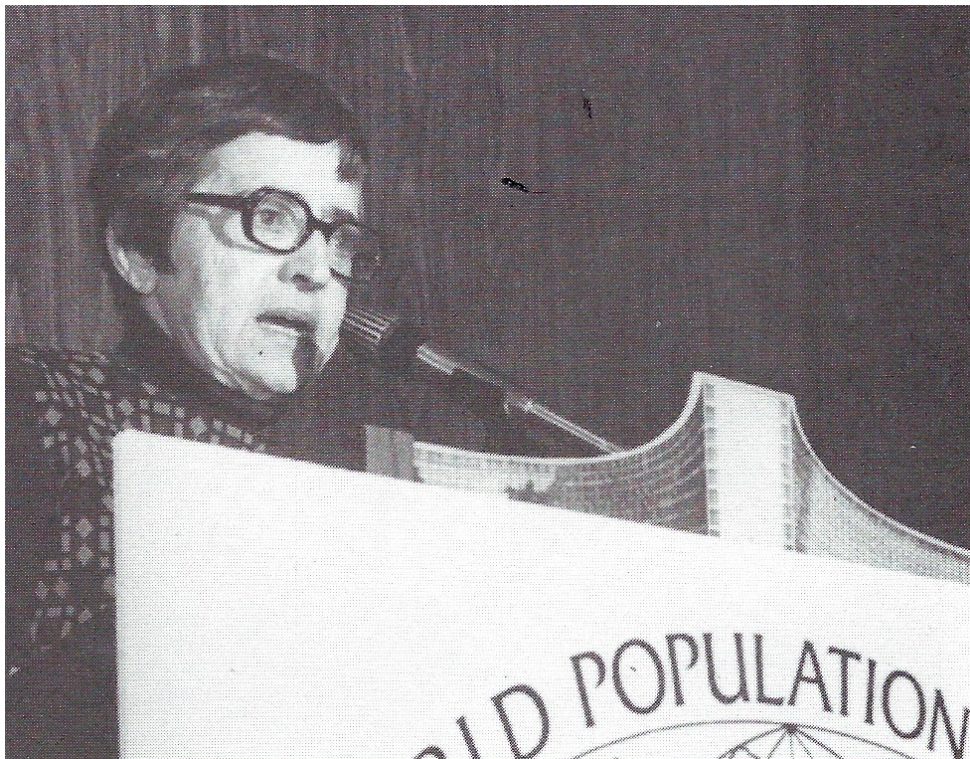


# **DEMOGRAPHIC DESTINIES**

## **Interviews with Presidents of the Population Association of America**

### **Interview with Irene B. Taeuber PAA President in 1953-54**



This series of interviews with Past PAA Presidents was initiated by Anders Lunde  
(PAA Historian, 1973 to 1982)

And continued by Jean van der Tak (PAA Historian, 1982 to 1994)

And then by John R. Weeks (PAA Historian, 1994 to present)

With the collaboration of the following members of the PAA History Committee:  
David Heer (2004 to 2007), Paul Demeny (2004 to 2012), Dennis Hodgson (2004 to  
present), Deborah McFarlane (2004 to 2018), Karen Hardee (2010 to present), Emily  
Merchant (2016 to present), and Win Brown (2018 to present)

## IRENE B. TAEUBER

PAA President in 1953-54 (No. 17 and first woman president). Interview with Anders Lunde at the PAA annual meeting, New Orleans, April 28, 1973.

