



1923. Balti City center. Regele Ferdinand Street.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography

FLOAREA SOARELUI SA - THE FIRST 100 YEARS OF THE HISTORY

The Joint Stock Company FLOAREA SOARELUI (Balti City) is one of the largest companies in the oil and fat sector of the economy of the Republic of Moldova, as well as the entire Black Sea region. But so far, the history of the establishment and the activities of this company have not been presented to the general public. This study is designed to reliably recreate the initial stages of the history of FLOAREA SOARELUI SA on the basis of archival documents available in the Republic of Moldova, publications in the media of that era, testimonies of contemporaries, etc. The study covers the period from the establishment of the company in the 1920s to the outbreak of the World War II.

Unfortunately, many of the primary sources have not been preserved: during the war a significant part of the documents of institutions and companies were destroyed or transferred abroad. Therefore, unfortunately, it was not possible to follow certain stages in the history of FLOAREA SOARELUI SA. However, the material collected allows us to reconstruct the history of this important company.



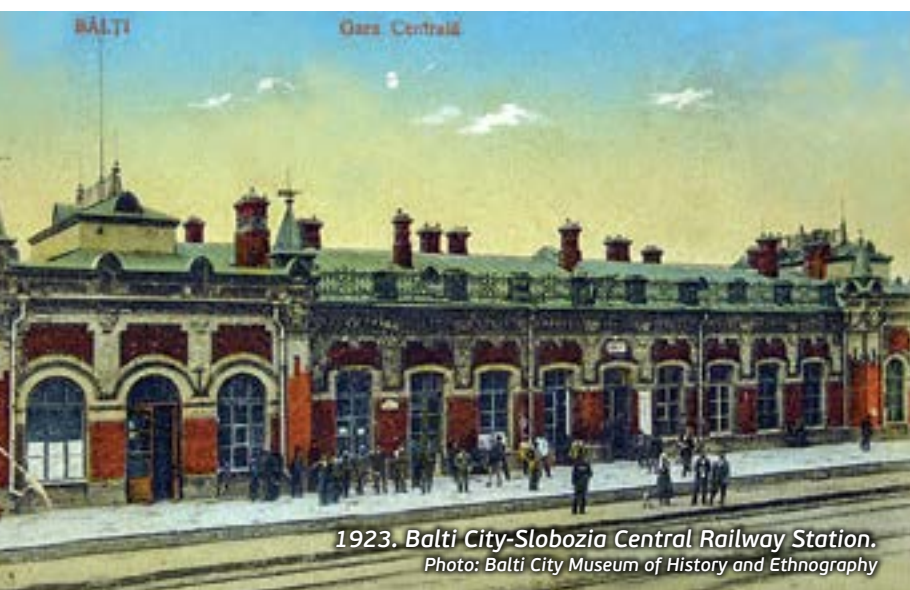
St. Nicholas Cathedral Church in the 1920s.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography

KEY FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- At the origins of FLOAREA SOARELUI SA there were four companies created in the 1920s: the oil plant „Progres”, the joint stock company „Ulmar”, the oil plant of the Volman brothers (Industria uleiurilor vegetale Frații Volman) and the oil plant of Pinkus and Iona Fridman.
- Until now, it was considered that the company was founded by the Russian emigrant Sozinov, but this fact is not documented. The most reliable starting point in the history of the company is considered the moment when the joint stock company „Ulmar” from Braila city acquired, in the 1920s, plots of land for the oil plant in Balti City, where the administrative and production buildings of FLOAREA SOARELUI SA are currently located.
- The brothers-entrepreneurs Isac and Izrael Volman made a decisive contribution to the establishment of the company in Balti City and to the introduction of advanced technologies for the production of vegetable oil. In 1928, the Volman brothers acquired the Ulmar plant and turned it into a successful company. It was at this plant, for the first time in the city, that the technologies for refining and extracting sunflower oil were applied.
- By the beginning of the war, the Volman brothers' oil plant became one of the largest companies in the oil and fat processing industry throughout Romania in terms of production volume.



1923. Balti City - Paminteni Railway Station.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography



1923. Balti City-Slobozia Central Railway Station.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography



1920s. Balti City County Chamber of Commerce.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In the early 1920s, Bessarabia was marked by several important historical events.

Firstly, the fall of the Russian Empire and then the incorporation of Bessarabia into the Kingdom of Romania, in March 1918. As a result, not only the political framework of the region, but also its economy underwent significant changes.

Secondly, the implementation of the agrarian reform in Romania which predetermined the economical growth. On March 13, 1920, the Law on Agrarian Reform in Bessarabia was published. All large land properties in the region were expropriated, transferred to the state funds and divided into smaller plots. Subsequently, these plots were distributed to peasants and representatives of other social categories, who previously had no land. The importance of this event for the economy of Balti City was explained by E. Moruzi, General Secretary of the Balti Chamber of Commerce, in his article in the book „Istoricul oraşului Balţi, 1910-1936”, published in the 30s of last century. Before the agrarian reform, the land on which the city was located was owned by the landowners of the Catarji and Krupensky families. Entrepreneurs could not freely invest or receive loans for the development of their business, as they had no ownership over the land. The agrarian reform offered this possibility: people were not just allotted land, but they could freely dispose of it as sole and absolute owners.

The documents attest to the fact that the entrepreneurs actively benefited from the opportunity offered, purchasing land for the construction of industrial and commercial buildings. The oil plant, which is now FLOAREA SOARELUI SA, was built on the land expropriated from the landowners of the Catarji family.



*1920s. Bridge over the Răut.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography*



*Balti City County Court. 1920s.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography*



*Centre of Balti City, General Schina Street. 1920s.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography*

The development of industry and economy in Balti City was influenced by other factors as well. At the end of the XIXth century, Balti City had become an important railway junction of Bessarabia, railway lines that connected the city with the centre and north of the region being built. The presence of transport arteries gave a strong impetus to the economic and social life of the city. The number of the population increased actively: from 1880 to 1897 the number of inhabitants of Balti City doubled - from 9100 to 18 500. A large part of the inhabitants were Jews. In 1900, of the city's 20,000 inhabitants, 55% were Jews (11,000 people). By 1930, 14.2 thousand Jews lived in Balti City (46.5% of the total number of 30.5 thousand citizens).

The Jews were actively engaged in various economic activities, including craftsmen, merchants, and representatives of the intellectuals. Many of the Jews of Balti City would become founders of new companies in the interwar period.

As some Jewish emigrants from Balti City to Israel recall: "This city was fortunate to host many local Jewish entrepreneurs, as well as those from far away. There were excellent engineers, technicians and professionals who knew how to benefit from the special conditions favourable to the economic development that Balti City offered. Of great help were the huge agricultural lands, which served as a source of raw materials and water for industry, the railway and two railway stations - one large and one small, Balti City-Slobozia and Balti City-Pămînteni".

