

THE POLITICAL BEEKEEPER'S LIBRARY

The Political Beekeeper's Library is a collection of books where bees are described in political terms and presented as political models.

Many fascinating stories can be told through the books in the library. The Queen Must Die och City of the Bees are examples of books that try to take on almost all of the human / bee condition. However, the most revolutionary development in the understanding of bees that can be found among the books is that from a society ruled by a king to a decentralised and democratic society.

The books in The Political Beekeeper's Library show general trends in how human have understood themselves and bees through the history, however opinions have always varied and not everyone have had the possibility to make themselves heard. From pre-historic time until the 18th century the honeybees in the hive which we today call queens were described as kings. However, already Aristotle, more than two thousand three hundred years ago, noted that these bees were called mothers by some.

It is said that bees are the most written about animals after humans. For sure they are the most written about insects. In any case there are enough books about bees to make it necessary to select what books to include in the library according to some criteria.

First and foremost the The Political Beekeeper's Library includes books which have been key to how humans have understood bees in political terms. An example of this is "The Feminine Monarchy" by Charles Butler from 1609, a book that contributed to the king in the hive becoming a queen. Another is "Honeybee Democracy" by Thomas D. Seeley from 2010, which marks a transition towards understanding the bee society as decentralised and democratic.

Another criteria is that the library is limited to include books that are about bees. However exceptions to this have been made for books which aren't exclusively about bees but contains passages about bees which have been of particular historical importance, for example Georgics by Virgil from 29 BCE. A few books have also been included although they are peripheral to the theme of bees and politics. For example "Wasp Farm", which is not about bees but about wasps who are often confused for bees.

Many books have been included for the scientific knowledge of bees that they provide; other, such as The Hive by Bee Wilson, have been included because of how they put bees in cultural contexts.

There are books that would fit in the library but haven't been possible to include since they are expensive to buy or difficult to lend. However, most of these can be read about in books that already are in the library. The library is reasonably complete for what it sets out to be, but with certainty there will appear both old and new books which can complement it.

INDEX OF TITLES IN THE LIBRARY

Dates indicate when the book was first published in its original language.

Historia Animalium, Aristotle (fourth century BCE)

The Georgics, Virgil (29 BC)

The Feminine Monarchy, Charles Butler (1609)

The Fable of the Bees, Bernard Mandeville (1724)

Langstroth on the Hive and the Honey-Bee. Rev. L. L. Langstroth (1853)

The Life of the Bee, Maurice Maeterlinck (1901)

The Lore of The Honey-bee, Tickner Edwardes (1908)

The Mason Bees, J. Henri Fabre (1914)

Nine Lectures on Bees, Rudolf Steiner (1923)

The Dancing Bees, Karl von Frisch (1927)

Citites of Wax, Julie Closson Kenly (1935)

The Sacred Bee in Ancient Times and Folklore, Hilda M. Ransome (1937)

City of the Bees, Frank S. Stuart (1947)

Communication Among Social Bees, Martin Lindauer (1961)

Wasp Farm, Howard Ensign Evans (1963)

All Kinds of Bees, Dorothy Shuttlesworth (1967)

Bees and People, Naum Ioyrish (1974)

The Social Organization of Honeybees, John B. Free (1977)

The Killer Bees, Anthony Potter (1977)

Bumblebee Economics, Bernd Heinrich (1979)

The Queen Must Die, William Longgood (1985)

The Biology of the Honeybee, Mark L. Winston (1987)

From Where I Sit, Mark L. Winston (1988)

The Wisdom of the Hive, Thomas D. Seeley (1995)

The Forgotten Pollinators, S. L. Buchmann and G. P. Nabhan (1997)

The World History of Beekeeping and Honey Hunting (2000)

The Hive, Bee Wilson (2004)

The Wisdom of Bees, Michael O'Malley (2010)

Honeybee Democracy, Thomas D. Seeley (2010)

The Spirit of The Hive, Robert E. Page, Jr. (2013)

Bee Time: Lessons from the Hive, Mark L. Winston (2014)