

ENTREPRENEURS FROM CRAIOVA IN THE INTERWAR PERIOD (I)

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Abstract: In the present material, there was intended the presentation of some of the Romanian entrepreneurs who developed sole partnership businesses in Craiova, in the interwar period, as they were recorded in the archival and in different edited sources. These were owners of shops, department stores, bookstores, workshops, warehouses, factories, printing houses, restaurants, confectioneries, etc.

It is well known that any city, in order to develop, needs commercial activity, all the more so since trade, or bartering activities are generating profit. It ought to be said that the mentioned period was not an easy one for the entrepreneurs from Craiova, being known that Romania's participation in the First World War led to the ruin or closure of some businesses, and the economic crisis affected to a large extent the majority of traders, entrepreneurs. Furthermore, the frequent changes of the political regimes, Romania's participation to the military actions of the World War II, had repercussions on the economic activity of Craiova.

Keywords: Craiova, the interwar period, entrepreneurs, individual firms, social firms.

This article aims at displaying an excerpt from the history of the city of Craiova in the interwar period, through the economic activities carried out at that time. It is well known that any city, in order to develop, needs commercial activity, all the more so since trade, or bartering activities are generating profit. It ought to be said that the mentioned period was not an easy one for the entrepreneurs from Craiova, being known that Romania's participation in the First World War led to the ruin or closure of some businesses, and the economic crisis affected to a large extent the majority of traders, entrepreneurs. Furthermore, the frequent changes of the political regimes, Romania's participation to the military actions of the World War II, had repercussions on the economic activity of Craiova¹.

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¹ Ioan Scurtu, Gheorghe Buzatu, *Istoria Românilor în secolul XX*, București, Editura Paideea, 1999, pp. 93–94.

Analysing the fund of Craiova Chamber of Commerce and Industry from the interwar period, we reveal that the number of people who developed small businesses (sole proprietorship companies) is much higher compared to the unlimited companies. In fact, their lifespan was also, for many of them, shorter, the majority having to close their activity especially during the economic crisis or during the World War II, being deregistered ex officio by the competent authorities in 1946, when a review of the companies takes place.

Since the pre-war period, there could be seen a development in markets and shops, in almost all the districts of the city, even in the peripheral ones. Most of them were, however, concentrated in the central area, on the major commercial streets: Lipscani, Unirii, Cuza-Voda, Madona-Dudu, etc.². Furthermore, the diversity of the commercial activities emerged: in the food industry, in the services in restaurants, cafes, hotels, pharmacies, the production of clothing and shoes, etc., but also in that of consumers, as well as a higher demand for goods and quality services³.

The concern for fashion, elegance and beauty never ceased, it is also a constant of the interwar period, young people, especially those from the urban area, giving up the traditional clothes opting for either ordered or ready-made outfits. It might be observed a “construction” of the woman during this period, polished through proper training and education – two essential components when addressing the emancipation of the Romanian women – this being on the axis of transition from the old, archaic, to the new, to modernism. Maria-Camelia Ene, PhD., an expert in suits and clothing accessories, talks about the fashion of the interwar period as follows:

“Fashion, which spread widely in the '20s, was simple and practical, using especially serial industrial production. Due to the reduced variety of clothes and the simple cuts of the dresses, which could be tailored in the house, the social differences were less noticeable than before. The feminine attributes were intentionally hidden: the à-la-garçon haircut, the straight cut, without tweezers, the belt placed on the hips, so as not to mark the waist. The small hat covered all the hair, sometimes even the forehead, and resembled a military helmet. The baggy dresses, skirts and blouses

² Narcisa Maria Mitu, *Comercianții străini și „etnici români” în perioada interbelică. Studiu de caz: Strada Madona Dudu din Craiova*, in „Arhivele Olteniei”, New Series, no. 34/2020, Bucharest, Romanian Academy Publishing House, pp. 165–176; Idem, *Craiova a foreign investors’ attraction (the end of the XIXth –first half of the XXth century)*, in „Anuarul Institutului de Cercetări Socio-Umane «C.S. Nicolăescu-Ploșșor»” no. XX/2019, Bucharest, Romanian Academy Publishing House, pp. 101–109; Idem, *Scurt istoric al spațiilor comerciale din perioada interbelică. Strada Lipscani din Craiova*, in „Arhivele Olteniei”, New Series, no. 33/2019, Bucharest, Romanian Academy Publishing House, pp. 103–116; Idem, *Firme deținute de comercianți străini sau „etnici români” pe strada Unirii din Craiova, în perioada interbelică*, in „Oltenia. Studii și Comunicări. Arheologie-Istorie”, no. XXVI, Craiova, 2019, pp. 382–396.