THE "REVOLUTION" OF THE OIL AND FAT PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN THE 1920S IN BALTI CITY

The most intense growth, under the new conditions, took place in the food industry of Bessarabia, which was mainly due to the agrarian orientation of the region's economy. The greatest impetus for development was given to the milling industry and, in particular, to the oil processing industry, based on local raw materials. From 1923 to 1932, the area of sunflower lands in Romania increased by 68.4%. For example, in 1926, 189,469 hectares of sunflower were cultivated in the country, of which 88% were in Bessarabia. In 1920, in a report for the Romanian profile ministry on the condition of industry in some counties of Bessarabia, the inspector for industry, Stefanov, mentioned: "The oil and fat processing industry was poorly developed before the war. The existing oil mills were in an inadequate condition. Vegetable oil was brought from Russia. Over the past two years, oil production has increased as it is no longer imported from across the Nistru River. The oil is produced exclusively for local needs."

Gradually, the oil plants in Bessarabia managed to enter the international market. The rapid growth pace is also confirmed by the figures specified by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Bessarabia. In April 1920, there were 9 oil extraction plants in the city. And in 1921, there were already 17 such companies. New plants were also opened. Thus, in less than a month and a half, from December 1 to December 9, 1920, the Bessarabia Chamber of Commerce and Industry issued work permits for three oil plants in Balti City. It is not surprising that, according to address indices from all over Romania, at the beginning of the 1930s, there were 28 oil plants in Balti City.



1923. Centre of Balti City. Regele Ferdinand Street. Cinema „LUX”
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography



1920s. General Schina Street, centre of Balti City.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography



November 1920. The layout of the „Progres” factory based on the results of the inspection carried out by the Bessarabia Industry Directorate before issuing a permit for operation.



Balti City center. Regele Ferdinand Street. 1920s.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography

In 1930, in the midst of the world economic crisis, a correspondent of the „Бессарабское слово” (Bessarabskoe Slovo) newspaper was outraged by the fact that there were few public baths in the city, while the number of oil mills prevailed. „Where are those financiers who built 36 oil mills?” Half of them have already burned down, and the remaining half is barely breathing. Didn’t the 35th or 36th founders of these plants take into account the fact that their number is too big for Balti City?”. Although the figures presented by journalists seem somewhat exaggerated compared to those documented, these figures are indicative of the interest of investors in the industry. According to some data, in the period between the two world wars, Balti City became the largest centre for the production of sunflower oil in Romania.

We must also take into account the statements of journalists that many oil extraction plants were about to close. Indeed, very few managed to withstand the high level of market competition and the economic crisis. According to the Encyclopedia of Romania, published in 1938, by the end of the 30s, there were only 9 oil plants left in Balti City. Other sources of that period indicate only 5 plants. However, in those days they were no longer oil mills, but modern production companies. And, the largest of them were the oil plants of the Volman brothers and Iona Fridman, which used oil extraction and refining technologies. They were selling their products not only in Bessarabia and Romania, but also in Europe. It is on the basis of these plants that Balti City oil and fat processing plant was created during the Soviet period.

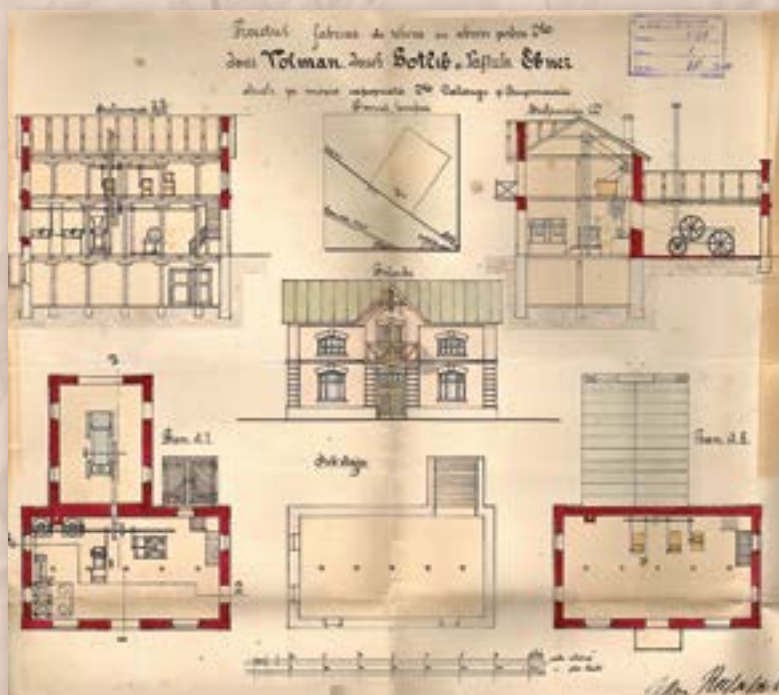
FROM "PROGRES" PLANT TO "INDUSTRIA ULEIURILOR VEGETALE FRAȚII VOLMAN" PLANT

The brothers Isac and Izrael Volman were among the first businessmen of Balti City who saw great prospects in the oil extraction industry. The brothers began investing in the business in the early 1920s. Their father was from the Polish city of Plonsk, not far from Warsaw. His real name was Plonsky. According to family recollections, in order to avoid military service, he bought the documents and the name of a deceased person and so became Volman. It is not known for sure when he arrived in Balti City, but his children were already born in Bessarabia.

Isac and Izrael Volman had no education in food or engineering fields. At first they had their own printing house. They were also engaged in grain trade (for this they founded their own company in 1924), and were among the founders of the city associations of grain merchants.

According to the version that existed since the Soviet period, the Volman brothers bought from a Russian emigrant Sozinov the oil plant that was built in 1922 and then was destroyed and burned, and later a new plant was created on its basis. However, this version does not find confirmation in archival documents and other sources of that period; the Sozinov name is not found in the lists of Balti oil mills' owners.

In fact, the history that can be reconstructed on the basis of the existing documents is as follows. In 1920, the eldest of the Volman brothers, Isac Abramovici (also Itzik-Aizik), became one of the four founders of the "Progres" oil plant in Balti City. On April 23, 1920, Isac Volman, Jacob Gotlib, Naftula Ebner, and Wolf Steinberg signed an association agreement under which the plant was established.



The project of the new „Progres” plant to be built on the plot of land allocated in 1922. The idea was never implemented.



Regele Ferdinand Street, Balti City County Commerce Chamber (to the right). 1930s. Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography



The deed confirming the establishment of the plant of Volman brothers published in the Official Gazette of Romania, September 26, 1928.

The share capital of the plant amounted to 200 thousand roubles (the founders' investments were still made in the tsarist currency).

The largest share in the plant belonged to Isac Volman. He invested 80 thousand roubles, while all the other founders - 120 thousand. However, according to the agreement, over the next few years, the shares of all shareholders should be equal.

The founders of the "Progres" plant have committed not to create their own oil plants as long as they remain in this business and as long as the partnership agreement is in force.

According to the original agreement, each of the founders had certain responsibilities for running the company. Therefore, Volman and Abner were to be in charge of the commercial affairs of the company, and Gotlib and Steinberg were in charge of the technical part (in 1921, Wolf Steinberg left the founders, only three owners remaining). Isac Volman was also appointed as the legal representative of the plant, authorized to represent the commercial partnership within the state bodies. Later, Isaac Volman's younger brother, Izrael, was also involved in the management of the company, although he was not a founder. Notarised powers of attorney were issued in his name, allowing him to represent the company in commercial and legal matters.