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:** Irene Taeuber was born in Meadville, Missouri, on Christmas Day, 1906, and died in 1974. She received the A.B. degree from the University of Missouri in 1927, the M.A. in anthropology from Northwestern University in 1928, and the Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Minnesota in 1931. She and Conrad Taeuber (PAA President 1948-49) met as graduate students at the University of Minnesota and were married in 1929. Their two children, Richard and Karl, are also demographers. Irene and Conrad Taeuber taught at Mt. Holyoke from 1931 to 1934 and then moved to Washington when he took a post at the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. In 1935-36, she was coeditor (with Frank Lorimer--PAA President 1946-47) of Population Literature and from 1937 to 1954, although she continued to live in Washington, she was coeditor of and chief contributor to its successor Population Index, published in Princeton for PAA by Princeton's Office of Population Research. She was Research Associate of the Office of Population Research in 1936-61 and Senior Research Demographer from 1962 to 1973. She directed the Census Library Project of the Library of Congress and the Census Bureau in 1941-44 and served as consultant to many U.S. and international agencies. She was vice-president of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population in 1961-65. Her publications, which run to 13 pages in a bibliography published after her death in Population Index (January 1974), covered the full range of demographic topics in the United States, Asia, and many other parts of the world. The Population of Japan (1958) is recognized as her magnum opus. She was also coauthor with Conrad Taeuber of two famous U.S. census monographs, The Changing Population of the United States (1958) and People of the United States in the Twentieth Century (1971). [After her death the Population Association of America established the biennial Irene B. Taeuber Award to honor her memory.]

**LUNDE:** Irene, can you tell us a bit about the history of our organization?

**TAEUBER:** You've talked with a lot of people about the Association. You've gotten something of the nature of the group-- its exclusionary tendencies with reference to birth controllers; its concept of its own purity but also its uncertainty about that purity in that it did not put "scientific" in its title as the International Union did. I'd like to give a bit of a different perspective on the development of this association.

If you go back to the late 1920s, there were a few spots in the country where population analysis was developing. One of those was Warren Thompson [PAA President 1936-38], who had gotten the Scripps Foundation [for Research in Population Problems] interested in the dangers of the growth of the Far Eastern population. Thompson brought in P.K. Whelpton [PAA President in 1941-42] and where they started was with Thompson's continuing interest in the Far East and China and his broad general interests, along with Whelpton's interest in the development of demography, population projections. You had these two men in a basically isolated area.

At the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, you had, again, two men: Louis Dublin [PAA President 1935-36], who was a great humanitarian in that he strived for the immigrants and the reduction of mortality, paired with Lotka [Alfred Lotka, PAA President 1938-39], who was one of the most imaginative statisticians that we've had in the field, who did more for theoretical demography than anyone else.

At Hopkins, you had Lowell Reed [PAA President in 1942-45] and Raymond Pearl, again a diverse pair, whose skills complemented each other and who made Hopkins the classic center for the logistics theory of population growth and the earliest of the studies of the reproductive history of

women.

There was E.B. Wilson at Harvard. And then there was Frederick Osborn [PAA President in 1949-50], who belongs to the noblesse oblige class which is so rare, who went into this despite wealth and background, who worked with and basically had a protege in Frank Lorimer. This again became a productive team.

In the census of 1930, you had the perfecting of traditional methods of census-taking. Vital statistics were still tabulated in simple form in connection with the census. Statistics-collection had not been modernized.

There were basically no population problems so far as the nation was concerned. There had been the great problem of immigration in the early part of the century, but with the Act of Exclusion, that problem was solved. The farmers were moving to the city, but this was regarded as a natural process. Birth rates were going down. The concern was on the margin--people who wanted to spread family planning but for the rights of women, not for population purposes--sort of a feminist movement against men. Some concern over depopulation was beginning, in association with the work of these few demographers. And it was about this time that the Milbank Memorial Fund employed Frank Notestein [PAA President in 1947-48] and Clyde Kiser [PAA President in 1952-53] to do population research.

Now, the natural process of the development of the Association in this period was the contact between the very small number of specialists in the field, and that is basically what the early Association was. If they had not had scholars, if they had had open meetings, the Association still would have been very, very small.

The real development in the field began with the 1940 census, which was the first professional census. It was also in this period that Hal Dunn was brought into the Office of Vital Statistics. There was the move to expand professionalized [staff?]. There were all the tremendous demands of the war period for data and for analysis. In the international arena, the appropriate staff of the League of Nations [Economic, Financial and Transit Section] moved to this country. The Scripps Foundation had been established [1922]; this was the population research center. The Office of Population Research at Princeton was established [1936] as really the first professional demography training center, other than what Walter Willcox taught at Cornell. So, I think we do not have to damn ourselves for being establishment exclusionists.