³ Ana Lucia Ristea, Valeriu Ioan-Franc, Aurel Vainer, *Comerțul interior*, in Aurel Iancu, George Georgescu, Victor Axenciuc, Florin-Marius Pavelescu, Constantin Ciutacu (coord.), *Economia României după Marea Unire*, vol. II, *Economie sectorială*, București, Editura Academiei Române, 2018, p. 417.

were preferred, straight, without a highlighted waist, with a belt on the hips, with long sleeves or without. Light, supple textile supports such as jersey, flannel, crêpe-de-Chine, artificial silk, cheap, washable, light were used. All the dance clothing of a woman weighed several hundred grams. On the legs, the stockings were visible, shiny, sewn with a stripe, with hemstitch at the ankles, and the shoes had a solid heel, in the shape of a reel, usually had a strap. The only adornments were the long strings of beads. The cigarette, with a very long cigarette holder, held detachedly between the fingers, with the nails lacquered, had been of rigor since 1925⁴.

Along with the clothes, the makeup and the perfume very often defined the status of the man in society. Thus, for preserving their beauty, women turn to seamstresses, hairdressers, manicurists, etc. constantly. In fact, almost 2000 years ago, the Roman emperor and philosopher Marcus Aurelius, referring to the external appearance of man, declared that it represented “his best letter of recommendation”⁵.

The clothing of the people from Craiova was varied and some of them were made in the tailoring workshops of the most skilled tailors of that period. In this field worked tailors as: *Constantinescu I.*, on Alex. Lahovary Street, at no. 108 (28 Jun 1923–1946, deceased holder)⁶; *Bărbulescu P. Pantelie*, the owner of the tailoring “La Croitoria Studenților” (65 Madona Dudu Street), an activity he started on September 15, 1929 with a capital worth 30,000 lei⁷; *Nicolici Aristotel*, owner of the workshop “la Cavalerul elegant – at the Black Gentleman” (Nov. 1, 1921 – Aug. 30, 1932). In this workshop, both civilian and military clothes were made⁸. The documents also mention: the men's tailoring on Kogălniceanu Street, at no. 29, activity that *Gheorghe Vrăncuț* had carried out since May 1, 1914⁹; the workshop with fur coats “La șase Skongi”, on Unirii Street, no. 88, led by *Georgescu L. Nicolina* (5 Oct. 1930 – 28 Sept. 1931 – deceased)¹⁰. Sheepskin coats were sold in the shops of “La Cuza”, (Barbu Catargiu St., no. 156), owner *Tatomirescu Dumitru* (14 Jan. 1910 – 7 Jan. 1946)¹¹ and “la Moș Crăciun – at Santa Claus's” belonging to the merchant *Păunescu Ion* (74 and 64 Alexandru Lahovari Street), whose commercial activity dated from April 20, 1910 to November 2, 1937. Starting with 1930, he diversified his trade, adding the wood trade to his business¹².

⁴ See <https://muzeulbucurestiului.ro/expozitia-tematica-moda-in-bucurestiul-interbelic/> accessed on July 20, 2022.

⁵ Andreea Bealcu, *Arta machiajului de-a lungul a 7 epoci* <https://magazine.holistic-edu.ro/arta-machiajului-in-7-etape-ale-istoriei/> accessed on July 15, 2022.

⁶ The County Department of the National Archives of Dolj, fund, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Craiova, Individual Firms, file no. 72/1931, ff. 1-4 (further quoted as S.J.A.N., Dolj).

⁷ *Ibidem*, file no. 980/1931, ff. 1, 3.

⁸ *Ibidem*, file no. 667/1931, ff. 1, 4, 6. This workshop had its headquarters registered on the streets of: Mărăcineanu, at no. 5 (1921–1926), I.C. Brătianu, at no. 2 (1926–1930), Edgar Quinet, at no. 3 (1930–1932).

⁹ *Ibidem*, file no. 1088/1931, ff. 1, 3.

¹⁰ *Ibidem*, file no. 973/1931, ff. 1, 3.

¹¹ *Ibidem*, file no. 988/1931, ff. 1, 3, 5.

¹² *Ibidem*, file no. 660/1931, ff. 1, 3, 6.

In the shop of the merchant *Popescu N. Anastasia*, along with the civil clothes, traditional costume clothes were also sold (1929-10 July 1933)¹³. Instead, *Maria G. Dascălu*, the owner of the store “La lupul cu mielul în gură – The wolf with the lamb in its mouth”, had in her store a more diversified range of products: traditional clothes, manufacture, hats and hats (11 Alexandru Lahovary Street)¹⁴.

Items for weddings were sold through the store “Mireasa – The Bride” in Unirii St. no. 52, then, at 27, *Ștefania G. Rădulescu* – owner (Oct. 6, 1920-Feb. 1, 1949)¹⁵, and, starting with September 1, 1919, in the store owned by *Crusti Petre*, known to the city for the logo “la ginerele și mireasa – at the groom and bride”. Inside this department store, there were also put up for sale objects of manufacture, gallantry, cotton, knitwear, haberdashery products etc. (42, Lipscani Street). At the same time, he also opened a branch, on the same street, at no. 46, with the brand “La două mirese – At two brides” intended exclusively for 'manufacture and clothes', a branch which no longer existed in 1931. Its headquarters became the headquarters of the company, at which time a new logo “La mireasa – To the Bride” was chosen. On March 19, 1932, he moved the headquarters to Lahovari St., at no. 156¹⁶.

