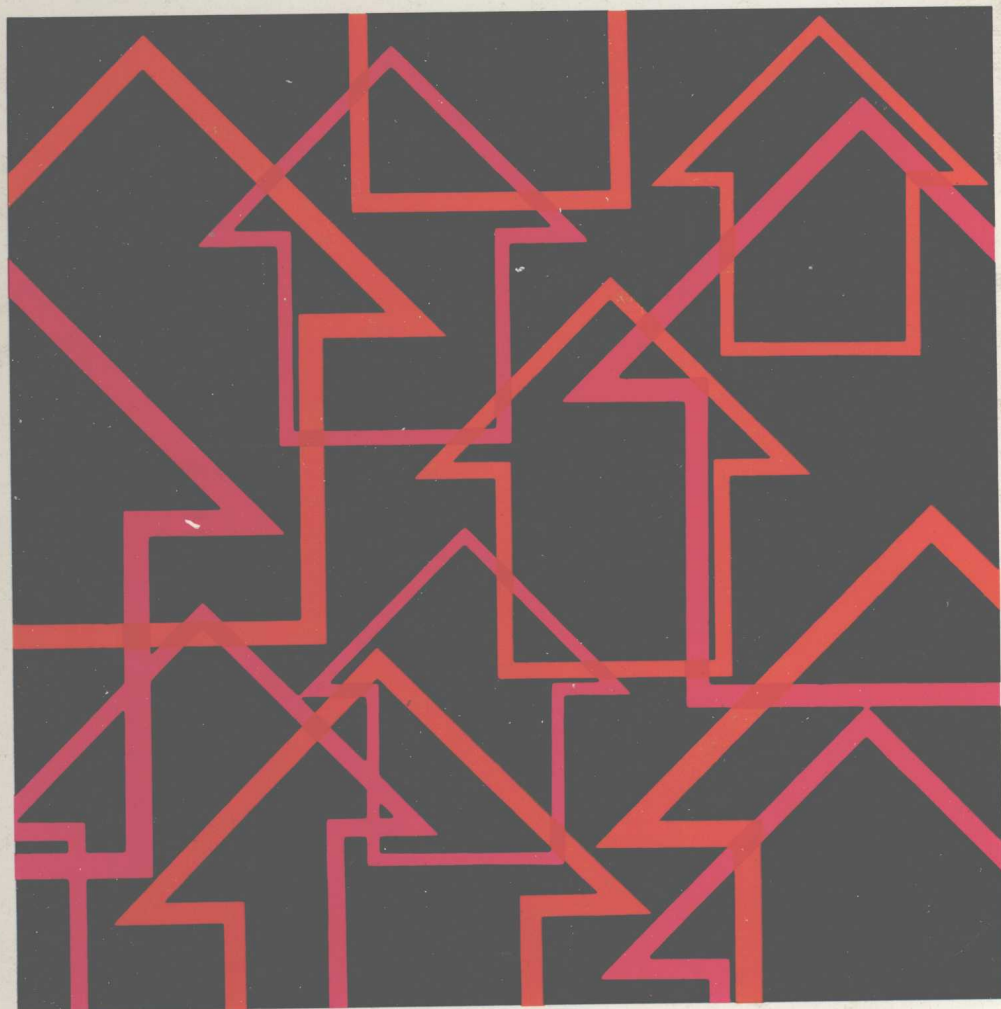


FRANCES J. PARKER

home economics

AN INTRODUCTION TO
A DYNAMIC PROFESSION

SECOND EDITION



Home Economics

An Introduction to a Dynamic Profession

Second Edition

Frances J. Parker

*California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo*

Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.
New York

Collier Macmillan Publishers
London

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Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.
866 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022

Collier Macmillan Canada, Inc.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Parker, Frances J.
Home economics.

Bibliography: p.
Includes index.

1. Home economics.	I. Title.	
TX167.P36 1983	640'.23	82-15367
ISBN 0-02-391710-5		AACR2

Printing: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Year: 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

ISBN 0-02-391710-5

preface

For over a decade the materials included in this book have been instrumental in the professional preparation of thousands of emerging home economists. The content of the manuscript benefited from classroom testing.

Concepts have been refined and expanded; the document was continuously revised in response to student and colleague suggestions as well as social and professional changes. Professional interaction is a major thesis of this text.

