

## DENTA

**Local Council Office:** Denta no. 224, telephone/fax 0256/398403;

Coordinates:

45°21'29" N lat.;

21°14'56" E long.;

**Historical landmarks:**

-1322 - the first mention of the settlement under the name of Dench, in the documents of King **Robert Charles of Anjou**;

-1370 - some say that the village belonged to a family called **Omor** (according to Ion Lotreanu);

-1597 - Voivode **Sigismund Báthory** donated the Denta settlement to Andrei Barcsai;

-1660 - the erudite ottoman traveller **Evliya Celebi** recorded about the Denta settlement: „It has a military warehouse, a mosque, a restaurant and some small shops”;

-1724 - the first German settlers arrived in the area;

- the middle of the XIXth century - archaeological discoveries in the commune (historians assume that the roman fortress **Potula**,

-Marius Bizerea- or **Malva** - C. Patsch and C. Daicovicu - was located there);

-1911 - an important annual animal and grain fair was held in Denta;

-9 April 1939 - **Iosif Cheie-Pantea** was born in Denta, Ph.D. professor and literary critic;

-1944 - the family of professor **Petru (Pe - tea) Umanschi**, journalist and musicologist, refuged in Denta from Basarabia;

-18 June 1951 - several families of peasants from Denta were deported to Bărăgan;

-1968 - the villages of Omorul Mare and Omorul Mic change their names to **Rovinița Mare and Rovinița Mică**;

-2002 - the commune of Denta had 3,228 inhabitants;

-2010 - the building of a new bridge over Bârzava began;

**Total population on 1 January 2010:**

3,201 persons, of which:

- male = 1,578 persons



- female = 1,623 persons

**Number of households on 1 January 2010:** 1,379

**Member villages:** Denta, Breștea (1842, Brestye), Rovinița Mare (1288, Humor), Ro -vinița Mică (1895);

**Educational institutions:** Elementary Schools (I-VIII): Denta; Primary Schools (IIV): Breștea; Kindergartens with normal hours: Denta, Breștea and Rovinița Mare;

**Health facilities:** Medical practices; Drugstores; Sanitary-veterinary practice and drugstore; Sanitary-veterinary practice (Denta);

**Cultural institutions:** Community centres: Denta and Rovinița Mare; Library: Denta (founded in 1958);

**Sports facilities:** Football pitches: Denta and Breștea;

**Churches:** Romanian Orthodox Churches: Denta (1889) and Rovinița Mare (1859);

Serbian Orthodox Churches: Denta (1795);

Roman-Catholic Churches: Denta (1890), Breștea (1902) and Rovinița Mare (1884);

Baptist Churches: Denta (2000);

Pentecostal Churches: Denta (1974);

**Annual Church Festivals:** Denta: annual Romanian church festival (15 -16 August);

annual Serbian church festival (28-29 August);

annual Hungarian church festival (1 September);

Breștea: annual Bulgarian church festival (12 September);

Rovinița Mare: annual Hungarian church festival (21 August);

annual Romanian church festival (8 September);

**Citizens of Honour:** Ioan Horia Pinteau, Monica Rotaru, Iosif Cheie-Pantea, Ioan Andreici (post-mortem).

## THE CITY HALL AND THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF DENTA

<b>Iacob Slavoliub</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	Nan Daniel-Gheorghe, LC member	NLP
<b>Tapanov Petru</b>	<b>Vice Mayor</b>	Pașici Vlastimir, LC member	DLP
Ardelean Simona-Marinela, LC member	SDP	Salman Lazăr, LC member	BUBR
Ardelean Teodor, LC member	CDNPP	Sălăjan Adrian-Silviu, LC member	DLP
Chelciov Ioan, LC member	DLP	Suhan Ioan, LC member	CP
Dobrovolski Dan, LC member	DLP	Tușinean Radoica, LC member	DLP
Giorici Laurențiu, LC member	IND	Varyu Ștefan Emeric, LC member	DUHR

## DENTA

THE BULGARIANS  
FROM BREȘTEA

The catholic Bulgarians from the Banat area are known as "Paulicians" (or "pavlicheni"). Even if they had been orthodox for years, they were converted to the catholic religion in the XVI<sup>th</sup> century by the missionaries. Nevertheless, they kept the name of the cult as the name of the ethnic group. They settled in Banat after 1688 when the Paulicians from Kiprovet (Ciprovti) left their home land because of the Ottoman oppression. The Paulician Bulgarians settled in the ancient locality of Besenova Veche - Star Bisnov (the present-day Dudeștii Vechi) in 1738, following the conquest of Banat by the Austrians in 1718 and the negotiations with the imperial authorities from Timișoara. In 1741, they founded the locality of Vinga - Vinica (Arad). In 1744, Vinga, inhabited by the Bulgarians from the villages surrounding the Danubian locality of Nicopole, received the status of town and even some privileges from Empress Maria Theresa. The third settlement of the Bulgarians from Banat is the village of Breștea, founded in 1842. The population remained constant for a long time. Between 1872 and 1912, some people from Breștea emigrated and the number of inhabitants decreased with 11.4%. In 1924, the rural commune of Breștea (belonging to Deta "Plasa") had 883 inhabitants. In 1966, statistical data showed that Breștea had 847 inhabitants. During the last two decades, a large part of the families from Breștea, Dudeștii Vechi, but also from Vinga, which belongs to Arad county, settled in Timișoara.