Among the shops where there were sold products of gallantry, manufacture and trinkets identified during this period, there are worth mentioned: “la Globul de Aur – at the Golden Globe” (*Paboran Costică* – owner), an activity practiced since August 1, 1895 and until July 1, 1934 in Madona Dudu Street, no. 11¹⁷; “La doi copii – At two children” (*Capezeanu Vasile* – owner; Alexandru Lahovari street, at no. 14 (formerly 16)), starting with April 28, 1915¹⁸; “Principesa Maria – Princess Maria” on no. 1 Madona Dudu St. (May 28, 1910 – March 26, 1936) whose proprietor was *Voiculescu Costică*¹⁹; “at Burada” (*Burada Ion* – owner) on Lipscani St., no. 70 (1912 – 4 Sept. 1932)²⁰; “at Craiul”, which belonged to the trader *Craiu Zamfir*, whose headquarters was first registered in Tache Ionescu Street, at no. 48 (May 1, 1931 – January 17, 1934), then on Lipscani Street, at no. 48, on Copertari Street, at no. 30 (Jan. 17, 1934). From Jan. 1, 1936 – Nov. 19, 1938 he trades beverages, having opened a tavern on Calea Brestei, at no. 107. It ends its commercial activity on 19 November, 1938, by the deregistration of the company²¹.

Mateescu Nicolae was the owner of the shop of Leipzig items (*lipscănie*), manufacture and haberdashery products, known to the city by the emblem “Steaua Verde

¹³ *Ibidem*, file no. 1120/1931, ff. 1, 5.

¹⁴ *Ibidem*, file no. 643/1931, ff. 1, 13.

¹⁵ *Ibidem*, file no. 1493/1931, ff. 1, 3, 4, 6, 21.

¹⁶ *Ibidem*, file no. 707/1931, ff. 1–3.

¹⁷ *Ibidem*, file no. 735/1931, ff. 1, 4.

¹⁸ *Ibidem*, file no. 131/1931, ff. 1, 4.

¹⁹ *Ibidem*, file no. 94/1931, ff. 1, 2.

²⁰ *Ibidem*, file no. 111/1931, ff. 1, 6. In 192, he opened a branch in the commune of 7 Mârșani, with the same main field. Starting with Feb. 18, 1932, he carried out his business only in the rural area.

²¹ *Ibidem*, file no. 26/1931, ff. 1, 2, 4, 6. The logo “la Craiu” is later taken by the company of his wife, Iuliana Zamfir Craiu.

– the Green Star”, (7 Madona Dudu Street). After a commercial activity of almost three decades (1918-April 30, 1945), his trade was taken over and continued by *Constantin Manea* whose company was enrolled on April 1, 1945²². *Ioan Smărăndescu* owned the commercial space “Bazaar Balon”, from Ulise Boldescu St. no. 1. In addition to the aforementioned trade, she also owned a small workshop of woman garments. The company registered on Nov. 2, 1930 was removed on April 13, 1946. In 1933 he moved his trade to Lipscani St., at no. 36, and extended it by adding perfumery products and various accessories, riding equipment (straps, ropes, capers, knapsacks) and seagrass, and besides the already existing logo, he added the one of “la Chiriță” (which he cedes two years later to his wife, Constanța I. Smărăndescu). In May 1935 he moved the headquarters to Regele Ferdinand St., no. 2, and in Jan. 1941 in Alexandru Lahovari St., at no. 6, where she took over Henrietta Hasnas' store with the emblem “Dorobanțul”. A year later he also adds pharmaceutical items (in which he invests a capital of 20,000 lei) and returns to 18 Lipscani Street, occupying the space on the first floor of the building²³.

As accessories for clothes, in the interwar period, there were very often used hats. Some of them were traded by the merchant *Mateescu Grigore*, whose activity took place for three decades (1905 – April 25, 1934), on Lahovari Street (numbers 13 and 11). In 1911 he opened another store with the same field of activity, and, in 1914 he adopted the logo “la Epure”²⁴.

Besides the clothing outfits, the fashion of the time also brought haircuts that were matching the fashion trend, an aspect for which the barbershops and hairdressers were responsible: *Vasile Radovici Bebe*, the owner of the “Frizeria Modernă – the Modern Barbershop” on 75 Madona Dudu Street, an activity begun on June 15, 1915²⁵; *Ștefan Săvulescu*, the owner of the “La Fănel” barbershop on Calea Caracal, no. 27 (23 Dec. 1924–1941)²⁶; *Gheorghe Ancuțoiu*, owner of the “Parisian Barbershop” barbershop (123 Cuza Vodă street)²⁷; *Georgescu Dumitru* – the owner of the “haircuts and barbershop” in Calea București no. 71, an activity he had practiced, since June 7, 1919, at home²⁸.

