

**An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers,
Kenneth Moore Collection**

Repository: University of Northern Colorado, James A. Michener Library, Archival Services

Collection number: SC 1-04

Title: An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Kenneth Moore Collection

Author: Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on May 11, 2006, revised 2006 July 30; revised 2007 October 3.

Dates: 1980s-1997 (excludes publication dates of books)

Creator or Collector: Moore, Kenneth; Mason, Erik J.

Size: 1.5 linear feet

Abstract:

The collection consists of nine books by Michener, two letters, three newspaper articles, and one photograph.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection consists of nine books by Michener; correspondence between Nellie Adams Moore and Erik J. Mason; one letter from the 1980s by Nellie Adams Moore giving background information background information on the Moores and Erik J. Mason; newspaper articles by David Streitfeld, John Marshall, and Jules Wagman; and one photograph taken during a 90th birthday party for James A. Michener which was hosted by the University of Texas at Austin.

Biography of James A. Michener:

James Albert Michener was born in 1907 to unknown parents and raised as an orphan in the care of widow Mabel Michener of Doylestown, Pennsylvania. By the time he graduated from high school in 1925, he had visited 45 out of the 48 states. He was given a scholarship to Swarthmore, and after graduating summa cum laude in 1929, he traveled and continued his education at nine universities inside and outside the United States. During this time, he also taught in Pennsylvania, Colorado, and at the Harvard School of Education.

When he was not teaching, Michener worked as a textbook editor in New York, and he joined the British Merchant Marines. During WWII, he joined the Navy, making use of his experience in the British Merchant Marines to climb through the ranks to lieutenant and his knowledge of history to carry out sensitive assignments in the South Pacific. It was this experience that brought about *Tales of the South Pacific* in 1947, which won a Pulitzer Prize. Michener used this novel as the cornerstone of his writing career, publishing almost 50 books in the next 50 years, including *Sayonara*, *Hawaii*, *The Source*, *Iberia*, *Caravans*, *The Covenant*, *Sports in America*, and *Poland*.

In 1977, a four-part public television series called *The World of Michener* covered Israel, Hawaii, Spain, and Poland, just a few of the countries upon which his books have been based. Several other books have been turned into movies or miniseries, and two of his novels have been turned into musicals (most notably *South Pacific*, which won its own Pulitzer Prize).

During the time that he was publishing, however, Michener did not ignore the world around him. He ran for Congress in 1962 and held positions on several committees, including the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention, the U.S. Postal Service stamp committee, and an

advisory position on a council for NASA. He also spoke often at congressional hearings and at functions of those organizations in which he held particular interest.

James A. Michener died at the age of 90 on October 16, 1997 in Texas, three years after his third wife, Mari Yoriko Sabusawa. He had no children.

Biography of Kenneth Moore, Nellie Adams Moore, and Erik J. Mason:

Nellie Adams Moore and Kenneth Moore were students at Colorado State College of Education when Michener taught there. Nellie Adams was a high school student and Kenneth Moore served as a student teacher under Michener.

Erik J. Mason edited some of Michener’s books, including *The Eagle and the Raven*.

Arrangement (required for multiple level collections):

This collection is organized into a single series:

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research.

Restrictions on Use: User is responsible for copyright compliance.

Preferred Citation: [Description of Item], James A. Michener papers (SC 1-number), Collection Name, Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

Locations of Originals (if applicable):

Acquisition Information (if applicable):

Gift of Kenneth Moore in 2005.

Documentation relating to the acquisition is on file in Archives, RG 13 S1 F11-2.

Subjects:

Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997
Moore, Kenneth
Moore, Nellie Adams
Mason, Erik J.
Musial, Stan, 1920-
Colorado State College of Education (Greeley, Colo.)
University of Northern Colorado. Libraries. James A. Michener Special Collection

Inventory:

Original inventory created by Eve Measner on November 8, 2005.

Email dated 2005 November 8 between Eve Measner and Gary Pitkin regarding the Kenneth Moore donation.

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
Kenneth Moore Collection	SC 1-04			Books	<i>Century of Sonnets</i> – signed by Michener in 1997. Inside the book was a letter, photograph and newspaper article.
Kenneth Moore	SC 1-			Books	<i>The Novel</i>

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
Collection	04				
Kenneth Moore Collection	SC 1-04			Books	<i>Mexico</i>
Kenneth Moore Collection	SC 1-04			Books	<i>Miracle in Seville</i>
Kenneth Moore Collection	SC 1-04			Books	<i>Recessional</i>
Kenneth Moore Collection	SC 1-04			Books	<i>Journey</i>
Kenneth Moore Collection	SC 1-04			Books	<i>The Eagle and the Raven</i> – Given to Kenneth Moore by Erik J. Mason
Kenneth Moore Collection	SC 1-04			Books	<i>Centennial</i>
Kenneth Moore Collection	SC 1-04			Books	<i>Alaska</i>
Kenneth Moore Collection	SC 1-04			Letters	Typed letter dated 19 February 1997 from Erik [Mason] to Nellie [Adams Moore]. Michener's signature is on the back of the letter.
Kenneth Moore Collection	SC 1-04			Letters	Moore, Nellie Adams. One typed letter giving background information on the Moores and Erik J. Mason, who "did the percetive editing" on <i>The Eagle and the Raven</i> . Letter typed in the mid-1980s.
Kenneth Moore Collection	SC 1-04			Newspaper Articles	Marshall, John. "Short Book Puts Michener to Test." <i>The Denver Post</i> , Dec. 30, 1995, n.p. (Found inside <i>Miracle in Seville</i>).
Kenneth Moore Collection	SC 1-04			Newspaper Articles	Streitfeld, David. "Appreciation: The Wide World of James Michener." <i>Washington Post</i> , n.d., D1, D3, col. 1.
Kenneth Moore Collection	SC 1-04			Newspaper Articles	Wagman, Jules. "Entertaining 'Seville' Bull's Eye by Michener." Name of newspaper unknown [possibly the <i>Rocky Mountain News</i> or <i>Denver Post</i>], Dec. 24, 1995, n.p. (Found inside <i>Miracle in Seville</i>).
Kenneth Moore Collection	SC 1-04			Photograph	"James A. Michener at his 90 th birthday celebration hosted by the University of Texas at Austin Feb. 1997. Regaling the guests from the podium is Stan "The Man" Musial."