



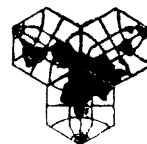
Eva Crane Trust

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XV INTERNATIONAL BEEKEEPING CONGRESS, COPENHAGEN

30th August - 4th September 1954

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This was the first International Beekeeping Congress to be held in Scandinavia, and the Danish beekeepers, who inevitably had most of the responsibility, were helped in their work by others in Finland, Norway and Sweden. The decision that the Congress should meet in Copenhagen, in spite of the fact that Jutland is the real beekeeping centre of Denmark, was fully justified, and the building chosen—the *Stamhus*—was excellent in every way. The large hall was large enough even for the Congress dinner, and the doors leading to the terrace overlooking an open park gave people a welcome opportunity for a breath of fresh air between lectures. Two small halls could be partitioned off and were more than adequate for lectures and meetings. Above all, the spacious entrance hall was an ideal place for talking and meeting people; as there was no other entrance, everyone had to pass through it, and all knew that if they waited there long enough, the people they wanted to see would come to them.

Moreover food was available on the premises, in rooms of so many different sizes that a group of any number could be accommodated together. And for those who had more time, but less money, there were other restaurants within a few minutes' walk.

Some twenty countries were represented, and there were altogether five hundred 'members and ladies', compared with three hundred at the last two Congresses. (It should be explained here that *lady* was not so much a sex distinction as a designation for non-beekeepers accompanying Congress members; women beekeepers were not 'ladies', but their non-beekeeping husbands were.)

THE CONGRESS OPENS

On Monday evening Congress members were welcomed to the City at a reception in the picturesque town hall or *Rådhus*, held on behalf of the Mayor of Copenhagen. After the official address of welcome, there were short speeches by Mr. G. Holst Jensen, President of the Danish Beekeepers' Association, and by Dr. R. H. Barnes, who had been President of the XIV Congress in Leamington.

The refreshments which followed were truly magnificent, and introduced us straight away to the high standard and tradition of the Danish confectioner. Mr. B. Schwartz-Hansen, President of the Congress, had meanwhile announced that Congress members were invited by the Directors of the Tivoli—Copenhagen's famous amusement park—to visit it free of charge that evening. This most of us did, and here many

managed to get separated from their companions, discovering instead yet others who had lost their own parties.

On Tuesday morning the Congress proper was opened at the *Stamhus* by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Jens Smørum. He traced the history of Danish beekeeping from the pioneer days of the foundation of the national Beekeepers' Association in 1866, to the present day when the beekeepers have succeeded in obtaining so much support from the Government, including legal protection against damage to their bees by poisonous sprays and dusts.

Dr. Barnes — the retiring President — then handed over to Mr. Schwartz-Hansen, investing him with a new 'chain of office' — a broad ribbon decorated with brooches bearing the names of the fourteen previous Congresses. Mr. Schwartz-Hansen spoke modestly of the admirable work which he and his colleagues had done during the past year in preparation for this great gathering of beekeepers. 'We here in Denmark have tried to construct the skeleton as well and correctly as we could. It is now up to you, the members of the Congress, to endow it with a spirit and to cloth it with flesh. It is our wish that there should be a heart beating at the centre, and that every member should feel in the atmosphere of friendliness around him, that this heart is there.'

Dr. O. Hammer gave an introductory talk, illustrated by beautiful colour slides, on the countryside and agriculture of Denmark. The Congress then divided into two sessions, which were to run concurrently for the rest of the day, and on Thursday and Friday. Details of the papers read are given in *Apicultural Abstracts* (p. 225), and there is no need to enumerate them here.

NORTH ZEALAND

In keeping with the tradition of these Congresses, Wednesday was devoted to an expedition having both general and beekeeping interest. The excursion to North Zealand was a masterpiece in design and execution, and must have entailed much preliminary organization. The five hundred members were split into three parties; each party followed a different route, but all visited the Danish Bee Research Station at Strødam near Hillerød — careful timing ensuring that no two parties were there together.

