

# Ansley Coale (1917–2002)

Ansley Johnson Coale, one of the leading world demographers, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on 14 November 1917. He attended a public high school in the state capital of Annapolis, graduating in 1934. That same year he enrolled in Princeton University, but he was not accepted because the College Entrance Board deemed his knowledge of Latin not good enough for admission. He spent one year at Mercersburg Academy on a scholarship for boys from low-income families in order to improve his language deficiency. He graduated successfully from Princeton University in the fall of 1935. He not only obtained his entire education at this university, but he spent his whole life there.

He obtained his bachelor degree (BA) in 1939 and his master's degree (MA) in 1941. When the United States entered World War II he served in the Navy. He was an able mathematician and so he served as a radar officer in the US Naval service and taught radar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It was because of this that he did not receive his doctoral degree (PhD) until 1947, after which he joined the Office of Population Research.

His career was wholly and continuously associated with the Office of Population Research at the very prestigious Princeton University, which usually has a very high academic ranking (it was 4th in 2017 Forbes college rankings) and the Office of Population Research has without any doubt played a role in this. The Office of Population Research was founded in 1936 by its first director Frank Wallace Notestein (1902–1983), who helped to establish demography as an independent scientific discipline in the United States with his book on population projections for Europe and the Soviet Union 1940–1970 (1944) and started the discussion about the demographic revolution / transition, and he was also the first director of the UN Population Division (1946–1948).

Ansley Coale started working in the Office of Population Research as an assistant professor in 1947. He was promoted to associate professor in 1954 and to full professor in 1959. He was named the William Church Osborne Professor of Public Affairs in 1964. He served as assistant director of the Office from 1954 to 1959

and when Frank Notestein left to become the director of the Population Council, Ansley was named as a director of the Office of Population Research in 1959, a post he continued to hold until 1975, after which he became an associate director until 1986. After that he became a senior research demographer until he retired in 2000.

He served as the president of the **Population Association of America in 1967–1968** and as the president of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population from 1977 to 1981. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Science, and the American Philosophical Society. He was a corresponding fellow of the British Academy and he was awarded honorary degrees by the University of Louvain, the University of Liège, the University of Pennsylvania, and Princeton University. He received many other honorary awards, including being named an honorary member of the Czech (former Czechoslovak) Demographic Society. President John F. Kennedy appointed him to represent the United States on the Population Commission of the United Nations Economics and Social Council (1961–1967).

He was a very prolific author. He published more than 125 books and articles (most of them with one or more co-authors). He was also an excellent teacher. He continued the policy of Frank Notestein and Irene Barnes Tauber (1906–1979), a close associate of Notestein's and editor (1936–1974) of the office's journal *Population Index*, which was to try to make the Office of Population Research the most important academic centre of population studies in the world. He invited professors and postgraduate students from other universities all over the world. He was the official supervisor of 35 doctoral dissertations and more than 90 research papers by visiting graduate students who earned the certificate in demography offered by the Office of Population Research. The key to Coale's success as a teacher lay in his character to create a collective of students and professors, and his enthusiasm for demography, which he was able to pass on to his students and colleagues.

Some of former students and colleagues thought back and published their memories of Coale in a biographical memoir three years after his death

in 2005.<sup>1)</sup> The students considered the courses demography that Coale taught to be fascinating, especially remembered Coale's infectious enthusiasm for the subject. They claim that he was a man of extraordinary brilliance and insight, but most of all a man of integrity. He always had new ideas and this made for an exciting intellectual atmosphere at the Office for Population Research. He was very precise in his calculations, and when he found an error he did not regret the time needed to recalculate everything. This trait was known among his students, who learned from his example to behave in the same way, saying to themselves: 'Because Ansley would have done so' (James Trussell).

He had a strong competitive streak, not only in research, but also in sports activities. He enjoyed playing tennis, squash, bridge, softball and riding his bicycle. He kept a weight chart in his office and was proud of the fact that over the course of many years it seldom deviated by more than a pound from a perfectly flat trend line. He was very friendly to everyone in the office and did not distinguish between professors and students. He loved to argue, especially about politics, about which he was very stubborn. However, he was very sociable, and he liked good jokes, Italian restaurants (he learned Italian so he could order meals in this language and impress the staff) and good wine. He used to invite students and colleagues to restaurants and in a family style he always ordered for the whole table.

