THE MOLDOVAN ADVENTURE
June 2004







In search of the ancestors of
Marie Fiechter
(née Ochanoff – Goilov)

by her grand-son Jean Ferran
Contact: ferran@monchique.com

PÈLERINAGE VERS NOS SOURCES BESSARABIENNES du 4 au 12 Juin 2004

LE GROUPE DES 12 PARTICIPANTS

Marie de OCHANOFF de GOÏLOFF épouse de Jacques-René FIECHTER

Née en 1895, à LEOVO (Bessarabie)
Décédée en 1988, à Genève

né en 1894 à Villeret
décédé en 1981 à Genève

Nicole FERRAN-FIECHTER
Née en 1924, à Alexandrie
Épouse de Henri François FERRAN
Né en 1907, à Paris

Jean-Jacques FIECHTER
né en 1927 à Alexandrie
Époux de Claudine SAUTIER
Descendance 2 fils
Avec 3 descendants

Georges A. FIECHTER
né en 1930 à Alexandrie
Époux de Françoise FOREST
décédée en 1994
descendance 1 fils + 1 fille + 1 fils décédé
Épouse Michèle Agathe Clerc, Veuve Brolliet,en 1996

Brigitte JANIN FERRAN,
Née en
Sans son époux François FERRAN (retenu en Chine)
Né en 1945, à Bienne,
Avec 3 descendants, avec descendants

Marie-Claude Pélissier FERRAN
Née en 1946, à Bienne
Avec son époux François PELISSIER
Né en
Avec 5 descendants avec descendants

Dr Jean Michel FERRAN
Né en 1949, à Neuilly s/Seine
Avec son épouse Patricia Ann Margaret GRAHAM
Née en 1945, à Budleigh, UK
Avec 3 descendants

Dr Brigitte Rivain FERRAN
Née en 1954 à Neuilly s/Seine
Avec son époux Dr Thierry RIVAIN
Né en
Avec 6 descendants

Douglas Ian McNeil GRAHAM
Né en 1940 (Frère de Ann Ferran-Graham)

Époux de Christine FERRAN
Née en 1955, à Neuillys/Seine
Avec 4 descendants dont l'aîné

Nicolas GRAHAM FERRAN
Né en 1984,

POUR MÉMOIRE :
L'aînée de la Famille, René Archibald FIECHTER, né en 1919,
n'a malheureusement pas pu se joindre au groupe.
(4 descendants avec descendants)

GF/ss 160604 code : Groupe maidenie

Friday June 4th 2004

Full of hopes, equipped with a short list of ancestors and some maps, but slightly apprehensive, the clan gathers at Roissy airport to board ‘the’ Air Moldova Airbus, which turns out to be an old Illiouchine AK40… We did get to Chisinau that night, and arrived at the Hotel Codru in the middle of a very smart wedding. Still they managed to organise dinner for us.


At Roissy airport: M.C. Pelissier, Nicolas Graham, Douglas Graham,
Georges Fiechter, François Pelissier, Thierry Rivain



At Roissy Airport: Brigitte Ferran, Nicole Ferran, Brigitte Rivain, Ana Ferran, Marie-Claude Pelissier, Douglas Graham


EXIT


The ‘Airbus’


Chisinau airport


First Dinner

First Dinner



Saturday, June 5th
SAHARNA MONASTERY

Morning: Visit to Saharna Monastery. We get accustomed to bouncing in our government bus (no shock absorbers), the pot-holes, and our mad driver. We light lots of candles to St. Christopher at the troglodyte monastery. First experience for the ladies of Moldova's idea of basic sanitation…



Ana Ferran, Chisinau



Ana Ferran & Jean-Jacques Fiechter, Chisinau


Typical well ‘en route’

The gates of the Monastery at Saharna



Georges Fiechter, Nicole Jean & Brigitte Ferran, François Pelissier, Thierry Rivain, Jean-Jacques Fiechter



Douglas & Nicolas Graham






The Winter Church



The Winter Church. Our guides Emilia and Mariana


Winter Church


The Monk’s cemetery



The Summer Church



Summer Church



Summer Church



Summer Church

Sarcophagus of the Abbott





Our guide Mariana & the Pope


Along the river

Troglodyte Chapel





Calling the faithful


Troglodyte Monastery


In the troglodyte chapel


In the bouncing bus


Looking over the Dniestr to hostile Transdnistria


The Dniestr at Saharna



Restaurant in Rezina

Saturday, June 5th
Orgeev Fortress

After a refreshing break for lunch in Rezina, we set off for Orgueev, a medieval site in a loop of the Dniestr. Spectacular site on a promontory. Church on top, underground hermitage, museum, and a museum built by the Americans…


The old fortress at Orgueev

The old fortress at Orgueev



The old fortress at Orgueev




The old fortress at Orgueev


The site of Orgueev


The Holly Cross at Orgueev


The ‘forbidden’ Hermitage


Troglodyte Hermitage Orgueev


View from the Hermitage

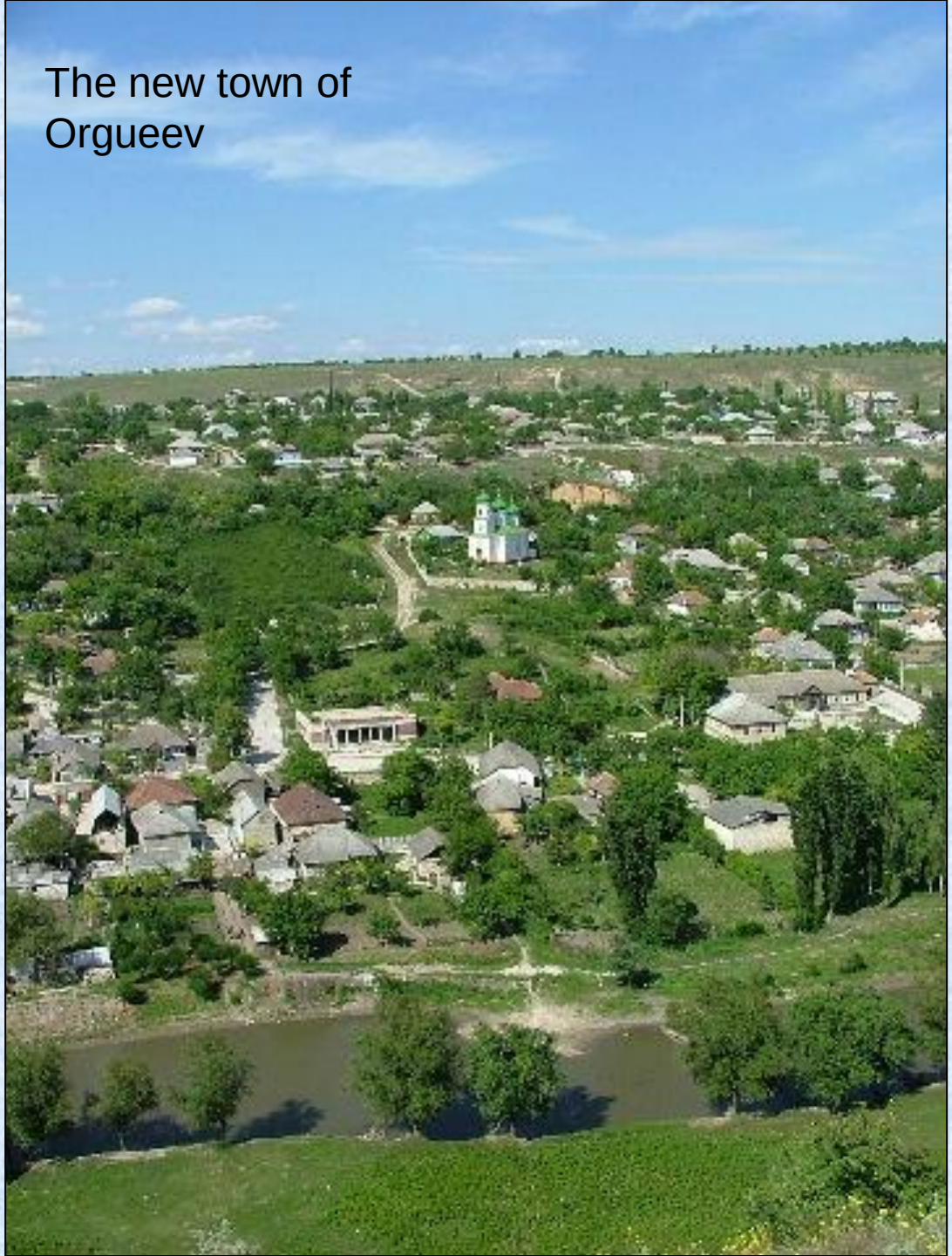

Troglodyte Hermitage
Orgueev


The monk’s cells Orgueev



Moorish design at the museum, Orgueev


The site, Orgueev


The new town of
Orgueev


Roman baths, Orgueev




The site, Orgueev




Museum house, Orgueev


Dog house!



Typical Moldovan house

Back to the hotel, exhausted, just in time to meet our researcher / genealogist Dr. Stavila before dinner. In his halting French, he gives us a lot of information, including some hints about family places.


Genealogist Dr. Stavila & his daughter


Working on Genealogy

Gheorghe Caspar Goilov
Ştefan Gheorghe Goilov
Constantin Gheorghe Goilov

către 1859 Garabet Goilov, absolvent al Facultăţii de Drept a Universităţii din Peterburg (1848)
I) 1500 desetine în moşia Vinograd care se afla în judeţul Kolomeisk din Galiţia (Austria)
II) în Botoşani avea 5 case, un teren plantat cu vie şi 11 magazine (gherete)
III) în Basarabia dispunea de moşiile fădin Ţibirica şi Hogineşti (3000 desetine)

1891. Luca Ion Goilov (n.1853);
a avut şi depozite cu vinuri în or. Chiev, în localităţile Ianuşovka, Dunaevţa, Mahnovca, gub. Kiev, în or. Viniţa, în or. Berdicev, or. Cerkasov, or. Belaia Ţerkovi

Chişinău.
1901
Valeriana Mihailovna Ahanova
Ion Luca Goilov

1908
Cetăţeanul de onoare Emanuil Ion Goilov; stăpânea moşiile Zăzuleni şi Popenki din gubernia Podolie (Ucraina)

1893
Ion Ion Ohanov

1907
Constantin Egor Goilov

Gherasim Goilov (1857)

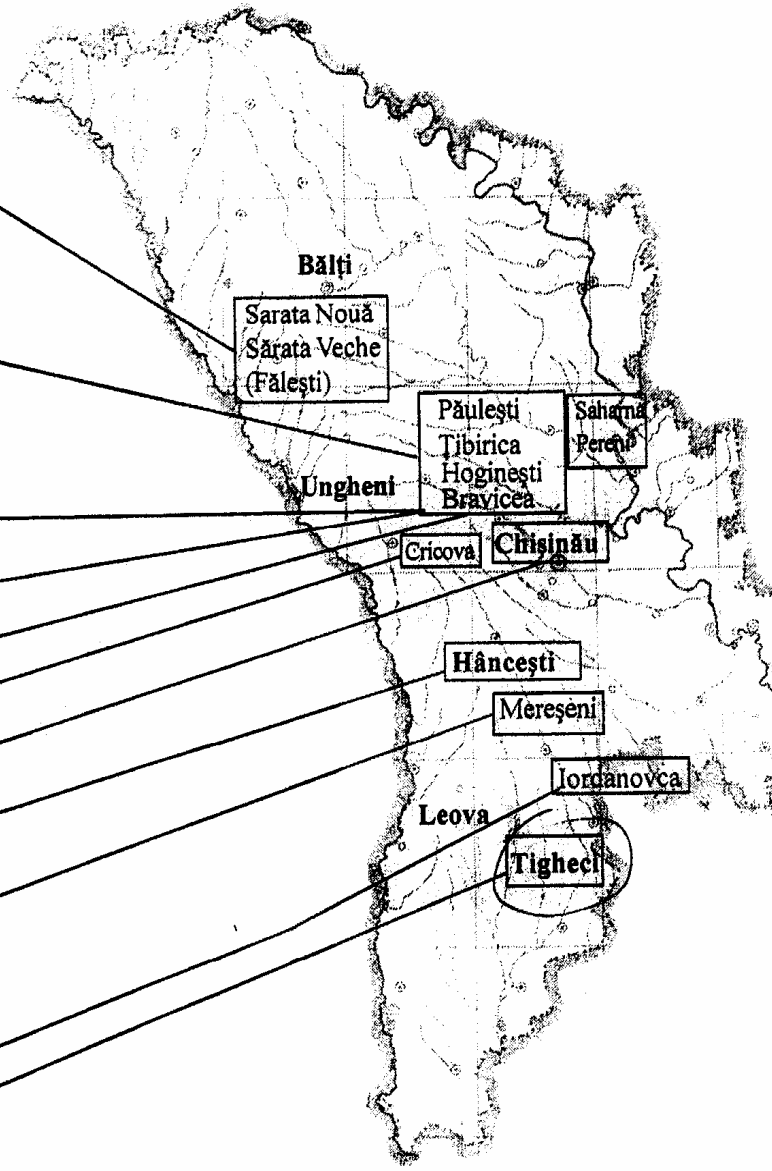
de la 1812 - David Goilov

Avedis Ohanov (1867)

1812-1831. Serdarul Isai Ohanov

1870. Avedis Ohanov

Din 1840 a lui Avedis Ohanov
Către 1907 a lui Isai, Ion, Mihail, Maria şi Nicolae, copiii lui Avedis Ohanov (1370 desetine)



Sunday June 6th
Leova

Off early to Leova, where Marie Ochanoff was born. We are welcome by the Mayor and his councillors, and treated like royalty… Not much luck there in terms of ancestors, only one grave that might belong (or likely not). This was hospitality at its best from the whole town of Leova. Wish we could help them!