Dr. Hammer, Mr. Johnsen and others at Strødam must have had a hard day, for not only were all visitors shown over the laboratories and apiaries, but all were given some form of refreshment on the terrace overlooking the beautiful park in which the Station is housed. Members from other countries were amazed at the extent to which problems of bee poisoning absorb the energies of the staff here; it does seem, however, that this menace to Danish beekeeping has now passed its peak.

The first party went straight to Strødam, and then to the queen mating station in the nearby forest of Gribskov. After lunch near Hillerød they passed by the royal summer palace at Fredensborg, and then visited Helsingør, known throughout the world as Hamlet's Elsinore. Here some saw the banqueting hall, and others walked on the ramparts of the castle which in old days guarded the narrow entrance to the Baltic. Here, and elsewhere, many found conversation with their colleagues so absorbing that I suspect they hardly knew what historic sites they were visiting; but it is surely one important function of these Congresses to provide the opportunities for such conversation. The drive home was along the coast

of Zealand, and on the way an opportunity was provided to visit a typical private apiary; many enquired why the hives there were kept in the shade, to which the owner replied that in his experience it was effective in preventing swarming.

A second party went first to Helsingør along the coast, on to Hillebaek for lunch, and then to Strødam and Gribskov, driving round Hillerød on the way, so that we could enjoy the fine views of Frederiksborg Castle across the lake. On the way home we called at Mr. C. C. Hansen's apiary at Farum, and many were interested in the 'trailer' beehouse which he uses for migratory beekeeping.

Another party visited Roskilde Cathedral before Strødam. Here a series of delicate, and most attractive, mural paintings still survive from the original Gothic building, and the whole simple and beautiful form of the original church is in striking contrast to the baroque monuments and ironwork which were added later. For the last thousand years Roskilde Cathedral has been the burial place of the Danish royal family, whose coffins and sarcophagi can still be seen in the many side chapels.

On the way to Roskilde a visit was paid to a private apiary at Taastrup, where the *outside* syrup feeders intrigued visitors from other countries, and to an appliance factory where foundation was being made. The party then followed in reverse the route taken by the first one — Hillerød, Strødam, Gribskov and Helsingør.

Each of these parties occupied several coaches, the nationalities in each coach being carefully 'mixed' by the organizers. Each party had a competent guide-interpreter, but unfortunately not many could hear all he said, and many would have appreciated a sketch plan showing the route and places to be visited, and telling them how long they could spend at each place.

THE CONGRESS DINNER

At the Congress dinner the hall — 'dressed overall' with magnificent chandeliers — was seen at its best. A typical Danish menu had been chosen, and traditional Danish drinks.

The President announced that the official work of the Congress was over, and that anyone who felt that he had not yet had enough opportunity to speak could do so now; he should send his name up to Dr. Barnes, who had been asked to act as Master of Ceremonies. This led to a series of lively and informal speeches, which were much enjoyed by those who heard them. Unfortunately there was no loud-speaker system, and the acoustics of the hall were such that no speeches were heard by all — and some by only a few. The Minister of Agriculture, who expressed his pleasure at the smooth course the Congress had run, and his satisfaction at the results achieved, was followed by the President of the Danish Beekeepers' Association, by Dr. A. Hansson speaking on behalf of the Associations of the other Scandinavian countries, and by Dr. Barnes. M. Bourchardeau spoke in a more serious vein, stressing the fact that the beekeepers at the Congress seemed to have achieved international unity, even if the great politicians of the world had failed to do so. Mr. Hambleton (U.S.A.) proposed the toast of 'the ladies' with some intriguing remarks about the morals of the queen honeybee. Mlle. Baldensperger replied to this, and Ridder van Rappard followed, speaking almost simultaneously in three languages.

According to the Danish practice, coffee and cakes were then provided in other rooms, and this gave those who were leaving the next morning a chance for a last chat with their friends. More speeches followed, Professor Taranov (U.S.S.R.) expressing the hope that Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary would send representatives to the next Congress, and that papers would be read there on work being done in these countries and his own. Professor Planckh (Austria) spoke of the coming Congress there, and Senateur E. Leysen (Belgium) followed, finishing his speech in Flemish on the grounds that since Professor Taranov had spoken in his native tongue, he had the right to do the same. Two colour films rounded off the evening's entertainment, a Belgian one on bees by Vandeputte and Geerinckx with some very fine shots of a fight between two queens, and a Danish one showing the seasonal sequence of Danish bee forage, with close-up shots of bees working each plant.

