Dear Friends:

For nearly 175 years, the NYAM Library has been a source for learning and the exchange of ideas at the pursuit of better health for all. During COVID-19, the Library has continued to play a critical role in providing access to the past and our own study of medicine, science and public health. As this unprecedented year draws to a close, we need your support more than ever in order to continue our important work and ensure that our extraordinary collections remain accessible to all. Please make a donation in support of the Library today. This month, we’re pleased to share the launch of our latest digital collection, “Recipes and Remedies: Manuscript Cookbooks,” as well as a virtual tour and other highlights showcasing holiday treats from our collection and beyond. Enjoy!

Images from the Past:
“A collection of choice receipts”
The Library recently released its newest digital collection, “Recipes and Remedies: Manuscript Cookbooks,” featuring 17th-English language manuscripts dating back to the 17th-18th centuries. This image showcases a manuscript with the most beautiful calligraphy. The collection of choice receipts is a collection of choice receipts. The collection is open to the public, and the exhibits are hosted in a new online exhibition.

From the Blog:
Recipes and Remedies
One of the Library’s strengths is its extensive collection of food and culinary material. We hold some 40 manuscript cookbooks in our collection, all on thousands of printed cookbooks, recipes, and culinary works. We urge you to check out our previous explorations of these materials and their recipes and get lost in this new blog post.

From the Collections:
Holiday Treats, by Martha Lee Anderson
Church and Dwight, the manufacturer of Arm & Hammer baking soda, produced this cookbook of holiday favors in 1930, which it gave away in exchange for the name of Martha Lee Anderson, who, by Betty Crocker, may have been a household name, giving stories of how Church and Dwight put out the 1930s and 40s. Our crop is from the Margaret Barney Hiram collection of cookbooks and pamphlets.

Color Our Covers:
“Kewpie” presents an ice-cream sundae
Graphic artist and author Charles Dana Gibson (1867–1944) created “Kewpie” around 1903 for a character in a comic strip. The image was used for decades, reflecting the fashion and highest-paid female illustrator of her time. Here, Kewpie is borrowing to create an advertising for a New York City dairy. The image comes from the collection of the fabulous Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) Collection Images from libraries, archives and museums around the world.

Noted Elsewhere:
The early modern precursor to turducken
Our colleague at the Folger Shakespeare Library, Michael Walkden, explores that library’s early modern manuscript cookbook collection. There are several recipes for turkey, duck, and partridge. With the co-operation of food historian Stephen Schmidt, he adapts the recipe for modern techniques and develops a recipe that is both delicious and representative of the holiday season.

We look forward to welcoming you back to the Library. As we wait, stay safe, stay engaged and stay connected.

The NYAM Library Team

Your support helps us preserve the Library’s treasures, share them with researchers and the public, and safeguard the history of medicine to inform the future of health.

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