



We are pleased to announce our new release, "The Revolt of the Bees, Wherein the Future of the Paper-Hive is Declared," co-published by Slought Books and The Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Pennsylvania. This publication, the second in our Theory Series, engages metaphors of the hive in contemporary cultural life and encompasses an interdisciplinary approach that spans contemporary art, curatorial studies, and literary criticism. It features essays by Anthony Grafton and Thomas Keenan, audio and visual contributions by Gary Indiana and Michael Zansky, and is edited by Aaron Levy and Thaddeus Squire. The publication also includes a complimentary companion DVD, featuring the movie "in which the thinking man finds himself in a gigantic orphanage....," which explores the archive in disarray and was filmed on location in historic Founder's Hall at Girard College.

*The Revolt of the Bees* proposes a new culture of memory and archiving in the true spirit of the beehive. It takes as its starting point the assumption that modern memory is first of all archival, and that the beehive and the paper hive (an archive or library) both fancy themselves utopias in which modern memory is stored up, as honey or as knowledge. The publication revolves around eleven lessons extracted from a larger examination of beehive metaphors in the rare book and manuscript collections of the University of Pennsylvania. These lessons envision the archive of the future as an organization open to the infinite possibilities of its own becoming. *The Revolt of the Bees* also explores theories of curatorial innovation and approaches curatorial practice as an evolving and future-oriented field, prompting questions such as how one might renew or reinvent an archival collection by constructing a new genealogy around a historical concept, and to whom or what a curator is ultimately responsible.

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*"The Revolt of the Bees artfully celebrates a set of images and associated practices that dominated the world of high culture for centuries. It teaches us to imagine with new vividness how early modern playwrights and poets, scholars and scientists, ladies and schoolboys went about the vital task of mastering and using books--at a time when books were the most powerful source of knowledge about life, the universe and everything, and a new way of reading could bring about events as radical as the Protestant Reformation and the English Civil War. This collection of evidence and the imaginative and sometimes subversive way in which it is displayed make a distinctive contribution to the new field of history of books and reading—an interdisciplinary study currently in an explosive phase of expansion." - Anthony Grafton*

*"The hive is a living organism, and the living organism is a metaphor for the American organization, which is both the embodiment of and emblem for contemporary cultural practice. Every hive is constituted of thousands of bees: small organisms of finite lifespan subject to an inexorable cycle of life and death. The hive as a whole, however, provides an architecture for overcoming death by possessing a different sustainability—one wrought through continuous cycles of generational passing and reemergence, for which death is not a consideration. Extending the metaphor of the hive into the cultural realm suggests new and more hopeful visions of the cultural organization. Can we imagine our organizations operating without consideration or fear of fragility and sustainability as they envision their futures?" -- Aaron Levy and Thaddeus Squire*

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