

Cynthia D. Bertelsen

Writer

Experience

- **Co-curator**

With Nancy Carter Crump, Virginia exhibits, Southern Food and Beverage Museum, New Orleans, Louisiana, February 2012 – present.

- **Freelance writer**

“Gherkins & Tomatoes: Meditations on Culinary Exile[®], and Other Things, Mostly Books” <http://gherkinstomatoes.com>, 2008 – present. Over 800 erudite blog posts on culinary history, complete with detailed topical bibliographies.

Food writer, *NRV Magazine*, Blacksburg, VA, 2009 – present.

Book Reviewer, emphasis on multicultural texts, for *Gastronomica*, *The New York Journal of Books*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *The Roanoke Times*, *Digest of Middle Eastern Studies*, *Library Journal*, *Food Culture & Society*, and others, 1995 - present.

- **Peacock-Harper Culinary History Friends Group**, Carol M. Newman Library, Virginia Tech. 2004 - present

Co-chair, 2006-2007. Planned, organized, and publicized Jamestown commemorative food history symposium, “From Jamestown to the Blue Ridge: Cooking Up 400 Years of History in Virginia,” based on Virginia Tech’s culinary history holdings in Special Collections. Wrote publicity brochures and posters. (Symposium, scheduled for April 20-21, canceled due to events of April 16, 2007 on VT campus.)

Newsletter editor, *The Virginia Culinary Thymes*; principal writer and contributor, 2006-2007, 2011 - present

- **Professional indexer**, specialized in university press books in medicine, food studies, political science and history, 1995 – 2002; indexed close to 400 books.

Publications and Writing

Books and Chapters in Books

Mushroom: A Global History, Reaktion Books (U.K.), forthcoming 2013.

International Affairs: Indexing Ethnic Cookbooks, in *Indexing Specialties: Cookbooks*, edited by Alexandra Nickerson, Fred Liese, and Terri Hudoba. Information Today, 2009.

Handbook of Indexing Techniques: A Guide for Beginning Indexers, with Linda Feters and Do Mi Stauber. 3rd Edition. FimCo Books, 2001.

Indexing Food and Nutrition Materials, in *Medical Indexing: Indexing Specialties Series*, edited by L. Pilar Wyman. Information Today & American Society of Indexers, 1999.

The Communal Bowl: A Celebration of the World's Food, Rabat American School, Rabat, Morocco, 1990. (Fundraising cookbook for school.)

Articles Published in Print

“Market Day, Haiti.” In: *So Spoke the Earth: The Haiti I Knew, The Haiti I know, The Haiti I want to Know*. Edited by Women Writers of Haitian Descent, Inc. Forthcoming.

Jean-Georges Vonerichten, in *Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America*, 2nd edition, forthcoming.

Daily Life Through Cooking and Cookbooks: A Brief Guide to Using Cookbooks as Tool in Historical Archaeology, *Artifact*, forthcoming 2012.

Diana Kennedy, in *Icons of American Cooking*, edited by Victor W. Geraci and Elizabeth Demers, 2011.

Haiti, in *Food Cultures of the World Encyclopedia*, edited by Ken Albala, Greenwood press, 2011.

Honduras, in *Food Cultures of the World Encyclopedia*, edited by Ken Albala, Greenwood press, 2011.

A Greedy Woman: The Long, Delicious Shelf Life of Elizabeth Robins Pennell, *Fine Books Magazine*, August 2009.

Aztec Entertaining, in *Entertaining from Ancient Rome to the Super Bowl: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Melitta Weiss Adamson and Francine Segan, Greenwood Press, 2008.

Colonial Mexico, in *Entertaining from Ancient Rome to the Super Bowl: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Melitta Weiss Adamson and Francine Segan, Greenwood Press, 2008.

Cookbooks, History of, in *Entertaining from Ancient Rome to the Super Bowl: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Melitta Weiss Adamson and Francine Segan, Greenwood Press, 2008.

Inca, in *Entertaining from Ancient Rome to the Super Bowl: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Melitta Weiss Adamson and Francine Segan, Greenwood Press, 2008.

