

Wayne Dynes



Wayne R. Dynes was born on August 23, 1934. He is Professor Emeritus in the Art Department at Hunter College, where he taught from 1972 to 2005.

Wayne received his B.A. in 1969 at UCLA. He later moved to Manhattan, New York City where he obtained his Ph.D. from the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University.

Wayne served on the board of directors of One Inc. in 1954. This was one of the first gay rights organizations in the nation.

During the 1960s Wayne was a member of the Mattachine Society of New York (MSNY). He collaborated with two librarians on a basic bibliography of gay studies. This project resulted in the publication of *Homosexuality: A Research Guide* (New York: Garland, 1987). This accomplishment led to Dynes' service as editor-in-chief of the *Encyclopedia of Homosexuality* (New York: Garland, 1990). A major achievement, this two-volume set ranks as the first work of its kind. It garnered six major awards, including three from library organizations. It includes over 770 articles on a wide range of topics related to male and/or female homosexuality.

Wayne was also co-author with Stephen Donaldson of the thirteen-volume *Studies in Homosexuality* (1994). In 1985, he published *Homolexis: A Historical and Cultural Lexicon of Homosexuality*. The text served as an early, foundational glossary and cultural guide exploring terminology, history, and concepts related to same-sex love. Scholars viewed *Homolexis* as a pioneering step toward modern gay and lesbian studies.

Wayne was a key figure in the Gay Academic Union, an organization founded in the 1970s to promote LGBTQ+ scholarship. Wayne edited and published its periodical titled *The Cabirion* (also known as *Gay Books Bulletin*). Arthur C. Warner, founder of the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties, closely collaborated with Wayne through these intellectual and activist channels to challenge anti-gay legislation. Wayne authored *Homolexis: A Historical and Cultural Lexicon of Homosexuality*, published in New York by the GAU Scholarship Committee in 1983/1985. He and Donaldson co-edited *Gay and Lesbian Studies in Art History* (1994).

In 2014, Wayne published a book titled "The Homophobic Mind" which dispelled myths and stereotypes about homosexuals and homosexuality.

Wayne passed away in late July 2021 in New York City at the age of 86. There are 26 books listed under his name on [Goodreads](#). A blog he started known as [Dynes Lines](#) is still available online.