But, however much we were, this was a small group which fulfilled the function of getting together the small number of professionals in the field, of having them talk and stimulate each other. It provided the basis from which projects such as the Indianapolis Fertility Study could be developed. The Milbank Memorial Fund played a major role in providing funding and Frederick Osborn in handling funding, making it possible for people in the field to go into field studies. All this moved along with the increasing sophistication of statistical analysis in general.

After the Second World War, with the GI benefits, we had the first major influx of students into the field. In the same period, we also had the beginning of training of students from foreign countries. We had the beginning of United Nations involvement with the Population Division. We had an expansion of trained people in a wide range of universities.

A small "in" group had carried the field to date. A significant change took place in the 1953-54 period. It was the 1954 meeting that achieved the democratization of the PAA. The democratization of the Association meant basically the liquidation of the existing system whereby the members elected the Board and the Board elected all the officers. With democratization, the members elected the officers. That occupied two or three annual meetings of the Association. We all virtually memorized Robert's Rules of Order, because part of the blocking strategy was to use other rules of order on us. At the Charlottesville meeting in 1954 [when Irene Taeuber was president], we finally achieved the amendments of the constitution to provide for direct election. [Clyde Kiser claims that this amendment of the constitution occurred during the 1953 meeting when he was president. See his interview of

April 1973]

**LUNDE:** Fascinating development, isn't it?

**TAEUBER:** It is. I think our friends who are feeling guilty for having been an elitist establishment are in part still classifying themselves as elite. We were a very small group. Nobody else knew this field. In this early period, there was the question of what we were to be called. Pat Whelpton and other people wrote articles in which they talked about the people who were working in this field as "populationists." And some of us decided that whatever we were or were not, we were not going to be "populationists." So, at conferences we started slipping in the word "demography."

That is how a new field got itself an organization. The development of the field and development of the organization went together. We've seen an intensification of that in recent years. With the movement of plans and programs into the field of fertility control, we have again the question of what demography is, what the field is, what the relation is between various sections.

**LUNDE:** Yes, this came up at one of the sessions this morning. You said something, Irene, that nobody else has pointed out, or at least you've implied it, that the Population Association has actually been a kind of nucleus around which the field of demography itself has been able to form.

**TAEUBER:** And, also, in which the field of population studies has advanced. Because as this field has developed in this country, there has been [peer demography?]. There was the attempt at California [Berkeley], which is now apparently terminated, for a department of demography. There is the move at Pennsylvania for a degree in demography. I think there's an M.A. in demography at Chicago. But on the whole, the American demographer has been a specialist in another field, who was also competent in the population field, which was relevant to this other specialty.

So almost all of us were members not only of the Population Association. In the past, the major recruitment area for demographers in this country was sociology. So, we were members of the PAA; we were members of the American Sociological Association; we were also members of the American Statistical Association, because we were quantitative.

Population institutes were established, but they are not organic parts of universities; they are basically external agencies. They are likely to have core people who are on university faculties with tenured positions. But the development of teaching has also been important and this has been associated with development in the university departments. It has been a process of the person who has a degree in economics and is also sophisticated in the techniques of demography, goes to a university and he introduces a course in demography and the students come. The geographer who has training in demography introduces a course. So, demography has developed along with the broad field of interrelated population studies. And PAA has developed along with the other associations.

**LUNDE:** How did you first get interested in this whole business?

**TAEUBER:** From a multi-disciplinary background; being interested as an undergraduate and graduate in a rather wide area of the field. I have my degrees with majors in sociology and economics. My major electives and activities moved from a zoology department and human biology to an M.A. thesis using [anthropological data]. I did a thesis, in the sociology department, on "The Inheritance of Pigmentation in the American Negro," which Raymond Pearl published in the first or second issue of Human Biology [Volume 2, September 1929, pp. 321-381]. So, I became a discovery and protege of Raymond Pearl.

