

**A BRIEF OVERVIEW ON CRAIOVA BUSINESSES  
IN THE FIRST THREE DECADES OF THE XX<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY.  
LESS KNOWN FOREIGN MERCHANTS**

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**Abstract:** In this study I present a few commercial units owned by Jews and other foreigners, and those units in which they had legal status as counterpart or associate and how they developed their activity in Craiova, in the first three decades of the XX<sup>th</sup> century, the chronologic upper line being the world economic crisis (1929–1933). For this purpose I used the information found in archive funds as well as those published in the Official Monitor in the above mentioned period. My object is to identify less popular merchants, reason for I left out those who stood out in the history as a significant presence in the social-economic dynamic of town: Samitca, Benvenusti, Eschenasy, Mendel, Baruch, Nachmanson, etc.

**Keywords:** Craiova, foreign merchants, the first three decades of the XX<sup>th</sup> century, individual firms, social firms.

In this study I present a few commercial units owned by Jews and foreigners, and those units in which they had legal status as counterpart or associate and how they developed their activity in Craiova, in the first three decades of the XX<sup>th</sup> century, the chronologic upper line being the world economic crisis (1929–1933). For this purpose I used the information found in archive funds as well as those published in the Official Monitor in the above mentioned period. My object is to identify less popular merchants, reason for I left out those who stood out in the history as a significant presence in the social-economic dynamic of town: Samitca, Benvenusti, Eschenasy, Mendel, Baruch, Nachmanson, etc. They were involved in all economic branches: industry, crafts (working as: shoemakers, tailors, ironworkers, carpenters, watchmakers, or jewellers) but also in other commercial activities as foodstuff, restaurants, bars, cafes, pubs, technical products, steel, construction supplies.

The first three decades of the XX<sup>th</sup> century in the history of Romania incurred by our study, have known four major phases: one in which there were accomplished many objectives required by modernization and development (until 1916), another

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one of significant human and material loss during the First World War (1916–1918), followed by restoration (1918–1924) and economic development increased between 1924 and 1929<sup>1</sup>.

Craiova represented for Oltenia, one of the most important urban centres whose economic development might be considered a model for this part of the country. In the first post-war years the aim was to restore and implement the current economic potential, the capital of Banie making significant progress: the existing companies increase their production and open new business units<sup>2</sup>. In 1911 in Craiova there were 96 firms (19 social firms and 65 individuals<sup>3</sup>) in 1919, in Dolj there were registered 524 firms (73 in urban areas). The majority belong to Romanians, 15 were run by Jew merchants and 11 by foreigners<sup>4</sup>.

As mentioned above, at the end of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century in Craiova there were factories managed by Jews or foreign owners, some of them being in a partnership with Romanian entrepreneurs. In light of this the chemical factory Oltenia near the railway station founded on 24<sup>th</sup> of August 1897, by the associates Sig. Goldenberg (Bucharest) and Neuman Goldenberg and I. Rosenberg (Craiova). The activity was developed by the social firm “Neuman Goldenberg and I. Rosemberg”. Rosemberg’s withdraw from the firm after only a year of onset will do firm to continue under their managing for a short period being afterwards dissolved on 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 1901<sup>5</sup>. The factory *Metalurgica Olteniei* run by Stark (Starck) brothers, Heinrich (Henerik) and Marcu, and Heinerich (Haim) N. Lillu as the social firm “Starck Brother”, was set up in July 1925 with a capital of 800,000 lei (Lillu – 200,000 lei and the others 300,000 lei each). Within the factory they made: iron and copper furniture, strollers for kids and any other related articles<sup>6</sup>. Stark brothers handled trading since 1910. On 28<sup>th</sup> of January they started with an office of “agents and commission” (Dina Popovici Street, at no. 1). Four years later they added a new field of activity trade in spirit drinks wholesale and others and in 1915 with wholesale cereals, colonials and manufacture. When Marcu died the firm continued its activity under Heinrich Stark and Linca (Carolina) Stark ex Segalla as tutor for the underage children of their dead associate. In 1931 at the object and type it was noted: wholesale store of spirit drinks, retail footwear and wholesale, trading representative, iron beds and strolls stores. After two years, the two opened a

<sup>1</sup> Ioan Scurtu, Gheorghe Buzatu, *Istoria Românilor în secolul XX*, Bucharest, Paideea Publishing House, 1999, pp. 93–94.

<sup>2</sup> Albinel Firescu, *Evoluția economică a Craiovei în perioada interbelică* în “Litua. Studii și cercetări”, vol. XV, Târgu Jiu, 2013 p. 251.

<sup>3</sup> *Anuarul statistic al României*, Bucharest, 1912, p. 297.

<sup>4</sup> *Anuarul statistic al României 1922*, Bucharest, 1923, p. 152. The majority had registered their main activity: trade in clothes, footwear, manufacture (215); food and drinks (186), industrial objects-wood, metal, leather (76), followed by representatives and commissiones (21), various (52) factories and enterprises (7), farming exploits and forests (2)

<sup>5</sup> “Official Monitor”, no. 156/14 (27) October 1901, p. 6007 (further quoted as: “O. M.”).

