

Geschmortes Herz (Stewed heart) **by Sonya Schönberger, 2022**

It runs.

So, I think the food is pretty important anyway, that is what I've gathered from some postcard texts. You can borrow binoculars, send letters. You can be entertained by the ship's band. Or watch a movie or buy souvenirs. And lunch is as follows: Broth with vegetables, sausage with Bavarian cabbage, boiled potatoes. Gentle diet consists of a minced steak in cream, because it is apparently particularly gentle.

A light diet is an easily digestible diet for the sick. In general, it refers to food that has been adapted to specific disease processes and the individual needs of patients.

In addition, there is ice cream and baked fish with mayonnaise salad in the evening and cold cuts and cottage cheese and that is then rather a supper. But that is in the year '69 and here is served quite something else. Probably for a different audience. There's caviar sandwich, turtle soup, halibut rolls Othello, where of course you immediately wonder why they're named after Othello. And so on.

The black Venetian general Othello is the protagonist in William Shakespeare's drama of the same name. The unscrupulous intrigues of his adversary Iago drive the drama forward. At the end, Othello strangles his beloved wife Desdemona

Gourmet beef loin bordelaise and Rotkäppchen sparkling wine.

The company was the market leader in the GDR, but after German reunification, sales largely collapsed. On June 30, 1990, the VEB Rotkäppchen Sektkellerei was converted into a limited liability company under the management of the Treuhandanstalt and the workforce was reduced from 350 to 60 employees.

And this cruise went via Varna, Suchumi, Constanta, Alexandria, Dubrovnik, Algiers to Warnemünde. So, I don't know if Algeria was independent by then, '75? Yes, wasn't it?

The Algerian War was an armed conflict for Algeria's independence from France between 1954 and 1962. It was started by the Marxist-nationalist FLN, which resorted to the means of terrorism.

Only through brother states, so to speak. There is a very nice anecdote about Constanta: Ovid was banished there. Then he only wrote sad letters to his friends, that in Constanta the wine freezes in the cups. And that he would rather be somewhere else. But he died in Constanta.

Ovid lived there, in what is now Constanta, for nine or ten years. Until his death. It is not known exactly when he died.

A gloomy place. But also a stop on this cruise. Aha. Here, this is the same route a year later. And it doesn't have the menu on it anymore, but maybe the answer to why there was something else to eat is included here. Because this is the Black Sea trip with deserving party veterans and party workers. Mediterranean Black Sea trip.

The SED was founded in April 1946. As the later state party of the GDR, it had an impact on all areas of life

And we had already talked a little bit about that, that on the one hand it was a reward for working people to go on the trip. But on the other hand it was also a privilege for party members.

In the GDR, the term "working person" was used to describe workers, employees, cooperative farmers, apprentices and members of the intelligentsia.

And obviously some tours were more equal than others.

What else is there to eat? Peach melba.

Peach Melba is an ice cream dish that Auguste Escoffier dedicated to the Australian singer Nellie Melba, who performed at the Royal Opera House in London from 1892 to 1893. It is said that this sundae was invented for the occasion.

Liver sausage. Interesting that these menus are all collected, but that it's impossible that they could have all been from one person, since it was such a once-in-a-lifetime thing. Here we have stewed heart. But it is not specified from which animal.

Wash the heart and cut out the tendons. Cut into small cubes. Season with pepper and paprika and dust with flour. Heat the oil in a large pan and fry the heart with the onion cubes. Deglaze with the stock and season with salt.

Well, and so this is what it looked like. In the bar. Plastic flowers?

With artificial plants and flowers, you can pack your bags and go on a trip around the world. When you return, your plants will look just as beautiful as when you left.