## SAVA'S MILL AND THE ITALIAN'S DITCH

"Sava's Mill" and the "Italian's Ditch" were among the places that were once famous in the commune of Deta. "Sava's Mill" was a public swimming pool surrounded by a park, in the village of Omor (Rovinița), on the Bârzava river. During summer, special busses connected the city of Deta and the commune of Deta to the public swimming pool.

Another leisure spot for the people from Deta ("gencieni", as the natives call themselves) was the "Italian's Ditch". Several bathing places are located two kilometres away from the commune. The most famous one was "Keisermühl", marked by two cork oaks. But the purpose of the "Italian's Ditch" was primarily economic. It was the canal that brought water to the fisheries and rice plantations from Topolea ever since the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century. Rice was first cultivated on the banks of Bârzava in Topolea, Timiș county, Romania, in 1786, by the Avizzi Italian family. The experiment paid off, and the cultivation of rice extended to other western parts of the country. The canal was built as a system

of communicating vessels that passed under the bed of the Bârzava river, heading for Topolea. This locality belonged to the Croat Ban Draskovici in the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century, who received the estate as a gift from Empress Maria Theresa. Draskovici sold it to **Lázár Karácsonyi**, who bought his title of Count in the last decade of the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century. Owning a fabulous wealth, Count Karácsonyi (believed to be of Armenian origin) bought the properties of Jam and Banloc, and the Beodra estate in the south of Hungary.

People say that, under the chapel of his castle in Jamu Mare, Lázár Karácsonyi had two overlapping cellars full of gold. His dream was to own the whole land seen from the hill where the tower-like fortification of Vârșeț was located.

At Topolea, there were two ponds inhabited by carps, a fish which has very few scales. In the middle of one of the ponds there was a small island with oak trees, poplars and willows. Nowadays, the ponds stretch on a surface of 130 hectares. Rice is also cultivated, but in smaller amounts.

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## HISTORIAN VASILE RÂMNEANȚU

**Vasile Râmneanțu** was born on 1 July 1961. He was the grandson of the orthodox priest Gheorghe Râmneanțu, who worked in the commune of Denta all his life. He graduated the elementary school in the commune of Denta, Timiș county. Between 1976 and 1980, he attended the Vocational High School specialised in the manufacturing of wood from Deta, Timiș county. Between 1984 and 1988, he studied at the Faculty of History and Philosophy within the "Babeș-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca, specialising in contemporary history. Between 1989 and 1991, he was a history teacher at the elementary schools from Zmeu, Iași county, Deta and Denta. From 1991 until 1994, he worked as a curator at the Museum of Banat in Timișoara. In 1994, he became an assis-

tant lecturer at the History department of the Faculty of Letters, History and Theology, the West University of Timișoara. He has been a university lecturer since 2000. He earned a Ph.D. in history. He is a member of the editorial office of the "Historical Studies of Banat"; "The Banat Annals"; "Patrimonium Banaticum" magazines. He is a member of the Historians' Association from Transylvania and Banat. Some of his most important published studies are: "**Emanuil Ungureanu**", 1996; "**The Museum of Banat. Chronicle Pages**", 1918-1948, (co-author); "**Hither and Thither the Silence. Dr. Aurel Buteanu**", 2004 (co-author); "**The Calendar of the Villager of Banat**", 1994 (co-author), "**The History of the Villages' Word Gazette**" (written by Ion Ciucurel), 2005 (co-author).

## IOSIF CHEIE PANTEA



He was born in Denta on 9 April 1939. He graduated the Faculty of Philology (the specialty Romanian-German), the University of Timișoara. He specialised at the Higher Pedagogical School from Pisa (Italy), between 1970 and 1972. He earned a Ph.D. in philology (Pisa 1972, Timișoara, 1975). He is a professor at the Faculty of Letters, Philosophy and History from Timișoara, head of the Romanian and Compared Literature Department, president of the "Dante Alighieri" Society, Timișoara branch, a founder member of "Lucian

Blaga" Society from Cluj etc. Essayist and literary critic, Iosif Cheie Pantea is a member of the Writers' Union from Romania. He published important studies: "**Eminescu and Leopardi. Elective Affinities**" (1980), "**The Palingenesis of values**" (1982), "**Literature and existence**" (1998) and he also collaborated at the publishing of the book "**The Dictionary of Romanian Writers A-C**" (1995) etc.



## THE MONUMENT OF PRIEST BOTA

Priest Bota lived and worked for a long time in the commune of Jamu Mic, located nowadays in Serbian Banat. He escaped from the Kingdom of Serbs and Croats not long after World War I, for he was considered a Romanian nationalist by the local authorities. The family of priest Bota settled in the commune of Denta, in the Romanian Banat, where they lived for a long time. The priest taught religion at the local primary school. He also contributed to the building of the monument dedicated to the heroes fallen in the War for the Country's Reunification. The monument is located in the small park from the centre of Denta commune.

