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Newsletter 23



CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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CBKA members at the 2007 Honey Show and tasting. Everyone was a honey judge



Close-up of one of the ancient beehives found at Tel Rehov in Israel. (Credit: Hebrew University photo by Amihai Mazar) Article on page five.

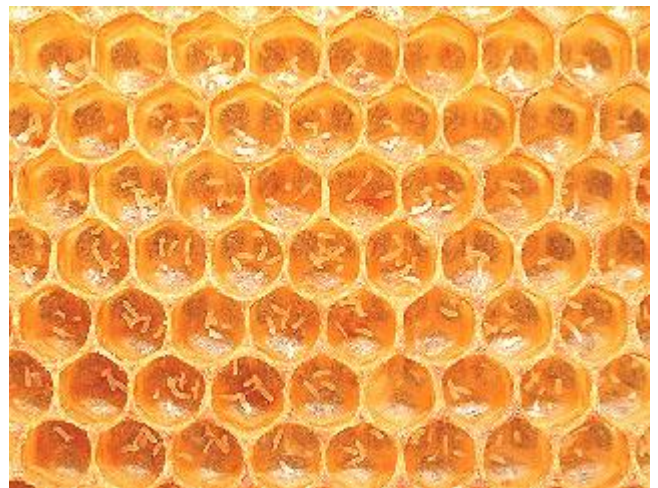


Photo from the internet not sure of the source but it shows multiple eggs in cells. A symptom of a laying worker.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 7TH JANUARY 2008 AT 7.30 P.M.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AT THE NEW STAGS HEAD, RED STREET, CARMARTHEN.

DRAUGHT FOR THE REVISED CONSTITUTION

As far as I know this copy of the Constitution of Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association is the one that is still being used at present. It is well out of date. The proposal is to update it to be more in keeping with 2008. Please take a few moments to read through and send in your comments. You can vote at the Annual General Meeting on 7th January 2008.

Items in red are the alterations and new proposals.

Brian.

Extract from Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1951
PROPOSED RULES OF THE CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

CYMDEITHAS GWENYNWYR SIR GAERFYDDIN CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION AND RULES

TITLE: ---

The name of the Association shall be 'The Carmarthenshire Beekeepers' Association, herein referred to as 'The Association.'

OBJECTS: ---

- (a) To encourage, and advance beekeeping in the County in the most recent and scientific principles.
- (b) The promotion of friendly co-operation, and the interchange of knowledge among beekeepers of the County, and other Beekeeping Associations.
- (c) The Council shall hold exhibitions of Bees, Hives, Honey at such times as they may deem suitable in the interest of the Association and its objects. It shall adopt such measures as it believes most conducive to extend and improve a knowledge of Practical Beekeeping, and the most efficient preparation, and use of Bee Produce throughout the County.

CONSTITUTION: ---

The Association shall consist of President, Vice-Presidents, Patrons, Life Members, and Members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: ---

- (a) Donors of Five Pounds (x 50 =£250) and upwards shall be Life Members to be elected by the Council, and shall be entitled to the benefits of an Annual Member.
- (b) Annual Subscribers of one guinea (As membership is now £20 a suggested figure x 50 =£50 would be more suitable) or more shall be Vice Presidents.
- (c) Annual subscriptions for members of the Association shall be fixed by the Council, and shall be submitted to the Annual General Meeting for its approval.
- (d) Local Branch subscriptions shall be arranged by each individual branch. All subscriptions shall be payable in advance, and shall become due on the 1st of January, in each year, and until such subscriptions be paid, no members shall be entitled to the privileges of the Association.

MANAGEMENT: ---

- (a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held as early as possible in the year, at which there shall be elected a President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be ex-officio members of the Council. It shall also elect its Chairman, Vice-Chairman and delegates to the Welsh Beekeepers Association.
- (b) The management of the Association shall be vested in the Council, five to form a Quorum, consisting of the Hon. Secretary, and Treasurer. (DELETE) the Local Secretaries together with one representative from each branch for the first fifteen members, or part of fifteen, and an additional one for each succeeding fifteen members, or part thereof. and (ADD) Chairman and at least another two committee members.

- (b)The Council shall submit an Annual Report and Statement of Accounts to the Annual General Meeting, and the Secretary shall cause a copy thereof to be sent to each member of the Association, together with the Agenda of the business to be transacted at the Annual General Meeting including any proposed alteration of the Rules at least six days prior to such meeting.
- (c)The Council shall be responsible for the policy, conduct and management of the Association, and shall control the Association's Finances, Insurances and Affiliations. It shall maintain its active co-operation with the Carmarthenshire Local Education Authority. It shall also co-operate with the **Carmarthenshire Agricultural Executive Committee (Substitute Welsh Assembly)** in carrying out the provisions of the Foul Brood Diseases of Bees Order, 1942.
- (d)The Council shall meet at least three times in a year, and at such times as may be deemed necessary by the Chairman and Secretary. The travelling expenses of Council Members, or any Sub-Committee appointed by the Council, shall be paid by the Association, if claimed. It shall not exceed bus, or third class railway fare.
- (e)All propositions at any meeting shall be disposed of by a show of hands, but a ballot may be demanded by any three members present.

