

An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Beth Perry Schoen Collection: A Finding Aid

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

Collection number: SC 1-10

Title: An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Beth Perry Schoen Collection (formerly Small 4. Bronze Bust of James A. Michener, 1996)

Author: Original finding aid created by Richard Gibboney on 2000 March 14; revised by Shirley Soenksen on 2006 May 4 and 2009 March 31.

Dates: 1996-1998

Creator or Collector: Schoen, Beth Perry.

Size: Less than one linear foot. One bronze bust of James A. Michener, 1 brochure, 1 program, 1 internet printout, and twenty 5"x7" black and white photographs and twenty-four negatives of James A. Michener by Tracy Stark; two 5"x7" color photographs of clay busts, one of Michener and one of Mark Twain; two 3.5"x5" black and white photographs, one of an elderly James A. Michener, and one of the rededication ceremony of the James A. Michener Library.

Abstract:

This collection includes a bronze bust of James A. Michener by sculptor [Beth Perry Schoen](#), photographs and negatives of Michener by Tracy Stark, and other materials related to the bust.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists of a bronze bust of James A. Michener by sculptor Beth Perry Schoen. Included in this collection are photographs and negatives by Tracy Stark of James A. Michener. Michener "sat" for "these pictures and measurements" which were used by Schoen in creating the bust. The negatives are on permanent loan. The James A. Michener Special Collection had 5"x7" black and white prints made from the negatives in 1998 that are filed with this collection. Tracy Stark retains copyright to the images.

Biographical information on the sculptor and other related materials are also part of this collection.

Locations of other busts from this edition of 10 are:

- James A. Michener estate, now Debbie Brothers
- The James Michener Art Museum, Doylestown, PA
- The Huntington Art Gallery, University of Texas at Austin
- The Texas Center for Writers, University of Texas at Austin
- River Oaks Baptist School, Houston, Texas
- Dennis Cole, sculptor, private collection
- Steve Maunders, Michener's attorney, private collection

This sculpture was originally on display near the entrance to the Library Administration Office on the first floor of the James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, 1999-2007. A framed photograph of Beth Schoen and James A. Michener hung on a column next to the sculpture. In 2007 the bust was moved to the James A. Michener Permanent Exhibit, which is located on the mezzanine. The framed photograph was transferred to the Beth Perry Schoen Collection (SC 1-10) in the Archival Services Department.

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 Beth Perry Schoen:

While at the Elisabet Ney Sculpture Conservatory at Austin, Texas, [Beth Perry Schoen](#) studied under [Bobby Pearl](#) and Master Sculptor Edna Bargar Connor. She also studied at the Loveland Academy of Fine Arts in Loveland, Colorado. Ms. Connor has sculpted such well known Americans as Texas Governors John Connally and Bill Clements, Jr.

Arrangement (required for multiple level collections):

This collection is organized into the following series:

- Series 1: Bronze bust of James A. Michener
- Series 2: Brochures, Programs, and Related Materials
- Series 3: Photographs and negatives

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research.

Restrictions on Use: The University of Northern Colorado does not retain copyright to the images. Tracy Stark retains copyright to the images.

Preferred Citation: [Description of Item], James A. Michener papers (SC 1-10), Beth Perry Schoen Collection, Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

Acquisition Information (if applicable):

The Friends of the James A. Michener Library purchased the bust for the James A. Michener Library collection in 1997 for \$5000 and it was unveiled on October 3, 1997 at the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration and Rededication of the James A. Michener Library. The negatives were given to the James A. Michener Library on permanent loan in May 1998.

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

Subjects:

Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997
 Schoen, Beth Perry
 Stark, Tracy

Inventory:

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
Beth Perry Schoen Collection	SC 1-10		Box 1	Folder 0	Finding Aid
Beth Perry Schoen Collection	SC 1-10	Series 1	Box 1	Bronze Bust of James A. Michener	Bronze bust of James A. Michener by Beth Perry Schoen. Transferred to: James A. Michener Permanent Exhibit, located on the mezzanine
Beth Perry Schoen Collection	SC 1-10	Series 2	Box 1	Brochures, Programs, and Related Materials	Series 2: Brochures, Programs, and Related Materials "Works by Beth Perry Schoen." Printout from the internet dated 02/23/2000. < http://home.flash.net/~tsos/bschoen.htm >. 2p. Transferred to: SC 1-04, Box 1, Folder: SC 1-10 -- Beth Perry Schoen Collection
Beth Perry Schoen Collection	SC 1-10	Series 2	Box 1	Brochures, Programs, and Related Materials	Schoen, Beth Perry. "Sculpture by Beth Perry Schoen." Brochure. [Round Rock, TX: Beth Perry Schoen, ca. 1997]. 1p. Transferred to: SC 1-04, Box 1, Folder: SC 1-10 -- Beth Perry Schoen Collection
Beth Perry Schoen Collection	SC 1-10	Series 2	Box 1	Brochures, Programs, and Related Materials	University of Northern Colorado. [Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration and Rededication of the James A. Michener Library]. Program. [Greeley, CO: University of Northern Colorado], 1997. 8p. A color photograph of the bronze bust of James A. Michener by Beth Perry Schoen appears on the cover of this publication. Transferred to: SC 1-04, Box 1, Folder: SC 1-10 -- Beth Perry Schoen Collection
Beth Perry Schoen Collection	SC 1-10	Series 3	Box 1	Folder	Twenty 5"x7" black and white photographs of James A. Michener by Tracy Stark.
Beth Perry Schoen Collection	SC 1-10	Series 3	Box 1	Folder	Twenty-four negatives of James A. Michener by Tracy Stark.

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
Beth Perry Schoen Collection	SC 1-10	Series 3	Box 1	Folder	One 5"x7" color photograph of a clay bust of James A. Michener. Handwriting on the back of the photograph reads, "James A. Michener 12/96 by Beth Schoen."
Beth Perry Schoen Collection	SC 1-10	Series 3	Box 1	Folder	One 5"x7" color photograph of a clay bust of Mark Twain. Handwriting on the back of the photograph reads, Mark Twain by Beth Schoen."
Beth Perry Schoen Collection	SC 1-10	Series 3	Box 1	Folder	One 3.5"x5" black and white photograph of an elderly James A. Michener.
Beth Perry Schoen Collection	SC 1-10	Series 3	Box 1	Folder	One 5"x3.5" black and white photograph of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration and Rededication of the James A. Michener Library ceremony. Gary Pitkin, Library Dean, James A. Michener Library appears at the podium.
Beth Perry Schoen Collection	SC 1-10	Series 3	Box 1	Folder	Stark, Tracy. "The Sculptress and her model." Framed and matted black & white photograph of Beth Schoen and James A. Michener. Photograph size: 7"x5". Frame size: 14½"x12½". Transferred to: SC 1-49, Shelf 5