I do not want to evaluate his contribution to demographic knowledge. It was enormous and concerned not only all aspects of demography but also the neighbouring disciplines represented among the staff of the office. He was very good at demographic methodology (e.g. the Coale indexes for the analysis of fertility or model life tables) but also at demographic theory. I cannot go into detail in this short commemoration, the aim of which is rather to remember the eminent figure of Ansley Coale 100 years after his birth. However it seems to me that his most significant scientific contribution was the theory of the demographic revolution. He headed the European Fertility Project,

which started in 1963, analysing the changes in fertility in 700 provinces in Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries. The results were published in nine books and finally summarised in a book published in 1986.<sup>2)</sup> Coale presented some of the results from this project at the IUSSP conference in Belgium (Liège)<sup>3)</sup> in 1973.

I first met Ansley Coale in 1963 in Prague, when he was travelling around Europe looking for available data for his fertility project, and then met him again many times at different conferences. It was a great honour for me that Ansley and Norman B. Ryder attended my lecture for postgraduate students at Princeton in 1971 and I especially remember the lovely discussion I had with them the whole afternoon at Ansley's home. Our main topic was the demographic revolution and I argued for this term, as a transition can be anything and these changes in demographic reproduction are really revolutionary and unique in the evolution of mankind (from the extensive type of reproduction to the intensive type, the transition from unplanned parenthood to planned parenthood). They are comparable to the revolutionary changes in industry that arrived with new technology (the term 'industrial revolution' is well accepted). I did not succeed, but up to the present day I have been using the demographic revolution as an important part of the global revolution of the modern era (I am probably the only demographer in the world to do so, with the exception of some of my students). We also of course discussed other issues, and not just demographic ones. Ansley was interested in the political situation in Czechoslovakia after the Soviet invasion in 1968.

Ansley Johnson Coale passed away just nine days before his 85 birthday on 5 November 2002 at Pennswood retirement village in Newton, Pennsylvania. The cause of death was heart failure, after several years with Parkinson's disease. Ansley was survived by his charming wife Sue, whom I met in Princeton, and by two sons, Ansley Jr. and Robert.

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Zdeněk Pavlík

1) Bibliographical Memoirs: Volume 87, Washington, DC, The National Academies Press, 2005.

2) Coale A. J. and S. C. Watkins (eds.) The Decline of Fertility in Europe: The Revised Proceedings of a Conference on the Princeton European Fertility Project, Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 1986, 522 pp.

3) Coale A. J. The Demographic Transition, Proceedings of the IUSSP Conference I, pp. 53–71, Liège, 1973.

# 160 Years since the First Census on the Territory of the Czech Republic

The end of October (31 October 2017) marked exactly 160 years since the first population census took place in the Czech lands, which in its overall concept and goals was fundamentally different from the population rolls that had been carried out prior to that. This census was identified as a point of transition from the population rolls to the modern population census.

Unlike the population rolls, the primary objective of which was to obtain information necessary for military or taxation purposes, the census in 1857 was different in that:

- it was carried out uniformly across the territory of the Austrian Monarchy;
- it was carried out in reference to a single date;
- it covered the entire domestic population (belonging to a particular community), both those present on the day of the survey and even anyone absent on that day, and foreigners were also included in the census;

- it was conducted by a single body (political bodies at the level of municipalities and the newly introduced district level) without the participation of any others;
- as well as the population, domestic livestock were also counted;
- analysis of the results produced detailed and complete information on the size and composition of the population in the Czech lands.

The results of the census in 1857 were summarised manually and published in *Tafeln zur Statistik der österreichischen Monarchie* and were also published separately in book form under the title *Statistische Übersichten über die Bevölkerung und den Viehstand von Österreich nach der Zählung vom 31. October 1857*, Vienna 1859.

More information on the census in 1857 will be published in *Demografie* 1/2018.

# Johann Peter Süssmilch (1707–1767) – His Life and Contributions

This year marks three hundred and ten years since the great scholar Johann Peter Süssmilch was born. Süssmilch's work earned him a unique place in the historical development of population statistics and ranks him among the leading scientists of the 18th century.