The purpose of this book is to introduce home economics students to modes of professional interaction from a historical, contemporary, and futuristic perspective. Emerging professionals need to be aware of the philosophical basis, objectives and accomplishments of the profession. They need to consider the relationship of their personal goals, values, and philosophy to those of home economics. Pre-professionals want to know about the status of the profession, career opportunities and the competencies required for entering the home economics profession.

There are several unique features in this textbook. Competencies have been identified for the home economist in business, education, dietetics and research. The reader will find in Chapter 4 that the growth and accomplishments of the discipline are arranged chronologically. Public policy involvement and an overview of the scope and nature of home economics research contributes to the versatility of the book. A section on professional affiliations and organizational membership contributes to the interaction theme of the text and supports the dynamic, proactive posture the profession advocates as a strategy for group impact on change.

Chapter 1 features the changing roles of family members with implications for personal and professional roles. Additional data for decision making is provided by concepts of professionalism and examples of professional interaction in Chapter 2. Philosophy, values, and goals from a personal and professional perspective are considered in Chapter 3 as a preliminary for identifying with the historical and contemporary issues, concerns and contributions of home economists which are covered in Chapters 4 and 5. Accreditation, certification and competency based education are topical concerns of the latter chapter.

Professional interaction in the world of work, Chapter 6, incorporates attitudes toward work, the changing labor force, characteristics of professional workers, and the benefits of experiential learning. Chapter 7 contains a description of professional roles, competencies, salaries, and work settings. A broad range of home economics occupations are identified. Specific job titles are listed for specialists in business, education, food-nutrition, dietetics, human relations and research. Chapter 8 features new professional dimensions. Approaches to the future, projections of opinion leaders, and statistical trends are presented. The conclusion suggests future directions for the home economics profession.

Numerous leaders, monumental and incidental publications, conferences and activities are referred to throughout the text. A lengthy reference list is appended. Many observations included in the book were obtained at first hand as the author interacted with the home economists who have built the profession.

The chapters are complete in themselves. They could be introduced at any point in a course according to the preferences of the individual instructor. I believe that this book includes the information essential for an introduction to home economics. The content certainly parallels the essential understandings identified by representatives of the profession in the document, *Competency Based Professional Education in Home Economics*.

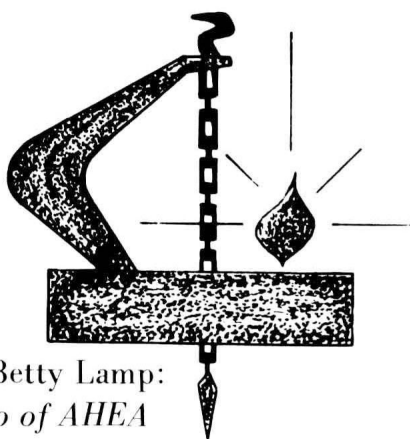
Acknowledgments

The author sincerely appreciates the suggestions and cooperation she received from colleagues and students as the book developed. The American Home Economics Association was especially helpful with photographs and permission to use materials.

I am indebted to the individuals, journals, colleges and universities, businesses, federal agencies, and professional organizations for permitting excerpts and photographs to be reprinted. The suggestions of the reviewers selected by Macmillan to evaluate the draft manuscript were very helpful. The insight and excellent editing of John Beck and George Carr contributed to fruition of the project.

To my family goes appreciation for their encouragement. My husband Edward deserves special praise for his keen critical analysis and constant assistance. Thanks also go to my daughter, Nancye, for carefully reviewing the book in its early stages.

F.J.P.



The Betty Lamp:
Logo of AHEA

home Economics

ideal home life for today
unhampered by the traditions of the past.

utilization of all resources of modern science
to improve the home life.

freedom of the home from the dominance of things
and their due subordination to ideals.

simplicity in material surroundings
which will most free the spirit
for the more important and permanent interests
of the home and of society.

Ellen H. Richards - 1904
(*Founder & First President AHEA*)

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Changing Patterns of Interaction

Don't just sit by the fire: lead, follow, or get out of the way. The problem with sitting by the fire is that its warmth is comforting—its attraction continuous, and its beauty and light evident, while all around the world is dim and the path unsure. Here by the fire there is security—the security of the illuminated, the warm, the known—while each facing of the world anew is a dual wrestle with oneself. First, one must convince oneself to leave the sanctuary of the known, and second, one must accept the challenges lurking in the shadows of whatever path is trod.