Anyway, we also talked about the history of this ship earlier. The passenger ship Stockholm is the longest serving transatlantic ship in the world. It has had twelve names so far. So in '46 it was built in Gothenburg and is called SS Stockholm. Then it is sold by Sweden to the GDR and is called Völkerfreundschaft for 25 years. Then it is renamed Volker, a name that lasts for a year. Then Fridtjof Nansen, three years, then it is sold to Italy and is called Surriento, Italia I, Italia Prima, Valtur Prima, Caribe, Athena, and then it is bought by Portugal and is called Azores. And finally Astoria. It is still sailing today as the longest serving transatlantic ship in the world. And currently cruises the Mediterranean and Northern Europe. It was used as a location and home for the contestants and first shoots of Germany's Next Topmodell.

Germany's Next Topmodel is a German casting show in the reality TV format on the ProSieben channel.

Last year it was sold to an American company and they want to shuttle it between Lisbon and Madeira.

You could only get on it if you were politically extremely unsuspecting. Nevertheless, every now and then a few people escaped, which is why the stops in non-socialist countries were discontinued at some point. But what you couldn't avoid was going through the Bosphorus.

The Bosphorus is a strait between Europe and Asia that connects the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara.

And then guards were always posted on board to make sure no one jumped overboard, simply disembarked in Istanbul. It's also interesting that the MS Völkerfreundschaft was on its way to Cuba just as the Cuban Missile Crisis was going on,

The Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962 was a confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union that developed from the deployment of Soviet medium-range missiles in Cuba as part of the nuclear arms race.

and then all of a sudden they were in the American blockade line and were escorted by a U.S. destroyer for three hours until they reached the Cuban capital unharmed. I was once on Helgoland.

Helgoland, also known as Deät Lun, is an island and municipality in the German Bight.

And there, at the end of the 19th century, a sea battle took place,

The naval battle near Helgoland was fought in the North Sea on May 9, 1864 during the German-Danish War between the naval forces of Austria and Prussia on the one hand and Denmark on the other.

which was observed by the inhabitants and, above all, visitors of the island from a chalk cliff, in the complete conviction that the fighting was so contained that it would not affect the spectators at all, they watched it with opera glasses, like a spectacle in the end, although that was the battle about the place where they were. The MS Völkerfreundschaft in Cuba at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis is not the same as that, of course, but it reminds me a little bit. Before it became the MS Völkerfreundschaft, it was called SS Stockholm.

The passenger ship Stockholm is the longest transatlantic ship in service in the world. It was built in 1946 at the Götaverken shipyard in Gothenburg.

You would have to find the most recent picture, this one is from '61. And then the SS Stockholm rammed the Andrea Doria.

The Andrea Doria was an Italian passenger ship of the Italia - Società di Navigazione line with home port Genoa. Named after the Genoese admiral Andrea Doria, the ship was launched on June 16, 1951.

And there was nothing clear on the Andrea Doria and the GDR bought this ship as a reward for the Steckenpferd Bewegung,

The hobbyhorse movement was an initiative launched at the end of the 1950s by the exporting industrial companies in the German Democratic Republic to convert urgently needed cargo ships for the GDR's ocean-going merchant fleet by overfilling the export plan.

which started from the cosmetics factory VEB Steckenpferd.

VEB Steckenpferd was a company in the original district of Radebeul in today's city of Radebeul, whose products were known internationally under the brand name Steckenpferd

And over-fulfilled the plan, so that the foreign currency came into the cash box.

Foreign currencies are foreign means of payment denominated in foreign currencies.

What is it? It's kind of awesome because it looks like it's a vacation photo, but it's strangers lying there in the sand and just a postcard, from Bulgaria maybe? And of course that's a bit like leaving the test photo in the picture frame, which is kind of nice. Here someone has made some sort of travel diary.

A travel journal is basically like a diary: In the classic sense, you write down in a book every day what you have experienced during the day.

Perhaps I first have to briefly read out what the VEB Steckenpferd has acquired. So, the Steckenpferd Bewegung was an initiative of the exporting industrial companies in the fifties. And it was intended to procure urgently needed used cargo ships for the merchant fleet with convertible Western currencies by over-fulfilling the export plan.

