



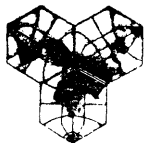
Eva Crane Trust

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XVII INTERNATIONAL BEEKEEPING CONGRESS BOLOGNA AND ROME, 15th - 23rd SEPTEMBER 1958

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Each of us who attended this Congress learned in his own way the meaning of the phrase 'all roads lead to Rome'. For some, Rome was itself the end of the road, the focal point of the Roman Catholic Church. For others, Rome was not so much the end of one road as the meeting place of many : from Byzantium and from the west ; from the temperate north and the subtropical south ; and between past and present — between pagan and Christian ideals, and between the civilizations of ancient Greece and of the modern western world. In England, the Roman age is separated from the modern world by the hiatus which we call the Dark Ages : in Italy, the Roman civilization lasted so much longer, and the Renaissance came so much earlier, that the long gap seemed almost bridged, and the antiquities we saw on every side took our minds back, almost without a break, to the beginnings of the civilization of the western world in Greece. In such surroundings as these, Congress members did not find it easy to remain single-minded in their pursuit of knowledge about bees and beekeeping.

MEMBERSHIP

There were rather fewer members than at the 1956 Congress in Vienna, which was the largest of all the post-war Congresses. In Rome the official count was 385, plus 160 accompanying persons ; a hundred more enrolled but did not attend. About the same number of countries were represented as in Vienna (37). The largest contingents came from France, Britain and Italy ; the Norwegian party was once again surprisingly large in relation to the number of beekeepers there.

In practice the Congress is still essentially a meeting of Europeans, not more than 3% of members coming from the other four continents. It is very difficult to see how this limitation can be overcome, until long-distance travel becomes very much cheaper. It should, however, be borne in mind that a Congress held in North America (see page 311) would almost certainly attract as many members from other *continents* as a Congress in Europe, and members from the 'host' continent would almost certainly be drawn from a wider area. The difference would lie in the fact that this area would not cover as many countries, nor as many languages.

GENERAL FACILITIES

These were provided on such a generous scale that they warrant a section of their own. It seems doubtful if any future Congress could compete with the standard in Rome, and it would probably be best if there were no attempt to do so.

The Congress was held in the Headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ; these now occupy the large buildings in Via delle Terme di Caracalla which were erected to house the Ministry of Mussolini's projected African empire.

Near the entrance were a mobile post office, a bank, a Cook's tourist office, a bar and a snack bar, a newspaper stand, and — most important of all — the reception office, where members could always find someone who spoke a language they could understand, to provide information and to smooth out difficulties. I should like to thank these charming assistants here and now, on behalf of the Congress members, for their constant help and never-failing good temper. The Secretary of the Congress, who is also the Secretary of the Italian Beekeepers' Federation, Dr. Silvestro Cannamela, chose his staff well, and he is to be congratulated on his efficient and happy administration.

An elegant plastic portfolio was handed to each member when he registered ; it contained tourist brochures and coloured postcards, notebook and ball-point pen ; the chief Italian bee journal, *Apicoltore d'Italia*, edited by the queen breeder G. P. Piana, had contributed a magnificent Congress number, and also a reproduction of Francesco Stelluti's *Descrizione dell'ape* (1630). We offer our thanks to all the organizations which provided items for this handsome dossier. With it also we received the Congress badge — a reproduction of a coin of ancient Ephesus with a bee as the central point of the design.

On upper floors of the F.A.O. building were the assembly halls—beautifully appointed, air-conditioned, and every seat with its earphones and built-in switch so that the occupier could listen either to the speaker direct or to a translator speaking in English, French or German. Higher up still, virtually on the roof, was a canteen where we shared the facilities available to F.A.O. staff for obtaining a great variety of food at modest prices. After lunch we promenaded on the wide roof terrace, with its extensive view of the city. To the north-west we looked along the Circus Maximus, the largest and probably the oldest stadium of ancient Rome and the reported site of the rape of the Sabines, and over the Aventine hill towards the temple of the Vestal Virgins, guardians of the sacred fire for over a thousand years. Beyond this again was a long stretch of the Tiber, leading our eyes to the dome of Saint Peter's. Further to the right, close at hand above the Circus Maximus, was the Palatine hill, the most important of the seven hills of Rome and the very cradle of Roman civilization, where Romulus built the first Rome in 753 B.C. ; it is now crowned with the ruins of the palaces built by the Emperors Caligula and Tiberius. To the right again was the Colosseum ; then we looked over a green wooded valley towards the beginning of the Appian Way, where Paul was met by the Christian brethren at the end of his hazardous journey from Caesarea about A.D. 61, and Via Ostia where he was put to death a few years later. Closer to us was another impressive ruin—the famous Terme di Caracalla, one of the twelve public baths of imperial Rome, which were used not only for bathing (and here 1600 could bathe at once) but also as a general meeting place.

