

THE MINORITIES FROM RÂMNICU VÂLCEA. ECONOMIC COMPANIES, SOLE PROPRIETORSHIPS AND BRANDS DURING THE INTER-WAR PERIOD*

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Abstract: Either we talk about the Italians, the Greeks, the Macedonians, the Germans or the Jews, or whether they were rich or modest people, the passing of these minorities through Râmnicu Vâlcea played an important role in the intensification of the rhythm of urbanisation and modernisation of the town. There are few local industries in which the Italians, the Germans, the Turks or the Jews become involved, all of them proving to be good craftsmen, entrepreneurs or traders. For some of the foreigners who came and remained in Râmnicu Vâlcea, and which we have been able to identify, until now, the archive information notifies the locality from where they came, the place of birth, along with their previous occupation. Due to the fact that the numbering of the buildings has suffered, in time, repeated modifications, we have managed to present their firms, from the main commercial routes, according to the number of the place where the firm was, as found in the archive documents.

Keywords: Râmnicu Vâlcea, minorities, entrepreneur, trader, merchant.

With all the difficulties met by the population in the first years of World War I, after 1920, the town of Râmnicu Vâlcea knew a rapid rehabilitation of the economy, the multitude and the diversity of the commercial enterprises being impressive. The local commercial network was made of shops (“ready-made clothes”, shoes, leather goods, haberdashery, manufacture, furniture, hardware, bicycles etc.), tanneries, factories (sausages, soda water, timber, corks, soap, terracotta fireplaces, brushes and mason’s brushes, etc.), workshops, mills, restaurants and pubs, cafes, cake shops, warehouses etc., an aspect also proved by “The Annual of Romania for commerce, industry, trades and agriculture”, from the 31st of October 1925, which was recording, within the locality, the existence of 1,077 commercial enterprises and factories.

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Further on, we are going to present some of these companies, especially focusing our attention on the analysis of their owners' ethnicity. Either they were Italian, Greek, Macedonian, German or Jew, or whether they were rich or modest people, their passing through Râmnicu Vâlcea marked the development, the spirit and the charm of the town. The information that refers to the ethnic structure of the population indicates, in Vâlcea County, for 1930, along with the Romanians (240,282), the following ethnicities: 480 Hungarians, 595 Germans, 106 Russians, 23 Ukrainians, 146 Serbians, Croatians, Slovenians, 67 Bulgarians, 68 Czechs, Slovakians, 54 Polish, 385 Jews, 28 Greek, 36 Albanians, 18 Armenians, 23 Turks, 3,997 Gypsies, 379 other nationalities¹. From the statistical data offered by the census of 1930, we notice that, in Vâlcea County, the national minorities represented a small percent of the entire population, as compared to the percent that it used to represent within the population from the western counties of the country. At that time (1930), the town of Râmnicu Vâlcea had 15,648 dwellers, from which 14,639 were Romanians, the rest belonging to the minorities: 166 Hungarians, 276 Germans, 40 Russians, 6 Ruthenians and Ukrainians, 34 Serbians, Croatians and Slovenians, 32 Bulgarians, 22 Czechs and Slovakians, 7 Polish, 184 Jews, 14 Greek, 22 Albanians, 8 Armenians, 2 Turks, 81 Gypsies, 91 other nationalities and 24 undeclared². The sources that we have, until now, indicate the fact that many representatives of these minorities adapted rapidly to the requests imposed by the development of the capitalism, playing an important role in the intensification of the rhythm of urbanisation and modernisation of the city.

In order to be able to carry on their activity, each entrepreneur had a commercial enterprise, registered at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea – in the Trade Registry – and, before the creation of the institution, the registration was made at the tribunal. Among the documents, filed for the registration, there was information concerning: name and surname of the trader, place and date of birth, the brand of the company, the object and type of trade, address, data for the beginning of the activity, the invested social capital, the certificate of nationality, the good-behaviour certificate, issued by the Town Hall, the declaration with the invested capital, the certificate of commercial practice or, if lacking, the certificate of exemption.

