Frances S. Baker Product
Cookbooks, circa 1900-1993

NMAH.AC.0612
Susan B. Strange

1999
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Frances S. Baker Product Cookbooks
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0612
Date: circa 1900-1993
Extent: 0.5 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
Creator: Baker, Frances S., 1911-1999
Language: English
Summary: 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.

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

Restrictions
Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.
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.

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.)

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series.

Series 1: Product Cookbooks

Series 2: General Cookbooks

Series 3: Ephemera

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
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        Betty Crocker
                      Image(s)
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       Carnation
                      Image(s)

[Page of Special Menus beside page showing a toaster and relish tray : product cookbook], 1937
1 Item (Ink on paper.; 9.25" x 12").

Image(s): [Page of Special Menus beside page showing a toaster and relish tray : product cookbook].

Carnation, Advertiser

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.

Local Numbers

00061201.tif (AC Scan)

In Box 1, Folder 12.
Box 1, Folder 13  Centennial Flouring Mills Co.

Box 1, Folder 14  Certo

Box 1, Folder 15  Cho-Chin Oriental Food Products Image(s)

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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