Drive, He Said: American Writers and their Cars

In American culture, cars are symbols of status, sex appeal, liberation, danger, and more. If the Ford Mustang suggests youth, freedom, and rebellion, a station wagon or minivan may call to mind more traditional family adventures—there may be as many associations as there are highways crisscrossing the nation. American writers have played no small part in creating our culture’s ongoing fascination with automobiles, driving, and the road.

Photographs, drivers’ licenses and learning permits, related ephemera from Eugene O’Neill Papers (including photograph of Carlotta O’Neill); Richard Wright Papers; Alfred Stieglitz and Georgia O’Keeffe Archive; Olga Rudge Papers (photograph of Ezra Pound); Mable Dodge Luhan Papers; Thornton Wilder Papers; Langston Hughes Papers; Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas Papers; James Weldon and Grace Nail Johnson Papers; Dorothy Porter Wesley Papers; Edith Wharton Papers; Katherine S. Dreier Papers / Société Anonyme Archive; *Eighteen Photographs, 1905-1938* portfolio, James Van Der Zee

**Objects**

Eugene O’Neill—French License
YCAL MSS 123 Box: 108, Folder: 1827
DL: https://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/4742665

O’Neill photo in car
YCAL MSS 123 Box: 108, Folder: 1841
DL: https://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/4742666
Alternative: https://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/3524977

Carlotta O’Neill  with car
YCAL MSS 123.111.1983

Richard Wright
JWJ MSS 3 Box: 113, Folder: 1814
GROUP:
--small orange visitor to Great Britain license
--learners permit
--May 7 receipt for lessons
--trifold French license
--rent a car

O’Keeffe and Stieglitz
YCAL MSS 85 Box 133  Folder 2558
DL: https://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/3520137

Ezra pound in car – Olga Rudge Papers
YCAL MSS 54 Box 148 Folder 3482
DL: https://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/3580908

Mable Dodge Luhan
YCAL MSS 196 Box 64 Folder 1745
Thornton Wilder photo by Jill Kremintz
YCAL MSS 108 Box 152 Folder: 3663  
DL: https://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/3544841

Harold Jackman and Hughes and others
JWJ MSS 76 Box 6 folder 75

Gertrude Stein
YCAL MSS 77 Box 19 Folder 318  
https://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/3523429

G. Stein French Drivers License
76 Box 140 folder 3295

James Weldon Johnson Drivers license and insurance card
JWJ MSS 49 Box: 91, Folder: 736

Dorothy Porter Wesley Nigerian drivers license
JWJ MSS 93 Box: 290, Folder: 2659-2660

Wharton
YCAL 42 Box 51 Folder1538
DL: https://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/4010681

Katherine Dreier
Automobile Club of America. Membership card, 1929
Part of Collection — Box: 68, Folder: 1763
Call Number: YCAL MSS 101 Series IV

Van Der Zee – couple in furs with car
JWJ MSS 44