

Ross, Alice Culinary Ephemera Collection

Alice Ross Culinary Ephemera Collection
c.1860s-1960s



Title Statement

Ross, Alice Culinary Ephemera Collection Alice Ross Culinary Ephemera Collection c.1860s-1960s
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Author: Kira A. Dietz, Archivist

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Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)
560 Drillfield Drive
Newman Library, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
Business Number: 540-231-6308
specref@vt.edu
URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2017.008

Unit Date

c.1860s-1960s

Language

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Abstract

The Alice Ross Ephemera Collection includes more than 2,000 pieces of ephemera related to food & culinary history, advertising/marketing, food production, agriculture, holidays and celebrations, and domestic culture, dating from the mid-19th to the mid/late 20th century.

Creator

Ross, Alice, 1930-

Extent

4.8 Cubic Feet 16 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

Permission to publish material from Alice Ross Culinary Ephemera Collection must be obtained from Special Collections, Virginia Tech.

Acquisition Information

The Alice Ross Culinary Ephemera Collection was purchased by Special Collections in March 2017.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Alice Ross Culinary Ephemera Collection was completed in April 2017.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Alice Ross Culinary Ephemera Collection, Ms2017-008, Special Collections, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Dr. Alice Ross was a culinary historian and consultant. She received her doctorate from the State University at Stony Brook (her dissertation was titled "Women, Work and Cookery, Suffolk County, Long Island, New York, 1880-1920"). During her career, she served as a consultant in historical food for Virginia's Colonial Williamsburg and The Lowell National Historical Park in Massachusetts. She also co-founded the Culinary Historians of NY, taught at CCNY, Hofstra, and NYU, and beginning in 1988, ran a studio that offered classes in culinary history & traditional methods, Native American & Civil War cookery, game butchery & prep, and baking using hearth & brick ovens. She also worked as an editor and contributor to portions of The Oxford Companion series volumes relating to food and authored and contributed to other books and articles.

Scope and Content

The Alice Ross Ephemera Collection includes more than 2,000 pieces of ephemera related to food & culinary history, advertising/marketing, food production, agriculture, holidays and celebrations, and domestic culture, dating from the mid-19th to the mid/late 20th century. The collection consists largely of trade cards, postcards, greeting cards, advertisements from printed sources, and a small number of recipe booklets. In addition, though fewer in number, the collection also contains educational resources (like printed cards with the history of people/places/food items), business cards, photographs, brochures, and a few small artifacts (medals, pins, decorations, and textiles). Some of the items and/or binders include an emphasis on the roles and portrayals of indigenous populations, African-Americans, immigrants to the United States, and women in culinary and domestic culture.

Generally speaking, the collection does NOT contain items or formats like menus, labels, coupons, clipped recipes, recipe cards, or pamphlets.

Keywords

Advertisements
Advertising cards
Agriculture
Ephemera
Food Technology and Production
History of Food and Drink
Nutrition
Postcards
Trade cards

Arrangement

The collector and former owner of the materials, Dr. Alice Ross, compiled the ephemera in this collection into binders for instruction and personal use by categories or major topics. The original organization of the collection was maintained, though the materials were moved to binder boxes when they were received by Special Collections. It is important to note that the binders were organized into topics by the creator to meet her educational needs. As a result, there can be significant overlap of materials between binders (i.e. items

relating to women are in most binders, not just the one labeled "Women & Girls").

Topics/categories (each item in the list is a single binder box, unless otherwise indicated):

- Cottolene & the Demise of Lard (2 binder boxes)
- Domestic Life of First Nation Peoples
- Ethnicity & Immigrants
- Fish & Meats
- Food Vending
- Fruits, Vegetables, & Herbs
- Holidays, Seasons & Calendars (2 binder boxes)
- Household & Home
- Manufactured & Processed Foods (2 binder boxes)
- Places & History
- Series
- Women & Girls

Description of Subordinate Components

Cottolene and the Demise of Lard (1)

box 1

Cottolene and the Demise of Lard (2)

box 2

Domestic Life & First Nation Peoples

box 3

Ethnicity & Immigrants

box 4

Fish & Meats

box 5

Food Manufacture & Manufacturing Equipment

box 6

Food Vending

box 7

Fruits, Vegetables, & Herbs

box 8

Holidays, Seasons, & Calendars (1)

box 9

Holidays, Seasons, & Calendars (2)

box 10

Household & Home

box 11

Manufactured & Processed Foods (1)

box 12

Manufactured & Processed Foods (2)

Manufactured & Processed Foods (2)

box 13

Places & History

box 14

Series

box 15

Women & Girls

box 16