Here, spread out before us, were more visible remains of the history of western civilization, and of early Christianity, than most of us had seen in the whole of our lives. It is small wonder that when we went down again

into the air-conditioned halls, our minds were not all and entirely on bees and beekeeping.

OPENING CEREMONIES

The timing of this Congress was different from usual ; the official opening ceremonies took place on a Thursday (18th September), and proceedings lasted until the next Tuesday. The break in the middle of the Congress, which has hitherto been used for a full-day excursion, fell on a Sunday, and no Congress activities were arranged for that day. A Scientific Preliminary Congress (pages 308 - 309) took place in Bologna on Monday and Tuesday 15th-16th September.

PAPERS READ

The idea adopted in Vienna [*Bee World* 37(11) : 311 (1956)] of having different classes of papers was continued and extended, and on the whole proved very successful. The Thursday, Monday and Tuesday were devoted to Plenary Meetings, with a lecture by O. Marinelli on the ' Present situation of beekeeping in Italy ', four General Reports, [*A.A.* 392, 419, 459, 460/58], and Chairmen's Reports on Specialist Sessions and on the Scientific Sessions at Bologna. The Specialist Sessions were held on the Friday and Saturday — two running concurrently as in Vienna, but with a microphone and simultaneous translations, with their inherent advantages and disadvantages (see page 309). There were six sessions in Rome : bee races and breeding (15) ; bee history, economics, organization and legislation (4) ; bee biology (12) ; apiculture and agriculture (13) ; bee products and their use in therapy and medicine (7) ; means of fighting bee diseases, enemies and intoxications (10). Papers were also presented at the Pre-Congress (page 308) in four sessions : bee diseases (6) ; antibiotics (4) ; royal jelly (6) ; bee botany (4). The numbers of papers are given in brackets.

These 85 contributions are abstracted on pages 319-338 ; details are given on page 319 of the availability of the publications themselves. There was an excellent intention [*Bee World* 39(3) : 62 (1958)] of separating the contributions to the Specialist Sessions into *Papers* (read by their authors and followed by a discussion), and *Statements* (whose authors were not necessarily at the Congress, and which would not necessarily be discussed). The distinction was not apparent at the Congress, both *Papers* and *Statements* having their share of absentee authors. It would be valuable if this intention could be repeated and implemented at future Congresses. Members want to know, before they decide whether to attend a session, if the author of the paper will himself present it and be available to discuss it afterwards. Many would go further and say that any paper whose author is not at the Congress should be treated as a Statement, and that no Statements should be read ; the time would be better spent in discussions with authors who were present.

OTHER MEETINGS

The International Beekeeping Congress is an obvious meeting place for beekeeping organizations with members in different countries. In Rome, in addition to the meeting of Apimondia, the Bee Research Association held an International Council Meeting ; there was a meeting of representatives of the six member countries of the Common Market, and a third meeting of editors of beekeeping journals. This last was nearly not held at all, because we spent so long in the gardens and apiary of the Papal palace at Castel Gandolfo (page 314).

In Bologna there were meetings of the I.U.B.S. International Commission for Bee Botany, and the International Commission for Bee Pathology.

BOLOGNA

Bologna is one of the ancient cities on Via Emilia — the long straight Roman road running under the north-eastern flank of the Apennines. The Italian Beekeeping Research Institute is there (*Istituto Nazionale di Apicoltura*), with Professor Ida Giavarini as Director. Here the Scientific Preliminary Meeting had been arranged, and here we knew we should meet bee scientists from many countries. Most of us were too busy to enquire in advance what sort of city Bologna was: when we arrived we found ourselves in a mediaeval city. Many of the palaces were not built until the Renaissance, but the warm red and orange colours of the buildings gave a unity to all the squares and arcaded streets, and to the incredible number of churches, palaces and towers. It was as if we had travelled on a time-machine, and arrived back in the Middle Ages. Here too, we saw the quality of the light which illuminates so many of the old Italian paintings, and because these had formed the basis of our knowledge of this part of Italy, the illusion that we had stepped back into the past was intensified.

