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世界の養蜂とハチミツ生産

E. Crane

歴史的背景

世界各地を旅行し,また,養蜂家とともに過 ごしてきた多年の体験をもとに世界の養蜂の状 況を私なりに述べてみたい.

最初に過去の養蜂とそこで用いられたミツバ チについての概観からはじめたい.私は人間が 人間として存在した大昔から、ミツを求めてミ ツバチの巣を手に入れたのだと思う.なぜなら、 高等な霊長類が同じことをするからである.採 蜜 (honey hunting, 蜜猟) のもっとも古い記録 は紀元前7000年頃にさかのぼるもので、東スペ インの洞窟壁画にみることができる. アフリカ にも似たような絵画のいくつかが岩板に残され ている. ヨーロッパとアフリカのハチはセイヨ ウミツバチ Apis mellifera であるが, インド の岩に描かれた一枚巣板からの採蜜の絵は、そ れがオオミツバチ Apis dorsata であることを 示している. トウヨウミツバチ Apis cerana でそのような古い記録があるか否かについて私 は知らない.

巣箱を用いての養蜂の最古の記録は紀元前約 2500年のものでエジプトの寺院に残り,円筒形 の横長の巣箱を使っていたようである.エジプ トの墓でも似たようなものが発見されており,

一つは紀元前1500年,一つは紀元前600年のもの である.古代エジプトに起った養蜂の技術は,古 代クレタ文明やギリシャ文明に広まったと思わ れる.ギリシャでは2000年も前に使われたとい う粘土の横長型の巣箱が発掘された.これは今 なおギリシャの離れ小島 Antiparos 島で使わ れているものに似ている.古代ローマの書物で は多くの横長型の巣箱についての記述があり,



図 1 紀元前7000年と思われる東スペインの洞窟 壁画 ハニー・ハンティングの様子を示し ている



図 2 ギリシャで撮影したトップ・バー式の古典 的巣箱

そこでの養蜂はかなりのレベルに達していたも のと考えられる.このように、初期の養蜂家は ハチを殺すことなしに採蜜していた.養蜂の知 識は、その後文化の伝搬に伴い南ヨーロッパや 北アフリカのエジプト西方やサハラ砂漠の南方 にあるナイル川上流へと広まっていった.

中世前後では北ヨーロッパの森林地帯に違っ たタイプの養蜂が広まった.そこでは木の空洞 が巣として利用されていた.ある地域では,ハ チを殺すことなしに採蜜するということで他地 域よりも熟練していた.セイヨウミツバチの群 では女王蜂が死んでも卵や若い幼虫があれば, 次世代の女王蜂を育てることができる.森林 の養蜂家達は,ハチが営巣した多くの木を所有 し,それらは広い範囲で散在していた。

やがて養蜂家は木に長い扉をつけるようにな り、いっそう簡単に巣を見ることができるよう に改良した.後に木の空洞が足りなくなったり, 養蜂家が使うものが限られたときには、中空の 丸太が幹の高いところに取り付けられ、分蜂群 の収容に用いられた.やがてこのような丸太は 地上に集団で設置されるようになり、養蜂場が できたのである.

この森林タイプの養蜂は広くポーランドとド イツ西方,それにロシアからバルト海方面へと 広がった.これらの森林養蜂地帯とは別に,西 ヨーロッパでは,かご状の巣箱が使われ,丸太 の巣箱のように下方に入口が付けられた.これ らの巣箱はイギリスを含む西方へと伝わってい った.それらは初め曲がりやすい小枝で編んで あったが,後にコイル状のワラで作られたかご にかわった.2000年も前に使われたという丸太 や小枝の巣箱はドイツの泥炭地でも発掘されて いる.

地中海を除くアジアの地域では,ハチはセイ ヨウミツバチではなくてトウヨウミツバチ A. cerana である.この蜂は小さく,熱帯の低地 では最も小さい.しかし高山や高緯度地方にな るといくらか大きいものもあり,ヒマラヤ地方 のそれはセイヨウミツバチと同じくらいの大き さになる.トウヨウミツバチ生息範囲はアジア 全域にまたがり,朝鮮,ソ連の東方,北海道を除 く日本にも分布するが,北方への広がりはヒマ ラヤ山脈や砂漠によって妨げられてしまった.

私は,熱帯アジアでいちはやく"養蜂"が発展したという証拠はもっていない.ハチミツは, 古代の書物にでてくるが,それは野生の巣から のものでありうる.巣箱を用いた養蜂の日本に おける最古の記録は私の知る限りでは紀元643 年である.

