



CELEBRATING WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS

HERTA TAUSSIG FREITAG

1908-2000, Austria - Herta Taussig received the degree Magister Rerum Naturalium, in Mathematics and Physics, from the University of Vienna in 1934, and graduated with an MA (1948) and a PhD (1953) from Columbia University in New York city.

She taught at a school in upstate New York from 1944 to 1948 and there met Arthur Freitag, whom she married in 1950. In 1948 she moved to Hollins College (now University), where her career progressed from

instructor to full Professor and departmental chairman, until her formal retirement in 1971.

During her years at Hollins College, and throughout her even longer period of retirement, she received many awards. She was the first woman to become President of the Virginia, Maryland, and District of Columbia Section of the Mathematical Association of America.



A colleague, with echoes of Gauss's description of Mathematics as the Queen of the Sciences, and Number Theory as the Queen of Mathematics, named Herta Freitag as the Queen of the

Fibonacci Association. She attended and gave a paper at every International Conference of the Association from the first one in 1984 until her death. She also contributed prodigiously to the *Elementary Problems and Solutions Section* of the *Fibonacci Quarterly* and published many papers in that journal. Most appropriately, the *Fibonacci Quarterly* chose to honour her not on her 90th birthday, but on the threshold of her 89th year, since 89 is a number in the Fibonacci sequence.

Biography courtesy of The MacTutor History of Mathematics archive