Then my interests broadened in Washington in the 1930s, when Frank Lorimer and I started Population Literature. We were both among the disenfranchised who had spouses in the federal

service. We would get a little grant to pay ourselves retrospectively and get out another issue. We did that for two years. Then when the Office of Population Research at Princeton was established, this became an obvious thing they could do, so they enlisted me in Population Index.

**LUNDE:** Did Population Literature have the same format, the same content, as Population Index?

**TAEUBER:** Very similar. Having continued with this, it was to the advantage of Index that I was in Washington; you did see the world literature. In the meantime, I'd been involved with problems of a changing population. What attracted me so was that all we knew of demography was generalized--was basically Swedish demography. I found myself in Washington. I was not interested in teaching sociology at a local university and I did not want a government job, because I had two young children. So, I decided to survey the world and determine what areas of research would intrigue me, that would put me off in a corner with no time pressures, would not be headline-getting at all. This process in a short period of time led me to a great interest in China, but there wasn't anything you could do on it. The approach to China--the most interesting area in the world--was obviously the question of what was happening in Japan, which is non-Western, non-Christian, non-everything. But it was urbanizing and industrializing and it obviously had declining fertility. If you look at this region, then the companion area for Japan was obviously Java, Indonesia. I reconnoitered these areas and discovered that the sources for Japan were not in the United States or any of the libraries in the Western world. I got a bit from moving into analysis of Indonesia.

In the meantime, of course, I'd gotten mentally involved in the demography of Europe, during the war. So, it was sort of accidental. But it was within this framework of picking what I thought were the interesting and significant questions.

**LUNDE:** But you've done a lot more, haven't you, in subject areas other than simply Japan and the Far East?

**TAEUBER:** Well, the only area I've neglected is Africa. The nearest I've come to Africa was the UN 1948 report on the population of Tanzania. Other than that, I've stayed away from the African part. The Latin American connection came with the Index. Living in the Library of Congress, I also did the General Censuses and Vital Statistics in the Americas [1943]. But in terms of analysis, my work basically has focused on either the Western Pacific or the U.S.

## **BREAK IN TAPE HERE**

**TAEUBER:** This is the other side of women's lib--the society which offers few opportunities to women when we happen to be married or has rigid requirements as to the kind of job we have when we have children. What this world--which may or may not be passing--gave was opportunity to educated women. How widely spread it was, I just don't know. But the great advantage that you have--or that I had--is that I was in a setting where I could be and remain fundamentally interested in a subject area. And deciding what I did on the basis of what I was interested in doing, somehow I did the important topics. The world moved along and, by sheer chance, the subject areas I was interested in suddenly became the world's priority areas.

**LUNDE:** Back a few years ago, you and I were talking, I guess it was at the Indian embassy or something, and you mentioned that your next big project was to be China. Whatever happened to that?

**TAEUBER:** I've been involved in that to the hilt in the last few years. We're producing now a monograph not on China but on the population of the Chinese cultural area. If you define this broadly

enough, the Korean culture is based on that of China. The Chinese themselves have moved into the rim around China. So, you can begin the analysis for Japan and for China in the middle of the [18th] century with the registration system. Over the century from 1850 onward, you can analyze records of areas which are either Chinese or Korean. Some of the most valuable records are in areas of Chinese or Korean population which the Japanese conquered and on which they then imposed the Japanese [culture]. Of course, with the extension of Imperial Japan, you have the magnificent data for the 40 or 50 million Chinese in Manchuria. And there are the data for Taiwan.

Then you have all kinds of special studies, occasional studies of one sort or another, throughout this period, for the mainland of China. So far as China itself is concerned, the only data that will ever exist for the pre-Communist period now exist. Nobody will ever have any more, so that you can do whatever is possible. So far as the People's Republic is concerned, its population age six and over at the time it did the registration of 1953 was the population the Nationalists had studied at age zero and over in 1947. Now, you don't have the migration data for the People's Republic; that is the great hiatus. Nonetheless, the demography of all those populations is extraordinarily uniform. There is the swift [demographic] transition in all the populations, without exception. There is obviously transition in China. And I think that rather than hold all the data in the files until the People's Republic release their data--which may be one year, ten years, 20 years--the thing to do is write it up. That has the great advantage of making the uncouneted volumes of statistical sources known not just to students here where these are foreign languages, but also in countries where there are no problems because all the students are Chinese.

