

# Cynthia D. Bertelsen

Writer and independent scholar with an emphasis on food and culinary history.

## Experience

- **Freelance writer**

“Gherkins & Tomatoes Blog: The Cuisines and Culture of France and Her Former Colonies,” <http://gherkinstomatoes.com>, 2008 – present.

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

- **Book Reviewer**, emphasis on multicultural texts, for *The New York Journal of Books*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *The Roanoke Times*, *Digest of Middle Eastern Studies*, *Library Journal* and others, 1995 - 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 Fetters 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

Jean-Georges Vonerichten, in *Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America*, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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>.*

*Defiance of the Patriots: The Boston Tea Party & the Making of America*, by Benjamin L. Carp, *Gastronomica*, forthcoming 2012.

*Macarons*, by Bérengère Abraham, *New York Journal of Books*, April 18, 2011.

*French Classics Made Easy*, by Richard Grausman, *New York Journal of Books*, May 18, 2011.

*At My French Table*, by Jane Webster, *New York Journal of Books*, April 27, 2011.

*La Seduction: How the French Play the Game of Life*, by Elaine Sciolino, *New York Journal of Books*, June 7, 2011.

*Dawn of the Belle Epoque: The Paris of Monet, Zola, Bernhardt, Eiffel, Debussy, Clemenceau, and Their Friends*, by Mary McAulliffe, *New York Journal of Books*, June 16, 2011.

*Paris to the Past: Traveling Through French History by Train*, by Ina Caro, *New York Journal of Books*, June 27, 2011.

Julia Child's "The French Chef," by Dana Polan, *New York Journal of Books*, July 4, 2011.

*Forty Years of Chez Panisse: The Power of Gathering*, by Alice Waters, *New York Journal of Books*, August 23, 2011.

*French Brasserie Cookbook: The Heart of French Home Cooking*, by Daniel Galmiche, *New York Journal of Books*, September 6, 2011.

*Paris Noire*, by Francine Thomas Howard, *New York Journal of Books*, September 20, 2011.

*Memoirs of a Breton Peasant*, by Jean-Marie Déguignet, *New York Journal of Books*, October 18, 2011.

*Recipes from the White Hart Inn*, by William Verral, *New York Journal of Books*, October 25, 2011.

*The Complete Indian Housekeeper and Cook*, by Flora Annie Steel and Grace Gardiner, *New York Journal of Books*, November 1, 2011.

*The Art of French Baking*, by Ginette Mathiot, *New York Journal of Books*, November 5, 2011.

*The Expert Cook in Enlightenment France*, by Sean Takats, *New York Journal of Books*, November 24, 2011.

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

*An Imam in Paris: Al-Tahtawi's Visit to France (1826–1831)*, by Rifa'a Rafi' al-Tahtawi, *New York Journal of Books*, December 13, 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), 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 Huguenot diaspora on the cuisine of the American South.

### **Presentations**

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

“The Empire in the Kitchen: French Women, ‘Boys,’ and How *La mission civilisatrice* Affected the Colonial French Table,” paper to be presented at the French Colonial Historical Society meeting in New Orleans, May 30 - June 2, 2011.

“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  
Society for French Historical Studies  
French Colonial Historical Society  
National League of American Pen Women  
North American Mycological Association  
International Association of Culinary Professionals  
Southern Foodways Alliance  
Culinary Historians of Washington DC  
Culinary Historians of New York  
Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor

### **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.