As mentioned above, the look was very important, and cosmetics were a very used branch. The journey in time tells us about the creams produced by the “Apolo Pharmacy” whose owner was pharmacist *Petrescu Mihail*, who had been carrying out a commercial activity for over two decades (Jan. 12, 1920 – April 1, 1941). In the headquarters from Tache Ionescu St., at no. 72, a wide range of pharmacy articles were marketed: drugs, rubber-made products, dressings, toiletries, creams and other articles pertaining to that

²² *Ibidem*, file no. 97/1931, ff. 1, 2.

²³ *Ibidem*, file no. 121/1931, ff. 1–13.

²⁴ *Ibidem*, file no. 176/1931, ff. 1–4.

²⁵ *Ibidem*, file no. 713/1931, ff. 1, 3.

²⁶ *Ibidem*, file no. 638/1931, ff. 1–5. In 1924, it functioned on Banatului St., at no. 50 and, on Apr. 30, 1925, in Pasu 11 St., at no. 4. It was deleted ex officio, on Feb. 15, 1946.

²⁷ *Ibidem*, file no. 672/1931, ff. 1, 3.

²⁸ *Ibidem*, file no. 734/1931, ff. 1, 3.

industry. For creams, the following factory brands were used: “Gold”, “Doli”, “Apolo Pharmacy”. On April 1, 1941, the pharmacy was taken over by his son *Paul P.M. Petrescu*²⁹. Pharmacies were also open on the streets of Madona Dudu, at no. 21, known as the city by the emblem “Pharmacy at the Madonna”, the owner being *Manciu George* (Mar. 30, 1923–Dec. 3, 1931)³⁰. The pharmacy “la Arab” started on June 22, 1914, on Unirii St., la no. 1. Fifteen years later he established his headquarters in Piața Nouă, on Justiei St., at no. 36 (later, on Cuza Vodă St., no. 20). He ceased his activity, deleting the company on December 15, 1938, when he moved his business to Bucharest (no. 1 Regală Street)³¹. Starting with October 1, 1920, on Unirii St., at no. 4, the drugstore “La Diana” carried out its activity as well³².

Watchmakers and jewellers also occupied a special place in the society of Craiova, their profession being considered noble. Among the workshops and shops for the sale of these products, there are to be mentioned: “CFR store – jewellery and clock shop” belonging to the merchant *Milea V. Sava*, opened on October 9, 1944, on Buzești Street, at no. 8³³; the watch workshop “Zenith” on Unirii Street, no. 16, belonging to *Ioana Milea* (Feb. 1, 1935–June 15, 1946)³⁴; the workshop for repairing watches and jewels, the property of *Firicică Traian*, located on Cuza Voda Street, at no. 46 (27 Dec. 1928 – 14 Feb. 1950). In February 1941, on the occasion of the revision of the companies, he declared an invested capital worth 200,000 lei³⁵.

On addressing the consumer goods, the bakery industry occupied a significant place, bread and bakery products being the basis of people's food. This fact made this branch to know an accelerated pace of development. According to the documents, in the interwar period, several bakeries, pastrycook and pretzel shops were present on the territory of Craiova. Worth mentioned, in this respect, is “Higienica” Bakery, which functioned for seven years (July 6, 1926 – March 20, 1933) at the home of the baker *Zidăroiu N. Nistor* (17 Severinului Street). On the same day that the company was deleted, it was listed in the name of his wife, *Egenia*, under the brand of “Higienica-bakery and luxury loaves of bread”. The company ceased its existence on November 1, 1939, the holder losing all the capital invested in the business, finding himself practically unable to pay the suppliers, taxes and duties to the tax authorities and the commune. The place was rented to the bread factory “Traiul” Ltd. Loco starting with November 17, 1939 and the company was deregistered on January 29, 1940³⁶. The same field of activity was exercised for several months (April 1 – December 12, 1935) by “Franzelăria Grand” (*Florescu Marin*, owner) in Frații Golești St., at no. 77³⁷. In this branch, also activated the sole-proprietorship

²⁹ *Ibidem*, file no. 38/1931, ff. 1–2.

³⁰ *Ibidem*, file no. 1121/1931, ff. 1–4.

³¹ *Ibidem*, file no. 1799/1931, ff. 1, 3, 5. The owner of the pharmacy was *Nicolae Petrescu*.

³² *Ibidem*, file no. 1800/1931, ff. 1, 3. The owner was *Predescu Alexandrina D.N.*

³³ *Ibidem*, file no. 2459/1933, unnumbered.

³⁴ *Ibidem*, file no. 2802/1935, unnumbered.

³⁵ *Ibidem*, file no. 977/1931, ff. 1, 4, 5, 7, 19.

³⁶ *Ibidem*, file no. 190/1931, ff. 1, 2; *Ibidem*, file no. 2494/1933, unnumbered.

