

DETA

Local Council Office: Deta, 32 Victoriei str., telephone 0256/390466, fax 0256/390511;

Web page address: <http://www.detatm.ro>

Coordinates:

45°24' 0" N lat.;

21°13' 12" E long.;

Historical landmarks:

1360 - Deta is first mentioned in documents under the name of **Ded** (Dedul Mic/Little Dedul, Ghedu), as property of the Hungarian noble **Petrus of Deed**;

1446 - it is recorded in the medieval documents as property of **Nicola Jobagyi Matko**, and in 1496 as property of count **Mihai Csaki**;

1597 - the settlement is bestowed by the imperial prince **Sigismund Báthory** to one of his followers, **George Marnachovit**;

1660-1664 - the Ottoman traveller **Evlia Çelebi** visits the Banat region and mentions the fact that Deta is inhabited by Romanians;

- since the Ottoman rule, the locals preserved the toponym **Ramada** for the river branch of Bârzava running south of the city, as well as the toponym "**Măhala**" for the poor residential district of the city, during the Turkish occupation as well as during the Habsburg and then Austro-Hungarian rule;

1718 - once Banat becomes an Austrian province, Deta is allocated to Ciacova district and then to Timiș district;

- the village of Opatica (**Hopadiza**) counted 30 houses;

1725 - Germans from Rhineland and Bavaria and French from Lorraine and Alsace colonize the village; the name changes from Dedul Mic (Ghedu) into **Deta**;

- the official registration of baptisms, deaths and marriages begins, and two years later



the first school teaching in German is recorded in documents;

1733 - beginning of the implementation of governor Florimund Mercy's plans to start rice cultivation in Deta's surrounding area;

- experienced farmers and craftsmen, especially Italian (led by **Josef Avo** from Trento) are relocated in Deta;

- the first rice crop was harvested in 1749;

1738 - the city is plundered by the rebellious peasant troops from Gătaia, led by **Pavel Dărăbanțiu**;

- Deta is repopulated by colonists from the neighbouring villages Berecuța and Denta;

1763 - 21 families of Italians from the Milan area and Germans of Alsace and Lorraine settle in the city;

1788 - Deta is under the assault of rebellious peasant troops again, but the latter are defeated;

- 55 rebels are executed and buried in a mass grave (located between Birdanca creek and the present-day football field);

- refugees from Vărădia (Caraș-Severin) who left their homes for fear of the incoming Ottomans, settle in Deta;

- the people from Vărădia have been accompanied and defended during their travel by the priest **Ioan Iorgovici**, brother of **Paul Iorgovici**, scholar and scholar martyr apostle of Romanians from Banat;

- **Ioan Iorgovici** becomes the first Romanian orthodox priest of the orthodox

CITY HALL AND LOCAL COUNCIL OF DETA

ROMAN PETRU	Mayor	KATONA GHEORGHE, LC Member	DUHR
SĂMANȚU GERHART	Vice Mayor	KOMȘA IULIANA, LC Member	DUHR
BUHAȘ CRĂCIUN, LC Member	SDP	MATEESCU ADINA MARIA, LC Member	DLP
ENE MARINEL, LC Member	NLP	ROTAR RADU, LC Member	NLP
DAVID VASILE, LC Member	CP	STANCIU NICOLAE, LC Member	CP
DESPI IOAN, LC Member	SDP	SUSA VIRGIL, LC Member	DLP
ILIAN IONEL, LC Member	SDP	VERTOPAN ZORAN, LC Member	DLP
IOȚCOV LUCIAN, LC Member	IND	VOICULESCU ALEXANDRU, LC Member	DLP

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church from Deta;

1810 - Francis I of Habsburg declares Deta a market town, title preserved until the end of the XIXth century;

1830 - the first post office is established;

1858 - the railway Timișoara - Stămora Moravița - Iam (Jam), including a train station in Deta, is launched;

1867 - following Banat's annexation to Hungary, the sub-county ("plasă") of Deta was established, comprising 13 villages, pertaining to Timiș county;

1874 - the volunteer firemen brigade of the city is founded;

1875-1877 - Deta is the place where Hungarian poet **Revitzky Gyula** works and writes, while being in love with a local woman, **Bakalovics Emma**;

1880 - the first issue of the newspaper "**Dettaer Zeitung**" is published;

