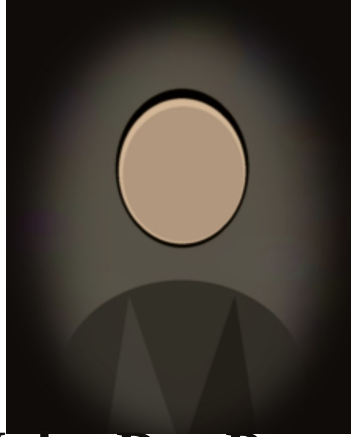




John Dos Passos

January 14, 1896 - September 28, 1970

Baltimore, Maryland

John Roderigo Dos Passos - American novelist whose U.S.A. trilogy collage-cut the nation into newsreels, biographies, and stream-of-consciousness - died in Baltimore, Maryland, on September 28, 1970. He was seventy-four. Born January 14, 1896, in Chicago and educated at Harvard, he drove ambulances in World War I, wandered Europe and the Near East, and came home convinced that industrial America needed a prose as fragmented as its assembly lines.

Manhattan Transfer (1925) and the U.S.A. books - The 42nd Parallel, 1919, The Big Money - braided fictional lives with Capsule biographies of Edison, Debs, and Ford, plus "Camera Eye" passages that read like a nervous system on newsprint. A left-leaning fame cooled after the Spanish Civil War and later political turns rightward; critics who had crowned him argued with the older man while the trilogy stayed assigned. He painted, traveled, and kept publishing even as modernism's spotlight moved on.

Baltimore was near his Virginia home base when congestive heart failure ended the itinerary. He died in the hospital city, leaving a method - cut-up America - that later novelists still steal without always naming the source.

Harvard and the front taught him that official language lies; the newsreel taught him rhythm. He made the twentieth century look like a flipping scrapbook.

He died in Baltimore on September 28, 1970. Classroom paperbacks of U.S.A. still smell faintly of ink and argument.

Dos Passos's gift was national montage - proving the novel could hold headlines and private hunger in the same frame. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 28 remembers the Chicago-born chronicler who cut America into living strips.

Services

Died in Baltimore, Maryland, September 28, 1970. Novelist; U.S.A. trilogy; Manhattan Transfer; World War I ambulance driver.

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