新世界, つまり, アメリカ,オーストラリア, ニュージーランドにはもともとミツバチは生息 していなかった. ここでの養蜂は1600年以降, ヨーロッパからの植民者によってセイヨウミツ バチが導入されてから始まった.

ヨーロッパの養蜂

西ヨーロッパは養蜂の歴史も古く,そこでは ハチも大変尊ばれていた.ブドウ酒がブドウか らつくられる以前に,ハチミツを発酵させたミ ード(ハチミツ酒)が作られた.これを飲むと 不思議と進弁になると信じられていた.ハチミ ツは人々の食物の中で重要であった.キリスト 生誕後の2000年の間は,ハチを敬うことがおお いに広がった.なぜなら,ミツロウが教会のろ うそくに大いに役立ったからである.

しかし残念なことに、ヨーロッパの巣箱一丸 太やかご一ではハチを扱うことは 因難 であっ た.せまい扉がついた丸太の巣では、ハチをま ったく殺すことなく採蜜することはむずかしか った.これを解決するために1600年代になされ た多くの努力と考案およびその限界というもの が、今日の可動式巣枠の発明への道を切り開い たと思われる.



図3 オーストラリアのユーカリ林の中の移動養 蜂 養蜂家は大型トレーラーで生活する



図 4 オーストラリアの機械化専用の6連巣箱 採蜜時にはそのまま移動する

北アメリカでの発展

ヨーロッパから北アメリカへ導入された養蜂 は、豊かな蜜源植物にささえられて大いに発展 していった、 養蜂がしっかりした経済基盤をも つようになると, ハチをよりうまく扱えるよう な機能的な巣箱をつくろうという機運が高ま り、ついに1851年にアメリカ合衆国において成 功をみるに至った. これが L. L. Langstroth の"可動式巣枠"の発明である。1853年、彼は "Langstroth on the hive and the honeybee"を著し、その使い方を説明した.彼の巣 箱が今日の世界の養蜂技術の基礎となったわけ である.機械化を伴う近代養蜂技術の多くが北 アメリカで開発された.このことは、そこに住 む人々の偉大なる発明欲と機能性を重視する態 度のたまものであり、また北アメリカがハチミ ツ生産に適し,高い経済性をもっていたことを 物語っている.

オーストラリア・ニュージーランド そして太平洋岸地域

1800年代,イギリスからの移民はオーストラ リアやニュージーランドへミツバチを導入し た.ハチはここでも繁栄し,オーストラリアで は,北アメリカを越す生産力となった.ユーカ リ樹の多くの種は年中流蜜した.移動性の養蜂 は,このユーカリを有効に使うことが必要であ り,養蜂家は,最近では採蜜道具を持って自動 車で,ハチを移動させてはかん木の中でキャン プしている.

ニュージーランドには原種のユーカリの樹は なく、ハチミツ生産はオーストラリアほどでは ない.しかしハチミツはよりまろやかで、色も 明るく、どちらかといえば、イギリスのハチミツ に似ており、市場では人気があった、ニュージー ランドには中程度の規模でハチを扱えるように 改良した実用的アイディアがたくさんある.

太平洋諸島では世界のどの地域よりも長い間 ミツバチがいなかった.ここでは大陸で広く伝 わっている病気もいないわけで養蜂上新しい意 迷がある.そこでは伝染性の病気やミツバチへ



図 5 メキシコのユカタン半島でみられた木をく りぬいて作られたハリナシバチ用の蜂洞

ギイタダニの影響を心配せずに女王の人工飼育 ができる.

中南米における養蜂

中南米へのミッバチの導入は比較的おそく, キューバが1763年,ブラジルが1857年である. しかし,原住民であるマヤインディアンはこれ 以前に,何百年もの間,ハチを保護していた.熱 帯性ハリナシバチ類の Melipona と Trigona である.これらの群はミッバチより小さく,巣 は規則的構造をとっていない.これらのハチに よる養蜂の伝統は仲々たいしたもので,ハチミ ッとミッロウは大変価値のあるものとされてい た.

セイヨウミツバチの導入以降,養蜂は大いに 発展したがハチミツのほとんどは輸出され,メ キシコやアルゼンチンは,中国に次ぐ重要なハ チミツ輸出国となった.中南米では,ハチミツ 生産は収入の少ない人々の自家用というよりは 現金収入のための商業的色彩が濃い.