Arriving in Leova



The Welcome committee



The mayor & councillors of Leova, guides Mariana & Emilia


CONSILIUL RAIONAL
LEOVA
DIRECȚIA
FINANȚE


DIRECȚIA
FINANȚE


Reception at Leova’s town hall

Reception at Leova's town hall




Interview for national television




Reception at Leova’s town hall

Reception at the town hall in Leova





Bread and salt presentation by the children of Leova



Bread and salt presentation by the children of Leova



Bread and salt presentation by the children of Leova




Local craft



Leova, wine & sweets

Welcome show from the children in Leova




Welcome show from the children in Leova



YOU WHO BRINGS ME LIGHT! ***Is what is written on the wall***


The soul of Moldova



Welcome show from the children in Leova

Welcome show from the children in Leova



Welcome show from the children in Leova



Welcome show from the children in Leovo





Grave in Leova's cemetery (Nicolas Ohanov?)



Leova’s cemetary, ‘the grave’


Lunch in Leova


The Mayor’s toast

Sunday June 6th
Tigheci

After lunch, on Dr. Stavila's hint, we decided to visit the little town of Tigheci. This turned into the highlight of our trip. We aimed for the church, and got stuck in the mud. Appear from nowhere a woman and her daughter (Victoria, dressed in her Sunday best yellow dress). Victoria jumps in the bus, and leads us to the church. There, in the churchyard, we discover the tombs of Sultana Buicliu and her parents. The Pope (Orthodox priest) explains that the church had been founded by the Buicliu family, and had been knocked down by the Russians. When they rebuilt it in 1995, the local villagers recovered the tombstones of the family and replaced them in the churchyard. One is apparently still missing, they are looking for it! We had a small remembrance service celebrated by the Pope.

Then appears Victoria's father who explains that he is the curator of Tigheci's museum, which happens to be located in the Ochanoff's house…

Then appears the Mayor, who invites us all for coffee and cognac! What a day, we all felt our roots were there. We should really try to help this village.

Late back to the hotel, after a memorable experience.


The elusive Tigheci
church


Getting closer!

Geese, geese & geese!





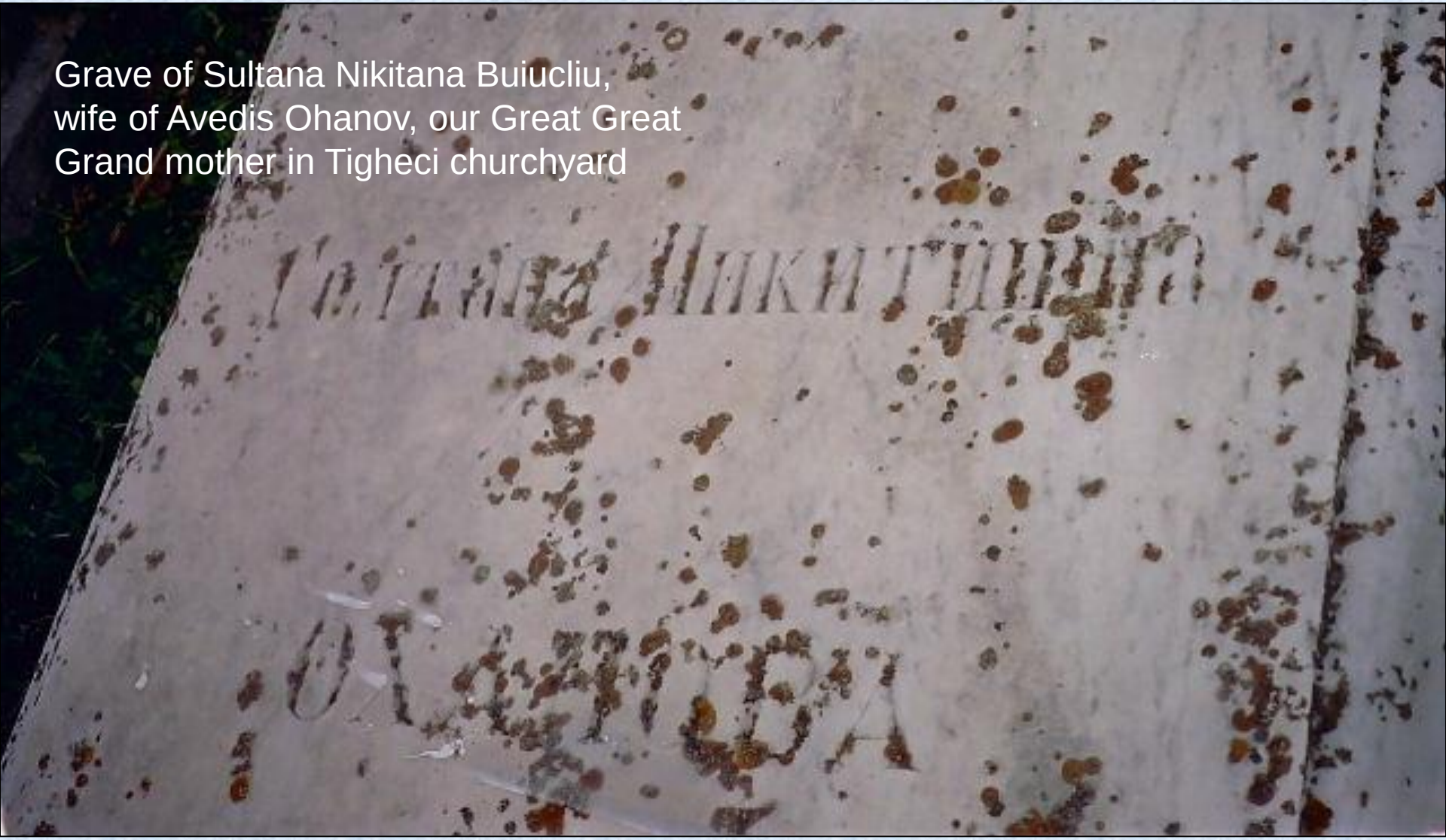
More geese in the churchyard


We found the graves!!!



Grave of Sultana Biuicliu / Ohanov





Grave of Sultana Nikitana Buiucliu,
wife of Avedis Ohanov, our Great Great
Grand mother in Tigheci churchyard


Grave of Nikita Buicliu, father of Sultana

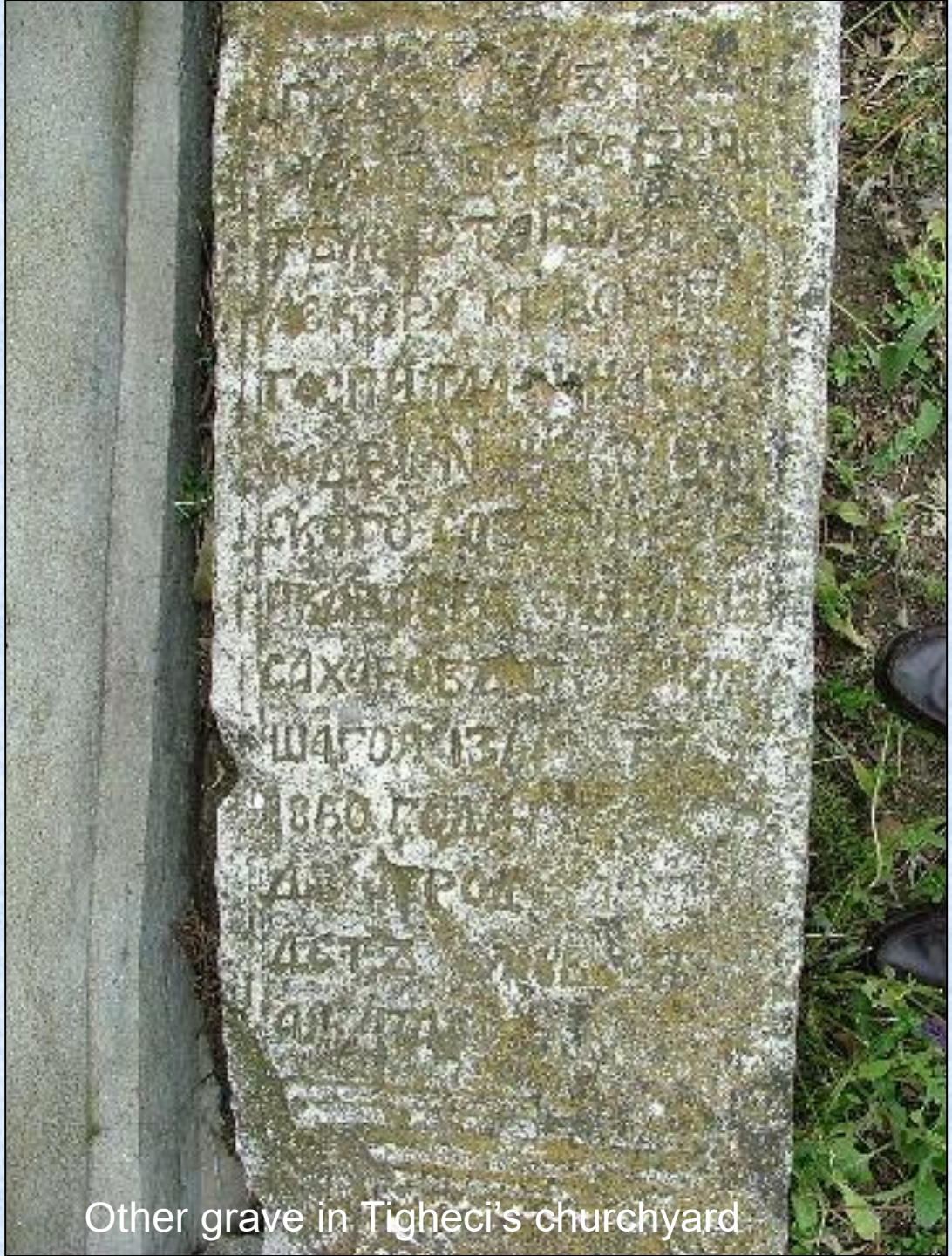

Ekatarina Buicliu, mother of Sultana



Other grave in Tigheci’s churchyard

Other grave in Tigheci's churchyard





Other grave in Tigheci's churchyard

Other grave in Tigheci's churchyard



Other grave in Tigheci’s churchyard



Meeting the Pope. See Georges Fiechter running away!



The Pope with our guide Mariana



Prayer for the ancestors



The Buiclu church in Tigheci



Praying for the soul of our ancestors



The ceremony



On the way to Tigheci city under the Pope’s direction



The Tigheci museum curator, second from right



The Ochanoff’s house, now Tigheci museum!



The museum

Samovars & other exhibits




In the museum

The Ochanoff's house in the old days?





Family photo ?

Property deeds (sale of land by the Lebedeffs)

IN NUMELE MAJESTATEI SALE REGELUI FERDINAND I

TITLU DEFINITIV DE PROPRIETATE

NOI MINISTRU SECRETAR DE STAT LA DEPARTAMENTUL AGRICULTUREI SI DOMENIILOR, IN VIRTUTEA LEGEI PENTRU REFORMA AGRARA PROMULGATA LA 18 MARTIE 1920

DECLARAM:

D Dumitru N. Vasea DIN COMUNA Iocani JUDETUL Ialomita A FOST IMPROPRIETARIT CU DREPTURILE SI OBLIGATIUNILE CE DECURG DIN SUS CITATA LEGE PE LOTUL No [illegible] DE 2 ha — mp DIN MOSIA [illegible] FOSTA PROPRIETATE A D [illegible] SITUATA IN COMUNA [illegible] JUDETUL Ialomita

PRETUL LOTULUI IN SUMA DE LEI [illegible] BANI FIIND COMPLECT ACHITAT, SA ELIBERAT PREZENTUL TITLU DEFINITIV DE PROPRIETATE.

BUCURESTI, ANUL [illegible] LUNA [illegible] ZIUA [illegible]

MINISTRU

[illegible]

DIRECTOR GENERAL

A. Vasiliu

No 323543


Tigheci: the Mayor, the Pope, Victoria, the curator, & our guide Emilia

Tigheci museum



The museum



Tigheci: Invited by the Mayor at the local cafe



Cognac, chocolates and cakes at the café in Tigheci





the Mayor, the Pope, Nicolas Graham, and the Curator

Marie Claude, Jean & Brigitte Ferran

Nicole, Jean Jacques & Georges Fiechter

Monday June 7th Chisinau

A quick bus tour of Chisinau, the capital of Moldova, before meeting Dr. Stavila at the Catholic cemetery. The Ochanoff family has a special enclosure there. The place is abandoned, and we have to find the graves through the weeds. I cannot read the inscriptions, but hopefully somebody will give me a translation…

The Ochanoff's graves will be looked after in the future, thanks to the Ferran-Fiechter older generation.

