

8/30/12

### Bessarabia Business Directory of 1924

This database contains records of grocers, teachers, local officials, stone carvers, butchers, bakers, innkeepers, lawyers, peddlers, rabbis, and many others who worked in the early 1920s in Romania's eastern counties, formerly in Bessarabia, and who apparently were Jewish.

The information was published in the "**Socec**" **Annuary of the Great-Roumania**, dated 1924-1925, by the prominent Romanian publishing house Socec & Co. The Library of Congress calls the two-volume set a historic address book that "stands as the most complete survey of Greater Romania during the interwar period." <http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/phonero/romfondr.html>

We extracted "Jewish-sounding" names listed for cities, towns, villages and hamlets in the nine counties that formed the Bessarabia region of pre-World War I Imperial Russia. They were:

| County or City                                  | No. of localities in list | No. of records in list | Population (1924) |             |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Bălți (Baltsi)                                  | <b>100</b>                | <b>983</b>             | 372,012           |             |
| Balti (Baltsi)                                  |                           |                        | 135               | 22,000      |
| Sculeni   |                           |                        | 102               | 2,094       |
| Parlita (Parlitsa)                              |                           |                        | 94                | 1,350       |
| Rascani (Rishkani)                              |                           |                        | 50                | 2,980       |
| Falesti (Faleshti)                              |                           |                        | 49                | 2,640       |
| Alexandreni                                     |                           |                        | 47                | 900         |
| Cahul (Kagul)                                   | 28                        | 253                    | 147,266           |             |
| Cahul   |                           |                        | 92                | 12,000      |
| Leovo (Leova)                                   |                           |                        | 37                | 3,442       |
| Cetatea Alba                                    | 56                        | 1,391                  | 374,806           |             |
| Cetatea Alba (Akkerman) (Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyy) |                           |                        | 606               | 33,900      |
| Tarutino (Tarutyne)                             |                           |                        | 167               | 6,087       |
| Tatar-Bunar                                     |                           |                        | 140               | 9,898       |
| Arciz-Vechi (Artsy)                             |                           |                        | 82                | 2,577       |
| Bairamcea                                       |                           |                        | 72                | 5,000       |
| Starocazaci (Starocazache)                      |                           |                        | 28                | 6,373       |
| Sarata  |                           |                        | 22                | 4,380       |
| Chișinău (Kishinev) (not incl. capital)         | 76                        | 575                    | 395,596           |             |
| Ciuciuleni                                      |                           |                        | 51                | 7,280       |
| Hancesti (Hincesti)                             |                           |                        | 122               | 6,608       |
| Nisporeni                                       |                           |                        | 54                | 6,000       |
| Hotin (Khotyn)                                  | 126                       | 2,497                  | 399,532           |             |
| Hotin (Khotyn)                                  |                           |                        | 827               | <not given> |
| Lipcani (Lipkany)                               |                           |                        | 329               | 4,062       |
| Edinti-Targ (Edinets)                           |                           |                        | 148               | 4,200       |
| Secureni (Sokyryany)                            |                           |                        | 183               | 7,200       |
| Briceni (Bricheny)                              |                           |                        | 75                | 10,030      |

|                                  |     |       |         |
|----------------------------------|-----|-------|---------|
| Ismail                           | 24  | 640   | 228,878 |
| Ismail (Izmail)                  |     | 197   | 37,000  |
| Chilia Noua (Kiliya)             |     | 174   | 12,944  |
| Reni                             |     | 82    | 12,866  |
| Bolgrad (Bolhrad)                |     | 66    | 18,000  |
| Valcov (Vilkove)                 |     | 43    | 6,176   |
| Orhei (Orgeev)                   | 110 | 1,926 | 342,557 |
| Orhei                            |     | 733   | 20,000  |
| Telenesti (Teleneshti)           |     | 334   | 5,100   |
| Rezina                           |     | 182   | 5,500   |
| Calarasi (Calarashi)             |     | 148   | 7,000   |
| Oliscany (Olishkani)             |     | 30    | 5,936   |
| Soroca                           | 112 | 1,988 | 381,509 |
| Soroca                           |     | 627   | 27,800  |
| Briciova (Briceva)               |     | 127   | 5,220   |
| Dumbraveni                       |     | 53    | 2,886   |
| Marculesti Colonie (Marculesti)  |     | 211   | 5,435   |
| Vadu Rascov (Vadul-Rascov)       |     | 98    | 9,140   |
| Vertiujeni Colonie (Vertiujeni)  |     | 127   | 2,374   |
| Zgurita                          |     | 102   | 5,220   |
| Tighina (Bender, Bendery)        | 74  | 1,220 | 314,778 |
| Tighina (Bendery)                |     | 567   | 35,400  |
| Causanii-Noi (Kaushany)          |     | 166   | 4,622   |
| Cimislia (Chimishlia)            |     | 65    | 7,157   |
| Petrovka (Petrivka)              |     | 61    | 1,827   |
| Romanovka (Basarabeasca)         |     | 50    | 3,117   |
| Chişinau (Kishinev), the capital | 1   | 1,669 | 133,000 |

No Jewish names appeared in listings for many towns and villages. The database contains **13,144** records for **707** localities, including Chisinau.

After the breakup of the Soviet Union, the independent Republic of Moldova was formed from most of Bessarabia, while significant portions came under Ukrainian rule. Names have changed since 1924 for many towns and villages. The database shows the present name, county or province, and nation – Moldova or Ukraine – for each 1924 locality.

### **A note about the publisher**

(Adapted from an article in Wikipedia)

Socec & Co., the powerhouse of Romanian publishing during the first half of the 20th century, was founded in 1856 in Bucharest by Ion V. Socec, a Jewish bookseller who had apprenticed for 10 years under a prominent bookseller of his time. He built his shop into the first bookstore chain in the nation, with 13 stores around the country by 1939. The company printed textbooks and, over the years, published the most important Romanian writers, such as poet Mikhail Eminescu and novelist Anton Holban. The business directory apparently was intended to be an annual report, but its editions printed over the years apparently were based on data collected before 1923, the Library of Congress notes.

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/phonero/romdir.html>

## **About these files**

Each record contains the following information:

1. Occupation or type of business, in Romanian. In plural form because all grocers, for example, in the town were listed in one paragraph.
2. Occupation or type of business, in English.
3. Last Name
4. First Name and initial, if given.
5. Address, in major cities and county capitals.
6. Town name in 1924
7. County name in 1924
8. Today's location, including county and nation. Some town names changed between 1930 and the present. Some may have been merged into nearby villages or towns. Some disappeared – farmland appears today where the 1930 map showed a settlement. The present county, or judet, is shown for locations in Moldova; in Ukraine, the current raion (region) and oblast (Odess'ka province) are shown.
9. Population, apparently in 1920, as printed in the directory.
10. Comments or added information from the directory listing.

## **A note for further research**

The Library of Congress created page images for the entire printed directory and made them available on line in the European Reading Room of its Digital Collections division.

<http://www.loc.gov/library/libarch-digital.html>

A complete description of the directory, research suggestions, and a link to page images are here:

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/phonero/romdir.html>

Bessarabia pages begin with image number 1913. To find the pages for a specific county, refer to this Library of Congress guide:

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/phonero/rmdir2help.html>

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