To locate the plant, the founders rented the plot of land with constructions from Berta Samoilovna Gotlib - a courtyard on Tatyanskaya Street, at the intersection with Bulvarnaya Street. It is worth mentioning that in the 1920, the agreement contained the tsarist names of the streets. But soon, in documents, Tatyanskaya Street became General Berthelot Street, and Bulvarnaya Street became Regina Maria Street. Today, these are 31 August and Sadoveanu Streets.



Decision of the Council of Ministers of Romania, published in the Official Gazette approving the sale of the assets of "Ulmar" plant from Balti City to Volman brothers.

Prăguta copie se trimite D-lui Prin-Notar al Tribunalului Bălți la R. *Prin-Notar* anul 1923, sub No. *224*...conform art.80 din legea Notarială.



Notar Public:

Maly

Copie.

653

E X T R A C T din registrul Notarului Public al orașului Bălți
Nicon I. VALUTA, pentru *notar* reafirmarea la averele imobile, pe
anul 1923.-

Dos. N. *161*
312/923

Pagina 68 și 69. - Partea I. - No. 135.-



La data sime patru Iunie anul una mie nouă sute douăzeci și trei. Sau înfațișat înaintea *notar* Nicon I. VALUTA, Notar public al orașului Bălți, în biroul *notar* de Notariat, aflat pe strada Unirei, în casa No. unsaprecce, d-nii: Aron Monșevici E I D E L M A N, Zelman Iacovlevici B E Z P A L O F F și Nicolae Găipovici N E U S T A D, personal de *notar* cunoscuți și având capacitatea legală de-a dreasa acte, ultimii doi lucrând în calitate Membrii în Consiliul de Administrație a Societății Anonime Române pentru fabricarea uleiului și Industriei Motorizării, sub firmă "ULMAR", legalizente capabili de-a dreasa acte, pe baza actului Constitutiv, publicat în Monitorul Oficial din septembrie lanuarie anul una mie nouă sute douăzeci și trei, sub No. 225, și prezentat *notar* Notarului public în original, domiciliu: primul-in orașul Bălți, pe strada Chișinăului în casa No. 33, iar ultimii doi-in orașul Braila, pe strada Victoriei în casa No. 11, asistați de martorii: Nicolae Feodorovici Naehman, Sabba Zeilicov Bocher și David Sliomov Napira, domiciliu în orașul Bălți: primul-in Mahalaun Sorocci, în casa soției sale, și doilea-pe strada Muzicanților, în casa lui Benderschi și ultimul pe strada Regelui Ferdinand întâi, în casa sa proprie, personal de *notar* cunoscuți, - au declarat că dresază prezentul A C T DE V A N Z A R E - C O M P A R A R E în modul următor: d-l Aron E I D E L M A N a vândut Societății Anonime "ULMAR" din Braila, reprezentată de d-nii Zelman B E Z P A L O F F și Nicolae N E U S T A D, restul dreptului de posesiune și folosință, asupra unui sector viran de loc de casă, rămas pe urma vânzării, destinat pen

Sale-purchase contract of the plot of land from Aron Eidelman, June 4, 1923. (page 1).

tru a fi ocupat cu diferite construcțiuni, însoțit prin rolurile de impuneri a Primăriei orașului Bălți, sub no. 1333, sector care li-a aparținut foștilor proprietari ai orașului Bălți, astăzi expropriate de stat, prin legea de reformă agrară, promulgată la unaprosace Martie anul una mie nouă sute douăzeci, având conform de declarațiuni părților următoarele dimensiuni și vecinătăți: în lățime din partea din față pe strada Berthelout și din dos în hotărâ cu sectorul d-nei Samin-oște douăzeci atâșjeni, sau patruzeci și doi metri și șasezeci și șapte centimetri, iar în lungime atât din partea sectorului d-lui Dobrovolschi cât și din partea estealei străzii fără nuse-oște douăzeci și cinci atâșjeni, sau cindzeci și trei metri și treizeci și patru centimetri, având în total o suprafață de cinci sute atâșjeni pătrați sau două mii două sute șaptezeci și șase metri și patru centimetri pătrați, mai mult sau mai puțin cât va rezulta în natură după măsurătoare, drept care a trecut în întregime în posesiunea vânzătorului, prin cumpărare, pentru suma de patru mii lei, în baza actului de vânzare cumpărare confirmat de către Primul Notar al Tribunalului Bălți la șapte Mai anul una mie nouă sute douăzeci și una, înregistrat în registrul de proprietăți sub no. optzeci și patru. Având în vedere art. 10 și 36 din susmenționata lege de reformă agrară numita Societate Anonimă "GUMEN" se va folosi de sectorul descris de pământ expropriat, luând asupra sa obligațiunea de-a îndeplini întocmai toate dispozițiunile legale, pe cari le va lua statul pe viitor, cu privire la folosirea și rancumpărarea acestui pământ și a plăti toate dările și impunerile către stat, județ și comună. Dreptul arstat se vândut pentru suma de C I M C I Z R C I S I C I M C I M I I lei, primiți de vânzător în întregime, privind cheltuielile de savărire și întărirea acestui act de vânzare-cumpărare pe vânzătorul Eidelman. Averea vândută e evaluată în întregime împreună cu cealaltă avere vândută mai înainte: pentru impunerii comunale la patru mii lei, pentru semnătură nici o impunere și de către Perceptorul circumscripției înțale Bălți, conform procesului verbal din patruaprosace Februarie anul una mie nouă sute douăzeci și trei la suma de cincizeci și patru mii lei. Se menționează pe lângă acestea că socotelile cu

15
foștii proprietari ai oregului Salți, privitoare la folosirea
ambateoară a acestei parcele au fost lichidate în mod defini-
tiv până la data de una Ianuarie anul una mie nouă sute două
zeci și trei. Până în prezent dreptul arătat nu e nimărui altui
gândut, ipotecat, predat în mod legal sau transcriș și nu se
găsește în litigiu sau sub propiere, din care cauză dacă cineva
ar ridica asupra lui vre-o pretenție, vânzătorul și deceden-
ții acestuia sunt obligați a o lua pe cumpărătorii și pe de-
cedenții acestora în apărare, despăgubindu-i în conformitate
cu legea de toate daunele, rezultate din cauza aceasta, Art.
92 din legea de timbru și înregistrare și art. 161 din legea
Notarială li ne-adun părților la cunoștință. Actul acesta sa
dresat în conformitate cu art. art. 89, 95, 96 și 104 din legea
Notarială. Extrasul prim și principal scris pe coale de timbru
cuvinte, urmează a se elibera cumpărătorii Societate Anonimă
"ULMAR" din Braila reprezentată de d-nii: Zelman Iacovlevici
BESPALOFF și Nicolae Saipovici NEUSTAD. --- (ss) Aron Menașevici
Eidelman. Societate Anonimă "Ulmur", din Braila Administrator de-
legat Zelman Bespalooff. Nicolae Neustadt. La săvârșirea, ceteris
și semnarea prezentului act de vânzare-cumpărare ca martori
am fost: Nicolas Feodorovici Rachman. Sabsa Zeilicov Becher. Du-
vid Shionov Sapiro. Notar Public (ss) N. Valuța. -

E x t r a s u l acesta este copiat precis după actul
originalul și sa înregistrat în registrul general sub No. 1483
și sa eliberat cumpărătorii Societate Anonimă "Ulmur", din Bra-
la reprezentată de d-nii Zelman Iacovlevici BESPALOFF și Ni-
colae Iosifovici NEUSTADT, la 4 Iunie anul 1923. - În textul
acestui extras sa șters: "acete", "E", s'a corectat: "Zelman, sem-
narea", copiat". -

CONFORM CU ORIGINALUL: În textul copiei sa șters:
"acete", "E", s'a corectat: "Zelman", copiat, semnarea, copiat". -



NOTAR PUBLIC



INDUSTRIA ULEIURILOR VEGETALE
FRĂȚII VOLMAN

Societate în Nume Colectiv
Bălți (Bessarabia)

Adr. telegr. „Volman Bălți”. Telefon No. 24.

