The Activity of the Company Fire Brigade of Iaşi Reflected in Archival Sources (1918-1939)

(Abstract)

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In the period between the First and the Second World Wars, the Iaşi Fire Company suffered some changes but also keep old problems unsolved. The lack of new barraks and of fire material was more severe, as Romanian towns smaller then Iaşi had resolved these problems years before. Horses were still a vital traction element, especially in winter, when the streets of Iaşi became impracticable for cars. The Fire Company also had attributions that would have been more appropriate for Cityhall special services: water pumping from basements, buildings demolitions, chimney cleaning, streets cleaning, ice floes release from Bahlui, the main river in Iaşi. The firemen have had to evacuate the town's homeless, especially during the 1932 great floods. Also, the firetank was used to stop a student riot, although the equipment was not suitable for such actions. At the end of the interwar period, the town was still facing the same major problems and their resolution was to hopefully occur in the near future.