1956年,熱帯アフリカ産の Apis mellifera がブラジルに導入され,その子孫は中南米の熱 帯,亜熱帯地方へと広まっていった.このアフリ カ産のハチは,それ以前に導入されていたセイ ヨウミツバチよりもよく熱帯性の環境に慣れ た.彼らの攻撃的性格と強い分蜂癖は多くの問 題をひきおこしたが,ハチミツ生産は高められ ている.

アフリカの場合

話をミツバチの原産地である旧世界に戻そ



図 6 乾期のメキシコの蜂場 各巣箱には日よけ が置いてある

う.サハラ南方には Apis mellifera のさまざ まな熱帯性生態型が生息している.ここでは, 丸太と樹皮やその他のものを使った横長の巣箱 による養蜂の伝統がある.巣箱はアリなどの外 敵から守るために木の上にぶらさげられ,特に アナグマが巣箱をさいて中味をこわしてしまう ことがないように考慮されている.多くの地域 では,発酵によってハチミツはハニービールに 変えられている.ミツロウの生産も重要であ り,伝統的巣箱では100kgのハチミツあたり, 約8kgとれる.近代の巣箱では,ロウは蜜ぶた のみからつくられるので,100kgのハチミツに つき1.5kg位しかとれない.第2次世界大戦前 には,熱帯アフリカが世界のミツロウのほとん どを生産していた.

熱帯アフリカバチの高い攻撃性は蜂群の管理 をむずかしいものにしている.可動式巣枠を使 った養蜂は南アフリカと,他の2,3の地域で 行われているにすぎない.東アフリカではいく つかの養蜂開発プログラムが進行中で,中間的 な巣箱をみることができる.これらは,それぞ れの地方でつくられる伝統的巣箱と近代的可動 式巣箱のまさに技術的中間型のものである.特 に,巣枠の部分がトップ・バーしかない巣板可 動式巣箱は重要である.そこでは巣板はすべて トップ・バーの下にぶら下がる形となり,トッ プ・バーは充分巾広く上面を埋めつくしている ので,ハチは,トップ・バーをとり上げるとき を除けば,巣から逃げることもできなければ, 刺すこともできない.アフリカはまだハチミツ 生産に関して未開発で,これからが期待される が,同じことは熱帯アジアについてもいえる.

アジアでの養蜂

熱帯アジアのいたる所で,古代からハチミツ を採っており,とくにオオミツバチからの収量 は多い.しかし,熱帯アジアには熱帯アフリカ にあったような養蜂の伝統はないし,ハチミツ の消費量も多くない.ヨーロッパ人がごく一部 で試験的に行ったほかには,ほとんどの地域で 養蜂は第2次大戦以前は行われていなかった.

今ではインドでは巣枠を使ったトウヨウミツ バチ養蜂がかなり普及している.

最近ではセイヨウミツバチがいくつかの地域 に導入され,競争が起きるほどである.一般的 に,蜜源植物が広範囲に栽培されているような 地域では,トウヨウミツバチよりセイヨウミツ バチの方が生産性が高い.逆に在来種のトウヨ



図7 どう猛なハチの管理のために工夫されたケ ニャトップ・バーハイブ この巣箱の場合, スチールの缶の廃物を利用しているものと 思われる

ウミツバチは野生の蜜源植物に強味を発揮する.

もともと温帯産の導入セイヨウミツバチは熱帯よりも亜熱帯または温帯アジアで活躍している.たとえば中国の高いハチミツ生産をささえているのもセイヨウミツバチであり,それらは 第2次世界大戦後に広まった.中国は1955年までハチミツを輸出することはなかったが,今で は世界一の輸出国である.

台湾の養蜂も戦後著しい発達をみ,セイヨウ ミツバチがトウヨウミツバチにとってかわっ た.台湾では蜜源の縮少に伴い,ローヤル・ゼ リーの生産が盛んになったが,これには近くに 日本というマーケットがあることも関係してい る.

セイヨウミツバチは日本でもハチミツ生産の 基盤となっている.養蜂は岐阜で1910年にはじ まった. Apis cerana は九州,本州,四国の 高原地帯や,対馬で今でも飼われている.