Although they are not mentioned in lots of the statistical data, or they are included among the other nationalities category, we cannot omit the community of Italians from Râmnicu Vâlcea, as much as the historiography attributes their participation to the development and the urbanisation of the town. At the end of the 19th century, in the county, from the number of foreigners, 5% belonged to this

¹ Sabin Manuilă, *Studiu etnografic asupra populației României*, Bucharest, 1940, pp. 34-35.

² *The general census of the Romanian population from the 29 of December 1930*, Bucharest, volume II, 1938, p. 426.

community³. For 1905, from the statistics published by Sabin Drăguliu, we find that, in the town, there were 283 Italians (258 men, 25 women)⁴. According to their training, the representatives of this community were entrepreneurs, architects, masons, craftsmen, painters, watch and clockmakers, bakers or traders.

Among the most active entrepreneurs, who had established in Râmnicu Vâlcea, we mention Anton Copetti, to whom we owe the erecting of a series of houses, such: Alexiu House from Regina Maria St., no. 19, Ștefan Georgescu House, built in 1907 and the house of a tax collector, built on the platform of the fair, next to the town. In 1910, Anton Copetti was commissioned to build two stores, in the central market of the town, to make the necessary works for introducing the running water and a sewage system in the locality⁵. The fountain with the bust of Constantin Brâncoveanu, from General Praporgescu St., in front of the present Town Hall is considered a historic monument, the date of its inauguration being 1913. The authors of the already mentioned monument were: the Italian carver Raimondo Lampone, the sculptor Constantin Mihăilescu and Anton Copetti⁶. Later on, Copetti managed to finish the works of renovation for the Bishopric of Râmnic Noul-Severin, for the Seminar of Râmnicu Vâlcea⁷ and the "Prefect's building"⁸, all achieved in 1923.

Experts in the exploitation and processing of wood and stone, excellent masons, the Italians from Râmnic were the ones working, with their teams, to build roads, bridges, railways, tunnels, wooden dams for the artificial lakes, train stations etc. Among the most famous names, we mention here those of: Luigi Lorenzi with the headquarter on Avram Iancu St.⁹; Lorenzo Bogani –Traian St.; Anton and Nicolae R. Luzappane – Matei Basarb St.¹⁰; Dal Ben Luigi; Fiorovanti Candoni – Alex. Costeanu St., no. 50¹¹; Olinto Boari¹².

Representatives of this community, they became actively involved in the commercial and cultural life of the locality. Here are some names that remained in

³ The County Department of the National Archives from Vâlcea, Vâlcea County Prefect's Office Fund, file 36/1906, ff. 220-221 (further quoted as: CDNA Vâlcea).

⁴ Sabin Drăguliu, *Fenomenul migrator în România. Studiu de caz: italienii (1868-2010)*, in "Sfera Politicii", volume XIX, no. 4(158)/2011, pp. 15-17, available at <http://www.sferapoliticii.ro/sfera/158/-art02Dragulin.php>, site accessed on 15.01.2017.

⁵ Florin Epure, *Antonio Copetti, un italian la Râmnic*, Curierul de Râmnic, 21st of March 2011, available at www.ramnic.ro/articole/antonio-copetti-un-italian-la-ramnic-35224/2011-03-21, accessed on 15.01.2017.

⁶ *Ibidem*.

⁷ The Official Gazette, no. 283/22 of December 1927, p. 17.181 (further quoted as Of. G.).

⁸ Of. G., no. 65/22nd of June 1912, p. 3.385.

⁹ CDNA Vâlcea, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea Fund, file 12/1936, f. 40.

¹⁰ *Ibidem*.

¹¹ *Ibidem*, ff. 42-43.