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An advertisement of the Volman brothers plant in the collection „Primul ghid al municipiului Bălți”, 1937-38.

Throughout its existence, the “Progres” plant was located on this leased land, which in the documents of the 20s and early 30s had the following address: 14, Berthelot Street. This place is a few blocks down from the place where today FLOAREA SOARELUI SA is located. The nearest neighbour of the oil plant was the Meyer Brestechko mill - today this company is known to the inhabitants of Balti City as the brewery.

In December 1920, the “Progres” plant received the permit for operation from the Bessarabia Industry Directorate. At the beginning of its activity, the plant had 20 workers (the largest number among small oil mills from Balti City at that time) and had 8HP steam engine. The company soon became the market leader in the region. In August 1921, the inspector of the Bessarabia Industry Directorate, engineer Thorn, confirmed in a specially issued certificate that the “Progres” plant “is a leader in Balti, Soroca and Hotin counties in terms of production and capital size”. From the same certificate it results that in the period of 1920-1921 the company processed 140 thousand poods (over 2.2 million kg) of sunflower seeds and produced 30 thousand poods (491 thousand kg) of oil.

At the same time, the owners of the “Progres” oil plant expressed their intentions to expand production. In August 1921, they filed a request with the Administrative Council of “Casa Noastră” (the state body in charge of land distribution in Bessarabia), based on the Law on Agrarian Reform, to allocate the company 300 hectares of land near Balti City. On these lands, the entrepreneurs intended to grow rapeseed, hemp and sunflower for the needs of the plant. However,



NEGULEANU NICHITA
LICENTIAȚ ÎN ȘTIINȚE
CONTROLOR DE FABRICI

ULEIURILE VEGETALE DIN ROMÂNIA

PROPRIETĂȚILE FIZICE ȘI CHIMICE
PLANTELE OLEAGINOASE
RAFINAREA ULEIURILOR
CONTROLUL FABRICAȚIEI ȘI CEL FISCAL
REGIMUL ULEIURILOR ȚĂRĂNEȘTI



Industria Uleiurilor Vegetale Frații VOLMAN-Bălți

TIPOGRAFIILE ROMÂNE UNITE ♦ CALEA RAHOVEI, 42

*Volman oil plant on the cover of a book on oil
and fat industry in Romania.*

*Photo: Sefer Beltsi Basarabia: yad ve-zekher le-yahadut
Beltsi. Balti City, Basarabia. A Memorial of the Jewish
Community. Jerusalem, 1993.*

"Casa Noastră" refused the request, noting that the plant could buy raw materials from peasants without being allocated the land. Volman, Ebner and Gotlib did not give up, and in December 1921 they filed another request with "Casa Noastră" - this time requesting that 5 hectares of land be allocated to them on the Teiosa estate (former estate of the Catarji family). In their letter, the industrialists indicated that they would like to build new modern buildings for the oil plant, but they cannot do so because there was not enough land in the city for construction and they were forced to rent real estate. This time, the administration of "Casa Noastră" decided in favour of the entrepreneurs and, on June 9, 1922, ordered the allocation of land on the Teiosa estate for the construction of a plant, but only one hectare, not five. Also, the decision of "Casa Noastră" mentioned that the land is allocated "provisionally".

During the same period, Volman, Ebner and Gotlib obtained incentives from the Romanian government for the development of the company in accordance with the Law on the Support of National Industry. The Romanian Cabinet of Ministers exempted the "Progres" plant from import duties on production equipment, offered rail transport exemptions and fiscal facilities.

There was even developed a project for the new plant. According to the project, it results that the owners planned to obtain the plot of land for the construction of the plant near the Balti City-Ungheni railway, not far from the district hospital (today this plot of land is located in the area of P. Boțu Street, near the railway crossing).

For unknown reasons, the project of that plant was never implemented. Perhaps this was due to the uncertain status of the land, its "provisional" allocation.

**ТЕЛЕФОННЫЙ РАЗГОВОРЪ
БѢЛЫЦЫ - НЬЮ-ІОРКЪ**
БѢЛЫЦЫ. На дняхъ БѢЛЫЦЫ
впервые связались по телефону
съ Америкой. Говорила мѣстная
фирма бр. Вольманъ съ нью-іорк
ской фирмой.
Говорившіе очень хорошо слы
шали другъ друга. а

**ЗАБАСТОВКА НА МАСЛОБОЙ
НЫХЪ ЗАВОДАХЪ.**
БѢЛЫЦЫ. Вчера забастовали
рабочіе всѣхъ бѣлецкихъ масло
бойныхъ заводовъ. Работа прек
ращена и заводы остановились.
Причина забастовки -- требова
ніе рабочихъ ввести восьмича
совый рабочий день. б.

**ЗАБАСТОВКА НА МАСЛОБОЙ-
НЫХЪ ЗАВОДАХЪ ПРОДол-
ЖАЕТСЯ.**
БѢЛЫЦЫ. Вчера прибыли въ
БѢЛЫЦЫ предсѣдатель ясской
камеры труда Маргаритъ и ин
спекторъ Виничукъ для разрѣ
шенія конфликта между вла
дѣльцами маслобойныхъ заво
довъ и рабочими. До сихъ поръ
стороны не пришли къ соглаше
нію. Забастовка продолжается.

*Clippings from the „Бессарабское слово” newspaper
for 1936. It was an eventful year. First, on May 15 and
16, the workers of all Bălți oil mills went on strike.
They demanded a 8-hour working day instead
of 10-hour and an increase in wages. Then, in August,
a former worker of the Volman plant and his
accomplice were detained on suspicion of attempting
to set fire to the plant.*

However, it was possible to implement the idea of a new modern oil plant at the end of the decade by the Volman brothers, but within the framework of a different company.

All available documents from that period show that the “Progres” plant continued to operate on the same plot of land on 14, Berthelot Street. On July 3, 1925, Isac Volman, Naftula Ebner and Jacob Gotlib extended the agreement for the establishment of the “Progres” plant for three years. The share capital of the company amounted already to 3.6 million lei, of which 3 million was the property of the company, and 600 thousand - the contribution of the co-founders in equal shares (of 200 thousand lei each). At the same time, the factory extended for the same period the lease agreement for the plot of land on 14, Berthelot Street. For the period of three years, the company had to pay the owner Berta Gotlib a total of 250 thousand lei.

On July 1, 1928, the agreement for the establishment of the “Progres” oil plant expired. This date became a turning point in the fate of the company - Isac Volman withdrew the membership. The other two owners - Naftula Ebner and Jacob Gotlib - re-registered the plant in August 1928 at the same address: 14, Berthelot Street. However, without the capital and commercial skills of Isac Volman, the “Progres” oil plant could not cope with the world economic crisis. In July 1932, the owners’ lawyer informed the Balti City County Court about the start of the bankruptcy procedure of the plant. In the following years, “Progres” no longer appeared on the lists of active companies in the city.

