

Honey Bees Taken to Cuba From Florida in 1764

by EVERETT OERTEL*

A SHORT time ago a friend of mine, Prof. J. Preston Moore, Department of History, Louisiana State University, retired, now in Lexington, Virginia, sent me the translation given below. The author of the book from which the translation was taken is Antonio de Ulloa. He was the Spanish Governor of Louisiana from 1766-1768 and had lived in Cuba in 1764-1765. Ulloa was a naturalist, geographer, astronomer, engineer, naval officer and colonial administrator. He was a member of the Royal Society of London and the French Academy of Science. Prof. Moore wrote a book about Ulloa. It is entitled, "Revolt in Louisiana: the Spanish Occupation, 1766-1770," 1976, L.S.U. Press.

"It would be inappropriate to omit something that has spread throughout the island of Cuba from the neighborhood of Havana, namely the swarm of domesticated bees [which has oc-

curred] in the short period from the year '64 [1764] after peace was made with England. Before this time they were not there, although there was no lack of others called wild bees; these are a distinct species [meliponidae?] and when families that had lived in St. Augustine in Florida moved to Havana after it was evacuated [Florida to Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris, 1763], they carried with them some hives which they set up in Guanavacoa (?) and in some ranches as objects of curiosity; the latter multiplied so swiftly that they spread throughout the hills and it was learned that they were beginning to damage the plantations of sugar-cane on which they lived; their fecundity was such that even without shelters [hives] that they were

accustomed to in Europe, each beehive swarmed once a month, sometimes twice: the one regular size, the other smaller, the honey-combs being taken from the hives every month; and in the wax and honey taken out they were no less abundant than is the case here [Spain], where this phenomenon occurs only once or twice a year. The wax is white and the honey clear and of good taste as the best. With these precautions, without taking too much care in their propagation, nor regarding the cultivation of cane as the foremost objective, this business of wax and honey could become most advantageous for the national trade."

REFERENCE

Ulloa, Antonio de. Noticias americanas, entretenimiento fisico-historico sobre la America meridional y la septentrional. Buenos Aires, Editorial Nova, [1944] (first published in Madrid in 1776. No English translation known to exist.)

* Collaborator, Delta States Area, Bee Breeding & Stock Center Laboratory, Route 3, Box 22-B, Ben Hur Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

GIFT AND EDUCATIONAL IDEAS FOR BEEKEEPERS!

BEEKEEPING BASICS — Study at home and interact with Dr. Larry Connor by mail. This course includes 8 lessons and textbook — \$38.00

FOR THE BOOKSHELF — Add 95c per book for postage and handling:

Crane — A Book of Honey	\$15.95
Golmerac — Bees, Beekeeping, Honey and Pollination	19.50
Golmerac — What You Should Know About Honey NEW!	5.95
Hooper — Guide to Bees and Honey	12.50
Moffett — Some Beekeepers and Associates	9.90
Morse — Making Mead (Honey Wine)	9.95
Morse — Rearing Queen Honey Bees	9.95
Morse — Comb Honey Production	9.95
Morse (ed) — Honey Bee Brood Diseases (Color plates)	8.00
Sammataro and Avitabile — The Beekeeper's Handbook	7.95
Weiss — The Queen and I	9.95
Visual Aids for Teachers and Student of the Honey Bee: Eight Color Postcards from Japan*	5.00
Honey Bee Anatomy (Color transvues sheets of bee anatomy)** NEW!	5.00

AUDIO-VISUAL PROGRAMS — SAVE 10%

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY!

Set number-Number of slides in the set	LIST	SALE
2-20 Introductory Beekeeping		
NEW REVISION	\$16.00	14.40
3-20 Pollination	13.00	11.70
4-20 How Flowers Attract Bees	13.00	11.70
6-81 Honey Bees and Pollination	58.00	52.20
7-50 Honey Bee Diseases and Pests		
NEW REVISION	41.00	37.00
8-38 A Bee or Not a Bee?	30.00	27.00
9-80 Plants Important to Honey Bees	58.00	52.20
11-28 Swarm!	18.20	16.40
12-22 Brood Diseases of the Honey Bee	14.80	12.90
13-35 Extracting Honey	22.75	20.50
14-40 Pollen in Honey	26.00	23.40
15-42 Life History - Activities of Honey Bees	27.30	24.60
16-40 Making a Foundation Press	26.00	23.40
18-80 Honey Bees, Pollination and Pesticides	52.00	46.80

*FREE WITH \$50.00 order **BOTH FREE WITH \$100.00
Orders Must Be Prepaid for Discounts and Free Offer

BEEKEEPING EDUCATION SERVICE
Dr. Larry Connor, Director
P.O. Box 217, Cheshire, CT 06410
Phone 203-271-0155

Queens Queens Queens

SUMMER PRICES START MAY 18

1-4	\$4.00
5-24	\$3.25
25-99	\$3.00
100-up	\$2.75

INSURED AIRMAIL POSTPAID

WHY SETTLE FOR ANYTHING LESS,
WHEN YOU CAN GET THE BEST?

McGARY APIARIES

P.O. Box 87

BUCKATUNNA, MS 39322

Phone 601-648-2747