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to follow his officers to take pictures all of which are still in perfect condition.

Out of the 1,050 volunteers who had left for Switzerland, only a good dozen returned, amongst them young Schmid who took a job as head chef caterer at the Coburg Court Hotel. Later he bought the White City Restaurant and delicatessen shop. He had a staff of 20 and sold 1,000 chickens every week.

It was in 1929 that he decided to run his own hotel and bought No. 18 Norfolk Square, to which he later added No. 20. He turned an empty shell into a hotel and became a well-known personality in the district. During the Second World War, he held the post of chief fire watcher of Paddington. Norfolk Court was the only hotel open in the square, serving coffee in the street to those who had been bombed out.

During the 45 years he has been at the hotel, his talents as a chef were often required at outside functions, such as Buckingham Palace, the Mansion House and once at the House of Lords, together with Mr. Jurien and Mr. Lehner, at a banquet for the Victoria Cross recipients.

It was not until he was nearly 60, that Adolphe Schmid married. He and his wife Mona had two daughters and a son.

Adolphe Schmid used to be a prominent figure in the Swiss community. He is the only one alive of the founders of the Swiss Rifle Association (1920). In 1922 he was *Schützenkönig*, and his name is engraved on the Paravicini Cup. He has been a member of long standing of the Swiss Philatelic Society — he owns one of the

most beautiful stamp collections. He was one of the first members of the Union Helvetia, receiving a gold medal after 25 years' membership, and one of the founder members of the now extinct Swiss Jass Club. Adolphe Schmid is one of the oldest subscribers of the *Swiss Observer*, too, having taken out a subscription soon after the paper was started in 1920.

And now, he is a nonagenarian, but an extremely fit one — only last year he drove his car to Switzerland, *alone*. He is still very proud to be a Swiss in spite of his full and interesting life in this country. We wish him and his family an enjoyable birthday and many more happy years of good health and well-being.

MM

### AN IMPORTANT VISITOR TO THE SWISS COMMUNITY IN LONDON

Mr. Philippe Garraux, Berne, inland member of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, paid a visit to the Swiss community in London. He gave an illustrated lecture on the young generation of creative artists in Switzerland to the Nouvelle Société Helvétique at the Swiss Embassy on 20th November. A dinner in his and Mrs. Garraux's honour afterwards was attended by NSH Council members.

On Friday morning, 21st November, Mr. and Mrs. Garraux paid a visit to the College of the Swiss Mercantile Society, where they saw students at work at various stages of their studies of English, including the new language laboratory. The President of the Society, Mr. A. Jaccard, the Secretary, Mr. W. Burren and the Principal, Mr. E. W. Makin, M.A. received the guests, including Mrs. M. Meier, U.K. Delegate to the Commission of the Swiss Abroad and an old member of the SMS. Mr. Garraux expressed admiration and appreciation of

the excellent work done by the Society and the College where an average of 250 Swiss students attend.

The same evening, Mr. and Mrs. Garraux attended the Annual Banquet and Ball of the City Swiss Club as guests of one of the members. They thus had an opportunity of meeting some more personalities of the Swiss community. Such visits certainly contribute towards better knowledge and understanding between the authorities at home and the Swiss communities abroad.

MM

### LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Wednesday, 28th January, 1976 — Monthly meeting followed by a display of Switzerland by Mr. F. Bulstrode.

Friday, 27th February, 1976 — Annual Dinner at the Presscala Club, Fleet Street.

Wednesday, 31st March, 1976 — Monthly meeting followed by C.P.G. slides.



## Forthcoming events

Saturday, 31st January, 1976 — The Swiss Mercantile Society's annual dinner and dance at the Dorchester. Non-members are welcome. For details telephone 01-637 3609.

Wednesday, 28th January — Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 pm — *Michel Tabachnik* conducts the London Sinfonietta in a programme of works by Gabrieli and Xenakis.

Friday, 30th January — Purcell Room, 7.30 pm — *Prelude, Arioso and Fugetta on the name of BACH* by *Arthur Honegger* is one of the works played by the pianist Niel Immelman.

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