



What's Cooking at the UN? Cookbooks, Food Programs and Policies of the United Nations Exhibit Bibliography UN Day, 24 October 2013



United Nations Cookbooks

from the [Dawn Nicolosi Powell Collection of Regional and Ethnic American Cookbooks](#)

Davelaar, Maria. *United Nations Women's Guild Cook Book : a Collection of International Recipes*. Kansas City, Mo. : Circulation Service, c1977.

This cookbook is one of the fund-raising projects, which enables the Guild to support a wide variety of organizations serving the needs of children in many different countries. The Guild has two purposes:

- to foster international friendship and understanding by serving as a focal point for the exchange of cultural ideas and interests,
- and to help needy and suffering children all over the world

A brief history of the Guild:

On April twelfth, 1948, there was great jubilation among the women of a small sewing group in Great Neck, N.Y. They had formed an association to help the needy children, mostly in war-torn Europe. A memorandum had just arrived from the United Nations permitting them to add "United Nations" to their title, thus recognizing the group as an affiliate of the most prestigious world body. The significance of the memorandum conferred honor and responsibility on them. They welcomed their new status with awe; they also considered it their reward and challenge. Immediately, they proceeded to place their house on a footing worthy of its name - "The United Nations Women's Guild." Source: <http://www.un.org/other/unwg/images/document1.pdf>

Kraus, Barbara. *The Cookbook of the United Nations : 350 Recipes from the 126 Member Nations of the UN*. Rev. and updated ed. New York : Simon and Schuster, 1970.

This is the first cookbook not by the United States Association for the United Nations, but by Simon and Schuster, in a hardcover, with flags of member nations in the shapes of dishes on the white cover (our copy has a blue cover)

“The United Nations is founded on the principles of sharing and of coming together for the purpose of improving human understanding. A very simple way for each of us to participate in this ideal is to prepare and serve the dishes of other countries in our own homes. Increased communication among the people of the world, has spurred a tremendous interest in international cuisine.”

— — — . *The Cookbook of the United Nations : 250 Authentic Recipes from 111 Countries*. New York: United Nations Association of the United States of America, 1965.

The book provides both information and inspiration for those planning international menus for United Nations Day, October 24 – a growing tradition. Authorship belongs to representatives and/or their wives of the diplomatic corps, members of the International Secretariat of the UN. This cookbook represented four-year labor of love.

Lebras, Florence. *The Potato Around the Globe in 200 Recipes: An International Cookbook*. New York: United Nations, 2008. (*not part of the Powell collection*)

Published on the occasion of the [International Year of the Potato \(2008\)](#), this cookbook “*aims not only to show that potatoes are used by a wide range of countries throughout the world, but also to attract the attention of consumers to the importance of the quality standards elaborated by the [UN Economic Commission for Europe](#).*”

Stanforth, Deirdre, and Tony Walton. *Good Food from Far and Wide /*. New York : United Nations International School, c1975.

The recipes in this cookbook came from parents of children attending the United Nations International school. Proceeds from the sale of this book went to the United Nations International School, New York City.

“As the world becomes smaller and more dangerous, the need for international understanding becomes more and more important. There is no better way of getting to know each other than through sharing common interests. Surely one of the most universal common denominators amongst people of all kinds is food. In sharing their favorite recipes, and telling us in their own words about their customs of cooking, eating and entertaining, the wide variety of people who participated in this book are helping us get to know them (and their countrymen) through a medium we can all understand and enjoy. While we learn of the differences in customs that may seem strange to us, there are always similarities we can relate to our own lives.

As we use the recipes contributed by these people, we may all feel closer kinship with the donors, just as their children are getting acquainted through learning together in a school where all national and political animosities evaporate.”

The United Nations International School (UNIS) is a private international school in New York City. It was founded in 1947 by families who worked for or were associated with the United Nations. The school was to provide an international education, while preserving its students' diverse cultural heritages. It includes a Kindergarten, elementary school (Junior school), junior high school (Middle school) and high school (Tutorial House, or Tut House). As of 2008, it has over 1,450 students representing 150 countries. English is the main language of instruction. Secondary studies aim towards the International Baccalaureate

United Nations Nursery School. *Could I Have Your Recipe? : a Cookbook of International Recipes* /. 3rd. ed. Geneva : United Nations Nursery School, 1957.

The recipes were collected and published by The United Nations Nursery School and were the “favorites of women from all over the world who lived in Geneva and were generous enough to give out some of their best-kept secrets”. An addendum to the book is the translation of recipes that were written in French. Another interesting and humorous component of the cookbook is the dedication: This cookbook should be dedicated to MEN. [sic] Signed, A Husband.

“The International Nursery School was founded in 1948 by a group of United Nations families who wished to provide their children with an enriching preschool experience and an environment where they could develop an understanding and appreciation of their differences and similarities.” Source: <http://www.internationalnurseryschool.com/about.html>

United Nations Women’s Guild. *United Nations Women’s Guild Cook Book: a Collection of International Recipes*. Memphis, Tenn.; New York: Wimmer Bros. ; Distributed by United Nations Women’s Guild, 1992. (compiler Eliza Chrystie)

This is the fourth edition of the UN Women’s Guild Cook Book, with the second and third being published in 1979 and 1982, respectively. The main goal in producing a fourth edition of the cookbook was to raise funds so that the Guild could continue “to alleviate whenever and however possible the suffering of so many of the world’s children”.

Publications of the major UN Food Programmes

The primary and secondary sources included in the exhibit are representative of the strong historical IIA, FAO, WFP, and IFAD collections here at the Stanford.

Agresti, Olivia Rossetti. *David Lubin; a Study in Practical Idealism*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1922.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. “Food Balance Sheets = Bilans Alimentaires.” *Food Balance Sheets = Bilans Alimentaires*. (1949).

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1945*. [New York, 1946].

International Fund for Agricultural Development. *IFAD Annual Report*.

International Institute of Agriculture. "International Yearbook of Agricultural Statistics." *International Yearbook of Agricultural Statistics*. (1912).

Roodkowsky, Mary L. *Food Works : Twenty Years of Food Aid for Development, 1963-1983* /. Rome : World Food Programme, 1983.

Shaw, D. John. *The World's Largest Humanitarian Agency : the Transformation of the UN World Food Programme and of Food Aid* /. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire ;; Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

United Nations Centre for Human Rights. *Right to Adequate Food as a Human Right*. Human Rights Study Series 1. New York: United Nations, 1989.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. World Food Conference. Note By The Secretary-General and Addendums 1 -4. UN Document: E/5587. 1974. UN Readex Microfiche Collection.

United Nations World Food Conference. *Things to Come : the World Food Crisis - the Way Out* /. Rome : [s.n.],, 1974.

World Food Programme of the United Nations. *Food Aid and the Role of Women in Development : World Food Programme in Action*. Rome : The Programme, 1976.

— — — . *World Food Program : What It Is, What It Does, How It Works*. [Roma] : FAO, 1970.



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