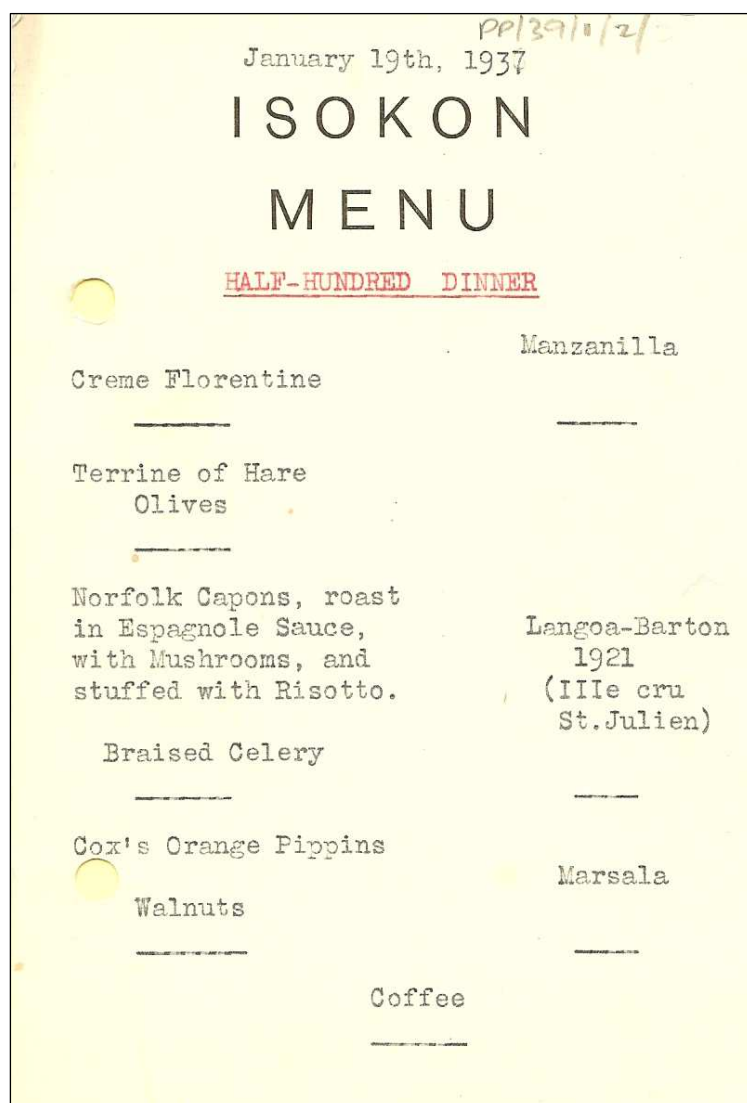


THE HALF HUNDRED DINING CLUB

A dining club of the 1930s and 40s, the purpose of which was “to combine good dining with economy”. Members were limited to 25 and they each could bring along a guest, possessing “no religious or other taboos or unsociable characteristics which may impede conversation”. Each dinner would have a director who would plan and host the meal.



Our featured item shows the Club’s first menu directed by Philip Harben, the UK’s first television celebrity chef. Also included here are rules for the Club – where impoliteness fees were charged and diners served in strict rotation “without distinction of sex or other favouritism”.

Members and guests of the Half Hundred Club included Raymond Postgate, Julian Huxley, Walter Gropius, Marcel Breuer, Ernst Freud,

Francis Meynell, and Philip Harben.

The Archives holds papers relating to the dinners, including menus, a 'blurb' or objective for each meal, budgets, shopping lists, invoices, guests present, and seating plans. Also rules and organisation of the Club.

To find out more about the Half Hundred Club, contact the Archives and quote reference PP/39/2 [Pritchard Papers].