Present copie se trimite D-lui Reizea Samis - Notar al Tribunalului Băl
la. 12 June anul 1923, sub No. 384/923 conform art. 80 din legea
Notar. 657

NOTAR PUBLIC din registrul Notarului Public al oraşului Bălţi
Nicon I. VALUTA, pentru actele 162 de înregistrare la averele imobile, pe
anul 1923. - 384/923

REIZEA SAMIS
Pagina. 63 şi 64. - Partea II. - No. 136. -

Am una mie nouă sute douăzeci şi trei luna Iunie, ziua pat
ra. S'au înfăţişat înaintea noastră **Nicon I. VALUTA**, Notar Public
al oraşului Bălţi, în biroul nostru de Notariat, situat pe strad
Unirei No. II, D-na Reizea Boruhovna S A M I S şi D-nii **Zelman**
Iacovlevici B E Z P A L O F F şi **Nicolai Osipovici N E U S T A**
personal de noi cunoscuţi şi având capacitatea legală de a
dresa acte, ultimii doi lucrând în calitate de membrii în consi
liul de Administraţie a Societăţii Anonimă Română pentru fabri
rea uleiului şi Industria morăritului sub firma: "ULMAR", legali
mente capabili de a dresa acte, pe baza actului constitutiv, pub
licat în Monitorul Oficial din şaptesprezece Ianuarie anul una
mie nouă sute douăzeci şi trei, sub No. două sute douăzeci şi ci
ci şi prezentat nouă Notarului Public în original, domiciliati:
prima în oraşul Bălţi, pe strada General Schina, în casa No. una,
iar ultimii doi în Brailă, strada Victoria, în casa No. unsprezece
asistaţi de martori: **Nicolai Feodorovici RACHMAN**, **Sabşa Zeilicov**
BECHER şi **David Sliciov SAPIRO**, domiciliati în oraşul Bălţi: pri
mul pe **Mahalaia Scrocei**, în casa soţiei sale, al doilea pe strad
Muzicanţilor, în casa lui **Benderschi** şi ultimul pe strada Regel
Ferdinand I, în casa sa proprie, personal de noi cunoscuţi, au
declarat că dresază prezentul ACT de VANZARE-CUMPARARE în no
dul următor: d-na Reizea SAMIS a vândut Societăţii Anonimă "UL
MAR" din Brailă reprezentată de d-nii **Z. BEZPALOFF** şi **N. NEUSTAD**
averea nemiguitoare, aparţinătoare ei, situată în oraşul Bălţi, pe
strada **Berthelot** fostă strada **Tatianovscaia**, înscrisă prin ro
lurile de impaneri a Primăriei oraşului Bălţi sub No. 111... com
pusă din dreptul asupra folosinţe şi posesiune unui sector vi
ran de loc de casă, care li-a aparţinut fostilor proprietari ai

oraşului Bălţi, astăzi expropriat de STAT prin legea de reforma agrară promulgată la unsprezece Martie anul una mie nouă sute douăzeci, având următoarele dimensiuni şi vecinătăţi: în lăţime din partea din faţă pe strada fără nume şi din partea opusă în hotar cu vecinul Dobrovolachi-câte cinci stânjeni sau zece metri şi sasezeci şi şapte centimetri, iar în lungime: atât din partea vecinului Pon-Viren cât şi din partea sectorului d-lui Bidelman-câte douăzeci stânjeni sau patruzeci şi doi metri şi sasezeci şi opt centimetri, având în total suprafaţă de una sută stânjeni patraţi sau patru sute cincizeci şi cinci metri şi douăzeci şi unu centimetri patraţi. Avera arătată a dobândit-o vânzătoarea prin cumpărare pentru suma de ZECE MII lei, în baza actului de vânzare cumpărare confirmat de către Primul Notar al Tribunalului Bălţi la patru Mai anul una mie nouă sute douăzeci şi trei, înregistrat în registrul de proprietăţi sub No. 100. Având în vedere art. art. 10 şi 36 din susmenţionata lege de reforma agrară numita Societatea se va folosi de sectorul descris de pământ expropriat luând asupra sa obligaţiunea de a îndeplini întocmai toate dispoziţiunile legale, pe cari le va înasăta pe viitor, cu privire la folosirea şi răscumpărarea acestui pământ şi a plăti la timp şi în întregime toate dările către STAT, JUDET şi COMUNA. Dreptul arătat sa vândut pentru suma de lei DOUASPREZECE MII, primiţi de vânzătoare în întregime până la semnarea prezentului act de vânzare cumpărare. Cheltuielile de semnare şi întărirea acestui act de vânzare cumpărare le suportă vânzătoare. Avera vândută e evaluată în întregime împreună cu averea d-lui Aron Bidelman: pentru impunerii comunale la suma de două mii lei, pentru Zemstva n'are nici o impunere şi de către Comisiunea de Recensământ conform procesului Verbal din patrusprezece Februarie anul una mie nouă sute douăzeci şi trei la suma de CINCIZECI şi PATRU MII lei. Se menţionează pe lângă aceasta că socotelile cu fogtii proprietari ai oraşului Bălţi, privitoare la folosirea embaticară a acestei parcele au fost lichidate în mod definitiv până la dată de una Ianuarie anul una mie nouă sute douăzeci şi trei. Până în prezent dreptul arătat nu e nimărui altui vândut, ipotecat, predat în mod legal sau transcris şi nu se găseşte în litigiu sau sub propritie, din care cauză dacă cineva

15
 er ridica asupra lui vre-o pretentie, vânzătoarea și descendenții
 ei sunt obligați să lua pe cumpărătoarea și pe descendenții acea-
 teia în apărare, despăgubindu-i în conformitate cu legea de toate
 daunele rezultate din cauză aceasta. Art. 92 din legea de timbru
 și înregistrare și art. 101 din legea Notarială li să aduc părți-
 lor la cunoștință. Acest act să dressat în conformitate cu art. art.
 89, 95, 96 și 104 din legea Notarială. Extrasul prim și principal
 scris pe coale de timbru cuvenite urmează să se elibera cumpărătoa-
 rei Societății Anonime "ULMAR" din Brailă reprezentată de d-nii
 Z. BEZPALOFF și N. NEUSTADT. - În textul acestui act pe pagina 63
 în rândul 39 să șters: "cunosc". - Încalitura în limba rusă, în lim-
 ba română înseamnă: "R. Samis", certific Notar Public (ss) N. Va-
 luța. Societate Anonimă "Ulmar", din Braila administrator delegat
 Zelam Bezpaloff, Nicolae Neustadt. La semnarea, cetirea și sem-
 narea prezentului act de vânzare-cumpărare ca martori am fost:
 Nicolae Feodorovici Rachman, Sabsa Zeilicov Becher, David Sliomov
 Sapiro. Notar Public (ss) N. Valuța. -

E x t r a s u l acesta este copiat precis depe astul
 originalul și sa înregistrat în registrul general sub No. 1434,
 și sa eliberat cumpărătoarei Societății Anonime "Ulmar", din Brai-
 la reprezentate de d-nii Z. BEZPALOFF și N. NEUSTADT, la 4 Iunie,
 anul 1923. - În textul acestui extras sa corectat: "lua, stat, mil.
 "Bezpaloff". -

CONFORM CU ORIGINALUL: În textul copiei sa corectat:
 " ultimul, mil, lua, statul, Bezpaloff. -



NOTAR PUBLIC



КЪ ПОПЫТКЪ ПОДЖЕЧЪ ЗА-
ВОДЪ БР. ВОЛЬМАНЪ.
ВЪЛЫЦЫ. По приказу шефа
уголовной полиции В. Лукьяна
были вчера арестованы рабочие
завода Бр. Вольмана, В. Бата-
манъ и М. Луценчикъ, которые
подвергаются въ попыткѣ под-
жечь заводъ.
Необходимо отмѣнить, что В.
Батаманъ былъ нѣсколько дней
тому назадъ уволенъ съ завода
за цѣлый рядъ проступковъ. О.