**LUNDE:** Going back to the Population Association, do you remember anything about the first meeting you went to, where it was?

**TAEUBER:** I'm a bit blank on early meetings, because . . . You see, my older son was born in 1933, my younger one in 1936. And with a husband, household, children, and career activities in which one is interested, the things that were skipped were meetings and conferences. And particularly anything that took me away. So, my consistent attendance at the meetings didn't really come until about 1940.

**LUNDE:** I see. Do you remember any of the issues that interested demographers in the 1940s and in the 1950s, when you were [PAA] president?

**TAEUBER:** The great interest in the 1930s, of course, and the great interest through the war years was the imminent decline of the population of the United States. There were even bills introduced in Congress in the 1940s to get the birth rate back up. A population toboggan slide was predicted. So, you had on the one hand the deep concern with depopulation and on the other hand a concern with regional distribution and stimulating migration. Getting higher levels of living among the Appalachian poor and the blacks of the South, and so forth. I think this question was relevant, because as long as I've known demographers in the Association, they have always been concerned--with a missionary zeal--about the South. Now, after the war, the concern eventually became the population explosion, the upward movement of fertility, the projections of astronomic numbers sometime in the future. There were studies to assess how you could prevent these births which were leading to an overpopulated America.

I did a comparison recently with an article from Milbank on the development of policy. The initial policy development was the immigration commission of 1910. This was a successful one that resulted in the Oriental exclusion; that solved the problem.

The second was the Committee on Population Problems of the National Resources Board, which issued The Problems of a Changing Population [1938]. At that time, the problem was the declining fertility, plus the pileup in rural areas. There were no actions taken on the basis of that

commission report, in part because its area was not one on which there was national consensus.

The next great move was President Johnson's committee and the Nixon Commission on Population. This commission was appointed within the context of the population problem being essentially one of the limitations on urbanization and population redistribution. It's obviously too complex to go into briefly. The report of the commission [Report of the Commission on Population Growth and the American Future, 1972], like the 1938 one, again had no national consensus as a basis for immediate implementation of policy. This was in part because we again got our commission at the end of the trend, so that by the time they came out with their report, the dynamics had shifted in the other direction [the baby boom was long over and U.S. fertility was down to replacement level]. The Problems of a Changing Population came out in 1938 and by the 1940s the birth rate was moving up.

**LUNDE:** Irene, what do you think of the Association as it is today? You mentioned earlier that the original Association was pretty intimate.

**TAEUBER:** But the present Association is intimate, small, compared to . . .

**LUNDE:** The American Sociological Association.

**TAEUBER:** How many people are at the American Public Health Association meetings?

**LUNDE:** Oh, seven or eight thousand.

**TAEUBER:** Or the Association for Asian Studies? This is still a fairly small association. One of the things I don't understand is why it isn't a much larger association.

**LUNDE:** Do you think that's because there have been interests in the past which have been against advertising the Association to a wider audience?

**TAEUBER:** No. I think it is in part because population remains a multi-disciplinary field. Take this meeting [New Orleans, 1973]. Many people have come because of the attraction of meeting people from diverse fields. Now, to have an intellectual area which overlaps people in many disciplines, the Association has to see that it maintains a central core of concern with population. If it became a massive association which welcomed anything that included any population and was relevant in any way, it would fritter itself away to where it was no longer [exclusive?] in population and no longer had an impact. I think the great contribution of the Association in the last several years has been in providing the forum in which those who are involved in fertility action programs can learn to communicate with demographers, and vice versa. In which you have common scientific and technical respect and understanding of work in great areas that overlap and in which one complements the other.