Süssmilch's family had its roots in north-eastern Bohemia, where in 1513 Maximilian I granted it the hereditary judgeship of the Lusatian stronghold of Tollenstein, situated about three miles from Zittau. Johann Peter's father, John Elias, married Marie Blell and established himself in Berlin as a grain dealer and the owner of a brewery. Johann Peter Süssmilch was the eldest son in the family. He was born on 3 September 1707 in Zehlendorf. His early youth was spent in the village of Brandenburg with his grandparents, the Blells, who had a strong influence on Süssmilch's education.

In 1716 he entered the College of Berlin where he studied for six years. Like many other young men, Süssmilch seems to have experienced great difficulty in deciding on a profession. In his early days at Berlin College, he showed a strong liking for natural history, but in 1724 he began attending the Anatomical Institute that had just been founded in Berlin. He was then determined to become a physician. Deferring to his parents' wishes, he left Berlin to study law at a Latin school in Halle. There he developed an interest in theology. This field was one his parents also agreed with and Süssmilch devoted himself to it intensely. Halle was moreover considered a centre of Pietism,<sup>1)</sup> the movement that would influence Süssmilch throughout his life.

For a short period of two-and-a-half years he went to Jena where Süssmilch studied theology and philosophy and even aspired to obtain a university chair. His parents, however, would not agree with this idea, and his college career ended when, in 1733, he defended his thesis, *Dissertatio de cohaesione et attractione corporum*, written at Jena under the direction of a medical doc-

tor, Georg Erhard Hamberger. After the First Silesian War, in which Süssmilch did his military service in the ministerial function of chaplain of the Kalckstein regiment, he took up a position in the Church of St Peter in Berlin. There he soon acquired a great reputation as a preacher and a scholar. By this time, in the year 1734, Süssmilch started collecting facts and empirical data and wrote the preface to his masterpiece, the first edition of *Die göttliche Ordnung in den Veränderungen des menschlichen Geschlechts, aus der Geburt, dem Tode und der Fortpflanzung desselben* (The Divine Order in the Changes of the Human Race, from Birth, to Death, and Reproduction).

At the age of 30 Süssmilch married 16-year-old Charlotte Dorothy Lieberkühn, the youngest daughter of the Royal goldsmith. Their marriage produced ten children, all but one of whom survived, which was rare in those days. He spent the spare moments of his life writing, revising, extending, and defending this statistical work. Never tired of data, Süssmilch continued to gather more and published ever larger editions of his work in 1761–62 and 1775–76. All the editions are vast compendiums of demographic data and socio-economic analyses.

Süssmilch died from an attack of apoplexy on 22 March 1767 at the age of 60. During his life Süssmilch was in contact with Gotthold Ephraim Lessing (German writer and philosopher) and Immanuel Kant (German philosopher). Süssmilch's work was cited extensively by Robert Malthus. Having briefly sketched the life of Süssmilch, we shall now look at the content of his principal literary work and his contribution to science and especially demography.

## J. P. SÜSSMILCH'S MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEMOGRAPHY

Johann Peter Süssmilch is regarded as the pioneer of scientific statistics and demography. His great

1) Pietism was a reform movement in the German Lutheran Church during the 17th and 18th centuries that was designed to restore the devotional ideal of Protestantism.

contribution to these fields was that he gathered and described the statistical methods that existed in his time and his analysis was based on empirical records – for example, of the Breslau (today Wroclaw) priest Kaspar Neumann, who maintained parish registers on births, marriages, and deaths by age and cause of death. Süssmilch worked on life tables before anyone else. It can be said that he put together the most extensive collection of available data of his time.

By this time the conflict had arisen between his turning away from religion and towards science, and Süssmilch was engaged as a statistician and demographer working with statistical data of the time, which made him unique. On one hand, there were the ideals of Christianity which Süssmilch was required to follow; on the other hand, there was empirical data, which Süssmilch used as the basis of studies. Süssmilch combined the natural order and the divine order with political economy and empirical data in response to secularisation developments during the 17th century.

Süssmilch assessed the sex birth ratio of 100 girls to 105 boys and discovered that the sex ratio is compensated for draws even at the age of marriage. He showed that the reason for this was the higher rate of mortality among younger boys. Süssmilch searched for the medical reasons for this higher mortality and reasoned that it is the visible expression of the Lord's will regarding monogamy.