Fondată în anul 1920.
 Producția anuală 2.500.000 kg.
I. P. FRIDMAN
 Industria Uleiurilor vegetale
 dublu filtrate și diferite uleiuri
 pentru vopsele.
 În depozitele noastre se află în posesie
 următoarele sortimente de:
ULEIURI:
 de floarea-soarelui, de cămin,
 pentru auto și toate
TURTE
 de floarea-soarelui, de cămin și soia.
Balti-Basarabia
 TELEFON: 15
 Lăzile 10
 Fabrica 22
„АУТО-БЕНЗИНА”
ДАВИДЪ СОРОКЕРЪ
 str. Otilia No. 3 (fostul oraș) 1920
 Двигатели бензины, бензин и масла
 Сопоставимые масла для тракторов Газовых Спидола
 Различные части для автомобилей, Шины и шины
 Моторы бензины, Газовые, Моторы и Дизель.
Bișnie și Pălării de dame
„La Moda Parisiană”
D. ADLER
 Buz, str. Regale Ferăstrău No. 307
 Regal asortiment de Pălării de dame și bișnuri

I. P. Fridman
 Industria uleiurilor vegetale
 Rafinate, brute și fierbe
Balti-Basarabia
 Ad. Tel. 151
 Telefon fabrica 22
Linie de garaj proprie.
 Cost - Vremuri în Banca Națională și Română
 Fabrica nou înălțată în anul 1920, având
 colorat modern toate lucrurile după ultimul model
 al tehnicii.
 Fabrica produce anual
 1.000 vagoane semole oleaginoase,
 producând cele mai superioare
 calități de:
 Uleiuri de floarea-soarelui, cămin, de
 cămin, pentru auto și toate
 Uleiuri de floarea-soarelui, cămin, de
 cămin, pentru auto și toate
 Uleiuri de ricin brut și rafinate.
 Uleiuri de rapă pentru auto și toate
 Turte, semoluri de floarea-soarelui, de
 cămin, rapă, și toate de floarea-soarelui
 și ricin.
 Depozite de destocare la cele mai
 principale centre din țară.
 Bazarul, Pazar, Pazar, Lăzile și Bișnuri

Advertisement of Fridman's oil plant in the collections about Balti City in the second half of the 30s.

The next step for Isac and Izrael Volman was to set up their own oil plant. On September 26, 1928, there was published in the Official Gazette of Romania (Monitorul Oficial al României) an excerpt of the deed of incorporation of the unlimited partnership under the name of "Industria uleiurilor vegetale Frații Volman". The share capital of the new company amounted to 1,200,000 lei, of which 800 thousand lei in machinery and equipment of the plant, and 400 thousand lei - the contribution of the founders. Isac Volman owned 60% of the capital, while Izrael owned 40%. On October 25 of the same year, the Romanian government agreed to the major transaction with industrial assets in the Balti City centre: the Volman brothers bought from Jacob Gotlib the share in the oil plant located in Balti City of the joint stock company "Ulmar" for 320 thousand lei. This plant was on Berthelot Street, in the same place where today FLOAREA SOARELUI SA is located.

HOW DID "ULMAR", AN INVESTOR FROM THE CITY OF BRAILA, APPEAR IN BALTI CITY?

The interest in opening oil plants in Balti City was manifested not only by local businessmen, but also by entrepreneurs from outside Bessarabia. Among them were the founders of the joint stock company "Ulmar", originally from that part of Romania called the Old Kingdom. JSC "Ulmar" was founded in the city of Braila in January 1923. The fields of interest indicated in its charter were oil factories and mills. The company was founded by seven merchants.



Romanian Bank. The 1920s.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography



*The place where the land for the „Ulmar” plant was purchased.
Reconstruction based on the Balti City outlay in 1909.
The quadrangles at the top left marked the future blocks
on the lands of the Catarji landowners.*

*The number 1 marked General Berthelot Street
(nowadays- 31 August).*

*2 - an unnamed street that led to the district hospital.
Later, in Romanian times, it was named Poet Cerna.
The street did not survive to this day, now it is the territory
of industrial companies.*

3 - sector of the Ministry of Defence, military hospital.

*4 - road to Hotin (in the 30s - Regele Karol al II-lea Street,
nowadays - Decebal Street).*

*5 - the place where the Balti-Paminteni railway station was built
(nowadays- Balti City station).*



*Balti City County Hospital. The 1920s.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography*

Three of them were included in the board of directors of the joint stock company: Z. Bespaloff, N. Neustadt and N. Bespaloff. There is little information about who these entrepreneurs were. Some indirect evidence allows us to assume that representatives of the Bespaloff family (most likely, the name was originally spelled Bespalov) were from the former Russian Empire.

The “Ulmar” company initially owned two companies: a mill in the city of Sulina in the Danube Delta and an oil plant in the city of Braila. In the same year, 1923, JSC “Ulmar” announced its intention to build another oil plant in Balti City. In August 1923, the Romanian Cabinet of Ministers, at the request of the company, approved the facilities for the future “Ulmar” plant in Balti City. The facilities were similar to those offered to the “Progres” plant: exemption from customs duties on equipment and parts, preferential tariffs for rail transport, fiscal facilities.

Even before the decision was made, “Ulmar” had begun buying land for the new plant. There were saved two sets of documents on the sale-purchase of two plots of land in Balti City, both dated June 4, 1923. According to the first contract, Aron Eidelman sold in favour of JSC “Ulmar”, represented by Zelman Bespaloff and Nikolai Neustadt, a plot of land of 2276 sq.m. for 55 thousand lei. According to the second contract, Reizea Samis (also Shamis) sold in favour of JSC “Ulmar” another 455 sq.m. located next to the first plot of land for 12 thousand lei.

Both plots of land were located on Berthelot Street, but were not numbered. From the extracts attached to the contracts, it results that the land was expropriated from the Catarji landowners in 1920, and was allocated to Freym Lozman from Balti City, later the owners changed.