It was a disappointment to many members that the Patron of the Congress, His Royal Highness Prince Axel of Denmark, took no part in the Congress proceedings, and was in the end unable to attend the dinner.

SATURDAY

The whole Congress assembled at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural Institute in the morning; after a lecture by the Principal on its development, and on the educational methods used there, members had an opportunity to visit the different departments and the extensive and beautiful grounds. In one corner of these the Copenhagen Beekeepers' Association has its demonstration apiary, with hives old and new — all looking very spruce and brightly painted.

Taxis then took members to the famous Carlsberg Brewery, where they could not only see how this famous beer is made — and sample it freely — but also learn something of the growth of the firm from its early days, and of the many museums and other educational institutions which are financed by the Carlsberg family.

Meanwhile two 'closed sessions' were being held at the Institute, one of the Pollen Analysis Group (I.U.B.S. Commission for Bee Botany), and one of Editors of beekeeping periodicals. Short details of the decisions made at these meetings will be published separately.

THE LADIES

It was explained earlier that this title covered all those who were not primarily interested in the beekeeping programme. For them a Ladies' Committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Smørum and with Miss I. Jarnes as Secretary, had arranged a series of outings during the lecture sessions.

The 'Ladies' were introduced to this Committee on Tuesday morning; in the afternoon some visited Christiansborg Palace, which is also the seat of the Danish Parliament, and others went to the Heering liqueur factory or the *Permanente* — a permanent exhibition of hand-made Danish articles, which could be bought on the spot at surprisingly reasonable prices.

On Thursday morning they visited the Museum of Applied Arts; in the afternoon there was a sightseeing tour round Copenhagen, and this included a visit to the Open Air Museum at Sorgenfri, where Danish farm buildings and houses can be inspected in detail, all furnished in keeping

with their locality and period. Friday was a 'social studies' day, with visits to a home for babies, a home for old people, and a group of allotment gardens.

This whole programme was very well arranged, and very much appreciated. It tempted a good many besides those who had enrolled as 'Ladies' to go with them.

EXHIBITIONS

Two exhibitions were organized in conjunction with the Congress. The 'Scandinavian Beekeeping Exhibition' was held in the Royal Danish Horticultural Society's headquarters at Frederiksberg from 26th to 30th August. Here beekeeping equipment, honey packages, and so on, from the four Scandinavian countries were attractively displayed, and here Congress members enrolled on August 29th and 30th. It was a great place for meeting old friends, and the first of the 'pink tickets' was gladly exchanged for a cup of coffee — the first of many occasions when the inner man was thoughtfully provided for.

The other exhibition received far too little publicity, and was consequently missed by many members who would have enjoyed it. The Agricultural Museum at Sorgenfri had put out on display a large part of their important collection of early Danish beekeeping material, and a catalogue of the 150 items was available free to visitors, in both Danish and English. In a garden outside the Museum was an apiary where log hives, basket hives and more modern ones could be seen in use. This apiary is run by the local Beekeepers' Association (Chairman, O. E. Olsen), and is used for public demonstrations every Sunday afternoon. This is an idea which might well be copied in other countries.

APIMONDIA

Thursday afternoon was devoted to the international aspects of beekeeping. Conte Dr. A. Zappi Recordati (Italy) read a paper on international organization, stressing the importance of establishing permanent relations with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (F.A.O.), in order to obtain the services of that body. Dr. Crane (England) then described what had been, and could be, achieved in the Bee Research Association by informal collaboration between individuals in different countries.

The 'Apimondia' meeting followed, and this meeting must have given great satisfaction to Dr. Morgenthaler and the many others who had worked so hard to achieve international collaboration between beekeepers, with so little apparent reward at the previous Congresses.