And so it is with the role of woman. Throughout the ages, the central pattern of the family and the division of labor between the sexes survived: men went out from the hearth for food, to protect, to conquer, to explore and to organize. Women stayed near the hearth, cared for the young and prepared the food.

Later generations elaborated upon this pattern with greatly extended families, complex systems of feudal interrelationships and one-sex religious communities. However, the central family core and sex-determined division of labor prevailed although much was added to it. To the care of infant and toddler was added the protection of youth and the care of the sick and the elderly. It was the woman who prepared the

2 Changing Patterns of Interaction

dead for burial, tended women in labor, washed the newborn, and wrapped them in bark or swaddling clothes.

When the Judaic-Christian tradition flowered with a new concern for the welfare of the poor, sick, and orphaned, women assumed new responsibilities. First as "widow," then as deaconess and nun, she pursued community aid activities outside the home. Thus, traditional roles evolved into nursing and teaching.

We are the inheritors of this tradition of women who left their homes to expand services to the wider world, which were once performed within the home.

In the midst of contemporary concerns about aggressive feminists, it is interesting to note in the literature that the ancient feminine occupation of bathing the dead is now in the hands of morticians—a male profession for profit, midwifery is now in the hands of a male obstetrician followed by male pediatricians, and visitation of the bereaved and widowed is done by male insurance agents. Although much has been said about women assuming male occupations, the forementioned is not so well known. This assumption by males of formerly female occupations exemplifies the changing of roles to cope with a society that was in a state of flux. (Margaret Mead)¹²⁶

Yesteryear's roles of family members were well defined and generally agreed upon. Responsibilities, goals, values, and behavior were part of the cultural mores. "When one role is provided and there is no alternative, when this role is generally approved by society, when the role fits into a pattern and provides satisfaction as well as demands responsibilities, the person to whom the role applies slips into it easily and without a feeling of frustration or conflict. On the other hand, when choices must be made and especially when for many of the possible choices, coordinated roles are lacking for other members of society, there is social confusion and personal anxiety and hostility." The latter statement describes the present condition. The significant feature of the issue regarding roles for husbands and wives is not that the old roles have been destroyed but that up to the present new roles have not evolved that are: first, complementary; second, definite and recognizable by the young men and women; and third, in harmony with new social conditions.

Stereotype Roles

Stereotypes of male and female roles at home and in the market place have been confused with femininity and masculinity. The terms "man's work" and "woman's work" are commonplace. You all know that "one learns to be either male or female according to the manner in which one is socialized." Socialization affects the attitudes, values, and interests of individuals. Girls are taught to play with dolls and clean the house



Changing roles for a changing society. Divorced single parent grooms daughter for school.

and care for the sick whereas boys are channeled toward physical, scientific, and mechanical activities. Femininity is linked with human relationships, nurturance, interdependence, artistic ability, and contextual style. Masculinity is associated with spatial concepts, manipulative skills, analytical style, and independence. The actual fact of maleness or femaleness does not indicate femininity or masculinity. Some women have more masculine traits than a man whereas some men have feminine traits. A hairdresser may seem less masculine than a football player but the difference is really insignificant. The important thing is the femaleness or maleness one experiences in relation to their mate. In other words if a person feels sensual in relation to another, they are happy. Interacting individuals are the real caretakers of each other's sexual identity.

Over the years the pendulum swings from the primary to the extended family and back to the primary family structure. Today, for all our technological, scientific, and educational advances, many women returned to the Stone Age arrangement in which woman's main ambition is to acquire and hold a mate and to adopt or produce children who are the exclusive delight and concern of a single couple.

They are content to sit by the fire. It is not the individual young

4 Changing Patterns of Interaction



Men and women are the real caretakers of sexual identity. (*Courtesy of Daily Star, Oneonta, N.Y.*)

girl, young wife, or old woman who is at fault; it is the climate of opinion in our country. If we are to bypass this obstacle we must alter some very basic attitudes of men and women—especially those who are rearing and guiding girls or preparing to be complacent grandparents.

Contemporary Challenges

Some basic questions to confront—

Are women to be seen as individuals with special capabilities and possibilities or viewed primarily as wives and mothers?

Will we continue to educate boys and girls in the present manner