中国が世界最大のハチミツ輸出国になったように、日本は世界有数のハチミツ輸入国となった。日本は1981年まではヨーロッパの伝統的ハチミツ消費国である西ドイツに次いで2位であった。日本では北アメリカのように、まろやかであっさりしたものが好まれている。

ソビエトの養蜂

この広大な国はアジアやヨーロッパの一部に までまたがる.ハチミツ生産が大きいところは 日本に近い東部地方である.この地方ではもと もとトウヨウミツバチが生息していたが,1800 年代にウクライナ地方からセイヨウミツバチが 導入された.

ソビエトのヨーロッパ側は伝統的なハチミツ 生産地であり、1919年にはレーニンが養蜂保護 のために法令に署名している.

ソビエトでは他の社会主義国の場合同様,養 蜂は農業の一部分として統括されている.一部 の資本主義国でみられるような,養蜂と農薬業 界間の衝突はない.養蜂の効率は他の主要ハチ ミツ生産国のそれより低く,養蜂器具も進んで いるとはいえない.

今日の世界ハチミツ産業について

表1は主要ハチミツ生産13か国の状況を US DA の最近の統計に基づいてまとめたものであ る.1は1983年現在の群数,2は1979年から1983 年にかけての1群当たりのハチミツの生産量 (kg)である. 3は1983年現在のハチミツ総生産 の概算である. 4は1982年における, ハチミツ の差し引きの輸出入量で、+は輸出を-は輸入 を示している.5は一人当たりのハチミツ消費 量で kg 単位で表してある. これは, E. Crane 著 の1975年の"Honey: a comprehensive survey"による. 数字はとくにアフリカとアジア については必ずしも正確かどうかわからない. 6は一人当たりの砂糖消費量をやはり kg 単位 で,示したものである. これは1970年版の"国 連統計年鑑"によるが、ほとんどの数字は1969 年のものである.

表1の下欄には合計が示されている.13か国 の合計は世界の²/₈から³/₄を占めているので,今 日の世界のおよその状況はわかるわけである.

表1からわかるとおり,1群あたりのハチミ ツ生産では,カナダやオーストラリアで高く, ヨーロッパは低い.また,大国すなわちソビエ



図 8 凶暴なオオミツバチ(Rock bee とも呼ば れる)野生種からハチミツを採るための近。 代的防護服,インド

国	名	1 群 数 (×1000)	2 群当たり 生 産 量(kg)	3 総生産量 (×1000t)	輸出(+ 量(×10	4)輸入(-) 00 t)	5 一人当たりハチミ ツ消費量(kg)	6 一人当たり砂糖 消費量(kg)
ヨーロッパ							0.4	45
フランス		1200	12.7	18.5		- 6.7		
西ドイツ		1118	12.6	15.0		-62.9		
イギリス		212	6.3	1.2		-20.8		
北アメリカ							0.7	49
カナダ		657	51.3	34.8	+ 9.5			
アメリカ台	家国	4275	22.8	93.0		-37.9		
オーストラリ)ア+ニ	ュージー	ランド				0.5	57
オーストラ	ラリア	405	56.0	21.5	+ 1.1			
ニュージー	-ランド	191*	30.0*	7.6	+ 2.0			
ラテンアメリ	リカ						0.1	42
アルゼンラ	Fン	1300	25.5	28.0	+29.9			
ブラジル		1800	13.3	22.0	+ 0.6			
メキシコ		2300	25.5	64.0	+40.0			
アフリカ							0.26	11
アジア							0.004	7
中 国		5700	19.6	100.0	+58.1			
日本		299	21.4	6.5		-28.1		
ソビエト		8000	23.0	190.0	+16.0		0.5	45
合計		27457		602.1	157.2	156.4		
世界総合言	ť			896.3	214.3	224.7		
13か国で占	うめる割	合(%)		67	73	70		

ト,中国,米国のハチミツ生産量はそれぞれ19 万,10万,9.3万トンである.輸出大国は中国, メキシコ,アルゼンチンそれぞれ5.8,4.0,3.0 万トンである.輸入国は西ドイツ,米国,日本, イギリスそれぞれ6.3,3.8,2.8,2.1万トンで, 1981年までは日本の輸入量は米国のそれを越え ていた.

世界の3大輸出国はいずれも亜熱帯地方ということになり、そこではセイヨウミツバチは在 来種ではない.

4つの輸入大国はいずれも豊かな国で,北方 の温帯に属する.ドイツとイギリスはヨーロッ パの伝統的ハチとハチミツの国であり,米国は この地域から人々が移住した国である.日本の みが第2次大戦以後,有数なハチミツ消費国へ と発展した.表1の最後の2項目である1人当 たりのハチミツと砂糖の消費量ではアジアは他 の大陸国より低い.この状況はハチミツの生産 増加と収入の上昇につれて変わるかもしれな * "Honey: a comprehensive survey" による

い.表1はハチミツが今や富める社会の食糧と なったことを示唆している.

