



IT TAKES A WINGED DIME OR TWO TO

In my contribution to our very educational & entertaining December 3rd, 2021, Mead & Read eVent, which inaugurated our new performance space (the Spring edition is scheduled for April Fools' Day! :), I tried to recreate something of Berlin's Notoriously Outre Dada Cabaret Scene during the 1920s & '30s (think "Faust's Metropolis," Klaus Mann's "Mephisto," & Christopher Isherwood's "Berlin Stories" for stARTers), so the focus of this late-January/early February Newsletter will be Vienna, Austria, about which I know a good deal more, having lived & studied there from 1968 (I arrived for my Junior Year abroad on August 20th, the very day the Russian tanks rolled over Czechoslovakia & into Prague) through the early '70s. Although, for the record, I did pay my respects to both Queen Nefertiti in West Berlin & the world-class Pergamon Museum in what was then East Berlin, having made a pilgrimage to the ruins of Pergamon in Western Asia Minor/Turkey a mere two weeks before I was in

As for what Helena, Montana, may or may not have to do with the city of MozArt, Beethoven, Strauss, Mahler & Klimt, et al., suffice it to remind you that the Hungarian-born architect of St. Helena Cathedral, A. O. Von Herbulis's prototype was Vienna's Neo-Gothic Votivkirche, from which I lived the same six-block distance as a student in waltz-intoxicated Vienna as I now live from our Cathedral here in the Queen City of SynchroniCity.

All this by way of suggesting that the Arts Matter! Should you be inclined to eXplore the would-be Vienna Arts Scene connection further, you could certainly do worse than give Eric Kandel's "The Age of InSight: The Quest to Understand the Unconscious in Art, Mind, & Brain from Vienna 1900 to the Present" a close peruse, for not only is Kandel a Vienna-born 2000 Nobel Laureate in Neurophysiology, his truly eXtraordinary book has great illustrations of the centrality of Matters Aesthetic on nearly every page. Besides which, Lewis & Clark Library happens to have a copy of this wondrous doorstep of a book. To cut to the chase, the Arts & Humanities make the two-legged component of this ongoing eXperiment more Humane. So I would encourage you supporters of the eclectic & vibrant Arts Scene here in Helena to keep up the Good Work!