



Around the *Bee World* in 100 Years

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Around the *Bee World* in 100 Years

Around the *Bee World*'s centenary year continues, which is illustrated by historic section headings and the artistic collage of the cover (see last issue for further information). By the time this issue arrives at your home, it is probably the correct time of the year to celebrate the journal's 100th birthday as the first issue was published in June 1919. The first article of this issue therefore enlightens some aspects of *Bee World*'s long and eventful history. I therefore teamed up with Richard Jones, editor of *Bee World* 2010 to 2014 and now chairman of the Eva Crane Trust and Karl Showler, IBRA member from 1952 and former IBRA technical officer. Of course, Eva Crane was founding director and the central figure in the International Bee Research Association for decades, as well as editor of *Bee World* herself. The article summarizes the eventful history of *Bee World*, and how the nine editors of its history shaped the journal. Read the article to find out more which role a romantic poet, a real Captain and an aeronautical engineer played in *Bee World*'s history.

Science-based articles on beekeeping and the situation of bees in different parts of this world are a major topic of interest in *Bee World*. This has been demonstrated by scores of articles in the last 100 years from all around the planet. The focal country of this issue is – drumroll – Indonesia! The world's largest island country is rich in *Apis* and non-*Apis* bee species, but beekeeping and honey production is surprisingly low developed. Therefore, researchers from Europe and Indonesia cooperate in a European Union project to better understand bees and bee culture in Indonesia and to develop strategies to improve beekeeping and local value of bees in Indonesia. In many workshops and other activities of this project, people are encouraged to start beekeeping to make a living or generate income from bees. One project result for the general public is the review article published in this issue, which summarizes the situation of native and introduced honey bees, but also identifies knowledge gaps and needs for improvement. The second article focusses on beekeeping with *Apis cerana*. Cooper Schouten and his colleagues from Southern Cross University, Australia, are much closer neighbors to Indonesia. They conducted interviews and focus group discussions on four different islands that provide new insights into current practices and challenges faced by beekeepers working with the autochthonous Eastern honey bee. For example, the harvest of honey is accomplished very differently than in temperate climates, which is due to climatic but also economic constraints. The honeys therefore often have relatively high moisture content. Beekeepers use local materials, local bees, and local knowledge, but beekeeping education materials are rare.

Interviewed beekeepers often complained about limited funding and infrastructure. These factors are major constraints to expanding business.

Another continent, another country. In their article on Ukraine, Mariia Fedoriak and her co-workers update our knowledge on beekeeping in the Ukraine. Around the time of the 43rd International Apicultural Congress of Apimondia held in 2013 in Kyiv, Richard Jones wrote two articles about beekeeping in Ukraine in *Bee World*. Since then, the country, which has already an enormous honey production, even increased its honey exports and started international research collaborations on honey bee colony losses within the COLOSS network. As the country covers several physiogeographic zones, analysis of winter losses in the different zones could provide better understanding of the environmental impact on honey bee colonies, a topic investigated more and more recently.

The article written by the historian Corey Campion from Hood College, Maryland, United States covers the same time period during which *Bee World* has existed. After World War I, centralized government-orchestrated rehabilitation programs were initiated. Honey bees and beekeeping have been used to help their injured veterans since then; though today's apicultural rehabilitation programs are less centralized and owe more to disparate private initiatives.

Honey bee colonies can be found in many interesting locations, among them royal houses. *Bee World*'s raging reporter Martin Kunz visited the London residence of Prince Charles to chat with the royal beekeeper. Keeping bees for the majesties is not as new phenomenon as one might think. When preparing for *Bee World*'s centenary, I learned that the founder of this journal, Ahmed Zaki Abushâdy was there invited by King Farouk to establish the royal apiaries, after he returned from England to Egypt. However, the fact that bees are recognized and kept favorable by such important influencers may further strengthen the understanding of the importance of these animals in society and politics.

Our journey around the bee world ends with sending out greetings to the Solomon Islands. I cannot present you an article from there, but IBRA recently received a very nice handwritten letter from a *Bee World* subscriber living there. As there is no internet available on that particular island, we use this opportunity to say thank you for your interest and send best wishes!

My best wishes of course go out to all readers of *Bee World*,

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