

A new discovery of an excellent method of beehouses, and colonies, which frees the owners from the great charge and trouble that attends the swarming of bees, and delivers the bees from the evil reward of ruine, for the benefit they brought their masters" (London, Printed for the author, 1677. 3d edition, enlarged, with several objections answered.)

*Transcribed from the scan available at http://www.culturaapicola.com.ar/apuntes/libros/468_Gedde.pdf.
The books spelling is retained, capitalisation ignored and 's' inserted for the old-fashioned 'f'-symbol'.*

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A description of the boxes or hives

The boxes may be made of wainscot, or firr-deals, or of the same materials that the London-pails for carrying water, or as your bushel or peck measure in the country. For their dimension, it is fit that each box be of that largeness, that it may contain a bushel, the height not exceeding twelve inches, and its breadth one third more than the height; that so they may the more conveniently stand upon one another, and that when the bees come in loaden, they may not have a great height to go up.

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The box in figure is an *octagon* , or eight square, or round, each side 9 inches in breadth; it is cover'd close at the top, having a square hole in the middle 4 inches long and broad, with a shutter that slides to and fro in a groove, about half an inch longer than the hole. It has 4 windows, each in figure a *rhombus*, or, like an ordinary pane of glass, opposite to one another, and in them panes of glass, shutters to cover them [text of this sentence obscured]. The door for the bees is divided into 6 holes, half an inch wide, and an inch in height, for the better helping the bees to carry out their dead; each of these holes has a shutter that slides up and down in a groove to cover less or more as the season requires, or, as occasion offers. Each box has two iron handles, with joynts to be placed about the middle of the box on the sides thereof, for lifting the same up, to set another under it, or for transporting the same for use, when the bees have wrought down to the lower box. At the top of the box there is a crease or rebbit all round it, about half an inch in depth on the outside, and an inch in height, and another in the

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inside at the bottom, which serves to fix them, when set upon one another. Each box has also a hole at the bottom upon the side, that shuts with a sliding cover; this is to be open'd and us'd (when the boxes are plac'd one upon another, and the uppermost is full of honey, and all the bees are wrought down to the lower box) for shutting the square hole in the top of the lower box, that its cover may divide and cut the work, in the upper box from the lower. And for this end, it is fit that the square end of that sliding shutter be covered with lattin or iron well sharpen'd, that it may cut the work better.

Within each box there is a square frame made of four posts joynted together, by 12 small sticks, and fix other crossing these, and one standing perpendicular in the middle of the frame, the frame consisting of the 4 posts, and 19 small sticks; this frame is to be put within the box, and fastened to the 4 sides thereof by 8 scrues, two in each post; upon this frame are the bees to fasten their work, and this is very convenient, for when you have removed a box full of work, unscruce the frame, and then you may take out the work without

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breaking the box, frame, or work, and then you may, with pleasure, behold the excellent fabrick, which these industrious insects have ingeniously fram'd.

The use of the panes of glass, is not only for pleasure, to behold the work and labour of the bees, but also know their strength, idleness, fulness, or want of room, that so you mayinlarge or remove them as you please. And whereas some may think that the work of the bees will darken the glass, I declare that I have found the contrary by experience.

Chap I

A description of the several figures of a single box, its frame, and of a colony, or three boxes plac'd on top of one another.

Fig. 1 Represents a box projected, lying on its side, with its open end to the eye, where the frame is projected, etc.

BBBBBBBB The box

CCCC The scrue pins.

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EO The windows

FX The doors for the bees to go in and out etc.

G The place by which the cover of the hole in the top is shut

HH The inner rebbit or crease at the bottom.

Fig. 2. Represents a box standing upright.

H The bee-hive set upright.

B The square hole through which the bees work down.

X The shutter that covers the hole upon occasion.

D The piece of wood that fills up the groove in the box that is uppermost.

EX The doors for the bees.

FN Two sliding shutters that slide down, each covering three holes.

GH The windows with panes of glass in them.

Y The handles for lifting the box when full.

I The rebbit or crease on the top for fastning boxes upon one another.

K The pegs that fasten boxes together.

Fig. 3. Represents the frame

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A The frame for the bees to fasten their work on.

B The nuts for the scrue-nails fastned in the 4 posts or pillars upon which the whole frame hangs, and to which 12 sticks are fastned.

C The 6 cross sticks that cross the rest.

B The perpendicular stick in the middle by which they ascend and descend betwixt the boxes.

Fig. 4. Represents a colony, or three boxes standing on the top of one another, it needs no description; for it is nothing else but 3 boxes placed one on top of another.

The following page shows the incompletely scanned engraving in the PDF containing the scan of the book on the Internet at http://www.culturaapicola.com.ar/apuntes/libros/468_Gedde.pdf. It shows Fig. 3 (top), Fig. 4 (middle) and the rear view of his bee house.

