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# The Thanksgiving Book

*Lucille Recht Penner*

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**Lucille Recht Penner : The Thanksgiving Book** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Thanksgiving Book:

By Lucille Recht Penner author of The Colonial Cookbook\* Who invented Thanksgiving? Was it the Pilgrims, those few dozen astonishing people who fought hardship and disease-who survived fear and loneliness-to plant the seeds of America? Their "first Thanksgiving" (for which the Indians supplied the deer meat) is certainly the most famous in history. But Thanksgiving is far older than that. In England, where the Pilgrims came from, English farmers had been celebrating Harvest Home for many hundreds of years. Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Greeks and Romans, and by the Ancient Hebrews. In China, Thanksgiving was celebrated as the birthday of the moon. The Thanksgiving Book tells the story of these and other unusual Thanksgiving celebrations spanning the centuries and circling the Globe. It tells about the delicious foods of the holiday, their interesting origins, and how to cook them. Recipes range from traditional favorites to unusual easy-to-make dishes like Popcorn Cake Mennonite, West African Yam Soup, Cranberry Ice Cream, and Molasses Pie Neversink. Brimming with beautiful prints and woodcuts, this is another exhaustively researched, delightfully written collection of history, facts, and folklore by the author of the Colonial Cookbook and The Honey Book. From Hawaii to India, from Ghana to Poland and Japan, The Thanksgiving Book evokes not only the fascinating superstitions and rituals: the fun and games and feasting; but also the joyous and

reverent spirit of Thanksgivings everywhere.

From Publishers Weekly Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday, but readers may not be aware that harvest festivals have taken place in almost every culture and country since grain was first sown. Penner, author of *The Colonial Cookbook* and *The Honey Book*, here gathers together woodcuts, art, oral literature (poems and prayers from the Indians) and texts from old cookbooks, Early American household accounts and harvest lore from around the world. She includes recipes for sweet-potato pie, preserved pumpkin chips, cranberry conserve and many other delights that she has adapted for the 20th century kitchen. This well-researched book is a treasury of information about our least-commercialized but most heartfelt celebration. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal Grade 4-7 Penner traces harvest festivals from the earliest known times, when many of the ancient rites were both celebratory and ritualistic. There is a good description of how native Americans celebrated and how the Pilgrims and Indians combined elements of both the Old and New Worlds in their first joint celebration. The Thanksgiving Book is attractive, well written, and interesting. Prints and photographs add to the lively text, and recipes are given for foods described. A bibliography and very complete index are included. Many other books, such as Edna Barth's *Turkeys, Pilgrims, and Indian Corn* (Houghton, 1975), tend to understate the long history of harvest celebrations among all peoples and the contributions those celebrations have made to ours. Penner corrects this and goes further, with her discussion of important contributions of various immigrant and ethnic groups to our Thanksgiving. This book will add to young people's understanding of how virtually all peoples have celebrated their harvests and the many ways our modern celebrations continue that tradition. Mary Mueller, Rolla Junior High School, Mo. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.