

**An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers,  
Piszek Family Collection**

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

**Collection number:** SC 1-06

**Title:** An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Piszek Family Collection

**Author:** Original finding aid created by Roiann Baird on September 9, 2003.  
Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2006 September 22; revised 2007 October 24; revised 2010 June 22; slightly revised on January 18, 2011.

**Dates:** 1996-2001

**Creator or Collector:** Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997;  
Piszek, Edward J., 1916-2004 (Collector); Piszek, Bill (Piszek, William P.) (Collector)

**Size:** 3 linear feet

**Abstract:**

This collection consists of correspondence, photographs, a transcript of The James A. Michener Writing Series radio interview with Michener, Newsclippings, baseball cards, an original Michener portrait by William Franklin Draper, tennis rackets and clothing, and miscellaneous items.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection consists of correspondence, photographs, transcript of The James A. Michener Writing Series radio interview with Michener, Newsclippings, baseball cards, an original Michener portrait by William Franklin Draper, tennis rackets and clothing, and miscellaneous items.

Researchers may want to consult: Emlen House Films (SC 1-54).

**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.

**Restrictions on Access:** The collection is open for research.

**Restrictions on Use:** Copyright restrictions may apply. User is responsible for all copyright compliance. Please contact the UNC University Libraries Archival Services Department at [library.archives@unco.edu](mailto:library.archives@unco.edu) or 970-351-2854 for further information.

**Preferred Citation:** [Description of Item], James A. Michener papers, Piszek Family Collection (SC 1-06), Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

**Acquisition Information (if applicable):**

Gift of Edward J. Piszek, Bill Piszek, and VAL, from 1998 to 2001. Funeral program for Edward J. Piszek added to collection in 2006 by Archival Services staff.

The Piszek Family/Copernicus Society gave several items to Archival Services on April 6, 2008, including the original William Franklin Draper painting of James A. Michener, small and large prints of the painting and a tennis racket and a suitcase filled with tennis shoes, shirts, shorts, swimming trunks, and socks that were used by Michener.

Three small Wm. F. Draper prints of James A. Michener autographed by Michener are filed in: SC 1-48, Drawer 2, Folder 9.

Additional prints, both small and large, can be found in grey boxes on the top shelves of the Home Collection (SC 1-31).

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

**Subjects:**

Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997  
Piszek, Edward J., 1916-2004  
Piszek, Bill (Piszek, William P.)  
Emlen House Productions  
Copernicus Society  
Draper, W. F. (William Franklin), 1912-2003.

**Inventory:**

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 1 -- Acquisitions Memos, 1998, 1999	Contents of this folder were transferred to: SC 1-54 -- Emlen House Films, Box 1, Folder 1.
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 2 -- Invoices for Photo Order – UNC, 1999	Invoices (numbered 502710 – 502742) for photograph orders from Ken's Camera, Greeley, Colorado. Includes a

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
					bill from Ken's Camera. Handwritten note dated 10-14 reads, "This is the bill from Ken's for Pizek's prints from negatives. MLL." The note was written by Mary Linscome, University Archivist, University of Northern Colorado Libraries.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 2 -- Invoices for Photo Order -- UNC, 1999	Envelope from Doug's Hang Up, Greeley, Colorado addressed to the University of Northern Colorado Libraries. Handwritten note on envelope reads, "Bill for \$850 + for framing/exhibits to. Kalen 9/15/98. Yellow sticky note attached to envelope, reads " RG13S1 F11-6 1998."
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 3 -- Donor Agreement, Draft Emlen House Films, 1999	Contents of this folder were transferred to: RG SC 1-54 -- Emlen House Films, Box 1, Folder 3.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 4 -- Travels with Michener -- Book Negotiations, 1999	Letter dated 1999 March 9 from William P. Pizek, Vice President, Copernicus Society of America, to Gary M. Pitkin, Ed.D., Dean of University Libraries, University of Northern Colorado, regarding a proposal for a "Traveling with James A. Michener" book project.  Handwritten notes dated 3/18/99 by Mary Linscome, University Archivist, regarding a proposal for a "Traveling with James A. Michener" book project.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 4 -- Travels with Michener -- Book Negotiations, 1999	Handwritten notes dated 3/18/99 by Mary Linscome, University Archivist, regarding a proposal for a "Traveling with James A. Michener" book project.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 5 -- Correspondence: Email to Vatican from Linscome, 1998	Email message dated 1998 September 5 from Mary Linscome, University Archivist, to Pope John Paul II, asking for his blessing at the opening of the James E. Michener Special Collection at the University of Northern Colorado on 1998 September 11.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 6 -- "The James A. Michener Writing Series" -- Transcript of Radio Interview with	Letter dated 1978 February 8 from George Pleasants, General Manager, WBUX, Doylestown, Pennsylvania, to Owen Laster, William Morris Agency, regarding the use of six one-half hour