¹² Amalia Boari, Bogdan Boari, *Italiani la Rm. Vâlcea. Familia Boari*, in *Siamo di nuovo insieme*, new series, no. 47-48/2014, pp. 34-35.

the collective memory: Adreani, Marconi, Bugani, De Villa and Santuzzi¹³. Placed on Tudor Vladimirescu Boulevard, the building of “Adreani”¹⁴ theatre and cinema was erected at the end of the 19th century, more precisely between 1893 and 1894¹⁵. The theatre hall had an excellent acoustics, the owners of the theatre, Elvira and Eugen Adreani being interested in creating optimal conditions for the actors. The draped curtain was easy to handle, and the screen for the projection of the films was large enough. The hall had a box for the prompters and all the necessary rooms for a good management of the shows¹⁶. “Adreani” Theatre represented, in the period between the two world wars, an important centre of culture, hosting entertaining cultural activities and being a welcoming place, for the show theatres that would come in Râmnic.

On the 20th of August 1924, Iosif Marcon (born in Italy), was registering in the Trade Registry, a collective investment undertakings, with the object of activity “clocks/watches and jewellery” and the brand “Iosif Marcon and the successors”¹⁷. Marcon administrated a workshop specialised in the repairing of clocks and pendulums. Moreover, he was selling a variety of watches (Longines, Omega, Roskoff patent, Tavanese, Watch¹⁸ etc.), along with jewellery (engagement, wedding). In 1942, Alfredo Marcon, his associate son, drew back from the family business and became employed as a clerk, at the National Bank of Romania¹⁹. Five years later, Iosif Marcon was requesting the deregistration of the jewellery trade, remaining active only the clockmaker’s shop²⁰.

Among the successful Italian entrepreneurs, from Râmnicu Vâlcea, we can also mention Anton Rachelli (born in Italy), who administrated a factory of croissants and cakes, on Matei Basarab St., no. 55²¹ and Antonia Copetti, the owner of a “salami/sausages and bacon” factory, from Traian St., no. 115. The firm functioned within the time interval between 1904-1928²².

The archive information, along with the press of that time records the fact that, especially in the inter-war period, some of the commercial transactions from Râmnicu Vâlcea, which aimed the branches: men and women clothes, haberdashery,

¹³ *Ibidem*.

¹⁴ Of. G., no. 48/2(15) of June 1905, p. 1.860.

¹⁵ Titi Mihail Gherghina, *Imagini citadine din Râmnicul de altădată*, Rm. Vâlcea, Almarom Publishing House, 2007, p. 194.

¹⁶ *Ibidem*.

¹⁷ The initial social capital was of 230,000 de lei, subscribed by: Iosif Marcon – 150,000 de lei, cash, goods and furniture; Giusepina Marcon, wife of Iosif – 60,000 lei; Alfredo Marcon, son, associate employee – 20,000 lei, in C.D.N.A. Vâlcea, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea Fund, file 25/1931, ff. 3-11; Of. G., no. 120/4 of June 1925, p. 6.346.

¹⁸ Gazeta Vâlcei, no. 3/24 of March 1919, p. 4.

¹⁹ Of. G., no. 217/18 of September 1940, p. 7.911.

²⁰ CDNA Vâlcea, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea Fund, file 25/1931, f. 29.

²¹ *Ibidem*, file 12/1936, f. 42.

²² Titi Mihail Gherghina, *Despre industria și comerțul râmnicean*, Rm. Vâlcea, Almarom Publishing House, 2006, p. 81 (further quoted as Titi Mihail Gherghina, *Despre industria și comerțul râmnicean...*).

manufacture and knitting trade, grocery, colonial goods, fruit and vegetables, were taken by Jews. Other areas that gained the attention of the Jewish capital were those of the glassware, pharmacy, clock/watch making and tinsmithing. Thus, on Traian St., in the records of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea, there appears, at no. 65, “the millet-beer shop” of Hali Isac (b. 1888, Serbia), and, at no. 78, in the houses owned by C. Oromolu, there was, between 1908 and 1928, the only ready-made clothes shop, called “La Doi Lei”, administrated by Idel Abraham. On the ground-floor of the no. 85 building, for more than a decade (1919-1931) there was a store, from which there could be bought items of “hardware, glassware, china and housekeeping products”, managed by Emanoil Fusman²³. On the same street, at no. 105, there was a shop with “all kinds of colonial goods and paints”, of Ion Cadelcu, called Iancu, and five numbers downwards, at 110, Samuel Fritz (b. 1888, Curtea de Argeş) owned a tinsmith’s shop²⁴.

