

John Dos Passos galley proof of The Great Days

Ms. Coll. 1296

Finding aid prepared by Kelin Baldrige.

Last updated on May 25, 2017.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2017 May 24

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Dos Passos, John, 1896-1970
Title	John Dos Passos galley proof of <i>The Great Days</i>
Call number	Ms. Coll. 1296
Date	1958
Extent	0.1 linear foot (1 box)
Language	English
Abstract	John Dos Passos (1896-1970) was an American novelist and artist born in Chicago, Illinois. This collection contains the galley proof for his semi-autobiographical book <i>The Great Days</i> .

Cite as:

John Dos Passos galley proof *The Great Days*, 1958, Ms. Coll. 1296, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

John Dos Passos was an American novelist and artist born in Chicago, Illinois on January 14, 1896. He graduated from Harvard University in 1916; and in 1917, joined the Norton-Harjes Ambulance Corps (which was absorbed into the United States Medical Corps) with several of his college friends including E.E. Cummings and Robert Hillyer. His World War I service in France and Italy profoundly affected him and his first two novels were "both direct responses to his experiences in Europe ... plugged full of antiestablishment rhetoric and paeans to individualism," (Howsare). Over the next years, Dos Passos developed a decidedly "dim view of capitalism and sympathy for workers' movements and socialism," (Howsare). He visited the Soviet Union in 1928 and in 1935, Dos Passos participated in the First American Writers Congress which was sponsored by the Communist-leaning League of American Writers. According to the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Dos Passos "was in Spain in 1937 during the Spanish Civil War, when the murder of his friend José Robles soured his attitude toward communism," resulting in his shift to an anti-fascist and anti-communism platform. Dos Passos is best known for his U.S.A. trilogy, consisting of *The 42nd Parallel, 1919*, and *The Big Money*; however he was the author of more than forty works. He died in Baltimore, Maryland on September 28, 1970.

Dos Passos wrote *The Great Days* in 1958. According to a description of the book, *The Great Days* is a semi-autobiographical novel in which the American, Roland Lancaster has an affair with a younger woman, Elsa, in Cuba during World War II. The love story parallels aspects of the author's life with his first wife, Katy. This novel also plots America's rise to global prominence during World War II and its alleged abuse of that power in brokering the peace.

Works cited:

Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Beinecke Digital Collections. John Dos Passos. (accessed May 24, 2017)

Howsare, E. "John Dos Passos (1896-1979)." *Encyclopedia Virginia*. Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 2 June 2014. (accessed May 24, 2017)

John Dos Passos. (accessed May 24, 2017)

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of the galley proof of *The Great Days* by John Dos Passos. This proof specifically dates to March 1958. It is bound together with string tied through the upper left side of the proof and has a cover of faded blue paper with the title and publisher (Sagamore Press Inc., Publishers) pasted on. The galley proof is very lightly annotated in ink, however, the annotations are usually only underlinings or circles and contain no substantive comments.

Administrative Information

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2017 May 24

Finding aid prepared by Kelin Baldrige.

Access Restrictions

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Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

At University of Maryland:

John Dos Passos papers, 1923-1970 (bulk: 1925-1933), 73-28

At the University of Virginia:

Papers of John Dos Passos 1865-1998, 5950.

At Yale University:

Digital Collections. John Dos Passos.

Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Galley proofs

SUBJECT(S)

- American literature
- American literature--20th century
- Authors
- Authors, American--20th century
- Fiction--20th century
- Literature
- World War, 1939-1945

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Galley proof, 1958 March.	1	1