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The WPA Guide to New York City: William Hollingsworth Whyte 1992 Originally published in 1939 at the time of the world’s Fair, this is a guide of this universe for time-travellers. It offers New-Yorkers and 1930s-buffs a look at life as it was lived in the days when a trolley ride cost only a few cents, a room at the Plaza was $7.50, Dodger fans flocked to Ebbets Field, and the new World’s Fair was the talk of the town. The New York of 1939 was a city where adventures began under the clock at the Billtmore, the lil cars lined at midnight, and Times Square was considered the crossroads of the world.

The WPA Guide to New York-The Federal Writers’ Project 2013-10-31 During the 1930s in the United States, the Works Progress Administration developed the Federal Writers’ Project to support writers and artists while making a national effort to document the country’s shared history and culture. The American Guide series consists of individual guides to each of the states. Little-known authors—many of whom would later become celebrated literary figures—were commissioned to write these important books. John Steinbeck, Saul Bellows, Zora Neale Hurston, and Ralph Ellison are among the more than 6,000 writers, editors, historians, and researchers who documented this celebration of local histories. Photographs, drawings, driving tours, detailed descriptions of towns, and rich cultural details exhibit each state’s unique flavor. The WPA Guide to New York provides a total of 45 excellent tours, taking the reader across the Empire State, from Niagara Falls and the Adirondacks to the five boroughs of New York City. In addition to the nation’s center for culture and industry, New York also contains rich Native American, Revolutionary, and immigration history—all detailed in this diverse guide for a diverse city.

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The WPA Guide to Georgia-Federal Writers’ Project 2013-10-23 During the 1930s in the United States, the Works Progress Administration developed the Federal Writers’ Project to support writers and artists while making a national effort to document the country’s shared history and culture. The American Guide series consists of individual guides to each of the states. Little-known authors—many of whom would later become celebrated literary figures—were commissioned to write these important books. John Steinbeck, Saul Bellow, Zora Neale Hurston, and Ralph Ellison are among the more than 6,000 writers, editors, historians, and researchers who documented this celebration of local histories. Photographs, drawings, driving tours, detailed descriptions of towns, and rich cultural details exhibit each state’s unique flavor. The WPA Guide to Georgia describes the rich historical and cultural background of American’s Peach State. With varied and interesting photos, the guide gives readers a real taste as to what sweet southern living was like in the 1940’s, all the way from the top of the Blue Ridge Mountains down to the roasting Mississippi River valley.


The WPA Guide to North Carolina-Michigan, a Guide to the Wolverine State

The WPA Guide to Ohio-The WPA Guide to Ohio was written by a New Deal agency almost 80 years ago. According to the author, the guide is not a tourist guide but a fresh face. Under its colorful head, Harry Hopkins, the agency’s remarkable accomplishment was to combine the urgency of putting people back to work with its vision of physically rebuilding America. Its workers laid roads, eroded dams, bridges, tunnels, and airports. They stroked rivers, made roads, sewed clothes, served millions of hot school lunches. When disasters struck, they were there by the thousands to rescue the stranded. And all across the country the WPA’s arts programs performed concerts, staged plays, painted murals, delighted children with circuses, created invaluable guidebooks. Even today, more than sixty years after the WPA ceased to exist, there is almost no seam in America that does not bear some visible mark of its presence. Politically controversial, the WPA was staffed by passionate believers and hated by conservatives; its critics called its projects make-work and wags said it stood for We Piddle Around. The contrary was true. We have only to look at us today to discover its lasting presence.

The WPA Guide to New York City


Los Angeles in the 1930s United States Federal Writers’ Project 2013-11-24 During the 1930s in Los Angeles, when writers like Raymond Chandler, Wallace Beery, and F. Scott Fitzgerald were creating the images and associations—the mythos—for which the City of Angeles is still known, Los Angeles in the 1930s a guide to the contemporary culture, with a brief L.A. history, revisiting the Spanish colonial period, the Mexican period, the brief California Republic, and finally American sovereignty.

The WPA Guide to Tennessee-San Diego in the 1930s

The WPA Guide to Texas-Texas 1940


The WPA Guide to California-Federal Writers’ Project 2013-10-31 During the 1930s in the United States, the Works Progress Administration developed the Federal Writers’ Project to support writers and artists while making a national effort to document the country’s shared history and culture. The American Guide series consists of individual guides to each of the states. Little-known authors—many of whom would later become celebrated literary figures—were commissioned to write these important books. John Steinbeck, Saul Bellow, Zora Neale Hurston, and Ralph Ellison are among the more than 6,000 writers, editors, historians, and researchers who documented this celebration of local histories. Photographs, drawings, driving tours, detailed descriptions of towns, and rich cultural details exhibit each state’s unique flavor. The WPA Guide to California stands out among the rest of the WPA guides for the quality of its writing, photographs, and pen-and-ink drawings. The Golden State contains much diversity of people, places, and things, and the WPA Guide expertly reflects and records the eclectic quality of this quintessentially American state. Published in 1939, the guide’s essays on history cover everything from the gold rush to the movies industry at the nascence of Hollywood’s golden age, and its back-road tours through California’s coastal fishing villages and mountain mining towns still provide a splendid alternative to freeways.

The WPA Guide to New York City-Alive with the exuberance, contradictions, and variety of the Golden State, this Depression-era guide to California is more than 700 pages of information that is, as David Kipen writes in his spirited introduction, “anecdotal, opinionated, and altogether habit-forming.” Focusing on urban Boston, also known as the Cradle of Liberty, and including rural Plymouth, this guide features a comprehensive tour scheme to engage tourists and focus on the real character of the state. The guide is a look not only at the historical and cultural aspects of the state but also at its people. With its own distinctive flavor. For a reader interested in small town life in the early 20th century, the WPA Guide to Ohio is an excellent resource. A series of photographs by Ben Shahn for the Farm Security Administration is well complemented with 17 selective essays about the political, industrial, and cultural life in the Buckeye State. The essay on the economy provides interesting information on the labor movement in Ohio.

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