³⁷ *Ibidem*, file no. 2851/1935, unnumbered.

companies: *Ciobanu Ion* with bakery and pastrycook products (Frații Golești St., at no. 44), activity started on November 3, 1921³⁸; *Mosoarcă Ion* – bakery (D. A. Sturdza St., at no. 62) activity carried out between August 5, 1921–September 11, 1943³⁹; *Pamfilie Iorgu* – bakery (117 Barbu Catargiu Street), a business in which, in 1948, he had invested a capital worth 3,000 lei (April 12, 1929–Nov. 4, 1948)⁴⁰; *Homescu Dumitru* who had registered as a field of activity bakery, pastrycook products and pies (Unirii St., at no. 2), an activity that he carried out between May 15, 1928 and August 27, 1936, a company re-registered for the same activity on February 4, 1942⁴¹.

Many of them began as small bakeries, later converting into bread factories. Such a development had the bread factory whose owner was Ivancea Ștefan. It debuted on the 1st of September 1921, with a small bakery transformed, on March 17, 1938, into a bread factory equipped with motor mixers, a kneading machine and a furnace burner. At the beginning, the headquarters was registered in Banat Street, at no. 44, then on Caracal Street, at numbers 46 and 139. During the beginning of the activity, he also opened a branch in Peștilor St., at no. 1. The company was deregistered on April 4, 1944⁴². The archival documents also signal the existence of the Biscuits, Pastry and Sweets Factory “Întreprinderile alimentare Frații Climescu – Climescu Brothers Food Enterprises” (Nov. 1, 1941 – Jan. 23, 1948) which functioned in Buzești St., at no. 48⁴³.

On addressing the food, the *butcheries* had a significant share as well. Most of them had their headquarters in the markets: Mașeu, Elca, the Central Market. In Mașeu Market, there were recorded the butcher shops of: “Mielul cel blând – The Gentle Lamb” (*Dumitru Mihai* – owner, market stall 121, 1926 – June 7, 1946)⁴⁴; “la Pioneru Vesel” (*Triculescu Dumitru* – owner; market stall 121, registered on December 22, 1932)⁴⁵; that of *Radela Petre*, market stall 33, (20 Oct. 1930 – 7 June 1946, deleted ex officio, on which occasion the death of the holder was ascertained)⁴⁶; of *Tucă Marin*, market stall 27 (10 January 1930 – 29 April 1938)⁴⁷; of *Sorescu Dumitru*, market stall 69 (22 Dec. 1932)⁴⁸. *Florescu Marin* sold his products in the same market, at market stall 77, both animal products, cereals and fodder (Aug. 29, 1931 – Nov. 28, 1933)⁴⁹. As for *Stăncălie Ion*, the documents mention the beginning of the commercial activity on September 19,

³⁸ *Ibidem*, file no. 993/1931, f. 1.

³⁹ *Ibidem*, file no. 626/1931, ff. 1–4.

⁴⁰ *Ibidem*, file no. 885/1931, ff. 1–12.

⁴¹ *Ibidem*, file no. 1239/1931, ff. 1, 3, 10.

⁴² *Ibidem*, file no. 108/1931, ff. 1, 4, 9.

⁴³ *Ibidem*, file no. 772/1945, ff. 1–5.

⁴⁴ *Ibidem*, file no. 193/1931, ff. 1, 2.

⁴⁵ *Ibidem*, file no. 2226/1932, f. 1.

⁴⁶ *Ibidem*, file no. 642/1931, ff. 1, 2, 4.

⁴⁷ *Ibidem*, file no. 646/1931, ff. 1, 4.

⁴⁸ *Ibidem*, file no. 2227/1932, f. 1.

⁴⁹ *Ibidem*, file no. 632/1931, ff. 1–3.

1926, in the same market, subsequently moving his commercial activity to the place that he opened at home (Nicolae Bălcescu Street, no. 25). His company was deregistered ex officio on Feb. 15. 1946, the authorities recording the death of the holder on December 25, 1945⁵⁰. In Unirii St., no. 43, the trader *Constantinescu Dumitru* was registered, whose declared object of activity was “sausages and delicacies” (May 9, 1925 – June 28, 1943)⁵¹.

In Elca Market, there were registered the butcher shops belonging to the traders: *Nicola Gh. Mustata* (May 1, 1930-June 24, 1936, at no. 14), the holder ceasing to live on June 22, 1936⁵²; *Boabă Constantin* (28 April 1933 – 28 July 1948, at no. 46), which recorded in February 1946 a capital worth 400,000 lei⁵³; *Dinculescu M. Pătra* (market stall no. 8) activity started on December 23, 1932⁵⁴.

Minoniu Gh. Gheorghe was engaged between May 9, 1925 and January 25, 1949 with the trade in food products (intestines, soap and melted butter). The firm, which in the February 1946 had a capital of 2,000,000 lei, was deregistered as a result of the death of the owner (Bucovăț Street, numbers 151, 169)⁵⁵.

In markets, there were also sold cereals, vegetables and herbs. In The Marșeu Market, there were identified the merchants: *Câmpeanu Nicolae* (April 3, 1925 – November 23, 1938, market stalls with no. 131, later 118)⁵⁶; *Dumitrescu Ion*, at the 122nd market stall (1926–1933, ex officio deregistered on February 28, 1938)⁵⁷ and *Chiriac Nicolae*, who had a wider range of products: cereals, grocery and haberdashery products (1927 – 1 April 1933)⁵⁸.

