



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

Frances S. Baker Product  
Cookbooks, circa 1900-1993

NMAH.AC.0612

Susan B. Strange

1999

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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## Collection Overview

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives Center, National Museum of American History  |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Frances S. Baker Product Cookbooks  |
| <b>Date:</b>       | circa 1900-1993   |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | NMAH.AC.0612  |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Baker, Frances S., 1911-1999 (Creator)  |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 0.5 Cubic feet (2 boxes)  |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .   |
| <b>Summary:</b>    | Small cookbooks, primarily in pamphlet form, produced either by the manufacturer of one of the ingredients or by the manufacturer of appliances used in preparing the recipe. These cookbooks also advertise the products represented. Collection includes pamphlets on canning, canning labels, recipes from newspapers, and several regional cookbooks, including Canada and the Pacific Northwest. |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Most of the collection was acquired in a random fashion by Mrs. Baker though some items were given her by her mother-in-law and sister-in-law. Mrs. Baker had corresponded with the Smithsonian Libraries in 1991 about a possible donation of the cookbooks, but it was not until the summer of 1997, as she was moving into an assisted-living facility, that Mrs. Baker actually donated the collection. A few items, including almanacs, have been added to the Dibner Library.

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Susan B. Strange, 1999.

### Preferred Citation

Frances S. Baker Product Cookbooks, 1900-1990, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Born March 3, 1911, in Tacoma, Washington, the donor was known as Frances Jensen before she was adopted by her stepfather and her name was changed to Bjorkman. She graduated with a BS degree from the College of Puget Sound (now the University of Puget Sound) in 1932 and then taught high school before earning a Masters Degree about 1939 in botany from the University of Washington. After working as a lab technician in Sedro Woolley, Washington, for several years, she moved to Ketchikan, Alaska, in 1944. In 1945 she married Alfred Baker, and he joined her in Alaska after his war-time service in the Navy. In 1965 Mr. Baker retired, and the couple, who had no children, moved to Sumas, Washington, where Mr. Baker had grown up. Mr. Baker died in 1982 and Mrs. Baker continued to live in the family home until mid-1997 when she moved into an assisted-living facility.

Mrs. Baker claims she did not set out to collect product cookbooks, but that "anything that's paper sticks to me," and that "it's easy to make a collection if you never throw anything away." Some cookbooks were gathered by her mother-in-law and sister-in-law. While Mrs. Baker rarely used recipes from the booklets she gathered, she said she was "quite competitive" and regularly entered jams, jellies, and pickles in the Whatcom (Washington) County Fair where she won enough "blue and red ribbons" to fill a shoe box. She had a vegetable and flower garden every year from 1946 through the summer of 1997, and flowers from her garden also won awards at the fair. The information in this section was obtained during a telephone conversation on October 14, 1997, between Mrs. Baker and Susan Strange. Mrs. Baker died June 11, 1999.

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## Scope and Contents

The bulk of the collection is product cookbooks published by food and kitchen appliance manufacturers. One of the strengths of this collection is its inclusion of pamphlets from regional manufacturers located in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska along with a few items from Canada. Also included are pamphlets on canning, canning labels, recipes clipped from local newspapers, and several regional cookbooks. The collection is divided into three series. Product cookbooks, alphabetized by manufacturer, comprise the first series. The second series consists of cookbooks, filed alphabetically, not associated with a specific manufacturer, and the third series contains three folders of ephemera sorted by type (labels, refund packaging, newspaper clippings, etc.)

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series.

Series 1: Product Cookbooks

Series 2: General Cookbooks

Series 3: Ephemera .

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Cookery -- 1900-1990 -- Canada  
Cookery -- Pacific Northwest style -- 1900-1990  
Food -- 1900-1990

Home economics -- 20th century  
advertising -- Cookbooks -- 1900-1990

Types of Materials:

Cookbooks -- 1900-1990  
Pamphlets -- 20th century

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Product Cookbooks, 1900-1993

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 1  | All-American Steam Pressure Cooker             |
| Box 1, Folder 2  | Amaizo Oil                                     |
| Box 1, Folder 3  | American Dairy Association                     |
| Box 1, Folder 4  | Arm & Hammer                                   |
| Box 1, Folder 5  | Armour and Co.                                 |
| Box 1, Folder 6  | <a href="#">Betty Crocker</a>                  |
| Box 1, Folder 7  | Borden   |
| Box 1, Folder 8  | Brazil Nut Association                         |
| Box 1, Folder 9  | California Fresh Plum Promotion Advisory Board |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Campbell's                                     |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Canned Salmon Industry                         |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | <a href="#">Carnation</a>                      |

[Page of Special Menus beside page showing a toaster and relish tray :  
product cookbook], 1937

1 Item (Ink on paper.; 9.25" x 12".)

Advertiser: Carnation company

Language: English.

