

**An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers,  
James A. Michener Financial Documents, 1946-1956**

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

**Collection number:** SC 1-18 (formerly Small 13. Financial documents of James A. Michener, 1946 to 1956).

**Title:** An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, James A. Michener Financial Documents, 1946-1956

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

**Dates:** 1943 November 24 - 1949 August 23 and 1951-1956

**Creator or Collector:** Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997 (Creator); Nash, Bill (Collector)

**Size:** Less than one linear foot. (4 check registers: 7"x8 1/2" and 1 folder: 7 3/8"x9 1/4").

**Abstract:**

Five registers/folders filled with James A. Michener's financial documents for the years 1946 to 1956.

**Scope and Content Note:**

Four check registers fill with cancelled checks from 1946-1949 from James A. Michener's account at the Doylestown Trust Company in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Additionally, there is one AETNA Insurance folder on Michener's insurance coverage for the years 1951-1956.

**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 Bill Nash:**

Bill Nash was a friend and financial advisor to the Micheners.

**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):**

Donated by Bill Nash in 1999.

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

**Subjects:**

Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997  
Nash, Bill

**Inventory:**

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

One check register with cancelled checks: 1943 November 24 to 1947 March 20.

One check register with cancelled checks: 1947 March 15 to 1948 July 15.

One check register with cancelled checks: 1948 July 31 to 1949 March 29.

One check register with cancelled checks: 1949 April 1 to 1949 August 23.

One AETNA Insurance folder on Michener's insurance coverage: 1951-1956.