W. Egli and his wife Miss Selma Vaz Dias, will celebrate the 36th anniversary of their marriage.

Mr. N. H. Leuzinger will be 75 on 31st October, and Mr. J. Oertli will have his 76th birthday on 10th November.

To these and any other readers who will have a birthday or anniversary within the next few weeks we send congratulations and best wishes.

## SWISS CHURCH

**SERVICES EN FRANCAIS:** à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches a 11h15 et 19h00.

**PERMANENCE:** chaque jeudi de 15h00 à dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

**SAINTE-CENE:** le premier et troisième 18h00.

**REUNION DE QUARTIER:** huit veillées en automne et au printemps: voir "Le Messager".

**CLUB DES JEUNES:** tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

**REUNION DE COUTURE:** le 2e mardi du mois.

**LUNCH:** tous les dimanches a 13h00.

**VISITES:** sur demande.

**PASTEUR:** A. Nicod, 7 Park View Road, London, N.3. Téléphone 01-346 5281.

• • •

**SERVICES IN GERMAN:** at Eglise Suisse, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2, every Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday school takes place on the first and the third Sunday in the month for children of all age groups. Children assemble in the church with their parents who attend the normal Service. Services also at John Southworth Centre, 48 Gt. Peter Street, S.W.1 every Sunday at 6.30 p.m.

**HOLY COMMUNION:** every first Sunday of the month at evening service only. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

**CONSULTATIONS:** every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

**DISTRICT GROUP S.E.21 and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON:** see "Stimme."

**"KONTAKT"** (Youth Group): every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 7 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

**WOMEN'S CIRCLE:** every first Tuesday of the month from 12 noon onwards at the Eglise Suisse.

**MOTHER'S REUNION:** third Wednesday in the month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Eglise Suisse.

**VISITS:** by request.

**MINISTERS:** Pfr. M. Dietler, 1, Womersley Road, N.8. Tel: 01-340 6018 and Pfr. U. Stefan, 3, Womersley Road, N.8. Tel: 01-340 9740.

**SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION:** John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HA.

Sundays: Holy Mass as 6.30 p.m. with sermon in German, in the Club hall, ground floor.

(2nd floor at the same time, Protestant service in German).

**CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS:** by appointment.

**SERVICES EN FRANCAIS:** Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, W.C.2, on Sundays, 10.00, 11.00, 12.15, and 6.30 p.m.

**SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB:** Open every Sunday from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. (48 Great Peter Street). Discussions, dance, lectures (with members of other denominations), Sunday services and refreshments. See programme "Die Stimme."

During the week: open according to programme of the English Youth Club.

**RESIDENCE OF CHAPLAIN:** Paul Bossard, Swiss Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street, (2nd floor), London SW1P 2HA. Telephone: 01-222 2895.