

CULINARY HISTORIANS OF NEW YORK

presents

Refined Cuisine or Just Plain Cooking? Moralists in the Kitchen

with

Rachel Laudan

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

As far back as the ancient Greek world, philosophers and others have struggled with the question of whether refined cookery is moral. In recent times, the debate has been framed as a battle between classic French cookery and plain English fare. Does complicated cooking purify, refine, and perfect foods, and thus elevate and enhance the diner's virtue? Or does such cooking falsify and corrupt that which nature made perfect, and, by extension, pollute the diner, creating unnatural appetites, illness, despotism, and war? Join independent scholar Rachel Laudan for a fascinating investigation into the philosophy of cookery.

Rachel Laudan holds a PhD in the History and Philosophy of Science from the University of London and has taught at numerous universities in the United States and South America. Among her many honors and awards are the Jane Grigson/Julia Child Award for Distinguished Food Scholarship for her book *The Food of Paradise: Exploring Hawaii's Culinary Heritage*; the American Folklore Society Prize for Scholarship in American Food; and the Sophie Coe Prize in Food History for her essay "A Kind of Chemistry," exploring the dietetic underpinning of 17th century French cookery. She is the author of numerous articles and in 2005 was the scholar-in-residence of the International Association of Culinary Professionals.

Wednesday, January 9

6:30 pm Reception

7:00 pm Lecture

Astor Center

23 East 4th Street, 2nd floor

between Lafayette and Bowery

Save the date:

February 12: Jon Rowley, "Cultivating Oysters in the Pacific"

For further information, see www.culinaryhistoriansny.org.

Moralists in the Kitchen

For reservations, please make checks payable to Culinary Historians of New York and send to CHNY c/o Carolyn Vaughan, 150 E. 93rd St., #10B, New York, NY 10128, or email Carolyn at tfox2@nyc.rr.com.

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