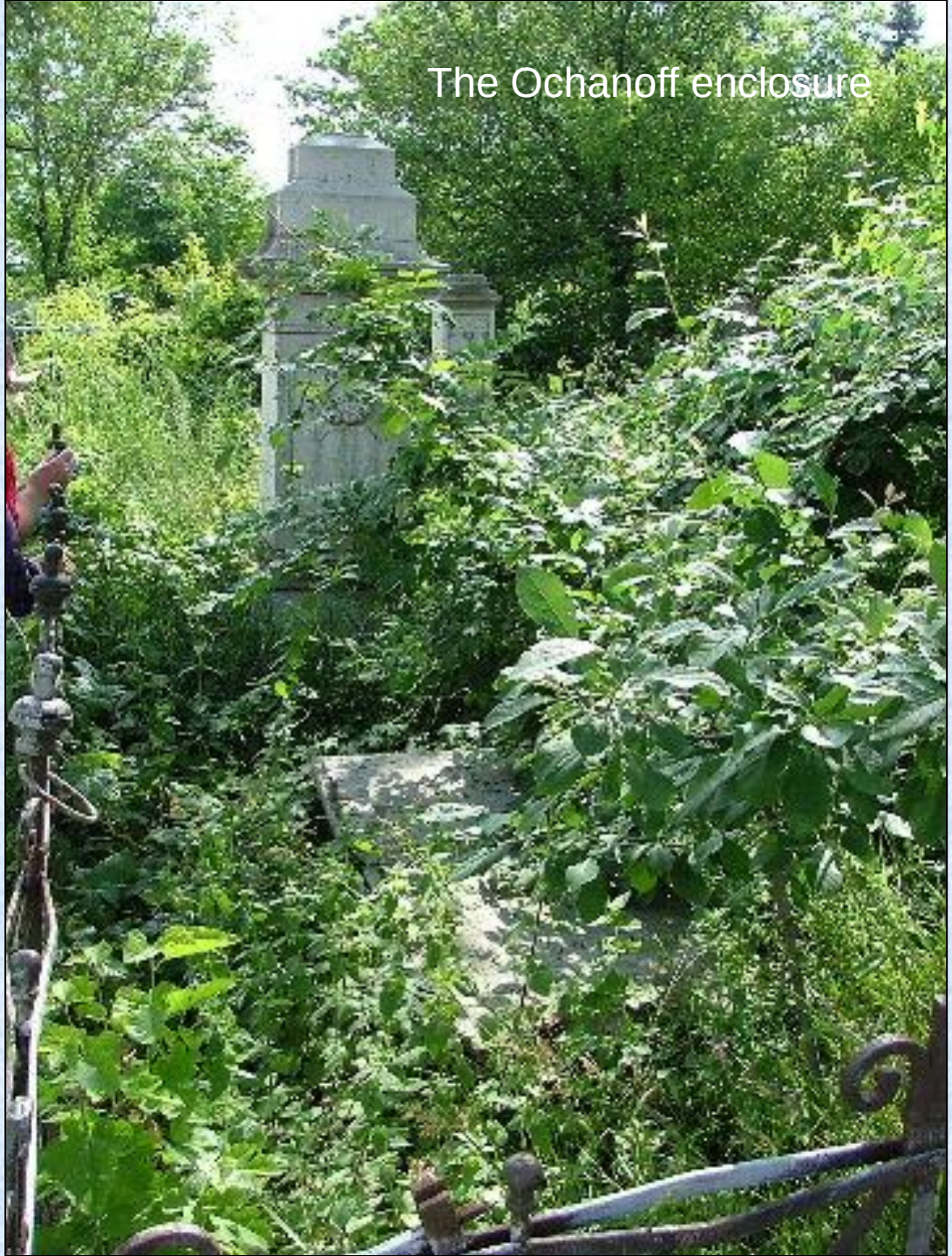
Then off to the Armenian church where we found the graves of Manuc Bey and his daughters (see Hancesti later on).

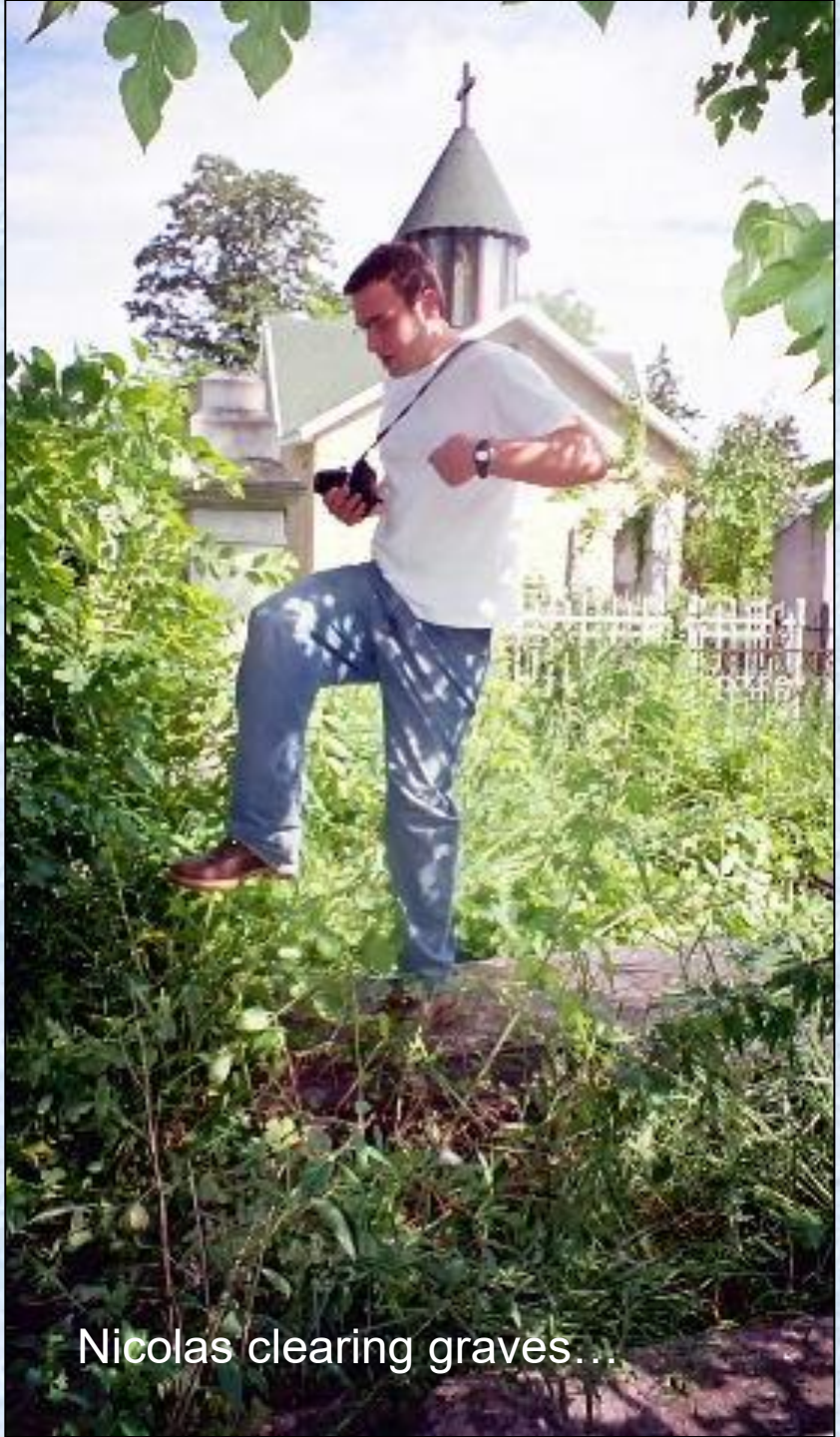
Finally, we found the family house in Chisinau, where the occupants did not seem to mind having their privacy invaded by a hoard of foreigners!

Back to the hotel for lunch.



Chisinau cemetery with Dr. Stavila


The Ochanoff enclosure



Nicolas clearing graves…

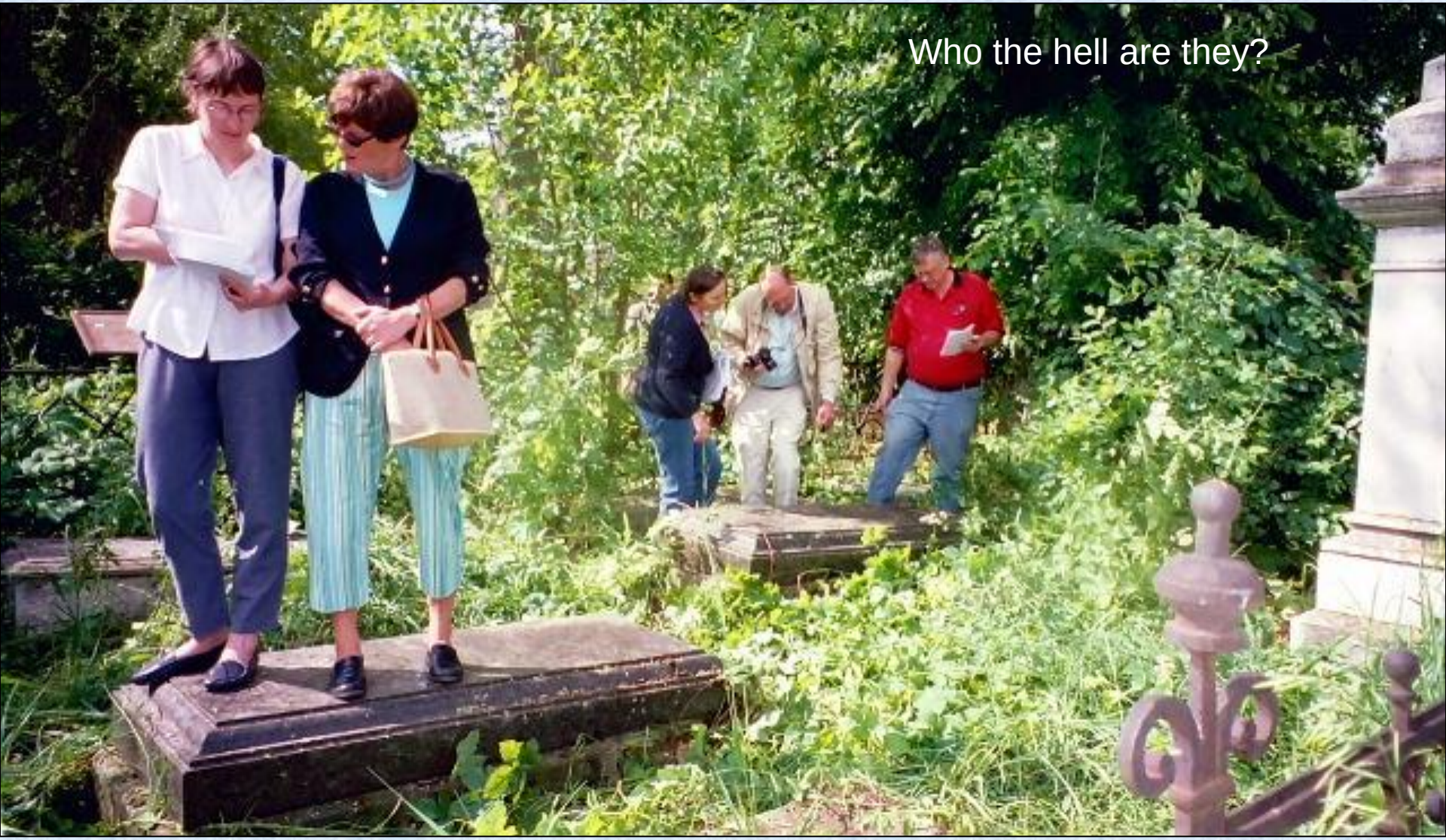

Grave hunting in
Chisinau


Where are these graves?

