

London cries : the milk maid / Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.

Contributors

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London Cries

The Milk-maid

Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company

DINNER

COCKTAIL SAUSAGES OLIVES RIZ ORIENTALE
GENDARME HERRINGS BEETROOT AND ONION
 CELERY HEARTS MARINADE

CONSOMME MADRILENE CREME DANOISE

FRIED DOVER SOLE REMOULADE

CREPES MOGADOR

BRAISED BEEF A LA MODE

ROAST TURKEY CRANBERRY SAUCE

SPINACH EN BRANCHES

POTATOES - BOVIN ANGLAISE

COLD - GALANTINE OF CHICKEN HAM

SALAD

ALMOND AND RAISIN PUDDING VANILLA SAUCE

COUPE MARQUISE

SOFT ROES ON TOAST


DESSERT KENTISH COBS

(Coffee is served in all Public Rooms)

*The undermentioned Wines are ready for serving with
this meal*

WHITE No. 25 RUDSHEIMER SUPERIOR
RED No. 19 ST. EMILION

*The Wine List showing a full list of Wines in stock
may be obtained from the Head Waiter*



“ MILK ! FRESH MILK !
MILK MAIDS BELOW ! ”

The original Cry was ‘ Any milk here ? ’ and then it passed to ‘ Milk ! maids below, ’ to be shortened later to ‘ Milk below ’ and ‘ Milko. ’ The final corruption, as might have been expected, was ‘ Mio ’ which some wag interpreted into ‘ Mi-eau ’ ‘ demi-eau ’ (half water).

Most of the milk in London was vended by maids, and very comely they were too ; the comeliest being one Kate Smith, known as the Merry Milkmaid, who was chosen for her beauty to preside as Queen at the May Festival. Misson in his “ Travels ” has a record of these revels.

“ On the first of May, and the five or six days following, all the pretty young girls that serve the town with milk, dress themselves up very neatly, and borrow an abundance of silver plate, whereof they make a pyramid which they adorn with ribbons and flowers, and carry upon their heads instead of their common milk pails. In this equipage they go from door to door, accompanied by others of their kind, and by a bagpipe and fiddle. There they dance before the houses of their customers and everybody gives them something.”

This is a delightful picture, and makes one regret that these pretty young girls have departed to be remembered only in a song for children.

It is reported of Kate Smith that she ran away to be secretly married and in her absence the Town Crier called for her thus :

“ O, Yez ! O, Yez ! Any man or woman
That can tell any tydings
Of a little mayden childe
Of the age of twenty-four yeares,
Bring word to the Cryer,
And you shall be pleased for your labor.
And God’s blessinge !

Which advertisement it is to be hoped had the desired result and returned pretty Kate, complete with husband, to cry ‘ Milk ! Maids below, ’ once again.

“ RICH MILK FROM THE COW,
BOTH SWEET AND FINE :
THE DOCTORS DECLARE,
IT’S BETTER THAN WINE.”