

SOME MUSINGS FROM SUMMER SCHOOL...

Crowded around this year's summer school session were many visits to relatives and friends. Some of the notable ones included seeing doctoral student, Jonas Čiurlionis (yes, M. K. Čiurlionis was his great-uncle) at a year-end gathering of the philosophy department at Vilnius University. Jonas heads a band called "Sky" which provided the party's entertainment. Sky's genre is classic hard rock and as I listened, I kept wondering what the great uncle would say... Jonas will defend his Ph.D. in September and then will begin teaching at the University of Vilnius.

Later in Klaipėda I met my Knasas relatives. They took me on an excursion to where my grandfather lived near Papilė. In my mother's kitchen in Massachusetts still hangs a large drawing of the farm that my grandfather had commissioned. The buildings in the picture are long gone but at least I got to stand on the soil from which my grandfather left for America in the first years of the 20th century. I felt that a circle had been completed.

Finally, I learned a new word, *taronai*. Professors of the summer school roomed near Klaipėda University in the old hotel, Viktoria. It is basically a relic from Soviet days and needs a renovation. Your cheap price includes sheets, towel, shower, phone, and *taronai* - cockroaches!

by John F. X. Knasas



Ed. note: **John** may be too modest to say so himself, but this year he presented his lectures in Lithuanian and no one asked him to continue in English! BRAVO, **Jonai**, on your Lithuanian progress!

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...AND FOR THOSE OF US WHO STAYED ON THIS SIDE OF THE OCEAN THIS SUMMER, HERE ARE SOME PHOTOGRAPHS FROM OUR DEAR LITHUANIA...



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