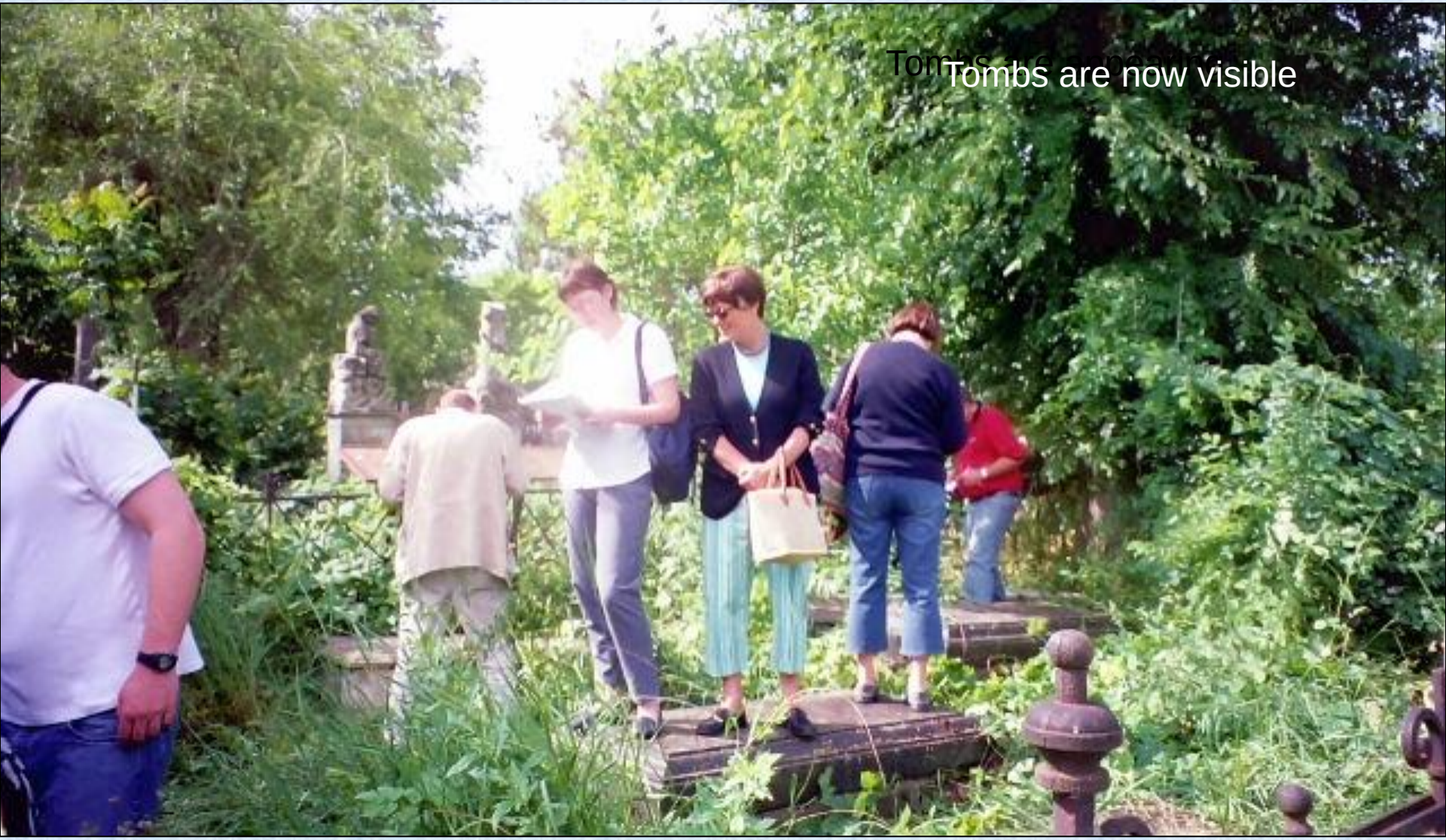


Brigitte & Marie Claude looking for the grave they are standing on… & Ana

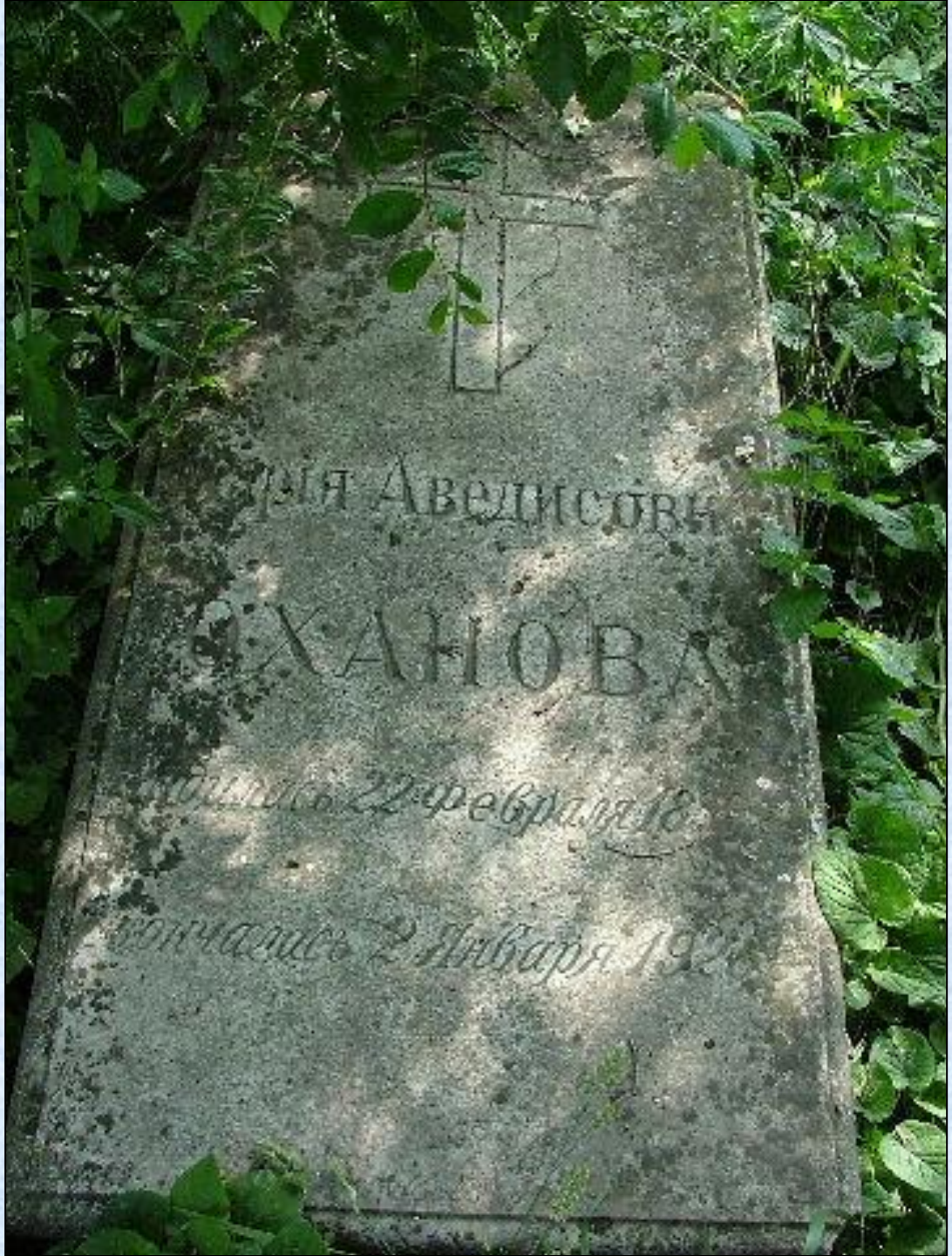

Keep digging!


Who the hell are they?


