The
Peter D. Franklin
Cookbook Collection

A Special Collection Preserving
the History of Culinary Arts

The Ohio State University
Rare Books and Manuscripts Library
The Peter D. Franklin Cookbook Collection in the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library of The Ohio State University was founded in 1992 when Peter D. Franklin made the first of his donations of cookbooks that now number over 5,000. Mr. Franklin's cookbook review column, "Cookbook Nook," is nationally syndicated and was the source for his extensive cookbook collection of primarily contemporary cookbooks of all varieties: literally, from soup to nuts, from French food to Asian food, from elegant dining to barbecue, from beef stroganoff to vegetarian casseroles, and more. In addition, Mr. Franklin has made provision for an endowment that will assist with the future development of the collection.

In support of this noteworthy collection, the library has committed to expanding its historical value with a focus on collecting native Ohio and Midwestern foods and the cuisines of important Ohio ethnic groups, particularly Italian, German, and East European. In tribute to the Ohio pioneer tradition, the library also collects cookbooks on North American game, fish and fowl.


The Peter D. Franklin Cookbook Collection is an outstanding scholarly source for the study of material culture, for food, in both its procurement and preparation, fulfills the most basic of human needs. The customs and manners associated with food, moreover, reflect diverse social and cultural traditions and are primary sources for many humanistic and social science disciplines. The Peter D. Franklin Cookbook Collection does, indeed, enlarge and enrich the research resources of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library.
The Ohio State University Libraries welcome gifts of books and financial resources that extend and complement existing collections. Historically, some of the Libraries' most significant and unique collections began with donations from individuals. If you would like to support The Peter D. Franklin Cookbook Collection or the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, please contact the Libraries' Development Office at (614) 292-3387.

The Ohio State University
Rare Books and Manuscripts Library

327 Main Library
1858 Neil Avenue Mall
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(614) 292-5938
www.lib.ohio-state.edu/rarweb

Hours: Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(appointments encouraged)