A Good Housewife

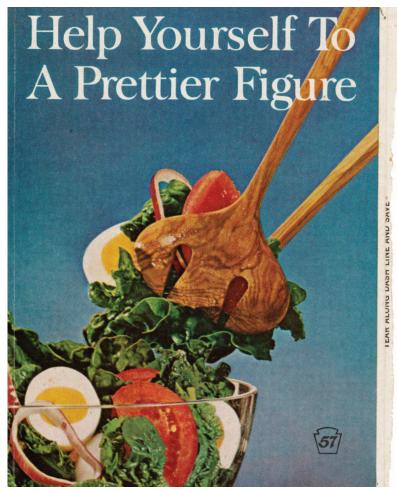
➤ Since the early 1920s when Edward Bernays convinced women that smoking would keep them thin, marketers have sent subtle, and not so subtle, messages equating foods with weight loss. Before there was a diet-food industry that used chemical substitutes for fats and sugars, advertisers made dubious claims about the caloric content of their foods. (For the record, 1 cup of Campbell's tomato soup made with water is 180 calories but is 283 calories when made with whole milk.)



The Story Cottage Cheese tells in your mirror / 1930 / The Dairy and Food Bureau of Chicago / Front cover



'Surprise! Soup Shakes!' / 1956 / Campbell's Soup Company / Magazine advertisement / This ad was part a short-lived campaign to encourage women of to drink a 'soup shake' as a meal.



Help Yourself To A Prettier Figure / 1963 / Heinz Corporation / Front cover



Summer Salad Bowl / 1963 / Help Yourself To A Prettier Figure / Heinz Corporation

➤ If you think the outrageous 'one-upmanship' of children's birthday parties is a recent phenomenon, you'd be wrong. Women have always been judged by how they raise their children, and as the notion of what childhood was changed in the post-Victorian era, the race to outdo the neighbors was on. It was a mark of wealth and class that your children weren't working in a factory and to be entertained in the same (albeit kid-ified) high style. The most American of values, faking it until you make it, was an important element of belonging and women were encouraged to adopt the habits of the so-called 'upper classes.'



What's all this about Mother not wanting to make so many cakes? / 1920 / Baker's Coconut / Franklin Baker Coconut Company / Unfolded pamphlet / Baker's Coconut became part of General Foods in 1927.

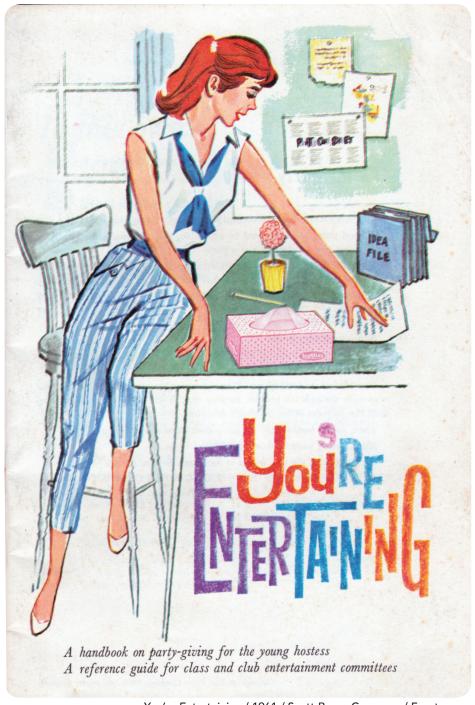


Sealtest Food Advisor / 1941 / Keep Their Days Crammed With Surprises / Sealtest Dairy



Fun to Cookbook / 1971 / "My First Day in the Kitchen" / Carnation Company / The Carnation Company created this cookbook aimed at young girls to take part in the growing trend of marketing directly to children. It also served to reinforce traditional, Puritan-influenced gender roles.

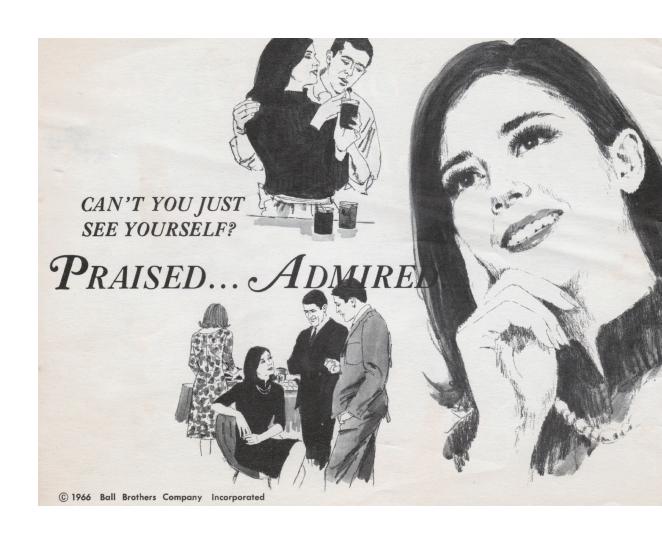
➤ Advertisers struggled with the growing women's empowerment movements. Many chose to focus on 'entertaining' as the peg on which to hang their marketing. From creating buffet meals for a crowd to outdoor barbeque picnics to young single working women, everyone loves a party. Through it all, the messages of the 'correct' way to be a woman are loud and clear.



You're Entertaining / 1961 / Scott Paper Company / Front cover



Festive Foods / 1969 / How to Plan a Successful Menu / Wisconsin Gas Company





Can't You Just See Yourself? / 1966 / Praised...Admired...Envied...Appreciated! / Ball Brothers Company / Ball canning jars took a novel approach to marketing home food preservation to young women in 1966, appealing to a need for outside social validation.