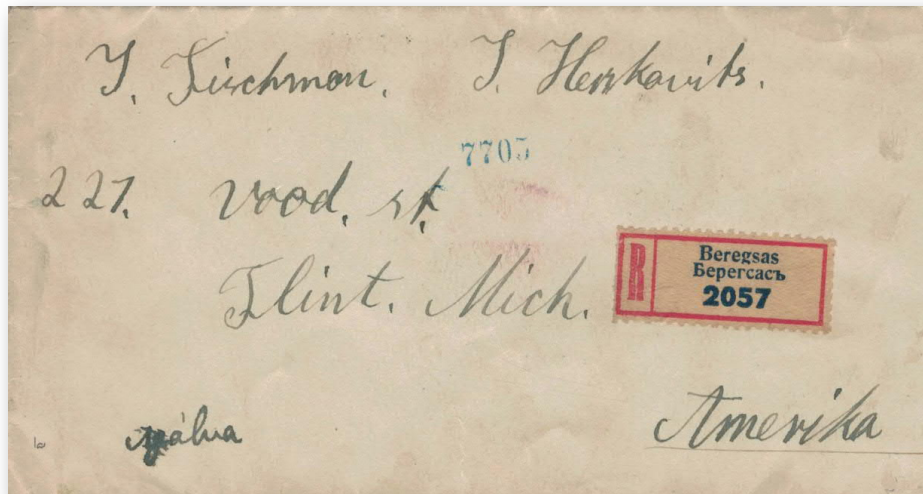


FLINT lives anyway!

Just before Christmas: We celebrate old traditions again and bring forward glorified childhood memories. And then..... I come across this philatelic item from FLINT. The place name has awakened old memories in me from my childhood/youth here in Vorarlberg.....

Thomas Feuerstein writes in 2017: In the Vorarlberg Jungbürgerbuch of 1968, an idealized picture is drawn of young people who, following the example of adults, join traditional music bands, shooting clubs or, for example, the chess club. The Alpine Club and the Friends of Nature are mentioned as alternatives for young people who see their idols in "Beatles, shufflers and bums."



Flint in Michigan became famous in 1936/1937 because of the unionized Flint strikes at General Motors. One stamp depicts Czechoslovakia freed from the shackles of the monarchy.

In July 1970, some young people, such as Heli Burtscher, Michael Köhlmeier, Reinhold Bilgeri and others organize a festival in Koblach along the lines of the Woodstock festival, FLINT I. - A mixture of music and lyrics is planned. However, the unusually unusual and loud music predominates by far. For the prudish, Catholic, conservative Vorarlberg, it is simply an affront. - FLINT is supposed to light a fire...

Since the festival was a great success from the young people's point of view, they are already thinking about FLINT II next year.

The official applications for FLINT II. are submitted to the respective authorities and also approved. But now a more powerful backdrop is to be used: the area of the castle ruin Neuburg near Koblach [nec Götzis]. In the run-up, Kammeramtsdirektor Dr. Konzett, president of the Vorarlberg Scout Movement, contacts the youthful organizers and says that the festival should not take place because it is oriented almost exclusively towards hashish-smoking shufflers and bums. Behind the scenes, however, an intrigue is already underway: in a night and fog action, the office of the Vorarlberg state government is to place the area of the ruins of Neuburg under nature protection, so that huge crowds of people no longer have to be accepted in the area. The coup succeeds, but the young people of Vorarlberg do not remain idle after the prohibition: they organize a demonstration in the form of a procession on the freshly filled route of the Rhine valley highway to be built - in front a coffin with which FLINT II is to be carried to the grave.

In these years FLINT is smeared on bridge piers and facades; in many a school the teacher finds it on the blackboard at the beginning of the lesson. - The shufflers and bums of the time subsequently became mostly well-adjusted Vorarlbergers - some in very prestigious positions in the establishment they had once fought so hard against...

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, young people demonstrate against the Vietnam War. According to their



A funeral procession - similar to the one here in Faroe - stretched across the still unfinished highway below the ruins of Neuburg

slogan "Make love, not war," the flower children want to emulate their idols Yoko Ono and John Lennon; in Vorarlberg, this movement arrived "much diluted" years later.

Flintstone, translated as flint, is an old Vorarlberg name. The amalgamation of the US place name Flint, the "fiery" FLINT



The fear went around in Vorarlberg of an invasion of the hippies and a second Woodstock

movement in Vorarlberg, the "unleashed" allegory on the Czech brand, and last but not least the eventful history of the Hungarian town Berehove (Czech Beregszas, today belonging to Ukraine as Беґеґе) let me then recognize a red thread from this "mix", especially since Flint - though only marginally - was a distant part of my youth years.

Further literature: various Internet sites, including <https://themavorarlberg.at/kultur/flint-lebt-trotzdem>