<sup>6</sup> Idem, no. 259/24 Nov. 1925, p. 13182.

footwear store on Buzesti street at no. 2 run by Heinrich Stark. The firm was radiated on 27<sup>th</sup> of October 1939<sup>7</sup>.

The German Richard Graepel was the owner of the metallurgic factory and a store of agricultural and industrial machines and technical articles (since 1901). The social office was registered in the Mihail Kogalniceanu Street no. 20 and the office was on Carol Bld. at no. 124. The commercial activity started on 12 December 1896<sup>8</sup>. On the ground of the decree no. 119, during the German ruling in the First World War, the factory was requisitioned, a period when the facilities were completely broken<sup>9</sup>.

In the period under study, the biggest share in the economy of Craiova was held by the small shops, lots of them ruined during war. Based on the document, I identified: the studio of stone crosses run by F.A. Gossler (set up on 1875, Sineasca Street at no. 24 – after 1904)<sup>10</sup>; mechanical steel mill set up by Claiton et Schuttleworth (1877) in which shipped out in 1904 products to Bulgaria (Bucovat street)<sup>11</sup>; the machine shop “Fratii Tribus” (set up in 1<sup>st</sup> of August 1923, Cuza Voda Street at no. 128) to whom the two associates Zoltan and Otto allocated a capital of 25,000 lei<sup>12</sup>; the carpenter shops were owned by M. Bruchner (Stolojan Bld. at no. 18)<sup>13</sup> and the Czech Franz Kuszel (Smardan Street no. 28)<sup>14</sup>; “Shop and special workshop of coppery «La Baia de Arama» Ratomir Latcovici and Marin Constantinescu” had as main activity “making, repairing and selling copper objects, boilers, buckets as any other works specific to that industry”. The main office was in Logofatul Tautu Street at no. 1. The shops designed to process copper were on Postelnicu Fir Street at no. 15 and on I. C. Bratianu Street at no. 146 (1925–1933)<sup>15</sup>.

The co-associated *Fratii E. Landmann*, set up on 8<sup>th</sup> of March 1922, Iosif, Traian and Athanasie, handled exploiting a “mechanic shop for agricultural and industrial repairing, mills, engins and farm tools having” in the constitutive act also

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<sup>7</sup> The County Service of National Archives, Dolj, fund, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Craiova, Social Firms, file no. 361/1931, unnumbered, Heinrich Stark married in 1918 with Malca Amelie Mischousniky, the daughter of the merchants H. And Gogea Mischousniky, from Craiova; Marcu Starkck married in 1909 with Caroline Segalla, the daughter of Joseph and Emilia Segalla (further quoted as S.J.A.N., Dolj).

<sup>8</sup> “O.M.” no. 137/17 June 1931, p. 7757; Idem, nr. 245/13 februarie 1923, p. 11574. Richard Graepel was born on 28<sup>th</sup> of October 1868 at Emdem-Germany.

<sup>9</sup> Luchian Deaconu, *Dezvoltarea industriei județului Dolj între 1918-1944* în „Historica”, vol. III, Bucharest, Academia Publishing House, 1974, pp. 194–195.

<sup>10</sup> Dinică Ciobotea, Marusia Cîrstea, Ion Zarzără, *Documente economice privind Circumscripția Camerei de Comerț și Industrie Dolj (1865–1949)*, Craiova, Universitaria Publishing House, 2015, p. 239.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>12</sup> “O.M.”, no.154/18 July 1924, p. 8195.

<sup>13</sup> Idem, no. 279/17 December 1927, p. 16869.

<sup>14</sup> Idem, no. 187/28 August 1924, p. 9747. Franz Kuszel was born in 25 May 1873, Czechoslovakia, settled in Romania in 1890. In 1924 he requested Romanian citizenship.

<sup>15</sup> Idem, no. 120/4 June 1925, p. 6359; S.J.A.N., Dolj, fund Chamber of Commerce and Industry Craiova, Social Firms, file no. 97/1931, unnumbered.

mentioned an office of Romanian and foreign representatives (Gradinari Street at no 53)<sup>16</sup>. Requesting a loan that will not pay off in time (1926) two years later their entire realty fortune was auctioned<sup>17</sup>.

On Libertatii Street, at no. 6, there was the mechanical shop and locksmith managed by social firm Iritz Bertha SINC, with the logo *Iritz-Succesor or Iritz-succesorii* from Craiova (15<sup>th</sup> of January 1927 – 12<sup>th</sup> of September 1936)<sup>18</sup>. On 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1919, Bratovici Petre opened on Bucovat Street, at no. 95, a “smithy and woodwork shop for making carriages”<sup>19</sup>. Likewise, Adam and Felix Golomblosky had a shop where they built carriages and repaired cars (13<sup>th</sup> of September, Street no. 1). The firm *Adam Golomblosky and Son* opened the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 1923 with a social capital of 74,000 lei (cash, tools, devices deposited by Adam, evaluate at 7,000 lei, and 67.000 lei of Felix)<sup>20</sup>.