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
				Michener, 1978.	broadcasts on writing by James A. Michener. Handwritten note on the left hand margin reads, "From Maryland Series 3. Correspondence 1978. Jan.-Feb."
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 6 -- "The James A. Michener Writing Series" -- Transcript of Radio Interview with Michener, 1978.	"The James A. Michener Writing Series." Program 1: "How to Get Started." Transcript.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 6 -- "The James A. Michener Writing Series" -- Transcript of Radio Interview with Michener, 1978.	"The James A. Michener Writing Series." Program 3: "Writing the Manuscript."
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 7 -- Photos -- JAM, Pizek, Musial, 1996, 1997	Contents of this folder were transferred to: SC 1-57 -- Deborah E. Brothers and Susan Dillon Photograph Collection
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 8 -- Photo Request, 1998	Letter dated 1998 August 17 from William P. Pizek, Vice President, Copernicus Society of America, to Gary M. Pitkin, Dean of University Libraries, University of Northern Colorado, regarding a request for nine photographs of James A. Michener. 1 original letter and 2 photocopies.  9 black & white photocopies of the photographs (Originals returned to Pizek):
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 8 -- Photo Request, 1998	Michener in Poland, 1980. Seated with hands folded. Dancers in the background.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 8 -- Photo Request, 1998	Michener in Vatican Gardens behind St. Peters church, Rome Italy.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 8 -- Photo Request, 1998	Michener in Poland, 1978. Standing in a field.
Pizek Family	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous	Folder 8 -- Photo Request, 1998	Edward J. Pizek and Michener, 1970's.

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
Collection			Items		
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 8 -- Photo Request, 1998	Piszek and Michener at a flag raising ceremony at the Bucks County Library, Pennsylvania, 1974.
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 8 -- Photo Request, 1998	Edward Piszek, library director, and Michener Bucks County Library, Pennsylvania, 1974.
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 8 -- Photo Request, 1998	Stan Musial and Michener with unidentified couple at the U.S. Embassy in Rome, Italy, 1988.
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 8 -- Photo Request, 1998	Piszek, Musial, and Michener at the U.S. Embassy in Rome, Italy, 1988. (Other individuals identified on the back of the original photograph). 9). Musial and Piszek with Pope John Paul II, Vatican, Rome, Italy, 1988.
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 8 -- Photo Request, 1998	Musial and Piszek with Pope John Paul II, Vatican, Rome, Italy, 1988.
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 9 -- Photo: Piszek, Michener, Musial	Contents of this folder were transferred to: Piszek Family Collection, Box 3, Folder 2.
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 10 -- Edward J. Piszek Biography, 1998	Contents of this folder were transferred to: SC 1-54 -- Emlen House Films, Box 1, Folder 3.
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 11 -- Photos: Opening Day, 9-14-1998	Contents of this folder were transferred to: SC 1-58 -- F. X. Roberts Collection.
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 12 -- Index: Photos of Edward Piszek in Piszek Family Collection Series 5	A list of photographs of Edward J. Piszek that can be found in SC 1-06 -- Piszek Family Collection Series 5.
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 13 -- Newsclippings: Michener Art Museum, Doylestown, PA, 1998	Wartenberg, Steve. "Perseverance and Panache Pay off big for Michener Art Museum." Photographs and text. The Intelligencer Record, Sept. 25, 1998, pp. B14-B15. Article about the 10th Anniversary Michener Art Museum in Doylestown,

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
					Pennsylvania. Includes photographs of the museum; Herman Silverman, museum advocate, and Bruce Katsiff, museum director; and the painting "The Burning of Center Bridge."
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 13 -- Newsclippings: Michener Art Museum, Doylestown, PA, 1998	"Museum Unveils Newest Buy: Redfield's 'Best'," Photograph and text. The Intelligencer Record, Sept. 25, 1998, p. B15. Donor: Bill Pizek. Article about the museum's purchase of "The Burning of Center Bridge," which was painted by Pennsylvania Impressionist Edward Redfield.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 14 -- Baseball Cards: Edward J. Pizek	Contents of this folder were transferred to: Pizek Family Collection Box 3, Folder 4.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 15 -- Pilgrimage: A Memoir of Poland & Roe. Five copies, 1990.	"Acquisitions Memo Required," 9/14. Donor: Ed Pizek. Five copies of Pilgrimage. -- 1 autographed.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 15 -- Pilgrimage: A Memoir of Poland & Roe. Five copies, 1990.	Michener, James A. <i>Pilgrimage: A Memoir of Poland &amp; Rome</i> . Intro. by Lech Walesa. Emmaus, PA: Rodale Press, 1990. 5 copies. 1 copy autographed by Edward Pizek. 4 copies separated to Michener Room, Uncataloged Books, in alphabetical order by title.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 15A -- "Thank You, Edward Pizek." Video, 2001.	Contents of this folder were transferred to: Emlen House Films, Box 2, Folder 1 -- "Thank You, Edward Pizek." Video, 2001.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 16 -- Pilgrimage	Galley Proofs 8/1/89
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 17 -- Pope John Paul II	John Paul II at the Gregorian University Commemorating the 400 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Arrival in China of Matteo Ricci, S. J. Program.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 18	The River in Cuyahoga Falls [Ohio]. Brochure.