Johan Peter Süssmilch is best known for his remarkable work on population connecting natural law to 'political arithmetic'. Süssmilch sought to show the 'natural' constancy of population patterns and classes over time. His capable use of the 'law of large numbers' to analyse demographic statistics has led him to be considered one of the forefathers of statistics and econometrics.

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Veronika Svobodová

At deep sorrow we shall notice to all friends, colleagues, and the public that

prof. Ing. Iva Ritschelová CSc.,

President of the Czech Statistical Office

passed away.

She deceased after a severe illness in late evening of 3 December aged 53 years.

Prof. Ing. Iva Ritschelová CSc. was appointed to the title of the President of the Czech Statistical Office by the President of the Czech Republic, upon a proposal of the Government of the Czech Republic, on 1 September 2010. In her term of office, she promoted significant modernisation of statistics production processes, including the transition to the electronic data collection. She reduced total administrative burden on respondents by statistical surveys by over 35%. She also encouraged raising of statistical literacy of the general public.

As an active member of academic community she dealt with education and enlightenment. She had ample work experience in abroad. She was an author of tens of professional publications focused on environmental economy and environmental policy.

# The 9th Conference of 'Young Demographers' Will Take Place in February 2018

The Conference of Young Demographers traditionally provides demographers with an exceptional opportunity to spend two days discussing current demographic issues and students and young scientists in particular with an occasion to learn and hear the opinions and advice of their more experienced counterparts, colleagues, and teachers from all Europe or even the world. The 9th annual Conference of Young Demographers will take place on **15 and 16 February 2018** in Prague at the Faculty of Science (Albertov 6, Prague 2). The traditional topic of the conference, 'Actual Demographic Research of Young Demographers (not only) in Europe', is as broad as possible in order to ensure that the conference is open to demographers and scientists with various research interests and specialisations.

The event is supported by the Department of Demography and Geodemography, the Institute of Geography (Faculty of Science, Charles University), and the Czech Statistical Office.

All participants in the conference will have an opportunity to present their current research and discuss it with colleagues from other countries or fields of study. Although the conference is primarily intended for Ph.D. students of demography, all young (or slightly older) researchers (and not just demographers) are welcome to attend. The working language of the conference is English.

At the end of the conference the SAS Institute of the Czech Republic and the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, partners of the conference, will hand out an award for the best presentation to have used SAS software and the best presentation with a social context.

This year there will again be a session for researchers who are not demographers. This session will be devoted to topics on which demographers may share common scientific ground with researchers from other fields and to possibly developing new areas of cooperation.

The programme of the conference will be released in January 2018. More information about the conference can be found online (<http://www.demografove.estranky.cz/en>) or you can follow us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/young.demographers>) or Google+ (<http://plus.google.com/u/0/10266551482224781605/posts>).

In the case of any questions please feel free to contact us at: [yd.demographers@gmail.com](mailto:yd.demographers@gmail.com).

We are looking forward to meeting you in Prague! On behalf of the Organising Committee, Klára Hulíková, Olga Kurtinová, Dan Kašpar, Barbora Kuprová, Jitka Slabá.

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# Fifty Years since the Foundation of the Commission for Historical Demography

Historical demography, a field that established itself first in France and Great Britain after the Second World War, began to receive growing attention in Czechoslovakia and other countries starting in the 1960s, which was accompanied by the formation of various national commissions. When efforts by Prof. V. Husa at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague, to establish a Czech centre of work in this field were halted by his death in 1965, J. Macek, the director of the Institute of History of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, started a new initiative, which in March 1967 led to the foundation of the Commission for Historical Demography under the Institute of History. The Commission for Historical Demography brought together representatives of the main institutions that were working in this field in Czechoslovakia at that time: the Institute of History of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague (P. Horská – chair of the commission) and the branch of the institute in Brno (J. Mezník), the Faculty of Arts in Prague (E. Maur – commission secretary), the faculties of education in Ostrava and Plzeň (M. Myška, A. Zeman), the Czechoslovak Demographic Society of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague (V. Srb, Z. Pavlík), as well as representatives of archives (J. Křivka, J. Hanzal) and secondary schools (J. Kalserová). Slovak colleagues were represented by Ján Siráčky, who a short time later was replaced by Anton Špiesz (both from the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava). The commission from the outset worked very closely with the Working Group in Historical Demography at Charles University's Faculty of Arts, which after the death of Václav Husa focused with a new body of staff on methodological discussions, primarily among those interested in the field who were working in archives. Primary credit for advancing the work of the Commission for Historical Demography without question belongs to Pavla Horská, the indefatigable head

of the commission, who maintained ties with the International Commission for Historical Demography and was constantly introducing new impulses into the commission's work.