Taking notes

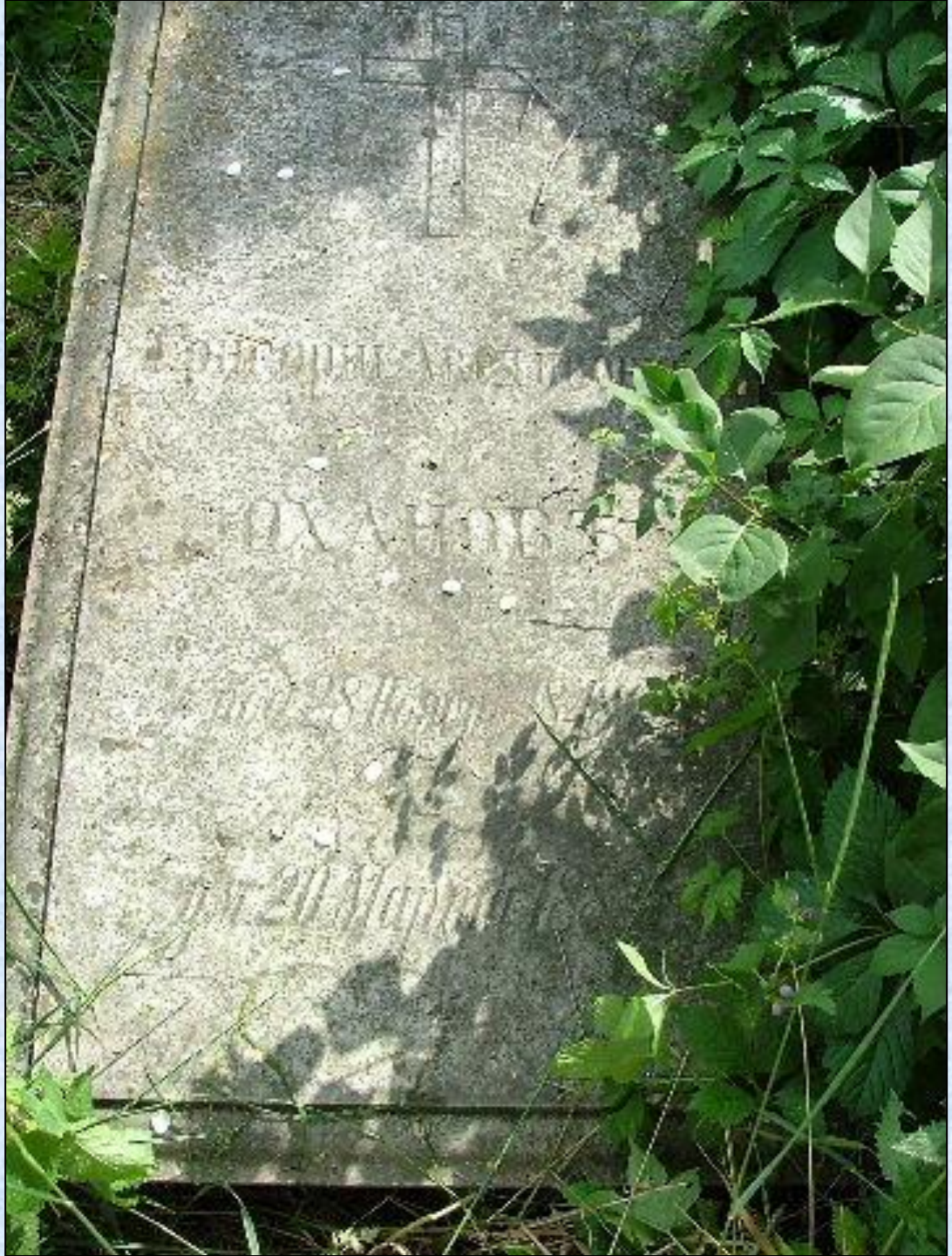

Tombs are now visible




Авдисовн
ХАНОВА
родился 22 февраля 18
кончался 2 января 192




















Здѣсь покоится прахъ
Дѣвицы
Елисаветы Алексѣевны
Олсуфьевой















Armenian Church, Chisinau



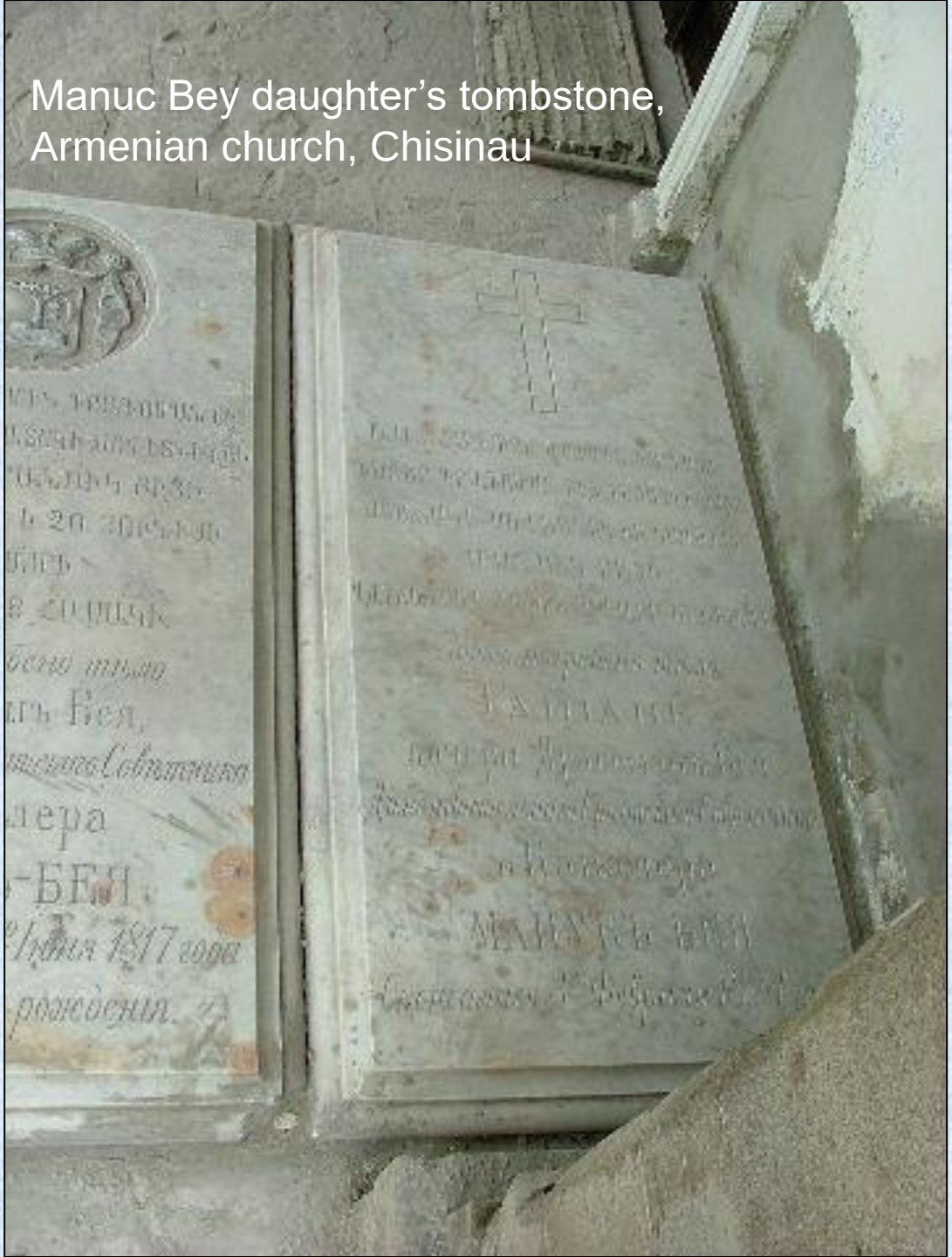
Armenian Church, Chisinau



Manuc Bey's tombstone, Armenian church, Chisinau



Manuc Bey daughter's tombstone, Armenian church, Chisinau


Manuc Bey daughter’s tombstone,
Armenian church, Chisinau


Armenian grave, Chisinau



Armenian tombstone, Chisinau



Chisinau, the family house



The house at Pooh's corner…


Chisinau: Entrance to the family house

Lunch at the hotel Codru



Lunch at the hotel



Monday June 7th
Cricova

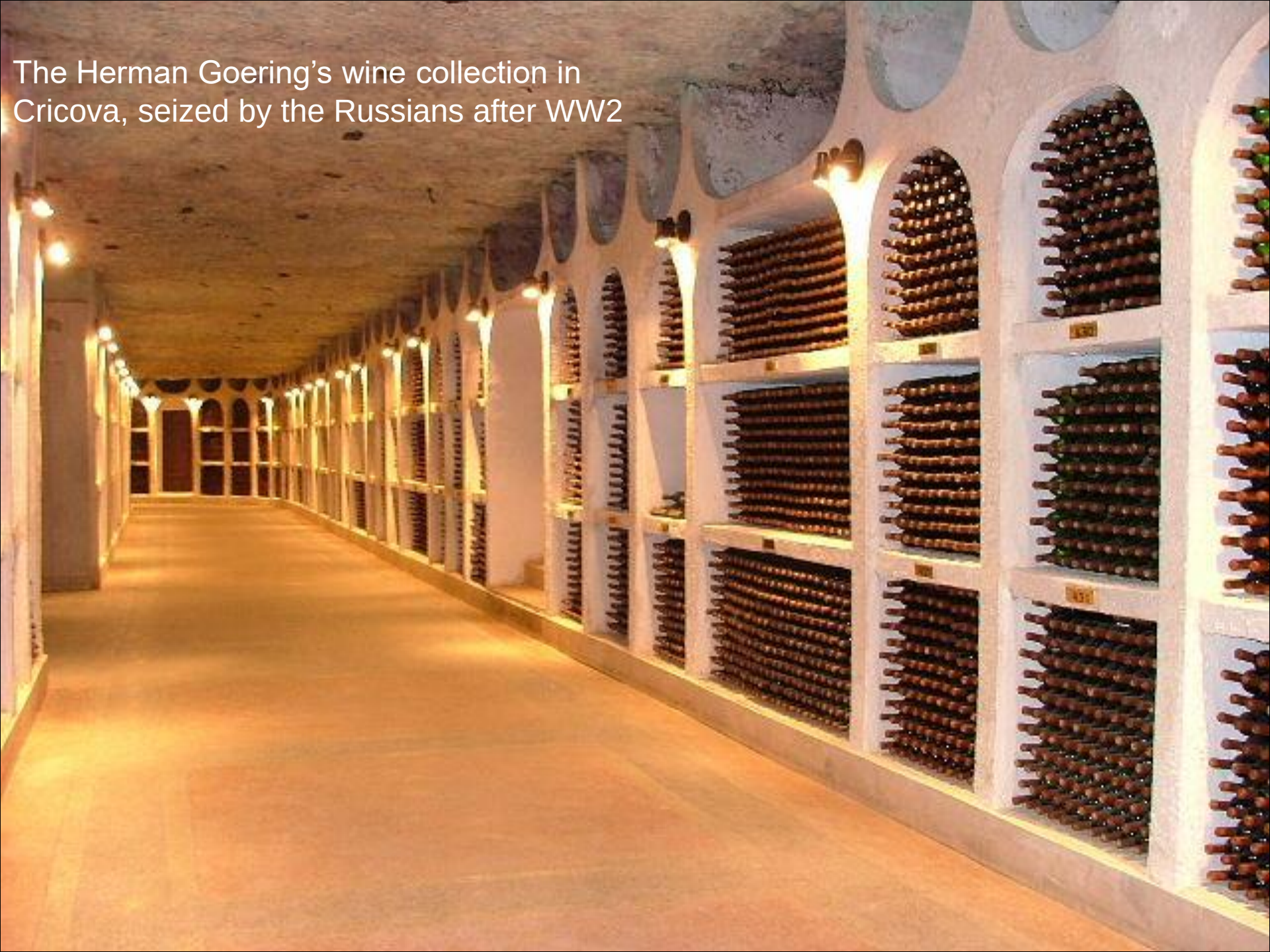
Back for lunch at the hotel, then on to Cricova for a superb wine tasting. This is reserved for special guests of he government, so we felt very honoured to be invited. Looking at the luxury of the cellars, one understands why the Moldovan government does not really advertises its existence.
A little shopping in Chisinau, then back for dinner at the hotel, exhausted…

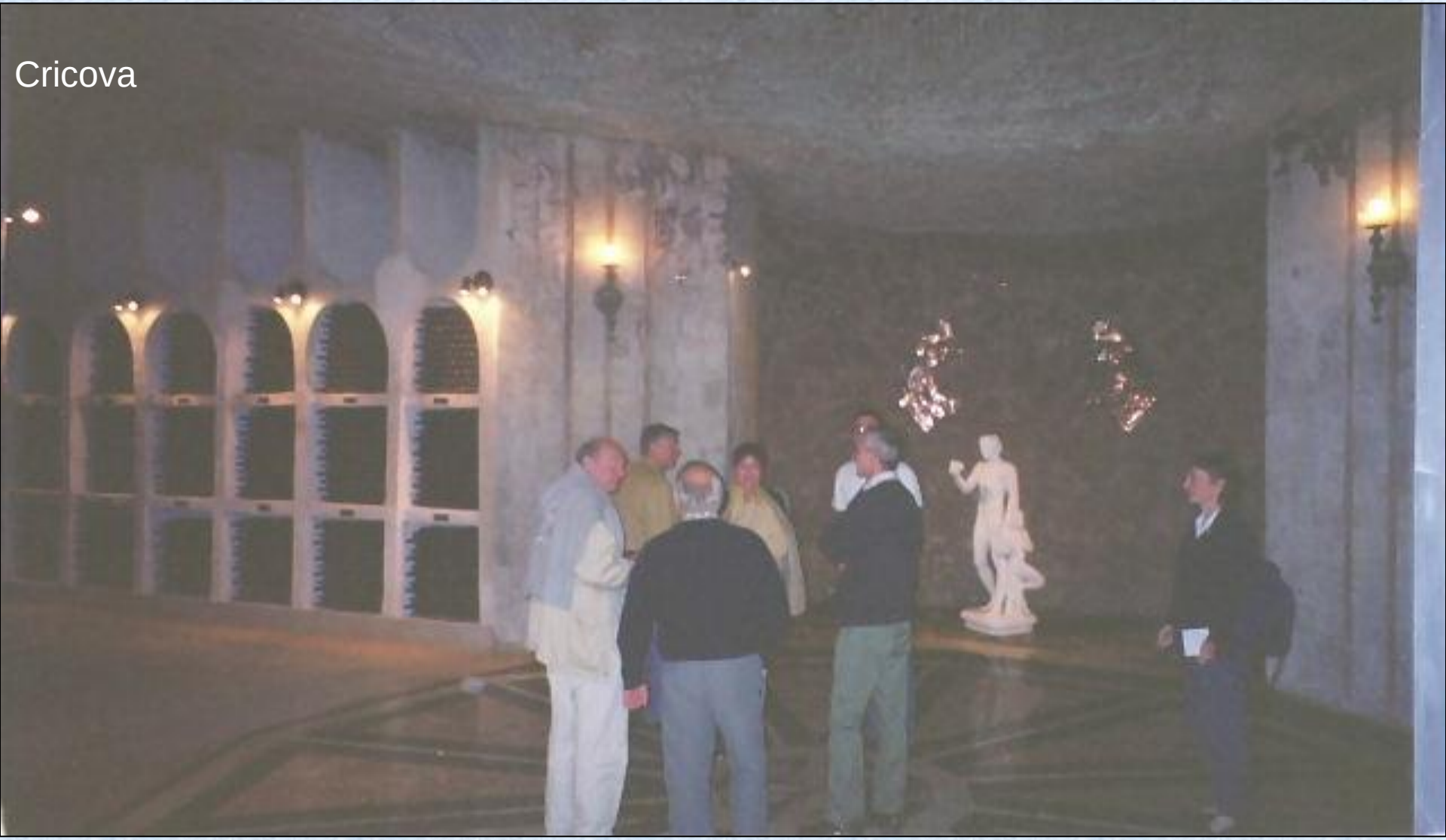

Driving through the galleries,
Cricova

In the galleries of Cricova




Cabernet Street in Cricova


The Herman Goering’s wine collection in
Cricova, seized by the Russians after WW2


Cricova


Display in Cricova


Tasting room in Cricova


Wine tasting in Cricova
NOROC!


Wine tasting in Cricova

Tuesday June 8th
Paulesti

Again on the hints of Dr. Stavila, we are off to visit the Goilovs and Ochanoffs estates in Paulesti, Tibirica, Hinginesti & Bravicea. Arriving in Paulesti, we are met by the Mayor (getting accustomed to it by now). The charming Lady takes us to the Goilov church, where the Goilov memorial stands proudly in the churchyard, looking beautiful. They had been warned of our visit and had obviously worked all night to make it look pretty. The paint was still fresh!

Very pretty wooden church, please note the cable allowing the Pope to ring the bell… Great welcome again, and more candles were lit to St. Christopher!


Moldovan house



Goilov church


The Goilov memorial

The Goilov memorial



Goilov memorial: Fresh paint!



Listening to old stories in Paulesti




Здѣсь покоится прахъ
Ивана Лукича
ГОЙЛОВА
скончался 28 Марта 1886 г.
64 лѣтъ.


Здѣсь покоится прахъ
Терезы Еммануиловны
КАРАМЬЮ
скон. 25 Августа 1888 г.
34 лѣтъ.


Здѣсь покоится прахъ
Маріи Емануиловны
ГОЙЛОВОЙ
скон. 25 Августа 1888 г.
74 лѣта.

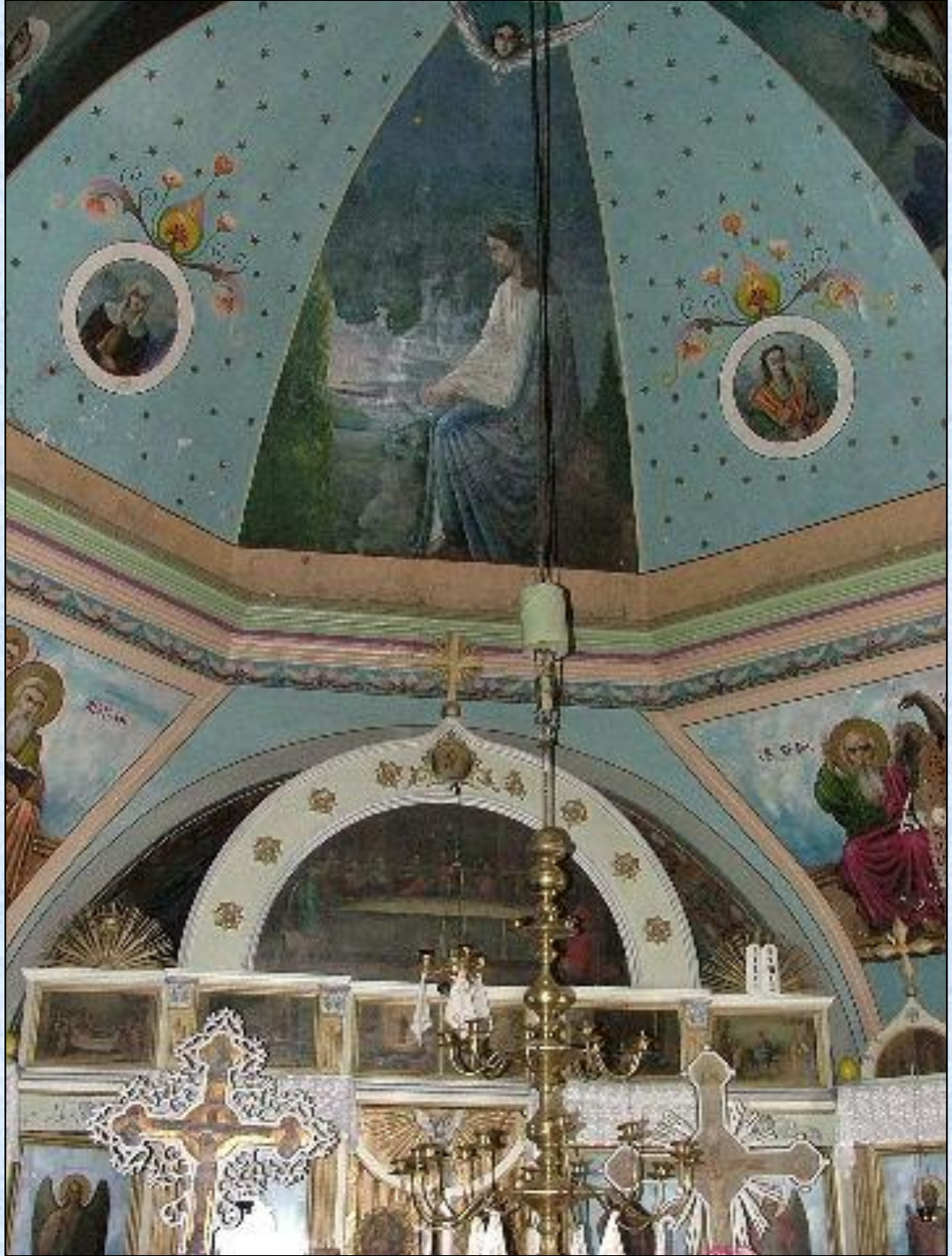

Дуни Ивановны
ГОЙЛОВА


Здѣсь покоится прахъ
Луки Ивановича
ГОЙЛОВА
скончался 23 Октября 1907 г.
54 лѣтъ.