Westgeld was a term used in the GDR; in official GDR usage the terms Valuta and Valutamark were used.

And it just went out from VEB Steckenpferd, they produced then without end lipstick

The lipstick is a cosmetic tool developed in the 19th century for coloring the lips, which is mainly used by women.

and soap to be exported and had at the end 100,000 dollars more than planned. And from that they bought, I really want to read that out. Aha: "Through the Steckenpferd Bewegung, the first mass movement of the working people in the export companies" - also sounds a bit as if it was written by someone who still remembers that time joyfully - "it was possible to make additional goods available to foreign trade for a total of 200 million DM. In addition to five cargo ships, these funds have so far been used to purchase, among other things, 4740 passenger cars, 6800 motorcycles, over 75,000 radios, 5000 television sets, 750,000 pairs of leather shoes, 1200 tons of cocoa beans, 2250 tons of cocoa powder, 2800 tons of coffee, and 12,700 tons of tropical fruit.

In 1978, southern fruits (bananas, oranges, mandarins and grapefruits) accounted for a good 40 percent of the supply in the GDR.

"One wonders, of course, if this first generation of workers also were on the ship. On 27.3. 1972 at half past five we leave from Varna, oh no, that was the departure, from Berlin to Varna.

Varna is a port city and beach resort on Bulgaria's Black Sea.

And to Berlin-Schönefeld

The formerly independent Berlin-Schönefeld Airport (IATA code: SXF, ETBS as GDR airport) was one of the three international airports in the greater Berlin area, along with Tegel and Tempelhof airports.

our three travelers came with these wooden tickets from Magdeburg.

The ticket is a symbol of value that entitles you to use public transport against payment of the fare.

Bulgarian Airlines.

Balkan Bulgarian Airlines was the national airline of Bulgaria from 1946 to 2022.

Aha, and then, for example, there is a restriction on how much money you can exchange into the national currency. 32 Marks. But you can have an infinite amount of Ostmark on board.

Mark was the name of various legal tender of the Soviet occupation zone and the GDR from 1948 to 1990.

There are also slide shows that prepare you for the country, but they're called color light picture lectures.

A slideshow is a presentation of a series of still images on a projection screen or an electronic display, typically in a predetermined order.

Here, this is cool: Sochi

Sochi, a Russian city on the Black Sea, is known as a summer resort and was the venue of the 2014 Winter Olympics.

- where the Winter Olympics were - enjoys a well-deserved fame on the Black Sea coast of the Caucasus. About a hundred sanatoriums, rest homes and boarding houses have been built here since the establishment of the Soviet State. The city stretches along the sea coast for one hundred and forty kilometers.

Sochi/area 176.8 km²

And the owner of this album underlined that and marked it with a question mark, and I can understand that, because it also seems implausible to me, because not even Los Angeles is 140 kilometers wide. Exactly, there is a wholesome climate here. Warm, subtropical, many sights. And on 3.4. at six o'clock in the morning the wonderful city of Sochi is left. Okay well, what happened then?

Ah, that's her ship's card. And she pasted the salt and butter packets. That's kind of totally cool. I can't imagine it has so much to do with the GDR, but actually more to do with a time when travel was something special in the first place. I also keep the sugar packets sometimes. I feel very connected to Lisa. There was shore leave. It's interesting, you look at other people's photos, and somehow the feeling of shame would have to set in. But they're all really very innocuous. Probably your own photos on your own phone would be pretty innocuous, too. Actually, there's nothing more interesting than watching large groups of people having fun. Here they are sunning themselves on the deck. I have to say, I've never been on a cruise myself. But I would super love to, on the Moselle, I think.

Many cultural and scenic highlights await you on a Moselle river cruise.

