Culinary History Collection at Virginia Tech

Caryl Gray
College Librarian

Gail McMillan
Director, Digital Library and Archives

VAFCS

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Our Recipe for Success
Main Ingredients

- 2 foundation collections
- Support of one college
- Library support
- Alumni
- Faculty
- Friends
Directions

- Combine all ingredients
- Stir gently to blend
- Nurture over the years
The Beginning

- Cookbooks originally housed in Wallace Hall
- Wallace Hall renovations
Books, books and more books

- Represents two centuries of culinary arts
- Initial contact with library
- Collection inventoried and list sent to library
- Collection reviewed and location selected
  - Special Collections or Newman
Naming the Collection
Dora Greenlaw Peacock

- Faculty wife
- Noted for entertaining
- Enjoyed travel
- Collection donated to the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise after her death in 1983
Laura Jane Harper

- Head of Human Nutrition Department
- Dean of the College of Home Economics 1960-1980
- Research interests included food habits and food culture
The Word is Out!

- Collection development statement
  - Community cookbooks
  - Virginia food history
  - History of home economics
- Support existing collections
  - Local history
  - Civil War
  - Appalachian
Spreading the Word

- Publicity
  - Brochures
  - *Virginia Culinary Thymes*
- Scholarships
  - Janet Cameron Scholarship
  - Jean Phillips Scholarship
- Fundraising
  - Chef’s Challenge
- Hertzler Culinary History Prize
Advisory Committee-Timeline

- College Alumni Organization votes to support collection (Spring 2000)
- Brochure to announce collection designed and distributed (March 2000)
- Organizational meeting (June 2000)
- By-laws adopted (November 2001)
Advisory Committee - Purpose

- Expand collection
- Support preservation of the collection including digitizing selected materials
- Encourage use of collection in teaching and research
- Provide support for research by students or faculty
Virginia Culinary Thymes

- Culinary heroes and heroines
  - Dora Greenlaw Peacock and Laura Jane Harper
  - Janet Lowe Cameron
  - Mary Randolph
- Culinary food history
  - Recipes
  - Book reviews
- Special features
- Announcements

http://spec.lib.vt.edu/culinary/CulinaryThymes/
VT Library Contacts

- Gail McMillan, Director, Digital Library and Archives  gailmac@vt.edu
- Caryl Gray, College Librarian for Human Resources  cegray@vt.edu
- Jennifer Gunter, Coordinator of Special Collections  jgunter@vt.edu
- Joyce Nester, Cataloger, Special Collections  nester@vt.edu
Web information

- Peacock-Harper Culinary Collection and Culinary History Collection

- Digital images from the Culinary Collection
Most accessed Culinary Collection images 2001/02

- Maude Wallace, Helen Ricks (?), Hallie Hughes, Janet Cameron, Catherine Perry, Mrs. Sietz (Hallie's sister) (130)

- Janet Cameron, Hallie Hughes, Mattie Pluckett, Helen Alverson at the Jorgeson Ryrie estate (124)
Internet use of Culinary Collection

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<th>2002</th>
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<td>16,416</td>
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<td>Average successful requests per day</td>
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<td>Distinct files requested</td>
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<td>Average data transferred per day (Kb)</td>
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Increased Interest from around the US in Culinary History Collections at Virginia Tech
Increased international interested in Culinary Collections at Virginia Tech