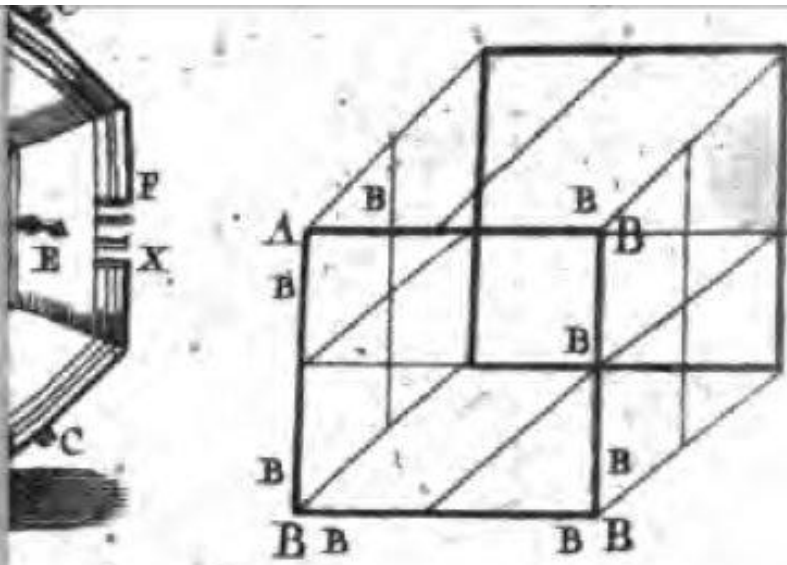
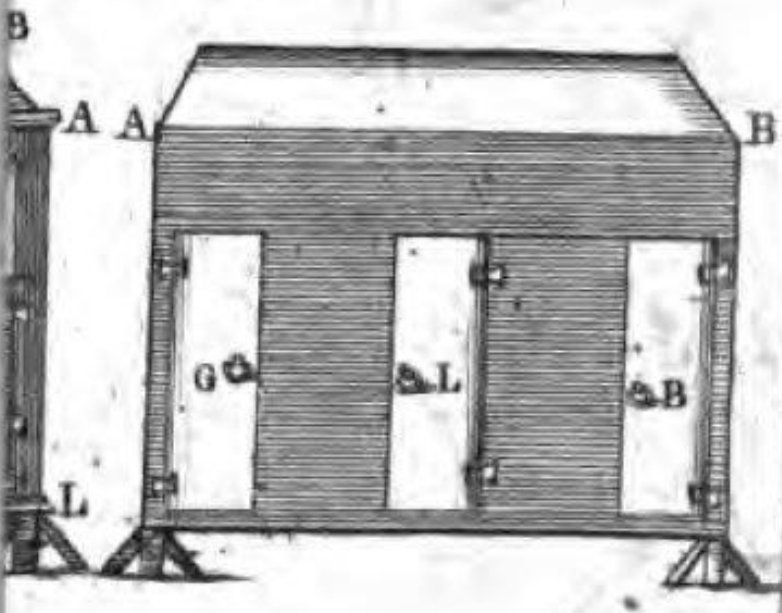
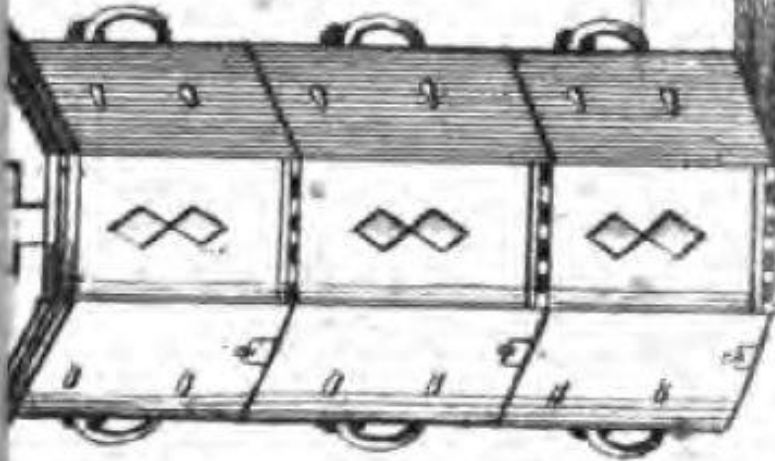
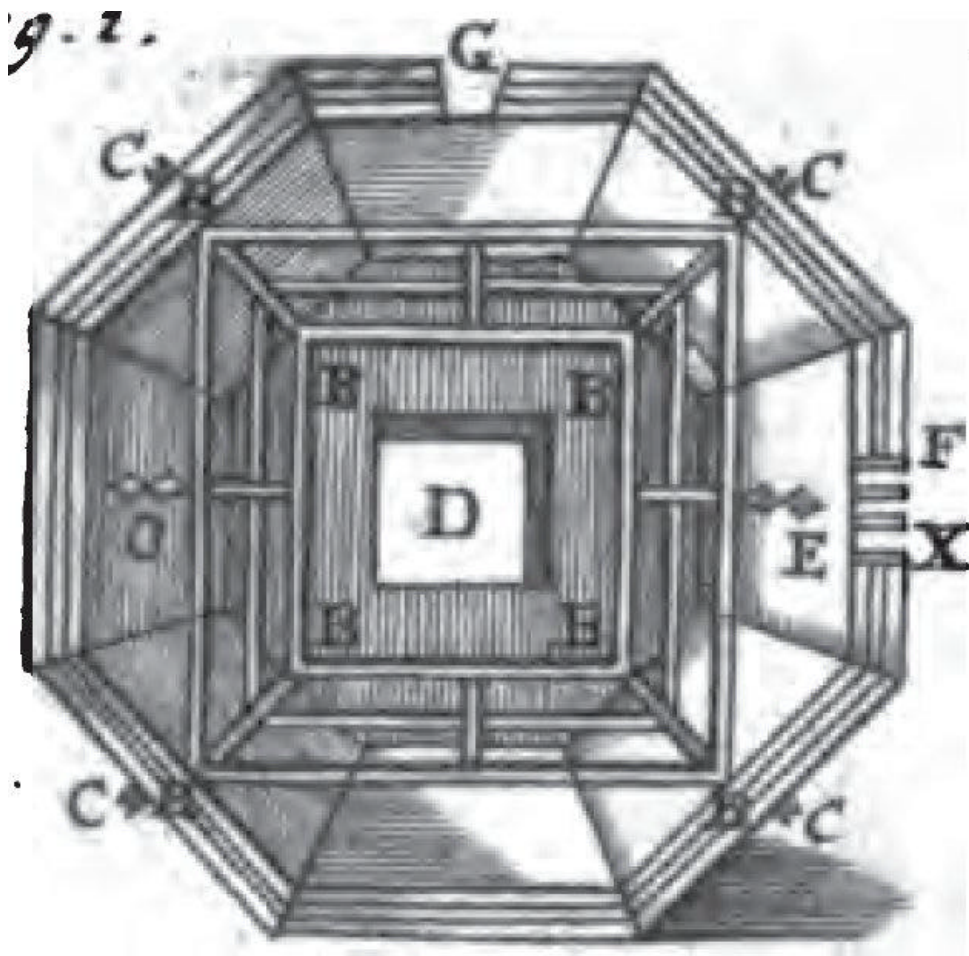


