

## Susannah Carter's *Frugal Housewife* Boston, 1772

IN 1772 Edes and Gill of Boston published an edition of Susannah Carter's *Frugal Housewife, or Complete Woman Cook*. It has a lengthy title-page which is shown in the accompanying reproduction. The imprint is "London. Printed for F. Newbery, at the Corner of St. Paul's Church-Yard. Boston: Re-Printed and Sold by Edes and Gill, in Queenstreet." Edes & Gill, in their *Boston Gazette* of March 2, 1772, advertised this book as "This day published," and quoted the title in full. They added that it was "Sold also by Cox & Berry in King-Street." The *Massachusetts Spy*, in the Supplement of February 27, 1772, carried the same advertisement, also the *Boston Evening Post* on March 2, 1772, and the *Massachusetts Gazette and Boston News-Letter* on March 12, 1772. In Cox & Berry's printed *Catalogue of Books*, undated, but printed at Boston in 1772 (copy in American Antiquarian Society), the last page is given over to an advertisement of *The Frugal Housewife*, quoting the title in full.

That Edes and Gill copied an English book is proved by the Newbery edition in the possession of Mrs. Thomas M. Scruggs, of Richmond Heights, Missouri. It bears the title of *The Frugal Housewife, or Complete Woman Cook*, by Susannah Carter, London: Printed for F. Newbery, at the Corner of St. Paul's Church-Yard, no date, but presumably 1772. The Boston edition faithfully copied the London title-page for the upper two-thirds. But the English title states that to the text are added twelve new prints, exhibiting a proper arrangement of dinners. The Boston title omits reference to the twelve prints and states that fixed to the text are various bills of fare. Both titles are herewith reproduced. The pagination of the London edition is xii, 180, 12, and of the Boston edition [xii], 168, due to the fact that Edes and Gill omitted the last fourteen wine receipts on

pages 173-180 of the English edition and also the twelve pages containing the twelve woodcut prints. In the English edition the frontispiece plate and the plate before page 1 are signed "I. Lodge sculp." Revere copied these two plates with faithful exactness. In the Boston edition, in original binding, the two plates are inserted as a frontispiece and opposite page [xii]. The prints in both editions are reproduced on Plates 27 and 28.

That Revere made these plates is shown by the entry in his Day Book, under date of January 20, 1772, as follows: "Mesr Edes & Gill Dr. To Engraving a Copper plate for coocrey Book & 500 prints 2-14-0." The plates bear Revere's characteristic style of lettering. The existence of two plates in the volume, whereas Revere charged the publishers for one, is presumably explained by the fact that he engraved both small plates on one copper.

Two perfect copies of the book are known, in the American Antiquarian Society and Harvard. The Library of Congress copy lacks the frontispiece plate and the John Carter Brown Library has the frontispiece plate slightly imperfect. The Ross County Historical Society, Chillicothe, Ohio, has a copy lacking only the left-hand corner of the title-page, affecting four or five words. The American Antiquarian Society also has copies of the New York undated edition of 1792, the Philadelphia edition of 1796, and the Philadelphia edition of 1802. The plates in these editions follow the plates of the Boston edition, or possibly the London edition, but distinctly vary.