The University of Bologna is the oldest in Europe, and is said to have had nearly ten thousand students in 1262. At a reception given for us there we saw doctorate certificates awarded in the 1060s; at another reception, given by the Mayor, we saw some of the beauties of the Renaissance Palazzo d'Accursio which looks out on to Giambologna's famous fountain of Neptune.

In this mediaeval setting we greeted each other, we basked in the warmth — the first summer weather some of us had encountered this year — and we talked. We had two days of meetings (see below), and on the third, Wednesday 17th September, we visited a number of famous apiaries of the queen breeders of the Romagna-Emilia region. An account of these apiaries appears on page 315. A number of beekeepers also came to Bologna to visit them, and in the evening a special coach took us all on the five-hour train journey from Bologna to Rome.

THE PRE-CONGRESS

At the XIV International Congress at Leamington in 1951, so many of the scientists had started discussions among themselves which they had no time to finish, that it occurred to Dr. C. G. Butler, Head of the Bee Research Department at Rothamsted Experimental Station, to invite them to Rothamsted for a couple of days to continue these discussions. The whole affair was impromptu; we slept and ate when and where we could, and we talked all the time; at the end of these two days together we felt we had really got to know each other. A rather similar, but more prepared, meeting was held after the next Congress in 1954 in the Bee Research Department at Strødam, north of Copenhagen, with as much resultant pleasure and profit to those attending it.

In Vienna in 1956, meetings were arranged for the scientists *before* the Congress; formal papers were read, and authors' summaries circulated at the meeting. Lively and useful discussions were held at some of the sessions, with as much informal translation as was necessary or possible; however 'except that attendance at these Scientific Meetings was restricted, and that the standard of the papers read tended to be higher, there was no

difference between these sessions and the Specialist Sessions of the Congress itself', where translation was about as informal. At the present Congress there was still less difference between the 'Scientific' sessions and the Specialist Sessions of the main Congress. Simultaneous translation was available at both, and while this is of immense value for listening to papers, we found that discussion was virtually prevented by the necessity for each speaker to use the microphone. The aim of simultaneous translation systems — that all shall easily understand the gist of what is said — is not the only consideration in a meeting of specialists, and it seemed to many of us that the consequent loss of the facility to *contribute* was too high a price to pay for it.

The scientists themselves are in substantial agreement that there is no virtue in separating certain formal specialized sessions and holding them at a separate 'Scientific Meeting'. A formal Pre-Congress (from which beekeepers are excluded, although they receive summaries of the papers read there, along with summaries of papers they may listen to) satisfies neither the scientists—who in general do not want a separate formal meeting at all—nor the beekeepers—who are understandably bewildered, and a little hurt, at not being allowed to attend these sessions which appear in the Time-table as part of the Congress, complete with registration, opening ceremony and receptions.

A proposal summarizing the scientists' views was handed in at the Apimondia meeting, but most unfortunately it was rejected by the Secretary General and not read to the meeting.

APIMONDIA MEETING

The meeting of Apimondia was held on Tuesday afternoon, 23rd September. Dr. A. Zappi Recordati, as Secretary General, reported on the steps he had taken since he took over from Professor O. Morgenthaler in November 1956. Numbers 2 and 3 of the *Apimondia* bulletin had been published since the last meeting in Vienna in 1956, both in three editions (English, French, German). No. 2, containing the minutes of the meeting in Vienna, was published in June 1957 [see *Bee World* 37(11): 213 (1956); 38(10): 263-264 (1957)], and No. 3 was distributed in Rome. This contained an account of the relationship between Apimondia and F.A.O., which Dr. Zappi Recordati has fostered with untiring skill and patience. One important result has been the availability of F.A.O. Headquarters for the present Congress. Another is that Apimondia is now 'recognized' by F.A.O. among other non-governmental agricultural associations, Dr. Zappi Recordati having consequently attended meetings of the European Commission of Agriculture of the F.A.O. as representative of Apimondia; Apimondia will be so represented at future meetings relevant to beekeeping interests.