Notes: 00061201.tif (AC Scan)

In Box 1, Folder 12.

Special Menus for such occasions as Washington's Birthday Afternoon Bridge Party and May Day Breakfast, with reproductions of color photographs as illustrations. Photographer of toaster and relish tray unidentified.

Topic: Product cookbooks  
Cookery -- 1930-1940  
Menus -- 1930-1940

Genre/Form: Cookbooks  
Menus -- 1930-1940  
Photographs -- 1930-1940 -- Color -- Reproductions

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Centennial Flouring Mills Co.                   |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Certo   |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | <a href="#">Cho-Chin Oriental Food Products</a> |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Clabber Girl                                    |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | Colman's Mustard                                |
| Box 1, Folder 18 | Corning Glass Works (Pyrex)                     |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | Crescent  |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | Darigold, Whatcom County (WA) Dairymen's Assn   |
| Box 1, Folder 21 | Delmarva Poultry Industry                       |
| Box 1, Folder 22 | Dromedary (Hills Brothers Co.)                  |
| Box 1, Folder 23 | Duncan Hines                                    |
| Box 1, Folder 24 | Fairbanks-Morse Conservador Refrigerator        |
| Box 1, Folder 25 | Famous Flours                                   |
| Box 1, Folder 26 | Fleischmann's Yeast                             |
| Box 1, Folder 27 | Fisher Flouring Mills Co.                       |
| Box 1, Folder 28 | French, R. T., Co.                              |
| Box 1, Folder 29 | Fresh-Kept Fruits and Vegetables                |
| Box 1, Folder 30 | Fruit Dispatch Co. (Unifruitco)                 |
| Box 1, Folder 31 | General Foods                                   |
| Box 1, Folder 32 | Ghirardelli's Chocolate                         |
| Box 1, Folder 33 | Gillett, E. W., Co. (Magic Baking Powder)       |
| Box 1, Folder 34 | Hamilton Beach                                  |
| Box 1, Folder 35 | Hirsch Bros.                                    |
| Box 1, Folder 36 | Jaques Mfg (KC Baking Powder)                   |

|                  |                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 37 | Karo, Div. of Corn Products Co. |
| Box 1, Folder 38 | Kellogg's                       |
| Box 1, Folder 39 | Kerr                            |
| Box 1, Folder 40 | Kitchen Craft                   |
| Box 1, Folder 41 | Knox Gelatine                   |
| Box 2, Folder 42 | Kraft                           |
| Box 2, Folder 43 | Leslie                          |
| Box 2, Folder 44 | Libby's                         |
| Box 2, Folder 45 | Lipton Tea                      |
| Box 2, Folder 46 | MCP Foods, Inc.                 |
| Box 2, Folder 47 | Maca Yeast                      |
| Box 2, Folder 48 | Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. |
| Box 2, Folder 49 | National Distillers Prod.       |
| Box 2, Folder 50 | Natural Food Co.                |
| Box 2, Folder 51 | Nestle's                        |
| Box 2, Folder 52 | Roman Meal                      |
| Box 2, Folder 53 | Pillsbury                       |
| Box 2, Folder 54 | Puritan Malt Extract Co.        |
| Box 2, Folder 55 | Ralston                         |
| Box 2, Folder 56 | Reynolds Metals                 |
| Box 2, Folder 57 | Royal Baking Powder             |
| Box 2, Folder 58 | Sears, Roebuck & Co. (Coldspot) |
| Box 2, Folder 59 | Shield's Date Gardens           |
| Box 2, Folder 60 | Southern Comfort Corp.          |



|                  |                            |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Box 2, Folder 61 | Sperry Flour               |
| Box 2, Folder 62 | Spry                       |
| Box 2, Folder 63 | Standard Brands            |
| Box 2, Folder 64 | Tupperware                 |
| Box 2, Folder 65 | Van Houten's Cocoa         |
| Box 2, Folder 66 | Wesson Oil & Snowdrift Co. |
| Box 2, Folder 67 | Wine Advisory Board        |

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## Series 2: General Cookbooks

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 2, Folder 68 | "Body Building Dishes for Children" and "Bicentennial 1776 Cookery"             |
| Box 2, Folder 69 | "The Cook's Book"   |
| Box 2, Folder 70 | "Washington Centennial Vintage Vittles" and "California Bi-Centennial Cookbook" |

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## Series 3: Ephemera

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 2, Folder 71 | Refund packaging and recipes cut from packaging |
|------------------|---|

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 72 | Canning ephemera, labels, facts about food |
|------------------|--|

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Box 2, Folder 73 | Newspaper clippings |
|------------------|---------------------|

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