



The Ladies' Etiquette Handbook: The Importance of Being Refined in the 1880s

By David E. Schoonover, Kenneth Cmiel

University of Iowa Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Ladies' Etiquette Handbook: The Importance of Being Refined in the 1880s, David E. Schoonover, Kenneth Cmiel, Prior to the late 19th century, most Americans viewed dining as a unitarian duty characterized by common ""meat and potato"" dishes and complemented by little, if any, polite conversation. With the boom in industrialism and the sudden growth of the middle class in the 1880s, America's interest in social etiquette rose dramatically. Consisting of two separate publications - ""The Ladies' Handbook and Household Assistant"" (1886) and ""Short Hints on Social Etiquette"" (1887) - ""The Ladies' Etiquette Handbook"" can be read as a testament to the growing division between social classes and, at the same time, as a reflection of the middle class' overwhelming desire to cross social lines through the graces of fine etiquette. Written by a Methodist women's church group in Manchester, New Hampshire, ""The Ladies' Handbook and Household Assistant"" provides advice on subjects such as church etiquette and the proper handling of cutlery as well as recipes for the socially active household. ""Short Hints on Social Etiquette"" , published as a promotional piece by a Philadelphia soap manufacturer - including descriptions of...

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