9 November 1883 - **József Haubrich** is born in Deta, minister of defence in the Budapest government (1919), military commander of Budapest during the Hungarian Soviet Republic, between 21 March - 6 August 1919 (d. 1939);

1890 - Deta is the seat of the "plasa" and has a population of 3,552, four mills, a brick factory and several handicraft workshops;

1890 - the railway Timișoara - Deta - Baziaș becomes operational;

1893 - the first trade union is instituted;

1899 - the first telephone is installed;

1900-1902 - the electrical plant is built and electrical lighting is introduced;

1910 - the firemen tower is built;

1918-1919 - the village is occupied by the Serbian army;

1919 - Banat region (including Deta) becomes part of the Romanian Kingdom;

1923 - the priest of the Romanian orthodox community from Deta is

Petru Bizerea (1881-1953), Ph.D. in theology;

- the first liturgy was held in the Romanian Orthodox Church on 4 August

1923, the name-day of Queen Mary and the fourth anniversary of the Romanian Army's conquest of Budapest;

1924 - opening of the sci-

ences High School from Deta;

1925 - "**The Vener and Wood Industry Factory "Prohaska s.p.a"** (later SC PLAPAF S A) is founded;

1930 - **Valeriu Boleanțu**, lawyer from Deta, becomes prefect of the Timiș county - Torontal;

- during the interwar period Deta has well maintained streets, paved sidewalks, and several beautiful buildings downtown, such as the city hall, the "**Bellavista**" hotel and coffee house, reference meeting point for Romanian and Serbian traders;

- Deta has a population of 4,070, most of all Germans, followed by Romanians, Serbs and Hungarians;

- the settlement is demoted from the status of town to that of rural settlement (commune);

1944 - **Mihai J. Speriosu** is born in Deta, Ph.D in literary theory, director of the Institute of European Studies of the University of Georgia (USA);

11.09.1944 - while Deta is under the German Army occupation, **Elena Ghenescu**, post-office agent, transmits information to the Romanian Military headquarters, but she gets caught and tortured;

- after the war, the brave post-office agent from Deta was awarded the **Loyal Service Cross** (for civilians);

1948 - inauguration of the hospital with three departments (obstetrics, pediatrics and infectious diseases), the clinical hospital, the public bath, the school canteen and the adults' canteen;

14.04.1950 - **Miodrag Milin** is born in Deta, researcher, historian, professor;

1951-1956 - dozens of Germans, Hungarians, Serbs, as well as people from Basarabia, who have settled in Banat since 1940, are deported to the Bărăgan Field;

25.08.1952 - **Ecaterina Neagu**, painter, is born in Deta;

12.01.1959 - **Dan Radosav**, priest and publicist, is born in Deta;

1962 - the theoretical High School from Deta is founded;

1968 - Deta becomes



Bellavista - coffee house and hotel, beginning of 20th c.

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city again;

16.03.1971 - **Nora Blaj Demetrescu** - The Cultural painter, is born in Deta;

1999 - S.C. Eybl SRL is opened for business, a textile factory which takes over some of the employees of PLA-PAF;

2002 - even though in 1930, 2,523 out of 3,854 inhabitants of Deta were Germans, only 389 Swabians are still living here at the beginning of the third millenium;

- Deta has a population of 6,582;

2000-2004 - new construction works for residential areas are launched, while the new Romanian Orthodox Church is completed;

2009 - two new blocks of flats are completed by ANL (National Housing Agency) in Termal residential district;

- the new Romanian Orthodox Church is consecrated;

Member villages: Opațița (1256, Appachafalva);

Total population on 01.01.2010:

6,581 persons, of which:

- male = 3,135 persons

- female = 3,446 persons

Number of households on 01.01.2010:

2,736

Educational institutions: Vocational School "Saint Nicholas": Deta; Kindergartens with normal hours: Deta and Opațița;

Health facilities: Hospital: Deta; Medical Clinic: Deta; Medical Practices = Deta (three); Human Pharmacies = Deta (three); Veterinary Pharmacies = Deta (two);

Cultural Institutions:

- The Cultural Centre: Deta; Community Centre: Opațița; Museum: Deta; Library: Deta (founded in 1960);

Fitness and sports facilities:

