

**An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers,
The Born Loser® by Art and Chip Sansom, 1986 (Cartoon)**

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

Collection number: SC 1-17 (Oversize) (formerly Small 12. "Born Loser" cartoon by Art and Chip Sansom, 1986)

Title: An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, The Born Loser® by Art and Chip Sansom, 1986 (Cartoon)

Author: Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on May 9, 2006.

Dates: 1986

Creator or Collector: Sansom, Arthur B. "Chip" III; Sansom, Arthur B. II

Size: Less than one linear foot. 1 drawing approx. 7.5" W x 19" L

Abstract:

The original drawing for a panel of the "Born Loser" cartoon that ran on July 31, 1986. The cartoon poked fun at the length of some of the chapters in Michener's novel.

Scope and Content Note:

One original drawing for a panel of the "Born Loser" cartoon that ran on July 31, 1986

This was originally located in Small 12. Oversize.

Historical Note:

The "Born Loser" comic strip began in 1965 by Arthur B. "Art" Sansom II. Arthur B. "Chip" Sansom III assisted his father with the comic strip when he was only fourteen years old. He went on to study English and Management Studies at Case Reserve University. Although he had no formal art schooling, Chip Sansom he began an apprenticeship with his father in 1974. He worked with his father for fifteen years. Following his father's death in 1991, Chip Sansom took over as the sole artist for the comic strip.

According to the official website for National Cartoonists Society the Sansoms received an award for the "Best Humour Strip" in 1987 and for "Newspaper Comic Strips" in 1990 (most sources list 1991 rather than 1990).

By 2002, the comic strip appeared in more 1300 newspapers worldwide.

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 Arthur B. Sansom II and Arthur B. “Chip” Sansom III:

Arthur B. “Art” Sansom II, the original creator of the “Born Loser” comic strip, died in July 1991 at the age of 70. He worked as a staff artist for the Newspaper Enterprise Association Syndicate for twenty years before having his own comic strip.

Arthur B. “Chip” Sansom III was born in July, 1951, and assisted his father with the comic strip when he was only fourteen years old. Chip studied English and business at Case Reserve University, graduating 1974. Although he had no formal art schooling, Chip Sansom began an apprenticeship with his father in 1977. He worked with his father for fifteen years.

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.

Acquisition Information (if applicable):

Gift of Arthur B. “Chip” Sansom, III in 1998.

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

Subjects:

Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997
Sansom, Arthur B. “Chip” III, 1951-
Sansom, Arthur B. II, b.-1991.
Cartoons

Inventory:

Original finding aid created by Richard Gibboney on March 14, 2000.

The original drawing for a panel of the “Born Loser” cartoon that ran on July 31, 1986 poking fun at the length of some of the chapters in Michener’s novel. Inscription reads, “Best wishes to my friends at the Michener Library! Chip Sansom.”