There were also outnumbered the footwear shops through which were sold those products, located especially downtown. The shoemaking shop known as “*La idealul formeii*”, owned by Kleni Jean (15<sup>th</sup> of October 1909 – 26<sup>th</sup> of February 1946) developed their activity on Madona Dudu Street no. 39<sup>21</sup>. On Sf. Dumitru Street were registered Theiss P. Frantz’s shop (at no. 19, on 7<sup>th</sup> of November 1924)<sup>22</sup> and the store “*La gheata de otel*” managed by *Kreisel Friederich* (no. 33, at 26<sup>th</sup> of February 1914 – 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1936)<sup>23</sup>; the shoemaker shop “*La Romania Mare*” of Milos Laurentiu (Lorintio) Alexandru Lahovari Street, no 42 (6<sup>th</sup> of September 1919-1st of April 1940)<sup>24</sup>; “leather goods and footwear” shop with the logo “*La pielea anglo-americană*” owned by Schargel H. Suzana (7<sup>th</sup> of November 1928 – 26<sup>th</sup> of July 1934)<sup>25</sup>.

On Alexandru Lahovari Street, the members of the firm *Gustav Paneth and Comp*, known as “*La Tigru*”, Gustav Paneth and Leon Jöel handled since 1923 with trading leather goods and footwear, wholesale and retail<sup>26</sup>. The same interest shown also Isac Brüll and Osias (1896, May – 1914, on Madona Dudu Street, no. 9,

<sup>16</sup> “O.M.”, no. 215/26 December 1923, p. 11097. In 1922 the social capital deposited by coassociates was 305.000 lei (Iosef – 200.000 lei, Anastasie – 70.000 and Traian – 35,000 lei) only after a year get to 690,977 lei. In 1923 Traian was the leader of the mill in Caciulatu Dolj.

<sup>17</sup> Idem, no. 6/8 January 1929, p. 164.

<sup>18</sup> S.J.A.N., Dolj, fund Chamber of Commerce and Industry Craiova, Social Firms, file no. 2047/1932, ff. 1-8.

<sup>19</sup> Idem, Individual Firms, file no. 665/1931, ff. 1–2.

<sup>20</sup> “O. M.”, no. 184/19 August 1926, p. 12543.

<sup>21</sup> S.J.A.N., Dolj, fund Chamber of Commerce and Industry Craiova, Individual Firms, file no. 966/1931, ff. 1–14. The firm was radiated, the owner arguing health issues and the fact that his office was being taken by USIC.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibidem*, file no. 906/1931, ff. 1–2. Theiss P. Frantz was born at 17 august 1876, in Craiova.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibidem*, file no. 334/1931, ff. 1–5; *Ibidem*, file nr. 2694/1934, ff. 1-5. Kreisel Friederich born in 15 March 1878, Sibiu.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibidem*, file no. 62/1931, unnumbered. Miloş Laurenţiu (Lorinţio) born on 20 February 1878, at Caransebes.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibidem*, file nr. 2178/1932, ff. 1–7. Schargel H. Suzana born in 10 March 1887, in Olteniţa.

<sup>26</sup> “O.M.”, no. 98/4 August 1923, p. 4857.

and Lipscani), therefore each partner being determined to continue trading on their own<sup>27</sup>.

“La cismaria studentilor” was registered by Orenchovig Wilhelm on Barbu Catargiu at no. 8 (1915)<sup>28</sup>. Moritz Moise Grimberg owned “Ucenicul vienez” where he merchandized leather goods and foot wear (wooden nails, pins, Wagner nails, flower nails, horseshoe, quads, thread for shoemaking, stingers for sewing machine, shoelaces for shoes and boots buckles, etc) merchandize practiced for 31 years (12<sup>th</sup> of February 1914 – 9<sup>th</sup> of January 1941, 1944 – December 1948)<sup>29</sup>.

In construction there were active the firms: “A. Gauster and Carol Warschack” and “Fratii Mander si Michel”. Engineers Architects A. Gauster and Carol Warschack associated in 1923 to accomplish all kinds of enterprises and technical works, executions of plans, manufacturing and selling building materials and technical articles, establishing their office on Stolojan Street, at no. 62. For this business they have assigned 12,000 lei and made available the field where the social office functioned<sup>30</sup>. On Severinului Street, at no. 53, the associates Enricho, Leonardo and Romaldo Mander opened in April 1913 a factory where it was produced tiles and concrete. The three started their business with a capital of 1,500 lei<sup>31</sup>. Eight years later, Leonardo Mander was the manager of the Society *Industria Cimentului* from Craiova<sup>32</sup>. The same type of products was performed and merchandized starting with November 1923, through *Fratii Mander si Michele* firm from Justitiei Street, no. 3. The merchants Michele, Leonardo and Alexandru contributed with labour force but also with a capital of 10,000/each<sup>33</sup>.