GENERAL: ---

- (a)All monies and effects shall be the property of the Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association.
- (b)The Council shall be empowered to decline the application of any person for membership.
- (c)The Council's decision on all matters shall be final, and binding.

A TRIBUTE TO EVA CRANE

Authority on beekeeping who founded the International Bee Research Association and advised on practices worldwide

Eva Crane was a towering figure in the field of beekeeping, one of its most knowledgeable practitioners and prolific historians, and a powerful champion of bees as a scientific subject. Her career in the field began when she was given a hive as a wedding present in 1942; she became interested not in the bees themselves but in, as she put it, "how they worked. . . how different peoples have kept bees, which bees and why, and why they keep them in the hives they do".

Unable to find anything much of use in the way of articles she became a member and secretary of the British Beekeepers Association research subcommittee, and in 1949 founded the Bee Research Association (a charity, renamed the International Bee Research Association in 1976). She was its director until she retired in 1984, by which time it had become a key resource in bee research, primarily through its journals.

Crane never lost her hunger for "exciting bee things", travelling all over the world in search of them, and she produced numerous books admired for their encyclopaedic and authoritative treatment of their subject matter.

Ethel Eva Widdowson was born in 1912 and grew up in Dulwich. She was educated at Sydenham Secondary School in Kent and King's College London, where she read maths, one of only two women. After completing her degree two years later she took an MSc in quantum mechanics, and was awarded a PhD in nuclear physics from London University in 1938. She was appointed lecturer in physics at the University of Sheffield in 1941.



Crane was keen to draw attention to the very great potential of beekeeping in the tropics, and from the beginning her research association, whose mission is to "increase awareness of the vital role of bees in the environment and to encourage the use of bees as wealth creators", was international in outlook.

Crane became editor of the nontechnical magazine *Bee World* in 1949 and expanded its content to include summaries of scientific papers and books relevant to the science of bees and beekeeping. When it became clear that an entirely new platform for such content was desirable she founded *The Journal of Apicultural Research*. In 1950 she also founded *Apicultural Abstracts*, which aimed to give a complete survey of research and technical developments concerning all bees and bee-related subjects.

Crane began to travel all over the world, lecturing and advising governments on beekeeping practices (but, by her own account, learning much more than she taught). She visited, among many countries, Vietnam, Nepal, Uganda, Egypt, Malaysia and Russia, observing along the way that “this curious passion for a small insect can transcend barriers of politics, race and language, and bring strangers together as friends”. Her many discoveries included, in the Upper Indus Valley in Pakistan, the use of horizontal hives exactly like ones discovered in excavations of Ancient Greece.

By the early 1960s the association was communicating with more than 400 research institutes worldwide, and producing material exported to 80 countries. Crane was an impressive figurehead who, as one journalist observed, could “quote Herodotus or apicultural research figures with equal ease”. After an appeal in 1961 for £25,000 the association was moved in 1966 from Crane’s house to new headquarters in Chalfont St Peter. In 1985 it was moved again, to Cardiff.

Crane established the Eva Crane Trust to advance the science of apiology and encourage bee research for the public benefit, and the Eva Crane Library, now held at the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth, holds about 60,000 scientific papers and a unique collection of 130 different bee journals, many of them dating back to their first issues in the 19th century and in some cases representing the only complete sets in existence.

Crane was fanatical about accuracy and contributed more than once to discussions in The Times (adding in a letter of 1953 that “A most intriguing report has come, via Argentina, of a new wartime use for bees – it is stated that the Japanese used them as messengers for carrying microscopic documents across Russian lines. How this was done I have not been able to discover: it is possible in theory but would present many difficulties in practice”).



Crane produced more than 180 scientific papers, articles and books on bees, honey and beekeeping; her books include Honey: a Comprehensive Survey (1975), A Book of Honey (1980), The Archaeology of Beekeeping (1983), Bees and Beekeeping: Science, Practice and World Resources(1990) , The World History of Beekeeping and Honey Hunting (1999) and, a book about her travels, Making a Bee-Line (2003).

