Women's Studies ›
An inter-disciplinary journal
Volume 35, 2006 - Issue 8

57 Views | 0 CrossRef citations to date | 0 Altmetric

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

Sample our Politics & International Relations Journals
>> Sign in here to start your access to the latest two volumes for 14 days

Full Article Figures & data Citations Metrics Reprints & Permissions

Read this article Share

Click to increase image size

Women's Studies, 35:783–785, 2006
Copyright © Taylor & Francis Group, LLC
ISSN: 0049-7878 print / 1547-7045 online
DOI: 10.1080/00497870600945667

Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

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 from early colonization, through western migration, wars, and economic depressions; in the folkways of English, Irish, German, Dutch, and Swedish settlers; in the religious tenets of such groups as the Mormons, Moravians, and Shakers; and in the utopian beliefs of the Icarians and the Harmonists. She begins her study in England at the time of the Virginia and Massachusetts settlements. The earliest printed book on bees in English, Charles Butler's *The Feminine Monarchie* (1609), represented bees as a proper model for statecraft and noted the role of the queen as the ruler of the hive. Importantly, Butler described the drones of the hive as idle, noncontributing members of bee society. Much of the propaganda for colonization borrowed that language, urging the

Address correspondence to Cathy Corder. E-mail: corder@hmc.edu

Log in via your institution

Access through your institution

Log in to Taylor & Francis Online

Log in

Restore content access

Restore content access for purchases made as guest

Purchase options *

Save for later

PDF download + Online access

- 48 hours access to article PDF & online version
- Article PDF can be downloaded
- Article PDF can be printed

EUR 48.00

Add to cart

Issue Purchase

- 30 days online access to complete issue
- Article PDFs can be downloaded
- Article PDFs can be printed

EUR 253.00

Add to cart

* Local tax will be added as applicable

Related Research

People also read | Recommended articles | Cited by

Book Reviews: Geraldine Brooks. March. New York: Viking Books, 2005. William Martin. Harvard Yard. New York: Warner Books, 2004.

JUDITH STRONG ALBERT
Women's Studies
Published online: 22 Aug 2006

Adrienne Rich and the Women's Liberation Movement: A Politics of Reception

Susan Sheridan
Women's Studies
Published online: 20 Aug 2006

Recent Publications >

Women's Studies
Published online: 20 Aug 2006

View more

Information for

- Authors
- R&D professionals
- Editors
- Librarians
- Societies

Open access

- Overview
- Open journals
- Open Select
- Dove Medical Press
- F1000Research

Opportunities

- Reprints and e-prints
- Advertising solutions
- Accelerated publication
- Corporate access solutions

Help and information

- Help and contact
- Newsroom
- All journals
- Books

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email

Sign me up

Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited Privacy policy

Cookies Terms & conditions Accessibility

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG

Taylor & Francis by informa