



Bees in America: How the Honey Bee Shaped a Nation by Tammy Horn

Review by: Melissa Aho

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been leading toward. Perhaps the discussion would be better condensed and moved to a footnote in the interest of maintaining the momentum of his main arguments. Linder fully redeems himself, however, with a brief but effective postscript that succinctly ties together the varied themes of his discussion while providing a clever conclusion.

In terms of his audience, Linder certainly assumes a level of familiarity with the topics discussed and in fact, the book is clearly pointed toward graduate level art history and architecture students. There is little, if any, introduction given to the methodological techniques utilized by Greenberg, Fried and others in their criticism and rightfully so. Had Linder stopped to provide this information to his readers his work would have suffered from too much information. As it is, his exploration of such a critical and complex moment in art history is made as concise and clear-cut as it could have been presented. Linder's very treatment of this theory is due to other critics smoothing over or greatly simplifying the episode, which has resulted in a downplaying of architecture's role in minimalist art. Through intelligent and persuasive discourse, Linder manages successfully once and for all to lend architecture proper credit for the role it plays in minimalist art of the 1960s and art in general after that decade.

Angie McKinley works as a program assistant for a non-profit art gallery in northeast Wisconsin. She received a Master of Arts degree in art history from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN, with an emphasis on architectural history. Angie has been a speaker at numerous academic conferences and invited lectures throughout the country.

Bees in America:

How the Honey Bee Shaped a Nation.

By Tammy Horn

Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2005. xiv + 333pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, and index. \$27.50 (cloth), ISBN 0-8131-2350-X.

Reviewed for PAS by Melissa Aho, mkaho@stthomas.edu, Metropolitan State University, St. Paul, MN 55106

A beautiful book! A honey of a read! *Bees in America: How the Honey Bee Shaped a Nation* by Tammy Horn is a delightful and fascinating look into the culture, history, economics, and sociology of the honey bee in the United States. Starting with the colonization of the New World and ending with the globalization in the twenty-first century, Horn mixes in historical fact with stories of noteworthy bee keepers, bee inventions, bee disease, and the ever-changing face of the bee-business industry. She also pollinates her chapters with honey bee references from popular culture: including songs, poetry, books, magazines, advertisements, art, television, and movies. After reading this book you will never look at the little honey bee the same way again and it might even inspire you to start a hive or two of your own.

Bees in America is broken into four main parts, starting with Part One, "Hiving Off From Europe," which covers the Introduction and Chapter One. Horn begins by discussing why one should read this honey bee book when there are so many good ones already out there. She explains that her view on the honey bee comes from "examining the values associated with being an American... . No two values have been so highly regarded since colonial days as industry and thrift. No better symbol represents these values than the honey bee" (p.3). She gives the reader a compelling argument and draws one into further reading. The Introduction discusses the early cultural use and adaptation of the honey bee as a symbol of thrift by the English clergy and politicians, the great book on the "drone" male honey bee and the role of the queen bee discovered by Queen Elizabeth I of England's beekeeper Charles Butler, and English societies' first usage of the term "drone" to refer to the poor. In Chapter One we read about the importation of various honey bees into the colonies (as the honey bee is not native to the New World) and what an important aspect honey was in the lives of these early settlers. Horn also examines the history of slaves in the colonies and their working of honey bees in Africa, and what the Native American populations thought about this new food source. Initially, the Native American populations viewed the honey bee as a sign of the coming of the white European settlers and only later did they use honey as part of their diet and trade.

Part Two, "Establishing a New Colony," includes only Chapter Two, but there is a plethora of honey bee history. This chapter discusses the evolving role of the honey bee in American society, wax in candles for religious ceremonies, the new immigrant's usage of the honey bee and straw skeps, and the role of the honey bee during the American Revolution including their use as a symbol of political stability on Continental money.

Part Three, "Swarming West during the Nineteenth Century," consists of two of the most important chapters in the book (Chapters Three and Four), and covers almost 100 years (from 1801 to 1900) of honey-bee growth and innovation. This section is essential because during this time period four of the most significant discoveries in beekeeping occurred: the moveable frame hive, the wax comb foundation, the centrifugal honey extractor, and the bellows smoker. All four of these discoveries made beekeeping more practical, healthier, economical, safer, and also helped "transform beekeeping from a cottage industry into a major commercial industry" (p.140).

Finally, Part Four, "Requeening a Global Hive," covers Chapters Five, Six and the Epilogue. These chapters discuss the Depression, World Wars I and II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, Industrialization, and Globalization. They also explain how beekeeping became more industrialized with migratory hives moving across the country, the spread of bee diseases like foulbrood and mites, current scientific research, and the popular media hysteria over the African Honey Bee (a very misunderstood bee).

Horn is very good at telling the story of the honey bee in the United States, but she excels when describing the people who care for and raise these little critters. She does a wonderful job of including all levels of society in the history

of honey bees in America: from the new immigrants of the past and today, the legendary bee hunters, the African Americans and Native Americans, religious organizations like the Mormons, the American government and the use of bees and their products in times of war and peace, to women writing articles for bee magazines and working in the bee wax factories, migratory beekeepers trying to earn a living, and scientists researching honey bees in the United States and other countries to find a cure for some horrible bee diseases. The honey bee has affected all aspects of the American culture, even before there was an America. Hopefully they will continue to do so far into the future.

Bees in America is well researched and is a thoroughly enjoyable book. It includes extensive notes, a glossary, dramatis personae, bibliography, and index. The book is also beautifully illustrated with drawings and photographs of bees, skeps and hives, and bee people. I recommended it highly for undergraduate and graduates and all libraries.

Melissa Aho is currently working on her third master's degree, this one in Art History, at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN. She is also a Reference Librarian at Metropolitan State University, St. Paul, MN.



Huck's Raft:

A History of American Childhood.

By Steven Mintz

Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2004. xiv + 445pp. Illustrations, notes, and index. \$29.95 (cloth), ISBN 0-674-01508-8

Reviewed for PAS by Abigail A. Van Slyck, aavan@conncoll.edu, Department of Art History and Architectural Studies, Connecticut College, New London, CT, 06320

Huck's Raft is an ambitious undertaking – a comprehensive history of American childhood that builds upon and synthesizes the insights of some two decades of research in the field. While the quantity of recent scholarship is impressive, these studies have also brought about fundamental changes in how historians of childhood conceptualize the topic. Collectively they have confirmed the extent to which a child's social location – determined by class, race, gender, and often religion – affected the experience of being young; no longer is it valid for historians to treat Victorian middle-class notions of a protected childhood as somehow normative. These studies have also revealed the sometimes sizable gap between prescriptive literature and lived experience, making it imperative to recapture children's own perceptions of their interactions with their peers, parents, and other adults. More recently, children's historians have begun to suggest that youngsters