

The Nobility of Mobility: F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Basil* Stories

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Abstract

The rise of the automobile mirrored Fitzgerald's own rising star as a writing phenomenon almost perfectly. His own penning of the Basil stories not only recounts some pivotal experiences and outlooks he stood looking back at from the late 1920s, but also showcases the automobile's importance in his own ambitious imaginings, as the new invention outpaced older forms of communal travel and the electric car to become a source of initiation into a self-determined future. In the final throes of an American progress once measured by the pace of horse drawn carriages, Fitzgerald looks back at his rapidly disappearing youth from the firmly embedded perspective already entrenched within the new era's ever-increasing speed of automobility's advancement.

