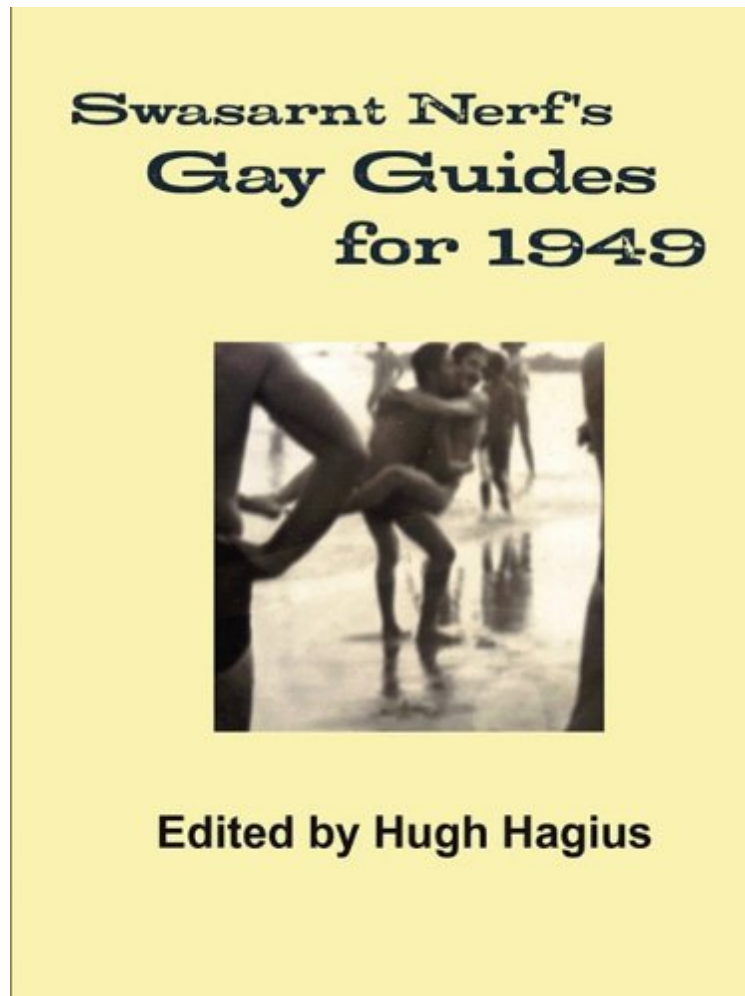


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Swasarnt Nerf's Gay Guides for 1949

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Hugh Hagus : Swasarnt Nerf's Gay Guides for 1949 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Swasarnt Nerf's Gay Guides for 1949:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Swasarnt Nerf's Gay Guides for 1949By J. DoyleSwasarnt Nerf's Gay Guides for 1949This 172-page volume was lovingly published in 2010 by Hugh Hagus, who used several sources trying to capture a bit of gay culture through the 1950s. The Damron Guides did not begin until 1964, so the Guide information included here are rare privately circulated listings of bars, cruise areas, and much more, fresh off the mimeograph machines, and passed hand to hand to its audience.These were published by Swasarnt Nerf, whose real identity is unknown, but of course the name was supposed to be a play on the French for sixty-nine. Volumes were done in 1949, 1950 and one in the mid-50s. Very telling of the times is that each volume was entitled A Gay Girl's Guide, with the use of "girl" as "vocative, synonymous with darling, loosely by homosexuals with reference to

themselves and their friends."These guides did not include photos, but the editor was able to intersperse private photos of gay New York's beaches and city scenes from that time period, making this a more interesting read.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great sourceBy Jon ColemanIf you are an historian of sexuality, interested in queer theory, or just a curious-minded person, you will find this book fascinating. It's great to see some original sources published for the public. The format of the book is quite simple, but lends itself to the feel of the original memiographed copies. Better notation of where the sources can be found, particularly the photographs, would have been helpful.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nostalgia for some...By Jon C. StoutNostalgia for some, a revelation for others, this review of gay haunts in the era of Truman and Eisenhower is an eye-opener for anyone who ever wondered what gay life was like before the liberation movements of the 60's. Hugh Hagus has the scholar's eye for the revealing detail and the human story, not to mention the manly figure.

Reprint of booklets which circulated in the gay underground of New York in 1949, along with snapshots of gay life in the 1940s, '50s and '60s.