



The Housekeeper's Manual: Or, Complete Housewife (American Antiquarian Cookbook Collection)

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An important and fascinating document of American social history, *The Housekeeper's Manual, or Complete Housewife* is believed to be an adapted version of the British best seller *The Cook's Oracle; and Housekeeper's Manual* by Dr. William Kitchiner. Intended as “a Guide for Families,” the cookbook provides recipes for “the most simple and most highly finished” dishes, all tested personally by the author, which was uncommon in the early 19th century. Furthermore, each household tip or skill was also performed by Dr. Kitchiner to test each method before writing the entry. The contents include helpful and quaint information such as “large pears should be tied up by the stalk” or “to preserve blankets from moths [it is best] to fold them and lay them under the feather beds that are in use” as well as recipes for stewing oysters, dressing halibut, preparing beef broth, and boiling ground rice milk.

Combined with the charming household information and the treasured recipes, *The Housekeeper's Manual, or Complete Housewife* also calls for wives to be involved in the financial concerns of the household and serve as active members of the family, making this tome a particularly significant historical collection.

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