This report Dr. Zappi Recordati gave in person to the Apimondia meeting, together with other facts of moment or interest. The Italian Beekeepers' Federation has defrayed the running expenses of Apimondia during Dr. Zappi Recordati's tenure of office, as the Union of the Swiss Beekeepers' Associations did while Professor O. Morgenthaler was Secretary General. So the income made up of the £10 yearly subscriptions since the last meeting (3 for 1956, 18 for 1957 and 8 so far paid for 1958) has not been drawn upon. Many thanks to Dr. Zappi Recordati, to F.A.O., and to the Italian beekeepers!

Four more countries, Argentina, India, Poland and Rumania had applied for membership and were accepted by the meeting. Two auditors (one Austrian, one Italian) were appointed, and Dr. Zappi Recordati was re-elected Secretary General of Apimondia, with very sincere thanks for all his efforts on behalf of beekeeping during the past two years.

Various other subjects were brought up, which many of those attending the meeting felt should be discussed. But the size of the hall and the impossibility of speaking except by using the Chairman's microphone effectively prevented any real discussion, and it was essentially the Secretary General's meeting. Which of the decisions he announced were his own, and which were made by the Apimondia Committee, we never knew. What, for instance, was the origin of the announcement that a second delegate for each member country should be elected on the spot? Who decided which resolutions submitted should be read and voted on, and which should be refused and not put to the meeting (page 309)? Who decided that all those present, including 'accompanying persons' could vote on resolutions concerning royal jelly? Who decided when votes should be counted (and by whom), and when a quick show of hands and accompanying noise should be judged (by whom?) as indicating the will of the meeting. Those of us from the English-speaking countries longed for the clear-cut rules of procedure to which we have become accustomed, and which enable us to understand what is happening at each stage of such a meeting.

It was made clear that the question of a Constitution for Apimondia had become urgent, since continued recognition by F.A.O. presupposes the existence of a Constitution approved by that organization. A new draft Constitution was given in the *Apimondia* bulletin No. 3 distributed at the Congress. There were many points which should have been discussed, but—as has been explained—the circumstances provided no machinery for real discussion, and the Constitution was passed almost without comment, subject to minor amendments by the Committee.

The resolution which was finally accepted on royal jelly was that submitted by C. Bouchardeau, G. Lefort des Ylouses and R. Borneck (France), R. B. Willson (U.S.A.) and G. P. Piana (Italy):

Royal jelly has been for many years a remarkable contribution, both material and financial, to apiculture. While it is normal to wish the carrying on of precise experiments on this product, it seems not less important to a Beekeeping Congress to express the wish that royal jelly could be freely commercialized like other hive products. This especially because every day we have at our disposal new information on this product and its therapeutical applications, while new research workers are every day adding the result of their experiments to the already positive size of the dossier of royal jelly.

We are to deplore the irresponsible and very bad publicity by which royal jelly is sometimes attributed properties and therapeutical applications in addition to those which have already been evidenced. The Congress agrees on the establishment of an International Committee of physicians and research workers meant for a further examination of this problem.

The last sentence refers to a recommendation submitted by F. Boegler (Germany) and Luiz José de Oliveira (Portugal): that Apimondia should promote the establishment of a special working-group of physicians, in

order to develop the exchange of information of a general character on the purely medical aspect of royal jelly.

A motion which came from the Editors' Meeting was approved without any opposition: that Apimondia should consider sponsoring immediately an International Beekeepers' Day, on which beekeepers would organize publicity for beekeeping and bee products in their own countries, by such activities as articles in the press, radio and television programmes, honey displays, and beekeeping exhibitions.