The commission strove mainly to acquaint Czech researchers with methods in historical demography used abroad and to advance work on assessing suitable source materials. To this end the commission and the Working Group in Historical Demography organised two seminars: Sources in Historical Demography in Times before Statistics, in 1970; and the Development of Surnames in the Czech Lands, in 1972. Papers from the Working Group's seminars and discussion sessions along with other papers, mainly by colleagues in Ostrava, were published in the *Historical Demography* yearbook (*Historická demografie*). The commission also annually published a bibliography of Czech historical demography and reviews of the most important publications abroad and new domestic publications. A selected bibliography was then sent to the editorial office of *Bibliographie internationale de la démographie historique* in Paris.

The successful progress in the commission's work was abruptly interrupted by the onset of 'normalisation'. The commission came under the management of the History Collegium of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, and several members, 'troublesome' in the eyes of the regime, P. Horská foremost among them, were stripped of their membership, new members were added who had prior to that worked in historical demography only marginally or not at all, and a new chair and secretary were appointed. The commission's work, including publication of the yearbook, *de facto* came to a halt for a decade. Pavla Horská, however, tireless in her efforts, managed to find a new organisational base for the field in the Czechoslovak Demographic Society and to incorporate historical-demographic research into the state plan for the Faculty of Sciences. In connection with this,

a new Working Group for Historical Demography was founded as part of the Archive Administration under the Czechoslovak Ministry of the Interior. In 1983 the *Historical Demography* yearbook (*Historická demografie*) finally began to be published again, thanks to the initiative of a new member of the institute's staff, Ludmila Fialová, a demographer by training. L. Fialová established close ties with some of the commission's 'old' members, in particular P. Horská, which helped to secure a good quality circle of authors to contribute to the yearbook and to renew the yearbook's original focus. In 1987 it became possible to organise a two-day academic meeting called Population Development in the Czech Lands (up to 1914).

In 1990 P. Horská returned as the head of the commission and the yearbook, and I again took up the position of secretary. The commission acquired new members, this time people with a genuine interest in the field. In 1992 the commission moved (as did P. Horská and L. Fialová) under a new name, the Commission for Historical and Social Demography, to the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, which oversaw the publication of *Historical Demography*. After the revolution, international cooperative ties were successfully established, including cooperation with CEFRES in Prague, both by organising and co-organising seminars with international participants (1992: Czech-French Dialogue on the Family; 1996: Life-Cycle/Domestic Servants in Europe in the 16th to 20th Centuries; 2000: Czech-French Dialogue on the History of the Family; 2005: The History of Migration in the Czech Lands

in the Early Modern Age; 2007: Families and Households from the 16th to the 20th Centuries), and by inviting top international experts to give lectures and the publish papers in the yearbook (e.g. J. N. Biraben, J. P. Poussou, A. Sulerot, A. Fauve-Chamoux, T. Jaworski, K. Arnold, H. Zeithofer, and Sathoshi Murayama). Several issues of *Historical Demography* also presented readers with the results of an important international research project titled 'Social Structures in Bohemia in the 16th-19th Centuries'.

Another change came in 2009. The new management of the Institute of Sociology no longer wished to be the administrative base for the commission and for the yearbook's publication. The Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Science was happy to assume publication of *Historical Demography* (which since 2015 it has been doing in cooperation with the Faculty of the Humanities, Charles University), and it became a journal published twice a year, but was no longer an organ of the commission. The active core members of the yearbook nevertheless became part of a wider editorial board that is made up of representatives of all the main Czech institutions working in historical demography and colleagues from Slovakia. The loss of the commission's coordinating role, however, has been felt palpably – it was useful, for example, in assigning university and doctoral dissertations – as has the demise of the regular professional meetings. It would therefore be desirable to see the work of the commission renewed.

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Eduard Maur