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An inter-disciplinary journal

Volume 35, 2006 - Issue 8

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Book Review

A Review of: "Tammy Horn. *Bees in America: How the Honey Bee Shaped a Nation*. Lexington: The U of Kentucky P, 2005"

CATHY CORDER

Pages 783-785 | Published online: 22 Nov 2006

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/00497870600945667>

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BOOK REVIEW

Tammy Horn. *Bees in America: How the Honey Bee Shaped a Nation*.
Lexington: The U of Kentucky P, 2005.

BY CATHY CORDER

Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, California

In her wide-ranging examination of the role of the honey bee (together with beekeeping and honey hunting) in American society, Tammy Horn looks at American history from initial colonization and western migration to modern bee genetics. Her stated goal is to look at the honey bee, which represents not only the “American” values of industry and thrift, but also the well-structured, efficient American society. She sees the image of the honey bee as being historically pervasive throughout America’s diverse ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic groups, who would all recognize the moral behind the child’s verse: “Bee was a Bee that looked well to his hive, /And only by industry labored to thrive, /A wholesome example for you and to me/May even be found in the neat busy bee.”

Horn covers the role of the honey bee in American history



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