Although the address is the same, Traian St., no 111, for the inter-war period we identify even more separated firms. The building was the property of Iosefina Paslawsky Bejan, and was placed at the junction of streets Traian with Ştirbei Vodă. Around 1880, Iosif and Iosefina Paslawsky Bejan inaugurated a chemist’s shop, called “La Coroana Regală”. The chemist’s was administrated, until 1914, by Iosif, later by his wife (1914-1935), and in the interval 1935-1940, by Mira and Dinu Simian, daughter and son-in-law of Bejan. In 1948, the chemist’s ceased its existence, being nationalised²⁵. In two of the spaces from the ground floor of the house, in the inter-war period, there functioned the watch/clock shops of the Jews Isac Oifa and Vili Şular²⁶. In 1931, one of the spaces of the building was occupied by the grocery of Naftali C. Herscovici (b. 1904, Tg. Neamţ), known under the brand “Vopselăria Cerbului”²⁷.

Among the most important firms “of commerce, manufacture and clothes”, which functioned in Râmnicu Vâlcea, after World War I, was that of A. S. Taubman, from Traian St., no. 124²⁸. The firm functioned in the time interval of 1921-1940, under the brand “La hora ţărănească”. At no. 130, on the same commercial route, there could also be noticed the shoe store of Maer Simovici, and at no. 133, there was the sugar and cotton warehouse, called “La Lazăr”, led by Elias Taubman (b. 1870, Bucharest). On the ground floor of building, at no. 154, Daniel and Şmil Gutman, along with Idel Avram managed a “clothes shop”²⁹, and two numbers downwards, Esthera Cohn led a manufactory³⁰.

²³ CDNA Vâlcea, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea Fund, file 1/1941, f. 100.

²⁴ Idem, The Community of the Jews from Rm. Vâlcea Fund, file 5/1941, f. 69.

²⁵ Idem, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea Fund, file 41/1932, ff. 1-3.

²⁶ Titi Mihail Gherghina, *Despre industria şi comerţul râmnicean...*, p. 50.

²⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 147.

²⁸ CDNA Vâlcea, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea Fund, file 1/1941, f. 100.

²⁹ *Ibidem*, file 12/1936, f. 40.

³⁰ *Ibidem*.

Other old Jewish traders from Râmnic, who carried out their activity, on the route with the biggest density of commercial enterprises (Traian St.), there were the following: Hisech Friedric (b. 1877, Reșița)³¹, Iosuf Ali (fishmonger), Iancu Fritz (glassware), Mina and Iancu Meller (grocery).

In the market called Piața Halei, in a place rented from the Town Hall of Râmnicu Vâlcea, Marcu Alexandru Rotman (b. 30th of June 1887, Bucharest) opened, on the 26th of July 1932, a company with the declared object of activity: manufacture and haberdashery³², *retail* and *wholesale*. The company functioned until 1938, when it was deregistered, due to the reason that it did not have “legal documents”³³.

Through his business – trader – Moritz Löbel (b. 18th of April 1894, Sibiu) managed to become well-known among the majority local population. He started his activity on the 13th of November 1929³⁴, on Călărași St., at no. 82. To the initial object of “bags factory”, was added, in 1931, that of: “commerce with fruit, nuts, preserved plums and any kind of fruit”, with the headquarters on Traian St., at no 124, and with the brand “Exports of nuts and Romanian selected fruit”³⁵.