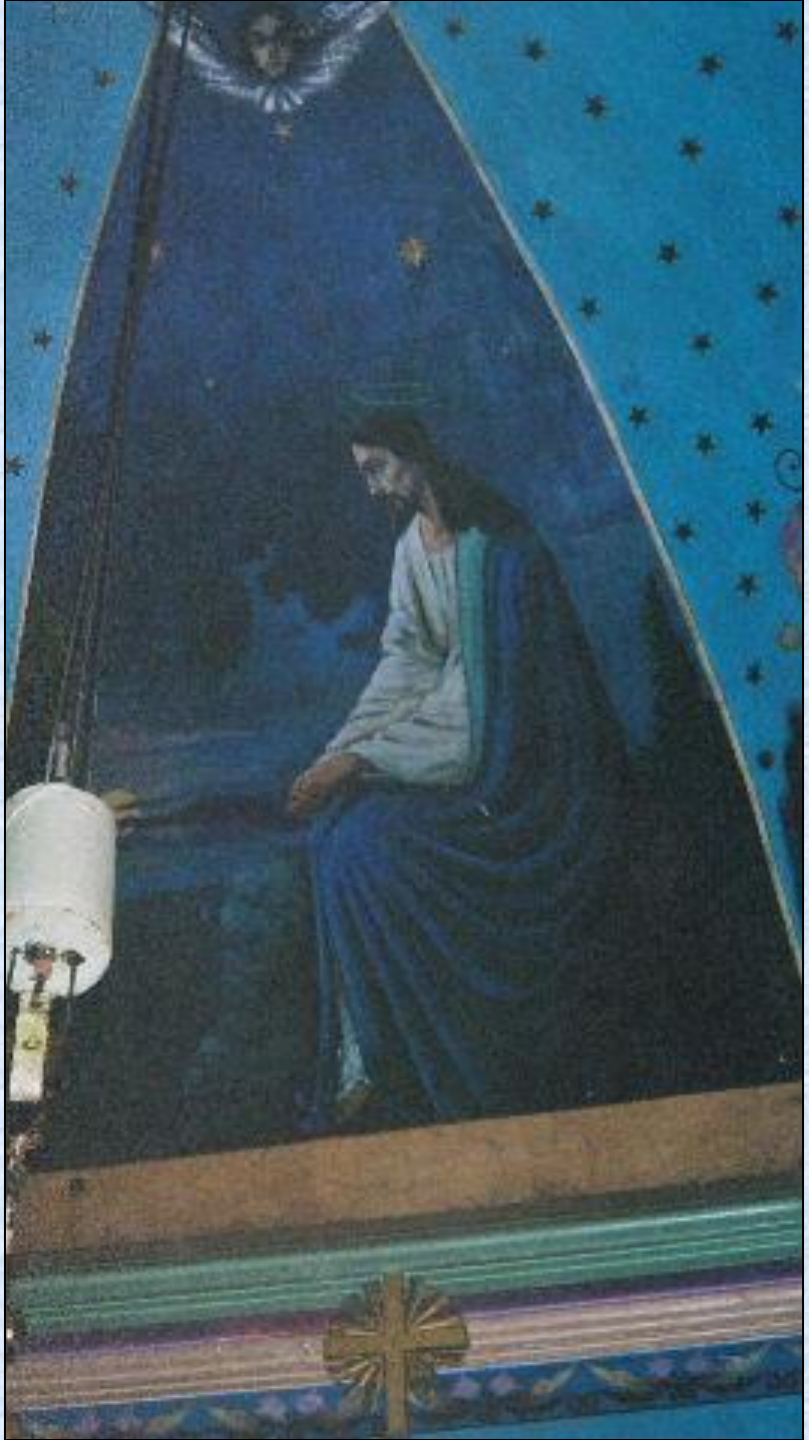
Inside the church in Paulesti



Paulesti: Christ in Gethsemane



Paulesti: Christ in Gethsemane



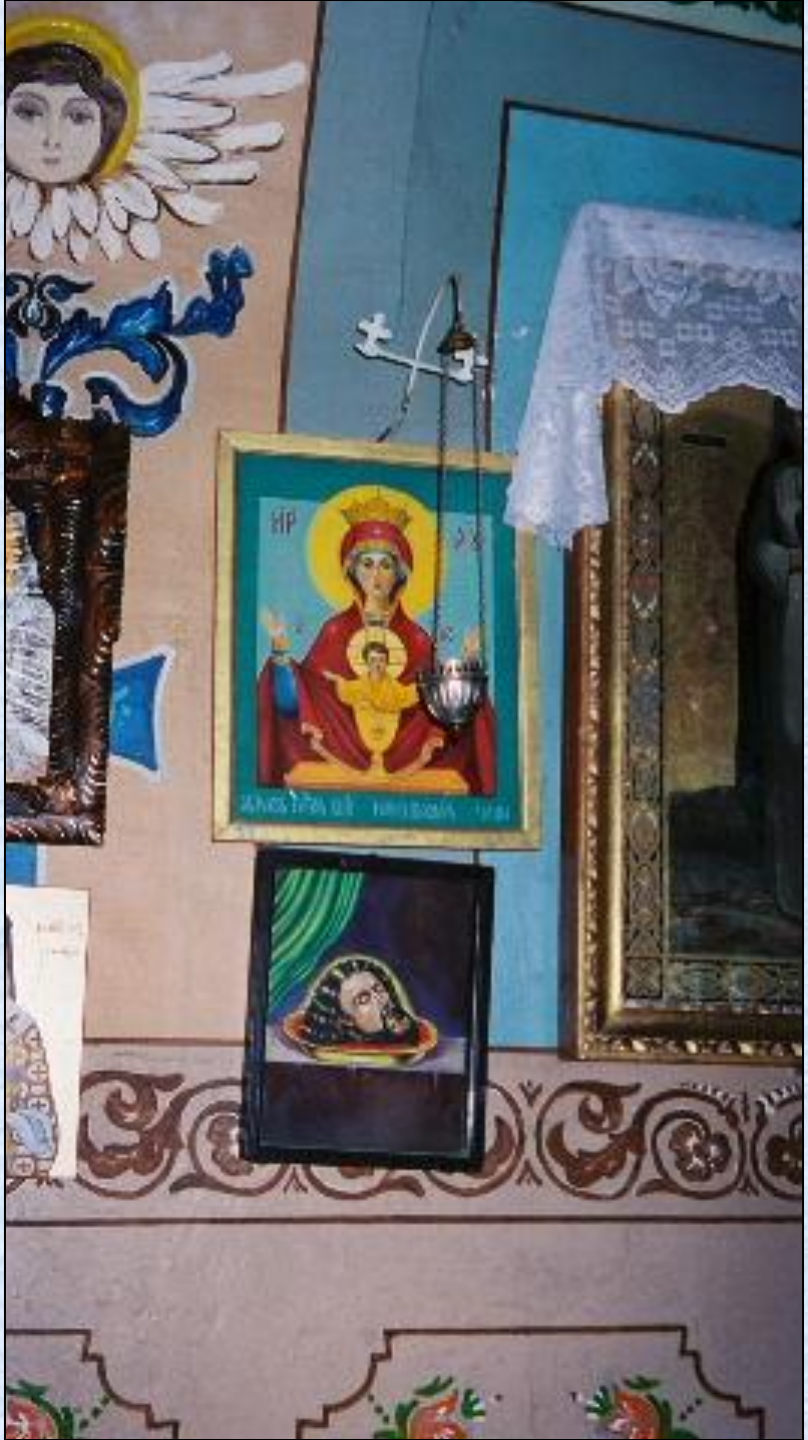
Church in Paulesti: the dove



Paulesti church



Paulesti church





Paulesti church

Paulesti church



Paulesti church: Lighting candles to St Christopher





Paulesti: the bell cable


Paulesti: The barn where two Goilov women
where murdered

Paulesti: Bell tower



Left to right: Mariana, the Mayor of Paulesti, and Emilia





Thierry Rivain, the Mayor of Paulesti & the memory of the village



Paulesti: The Sacristan, Nicolas Graham, Brigitte Rivain



Paulesti



Paulesti: Emilia, the Mayor & Brigitte Ferran



Paulesti: the Goilov memorial



Paulesti: a shrine



Paulesti: The Goilov memorial



Tuesday June 8th
Tibirica & Bravicea

On to Tibirica, where Marie Ochanoff used to spend her holidays. Nothing there, the church is closed. A lovely well by the church, and a nice wood sculpture of Christ on the cross.

We decide to carry on to Bravicea, where, guess what, the mayor appears (no warning this time). This is Russian land, and I feel she is not too happy to see us. Still, she convinces an old lady to let us pick her cherries from the tree (see Nicolas in the tree), and promises to ask around about our ancestors.

We decide to skip Hoginesti, might go there one day!

A long drive back to Chisinau for lunch…

Well in Tibirica



Ana in Tibirica, a Scottish rose!



Tibirica: Wood sculpture



Bravicea, the town hall



Bravicea: main Street & the mayor

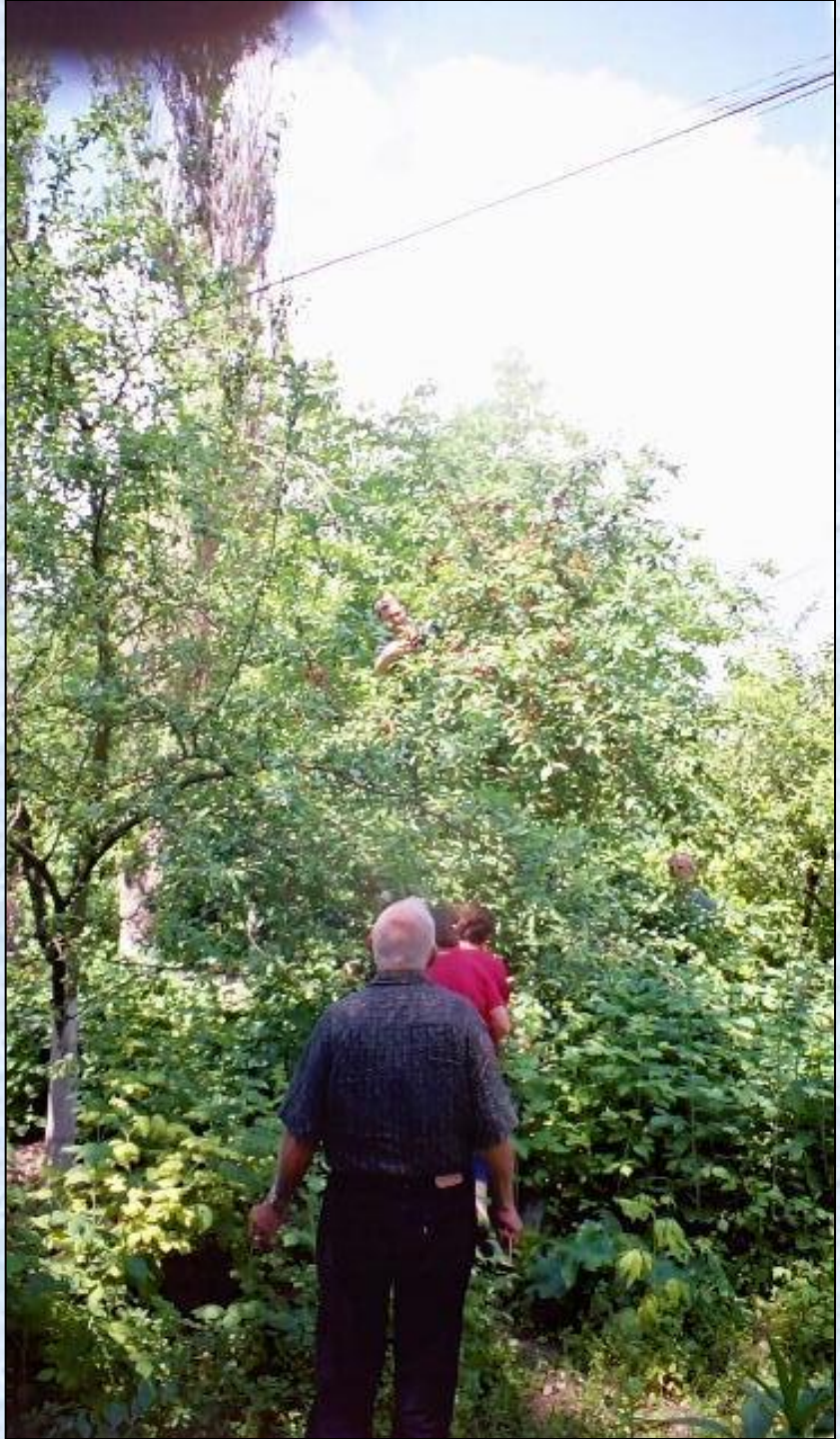



Bravicea: Georges Fiechter, Brigitte Ferrin,
Marie Claude Pelissier, Brigitte Rivain, Mariana &
the Mayor

Bravicea: the cherry Lady



Bravicea: Nicolas picking cherries




Bravicea: Close up of Nicolas in the cherry tree

Bravicea: normal Moldovan transportation



Bravicea: the Mayor and Emilia



Bravicea: The Mayor, Emilia, Jean Ferran, Brigitte Ferran, Nicole Ferran



Tuesday, June 8th Hancesti

After lunch, we decide to visit Hancesti, which we missed on our way back from Tigheci, This is the town where the Sirdar Isaie Ochanoff lived, and also the site of Manuc Bey's palace. We eventually find the palace, in ruins… It was used as a school for building engineers until it fell in such disrepair that they built a pre-fab next door to house the school. The new building is already falling to pieces!

The palace speaks of old wealth and power, and a small museum has been set up in a pavilion. We have been unable to prove it so far, but expect to find a link between Manuc Bey and the Ochanoff family.

