Richard Layman Collection of John Dos Passos, 1900-2014
Collection: Mss. 2017:7

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Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Richard Layman Collection of John Dos Passos, 1900-2014

**Collection Number:** Mss. 2017: 7

**Creator:** Richard Layman

**Extent:** 9 boxes

Administrative Information

**Provenance:** Gift/Purchase, 2017

**Processed by:** Raef Mills, Adam L. Crosby

**Access Restrictions:** Open to research

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Scope and Contents Note

The Richard Layman collection of John Dos Passos contains both primary and secondary materials gathered or produced by Richard Layman in his extensive study of the artist and author Dos Passos.

John Dos Passos, born in Chicago in 1896, was an influential writer in the first half of the 20th century. After his graduation from Harvard in 1916, he served as a volunteer ambulance driver in France and Italy during WWI, eventually joining the United States Army Medical Corps. He would later travel extensively in Europe and the Middle East both on his own and as a newspaper correspondent. As a young man Dos Passos embraced socialism and was highly critical of the structure of American society. During this time he wrote his most acclaimed fiction, including *One Man’s Initiation: 1917*, *Manhattan Transfer*, and the *U.S.A.* trilogy. Throughout his life he
became increasingly disillusioned with the ideology of the left, campaigning for both
Goldwater and Nixon in the 1960s.

Aside from his novels, Dos Passos is recognized for the paintings and sketches
he created, showcasing his interest in the Constructivism, Expressionism, and
Surrealism movements. Many of his works have been highlighted in various art
exhibitions such as the Colors That Will Not Fade show hosted by McKissick
Museum in 1999.

The collection contains materials chronicling Dos Passos’s career and personal
life from the late nineteenth through the early twenty-first centuries. The first few
series contain personal correspondence and family photos as well as several original
manuscripts and a sketch book from Italy completed by Dos Passos in 1918. There is
a large periodicals series which includes material both by and about Dos Passos along
with material related to his paintings and various exhibitions. A large research series
contains material used by Layman during his studies, including photocopies of
 correspondence and manuscripts, art exhibit brochures and catalogs, and notes for
some of Layman’s own writings about Dos Passos. The oversized series includes
framed art, periodicals to which Dos Passos contributed, and newspaper articles from
the turn of the last century.

Richard Layman received his PhD from the University of South Carolina in
1975 and went on to pursue a successful career in publishing. He is director of
Layman Poupard Publishing and Bruccoli Clark Layman; combined, these companies
have produced critically acclaimed reference books since 1978, including the
Dictionary of Literary Biography. Dr. Layman has written or edited books on Dashiell
Hammett, Ring Lardner, and John Dos Passos and amassed The Richard Layman
Collection of John Dos Passos over a period of more than three decades.

Related Materials

All published materials are cataloged separately with the additional title: The
Richard Layman Collection of John Dos Passos, 1900-2014

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**Subseries A: Photographs**
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Negatives, no date

**Series II: Manuscripts by Dos Passos**

**Box 2**
Singing Jailbird by Upton Sinclair [adapted by Dos Passos], 1928
Socialism & Contradictions, 1945
The Duty of a Writer, July 1962
The Head and Heart of Thomas Jefferson, November 1953

**Box 3**
Tomorrow the Moon, no date
U.S.A. play adaptation with Paul Shyre, no date

**Series III: Periodicals**

**Subseries A: General**

**Box 4**
Aramco World, July/August 1997
Christmas through the Centuries, 2002
Dreiser Studies, fall 1999
I.W.W. Songs, 1996 (facsimile of 1923 ed.)
Dos Passos Newsletter, January 1998-winter 2002
Dos Passos: a biographical and critical essay, 1939
Dos Passos: the Fourteenth Chronicle
Liberator, August 1920
Maude Adams in Peter Pan, 1907
New Masses, March 1934
No Pasaran! 50th Anniversary, No Date
Saturday Review World [2 copies], September 1973
Saturday Review, March 1969
Soviet pamphlet on Dos Passos, 1932
The Speech of the People, February 2014
Time, August 1936

Subseries B: Art Exhibitions
1999 USC Department of Art Faculty Exhibit, January-February 1999
A Second Talent, 1971
Art Exhibitions Curatorial Assistance inc., 1997
Chagall, 1956
Gatherings & Offerings, spring, autumn 1991
Gerald Murphy Exhibition, 1983
Gerhard Richter, 2002
in their time/1920-1940, December 1977-March 1978
International Arts & Artists, no date
Marsh Art Gallery Dos Passos exhibit invitation, 2003
Modernism at the Salons of America: 1922-1936, c 1995
New York No-Jury Exhibition, spring 1934
Quantinilla, no date
Salons of America, inc. Spring Salon, 1924, 1926
Stout Hearts [oak basket makers], c 1988-1990
The Story of the Armory Show, 1938
UVA exhibit of Dos Passos art, 1975
Westmoreland Museum Dos Passos exhibit, July 1982

Subseries C: Articles by Dos Passos
47 Magazine of the Year, April 1947
Argosy, August 1971
ASIA, April 1922
Bachelor, December 1961
Direction, December 1937
Harper's, August 1943
Harvard Monthly, December 1914
Harvard Monthly, January, May-November, 1915
Harvard Monthly, January-February, May-June 1916
Harvard Wake, spring 1946
International Literature, June 1934
New York (an outline), 1933
Northwestern U. on the air, October 21, 1941
Partisan Review, January 1938
Plain Talk TOC, photocopies, June-August 1949
Poetry, October 1922, July 1926
Roger Bloomer Experimental Theater playbill, no date
Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee Bulletin, July, December 1926,
Sports Illustrated, June 1964
Terror in Cuba, no date
The Mentor [2 copies], August 1922
Theatre Arts Monthly, June 1925
True: The Man's Magazine, February 1961
War--What For, 1938
Who Killed Carlo Tresca, no date