The representatives were then called out to vote on the time and place for the next Congress. They were:

Austria	J. Scharl E. Planckh	Italy	O. Marinelli A. Andreatta
Belgium	H. Anthoine M. de Witte	Luxembourg ..	N. Braun
Canada	J. Couture	Netherlands ..	L. R. J. van Rappard A. Minderhoud
Czechoslovakia ..	J. Svoboda E. Lisy	Norway	R. Lunder O. Rosenberg
Denmark	H. M. Schøtt B. Schwarz-Hansen	Scotland	J. N. Tennent J. L. MacGregor
England	C. C. Tonsley R. H. Barnes	Spain	M. Estremera
Finland	K. Kuurma	Sweden	A. Hansson
France	C. Bouchardeau R. Borneck	Switzerland ..	C. Minoli J. Lutz
Germany (D.B.R.)	H. Lutzner H. Wendt	United States ..	J. Hambleton
Hungary	P. Farkas A. Kocsis	U.S.S.R. ...	N. M. Glushkov A. N. Mel'nichenko
		Yugoslavia ..	D. Cagorovic F. Koprivica

There were invitations from Czechoslovakia, Spain and the United States. It was announced that the United States would be excluded from the voting (why?; a vote would have shown these would-be hosts their chance of success next time). Spain won over Czechoslovakia by a fairly large majority; it was also decided that from now on the Congresses would be held every three years (not two), thus reversing the decision made at the last Congress. The next Congress will therefore be held in Madrid in 1961.

THE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

In Vienna the entrance hall of the *Rathaus* was used for a Beekeeping Exhibition covering a wide variety of themes in past and present Austrian beekeeping, a display of beekeeping publications, and a photographic exhibition. Films were also shown in the *Rathaus* at various times during the Congress.

In Rome there was no exhibition, and we missed it. Italy has a long and important beekeeping history, and the Italian bee is still pre-eminent as a honey-producer, and we wanted to see all we could of Italian beekeeping during our short visit there.

The film show was however done on a grand scale, under the name 'First International Festival of Documentary Films on Beekeeping'. It was held in the Theatre of the Federconsorzi in Via Curtatone on Friday and Saturday, when the 28 competing films were shown, and on Monday evening when the prize-winning films were shown again and the prizes distributed. Since this is the first large international showing of beekeeping films, and there is not yet any comprehensive list of films available details are given below of all the films presented.

FILMS SHOWN AT THE FESTIVAL

Original title	English translation	Producer	Colour or black/white	Date
1. Ali d'oro	Golden wings	M. Fantin, Italy	C	1955
2. Api nei frutteti	Bees in orchards	Anderlini - Agodi, Italy	BW	1954
3. Bees for hire	Bees for hire	Audio Productions, U.S.A.	C	1957
4. Honeybees and pollination	Honey bees and pollination	National Film Board, Canada	C	1957
5. Kleine Bienenbiologie	Short biology of bees	v. Oerthel, Germany	BW	1956
6. Klöver dam	Clover queen	Sveriges Fröodlareförbund, Sweden	C	1952
7. Zhizn pchelinoi sem'i	The life of a bee colony	U.S.S.R.	C	1958
8. La récolte des abeilles par aspiration	Taking swarms by suction	G. Guidi, France	C	1957
9. La vie de l'abeille	The life of the bee	H. Zickendath, Switzerland	C	1957
10. Les maladies des abeilles	Bee diseases	H. Zickendath, Switzerland	C	1957
11. L'homme et l'abeille	Men and bees	H. Zickendath, Switzerland	C	1958
12. Modern bee breeding	Modern bee breeding	C. P. Abbott, Britain	C	1952
13. Nel meraviglioso mondo delle api	The wonderful world of bees	V. Vicari, Switzerland	C	1952
14. Nel mondo delle api	The world of bees	T. Fusco, Italy	C	1958
15. Pim	Pim [the bee]	H. Nybom, Finland	C	1957
16. Progrès techniques en apidologie	Technical progress in bee science	Filmart, Belgium	C	1958
17. Quelques ruchers belges	Some Belgian apiaries	Filmart, Belgium	C	1958
18. Starting with bees	Starting with bees	C. P. Abbott, Britain	BW	1950
19. Tanganyika beeswax	Tanganyika beeswax	F. G. Smith, Tanganyika	C	1958
20. The miracle of the bees	The miracle of the bees	J. J. Carey, Canada	C	1958
21. The rearing and instrumental insemination of queen bees	The rearing and instrumental insemination of queen bees	C. W. W. Read, Britain	C	1951
22. Včelí zákon	The law of bees	Čsk. Státní Film, Czechoslovakia	C	1956
23. Včely budou žít	The bees will live	Čsk. Státní Film, Czechoslovakia	BW	1951
24. V mire pchel	In the world of bees	Sverdlov Studios, U.S.S.R.	1953	
25. Vol nuptial des abeilles (1)	The mating flight of bees (1)	P. Jean-Prost, France	BW	1957
26. Vol nuptial des abeilles (2)	The mating flight of bees (2)	P. Jean-Prost, France	BW	1958
27. When bee meets bee	When bee meets bee	C. P. Abbott, Britain	C	1953
28. Wunder der Bienenwelt	Wonders of the bee world	v. Oerthel, Germany	BW	1951