A name that through its long-lasting existence, and through the nature of the business, managed to become renowned in Râmnicu Vâlcea, was that of Arnold Jarinary (b. 1865, Orșova). At the beginning of the 20th century, he was part of the industrialists group from Râmnic, being the owner of a copper factory, endowed with a water engine, at no. 142, Călărași St³⁶. In 1912, along with Solomon Kleinberg³⁷, created “O. Thüringer” Automobile Company from Rm. Vâlcea, for the following 10 years. The purpose of the company was to help with the transportation to and fro the resorts Călimănești-Govora and Căciulata, by using “automobiles, buses, lorries and automobile accessories”³⁸.

Having the object of activity “knitting, haberdashery and fashions”, on General Praporgescu St., at no. 6, at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea, there was registered the company of Aneta Haim Vildmann (b. 1901, Buzău)³⁹. His company was known under the brand “La Toileta”. On the same street, and having as object of activity, between 1931-1940, there was also registered Lilly Waldman⁴⁰. Sandu Vilnâr administrated a tailor’s shop, on Mihai

³¹ Hisech Friedric administrated, on Traian St., at no. 204, a leather shop with the brand “La ochiul lui Dumnezeu”.

³² CDNA Vâlcea, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea Fund, file 118/1932, ff. 1-8.

³³ *Ibidem*.

³⁴ *Ibidem*, file 1.301/1936, f. 3.

³⁵ *Ibidem*, f. 6.

³⁶ Titi Mihail Gherghina, *Despre industria și comerțul râmnicean...*, p. 20.

³⁷ Solomon Kleinberg married to Henrieta Avram Șaraga, from Roman, in Of. G., no. 32/12(25) of May 1916, p. 1.450.

³⁸ Of. G., no. 50/5(18) of June 1912, p. 2.624.

³⁹ The company was deregistered in 1940, in CDNA. Vâlcea, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea Fund, file 1/1941, f. 100.

⁴⁰ *Ibidem*.

Bravu St., no. 8⁴¹, and on Tudor Vladimirescu St., there was noticed the shop of hats and caps, called “La pălărierul român” of Heinrich Faiman. The following commercial societies were also carrying out a prosperous business: the manufactories of Iosif S. Koch (called Sică); the greengrocer’s of Iosef Schecter⁴²; the shoemaking shop of Izrael Graboi, from Traian Demetrescu St., no. 9; the general stores, administrated by Iancu Bergher and Margot Solomon; the soda water factory of Iosif Chisgonsky, from Tabaci St., no. 14⁴³; the tinsmith’s shop, led by Avram Fritz, from Mihai Bravu St.⁴⁴.

In the memory of the dwellers from the town, there also remained the following commercial societies, administrated by Jews: the perfumery of Moritz Erdtracht (b. 1875, Galați), which functioned under the brand “Universal Perfumery”; “the salami and retail factory” of Mihail Beretz (b. 1878, Turnu Severin)⁴⁵; the manufactory “La Hăinăria Praga”, administrated by Silvia Sami Stern (b. 1891, Rm. Sărat); the tinsmith’s shop of Iosif Grosmann, from Călărași St., no.1⁴⁶.

Through the commercial route of Râmnic, there crossed, along the years, a lot of Armenian, Turkish, Bulgarian, Macedonian or Czech craftsmen and traders. For the inter-war period of time, the archive documents mention the shoemaker’s shop called “La vulturul de aur”, from Știrbei Vodă St., no. 25, managed by Dumitru Lapă (b. 1891, Budapest). Even if it functioned on a short period of time (1932-1936), there also should be mentioned the flower shop of Ludovig Niesner (Czech, b. 13th of August 1882, Böhm, Trüban, Czechoslovakia), from Colonel Apostol Dumitrescu St., no. 3⁴⁷.