Subseries D: Catalogs
Antic Hay Rare Books, no date
Harry Ransom Books & Posters, 1998-1999
Houghton Mifflin, spring 2000
Maurice F. Neville: Rare Books, no date
Various [photocopies], no date

Series IV: Research
Subseries A: General
88 Poems by Ernest Hemingway flyer, no date

Box 5
Art loan records, June-July 1998
Art loan records for Queens library, 2001-2002, no date
Art photocopies, 1925-1933
Articles about Dos Passos [photocopies], 1931-1999, no date
Articles by Dos Passos [photocopies], 1922-1959, no date
Articles about Dos Passos, loose, 1963-2015
Articles on Manhattan Transfer, 1963-1996, no date
Articles on WWI [photocopies], no date
BCL Christmas card and research, 1998, 1999
Bibliographies, no date
Bibliography of U.S. Literature stylesheet, Sep. 1989
Catalog of Hemingway at JFK library, addendum, [photocopies] April1990
Catalog of Dos Passos papers at UVA [photocopies] with related materials 1 of 2, 1977
Catalog of Dos Passos papers at UVA [photocopies] with related materials 2 of 2, 1977
Excerpts from Hemingway book [photocopies], no date
Excerpts of criticism on Dos Passos novels from R.L. White, 1930-1936, 1988
FBI file on Dos Passos, 1950-1970, 1984, no date
Granville Hicks lecture notes, no date
JPD chronology/history, no date
Dos Passos collectible educational card, 1981
Dos Passos picture file CDs [2], December 2014, no date
List of paintings by Dos Passos, no date
Manhattan Transfer photocopies with notes [2 copies], no date
Manuscripts by Richard Layman, no date
Morris Library Dos Passos papers [photocopies] with related materials 1 of 2, May 1977
Morris Library Dos Passos papers [photocopies] with related materials 2 of 2, May 1977

Box 6
My Father, John Dos Passos keepsake booklet, December 1996
New York maps, no date
Newspaper articles , 1982-2002, no date
Newspaper articles [photocopies], 1882-1977, no date
Novel profit balance sheets, 1936-1942
Novels for Students article on Dos Passos, 2003
Partial essay on Dos Passos with formatting info, 2016
Postcards with art by Winslow Homer, no date
Railroad articles, January 2002
Receipts, 1982-1989, no date
Richard Layman's Bastardy is no Bar in America drafts, 1984, no date
Richard Layman's handwritten notes for manuscripts 1 of 3, no date
Richard Layman's handwritten notes for manuscripts 2 of 3, no date
Richard Layman's handwritten notes for manuscripts 3 of 3, no date
The Merry Widow sheet music, 1908
The Odyssey of John Dos Passos VHS tape, no date
Three Soldiers E-Book and related materials, June 2001

Part A: Colors That Will Not Fade Exhibition
Algonquin catalogue and related materials, September 1998, no date
Articles about exhibit, September-November 1998
Catalogue proof and planning materials, March 1999, no date
Correspondence, October 1993-July 1999
McKissick catalogue, 1999
South Carolina Humanities Council documents, 1998-1999, no date
University of Texas at Austin visit, February-March 1999

Subseries B: Century Association
Dos Passos correspondence with edits [photocopies], 1917-1967
Dos Passos diary entries with edits [photocopies], 1917-1921

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Reviews of Dos Passos work with edits [photocopies], 1921-1981, no date

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- Brandt & Brandt correspondence re: Dos Passos 2 of 9, 1929-1941
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- Dos Passos correspondence 1 of 4, 1917-1970

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- Dos Passos correspondence 2 of 4, 1917-1970
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- Dos Passos correspondence 4 of 4, 1917-1970
- Katherine Smith/Hemingway correspondence, 1920-1938, no date
- Richard Layman correspondence 1 of 2, 1982-2004, no date
- Richard Layman correspondence 2 of 2, 1982-2004, no date

**Subseries D: Manuscripts by Dos Passos [photocopies]**
- 42nd Parallel, 1929-1933, no date
- "A meadow of tall green grass…" on photographic paper, no date
- Big Money, no date
- Devil is a Woman screenplay [photocopy], October 1934
- Early manuscripts 1 of 2, 1913-1916, no date
Early manuscripts 2 of 2, 1913-1916, no date
Literary diary, 1914
Midcentury, no date
Scarlet Empress dialogue script, May 1934
Seven Times Around the Walls of Jericho handwritten 1 of 5, no date
Seven Times Around the Walls of Jericho handwritten 2 of 5, no date
Seven Times Around the Walls of Jericho handwritten 3 of 5, no date

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Seven Times Around the Walls of Jericho typed 2 of 3, 1917-1918
Seven Times Around the Walls of Jericho typed 3 of 3, 1917-1918
Seven Times Around the Walls of Jericho fragment, no date
Seven Times Around the Walls of Jericho Santa Theresa excerpt, no date
Smile of the Tiger, no date

Subseries E: Photographs
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Photos of art 3 of 3, 1998, no date
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Series V: Oversized
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