(著者の連絡は下記参照)(翻訳 鶴田智子)

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World apiculture and honey production

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The historical background

The world picture of beekeeping is an interesting one, and Japan has played a unique part in it since the 1950s. I shall describe the situation briefly, and set out my intepretation of it, from knowledge I have gained in many years of working with beekeepers, and in my travels to various parts of the world.

It is necessary first to take a brief look at the past, both of apiculture and of the bees used for it.

I feel sure that man raided bees' nests for honey ever since he existed as man, because higher primates also do this. The earliest records of honey hunting that can be dated are a few paintings in rock shelters in Spain in southern Europe, from around 7000 BC. Many later rock paintings in Africa show similar scenes. The bees in both Europe and Africa are <u>Apis</u> <u>mellifera</u>, but in India there are rock paintings of honey collection from the large single comb of the rock bee <u>Apis dorsata</u>. I do not know of any showing the Asian hive bee Apis cerana.

The earliest records of keeping bees in hives date from around 2500 EC when beekeeping with cylindrical horizontal hives was represented in an Egyptian temple. Similar scenes are found in tombs in Egpypt, two from 1500 BC and one from 600 BC. From Ancient Egypt the craft of beekeeping seems to have spread to Ancient Crete and to Ancient Greece. In Greece, horizontal clay bives used 2000 years ago have been excavated, similar to hives still used today on one remote Greek island, Antiparos. Writings from Ancient Rome describe a number of long horizontal hives, and show that beekeeping there included skilful operations and care for the bees. These early beekeepers certainly harvested their honey without killing the bees. Beekeeping knowledge spread slowly, in the course of more general cultural diffusion to southern Europe, to North Africa west of Egypt, and up the Nile Valley to tropical Africa south of the Sahara Desert.

Before and during medieval times, a different type of beekeeping had developed in the forests of northern Europe. There, cavities in trees provided plenty of nesting places for bees. Certain people in the forest communities became more skilled than others in getting the honey from a nest without killing the colony in it. Even if its queen has been killed, a colony of European bees (Apis mellifera) can rear another queen; provided it has eggs or very young larvae. A forest beekeeper would 'own' the trees containing the colonies he tended, and one beekeeper might own many trees, scattered widely through the forest. Some nests were occupied by bees and some were empty, waiting for a swarm to establish itself there.

In time, beekeepers learned to cut a long upright door in the tree, to give him easier access to the combs inside. Later still, when tree cavities became scarce, or their use by beekeepers was restricted, a hollowed log would be tied to a tree trunk, high up, to provide a cavity attractive to swarms. At a later stage, such upright hollow logs were placed on the ground in groups, making an apiary. This forest beekeeping stretched over a wide area, from the Volga and Kussia in the east through Foland and Germany to the Baltic Sea in the west. In western Europe beyond the forests and the tree beekeeping belt, basket hives came into use, placed mouth downwards like a simple upright log hive. These hives spread further westward, as far as Britain and Ireland. They were made of woven wicker - using thin pliable twigs - but later these were superseded by baskets (skeps) of coiled straw. Examples of both log and wicker hives about 2000 years old have been excavated in peat bogs in Germany.

In Asia, except near the Mediterranean region, the bee that is kept in hives is not <u>Apis mellifera</u> but <u>Apis cerana</u>. It is smaller - smallest of all in tropical lowlands and somewhat larger in high mountains and also at higher latitudes. In parts of the Himalayas, it is as large as <u>Apis</u> <u>mellifera</u>. The range of <u>Apis cerana</u> is entirely in Asia, but extends throughout the tropics and beyond. It is found as far west as Iran, and on the eastern side of Asia as far north as the temperate zone: through China to Korea, the far eastern part of what is now the USSR, and to the Japanese islands except Hokkaido in the north. It is possible that it was taken to Japan and is not native. Elsewhere the spread of the bee to the north was blocked in by the high Himalayas or by desert.

I do not know of any evidence that beekeeping developed very early in tropical Asia. Honey is referred to in ancient writings, but it could have come from wild nests. The earliest Japanese record of keeping bees in hives that I know is dated to AD 643.