Trading woods and construction supplies came through the merchants: Iosef B. Deutsch, Efraim Stein and Mihail Goldenberg by means of timber store *Bradul Efraim Stein and Comp* established in 1921 (Abator Street, at no 66)<sup>34</sup>; Emil Gebhardt and Leon Beiner whose firm was *Emil Gebhardt and Comp* (1<sup>st</sup> of February 1921), whose main storage was on Stirbei Voda Street, no. 9, but with a branch registered at Bucovat Street, no. 94<sup>35</sup>.

*David and Isidor Felber* whose term of identification was the logo “Giogonda” had in its range: frames, paintings, marquetry and accessories (1922 –

<sup>27</sup> Idem, no. 109/14 August 1914, p. 5712.

<sup>28</sup> S.J.A.N.Dolj, fund Chamber of Commerce and Industry Craiova, Individual Firms, file no. 1241/1931, ff 1–2 Orenchovig Wilhelm born in 15 October 1873, in Zagăr, Târnava Mică.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibidem*, file no. 126/1931, ff. 1-6. Moritz Moise Grümberg born in 28 Decembre 1889, Focșani, Putna, the Solomon and Lina Grumberg’s son. He was a Jew but he obtained Romanian citizenship. He graduated the Private Primary Mixt Israeli-Romanian School Lumina from Israeli community from Craiova. He married the 17 Decembre 1940 with Ruhla Iosef Ijver (Jew); *Ibidem*, file no. 5253/1944, ff. 1–11, 17, 18).

<sup>30</sup> “O.M.”, no. 70/29 March 1924, p. 3668.

<sup>31</sup> Idem, no. 22/30 April 1913, p. 939. The social firm was registered as “Frații Mander et Leonardo”.

<sup>32</sup> Idem, no. 86/22 July 1921, p. 3256.

<sup>33</sup> Idem, no. 172/1 November 1923, p. 8793.

<sup>34</sup> Idem, no. 272/ 15 March 1921, extra p. 12171.

<sup>35</sup> Idem, no. 263/4 March 1921, p. 11718.

January 1927)<sup>36</sup>. Immediately after dissolution Isidor Felber associated with Philipp Snaft from Bucharest, keeping the office from Unirii Street, no. 50, and the logo. The firm *Isidor Felber and Co.* dissolves only after one year, in June 1928<sup>37</sup>.

In the bakery there were active: the Macedonian Ivancea Stefan, aka Iovan Stefanovici, the owner of the bakery from Banatului Street, no. 44<sup>38</sup>; Serbian Marcovici E. Dumitru (1919-1943, on Sf. Dumitru Street, no. 35)<sup>39</sup>; his fellow countrymen Isian Stoica had an oven for baking bread and cake (14<sup>th</sup> of May 1916 – 1<sup>st</sup> of October 1935; Fratii Golesti Street, at no 42) and a branch on Sf. Dumitru, no. 17<sup>40</sup>; Max Aderca (20<sup>th</sup> of May 1921 – 21<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1940, on Severinului Street, no 83)<sup>41</sup>; Andrei Silian (1<sup>st</sup> of Novembr 1924 – 1948, on Stirbei Voda, no. 133)<sup>42</sup>; the Yugoslav Martinovici Petre (19<sup>th</sup> of March 1910 – 19<sup>th</sup> 1948, on Alexandru Nicolaid Street, no 30)<sup>43</sup>. Leon Mandelbaum owned bread-bakery “Sănătatea” on Calomfirescu Street, no. 22 (8<sup>th</sup> of June 1906 – 9<sup>th</sup> of December 1933)<sup>44</sup>.

In the shops where prevailed the objects of cloth, cotton, manufacture, gallantry, trinkets occupied an important area in the capital of Bănie Region. The merchants who managed those stores there were mostly Jews. During the period under investigation I identified many social firms: “The New Drapery Lake Schwartz & Co”, owned by M.D. Dimoviceanu, Bercu Schwartz and Nathan Lachs, set up the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 1922 (on Buzesti Street, at no. 15, the premises belonging to Dimoviceanu)<sup>45</sup>; “David Calef & Marin Dumitrescu” (1911–1927), M. Demetrescu continued business on his own<sup>46</sup>; “Trading in Oltenia” (Emil Garleanu Street, at no. 1; 13<sup>th</sup> of March 1923 – 25<sup>th</sup> of October 1928) whose owners there were Solomon Nachmi and Leon Salom who practiced wholesale trading. Since 1928 the commercial activity was continued by Solomon Nachmias<sup>47</sup>; “The Triumph of Fashion” owned by D. Catone and Roman Nicolaescu (1<sup>st</sup> of January 1925, on Lips cani Street, at no. 8)<sup>48</sup>.

<sup>36</sup> Idem, no. 50/4 March 1925, p. 2276; Idem, no. 24/2 Februry 1927, p. 1294.