Manuc Bey (Emanuel Mirsaian).negotiated the settlement between the Turks and the Russians. He lived in Hancesti at the same time as Sirdar Isaie Ochanoff, and both were Armenian.

Out for dinner in restaurant Lasunka, in a reconstructed farmhouse.

Hancesti: Manuc Bey’s palace





Hancesti: Manuc Bey’s palace



Hancesti: Manuc Bey’s palace

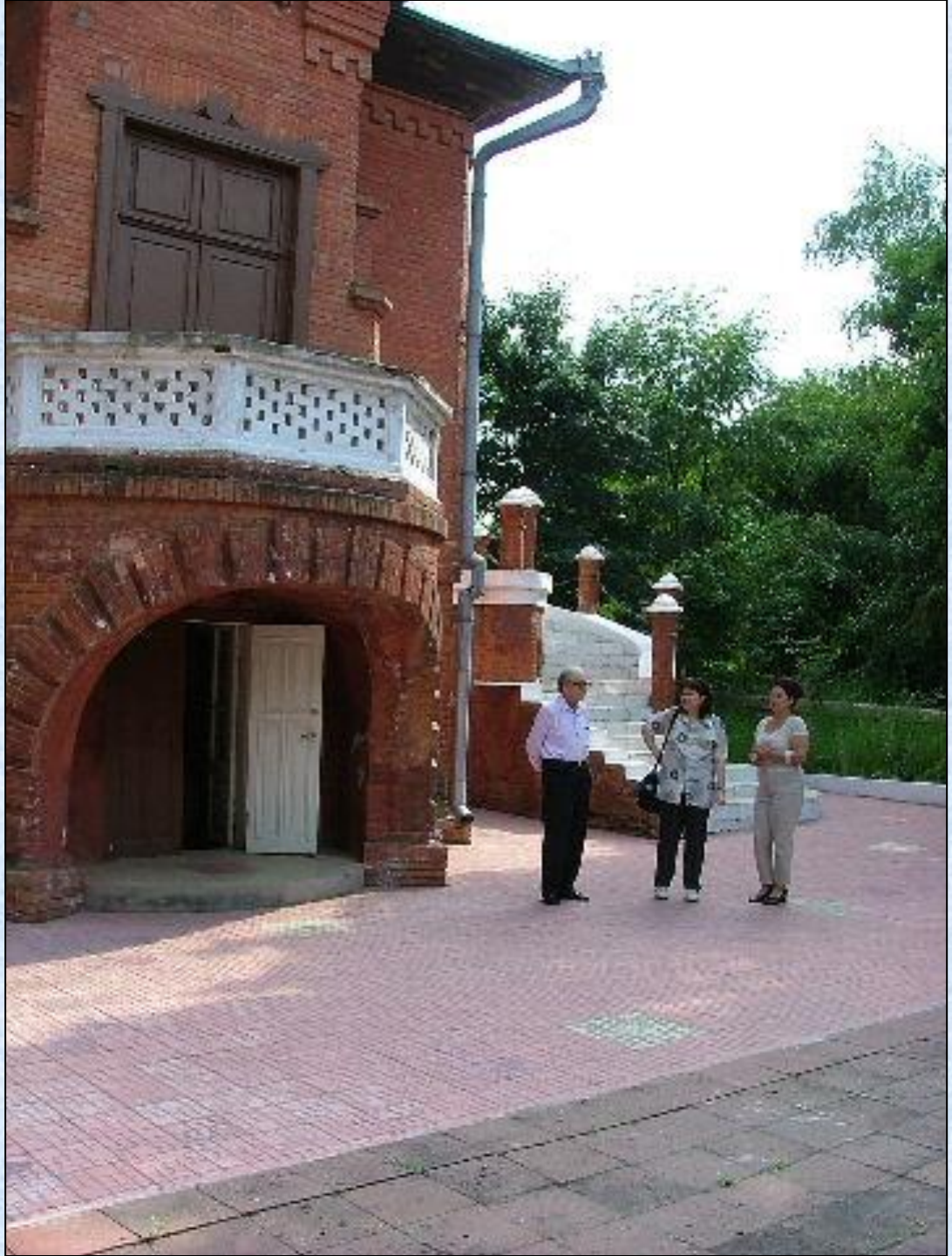


Hancesti: Manuc Bey’s palace

Hancesti: Manuc Bey’s palace



Hancesti: Manuc Bey's hunting lodge, now a museum

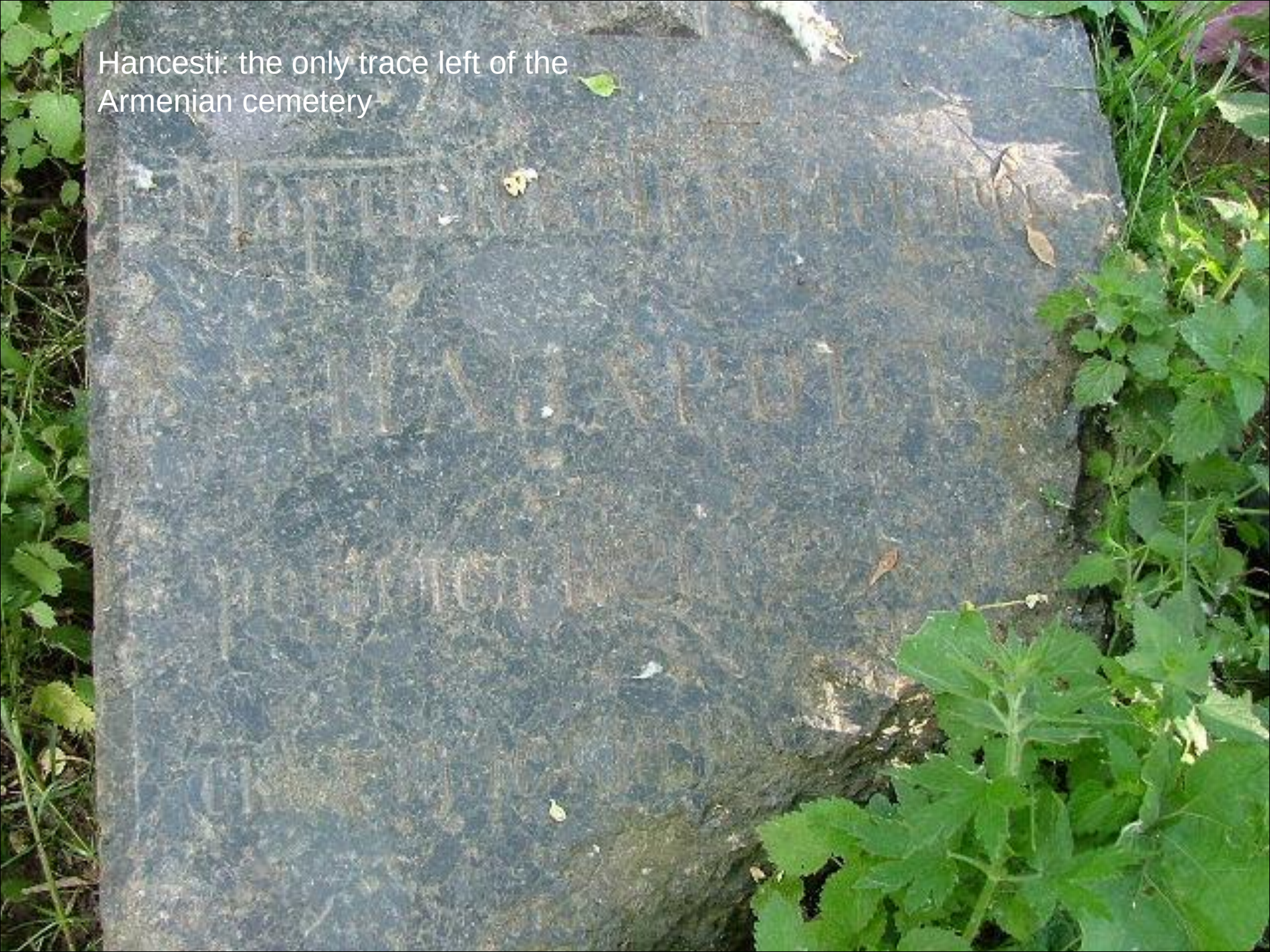



Hancesti:
Manuc Bey’s
hunting
lodge, now a
museum



The Custodian of Hancesti museum (left)




Hancesti: the only trace left of the Armenian cemetery

Restaurant Lasunka, Chisinau



Restaurant Lasunka, Chisinau



Natalia Popov, the head organiser of our trip



Restaurant Lasunka, Chisinau



Thierry Rivain, Brigitte Ferran, Nicole Ferran, Nicolas Graham, Natalia Popov, Georges Fiechter, Brigitte Rivain, François Pelissier

Restaurant Lasunka, Chisinau



Wednesday, June 9th
En route to Odessa

Left Chisinau early for Odessa in our minibus with official number plates (but still no shock absorbers) with a new driver called Nicolai. Arrive at the Moldova-Ukraine border around 11 a.m. We soon discover that the Ukrainian will not allow our minibus to get through. Frantic phone calls, and we wait for another bus to come from Odessa to rescue us. It took us 5 hours to cross the border, so maybe we should have bribed somebody… Did not know how to!

The Ukrainian police was kind enough to allow us to walk through the border to their canteen, so we could eat something. The food was excellent and so was the Vodka!

Arrived in Odessa late afternoon, checked in the hotel, and went straight on to a walking tour of the city. Dinner was at a typical tourist restaurant, complete with Ukrainian singing…


Pipi-Stop (Gents side)

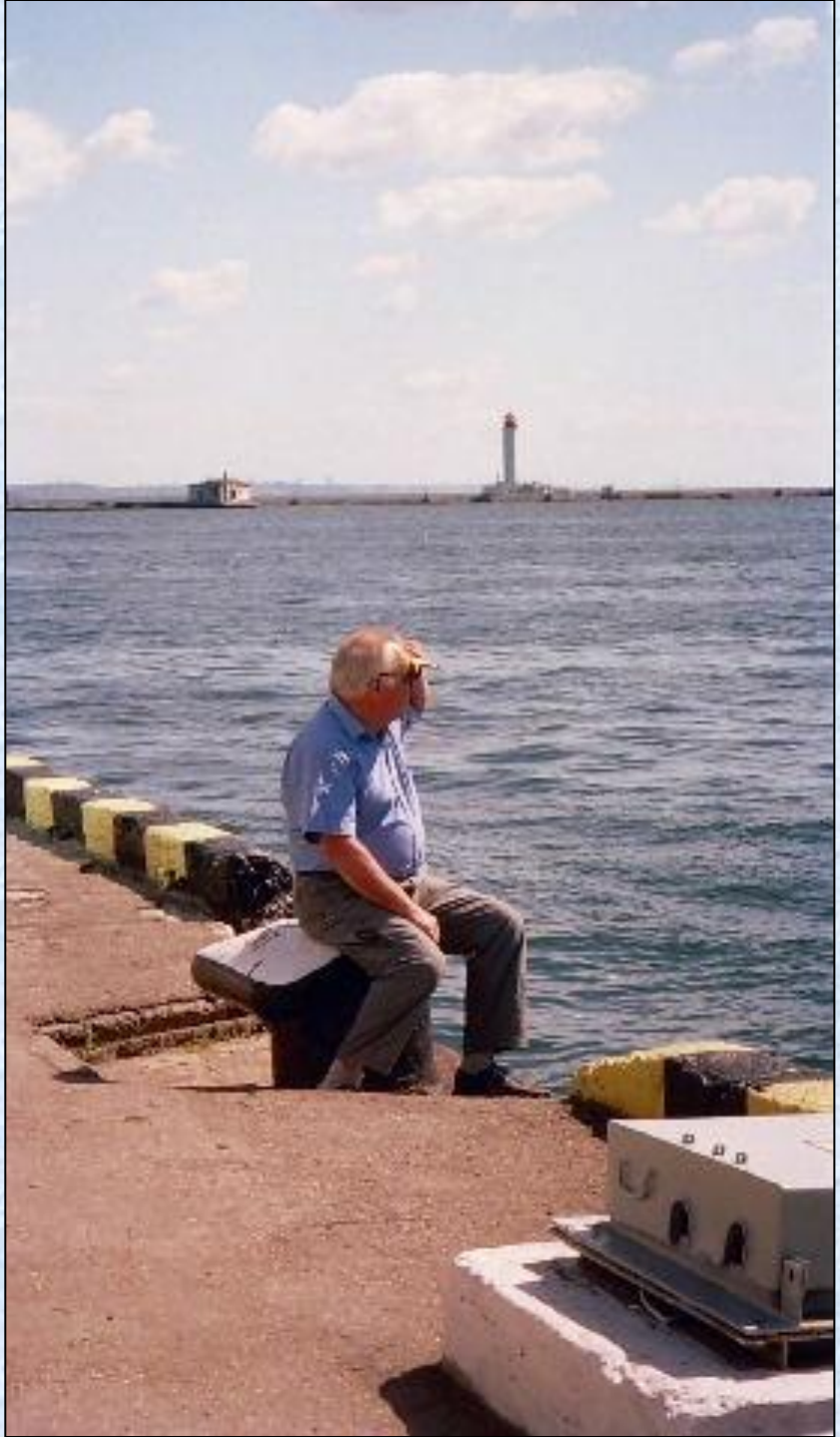
Ukrainian border: Raviolis in the canteen. Jean Ferran, Marie Claude Pelissier, Thierry Rivain, Douglas Graham, Nicolas Graham, Brigitte Ferran, Nicole Ferran



Ukrainian border: Thierry Rivain, Marie Claude Pelissier, Jean Ferran, François Pelissier