In the interwar period, there were registered several workshops, the entrepreneurs also dealing with the sale of the products they were manufacturing. Further on, there are to be mentioned the workshops whose registered object of activity was *iron and iron products*: “La țăranul plugar – At the ploughman’s”, owner *Predoiș Angela*, 43 Tache Ionescu Street (June 27, 1931 – May 22, 1935)⁵⁹; the workshop on 31 Lipsșani Street, “Mână de fier – Iron Hand” – Maria R. Nisipeanu, a successor of *Vasile Ion* (Jan. 15, 1929)⁶⁰; the workshop “La nicovală – At the anvil”, owner *Iliescu D. Gheorghe* (1930 – 13 Dec. 1935) where there were sold raw or processed iron items, with the headquarters in Tache Ionescu Street (formerly Lipsșani), at no. 57⁶¹; the workshop “La lacătul de aur – At the golden

⁵⁰ *Ibidem*, file no. 644/1931, ff. 3, 5, 6, 8, 15.

⁵¹ *Ibidem*, file no. 703/1931, ff. 1–3.

⁵² *Ibidem*, file no. 689/1931, ff. 1–4.

⁵³ *Ibidem*, file no. 2346/1933, unnumbered.

⁵⁴ *Ibidem*, file no. 2229/1932, f. 1.

⁵⁵ *Ibidem*, file no. 731/1931, ff. 1, 4, 16.

⁵⁶ *Ibidem*, file no. 214/1931, ff. 1, 2. Câmpeanu Nicolae was selling vegetables.

⁵⁷ *Ibidem*, file no. 194/1931, ff. 1, 3. Dumitrescu Ion was the owner of a grocery.

⁵⁸ *Ibidem*, file no. 186/1931, ff. 1, 5.

⁵⁹ *Ibidem*, file no. 145 b/1931, ff. 1, 2.

⁶⁰ *Ibidem*, file no. 630/1931, ff. 1, 3.

⁶¹ *Ibidem*, file no. 639/1931, ff. 1–5.

padlock” of *Smărăndescu Ilie*, registered on the same street, at no. 55 (May 8, 1926 – Aug. 15, 1949). In this workshop, there were made hunting objects and agricultural implements (from Jan. 1938) and hunting ammunition (from March 1946). During the inspection of the companies in 1946, it was found that a capital worth 3,648,616 lei was invested in this business⁶². *Pascu Dumitru* was the owner of the iron and wood processing workshop, whose headquarters was registered at his domicile address, 79 Regele Ioanițiu Street (2 July 1931 – 7 June 1946)⁶³.

Grigore D. Roșulescu opened, at his home location (27 Madona Dudu Street), a turnery workshop, an activity he carried out for 30 years (May 22, 1910 – 28 March 1940)⁶⁴ and *Pârvu Ilie* the tinman’s “La Masina de aur – The Golden Car”, on 84 Alexandru Lahovari Street, (17 Dec. 1921 – 11 June 1947), in which he had invested in 1946 a capital worth 1,000,000 lei⁶⁵. *Aatasie Gheorghe* also had a tinman open, but he also had another field registered, a public works company, an activity begun on October 5, 1921 and ended on June 14, 1946. The headquarters of the company was registered in Cuza Vodă St., no. 90⁶⁶.

Georgescu Ion had on Împăratul Traian St, at no. 5, a carpentry workshop and a firewood warehouse, with a branch on Obedeanu St., no. 84. The entrepreneurial activity started on March 6, 1914 (on Calomfirescu St., no. 30) ended on June 7, 1946 when the company was deleted ex officio⁶⁷.

A long-term activity was carried out by the sculptor *Bălăban Panait* who had a stone sculpture workshop (1920-April 29, 1946), headquartered in Severin St. (formerly Smârdan), at no. 2. In 1946 he deleted the company whose capital was of 4,152,842 lei, in order to continue the activity in association with his son, Ion P. Bălăban⁶⁸.

Shoe workshops were registered by several workers in the industry, most of them having registered the headquarters of their companies at home. Within these workshops, many owners produced and, at the same time, marketed the footwear. *Popescu M. Nicolae* had a company registered at Dolj Court since October 28, 1909, practicing this profession for almost half a century, the company being deregistered on June 7, 1946, when the holder was declared deceased. In the beginning, it had the headquarters in Madona Dudu St., at no. 58, and subsequently on Liberty St., at no. 2⁶⁹. *Dumitrescu F. Ion* was the owner of “Cismăria Comercială – Commercial Shoe-shop”, a company that he registered on September 26, 1912, in Târgului Street, at no. 9, and, subsequently, in Împăratul Traian Street, at no. 9, where he had his domicile. Due to the economic crisis,

⁶² *Ibidem*, file no. 641/1931, ff. 1–25.

⁶³ *Ibidem*, file no. 203/1931, ff. 1, 3.

