Margaret Fulton: A study of a 1960s Australian food writer as an activist

Donna Brien

Abstract

Today, food writing makes up a significant proportion of the texts written, published, sold and read each year in Australia. While the food writing published in magazines and cookbooks has often been thought of as providing useful, but relatively banal, practical skills-based information to its readers, relatively recent reassessments suggest that food writing is much more interesting and important than this. In the contemporary context, when the mere mention of food engenders considerable anxiety, food writers play a number of roles beyond providing information on how to buy, store, prepare and serve various provisions. Instead, contemporary food writers engage with a range of important issues around food production and consumption including sustainable and ethical agriculture, biodiversity and genetic modification, food miles and fair trade, food safety and security, and obesity, diabetes and other health issues. In this, Australian food writers not only provide comment on any important issues in progress, they are also, I suggest, forward-thinking activists, advocating and campaigning for change. This paper focuses on prominent Australian food writer Margaret Fulton’s career in the 1960s to begin to investigate her work as an activist: that is, one who advocates and campaigns to bring about change.

Keywords

Margaret Fulton; Australian food writing; food writers

Authors Information

Donna Brien

Margaret Fulton facts for kids. Kids Encyclopedia Facts. Margaret Isobel Fulton OAM) (born 6 October 1924 in Nairn, Scotland) is a British-born Australian food and cooking 'guru', writer, journalist, author, and commentator. She was the first of this genre of writers in Australia. Her early recipes encouraged Australian housewives to alter the Australian staple of "meat and three vegetables" and to be creative with food. She ‘discovered’ international cuisine from exotic places such as Spain, Italy, France, and the United States. In October 1973, Fulton was appointed to the Federal Government’s 'Interim Commission on Consumer Standards' which was formed to 'reach as many groups as possible' and 'find the areas where action' on standards was 'most urgent'.[13]. Margaret Fuller was an American writer, journalist and literary critic. Read this biography to learn more about her childhood, profile, life and timeline. Margaret Fuller initially worked as a teacher before she went on to become the editor of 'The Dial', a transcendentalist journal. She also became one of the first female editor and female foreign correspondents of the esteemed American newspaper, the 'New-York Tribune'. As a foreign correspondent, she produced a total of over 37 reports in a span of four years for the 'New-York Tribune'. Perhaps one of the most recognised and famous personalities of her generation, Fuller was known for her quick temper, outspoken nature, quick-wittedness and adventurous nature.