The whole assembly stood for a moment in silence, in honour of two members of the Apimondia Committee who had given a lifetime's service to beekeeping, but who had not lived to attend this meeting — Mr. L. Illingworth (England) and Mr. J. Mentzer (Germany). Dr. E. Martimo (Finland) and F. Tychsen (Denmark), who had also died this year, were remembered at the same time. The two vacant places on the Apimondia Committee were taken by Dr. R. H. Barnes and Dr. J. Evenius.

Dr. Morgenthaler had previously announced his firm decision to resign from the General Secretaryship of the Apimondia Committee, but everyone present was pleased when, under very strong popular pressure from the meeting, he agreed to continue until the next Congress.

By a unanimous vote, the Committee was then reconstituted to include (instead of the present seven members) a representative elected from every 'member' country, membership being conditional on payment of an annual subscription of 125 Swiss francs or £10 sterling. Membership (and representation) is open to all countries, whether or not they were represented at the meeting. Those countries which were present then elected their representatives, who were called out to the front to facilitate the counting of votes :

Austria	Prof. I. E. Planckh	Netherlands	L. R. J. Ridder van
Belgium	Senateur E. Leysen		Rappard
Canada	Dr. C. A. Jamieson	Norway	R. Lunder
Denmark	H. M. Schøtt	Scotland	Dr. J. N. Tennent
Egypt	Dr. A. K. Wafa	Spain	Montemayor J.
England	Dr. R. H. Barnes		Cabezas
Finland	Miss K. Kuurma	Sweden	Dr. A. Hansson
France	C. Bourchardeau	Switzerland	Dr. M. Hunkeler
Germany	L. Birklein	U.S.A.	J. I. Hambleton
Italy	Conte Dr. A. Zappi	U.S.S.R.	Prof. G. F. Taranov
	Recordati	Yugoslavia	T. Jevtic

Dr. Morgenthauer announced from the Chair that the question of an international journal would *not* be discussed at this meeting. No money was available to publish the journal in three languages which some people wanted, and until or unless that could be done, *Bee World* fulfilled the need well enough. Dr. Morgenthauer asked each national Beekeepers' Association represented to subscribe to a certain number of copies of *Bee World* in bulk, for distribution to their own officials and district associations. He proposed — and this was unanimously approved — that a short news sheet called *Apimondia* should be circulated twice a year to representatives of member countries ; this would give them (in English, French and German) information about the activities of the Committee and other aspects of international organization. Each representative could then pass this information on to beekeepers in his own country.

By a majority vote of the representatives, it was decided to hold the Congresses at two-year intervals, each host country however having the freedom to postpone the Congress a year if by doing so it could be suitably combined with some national festival or anniversary.

Invitations for the next Congress had been received from Austria, France, Italy, Spain and Yugoslavia ; the representatives were allowed to give their invitations verbally, pointing out the attractions of their own countries. The speakers vied with each other in a very amusing way, with promises of beautiful scenery, good food, cheap prices, and other attractions. The first vote showed that the choice must lie between France (with a trip to Algeria afterwards) and Austria; in the end — after a number of recounts — Austria won by 9 votes to 8. So the next Congress will presumably be held in Vienna in 1956.

This ended the Apimondia meeting ; to the gratification — and also surprise — of those who had attended the meetings in 1949 and 1951, there was hardly a discordant note from start to finish.

THE NEXT CONGRESS

It seems worth while to consider here the experience gained in Copenhagen which could usefully be applied at future Congresses. The extra numbers introduced entirely new problems, which were aggravated

because some had not written beforehand to say that they were coming. It would seem reasonable to increase the Congress fee substantially for such members, and this would probably deter many from booking late unnecessarily.

The *chairman* can make or mar any session ; since its value to those present depends so much on him, it seems to me he should be chosen less for his prestige, or his nationality, but rather because he is a first-class chairman, and can enable a meeting to get the best from the lectures and discussions held. It would also be valuable if there were some sort of 'super-chairman,' able to control a large audience, who could devote all his attention to the running of the lecture sessions, instructing his chairmen beforehand in their duties, and being responsible for re-organizing the programme in any emergency, and for making such alterations known to all. One of the weaknesses of this Congress was the ignorance of members about many of the arrangements, because they could not hear the announcements made, and did not see written notices which were posted.