Saints' Days, in *Entertaining from Ancient Rome to the Super Bowl: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Melitta Weiss Adamson and Francine Segan, Greenwood Press, 2008.

The Politics of AIDS: The Invisible Cure, *National Catholic Reporter*, October 31, 2007.

Novelists Train Their Sights on Islamic Terrorism, *National Catholic Reporter*, October 6, 2006.

Vincent van Gogh and starvation. *The Virginia Culinary Thymes*. Spring 2006.

Culinary historiography, or methodology in writing culinary history. *The Virginia Culinary Thymes*. Winter 2005.

Julia Child: America's Bright Shining Star, *The Roanoke Times*, August 18, 2004.

AIDS in Africa: 'Mass Murder by Complacency?,' *The Roanoke Times*, 2004.

Far from desperate in Iraq. *The Roanoke Times*, November 7, op-ed page 7, 2003.

Now let's reach out to the rest of the world, *The Roanoke Times*, December 18, op-ed page 9, 2003.

Now pass the pigweed, that is if there's any more in the gourd, with Barbara A. Purdy. *The Daytona Beach News-Journal*. December 16, 5A, 2003.

Piece of Cake? Cookbook Indexing: Basic Guidelines and Resources. *KEY WORDS* 7(1): 1, 6-12, 1999.

Indexing Food and Nutrition Materials, in *Medical Indexing: Indexing Specialties Series*. American Society of Indexers, 1999.

Medical Reference Tools for Indexers, in *Medical Indexing: Indexing Specialties Series*. American Society of Indexers, 1999.

Indexing Chinese Names: Some Basic Guidelines. *KEY WORDS* 6(1): 16-17, 1998.

Coming to Terms: Humanities Reference Tools for Indexers. *KEY WORDS* 5(5): 11-15, 1997.

Coming to Terms: Science and Technology Reference Resources for Indexers. *KEY WORDS* 5(3&4): 30-33, 1997.

Coming to Terms: Social Science Reference Tools for Indexers. *KEY WORDS* 5(3&4): 26-29, 1997.

Coming to Terms: Medical Reference Tools for Indexers. *KEY WORDS* 5(1): 7-9, 1997.

“Thoughts of Food and Such.” *Cedar Key Beacon*, Cedar Key, FL. (81 weekly columns on food and nutrition) 1990-1991.

Selected Book Reviews

Reviews – a total of 49 written for The Roanoke Times – appear at the Book Omnivore: <http://bookomnivore.wordpress.com>. Plus several dozen mini-reviews written for Library Journal from 1995 -2000.

Defiance of the Patriots: The Boston Tea Party & the Making of America, by Benjamin L. Carp, *Gastronomica* 12(1): 119 – 120, Spring 2012.

Taste or Taboo: Dietary Choices in Antiquity, by Michael Beer, *Food Culture & Society* 14 (4): 613 – 616, December 2011.

Empires of Food: Feast, Famine, and the Rise and Fall of Civilization, by Evan D. G. Frasier and Andrew Rimas, *Culinary Historians of New York* newsletter, Fall 2011.

Every Home a Distillery: Alcohol, Gender, and Technology in the Colonial Chesapeake, by Sarah Hand Meacham, *Gastronomica*, 11(3): 108, August 1, 2011.

Flavours of Byzantium, by Andrew Dalby, *Culinary Historians of New York* newsletter, Fall 2010.

Medieval Cuisine of the Islamic World, by Lilia Zaouli, *Food Culture & Society* 12(1): 117 -120, March 2009.

Mrs. Charles Darwin’s Recipe Book, by Dusha Bateson and Weslie Janeway, *Culinary Historians of New York* newsletter, Fall 2009.

The Age of American Unreason, by Susan Jacoby, *National Catholic Reporter*, May 2, 2008.

Do You Believe? Conversations on God and Religion, by Antonio Monda, *National Catholic Reporter*, February 8, 2008.

Women in God’s Kitchen: Cooking Eating and Spiritual Writing, by Cristina Mazzoni, *National Catholic Reporter*, February 10, 2006.

