Hannah Woolley Encyclopedia Article

Hannah Woolley

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Hannah Woolley

1623-1684?

British schoolteacher and writer, whose name is well known to collectors of books on cookery and the domestic arts as the first woman to publish a cookbook. Left an orphan at a young age, Woolley found work as a schoolmistress and governess before attaining the post of stewardess and secretary for an unnamed woman. She eventually married and was widowed, about which time she published her first book, *The Ladies' Directory* (1661). Her four subsequent books (and their later editions) were a curious mixture of etiquette rules and behavior in society, the art of letter-writing, cooking recipes, first aid instructions, and education advice for girls' governesses and others seeking domestic positions.