⁶⁴ *Ibidem*, file no. 694/1931, ff. 1, 2, 8, 9.

⁶⁵ *Ibidem*, file no. 669/1931, ff. 1–4, 11.

⁶⁶ *Ibidem*, file no. 653/1931, ff. 1–4.

⁶⁷ *Ibidem*, file no. 1084/1931, ff. 2, 4, 5.

⁶⁸ *Ibidem*, file no. 192/1931, ff. 1, 2, 16.

⁶⁹ *Ibidem*, file no. 704/1931, ff. 1, 2, 4.

excessive taxes, he had to request the deregistration of the firm, an action completed on June 15, 1933⁷⁰. The same field of activity was practiced by *Preoteasa Florea*, the owner of the workshop “Gheata ideală – The ideal boot” on Madona Dudu street, at no. 35 (June 9, 1920 – May 22, 1946). On Feb. 15. In 1932 he moved the headquarters of the workshop to Bârca commune, where he also opened a department store, a commercial activity that he concluded on October 30, 1947⁷¹.

Coma Ioan registered at the Court, on December 9, 1926, the workshop of belting, saddlery and travel items, the headquarters being established in Știrbei Vodă St., no. 17, then in Lahovari, at no. 92⁷².

In the city, it also functioned, for 29 years (1 Aug. 1916 – 10 Jan. 1935) *Paulescu Constantin's* tannery workshop (42 Tabaci Street, respectively 36)⁷³. The sole-partnership company *Pantelie Angelescu*, registered with the Tribunal on April 30, 1914, whose field of activity was ceramics. The headquarters was registered in Anastasie Stolojan Blvd., at no. 32. In the same year, he opened another activity point on the same street, at no. 23, the building having an exit in Gloriei St. no. 4, as well. After his death, the activity was continued by his daughter who registers with the Trade Register, in 1931, a company in her name, *Angelescu P. Elena*, the headquarters being in Calea Unirii, at no. 141⁷⁴.

The restaurants, the pubs, the cafes, the confectioneries and the cinemas were the places most frequented by the inhabitants of the city of the interwar period, eager for relaxation and fun. Among the many restaurants, pubs that populated the streets of the city of Oltenia, we mention the following: “La vulturul de mare cu peștele în ghiare – The eagle with fish in its claws”, located on Carol Blvd., at no. 2 (Feb. 1921 – 14, 1933)⁷⁵; “La Dumbrava Verde – the Green Glen”, owner *Munteanu Gheorghe*, Vântului St., no. 1, intersected with P.A. Sturdza (20. Sept. 1918 – 22 Jul. 1932)⁷⁶; *Constantinescu Ion* (Ion Jupoi also called Constantinescu) used the emblem “La ospătăria și bodega națională – The national feast and bodega”, trade exercised in the Marșeu Market, at no. 98-100. He started the commercial activity in 1929 with butchery products. In 1930 he also opened a popular pub, and a year later he added the trade in drinks (spirits, appetizers, beer). In April 1934 he moved the entire activity to Unirii St., at no. 27 and adopted the emblem “Bodega Elite”, and the pub turned into a restaurant (which he renounced at on April 1, 1942). A month later he expanded his business by adding food (which he renounced at on April 1, 1942). For a short time, he also added butchery products (July 1940 – April 1941, the

⁷⁰ *Ibidem*, file no. 699/1931, ff. 1–4.

⁷¹ *Ibidem*, file no. 992/1931, ff. 1–7.

⁷² *Ibidem*, file no. 304/1931, ff. 1, 2.

⁷³ *Ibidem*, file no. 693/1931, ff. 1, 2, 6.

⁷⁴ *Ibidem*, file no. 649/1931, ff. 1, 3, 7, 13.

⁷⁵ *Ibidem*, file no. 139 bis/1931, ff. 1–2. The company belonged to Costică I. Cotorela.

⁷⁶ *Ibidem*, file no. 631/1931, ff. 1, 5, 7. In 1918, the headquarters was on Ghe. Negruțu St., at no, then moved, in 1925, on Salvator St., no. 9, at the intersection with Ghe. Negruțu St.

commercial activity that he resumed in July 1942, in Elca Street) and the trade of leather in commission (sheepskins, cows, goats) that he purchased for the tannery, the harness and footwear factory belonging to D. Mociornița company in Bucharest, which was working at that time exclusively for the endowment of the Romanian army. His death, recorded in March 1945, led to the ex officio deregistration of the firm on March 31, 1946⁷⁷. On Alexandru Nicolaid St., at no. 76 (later 120 Severinului Street), *Butu Ștefan* owned a popular pub and an inn where the carts in transit stopped, an activity he carried out for 15 years (August 25, 1920 – May 2, 1935). For his business, the owner used the logo “La vadul lui Traian”⁷⁸.