They embrace all eras and peoples, from Aristotle, who wrote that honey “falls from the air principally at the rising of the stars and when a rainbow rests upon the earth”, to Arthur Dobbs of Carrickfergus, Co Antrim, who discovered the important role bees play in pollination, to the British troops in East Africa who left trip wires in the jungle so that log hives of bees would fall on the Germans.

In 1986 Crane was made the honorary life president of the International Bee Research Association, and the same year she was appointed OBE.

Crane’s husband died in 1978.

Eva Crane, OBE, authority on beekeeping, was born on June 12, 1912. She died on September 6, 2007, aged 95

From The Times Online
September 15, 2007

**CARMARTHENSHIRE BEEKEEPERS
WEBSITE ADDRESS IS
www.carmarthenshirebeekeepers.org.uk**



Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Carmarthenshire Beekeepers Association's committee. Whilst every effort is taken in compiling the contents to ensure they are correct and accurate the club assumes no responsibility for any effect from errors or omissions.
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Archeologists find 3,000-year-old beehives in ancient city's ruins in Northern Israel.

Article by the Associated Press

Archeologists digging in northern Israel have discovered evidence of a 3,000-year-old beekeeping industry, including remnants of ancient honeycombs, beeswax and what they believe are the oldest intact beehives ever found.

The findings in the ruins of the city of Rehov include 30 intact hives dating to around 900 B.C.E., archaeologist Amihai Mazar of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem told The Associated Press. He said it offers unique evidence that an advanced honey industry existed in the Holy Land at the time of the Bible.

Beekeeping was widely practiced in the ancient world, where honey used for medicinal and religious purposes as well as for food, and beeswax was used to make molds for metal and to create surfaces to write on. While portrayals of bees and beekeeping are known in ancient artwork, nothing similar to the Rehov hives has ever been found before, Mazar said.

The beehives, made of straw and unbaked clay, have a hole at one end to allow the bees in and out and a lid on the other end to allow beekeepers access to the honeycombs inside. They were found in orderly rows, three high, in a room that could have accommodated around 100 hives, Mazar said.

The Bible repeatedly refers to Israel as a land of milk and honey, but that's believed to refer to honey made from dates and figs - there is no mention of honeybee cultivation. But the new find shows that the Holy Land was home to a highly developed beekeeping industry nearly 3,000 years ago.

"You can tell that this was an organized industry, part of an organized economy, in an ultra-organized city," Mazar said.

At the time the beehives were in use, Mazar believes Rehov had around 2,000 residents, a mix of Israelites, Canaanites and others.

Ezra Marcus, an expert on the ancient Mediterranean world at Haifa University, said the finding was a unique glimpse into ancient beekeeping. Marcus was not involved in the Rehov excavation. "We have seen depictions of beekeeping in texts and ancient art from the Near East, but this is the first time we've been able to actually feel and see the industry," Marcus said.

The finding is especially unique, Marcus said, because of its location in the middle of a thriving city - a strange place for thousands of bees.

"This might have been because the city's ruler wanted the industry under his control," Marcus said, or because the beekeeping industry was linked to

residents' religious practices, as might be indicated by an altar decorated with fertility figurines that archaeologists found alongside the hives.

ScienceDaily (Sep. 5, 2007) — Archaeological proof of the Biblical description of Israel really as "the land of milk and honey" (or at least the latter) has been uncovered by researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Institute of Archaeology.

Amihai Mazar, Eleazar L. Sukenik Professor of Archaeology at the Hebrew University, revealed that the first apiary (beehive colony) dating from the Biblical period has been found in excavations he directed this summer at Tel Rehov in Israel's Beth Shean Valley. This is the earliest apiary to be revealed to date in an archaeological excavation anywhere in the ancient Near East, said Prof. Mazar. It dates from the 10th to early 9th centuries B.C.E.

Tel Rehov is believed to have been one of the most important cities of Israel during the Israelite monarchy. The beehives there were found in the center of a built-up area there that has been excavated since 1997 by Dr. Nava Panitz-Cohen of the Hebrew University. Three rows of beehives were found in the apiary, containing more than 30 hives. It is estimated, however, based on excavations to date, that in all the total area would have contained some 100 beehives.

Each row contained at least three tiers of hives, each of which is a cylinder composed of unbaked clay and dry straw, around 80 centimeters long and 40 centimeters in diameter.

One end of the cylinder was closed and had a small hole in it, which allowed for the entry and exit of the bees. The opposite end was covered with a clay lid that could be removed when the beekeeper extracted the honeycombs. Experienced beekeepers and scholars who visited the site estimated that as much as half a ton of honey could be culled each year from these hives.