The New World - the Americas, Australia and New Zealand - have no native honeybees (Apis). Their beekeeping followed the introduction of European Apis mellifera, taken by European settlers from the 1600s onwards.

Apiculture in Europe

The Middle East and Europe were the regions where beekeeping was developed very early, and also where bees were greatly venerated from early times.

Nead produced by fermenting honey pre-dated wine from grapes, and in many Indo-European languages the words for honey and mead were similar or even identical. Head (and therefore honey) was believed to induce magical eloquence. Honey was an important item in the diet of the people, and during the Christian era, the last 2000 years, the veneration for bees increased because of the great use of beeswax for candles in the Christian church. This use was based on the idea, current at the time, that bees can produce offspring in 'purity' without mating.

Unfortunately the hives used in Europe - upright log hives, and baskets set mouth down - allowed almost no bee management. And although log hives with a narrow door allowed honey combs to be harvested without killing the bees, taking the honey from skeps usually involved killing the bees in them. Several methods were devised for overcoming this difficulty, but I believe that this limitation was one of the reasons why so much energy was directed at finding better hives, during the great flowering of scientific enquiry that started in Europe in the 1600s. Such experimentation paved the way for the invention of the movable-frame hive we use today.

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Apiculture in North America

Honeybees taken from Europe to North America throve and multiplied. Many of the wild plants, and plants grown as crops, were good honey sources, and honey yields were often higher than in Europe. The very profitability of beekeeping intensified the search for hives that would give better control over the bees. The final breakthrough was made in USA in 1851. when L.L. Langstroth designed a workable and effective movable-frame hive. In 1853 he published a book, Langstroth on the hive and the honey-bee, describing its use, and his hive now forms the basis of the world's beekeeping industry. Many of the technical developments that led to modern mechanized commercial beekeeping were made in North America. This was due both to the great inventiveness of the peoples there, and to the fact that honey production was profitable: it was financially worth while to devise equipment that saved labour and thus enabled hive numbers and yields to be increased, and therefore profits.

Most of the immigrants to North America originated in northern Europe, and inherited their predeliction for honey. Many of the honey sources in north America gave light, mild honeys, and these became the preferred type in that continent.

Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific

In the 1800s emigrants from Britain took honeybees to Australia and New Zealand. The bees also flourished there, and in Australia produced higher yields even than in North America. The many species of <u>Eucalyptus</u> produced a continuous succession of honey flows through much of the year. Migratory beekeeping was essential to take advantage of them, and beekeepers would camp out in the bush with their bees - more recently in a motorized caravan that incorporates honey extracting equipment. Extracted supers are replaced on the hives and the extracted honey is trucked to the beekeeper's base of operations for further processing.

In New Zealand the climate is more gentle, and there are no native eucalypts. Honey yields were not as high as in Australia, but the honey was milder and lighter in colour, and more similar to honeys produced in Britain, so it was more attractive to the market there. New Zealand has produced a great many practical ideas that improve bee management in medium-size operations.

The Pacific islands have remained without honeybees longer than any other part of the world. Isolated islands free from honeybees - and free from their pests and diseases which are widespread in the continental land masses - have a new significance for beekeeping. They offer possible sites for rearing queens, free from new contagious diseases and for instance the Varroa mite. Tonga has already started a queen-rearing project. Concern has been expressed that honeybees should not be introduced to some other islands, for instance because of the danger that they would compete for forage with endangered native pollinators such as bats.

Apiculture in Latin America

South and Central America border the Pacific Ocean on the east. From the 1500s onwards they were colonized by immigrants who came mostly from southern Europe. Honeybees were taken there relatively late, for instance to Cuba (from Florida) in 1763 and to Brazil in 1857. But previous inhabitants, especially the Maya Indians, had kept bees for many centuries before this. They used species of tropical native stingless bees (Meliponini), espeically <u>Melipona</u> and <u>Trigona</u>. These are social bees that build smaller colonies, and have a less regular comb structure, than honeybees. A rich tradition of beekeeping was developed, and the honey and wax were greatly valued.

As in North America, the rich forage enabled a honey industry to be developed in Latin America, based on European bees. Much of the honey is exported, and Mexico and Argentina are the most important honey exporting countries after China. In Latin America honey production tended to be a commercial enterprise to obtain income, rather than a means by which people with low incomes could produce food to eat at home.

Tropical African Apis mellifera bees were taken to Brazil in 1956, and their progeny has spread over the tropical and subtropical parts of South and Central America. They were better adapted to their new tropical environment than the European bees introduced earlier. Their greater 'aggressiveness' and their swarming behaviour have caused many problems, but honey yields have been increased by their use.