There were five Italian judges: a representative from the Ministry of Agriculture, a beekeeper, a journalist, a representative of the Council of Ministers, and the President of the judges V. Gallo, a film director. Prizes and cups were given for four sections as follows. In Section 1, for instructional films, film 3 (Bees for hire, U.S.A.) won the silver cup presented by the *Federazione Apicoltori Italiani*, and films 7 and 6 won second and third prizes, which were gilt and silver medals. In Section 2, for propaganda films, film 14 (Nel mondo delle api, Italy) won the silver cup presented by the *Confederazione Generale dell'Agricoltura Italiana*; films 15 and 19 won the second and third prizes. Section 3 was for films showing new or less well known beekeeping practices, and the silver cup presented by the *Confederazione Nazionale Coltivatori Diretti* went to film 21 (The rearing and instrumental insemination of queen bees, Britain), second and third prizes going to films 16 and 23. In Section 4, scientific films, film 20 (The miracle of the bees, Canada) won the silver cup, and films 28 and 25-26 won the medals. In addition to these prizes, a silver cup for the best colour film presented by the *Ministero dell'Agricoltura e delle Foreste* was won by film 13, and a silver cup from Apimondia for the best selection of films by the same producer was won by films 9, 10 and 11. The 'First Absolute Prize', a gold medal presented by the President of Italy, went to the prize winner of Section 1, Bees for hire.

This lavishness of the prizes quite overwhelmed those of us not conversant with the ways of film festivals; only eleven films out of the twenty-eight gained no award, and the fifteen awards were so distributed that each of the thirteen competing countries had one of them.

THE LADIES

More attention seems to be given at each succeeding Congress to the non-beekeeping 'ladies'; here they were given the alternative term, more acceptable biologically, of 'accompanying persons', and the Congress members whom they accompanied outnumbered them by not much more than two to one. They had a full programme of their own, with sight-seeing, films, and even a fashion show presenting the new Y-line. Many of them also saw a number of the beekeeping films (see page 311), which the members themselves found difficult to do because of the distance of the film theatre from the F.A.O. building.

THE REST OF THE PROGRAMME

There was no full-day excursion at this Congress, and we all missed this occasion, with its opportunities for informal contacts with our fellow members. There was however no lack of extramural activities in and around Rome. On the first evening the organizers of the Congress held a reception in the gardens of the Baths of Diocletian, which gave most of us our first introduction to the grandeur of ancient Rome. These Baths were built about 300 B.C., a hundred years earlier than the Baths of Caracalla (page 306), and they were twice as large.

The next afternoon we saw much more, when the whole Congress went by coach on a round tour of Rome. First we climbed to the high terrace of the Janiculan; here the seven hills of Rome were spread out before us, with their churches, monuments and palaces, and the Tiber threading its silvery course between the hills. The Vatican City lies at the foot of the Janiculan Hill, and in it we saw the Basilica of Saint Peter, which had attracted our attention from the roof terrace of the Congress building. This church was the end of the journey for those amongst us who were of the Roman

Catholic faith, and to all it held much of interest, even of professional interest to us as beekeepers.

The present church (started in 1506) was consecrated in 1626 by Pope Urban VIII, who was born Maffeo Barberini, and he brought with him to the papal coat of arms the three bees used by the Barberini family. And so the Barberini bees were so to speak built into Saint Peter's; they have settled on the tomb of Pope Urban VIII at the side of the high altar, and on the elaborate bronze baldacchino, which stands above Saint Peter's tomb and the altar which surmounts it. This canopy was made for Pope Urban VIII by the artist Bernini in 1633 (who also made the beautiful shell fountain in Piazza Barberini, where three stone Barberini bees guard the streams of water flowing into the pool). Bees seemed to be everywhere on the baldacchino — foraging on the plants which climb up the twisted pillars, flying against the roof, and in formal triple array on the pelmet which surrounds it. (In the Vatican Museum were more Barberini bees, decorating maps and tapestries, and in the structure of the building itself. Here we found bees also on a statue of the Greek mother-goddess Artemis, known to the Romans as Diana of the Ephesians.)