**LUNDE:** Wouldn't that explain in part why the Association remains somewhat small?

**TAEUBER:** As long as it refrains from become the crusading, headline-grabbing type of organization, then it remains small. If it becomes that type of organization, it makes no contribution to scientific study. The problem of size seems to me to come only in terms of the resources available.

**LUNDE:** I remember when Don Bogue [PAA President in 1963-64] put out that particular ad on Demography [in the early 1960s, advertising Demography, of which he was first editor (1964-68) as a benefit of PAA membership] and the membership jumped overnight, it seemed to me, from about 800 to about 1,200 [802 in 1963; 1,142 in 1964, 1,375 in 1966], and we seem to have been increasing



slowly ever since.

**TAEUBER:** But the fertility control field seems to me to be precisely comparable to what I would like to call the mortality control field. There are small sectors of the whole area of medicine and public health that overlap areas with demography. We don't study the techniques of open-heart surgery. We do have common concerns in major causes of death, patterns of mortality, and rural-urban socioeconomic differentials. I think there is a similar thing in this active interest in the fertility field. There are only limited areas of overlap. The demographers are not experts in techniques of contraception; these studies are not demographic studies. At the same time, there are demographic techniques of evaluation which may be marriable. As I say, there are overlap areas. But the great majority of supervisory and administrative staff in the fertility field are not demographers. The demographers will never become cognizant of the problems of program administration. But there are overlap areas. In this initial mailing [responses to Demography advertisements], you may have gotten a fair portion of the people who were concerned with the overlap areas.

**LUNDE:** Among the people who preceded you as president, there were a number we don't know much about. Did you happen to know Lowell J. Reed [President 1942-45]?

**TAEUBER:** Lowell Reed was one of the major statesmen of the demographic as well as the public health field. He was professor of biostatistics at Johns Hopkins. He became basically interested [in demography] with this Pearl-Reed development of the logistics curve. Pearl and Reed introduced this to demography and developed it. Lowell Reed himself, who was a New Englander, not only became dean of the School of Hygiene and Public Health at Hopkins, but finally president at Hopkins. Reed was chairman of the annual meetings of the Milbank Memorial Fund in all the years in which the Milbank Fund worked in population. He was the demographer/statistician who, almost more than anyone else, was the responsible person for that.





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**IRENE BARNES TAEUBER**  
**1906-1974**

## CURRENT ITEMS

IRENE BARNES TAEUBER  
1906-1974

Demographers throughout the world will be greatly saddened to hear of the death of Irene Taeuber on Sunday, February 24,

1974. She died quickly of pneumonia in the presence of advanced emphysema. The loss is especially felt by the staff of Princeton University's Office of Population Research which she joined in 1936 shortly after the Office was founded and served brilliantly and with devotion for the remainder of her life.

Dr. Taeuber was born in Meadville, Missouri on Christmas of 1906. She took her A.B. degree at the University of Missouri in 1927, her M.A. in Anthropology at Northwestern University in 1928, and her Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Minnesota in 1931. In 1960 she received the LL.D. degree from Smith College and in 1965 the D.Sc. degree from the Western College for Women. She was employed as an instructor during her years as a graduate student at Northwestern and Minnesota. She married Conrad Taeuber in 1929, when they were both graduate students at the University of Minnesota, and had two children, Richard and Karl, both of whom have now joined their father and mother in the ranks of distinguished demographers. She went with her husband to teach at Mt. Holyoke from 1931 to 1934, and then on to Washington with him in 1934 when he took an appointment with the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. In 1935 and 1936, with Frank Lorimer, she edited Population Literature for the Population Association of America. When Lorimer left to work for the National Resources Committee, it was decided to move the bibliographical work to Princeton University's newly established Office of Population Research, which published the first volume of Population Index in 1937.

