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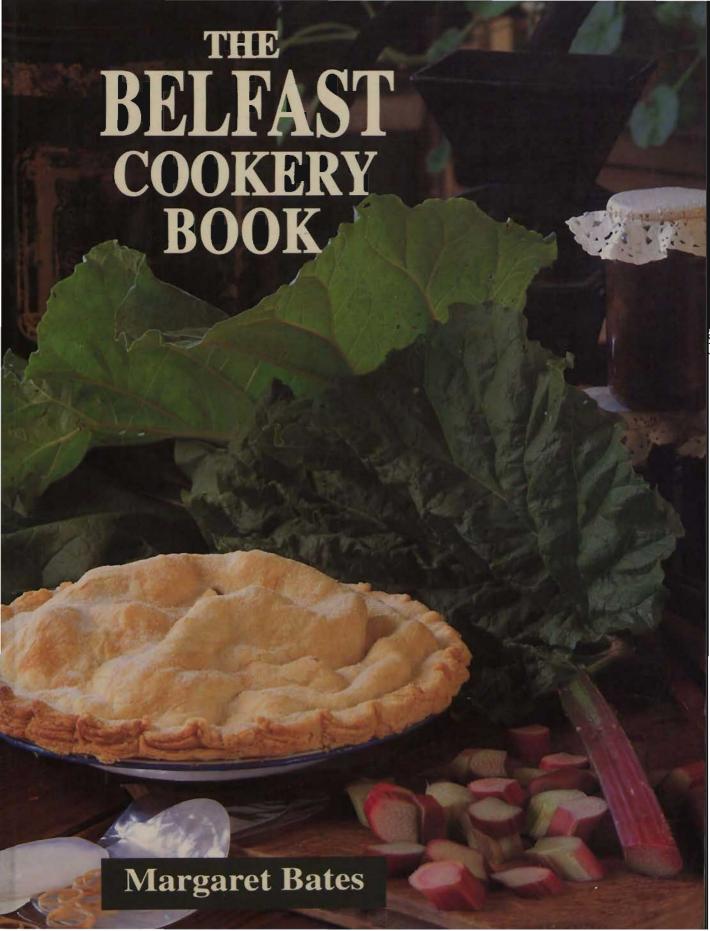
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Margaret Bates was a leading professional cook, and was a vice-principal of the Belfast College of Domestic Science. She built up a comprehensive library of reference books on all aspects of cooking, and travelled extensively throughout Europe researching national specialities. Her bestselling *Talking About Cakes* was awarded a medal in the international literary contest organised by the German Gastronomic Academy in conjunction with the International Culinary Art Exhibition at Frankfurtam-Main.

Margaret Bates died in 1968.

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BELFAST COOKERY BOOK

Margaret Bates

LINE DRAWINGS BY KENNETH GILBERT

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CONTENTS

	Page
Foreword	vii
Acknowledgements	viii
Relishes, Dressings and Auxiliaries	1
Traditional Festival Food	18
Foreign Food	29
Hors-d'oeuvre or Appetiser	44
Soups	48
Egg and Cheese Dishes	56
Fish	62
Meat	72
Poultry Game and Rabbits	102
Vegetables and Salads	111
Hot and Cold Puddings	129
Savouries and Sandwiches	149
Bread, Cakes and Biscuits	156
Pastry	184
Jams and Jellies	188
Home-Made Sweets	193
Appendix: Comparative Cooking Temperatures of Electric and Gas Ovens British and American Measures Handy Measures Coins as a Substitute for Weights	201
Bibliography	203
Glossary	205
Index	211

FOREWORD

This is a book which should give pleasure to all who enjoy good food. It is practical and comprehensive in its mingling of recipes, classical and local, with social history. The value which was placed on local produce, such as the potato, Lough Neagh eel and shell fish, is part of the history of Ireland and illustrates how food habits and patterns reveal the type of culture of a people.

Many classical recipes are included in the section dealing with foreign food. There is a delightful French Christening Cake, instructions for the famous Fritto Misto Mare from Italy, Kebabs from Turkey and advice on the making and serving of curries.

Recipes for old national dishes are reproduced. Yellow Man, a traditional Irish sweet-meat, and Brotchan Roy, a broth made with leeks, are typical examples which should prove to be of more than local interest.

The first chapter sets out the philosophy of the book, that while first class ingredients are necessary, flavour and texture are vital to the production of good food. To achieve this, detailed information is given on seasonings and flavourings and on the use of herbs and wine.

The thanks of the staff and students of College are due to the Vice-Principal, Miss Bates. Many students and a wide section of the public, both here and abroad, will benefit by her research and be grateful for this work.

February 1965

Joyce Stewart Principal, Belfast College of Domestic Science

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WHILE writing this book I received much help. An especial debt is owed to the Principal, Miss Joyce Stewart. It was she who initiated the book and she has given generously both of her time and of her wide culinary knowledge.

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MARGARET BATES