On General Praporgescu St., at no. 7, Alexandru Gheorgala (b. Turkey) administrated the restaurant hotel, the café and the cinema, known under the brand “La Caraiman”. On the same street, in the inter-war period, there functioned the greengroceries of the Sarkisian brothers, Armenians, who “used to own the most diversified greengroceries with colonial goods and delicacies”⁴⁸, and they were well “thought of, in the commercial world, due to their correctness on addressing their customers”⁴⁹. From 1924, Nișan Sarkisan, trader (b. 2nd of May 1868), practiced the commerce with coffee and colonial goods, his firm having the brand

⁴¹ Idem, The Community of the Jews from Rm. Vâlcea Fund, file 5/1941, f. 69.

⁴² *Ibidem*.

⁴³ The soda water factory of Iosif Chisgonsky had “just one cemented well-lit room. He works with liquid carbonic acid from the Romanian United Factories. The brass contained is clean, the bottles are fitted accordingly, having the brand Iosif Chirgovici, imprinted on them”, in Titi Mihail Gherghina, *Despre industria și comerțul râmnicean...*, p. 21.

⁴⁴ CDNA Vâlcea, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea Fund, file 12/1936, f. 38.

⁴⁵ Mihail Beretz was a founding member of “Blankul” company for the industry of tannery. The company was founded in 1927, at Râmnicu Vâlcea, in Of. G., no. 148/8 of July 1928, p. 9.097.

⁴⁶ CDNA Vâlcea, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea Fund, file 12/1936, ff. 42-43.

⁴⁷ *Ibidem*, file 124/1932, f. 1.

⁴⁸ Titi Mihail Gherghina, *Despre industria și comerțul râmnicean...*, p. 49.

⁴⁹ *Ibidem*.

“La Cămila”⁵⁰. His son, Ervant Sarkisian, starts the trade business in 1936, opening a shop of perfumes and toilet items, with the brand “Parfumeria Regală”⁵¹. In the evidence of Râmnicu Vâlcea Town Hall, in 1947, in the industrial and commercial network of the town, there were included Kerop and Dikran Sarkisian, with greengroceries on General Praporgescu St.

At no. 81, on Traian St., there was registered the company administrated by the Greek M. S. Saframnolis. Known under the brand “La Oriental”, it started the activity on the 14th of July 1925⁵², continuing for five years, with an initial social capital of 280,000 de lei⁵³. The object of the society, as it was recorded at the Trade Registry, was: “colonial goods, grounded coffee factory and other items”. Also on Traian St., at no. 107, the Macedonian Petre I. Simantos (b. 1884, Macedonia), owned a “milk-shop and a pie-shop”. With the same ethnicity as Simantos, Petre Vidan (b. 1874) settles in the town, and in the inter-war period administrated his own bakery, from Traian St., no. 215.

At no. 4, Piața Halei, Sozemschi I. Leopold (Czech, b. 11th of November 1900, at Tg. Jiu), managed, between the 15th of March 1931 and the 4th of March 1936, a firm with the object of activity “butchery and sausage-making”⁵⁴, with the brand “La Polul Nord”⁵⁵, and at no. 5, from the year of 1931, Stan Jipcovici (b. 1871, Serbia), owned a greengrocery from which there could be bought paints, colonial goods, products of manufacture, and also vegetables.

Starting with the end of the 19th century, among the industrialists from Râmnicu Vâlcea, the German ones became renowned. There are few local industries that are directly related to the exclusive involvement of this community. These are: the miller’s trade, wood processing, machines and tools. Thus, in bakery, among the oldest factories from Râmnicu Vâlcea, there is *Gheltsch Mill*, from Știrbei Vodă St., no. 95. It began functioning in 1886, being considered, at that time, a modern mill. The mill is registered with activity until 1947, under the administration of Emil Gheltsch and Olga Gheltsch.

On N. Simionescu St., at no. 14, there is recorded in the evidence of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea, the collective investment undertakings – a house founded at 1900 by I. Langfeld –, and administrated by Alois (b. 29th of November 1895, Galați) and Walter Langfeld. The company was registered on the 10th of March 1931⁵⁶, on unlimited period of time. In 1936,

⁵⁰ CDNA Vâlcea, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea Fund, file 329/1936, f. 1.