*Public Garden. The 1920s.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography*



*Moldova Bank. The 1930s.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography*



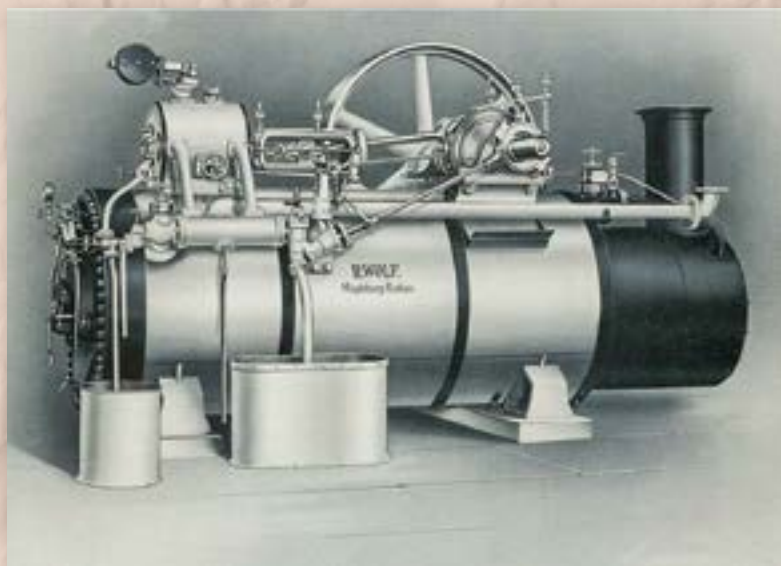
*1930s. General view of Balti City.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography*

The extracts also show that the plots of land were located in the perimeter between: General Berthelot Street; an unnamed street leading on the road to Hotin to the district hospital; the Ministry of Defence sector (military hospital); the plot of land of another owner - von Viren.

For the interpretation of these data it is necessary to consider several issues. At the beginning of the XXth century, the Balti City limits ended beyond Tatianinskaya Street (later - Berthelot, now - 31 August). Plans for further development of the city, drawn up in 1909, assumed its expansion beyond that street and the construction of new blocks and companies. However, these intentions were hampered by the fact that all that land was owned by landowners. The agrarian reform of 1920 opened up all possibilities for the implementation of those plans.

The described plots of land were exactly where the new blocks were to be built. Comparing various data, we can conclude that the joint stock company "Ulmar" acquired the land and built the plant in the area where the main administrative and production buildings of FLOAREA SOARELUI SA are located now, on 31 August Street. One of the arguments in favour of building the plant in this part of the city was the proximity to the railway and the Balti City-Paminteni stations. It is June 4, 1923 that should be considered as the starting point of the history of FLOAREA SOARELUI SA.

There is very little information about the activity of the "Ulmar" oil plant in Balti City. It started operating in 1924. However, the business of the entire company and the plant in Balti City soon began to take a bad turn. In 1926, the board of directors of "Ulmar" announced a meeting of shareholders, the agenda of which contained the issue regarding the possible sale of the oil plant in Balti City.



Steam engines manufactured by the German company Wolf. A similar one was at the Volman plant. The first image is a steam engine from a Wolf advertising brochure. Below is a steam engine produced in the 1920s and operating at one of the companys in Germany until the early 90s. It is a museum piece now.

Photo: 360carmuseum.com and ebay-kleinanzeigen.de

It was mentioned that the plant had debts. At the shareholders' meeting, there was also to be discussed the issue regarding the assignment of debts amounting to 80 thousand lei. It is not known exactly what decision the shareholders made, but one thing is certain: the factory's assets were sold only two years later, in 1928. And the new owners became the Volman brothers, who modernized and expanded the production. As for the activity of the JSC "Ulmar", already in the 1930s nothing is mentioned about it in the "Official Gazette of Romania" and the company could no longer be found on the list of large companies of the city of Braila. Therefore, we can conclude that it has ceased to exist.

"INDUSTRIA ULEIURILOR VEGETALE FRAȚII VOLMAN" – ONE OF THE ROMANIA MARKET LEADERS

Very few documents have been preserved to tell us about the first years of operation of the "Industria uleiurilor vegetale Frații Volman" plant. It is known that in 1928, a vegetable oil refining section was established within the plant. As members of the Volman family recall, "the equipment was supplied by a German company together with the appropriate technologies. This technological process is still in use today." The plant was also equipped with equipment for extracting oil from the raw material. "At that time, it was a new process in the oil and fat industry, since until then the oil was produced by extraction using hydraulic or spiral presses. This process left a significant amount of oil in the raw material, while by extracting the oil using solvents it was possible to obtain almost all the oil from the kernel", note the authors of the chapter on industry in the collection of immigrants from Balti City to Israel. Also in 1928, an oil packaging section was opened. And in 1931, the plant began exporting its products to Western Europe.



Advertisement of Iona Fridman's oil plant in the "Бессарабское слово" newspaper (March 8, 1936). Staff congratulations to the owner in the same newspaper (May 17, 1935).



*Oil plant of Volman brother in the 1930s.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography.*



*An advertisement of the Volman brothers plant
in "Бессарабское слово" newspaper of March 8, 1936.*



*Jewish Hospital. Izrael Volman was the chairman of the
guardianship of the Jewish hospital in Balti City. The 1930s.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography*

In 1933, the representative of the Romanian Society of Engineers and Agronomists, A.D. Carabella, visited Balti City, and later wrote an article about his journey for the "Calendarul plugarului" yearbook. He drew attention to the importance of the oil and fat industry in the region's economy and mentioned that, only in Balti County, the area cultivated with sunflower was of 60 thousand hectares. The guest visited the exhibition in Balti City. At the exhibition there were presented the pavilions of two oil plants from Balti City: that of the Volman brothers and "Flora". "Of those presented, the first plant corresponds to the latest achievements in the industry sector, and last year it was even expanded, replenished and improved," said the author of the article. At the exhibition, he met one of the Volman brothers and visited his factory.

The company was able to process up to 1 000 wagons of sunflower seeds per year. In 1932, the plant processed 900 wagons of raw materials and produced 2 000 tons of oil. The company also refined significant amounts of oil from smaller producers who did not have such technologies. "In Bessarabia, little vegetable oil is sold since everyone has oil. A lot goes to Bucharest, the rest is exported through the ports of Braila, Galati and Constanta", wrote A. D. Karabella.

In 1932, the Volman plant exported 190 wagons of oil in tanks to Czechoslovakia. In 1933, Poland bought 300 wagons of sunflower, which led to an increase in the price of raw materials - from 2.5 lei (in 1932) to 3.5 lei per kilogram, the guest notes. He adds that in 1929 the company received an income of 18 million lei.



Certificate issued by the Union of Industrialists of Romania, confirming that the plant of Izrael Volman and his brother is among the two largest in the country. 1941.

Photo: SeferBeltsi Basarabia: yad ve-zekher le-yahadutBeltsi, Balti City, Basarabia. A Memorial of the Jewish Community. Jerusalem, 1993.



Initially, the Volman plant had three buildings: one-storey, two-storey and three-storey (to the left). Later, they were reconstructed, forming one large three-storey complex (to the right).

Source: artdeco-modernist.blogspot.com

"In terms of competition, Mr. Volman says he visits similar plants abroad every year and keeps the plant up to date with new innovations in equipment and production and refining methods," the article says. The Interest of the plant owners in advanced technologies and foreign experience is proved by a note in the "Бессарабское слово" (Bessarabskoe Slovo) newspaper of April 2, 1936: "The other day, Balti City first contacted America by phone. The local Volman's company spoke with a New York company."

The production capacity of the Volman brothers' plant continued to grow in the following years. In 1935, the company processed 1,200 wagons of sunflower, and the refinery produced 15 tons of oil a day. In 1936, the oil plant produced 3,500 tons of vegetable oil that is 75% more than four years earlier.

