

## A Critical Reading of "The Camera Eyes" (39), (42) (46), (50), (51) in Dos Passos' *U. S. A.*

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This is the last of the series of translations of the "Camera Eye" sections of John Dos Passos' trilogy *U.S.A.* (1938). Each of the translations is annotated when necessary, and explained. By way of conclusion are added some general remarks on the nature, function, and meaning of this literary device employed by Dos Passos.

Although the "Camera Eye" changes in style and in its relation to the other sections in the course of the trilogy, it is, Dos Passos says, "the safety valve for my own subjective feelings. It made objectivity in the rest of the book much easier." Aside from the subjective, autobiographical content of this section, the "Camera Eye" functions as a principle of objective observation. This device gives the story its monotonous flow, which is what Dos Passos strives to maintain throughout the trilogy. This device certainly sets the limits on the workings of Dos Passos' imagination, but it has enabled him to create the flowing, time-driven atmosphere characteristic of this novel.