⁵¹ Ervant Sarkisian started trade of the 1st of October 1936. On the 15th of March 1937, he requested the deregistration of his company, motivating that he no longer practiced that type of commerce, in CDNA Vâlcea, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea Fund, file 172/1936, f. 1.

⁵² CDNA Vâlcea, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea Fund, file 256/1931, f. 1.

⁵³ Of. G. no. 217/3 of October 1925, p. 10.823.

⁵⁴ CDNA Vâlcea, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea Fund, file 1.289/1931, f. 3.

⁵⁵ *Ibidem*.

⁵⁶ *Ibidem*, file 48/1931, f. 9; Of. G., no. 94/25 of April 1931, p. 5.245.

Walter draws back from the company, the entire assets and liabilities being given to Alois⁵⁷. Until 1947, the firm of Alois Langfeld enjoyed “a good reputation”⁵⁸ and worked for extending the business, owing to the fact that “the items for which it is requested the extension of commerce are missing from the market, once with the ceasing of activity of the firm Singer Bourne/Comp”⁵⁹, and he was requesting the granting of authorisation “for the adding to the commerce of cork items, that of Import of technical machines and devices”⁶⁰. In 1947, the company was registered as: The Administration of Soviet Enterprises and Goods within the Commercial Representation of USSR from Romania⁶¹.

Famous among the dwellers of the city, there were also the two furniture factories, administrated by Josefina Dietrich and Gundisch brothers⁶², along with the mechanical workshop of carpentry and smith’s work of Frantz Eitel, situated on Tudor Vladimirescu Boulevard, at no. 18.

Many of the industrialists, traders or merchants mentioned above, became renowned for the fields where they activated. Some of them were also interested in working for our banking system, functioning as members of the administration boards of some important banks from Râmnicu Vâlcea. Here are just few of the local interest cases. Some of the most representative examples is *Fortuna Bank*, which was founded in 1902, as private company. The members of the administration board were: Anton Copetti (entrepreneur), Iancu Meller (trader), A. S. Taubman (trader), Arnold Jarinary (producer), Adolf Rubinștein (trader), Iosif Marcon (trader)⁶³. Starting with 1914, the company ceased to function, the entire assets and liabilities being taken by Râmnicu Vâlcea Commercial Bank, within the most active members were Frederich Geltsch and Solomon Kleinberg⁶⁴. Other representative examples were: Anton Copetti⁶⁵, member of the administration board at “Creditul Țărănesc Bank”, joint-stock company, which functioned between 1921-1944⁶⁶ and Arnold Jarinary, member in the administration board from The Bank of Râmnic⁶⁷.

The presentation of the commercial enterprises, with the brief description provided above, is not able to depict the total number of companies that functioned in Râmnicu Vâlcea, during the inter-war period, which were managed by representatives of the local minorities. Most of these companies were deregistered

⁵⁷ CDNA Vâlcea, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea Fund, file 48/1931, f. 12.

⁵⁸ *Ibidem*, file 36/1936, f. 24.

⁵⁹ *Ibidem*.

⁶⁰ *Ibidem*.

⁶¹ *Ibidem*, f. 43.

⁶² *Ibidem*, file 12/1936, f. 40.

⁶³ Of. G., no. 163/23 of October 1911, p. 7.590.

⁶⁴ Of. G., no. 66/25 of March 1924, p. 3.426.

⁶⁵ Of. G., no. 25/5 of May 1921, p. 838.

⁶⁶ CDNA Vâlcea, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Vâlcea Fund, file 28/1934, f. 2; *Ibidem*, file 253/1931, f. 1.

⁶⁷ Of. G., no. 28/8 of February 1924, p. 1.190.

in the years of World War II, or in the immediately following period, and some of the reasons for the ceasing of their activity were the following relevant ones: the ceasing of functioning due to the trader's initiative, bankruptcy, the death of the owner. To all these, there was also added the nationalisation from 1948, which put an end to the private commercial network from the locality.