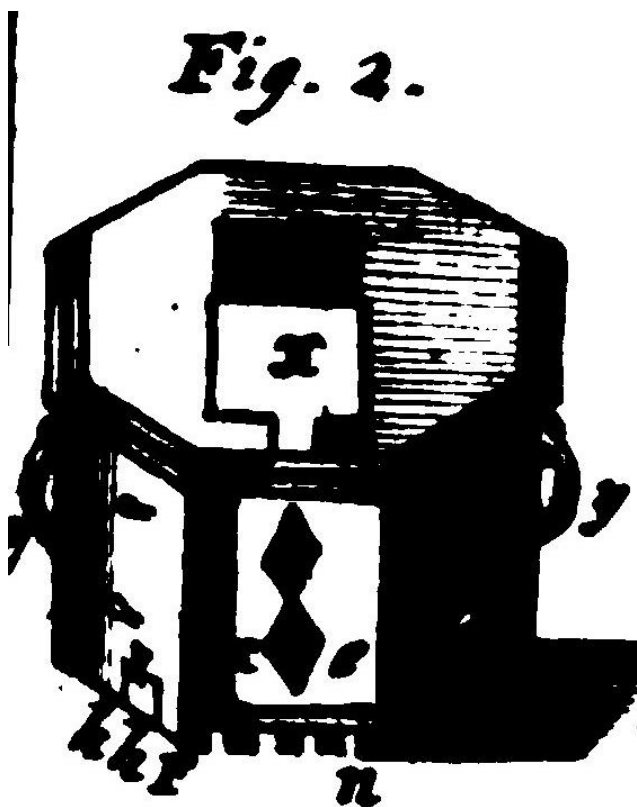
Fig. 4.