<sup>37</sup> Idem, no. 4/5 January 1928, Part 2, pp. 252-253; Idem, no. 159/21 July 1928, Part 2, p. 9669.

<sup>38</sup> Idem, no. 84/11 April 1925, p. 4219. In 1925, Ivancea Ștefan from Sebia settled in Craiova in 1905, requested Romanian citizenship.

<sup>39</sup> S.J.A.N. Dolj fund Chamber of Commerce and Industry Craiova, Individual Firms, file no. 147/1931 unnumbered. Marcovici E. Dumitru born in 14 Aust 1886 Vranestita, Yugoslavia, graduated 3 classes in the gymnasium school.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibidem*, file no. 408/1931, ff. 1–4. Isian Stoica born on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1889, at Velmevitzi-Bitolia. Obtained Romanian citizenship in 1926.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibidem*, file no. 1093/1931, ff. 1–6. Max Aderca born in 16 October 1873, in Vaslui.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibidem*, file no. 355/1931, ff. 1–12. Andrei Silian born in 13 April 1889, at Zasle-Bitobi, Macedonia. The firma was nationalized according to the law 119 from 11 June 1948.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibidem*, file no. 523/1931, ff. 1–13. Martinovici Petre born in 25 February 1885, in Achrida, Yugoslavia. In 1936, he received Romanian citizenship no. 3542.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibidem*, file no. 90/1931, ff. 1–6. Manole Mandelbaum born 11 May 1865, in Piatra Neamț,

<sup>45</sup> “O.M.”, no. 1546/18 July 1924, p. 8196.

<sup>46</sup> Idem, no. 137/24 June 1927, p. 8714.

<sup>47</sup> Idem, or. 154/18 July 1924, p. 8196; Idem, no. 247/4 November 1928, p. 12778.

<sup>48</sup> Idem, no. 56/11 March 1925, p. 2593. In this regard they have sent a capital of 800,000 de lei.

The associates Vahan Mendighian and Simon Pilibosian dealt with commerce of “cotton, wholesale manufacture, commission representative offices and consignment”. The trading developed on Elca Street, at no. 7<sup>49</sup>.

The association built in 1923 by Sigmund and Wilhelm Abständer and Aron A. Penchas, *Sigmund Abstander & Comp*, debuted with manufacture trading and wholesale trinkets as well as commission and agents, subsequently practiced retail (on Madona-Dudu Street, at no. 26). Three months later, Wilhelm Abständer retired from the association, continuing its activity under the administration of the remained partners until 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1939, when Aron A. Penchas died. W Abständer continued to develop commercial activity in town, the proof being that in December 1931 his goods were auctioned and his firm declared bankruptcy<sup>50</sup>.

On 20<sup>th</sup> of December 1918, St Dumitriu, E.S. Langusis and Petre Mihailescu founded the firm *St Dumitriu, E.S. Langusis & Comp* (on Unirii Street, no 65, on the corner with Lipscani) through which they provided manufacture articles and gallantry<sup>51</sup>. Petre Mihailescu retreated from the company on 22<sup>th</sup> of January 1922, the trading being carried out by the other two associates from *St Dumitriu, E.S. Langusis*<sup>52</sup>. In the same year a new partner joins them Mateescu Matei, but one year later he left the association St. Dumitriu (15<sup>th</sup> of August 1923)<sup>53</sup>. The new firm was registered under “E. Langusis & I. Matei” with the logo “Modern Draper’s” and it functioned only for a year (27<sup>th</sup> of August 1923–1924). As main activity was registered the trading with drapers, mats, carpets, etc, performed retail and wholesale and since 1924 continued on his own by Mateescu<sup>54</sup>. On 25<sup>th</sup> of May 1925, Erotocristos Langusis began a new business with Constantin Chypreotis, dealing with colonial trading and deli wholesale and retail (on Justitiei Street, at no. 26). The chosen logo was “La Vultur”<sup>55</sup>.

“Derby stores” (on Unirii Street, no. 79), recorded on Savu Salom and Herman Iassir’s name at 1<sup>st</sup> of October 1921, provided gallantry and footwear, drapers and perfumery. After three years of activity, on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1924, the society was dissolved, the trade being continued by Savu Salom<sup>56</sup>.

“Lupoanca Wearhouse” (Lipscani Street, no. 52), was established by Iacob A. Cohen, Rafael Lebinsohn and Iosif Cofler at 17<sup>th</sup> of December 1921. After three months, Cohen retreated from association, their activity being continued by the

<sup>49</sup> Idem, no. 154/18 July 1924, pp. 8194–8195.

<sup>50</sup> S.J.A.N.Dolj fund Chamber of Commerce and Industry Craiova, Social Firms, file no. 46/1931 unnumbered; “O.M.”, no. 98/4 August 1923, p. 4857; Idem, no. 296/18 December 1931, Part 2, p. 14739.

<sup>51</sup> “O.M.” no. 1/15 April 1919, p. 46.

<sup>52</sup> Idem, no. 234/27 January 1921, p. 9899; Idem, no. 272/4 March 1922, p. 11870.