Population Index is peculiarly Dr. Taeuber's intellectual child. Although she shared the title of Editor with Dr. Louise K. Kiser and the writer, she carried the main responsibility for the bibliography from 1937 through 1954. She also wrote most of the Current Items. During the war, as country after country came into the news, mainly by falling to wartime invasion, she produced a number of articles on the demographic situations of these nations that stand up very well today. Meanwhile she found time to direct the Census Library Project of the Library of Congress and the Bureau of the Census from 1941-1944, and to act as consultant on international statistics for both the Bureau of the Census, 1940-1950, and the Manpower Panel of the Research and Development Board, Department of Defense, 1947-1953. In 1954, having virtually carried Population Index for seventeen years, she asked to be relieved to pursue her research, which had been extraordinarily fruitful even while she was preoccupied with the Index.

The appended bibliography of Irene Taeuber's work makes all comment superfluous. No one else, so far as I am aware, has handled such a range of materials in so masterful a fashion, dealing as she did with the United States, parts of Africa, Europe, Latin America, Oceania, and Asia. Her magnum opus was The Population of Japan, a quarto volume of 462 pages published by the Princeton University Press for the Office of Population Research in 1958. This study was so admired in Japan that it was translated by her Japanese friends and published by the Mainichi Press in celebration of its ten years of interest in the population field. Alas, her death cuts short years of work on the Chinese, research that dealt

perforce mainly with the population outside the mainland and to which she had only recently been able to turn her major attention.

Formally, Dr. Taeuber was Research Associate of the Office of Population Research, 1936-1961, and Senior Research Demographer from 1962 to her technical retirement in 1973. She was also Visiting Professor of the School of Hygiene and Public Health of The Johns Hopkins University, 1962-1964. She served as consultant to a dozen agencies, national and international, and as a member of numerous committees on specialized topics, including service as chairman of the Committee on Population of the Pacific Science Association, of the Committee on Social Demography of the American Sociological Association, and of a United Nations review committee on the Center for Latin American Demographic Studies in Santiago, Chile.

The University of Missouri gave her its Award of Distinction in 1964, and the Centennial Honors Award in 1967; the University of Minnesota presented her with the Regents Award for Distinguished Achievement in 1967, and the District of Columbia Sociological Society chose her for the Stuart A. Rice Merit Award in 1972. She was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Sociological Association, the American Statistical Association, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She served as President of the Population Association of America in 1953-1954 and as Secretary of the American Sociological Society in 1945; she was Vice President of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population from 1961-1965.

Irene Taeuber was a complete person. A valiant career woman in the days when much less was heard of the subject than at present, she still placed the interests of her family first. In the early years she limited herself to part-time work, for which opportunities were few, because she insisted that she must always be home when her boys came back from school. However, her fortunate employer, the Office of Population Research, received from her part-time efforts at least one-and-a-half times the output of any normal full-time scholar.

This is neither the time nor the place for a definitive evaluation of Dr. Taeuber's professional work. Clearly, this little lady stood a giant in her field. Her professional life was dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge in demography by the rigorous application of the hard social science disciplines. Concerned as she was with the operation of great impersonal forces on the trends of fertility, mortality, marriage, and migration, she always remembered the ways in which these impinged on, and were conditioned by, the lives of individuals whose basic hopes and fears for themselves and their families were much the same as her own. She pursued understanding with personal courage, energy, and intelligence whether wrecked on the train between Nanking and Shanghai, accompanying the visiting tuberculosis nurse in the slums of war-shattered Tokyo, visiting the starvation hospitals in the famine areas of West Java after the second "police action," or winning the confidence of peasant women by gossiping cheerfully about her children, and later her grandchildren, in the rural areas of China, India, Pakistan, and the Philippines. Dr. Taeuber was the greater scientist for being a feminine humanist.

She was also a great teacher, although she did very little lecturing to undergraduates. Indeed, probably she would not have been very good

at it. Her mind was much too active and intricate to be satisfied with the lucid exposition of three main points as required in the undergraduate lecture. Her teaching was at a much deeper level. Indeed, she was at her best when she was not even thinking of herself as a teacher but was only exchanging views with colleagues to whom she would listen, comment, and often make seemingly oblique suggestions that opened up new vistas while demonstrating always her fierce attachment to the integrity of scholarship and to its mission in advancing the human condition. She won the devotion of hundreds of students around the world. Indeed, all of us whose lives she touched were in some sense her pupils. We shall hold her ever vivid in our admiring and affectionate memory.

