

MRS. BEETON'S Legacy

Even though her life was short, the importance of Isabella Beeton's work is long-lived. She reflected the changing times in which she lived. Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* had just been published – scientific theories contradicting long-held religious beliefs. Isabella Beeton balanced these opposing views in her writings – melding the scientific with the spiritual, evolution with creation.



Charles Darwin

The comments and questions she received from the readers of the *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine* inspired her to write *The Book of Household Management*. She laid the groundwork for all subsequent writing on domestic life. Mrs. Beeton ascribed to the ideal that women take charge of the lives around them while maintaining a strong commitment to self and family. You might not think of Isabella Beeton as a feminist, but in many ways she was ahead of her time. A journalist by occupation, a homemaker and a mother; she was yesteryear's version of a today's working mother. She paved the way for all who came after – Martha Stewart included.



A selection of vintage cookbooks