We saw many other antiquities that afternoon — the Colosseum, the Imperial Forums, and the castle of Saint Angelo which the Emperor Hadrian built. It was inevitable that each of us should retain different impressions from such a wealth of culture and antiquity, and it is not necessarily the greatest or most precious relics which we shall remember longest. There were other, more intimate reminders of the past — the prison where the apostles Peter and Paul were imprisoned, and where they converted their jailors and fellow prisoners, and a small Roman house still standing by the roadside after two thousand years of use and disuse.

On the Saturday evening we were taken twenty miles to the east of Rome, to Villa d'Este, one of the most beautiful Renaissance villas in Europe. The house itself is on a hillside, and the gardens, constructed at the same time as the house, are a fairyland of moving waters. The river was diverted to flow down through a series of cascades, waterfalls, pools and grottoes, and to provide (with no motive power but gravity) a series of enchanting floodlit fountains. Every imaginable aquatic fantasy was here — except that we failed to find any of the hydraulic jokes and pleasantries which were the delight of the royal water-gardeners of France and Russia. But to judge by the peals of laughter coming from some of the pools and grottoes, Congress members were capable of providing their own entertainment.

Early on the Monday morning we set out for Castel Gandolfo, a village built on the crater rim of an extinct volcano in the Alban hills. Here, in a Renaissance palace built for Urban VIII, the Popes spend the summer months, and here the Congress members were received by Pope Pius XII just two weeks before his fatal illness. To many, this audience was the highlight of the whole Congress, and to all it was an occasion which will long be remembered — the kindly-spoken Swiss guards at the entrance, the breath-taking view over the blue water of the crater lake in the morning haze, the stifling heat and the stillness of the audience chamber (with our friends the Barberini bees again), and the gentle serenity of the white-robed figure of 'Il Papa'. The Pope delivered his address in French,* first

speaking generally of the bee community, and then explaining some of the spiritual lessons to be learned from it. At the end he gave the customary Papal blessing: To you and to all who are dear to you, we give Our Apostolic Benediction.

After we had left the Palace we walked through the shady avenues of the gardens, which slope gently down the side of the old volcano above the plains surrounding Rome. Here were old formal gardens maintained in perfection, and below, in a field of lucerne, was the modern apiary. We wondered how long bees had been kept in these gardens: were they a recent introduction, or had bees been there since the gardens were laid out? Was Pope Urban VIII as interested in live bees as in heraldic ones?

The last official event of the Congress was the Dinner, held at Hotel Excelsior in Via Veneto. This was a most splendid affair, and thunderous applause greeted the long line of waiters weaving their way between the tables (figure-of-eight, sickle or wagtail dance?), bearing aloft the final dish of the banquet on illuminated cubes of coloured ice.

But the dinner was the end, and this brought its own regrets. The Congress provides a unique opportunity for meeting one's friends and colleagues, but it also imposes a severe discipline. It is very hard to part from all the friends with whom one works *in absentia* after one short week together.

OUTSIDE THE PROGRAMME

In addition to these corporate activities, each of us had his or her own private adventures and pleasures: among my own were seeking out the handiwork of scientists and artists of centuries gone by, who had also loved bees. In the University Library at Bologna, I found Professor Malpighi's own anatomical drawings of the silkworm, showing the tubules which are today known by his name. In Rome, I succeeded in penetrating the fastness of the Vatican Library, and saw the beautifully preserved Exultet rolls there, and in the Academy of the Lynxes Dr. Ada Alessandrini showed me many treasures from Prince Cesi's time, including the manuscript of the second edition of his *Apiarium*, which he prepared by annotating the 1625 broadsheet. This book was never published, because Prince Cesi died prematurely in 1630, and its existence seems to be virtually unknown.

Wherever we went in Italy we found something of interest which widened our horizon in one way or another. Our minds were stimulated in many ways, both by the Congress itself and by the surroundings in which it was held, and we returned home enriched by our varied experiences.

* An English translation has been printed for distribution to B.R.A. members; others can obtain it from the Editor, price 1/6d. (30 cents) post free.