Frank W. Notestein

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\* This bibliography was compiled by Sarah-Alicia W. Burkman, Librarian of the Office of Population Research branch of Princeton University's Firestone Library. The sources consulted included the Office of Population Research collection, publications lists prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and by Irene B. Taeuber, and the Bibliography section of *Population Index*. The list includes published monographs, contributions to books, journal articles, and reports. It does not include the briefer unsigned Current Items Dr. Taeuber contributed to *Population Index* in the early years of her editorship, nor unpublished conference papers.

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**We do not have a full version of Irene Taeuber's presidential address from the 1954 PAA meetings in Charlottesville, Virginia, but we have pulled out the summary of her talk from this overview of the meetings published in the Population Index.**

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The 1954 Meeting of the Population Association

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## CURRENT ITEMS

### THE 1954 MEETING OF THE POPULATION ASSOCIATION

The 1954 annual meeting of the Population Association of America was held Saturday and Sunday, May 8 and 9, at the University of Virginia and the Hotel Monticello, Charlottesville, Virginia. There were five sessions of papers and discussions, two luncheon meetings, a business meeting, and a dinner meeting. At luncheon on Saturday those attending the meetings were guests of the University of Virginia. At this meeting O. Dudley Duncan, Chairman of the Committee on the Teaching of Demography, presented the final report of the Committee. At the luncheon on Sunday, John D. Durand and Frank Lorimer described the plans for the World Population Conference to be held in Rome, August 31 to September 10, 1954, while Rupert Vance reported to the Association on the work of the Selection Committee in connection with disbursement of a grant of \$20,000 received from the Carnegie Corporation of New York for financial assistance to American participants in the Rome Conference.

### Dinner Meeting President Irene B. Taeuber, Presiding

Following the introduction of the foreign guests, President Taeuber delivered the Presidential address entitled "Population Growth in the Western Pacific." According to Dr. Taeuber, Western control in the Western Pacific left a demographic heritage of massive populations with high growth potentials. In most areas the initial impact of the West was an increase in mortality, but as political order was established, public health measures instituted, and the food supply regularized, mortality declined. Unlike the past, when most of the declines in mortality were associated with social and economic changes that involved increased production and a wider distribution of social facilities, most declines in mortality can now occur with few changes in social life, educational levels, food resources, or industrial facilities; they result from adoption of the medical advances of the West. At the same time fertility has remained at previous high levels as the relation between village life, the familistic ideal, and human reproduction persisted. Ancient birth rates and modern death rates now coexist in some countries of the region. In the colonial areas, the decline in mortality and the general stability in fertility resulted in a population increase that accelerated with the passage of the years. All the data available for the various countries within the region indicate that high fertility and hence high rates of population growth are likely to persist as long as the ways of living and the attitudes of life remain those of ancient agricultural societies. Urbanization and industrialization, increases in agricultural production and distribution, improvements in rural levels of living, or extension of the areas of settlement do not constitute automatic solutions to the problem of population increase, however. The experience of Japan is not a model for export since demographically Japan is more comparable to the industrial West.

But fertility in the Western Pacific may change. Many leaders in the Western Pacific region now recognize and appreciate the problem of growth. Dr. Taeuber believes that rapid declines in fertility could occur in these areas if the rising aspirations in the villages were combined with an education oriented toward planned parenthood and medical advances permitted control of conception without interference with traditional family relations. To be sure, the means of limitation that these societies will adopt must be related to their values and customs. The opportunities for research by Americans are few but very significant. Basic in the research problems are the relationships of people, culture, and resources under conditions of stability and change. Research that can contribute to an understanding of the resistences and vulnerabilities of the cultures of the Western Pacific to change will contribute to an understanding of the demographic possibilities for the future and to the solution of the problems of population growth among them. Such research will also contribute much to the development of theoretical demography.

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