The company produced not only sunflower oil, but also hemp and flaxseed oil, as well as oil cakes, which were also exported and in high demand in Western Europe.

By the beginning of 1939, the Volman brothers' oil plant had 119 workers. The company had: a "Lantz" steam boiler with a capacity of 10 HP; "Wolf" steam engine with a capacity of 60 HP; "Deutz" diesel engine with a capacity of 80 HP; "Benz" diesel engine with a capacity of 150 HP. The total capacity of the plant installations was estimated at 300 HP. According to the Romanian Union of Industrialists, during this period the "Industria uleiurilor vegetale Frații Volman" plant became one of the two largest oil plants in the entire country (the second company is not specified in documents, but still, according to sources at that time, the largest player on the vegetable oil market in Romania was the joint stock company "Phenix" from Bucharest).



**Izrael Volman and his son,
Lazar, born in Balti City.**

*Photo: SeferBeltsi Basarabia: yad ve-zekher
le-yahadutBeltsi. Balti City, Basarabia.
A Memorial of the Jewish Community.
Ierusalim, 1993*



**Izrael Volman was the chairman
of the guardianship of the Jewish
hospital in Balti City .**

*Photo: Primul ghid al municipiului Balti City,
1937-38*

The Volman plant accounted for about a quarter of the production of all oil plants in Romania.

The surnames of the Volman brothers were known far beyond the borders of Balti City and Bessarabia. On the Romanian territory, the company had warehouses and representative offices in Bucharest, Brasov, Braila, Cluj, Craiova, Iasi, Ploiesti, Timisoara and other large cities. Abroad, the Volman plant had offices in 10 European cities – in Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Denmark and Sweden.

The World War II and the events that followed dramatically changed the fate of the Volman brothers and their company. In June 1940, Bessarabia became part of the USSR. Isac and Izrael Volman chose to take refuge in Romania. They left all their property in Balti City and, together with their families, moved to Bucharest. They never returned to Balti City.

Isac Volman died in Bucharest in 1960. After the war, Izrael Volman worked for an oil and fat company in Bucharest, and in 1950 he emigrated to Israel, where his work experience was useful in the Ministry of Industry and Trade (1956-1962), then in an oil export company (1962-1976). Izrael Volman died in 1983 at the age of 87.

PINKUS AND IONA FRIDMAN'S OIL PLANT

Another plant that stood at the origins of FLOAREA SOARELUI SA, was founded in the early 1920s. Its founder was Pinkus (Pinhas) Fridman from Balti City. There is very little data on the initial period of operation of the company. One of the few surviving records indicates that on February 2, 1926, Pinkus Fridman's plant burned down.



1920s. Balti City Hall.

Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography



*Elementary Jewish School. The 1920s.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography.*



*Jewish Lyceum. The 1920s.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography.*



*Balti City Hall. The 1930s.
Photo: Balti City Museum of History and Ethnography.*

The owner had also died a year earlier. This is confirmed by the notarised power of attorney, which, in March 1928, Fridman's widow, Sura-Dvoira, and his son Joina (as well as Iona) issued to their representative to raise the insurance premium of about 400 thousand lei as compensation for damages after the fire.

After the death of Pinkus Fridman, the business was taken over by his son Iona, born in Balti City in 1894. He managed to keep safe the company during the world economic crisis, to modernize it and bring it among the leaders of the local market, although, it was inferior to the Volman brothers' oil plant in terms of production capacity.

Fridman's plant was built in the immediate vicinity of the railway, its address being Cloșca Street, without number. Today, this is Testemitanu Street, an area near the railway crossing, where some of the buildings of FLOAREA SOARELUI SA are located. "The plant was established near the Paminteni railway station, "De Kleine Gare", as the Jews from Balti City called it, and the railway line reached the factory yard", reads the collection of memoirs of Balti City immigrants in Israel. The owner of the company considers the availability of his own railway line as an important advantage of his company and indicated this in advertising brochures.

In the second half of the 1930s, the plant was equipped with latest equipment and machinery and produced refined vegetable oil, technical oils and oils for the needs of the paint and varnish industry, castor oil, oil cakes. Vegetable oil was made not only from sunflower, but also from rapeseed, hemp and flax.

In 1936-37, the plant managed to process up to 1000 wagons of raw materials. In 1936, the company produced 2,000 tons of oil.



Fridman's and Volman brothers' oil plants(to the left) on the Balti City city plan for the needs of the civil defence. 1938.

1953.	Sura Jovane Fridman licențiat în calitate de fabricarea legăturilor de tutun și mătase. După moartea sa, moartea lui Fridman Pinkus, moartea sa a fost înregistrată la 14/11/1928 la judecătoria din Balti. Sura Fridman licențiat de la moartea sa, moartea sa a fost înregistrată la 14/11/1928 la judecătoria din Balti.	Intenționează să facă o afacere cu ulei. În acest scop, a înființat o societate anonimă de asigurare și reasigurare, denumită "Firma", prima de asigurare, cu formă politică nr. 3/119 din 5 febr. 1928, eliberată de către judecătoria din Balti nr. 399/150 cu titlu de document. Pentru înființarea, a fost achiziționat un teren de fabrica de ulei, proprietatea defunctului Fridman, în suprafață de 2 hectare, nr. 1126, pentru care s-a plătit suma de 100 lei.	Procedura cu privire la moartea sa. În calitate de tutore al moștenirii sale și moștenitor defunctului Pinkus Fridman - Sura Fridman - Sura Fridman - Sura Fridman.
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Excerpt from the documents register of the Balti City notary Nikon Valuță, which tells about the death of Pinkus Fridman and the fire at his oil plant. 1928.



Administrația Financiară din Bălți. Anii 1930.

Foto: Muzeul de Istorie și Etnografie mun. Bălți

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At that time, Fridman's plant had warehouses in Bucharest, Ploiesti, Pitesti, Cluj and Chisinau. By the beginning of 1939, the oil factory had 90 employees: 76 workers and 14 administrative personnel. The company had two "Wolf" steam engines with a total capacity of 180 HP. The Encyclopedia of Romania of 1938 ranked Fridman's oil plant among the seven largest companies of Balti City, with a capital exceeding 5 million lei. The importance of the plant is also emphasized by the fact that it was included in the civil defence plans of Balti City at the end of the 1930s as a strategic company.

AFTERWORD

June 28, 1940 became a turning point in the history of the Balti City oil plants. After the incorporation of Bessarabia into the Soviet Union and the formation of the Moldovan SSR, the companies were nationalized and became socialist property. Volman's and Fridman's plants were transformed into state oil plants no. 1 and no. 2.

In July 1941, when the war broke out for Bessarabia and the Romanian administration was established in the region, these two plants did not return to private ownership, but became communal - that is, they were subordinated to the city - and had a single administration. The Volman brothers' former oil plant was seriously damaged by the war.

In October-November 1943, both these plants were transferred to the central administration - the REBIAZ public commercial management in Bucharest. However, in March 1944, the war ended for Balti City, and Soviet power was re-established. Oil plants no. 1 and no. 2 returned to the ownership of the Soviet state. Subsequently, they were merged into a single oil and fat plant - today the Joint Stock Company FLOAREA SOARELUI.