Prof. Mazar emphasizes the uniqueness of this latest find by pointing out that actual beehives have never been discovered at any site in the ancient Near East. While fired ceramic vessels that served as beehives are known in the Hellenistic and Roman periods, none were found in situ, and beekeeping on an industrial level such as the apiary at Tel Rehov is hitherto unknown in the archaeological record. Pictorial depictions of apiaries are known from Pharaonic Egypt, showing extraction of honey from stacked cylinders which are very similar to those found at Tel Rehov.

Cylindrical clay beehives placed in horizontal rows, similar to those found at Tel Rehov, are well-known in numerous contemporary traditional cultures in Arab villages in Israel, as well as throughout the

Mediterranean. The various products of beehives are put to diverse use: the honey is, of course, a delicacy, but is also known for its medicinal and cultic value. Beeswax was also utilized in the metal and leather industries, as well as for writing material when coated on wooden tablets.

The term "honey" appears 55 times in the Bible, 16 of which as part of the image of Israel as "the land of milk and honey". It is commonly believed that the term refers to honey produced from fruits such as dates and figs. Bees' honey, on the other hand, is mentioned explicitly only twice, both related to wild bees. The first instance is how Samson culled bees' honey from inside the corpse of the lion in the Soreq Valley (Judges 14: 8-9). The second case is the story of Jonathan, King Saul's son, who dipped his hand into a honeycomb during the battle of Mikhmas (Samuel I 14:27).

While the Bible tells us nothing about beekeeping in Israel at that time, the discovery of the apiary at Tel Rehov indicates that beekeeping and the extraction of bees' honey and honeycomb was a highly developed industry as early as the First Temple period. Thus, it is possible that the term "honey" in the Bible indeed pertains to bees' honey.

Cultic objects were also found in the apiary, including a four-horned altar adorned with figures of naked fertility goddesses, as well as an elaborately painted chalice. This could be evidence of deviant cultic practices by the ancient Israelites related to the production of honey and beeswax.

Study of the beehives found at Tel Rehov is being conducted with the participation of various researchers. Dr. Guy Bloch of the Silberman Institute of Life Sciences of the Hebrew University is studying the biological aspects of the finds; he already discovered parts of bees' bodies in the remains of honeycomb extracted from inside the hives. Dr. Dvori Namdar of the Weizmann Institute of Science succeeded in identifying beeswax molecules from the walls of the beehives, and Prof. Mina Evron from Haifa University is analyzing the pollen remains in the hives.

Dating of the beehives was done by measuring the decaying of the ¹⁴C isotope in organic materials, using grains of wheat found next to the beehives. This grain was dated at the laboratory of Groningen University in Holland to the period between the mid-10th century B.C.E. until the early 9th century B.C.E. This is the time period attributed to the reign of King Solomon and the first kings of the northern Kingdom of Israel following the division of the monarchy. The city of Rehov is indeed mentioned in an Egyptian inscription dating to the time of the Pharaoh Shoshenq I (Biblical Shishak), whom the Bible notes as the contemporary of King Solomon and who invaded Israel following that monarch's death.

A particularly fascinating find at the site is an inscription on a ceramic storage jar found near the beehives that reads "To nmsh". This name was also found inscribed on another storage jar from a slightly later occupation level at Tel Rehov, dated to the time of the Omride Dynasty in the 9th century BCE. Moreover, this same name was found on a contemporary jar from nearby Tel Amal, situated in the Gan HaShelosh National Park (Sachne).

The name "Nimshi" is known in the Bible as the name of the father and in several verses the grandfather of Israelite King Jehu, the founder of the dynasty that usurped power from the Omrides (II Kings: 9-12). It is possible that the discovery of three inscriptions bearing this name in the same region and dating to the same period indicates that Jehu's family originated from the Beth Shean Valley and possibly even from the large city located at Tel Rehov. The large apiary discovered at the site might have belonged to this illustrious local clan.

The excavations at Tel Rehov were supported by John Camp from Minneapolis in the U.S. with the participation of archaeological students from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and numerous volunteers.

Adapted from materials provided by [The Hebrew University of Jerusalem](http://www.hebrewu.edu).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 7th January 2008 Annual General Meeting. 7.30 p.m. The New Stags Head, Carmarthen. (Any enquiries phone me 01267 267318 Brian)

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. MINUTES OF 2007 AGM
3. MATTERS ARISING
4. REPORTS:
 - CHAIRMAN
 - TREASURER
 - SECRETARY
 - APIARY MANAGER
5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
 - CHAIRMAN
 - TREASURER
 - SECRETARY
 - MINUTES SECRETARY
 - APIARY MANAGER
 - LIBRARIAN
 - COMMITTEE MEMBERS
6. PROGRAMME FOR 2008
7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
8. CHAIRMAN CLOSE MEETING