<sup>53</sup> Idem, no. 219/30 December 1923, p. 11344.

<sup>54</sup> Idem, no. 267/4 December 1924, p. 13288.

<sup>55</sup> Idem, no. 224/7 October 1926, p. 15300; Idem, no. 203/17 September 1924, p. 10430. Eurotocritus was born in 9 May 1887 in Celafonia, Delimitata, Greece. In 1906 he settled in Craiova, dealing with trade on Lipscani. He applied for Romnaian citizenship in 1924.

<sup>56</sup> Idem, no. 263/29 November 1924, p. 13123.

other associates (1<sup>st</sup> of March 1922–1923). On 18<sup>th</sup> of April 1923, the firm was registered as Heinerich and Rafael Lebinson, with the same logo, at the same address, trade that will develop until 1929 when Rafael Lebinsohn will set up an individual firm, but shortly after insolvency was declared. They offered to sale a wide range of “trinkets, dry goods and gallantry”, wholesale and retail<sup>57</sup>.

The trade with colonials and drinks was practiced at large scale all over the town, this field being recorded by several firms registered by Romanian, Jew or foreign merchants. The merchants from our area of interest there are: the Turk Mihail L. Pipidi whose business premises was on Barbu Carargiu Street, at no. 17, for more than 20 years<sup>58</sup>; the Armenian Bedros Ferhadian<sup>59</sup>; Baruch & Comp (Tevi Baruch and Heinrich Lebinsohn – associates), known as “La Tarapana” (opened at 30<sup>th</sup> of May 1921, on Lips cani, at no. 31)<sup>60</sup>; Faibovici, Maisler & Comp (Avram Faibovici, Iancu Maisler, Samuel Stern, Iosif Zimel with the logo “Oltenia” (V. Boerescu Street, no. 1 bis, 1925). The decease of Faibovici recorded on 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 1927, allowed functioning with the other associates, the rights of the heirs being liquidated and cleared<sup>61</sup>.

In the “Universal Store”, managed by Itic Lazar and Rafael G. Barbulecu, established on 1<sup>st</sup> of December 1921, were traded “colonials, trinkets, glassware and china” (Elca Street, no. 3). Rafael contributed with the amount of 30,000 lei and Itic with goods valued at 10,000 lei<sup>62</sup>. This type of trade was accomplished by *Abraham M. Rosenszveig Sons*, starting with 22<sup>th</sup> February 1921, in the immobile from Unirii Street, at no. 51<sup>63</sup>.

The social firm *Leon Schwartz and Jean Hodar* established on 21<sup>st</sup> of September 1921, recorded their activity as “selling and renting sacks and mats, agents and cereals commission” (on Independentei Street, no. 3). The firm was known as Albina<sup>64</sup>. Further Jean Hodar associates with Zelina Hodar and on 28<sup>th</sup> of March 1927 will deal by himself with commerce “of renting and selling saks, mats and rugs”. The firm called *Sacul*, on 14<sup>th</sup> of December 1946 extended trading by adding packaging, getting to a capital of 1,000,000. Originally radiated on 9<sup>th</sup> of January 1941, the firm was re-registered at 16<sup>th</sup> of February 1945 and radiated for good on 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 1949<sup>65</sup>.

<sup>57</sup> Idem, no. 227/5 January 1922, p. 9982; Idem, no. 23/4 May 1922, p. 1030; Idem, no. 184/16 November 1923, p. 9483; Idem, no. 189/29 November 1922, p. 8877; Idem, no. 257/18 November 1929, p. 13580.

<sup>58</sup> Idem, no. 80/9 April 1925, p. 3978. Mihail L. Pipidi was born in Chios Tukey, came in Craiova on 20 Sept 1890 and applied for Romanian citizenship.

<sup>59</sup> Idem, no. 59/14 March 1926, p. 8359. Merchant Bedros Ferhadian was born in Eghin Turkey. He obtained Romanian citizenship in March 1926. He gave up Turkish citizenship.

<sup>60</sup> Idem, no. 227/5 January 1922, p. 9982.

<sup>61</sup> Idem, no. 112/24 May 1925, p. 5854; Idem, no. 234/19 October 1928, p. 12276.

<sup>62</sup> Idem, no. 23/4 May 1922, p. 1030.

<sup>63</sup> Idem, no. 263/4 March 1921, p. 11718.

<sup>64</sup> Idem, no. 163/22 October 1921, p. 6837 (Extra).

<sup>65</sup> S.J.A.N. Dolj fund Chamber of Commerce and Industry Craiova, Individual Firms, file no. 1805/1931, ff. 1–6; *Ibidem*, file no. 2774/1935, ff. 1–30. Hodar Jean was born on 18 August 1896, Craiova.