Apiculture in Africa

We must now return to the Old World, where honeybees are native. In Africa south of the Sahara there are various tropical ecotypes of <u>Apis</u> <u>mellifera</u>. There is also a rich tradition of beekeeping, using horizontal hives of log and bark, and other materials. The hives are suspended in trees for protection against ants and other enemies, including the honey badger that can split the hive open and destroy its contents. Honey has always been much valued; in many areas it was traditionally converted into honey beer by fermentation. The cash crop was beeswax, which can be harvested in large quantities from traditional hives, about 8 kg beeswax for every 100 kg honey. With modern hives the only wax is from cappings, perhaps 1.5 kg per 100 kg honey. Before the Second World War tropical Africa was the source of most of the world's beeswax.

The readiness with which tropical African bees sting makes management difficult. Modern movable-frame beekeeping is the rule in South Africa, and it exists also in some other parts. East Africa has been the scene of a number of beekeeping development programmes, some of which have introduced 'intermediate' hives. These are technologically intermediate between the locally made traditional hives and the expensive, more complex movable-frame hives. In particular a movable-comb hive was devised which uses top-bars only, suspended and spaced in the same way as frames. The sides of the hive slope inwards, and the bees do not attach their combs to the side walls. Each comb can therefore be lifted out by its top-bar which is fullwidth, so that bees cannot escape from the hive (and sting) except where the single top-bar has been removed.

Africa still has a great untapped potential for honey production, and the same is true of tropical Asia.

Apiculture in Asia

Throughout tropical Asia there was honey hunting from ancient times, and the rock bee <u>Apis dorsata</u> gave large yields. But tropical Asia does not have a rich tradition of beekeeping such as exists in tropical Africa, nor does Asia have the tradition of eating much honey. In many parts of tropical Asia beekeeping hardly existed before the Second World War, except in a few pockets where it was attempted by Europeans. There is now extensive frame-hive beekeeping with Apis cerana in India.

The much more productive European bee has now been introduced into some areas, and there can be conflict when this is done. In general Apis mellifere is much more productive than Apis cerana where agricultural areas provide large amounts of bee forage. On the other hand the native Apis cerana is generally more effective at exploiting native plants.

Introduced Apis mellifers, which is a temperate-zone bee, is more likely to succeed in subtropical and temperate-zone Asia than in the tropics. In China it is the basis of a large honey industry, all developed since the Second World War. China did not start to export honey until around 1955, but for several years now it has been the largest exporter in the world. (Apis cerana is still kept in the hilly non-agricultural areas). In Taiwan a beekeeping industry was developed since the Second World War, with Apis mellifera which supplanted Apis cerana. Then reduction in boney sources due to other uses of land led the beekeepers to concentrate almost entirely on the production of royal jelly - for which there is a ready market in Japan.

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European honeybees are the basis of the honey industry in Japan. Beekeeping with them began in Gifu in 1910. Apis cerana is still kept by beekeepers in some of the hilly regions of Kyushu, Honsbu and Shikoku, and on the island of Tsushima.

Just as China has developed into the world's most important honey exporter since 1956, so Japan has become one of the world's greatest honey importers. Until 1981 it was second only to the German Federal Republic which is at the heart of traditional honey country in Europe. And in Japan, as in North America, the mild light honeys are most favoured.

Apiculture in the Sovient Union

This vast country stretches across Asia and part of Europe. Its richest honey area is in the Far Eastern Province (opposite Japan), which has great lime forests. <u>Apis cerana</u> is also native there, and European bees were first taken from the Ukraine, in the 1800s.

European Russia belongs to the traditional boney region, and a high value was placed on bees and honey. This was latterly supported by Lenin's benevolance towards beekeeping: in 1919 he signed a Decree for the protection of beekeeping for the Sovnarkom RSFSR.

In the USSR, as in other countries of the socialist bloc, beekeeping is an integrated part of agriculture. The conflict that exists in some capitalist countries, between beekeeping and commercial interests in the manufacture of pesticides, is largely absent. The efficiency of beekeeping probably remains lower than in many other large honey-producing countries and equipment has been heavier and less stream-lined.

Summary of the world honey industry today

Table 1 gives figures for 13 countries, grouped together in the order in which they are discussed in this article. They are taken from the latest statistics of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA Foreign Agriculture Circular FS3-83).