This is Lenin Street in Sochi with palm trees. Here's another flower. Well, I was just going to say, actually, I get the feeling that I myself would need such an album for this trip, and you can briefly forget what it actually is. But then you get this definitely fun socialist day program. Today, the food groups are changed. Seven o'clock, trip, trip, get up. Everybody wakes up the person next to him, the first one toasts himself. Seven o'clock ten - ten minutes for getting up - the lifeguard is waiting for you on the bridge deck for gymnastics. Twenty minutes later we ask the guests of food group 2 to breakfast. And thirty minutes later we reach Sukhumi.

From the point of view of the Abkhazian government and Russia, Sochumi is the capital of the international Republic of Abkhazia recognized by only a few states, de jure it is still considered by most UN member states as the capital of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia within Georgia.

The shore leave is open. But the guests of meal group 2 are not allowed out for another thirty minutes. And then lunch is also staggered. And somehow this is a bit like the children of the catholic and protestant elementary school, who have their breakfast break at different times, well. In the end, the Abchasian dance ensemble Shabatin performs and the bar trio plays in the club room. At midnight Suchumi is left. Well, actually, it's pasted that way, but the other one didn't. Yeah, that's pretty much the same thing, but in Sochi. Yeah, if you go around like that, you're missing out. What's also interesting, now I understand why the postcards like the pre-existing text print in the photo book, that they're Nature's Kingdom there because it didn't have color film.

In the GDR, photography was a little more difficult than in the FRG. There were very good cameras and you could usually buy both color and black and white films in sufficient quantities. Sadly with the development it was such a thing.

That actually looks pretty awesome too. What is it? I can't read Cyrillic letters, but it looks like a candy wrapper maybe. Okay, now I think it's Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia was a state in Central and South-Eastern Europe that existed from 1918 to 2003, whose state form and territory changed several times over the course of its history.

Anyway, she went to cut her hair on April 4. Then she pasted a napkin here like this. Maybe it's, that's actually way too flat. Maybe it's Bulgaria. I have no idea at all. It's a ticket for something. And now it would be over. Well, I mean, maybe it was the Bulgarian Black Sea coast after all. This is a stationery. This is somehow extremely beautiful. Aha, and then there are English and French brochures from the Soviet tourism association Intourist.

The company Intourist (from inostranny turist, dt.: foreign tourist) is the former state monopoly travel agency for foreign tourism, founded in 1929 in the Soviet Union.

Now just opened at Sevastopol.

Sevastopol is the largest city on the Crimean peninsula and is located on its southwestern edge on the foothills of the Crimean Mountains directly on the Black Sea. It is the home port and main base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet.

Yes, that is of course already, actually everything is contained, which has followed. So, Sevastopol had its first ordeal in 1853 to 1856 during the Crimean war, where the English, French and Turks were endured. And Sevastopol was co-defended by a young lieutenant Leo Tolstoy.

Lev Nikolayevich Count Tolstoy was a Russian writer. His major works War and Peace and Anna Karenina are classics of the realistic novel.

Already in those days, Tolstoy had written with great foresight the Sevastopol epic, whose main hero was the Russian people, who leave a deep trace in Russia for a long time to come. Well, and that's how it is with empires, you could probably say.

Exactly, and the city was destroyed in the Second World War and then rebuilt. Maybe Sukhumi is not called Sukhumi, but Sukhumi.

Odessa is also the issue.

Odessa is a city of over a million inhabitants on the Black Sea and the administrative center of the Odessa Oblast in Ukraine.

Tolstoy belongs to Sevastopol, and Pushkin, who began writing Eugene Onegin here, belongs to Odessa.

Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin is considered a Russian national poet and the founder of modern Russian literature.

But exactly, we find the word Ukraine only in the name of a warship.

A warship is a ship equipped for war.

And what's also totally cool is that this plate is now here in America, but that there's probably another version of this plate in the cupboard of a grandma in the Erzgebirge, and that people also once hung it on the wall or something. And, yes. Funny.