In the above mentioned period, the documents pointed out the existence of the jewellery store owned by Snirar Sabetay (Madona Dudu Street, at 29<sup>th</sup> of April 1914)<sup>66</sup>; of the commercial space where developed its activity *Librăria și Papetăria Unirii* managed by Misu Eschinasy & Aser M. Panijel (9<sup>th</sup> of May 1923, on Unirii Street, at no. 43)<sup>67</sup>; the “Aurora” factory of delight, halvah and candies owned by Agop Babaeghian which in 1927 was in bankruptcy<sup>68</sup>.

Mencer I. and Mihail Andrei had the photo shop on Justitiei Street, at no. 24, opened on 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 1914, few months before the war broke out, the equipment and furniture belonging to M. Andrei, the photographer<sup>69</sup>.

*Eftatopol Brothers Society* (Gheorghe and State) registered as field of activity “buying, selling and mounting tiled and iron stoves, iron accessories, ceramic wall, raw and worked skins, footwear, eatable vegetable oils, spirit drinks and colonials” (the latter being wholesale sold) (1920–1927, on Kogalniceanu Street, no. 10)<sup>70</sup>. A wide range of activity was registered on 21<sup>st</sup> of June 1924 by Saul Baruck and Moscu Eskenasy who paired in order to carry out smithy, colonials, manufacture, trinkets, etc. The firm was registered as *Baruk & Eschenasy* with the logo “Secera de Aur”, with a capital of 300,000 lei. The office was registered on Lipscani Street, no. 75<sup>71</sup>.

The business premises from Kogalniceanu no. 14 was used by *Elias, Bey & Co* in order to trade farm equipment, industrial and technical, their logo being “La motor”<sup>72</sup>. On Unirii Street no. 32, Iacob Cahne and Nistor Petrescu inaugurated on 19<sup>th</sup> of April 1921, the store with electric items, water and plumbing<sup>73</sup>.

In the area of trading grains there were many firms: *I. Dulman & H. Blank*, established in 1920 (Unirii Street no. 106). The two associates prolonged their partnership in June 1928<sup>74</sup>; *The universal Isac Josepf, D. Florescu limited partnership* was registered on 10<sup>th</sup> of August 1928, on Sf. Dumitru Street, at no. 12, with main activity “import and export”. In the beginning Mihai Florescu brought a capital of 2,000,000 lei and the other two associated the labour<sup>75</sup>. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1925, the society *The general trading Joseph Levy and I. Ioseph* (on Unirii Street, at no. 1) with a social capital of 1,000,000 lei<sup>76</sup>. On 11<sup>th</sup> of May 1920, Isidor, Arnold and

<sup>66</sup> *Ibidem*, file no. 1597/,1931, f. 1. Snirăr Sabetay was born in 16 November 1869, in Bacău.

<sup>67</sup> “O.M.” no. 20/29 January 1924, pp. 826–827.

<sup>68</sup> *Idem*, no. 263/28 November 1925, p. 13312; *Idem*, no. 193/1 September 1927, p. 11687.

<sup>69</sup> *Idem*, no. 109/14 August 1914, p. 5712.

<sup>70</sup> *Idem*, no. 83/15 April 1924, p. 4261; *Idem*, no. 216/3 October 1924, p. 10961.

<sup>71</sup> *Idem*, no. 81/10 April 1925, p. 4066.

<sup>72</sup> *Idem*, no. 88/23 July 1922, p. 4405. The associates Daniel Elias, Marcu G. Bey and G. Ropozol. Their contract stipulated that the benefit should be divided as: 40% for Daniel Elias and 30% for the other two associates.

<sup>73</sup> *Idem*, no. 241/25 January 1922, p. 10478.

<sup>74</sup> *Idem*, no. 120/3 June 1928, p. 7459.

<sup>75</sup> *Idem*, no. 208/20 September 1928, p. 11432. The three associates there were: Isac Ioseph and Mihail and Dumitru Florescu.

<sup>76</sup> *Idem*, no. 52/6 March 1925, p. 2368.

Adolf Iaschinger and Samuel Falcs registered at Dolj Justice Court the social firm *Iainger Brothers & Co.* When the association was constituted the office was on Carol Bld. The commerce was “agents and commission for every native and foreign goods”. An year later, Samuel I. Falchs retreated receiving his capital as well as the returned benefit<sup>77</sup>. In 1923 he is the associate of Aschia Rubin and Wilhelm Abständer in the social firm *Wilhelm Abständer & Co* with the logo “La trompeta”. In October, Aschia Rubin leaves the association taking his capital of 100,000 lei and the benefits and, in January 1927, the association dissolved and Wilhelm Abständer continued his activity by himself<sup>78</sup>. Starting with 30<sup>th</sup> of July 1931, Flachs I. Samuel opened an individual firm with the main activity: agents, commission and consignment (on Lascar Catargiu Street, at no. 5). Two years later, on 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, he took the logo “Depozitul Dunarea” and extended trading by selling socks, knitting, gallantry wholesale and retail. On 25<sup>th</sup> of November 1940 he retreated from commerce of agents, commission and consignment. On 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1940 he opened a branch in Bucharest on Regele Albert I Street, no. 1, which he shut four months later. Being a Jew, his firm was radiated in January 1941 and reopened in August 1945 for commerce with “knitting and gallantry on his own wholesale and retail” at the same address<sup>79</sup>. A year later, on 17<sup>th</sup> of September, he associated with Dumitru I. Ionescu for the same trade. In October 1947 they radiated the wholesale trade and on 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 1948 they have closed the deal<sup>80</sup>. The association created on 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 1925 by Fabian Silberman, Albert Musafia and Misu Eschenasy have registered as main activity “agents, commission, consignment, cereals and import” (Targului Street, no. 37)<sup>81</sup>.