François Pelissier in Odessa



Odessa: perspective





Hotel Odessa, the view from our room


Odessa: The famous
Potemkin steps

Odessa: the Hotel Odessa where we stayed





Odessa: Richelieu square, our guide

Odessa: Nicole Ferran, Nicolas Graham, Thierry Rivain



Odessa: the harbour




Odessa: the beach

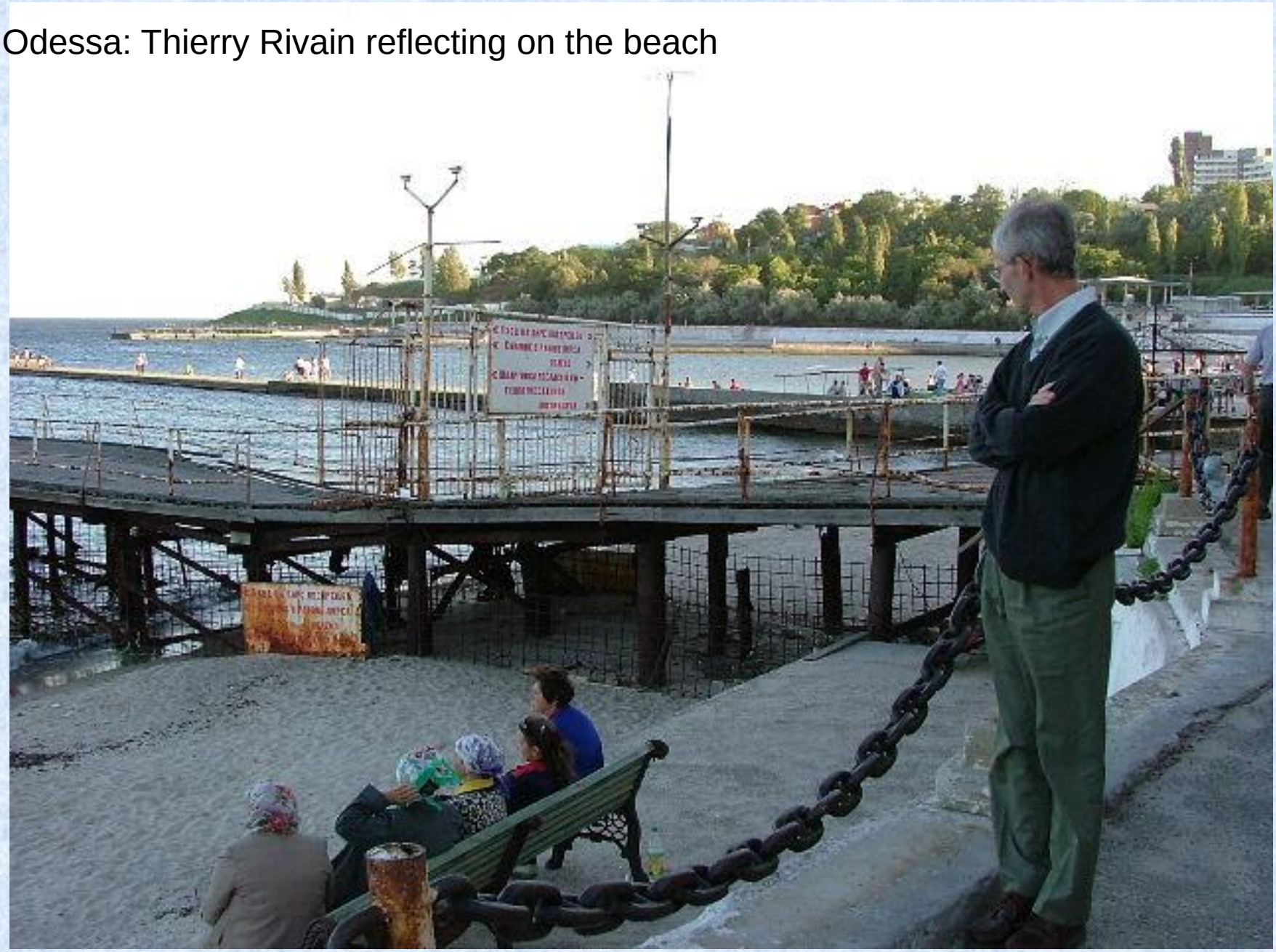
Hotel Odessa, the view from our room



Hotel Odessa, the view from our room



Odessa: Thierry Rivain reflecting on the beach




Odessa: Douglas looks happy!


Dinner in Odessa


Dinner in Odessa, the girls

Thursday, June 10th
Odessa / Chisinau

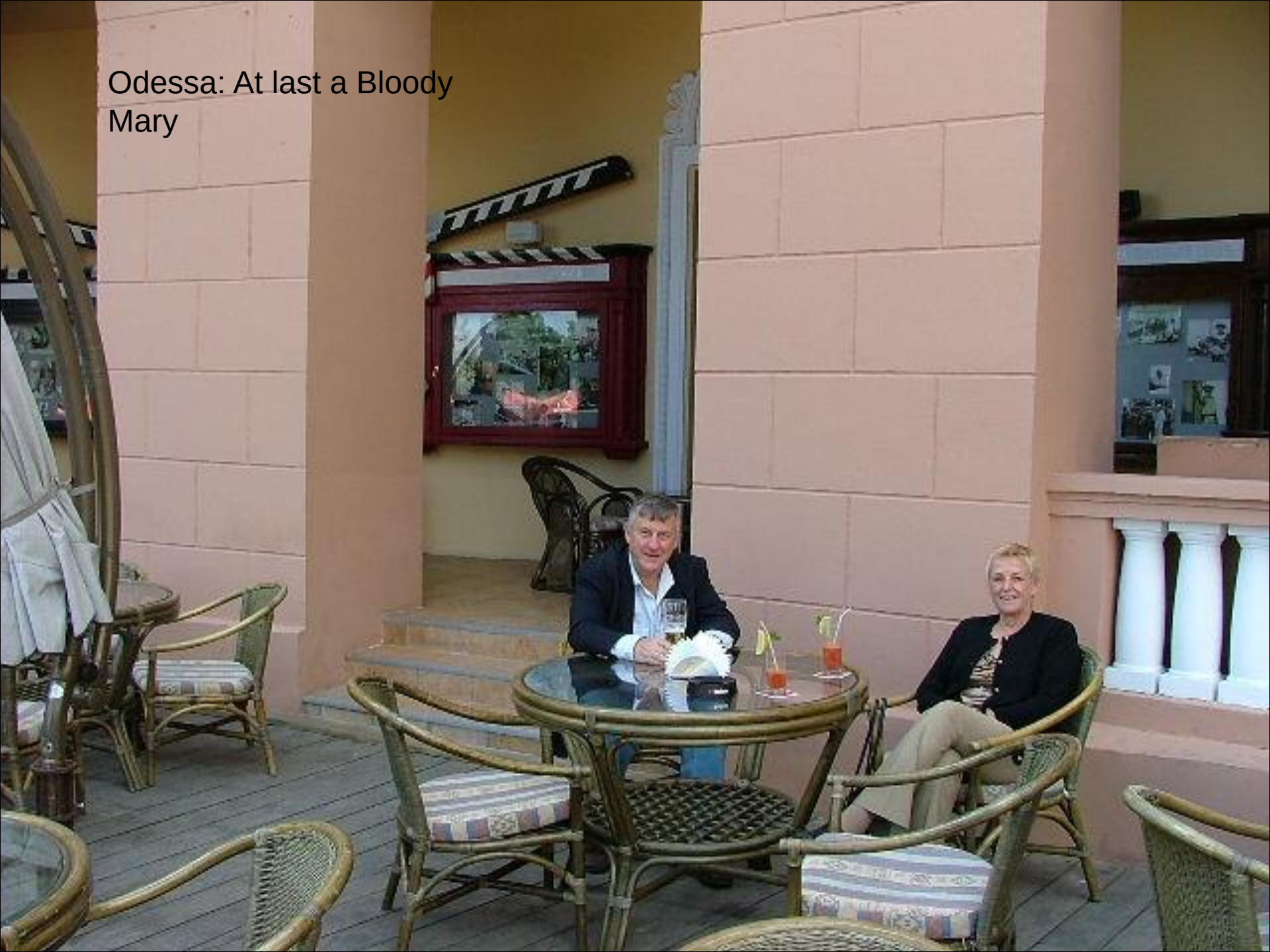
Ana & I decide to escape on our own and visit the market in Odessa, while the rest of the family visits museums. We all meet for lunch at a restaurant inspired from the Potemkin story. After lunch, we drive back to Chisinau. It only took 2 hours to cross the border this time in our Ukranian minibus driven by Yuri…

Back to Chisinau just in time for dinner in charming restaurant Panipit.



Odessa: the market,
fish, fish bones & flies


Odessa: The market


Odessa: At last a Bloody Mary

Odessa: restaurant ‘Potemkin’



Moldavian's border!




Moldavian's border: Waiting to go back in


Restauran Panipit, Chisinau


Restaurant Panipit with Natalia Popov


Restaurant Panipit, Chisinau


The best wine, restaurant Panipit
NOROC!!!
Jardin de Paris


Chisinau by night

Friday, June 11th
Trying to get back home!

Last tour of Chisinau in the morning, shopping for some, museums for others, then off to the airport.

To our dismay, the plane to Paris has been cancelled. All rush to buy tickets via Budapest except for Ana & Jean who hike a ride on a charter Moscow – Faro which happens to stop in Chisinau for refuelling… Everybody made it safely home by the evening!


Modern trucks, Chisinau

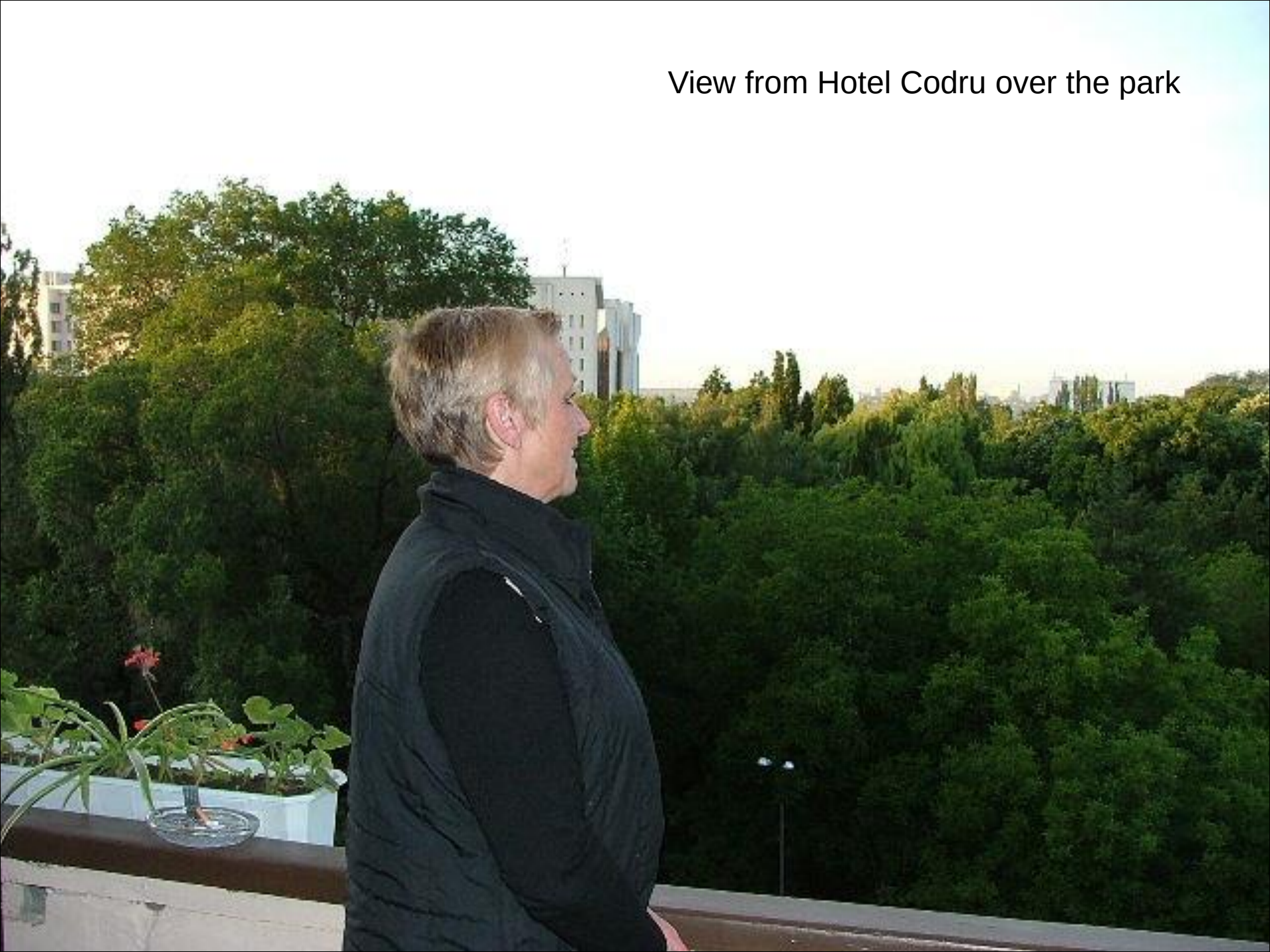


History Museum, Chisinau

Nicolas in his new suit!



View from Hotel Codru over the park



The plane is cancelled!



Trying to buy tickets




We made it home on the only ever charter flight
Chisinau-Faro
AIR MOLDOVA