

John Dos Passos

John Roderigo Dos Passos was born an illegitimate child in Chicago in 1896. To avoid scandal, his unmarried mother took him on an extended tour of Europe. In 1910, the pair united with Dos Passos' biological father, a prominent American lawyer. The isolation of his early childhood, however, left the modest, self-effacing Dos Passos feeling like an inferior outsider even though he attended the prestigious Choate School in Wallingford, CT, and graduated from Harvard College. During "The War To End All Wars" Dos Passos became an ambulance driver for American volunteer groups in Paris and Italy, then joined the US Army Medical Corps before the conflict ended. His experiences in World War I bred in Dos Passos an intense hatred for anything that stifled individual freedom and self-expression. When the war ended, Dos Passos became a freelance correspondent in Spain and the Near East, then settled down to write.

His writings exhibit exceptional perception and emotion. In 1925, he authored [Manhattan Transfer](#), an experimental work that previewed his unique writing style: a blend of fact and fiction. In 1928 Dos Passos went to the [Soviet Union](#) to study [Socialism](#). Between 1936 and 1939 he witnessed firsthand the atrocities of the Spanish Civil War, a particularly vicious struggle between Spain's democratic government and its landed rich (and their hired mercenaries such as fascist general Francisco Franco). During the conflict, Dos Passos' attitude toward the Communists soured when they executed his friend, [José Robles](#), in Valencia.

Dos Passos is best known for his monumental trilogy, [USA, which consists of](#) *The 42nd Parallel* (1930), *1919* (1932) and *The Big Money* (1936)). Collectively, they chronicle the United States in the first three decades of the twentieth century. A talented painter as well as a gifted novelist, Dos Passos created the cover art for his three books. John Dos Passos died in [Baltimore](#) in 1970.

Essay by Bill Lounsbury

KRL has the "USA" trilogy of novels and Three Soldiers (1921)

BOOK WORMS (third Tuesdays, 7 pm)

On October 15th, we will be discussing *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren. On November 19th, *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi.

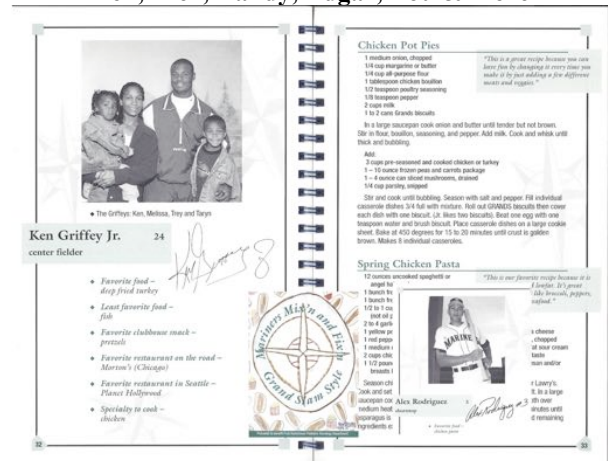
ONGOING SALE: Pre-owned Books are On Sale every day during normal Library Hours.

Sample Auction Items: "Circling Salmon"



A Metis/Cree/Mohawk Native, artist Jim Stritzel (Native name 2 Bear) has called Manchester home for 40+ years. He has donated the copper sculpture titled "FOML: The Circling Salmon," which is in the Chasing & Repousse method. The sculpture honors all who have given to the Manchester Library for over 70 years.

Auction Item: 1998 Mariners Cookbook Ken, Alex, Randy, Edgar, Lou & more



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HOLIDAY BOOK SALE: Saturday, Nov. 3rd



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