The address Rumpffsweg 27 is a historic site in Hamburg-Hamm.

Arno Schmidt was born on January 18, 1914, in the house that stood here until 1943. That summer, World War I began. Schmidt's schooling ended in March 1933.

- After World War II war ended in 1945, Schmidt worked as a literary translator and freelance journalist for the *Nordwestdeutscher Rundfunk* (Northwest German Broadcasting). He went on to become one of the defining writers of the West German postwar era.
- Today, his literary estate is cared for by the *Arno Schmidt Stiftung* (Arno Schmidt Foundation), the *Bargfelder Bote* (a literary journal), and the *Gesellschaft der Arno Schmidt Leser* (GASL / Society of Arno Schmidt Readers).
- Arno Schmidt's time in Hamburg: It ended in September 1928 with the death of his father, when the young family moved to Lauban in Silesia. In that late summer, his widowed mother was 33, his sister Luzie was 17, and Arno was 14½. For Schmidt, this also marked the "end of childhood"—the loss of his father, along with the familiar world of teachers and classmates. It was not until later in life, in the mid-1970s, that he reconnected with the social world of his Hamburg childhood.
- Arno's milieu is captured in *Porträt einer Klasse* (Portrait of a Class), a collaborative book by Arno, his former classmates and sister Luzie. It stages a literary "class reunion" for eastern Hamburg's joyless, duty-bound 1914 generation.
  The back of the dust jacket even maps out the routes to school taken by Schmidt and his classmates at the *Realschule am Brekelbaums Park Nr. 6*. Published in 1982 by Ernst Krawehl, the book appeared three years after Schmidt's death in 1979.
- A dedicated book on his older sister Luzie (Lucy Kiesler) is still missing.
- The same is true for Eva von Buttlar, embodiment of boundless longing. She served Schmidt as the historical model for the character "AnnEv" in his late masterpiece *Abend mit Goldrand* (translated as *Evening Edged in Gold* by John Wood 1980).

Wordcraft – Distillation Craft – Kitchen Craft. On January 18 in Hamburg-Hamm:

- To honor Arno Schmidt, the Hamburg-Hamm District Archive (*Stadtteilarchiv Hamburg-Hamm*) has hosted annual birthday gatherings at his birthplace every January 18 at 11:00 a.m. since 1997. Guests are welcome to bring their own hip flask to the outdoor gathering by the house.
- You can read the report on the 30th gathering on Sunday, January 18, 2026, here. Earlier and more recent reports can be found on the GASL website.
- Afterward, the group traditionally heads to a nearby restaurant serving hearty, warm dishes. Everyone pays for themselves.

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