- Gymnasium: Deta; Swimming pools: Deta (two); Football field: Deta; Outdoor tennis court: Deta; Football field: Deta



Deta - 2008



and Opațița;

Churches: Romanian orthodox churches: Deta (2008) and Opațița (1725); The Serbian Orthodox Church (XVIIIth c.); The Roman-Catholic Church Deta (1900); The Pentecostal Church Deta; The Baptist Church Deta (1990); The Adventist Church Deta;

Annual Church Festivals: Romanian festivals in: Opațița (on Easter) and Deta (on Pentecost); Catholic village celebration: Deta (24 June - "Sânziene") Serbian Orthodox village celebration Deta (8 September - Birth of Mary)

CITIZENS OF HONOUR:

Nicolae Petre (1996); **Adalbert Awender** (1997); **Iohan Eghi** (2000); **Patrichie Râmneanțu**, post-mortem, **Tiberiu Mărgineanțu**, post-mortem (2002); **Teodor Chicinaș**, **Rudolf Fries**, **Peter Ch. Loschl**, **Johannes M. Elssner**, **Petru Ciurea**, **Nicolae Mititelu-Trifunov**, **Bela Dani**, **Matei Kirskh** (2004); **Terezia Buchl**, post-mortem (2008), **Mihai Mărgineanu**, post-mortem, **Iancu Mircea Braicu** (2010).

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ANTON KRATZER PARK

Almost two centuries ago, Deta owned a forest, cut in two by a railway. The existence of the forest was recorded on the map of Deta, dated back to 1781 (photo, below).

The forest was crossed by the Birdeanca creek. Towards the end of the XIXth century the forest was bought by one of the wealthiest people in town, owner of the Bellavista House on the Main Street, Swabian **Anton Kratzer**. He improved the bed of Birdeanca creek, built dikes and laid out alleys through the forest. The ultimate goal of all those actions was the rehabilitation of his sickly son. The child dies, so Kratzer intended to cut down the forest and to destroy the park. At that moment, one of the local leaders, **Peter Fisher**, prevented Anton Kratzer from destroying the forest, and the village offered him 3,000 florins in return, due in 30 years. On 12 April 1885, the park was transferred into the village property, and the former owner was elected president for life of the Park Society. The park was extended by annexing

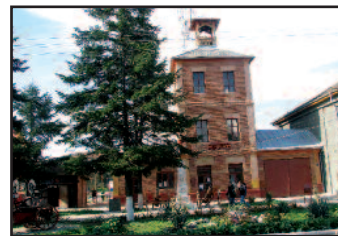


the rest of the forest. A bridge crossing Birdeanca creek was built, new alleys were laid out, benches were mounted, and a pavilion was built for cover in case of rain as well as for military music performances (photo, above). After his death (in 1899) the Park Society honoured the memory of his former president by erecting a bust in the park.

At the middle of the XXth century the Soviet occupation troops stole the bust of Anton Kratzer from the park and its whereabouts are still unknown! Meanwhile, Birdeanca creek got polluted, due to the oily residues from the "Furnirul" factory, which would had been unlikely to happen when the factory belonged to the Prohaska family, prior to 1948. After 1968, the creek water got even more polluted due to the residues originating from the former Pig Breeding Farm from Birda (Comtim). During the 1960s, the brass band was still performing in the park on Sundays, and the alleys were full of people. Nowadays, "Anton Kratzer" Park has preserved the same mixture of trees, oaks, limes, maples and black locusts, some oaks reaching over 400 years.

THE TOWN MUSEUM

It was founded in 1969, specialized in archaeology, mainly prehistoric archaeology and history. The museum halls harbour Hallstatt urns, ceramics, medieval artifacts (in XIVth c. a medieval fortification was located around 500 m NE of Opațița), and also ethnographic elements (outfits, fabrics, ceramics, wooden objects). The archaeological excavations executed by the museum curators from the Banat Museum and by professor **Dani Bela** (in the '60 - '70) led to the discovery of brass objects, bracelets, lamps, arrows, pots, coins, ornaments, which proved the area had been settled since Neolithic. During the Roman empire, the area surrounding Deta was occupied by a **vicus** (a settlement of craftsmen, traders, retired soldiers, soldier families and probably defended by the soldiers of the 4th Legion Flavia Felix), as proven by the archaeological excavations revealing pottery, coins, imported amphoras and a silver coin dating to the age of emperor Antonius Pius. One of the most admired exhibits of the town museum is the printing machine used in 1880 for printing the first issue of the newspaper "**Dettaer Zeitung**". Initially a weekly newspaper, and then a biweekly publication, it was cancelled in 1946.