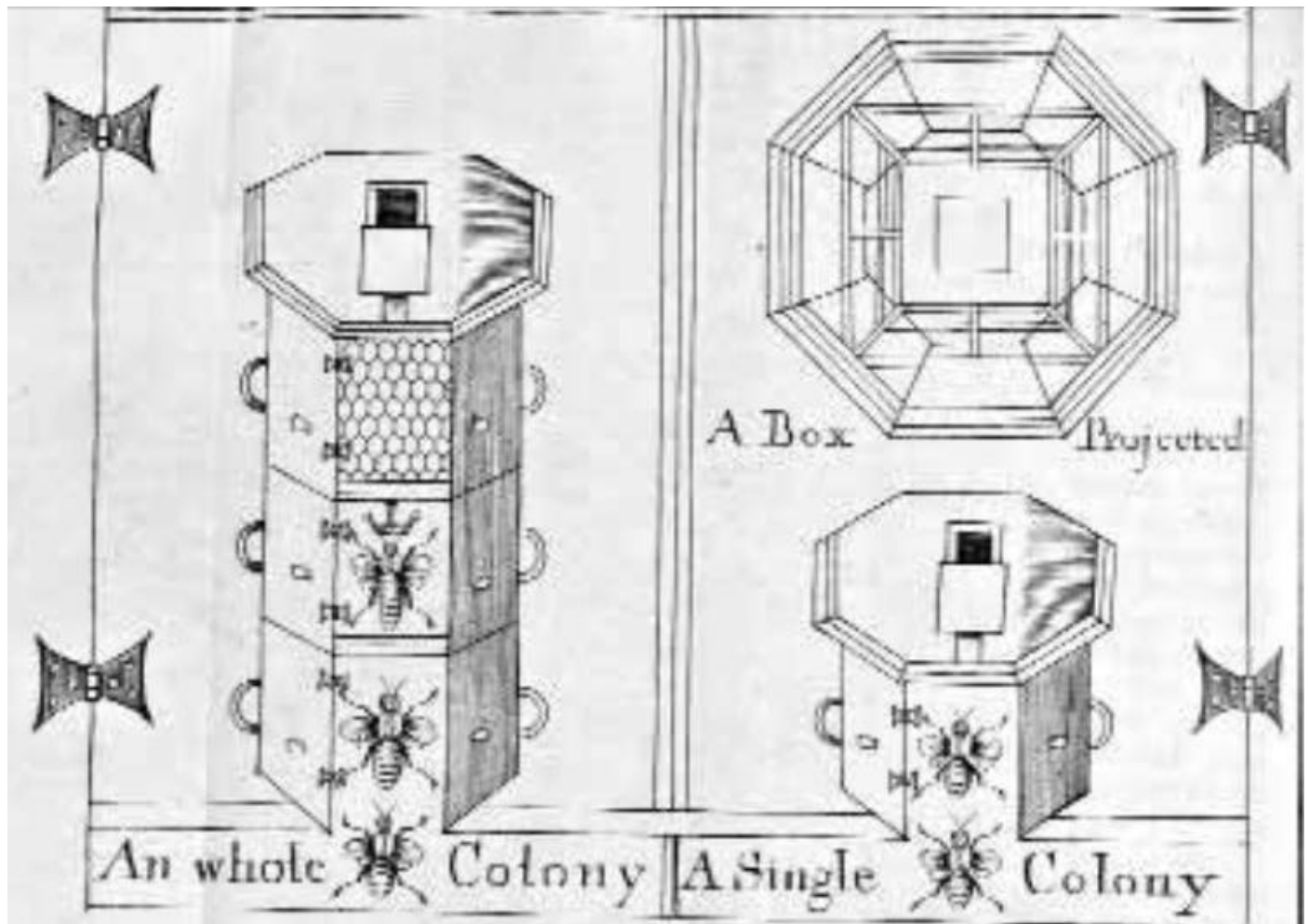
The following is Fig. 1 of Gedde's hive, taken from the German edition (which is also not without scan quality problems). It is a perspective view with the box on its side looking into what would be the underside.



The following image is Fig. 1 of Gedde's hive, taken from the German edition and shows one box.



The following image of Gedde's hive is from Moses Rusden's 1679 book *A further discovery of bees*:



Notes from the remainder of Gedde's book

- Prepare a box by rubbing it with herbs as was done in the old skeps.
- Put a skep on top with the entrance facing the same way as the one of the Gedde hive and seal the skep to the Gedde.
- When box 1 is full of comb, add another.
- Look through the windows to check that there are 3 boxes full of comb and the bees are working in the bottom one. Two boxes can be harvested.
- Open the little door in the side of the upper box and shut the hole of the lower box top, remove the upper box, unscrew the pins and let out the frame with the whole fabric in which there will be no bees, harvest what you think the bees can spare, screw the frame back, open the slide on the box below and put the top box back.
- This provides a reserve for the bees in winter.
- If the conditions are right the whole top box can be removed and another fresh box added below.

He finishes with pros and cons of his system including why it has not been taken up by others.