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Challenging *Baedeker* Through the Art of Sexual Science: an Exploration of Gay and Lesbian Subcultures in Curt Moreck's *Guide to 'Depraved' Berlin (1931)*

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In 1931 the then well-known cultural critic Konrad Haemmerling (1888–

1957) published the tourist guide, *Führer durch das 'lasterhafte' Berlin* (*Guide to 'Depraved' Berlin*) under the pseudonym Curt Moreck.¹ The guide's red and gold embossed cover depicts a scantily clad female holding a glass. She is dancing with a bear – Berlin's symbol – which is shackled and holds a bottle of champagne, the two figures trampling on the city's coat of arms from which the bear has become animated. This odd pair indicates the key theme of the book: how to conquer post-war Berlin through its nightlife. The book documents bars, dance halls, and shabby pubs, alongside images by well-known artists. Its subject matter, along with its pronounced use of red and gold, and its pocket format suggest a deliberate parody of the *Baedeker* tourist...

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