Gavril Georgescu and G. Koppin (Kupping) were the owners of the social firms “Producta” whose office of agents and commission was on Cuza Voda Street, at no. 69. The society opened on 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1924<sup>82</sup>. The same trade was also practiced by *Valentin Cohn Fii* (8<sup>th</sup> of March 1924, on Elca Street, no. 38), the two brothers, Jaques and Ludvig, continuing the trade practiced by their father<sup>83</sup>; and “Monopol” managed by Iancu Blum and Segal Solomon (1923, on Madona Dudu Street, no. 51)<sup>84</sup>.

In the same period also functioned the associations between: Moritz Segall and H. Goldenberg (1<sup>st</sup> of June – 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1925, on Abator Street, at nos. 22 and

<sup>77</sup> S.J.A.N. Dolj fund Chamber of Commerce and Industry Craiova, Social Firms, file no. 202/1931, f. 4; “O.M.”, nr. 131/14 September 1921, p. 5197.

<sup>78</sup> “O.M.”, no. 70/29 March 1924, p. 3668; Idem, no. 24/2 February 1927, p. 1295.

<sup>79</sup> S.J.A.N. Dolj fund Chamber of Commerce and Industry Craiova, Individual Firms, file no. 385/1931, ff. 1-14; Idem, Social Firms, file no. 787/1946, ff. 26–28.

<sup>80</sup> Idem, social firms, file no. 787/1946, ff. 1–16

<sup>81</sup> “O.M.”, no. 224/7 October 1926, p. 15300.

<sup>82</sup> Idem, no. 161/26 July 1924, p. 8650; Idem, no. 188/24 August 1926, p. 12949.

<sup>83</sup> Idem, no. 121/7 June 1924, p. 6258. The trade involved buying and selling cereals with commission for which they deposited a capital of 100,000 lei.

<sup>84</sup> Idem, no. 134/24 June 1924, p. 7018. Solomon Segal brought a capital of 100,000 lei and his associated Iancu Blum, participated with work, skill and all his representatives.

24)<sup>85</sup>; Isac N. Aledgem, Elias B. Elias and Max Medine (1914 – 17<sup>th</sup> of Dec. 1923)<sup>86</sup>; Iosif B. Deutsch and Mihail Goldenberg Ormont, from Abatorului Street, no. 66 (being radiated on 26<sup>th</sup> of January 1925 as a consequence of Ormont's retreating from the association)<sup>87</sup>; Nicolae Th. Ghisdavescu and Louis St. Benke (1921 – 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1926), the firm continuing as individual firm<sup>88</sup>; Wilhelm A. Ziegler and Fridirich Mathias (1922 – 22<sup>nd</sup> of Dec. 1926), Wilhelm A. Ziegler continued on his own<sup>89</sup>; David and Isidor Felber (1922 – 31<sup>st</sup> of Dec. 1927, continued by Isidor Felber)<sup>90</sup>; the society G. Sabetay successor & Iosef Grünberg (March 1919) continued the activity practiced once by G. Sabetay<sup>91</sup> and the office of Luca Bernstein & Comp., the associates being Luca Bernstein (from Bucharest) and Herman Mendel (from Craiova), on Unirii Street, no 102 (established in 1919). The logo which defined the firm was "Oltenia". In 1923 amended the capital that increases to 2,100,000 lei<sup>92</sup>.

The disclosure of jobs and business units with a concise description is far from succeeding the entire capture of societies that functioned in Bănie, owned by minorities' officials. Without regard to the business they performed, or the retailing accounted, they became a significant presence in the socio-economic dynamic from Craiova in the first three decades of the XX<sup>th</sup> century.

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<sup>85</sup> Idem, no. 284/23 December 1925, p. 14527. The association concluded when they sold the premisses that belonged to Heinerich Weiss. Teh activity was continued by Moritz Segall.

<sup>86</sup> Idem, no. 154/18 July 1924, p. 8196.

<sup>87</sup> Idem, no. 224/7 October 1926, p. 1530. Ormont joined with Mihail Goldenberg in 1924 ("O.M", no. 170/7 August 1924, p. 9030).

<sup>88</sup> Idem, no. 202/10 September 1926, p. 11718.

<sup>89</sup> Idem, no. 24/2 February 1927, p. 1294;

<sup>90</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>91</sup> Idem, no. 73/5 July 1922, p. 3728.

<sup>92</sup> Idem, no. 162/20 October 1923, p. 8226.