Among the cafes, we mention the one known as “The Café of Craiova Stock Exchange” that functioned on the streets of Unirii, at no. 100 (Nov. 1, 1931 – Feb. 5, 1934) and Elca, no. 6, (1934–31 Mar. 1936), whose owner was *Lipan Radu*⁷⁹; and “Cafeneaua Centrală – The Central Café” from Cuza Vodă St., no. 20 (owner *Coșoveanu Marin*)⁸⁰.

Vasiliu Florea – called Albu registered, in 1931, a wide range of activities: the trade in spirits, an automobile station and a special barbecue. He started his commercial activity as early as July 1, 1922, with the trade in spirits for which he adopted the emblem “la Flora”, the headquarters being registered on Buzești St., at no. 37. In March 1936 he moved the headquarters to Gheorghe Ghica St., at no. 26, where he sold spirit drinks, and special grilled food. In December 1943, he had a bodega and a restaurant for which he allocated a capital worth 200,000 lei, having their headquarters on Caracal St, no. 116. On October 2, 1945, the sole partnership company is deleted, in order to continue the commercial activity in association with C-tin Găleanu. The two associates allocated to their business a capital worth 600,000 lei, the largest amount being deposited by the new associate (500,000 lei) and chose as an identification term the emblem “At Costel”. The Association ceases its activity on March 26, 1947, the business being continued only by the associate Galeanu⁸¹.

The lovers of cakes and delicacies enjoyed the lovely products of the confectioneries: the “Central Confectionery” located on Kogălniceanu St., at no. 1, whose owner was *Teodorescu Octavian*, starting with November 25, 1913⁸²; “Ilona Confectionery” on Calea Severinului, at no. 3 (1932 – 19 Sept. 1945). The owner, *Raiciu Gh. Elena*, having health problems closes the company but the activity was continued by her husband *Gh. Raiciu*⁸³; “Delicia Confectionery” from Severinului St, no. 3 (15 Sept. 1931 – 1 Jan. 1940, *Dumitrescu Iancu – owner*)⁸⁴; “Unirea

⁷⁷ *Ibidem*, file no. 941/1931, ff. 1–6, 12, 15, 16, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26.

⁷⁸ *Ibidem*, file no. 105/1931, ff. 1, 6.

⁷⁹ *Ibidem*, file no. 149/1931, ff. 1, 3, 7, 8, 14, 17.

⁸⁰ *Ibidem*, file no. 2695/1934, unnumbered.

⁸¹ *Ibidem*, file no. 1027/1931, ff. 1, 3, 4, 6, 19; Idem, Social Firms, file no. 768/1945, ff. 1, 21, 25.

⁸² Idem, Individual Firms, file no. 150/1931, f. 1.

⁸³ *Ibidem*, file no. 2555/1934, unnumbered.

⁸⁴ *Ibidem*, file no. 751/1931, ff. 3, 5.

Confectionery” from Rosetti St., no. 2 (July 1, 1911 – Sept. 18, 1931), *Georgescu Costică*, its owner, being forced to close his business, which he had managed for two decades, for health reasons. The activity was continued for a very short time by *Enciu Ștefan* who modified the emblem, calling it “Unirea Confectionery – the successor of C. Georgescu”⁸⁵. Starting with May 1, 1932, the both the headquarters and the “Unirea” emblem were also used by *Ionel Petrescu* in C.A. Rosetti St., no. 2⁸⁶.

On addressing the cinemas there are to be mentioned: “Cinema de Lux” from Cuza Vodă St., no. 3, belonging to *Maria Ghiorghiu*, opened on August 1, 1931⁸⁷ and the “Royal Cinema” from 15 Eugeniu Carada Street (owner *Mihăilescu Ștefan*)⁸⁸.

In the present material, there was intended the presentation of some of the Romanian entrepreneurs who developed sole partnership businesses in Craiova, in the interwar period, as they were recorded in the archival documents and in different edited sources. These were owners of shops, department stores, bookstores, workshops, warehouses, factories, printing houses, restaurants, confectioneries, etc.

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⁸⁵ *Ibidem*, file no. 390/1931, ff. 1–3; *Ibidem*, file no. 795/1931, ff. 1, 3.

⁸⁶ *Ibidem*, file no. 1972/1932, f. 1.

⁸⁷ *Ibidem*, file no. 501/1931, f. 1.

⁸⁸ *Ibidem*, file no. 1234/1931, f. 1.

644/1931, 646/1931, 649/1931, 653/1931, 660/1931, 667/1931, 669/1931, 672/1931, 689/1931, 693/1931, 694/1931, 699/1931, 703/1931, 704/1931, 707/1931, 713/1931, 731/1931, 734/1931, 735/1931, 751/1931, 772/1945, 795/1931, 885/1931, 941/1931, 973/1931, 977/1931, 980/1931, 988/1931, 992/1931, 993/1931, 1027/1931, 1084/1931, 1088/1931, 1120/1931, 1121/1931, 1234/1931, 1239/1931, 1493/1931, 1799/1931, 1800/1931, 1972/1932, 2226/1932, 2227/1932, 2229/1932, 2346/1933, 2459/1933, 2494/1933, 2555/1934, 2695/1934, 2802/1935, 2851/1935.

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