- Column 1 Colonies x 1000 gives the number of occupied hives in thousands in 1983
- Column 2 <u>Yield/colony</u> gives the average honey yield in kg per colony, 1979-1983
- Column 3 Total boney x 1000 gives the estimated total honey production for the country in 1983, in 1000 tonnes.
- Column 4 <u>Net exports x 1000</u> gives the country's estimated honey exports less honey imports, in 1000 tonnes, for 1982. Figures prefixed by + are net exports, and figures prefaced by - are net imports.
- Column 5 <u>Honey per capita</u> gives the estimted average honey consumption in kg per capita for the continent as a whole, from sources quoted in E. Crane, <u>Honey: a comprehensive survey</u>, published in 1975, but relating to various earlier years. Figures are not very reliable, and those for Africa and Asia are less reliable than others
- Column 6 Sugar per capita gives the average sugar consumption in kg per capita for the continent as a whole, from the United Nations Statistical Yearbook (1970); most figures relate to 1969.

The totals at the foot of Table 1 show that the totals for the 13 countries represent two-thirds to three-quarters of the world as a whole, and therefore help to) present a world picture.

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Table 1 shows the high honey yields per colony in Canada and Australia and the low ones in Europe. It also shows the high total honey production of the large countries USSR, China and USA - 190, 100, 93 thousand tonnes, respectively. The high honey-exporting countries are China, Hexico and Argentina (58, 64, 28 thousand tonnes), and the high net importers are the German Federal Republic, USA, Japan and UK (63, 38, 28, 21 thousand tonnes). Until 1981 Japanese imports exceeded those of the USA.

The three largest exporters are thus in the subtropics, and countries to which the European honeybee is not native. All of the four largest importers are comparatively rich countries, and all are in the north temperate zone. Germany and the UK belong to the traditional bees-and-honey region in Europe, and the USA was peopled from this region. Japan, alone, has developed as a honey-eating country since the Second World War. In the final two columns in Table 1, figures for honey and sugar consumption per capita for the continents as a whole are lower for Asia than for any other continent. This situation may change as honey production increases, but only when incomes also rise: Table 1 suggests that honey is now a food of affluent societies.

			, as represent	ied by figures for 15 cours			
	T Colonies × 1000	2 Yield per colony	3 Total honey × 1000	4 Net exports × 1000		· 5	0
Country						Honey p <mark>er</mark> capita	Sugar per capita
Europe						0.4	45
France	1200	12.7	18.5		- 6.7		•
German F.R.	1118	12.6	15.0		- 62.9		
U.K.	212	6.3	1.2		- 20.8		
North America						0.7	. 49
Canada	657	51.3	34.8	+ 9.5			
U.S.A.	4275	22.8	93.0		37.9		
Australia + New Zealand			•			0.5	57
Australia	405	56.0	21.5	+ 1.1	•		
New Zealand	191 *	30.0*	7.6	+ 2.0	•		
Latin America						0.1	42
Argentina	1300	25.5	28.0	+ 29.9	•		
Brazil	1800	13.3	22.0	+ 0.6			
Mexico	2300	25.5	64.0	+ 40.0			
Africa						0.26	• 11
No single countr	y of world impo	rtance					
Asia						0.0004	7
China	5700	19.6	100.00	+ 58.1		(
Japan	299	21.4	6.5		- 28.1		
U.S.S.R.	8000	23.0	190.0	+ 16.0		0.5	45
Total	27457		602.1	157.2	156.4		
World total			896.3	214.3	224.7		
% of world represented by the 13 countries			67%	73%	70%		

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* from the same source as column 5

Colonies x 1000 gives the number of occupied hives in thousands in 1983. Column 1

Column 2 Yield/colony gives the average honey yield in kg per colony, 1979-83.

Column 3 Total honey × 1000 gives the estimated total honey production for the country in 1983, in 1000 tonnes.

Net exports × 1000 gives the country's estimated honey exports less honey imports, in 1000 tonnes, for 1982. Figures prefixed by + Column 4 are net exports, and figures prefaced by - are net imports.

Column 5 Honey per capita gives the estimated average honey consumption in kg per capita for the continent as a whole, from sources guoted In E. Crane, Honey: a comprehensive survey, published in 1975, but relating to various earlier years. Figures for Africa and Asia are less reliable than others.

Sugar per capita gives the average sugar consumption in kg per capita for the continent as a whole, from the United Nations Column 6 Statistical Yearbook (1970); most figures relate to 1969.