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THE SWABIAN DECORATED
BY THE SAXON

Ovidiu Victor Gaș was born on 18 August 1966 in Deta, son of lawyer Dumitru Gaș, prefect of Timiș county between 1996-2000. He graduated “Constantin Diaconovici Loga” High School, then the Faculty of Mathematics (West University of Timișoara) in 1989. Professor at “Coriolan Brediceanu” High School from Lugoj (1989-1992), professor and then director between 1998-2004 at “Nikolaus Lenau” High School from Timișoara. He was active in politics, too - even though it started as a hobby. In 2004 he was elected deputy of the 34th electoral district in Sibiu, as a representative of The Democratic Forum of Germans in Romania. He was an observer and then a member of the European Parliament, as a DFGR deputy. He was re-elected in the Romanian Parliament on 30 November 2008. In November 2008, the Democratic Forum of Germans from Transylvania (DFGT) awarded the “Honterus”. medal to Ovidiu Gaș. The event was attended by Klaus Johannis, president of DFGR and mayor of Sibiu, His Excellence Dr. Christoph Klein, bishop of the Romanian Evangelical Church and dr. Jean Pierre Rollin, the general consul of Germany in Sibiu. In his speech, the president of DFGT, dr. Paul-Juergen Porr, mentioned that for the first time the award went to a non-Saxon deputy, for his efforts in the Romanian and European Parliaments, for establishing multiple political relations between Romania and the German speaking areas, for promoting the German minority and the excellent Romanian policy regarding the national minorities.

The “Honterus” is granted for special merits accomplished in favour of the Saxon community from Transylvania. In 2007 the Honterus was awarded to Klaus Johannis. The name of the medal comes from Johannes Honterus, a Saxon scholar from the XVth-XVIIth century, innovator of the Saxon church from Transylvania, founder of the Saxon secondary school within the Black Church yard from Brașov, nowadays known as the “Johannes Honterus” High School.

Life of a Romanian priest: PETRU BIZEREA

In one of his articles, late professor dr. Gligor Popi from Vârșet talks about the injustice suffered by the Romanian priests and teachers from the Serbian Banat after 1920, in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. One of the persecuted Romanian scholars from Serbia was teacher **Petru Bizerea** (1881-1953) from Coștei, school principal and editor of “Opinca” journal. Oppressed by the Serbian authorities, he settled in Vărădia, Caraș-Severin, then in Deta, Timiș. He was the first priest of the newly created Romanian Orthodox eparchy from Deta. Alongside Petru Barbu (vicepresident of the Romanian National Council elected in Alba Iulia on 1 December 1918), the teacher priest Petru Bizerea published several religion textbooks for the Romanian primary school. The journal “**The Altars of Banat**”, published in June 1992, in the article “**Remembering our predecessors**” acknowledges: in Deta, on Saturday, 21 March 1992, under “the patronage of The Orthodox Eparchy from Deta and the directorate of the Primary and Secondary School from Deta, we have commemorated priest Petru Bizerea, outstanding personality of Banat”



Priest Petru Bizerea and his son Marius - Deta, 1934 -

One of the priest's sons was the university professor Marius Bizerea, remarkable historian and geographer. The elder son of the late teacher, Marius Bizerea jr., became prof. eng. at the Polytechnic University from Timișoara, and the youngest, Flavius Bizerea, followed in his father's footsteps: Faculty of History in Cluj, professor and then school inspector in Timișoara. He moved to Berlin, in Germany, together with his family in the mid of the '90s.

The Bizerea family goes back for centuries. We find the Bizerea nobles (under the name of **Bizere** and converted to catholicism under the Hungarian monarchy) as landlords in Obreja, Ciuta or Iaz, not far from Oțelu Roșu (Ferdinandsberg). That is the place where the family village and domain is located, according to a document dated in 1411 recording the fact that the border of Ciuta village, north of Bistra, adjoins the settlement named Bizere.