One of the most valued aspects of the Copenhagen Congress was the large amount of free time. In the evenings members could relax, or continue learned discussions, or go sightseeing. As no Congress Committee can meet everybody's wishes all the time, the next best thing is to leave visitors free to choose their own amusements.

Running two parallel sessions had many advantages, but also introduced new difficulties, which could I think be overcome. It is necessary to fix the times of individual lectures more closely, and to keep to these times. Also it is desirable to allow a break after at least every other lecture. Such 'breathers' would be welcome to the members attending the complete session, and would give others the chance to arrive at the right moment for any particular paper they wanted to hear, instead of entering the hall to find another lecture in progress. And neither lecturer nor audience can concentrate when people are continually entering and leaving. (Moreover unless it is remembered that it takes quite a few minutes to move a few hundred people from one hall to another, the programme will inevitably run late.)

While a small group of specialists are willing to listen to a talk — even if it is badly delivered — on new research work in their own subject, audiences at these Congresses are large, and much wider, and deserve a high standard of lecturing, which not all successful research workers can achieve. As for the subject matter itself, it might be better for one of the two sessions to consist of longer lectures, by good lecturers, on subjects of general interest, instead of research work which they themselves have done. I have in mind the type of lecture — often illustrated — given at national and more important local meetings in many countries. Moreover if these 'popular' sessions were arranged by *language*, on the 'French' morning those who could not follow French and had no interest in the 'scientific' session, could go sightseeing without feeling that they were missing something they wanted to hear. One or more of the popular sessions could be devoted entirely to films, which have no language barriers.

Whatever arrangement is made, a more knowledgeable selection of speakers seems necessary than that which has been made for the last three Congresses.

The publication of the summaries of the forty papers read deserves special mention ; they were available in Danish, English, French or German, and were beautifully produced and bound. Members received a free copy, and others can buy them (at 10s. 6d. each) from the Bee Research Association.* This is certainly less than their cost, and the Congress Committee is to be congratulated on giving such attention to this permanent record of the proceedings. Verbal translations were of course still necessary, for discussions and extempore speeches, and the two translators — Mlle. N. Baldensperger and Dr. G. Kolisko — deserve nothing but praise. It is not easy to give the substance of a speech in another language, immediately after its close, nor to give exact translations of technical questions and arguments. But Mlle. Baldensperger and Dr. Kolisko succeeded in their tasks — often in spite of restlessness among those in the audience who had already understood what was said. And they, more than anyone, were responsible for the valuable interchange of information and ideas which took place at the Strødam meeting, which is described in the next section.

THE MEETING AT STRØDAM

On the Monday and Tuesday after the Congress, some fifty research workers met informally at the Bee Research Institute, to discuss the work they were doing and the special problems they were encountering. Most of the interest centred on nectar secretion (with a useful comparison of the different methods used and results obtained), and on bee diseases and bee poisoning. The question of fluorine poisoning by effluents from aluminium factories was mentioned by several from different countries, and there was a lively session when those studying insecticide damage to bees presented their—often conflicting—evidence as to the toxicity of different substances. Agreement was not reached on all points, even after prolonged discussions, but the discussions were none the less valuable, since many will now recheck their own methods and results. Arrangements were also made to collect, and possibly to publish in *Bee World*, the evidence so far available on some of the important subjects on which results obtained in different countries seem to be consistently different, such as the possibility of training bees to specific crops.

On Monday afternoon the meeting adjourned to a cinema in Hillerød, to see a Russian film which Professors Poltev and Taranov had brought with them. They explained that this film was aimed at the general public, to make them more interested in beekeeping, and more conscious of its importance. This it could hardly fail to do ; while the colour — especially in distant scenes — was not good, there were bigger, and better, close-up shots of bees than most of us had ever seen ; at times the whole screen was occupied with a single worker bee — putting nectar in a cell, feeding a larva, or secreting wax.

CONCLUSION

This account of the Copenhagen Congress cannot be concluded without a final word of thanks and appreciation to the Congress President and his Committee. They have set many new standards, which will not easily be surpassed by those organizing future Congresses.

* See p. 225.