The Penguin Historical Atlas of Ancient Egypt, by Bill Manley, *Digest of Middle Eastern Studies* 7(1): 88 -89, Winter 1998.

Arab Women: Unequal Partners in Development, by Shirin J. A. Shuki, in *Digest of Middle Eastern Studies* 6(2): 65 – 67, Spring 1997.

The Bedouins and the Desert: Aspects of Nomadic Life in the Arab East, by Jibrail S. Jabbur, in *Digest of Middle Eastern Studies* 5(4): 78 -81, Fall 1996.

Culinary Cultures of the Middle East, by Sami Zubaida and Richard Tapper, *Digest of Middle Eastern Studies* 4(3): 93 - 97, Summer 1995.

Awards and Honors

Julia Child Independent Study Grant, International Association of Culinary professionals Culinary Trust, 2011, month-long research trip in Paris, France and Aix-en-Provence, France. Study on the impact of French colonialism on the future of French cuisine.

Scholar's Grant, Culinary Historians of New York, 2011. Study of the impact of the Huguenot Diaspora on the cuisine of the American South.

Presentations

“The French Diaspora: the Impact of French Huguenots on Southern Cuisine in the United States, a Case Study of Virginia and South Carolina,” paper to be presented to the Culinary Historians of New York, Spring 2013.

“Colonial-Era Cookbooks: How Cookbooks and Cooking Illustrate Social and Cultural Differences Between British and French Colonialists,” paper presented at Cookbook Conference at the Roger Smith Hotel in New York City, February 10, 2012.

“Flavor Principles in African Cuisines,” paper presented at the Association for the Study of Food and Society meetings at Penn State, May 2009.

Professional Memberships

National Book Critics Circle
National League of American Pen Women

Languages

French
Spanish

Portuguese
Haitian Creole
Guarani

Education

M.L.I.S., University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1995

M.S., Human Nutrition and Foods, Virginia Tech, 1978

M.A., History, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, 1975

B.A., Latin American Studies, Eckerd College, 1972

Universidad de las Américas, Cholula, México, Fall 1971 (Semester abroad)

Le Cordon Bleu École de Cuisine et de Pâtisserie, Paris, France, June 1990

Selected List of Food-Related Books Indexed by Cynthia Bertelsen

The Christmas Eve Cookbook: With Tales of Nochebuena and Chanukah, by Ferdie Pacheco and Luisita Sevilla Pacheco. University Press of Florida, 1998.

The Communal Bowl: A Celebration of the World's Food, by Cynthia D. Bertelsen. Rabat American School, Rabat, Morocco, 1990.

Deleites de la Cocina Mexicana: Healthy Mexican American Cooking, by Maria Luisa Urdaneta and Daryl F. Kanter. University of Texas Press, 1996. (Spanish and English indexes)

Dieting for Dummies, by Jane Kirby and the American Dietetic Association. IDG Books, 1998.

The Elephant Walk Cookbook; The Exciting World of Cambodian Cuisine from the Nationally Acclaimed Restaurant, by Longteine De Monteiro and Katherine Neustadt. A Chapters Book, Houghton Mifflin, 1998.

Food: A Culinary History from Antiquity to the Present, edited by Albert Sonnenfeld. Columbia University Press, 1999.

Journal of the American Dietetic Association, American Dietetic Association, 1997 annual index.

Journal of the American Dietetic Association, American Dietetic Association, 1998 annual index.

Journal of the American Dietetic Association, American Dietetic Association, 1999 annual index.

Madhur Jaffrey's World Vegetarian, by Madhur Jaffrey. Crown Publishers, 1999.

Mexican Cooking for Dummies, by Susan Feniger and Mary Sue Milliken. IDG Books Worldwide, 1999.

Roger Vergé's Cooking with Fruit, by Roger Vergé. Harry N. Abrams, Inc. 1998.

Seafood Cooking for Dummies, by Leslie Beal Bloom and Marcie ver Ploeg. IDG Books Worldwide, 1999.