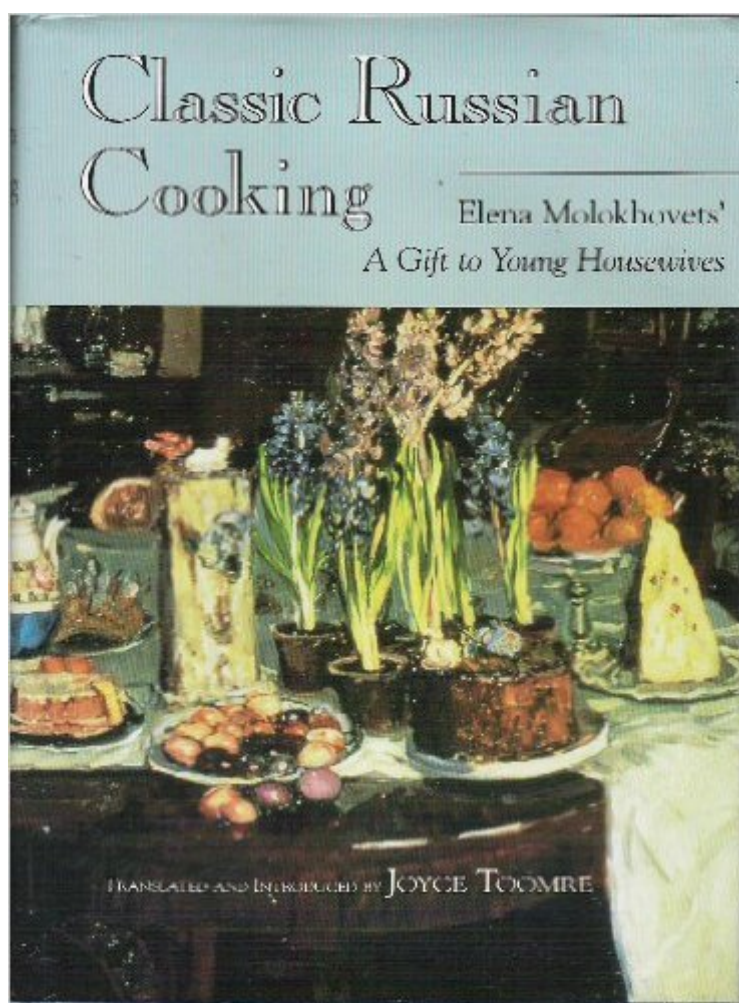


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# Classic Russian Cooking: Elena Molokhovets' A Gift To Young Housewives (Indiana-Michigan Series In Russian & East European Studies)



## Synopsis

First published in 1861, this ""bible"" of Russian homemakers offered not only a compendium of recipes, but also instructions about such matters as setting up a kitchen, managing servants, shopping, and proper winter storage. Joyce Toomre has superbly translated and annotated over 1,000 recipes and has written a thorough and fascinating introduction that discusses the history of Russian cuisine and summarizes Elena Molokhovets' advice on household management. A treasure trove for culinary historians, serious cooks, and cookbook readers, and scholars of Russian history and culture.

## Book Information

Series: Indiana-Michigan Series in Russian & East European Studies

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (16 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I seriously dislike when translators change the nature of books by selective translation. "Oh, I don't think this section is interesting. Let's not bother translating it." This book only includes 25% of the recipes in the original. No kidding; most of the recipes have been removed. The translator also has the audacity to remove the author's name from the spine of the book. Instead she puts her own name there as if the book was written by her. What kind of person would do such a thing? The book also contains a longer, scholarly, and fairly interesting introduction by the translator. The book is still valuable for the historian who wants to know more about life in Russia 100 years ago. You certainly can cook from this book, even though the translator kind of wonders why you would do such a thing. You should know that the translator must be as far removed from being a foodie as possible. There is not a single word signalling that the author has any kind of passion for food. So for the cook who wants to cook Russian food you just have to accept that the translator removed 75% of the

recipes. The back of the book lists the title of all the removed recipes. It looks like we will have to wait for the full translation of this book. Another not so good book is *The Art of Russian Cuisine*, which has taken a lot of recipes from Molokhovets' book. However, since this book was written by an exiled Russian in the 1980s, it is quite dreary reading. The choices of recipes included are a product of the author's Soviet upbringing. Not at all the strange and interesting dishes found in Molokhovets' book.

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