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 19 -- Magazines & Newspapers	<i>Newsweek</i> , June 20, 1983
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 19 -- Magazines & Newspapers	<i>Time</i> , Nov. 20, 1978
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 19 -- Magazines & Newspapers	<i>Saturday Evening Post</i> , Oct. 1975  Transferred to: Box 8 -- Oversize
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 19 -- Magazines & Newspapers	<i>Daily Intelligencer</i> , May 8, 1985. Special James A. Michener keepsake edition: Pages 1, 2, 17, 18.  Transferred to: Box 8 -- Oversize
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 1 -- Miscellaneous Items	Folder 16 -- Funeral Program for Edward J. Pizek	"Edward J. Pizek, October 24, 1916-March 27, 2004." Funeral program. [Philadelphia, PA: Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul], 2004.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 2 -- Photographs: Separated Items	Folder 1 -- Photos: JAM, Pizek, Musial, 1996,	Contents of this folder were transferred to: SC 1-57 -- Deborah E. Brothers and Susan Dillon Photograph Collection. They were transferred from the Pizek Family Collection, Box 1, Folder 7.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 2 -- Photographs: Separated Items	Folder 2 -- Photos: Pizek, Michener, Musial	Color photograph of Edward J. Pizek, James A. Michener, and Stan Musial. 5"x7". 2 copies.  Transferred from: Pizek Family Collection, Box 1, Folder 9.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 2 -- Photographs: Separated Items	Folder 3 -- Photos: Opening Day, 9-14-1998	"Acquisitions Memo Required," 9/14/99. Donor: F. X. Roberts, Reference Librarian at the University of Northern Colorado Libraries, Nine color photographs taken by F. X. Roberts on 9/11/98 during the opening of the James A. Michener Special Collection.  Transferred from: Pizek/Emlen House Collection, Box 1, Folder 11)
Pizek	SC		Box 2 --	Folder 3 -- Photos:	Ed Pizek. Standing at a podium. 3

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
Family Collection	1-06		Photographs: Separated Items	Opening Day, 9-14-1998	1/2"x 5 1/8". 2 copies.  Transferred from: Piszek/Emlen House Collection, Box 1, Folder 11)
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 2 -- Photographs: Separated Items	Folder 3 -- Photos: Opening Day, 9-14-1998	Hank Brown, President, University of Northern Colorado Libraries. Standing at a podium. 3 1/2"x 5 1/8". 2 copies.  Transferred from: Piszek/Emlen House Collection, Box 1, Folder 11)
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 2 -- Photographs: Separated Items	Folder 3 -- Photos: Opening Day, 9-14-1998	Stan Musial. Standing at a podium. 3 1/2"x 5 1/8". 2 copies.  Transferred from: Piszek/Emlen House Collection, Box 1, Folder 11)
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 2 -- Photographs: Separated Items	Folder 3 -- Photos: Opening Day, 9-14-1998	Stan Musial. Seated and being interviewed by an unidentified man. 3 1/2"x 5 1/8". 2 copies.  Transferred from: Piszek/Emlen House Collection, Box 1, Folder 11)
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 2 -- Photographs: Separated Items	Folder 3 -- Photos: Opening Day, 9-14-1998	Hank Brown, President, University of Northern Colorado Libraries, talking to an unidentified man. Gary Pitkin, Library Dean, University of Northern Colorado Libraries, is standing in the background talking to an unidentified woman. 3 1/2"x 5 1/8". 1 copy.  Transferred from: Piszek/Emlen House Collection, Box 1, Folder 11) )
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 2 -- Photographs: Separated Items	Folder 4 -- Baseball Cards: Edward J. Piszek	1 Hsing Wey Sports Card Defender plastic bag. HWCT25.  Transferred from: Piszek/Emlen House Collection, Box 1, Folder 14)
Piszek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 2 -- Photographs: Separated Items	Folder 4 -- Baseball Cards: Edward J. Piszek	14 "Big League Cards®" with a photograph of "Edward J. Piszek. 'The Boss'."  Transferred from: Piszek/Emlen House Collection, Box 1, Folder 14)

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 3	Loose	One long sleeved shirt, one pair of swimming trunks, and one pair of socks
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 4	Loose	Two short sleeved mesh tennis shirts and two pairs of tennis shorts
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 5	Loose	One pair of tennis shoes
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 6	Loose	One tennis racket -- a metal frame with plastic webbing and black taped handle enclosed in a plastic Prince zippered cover.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 7	Loose	One blue suitcase -- zipper broken.
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 8 -- Oversize	Folder 19 -- Magazines & Newspapers	<i>Time</i> , Nov. 20, 1978
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Box 8 -- Oversize	Folder 19 -- Magazines & Newspapers	<i>Saturday Evening Post</i> , Oct. 1975
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Loose	Loose	Draper, Wm. F. (William Franklin). <i>James A. Michener</i> . Painting, framed.  Transferred to: SC 1-48, Drawer 15
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Loose	Loose	Draper, Wm. F. (William Franklin). <i>James A. Michener</i> . Print, large.  Transferred to: SC 1-48, Drawer 10
Pizek Family Collection	SC 1-06		Loose	Loose	Draper, Wm. F. (William Franklin). <i>James A. Michener</i> . Print, small.  Transferred to: SC 1-48, Drawer 10