

## Guide to James A. Michener Artifacts

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

**Collection Number:** SC 1-33

Acquisition #: 091503-06

**Title:** Guide to James A. Michener Artifacts

**Author:** Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2006 August 7; revised 2007 September 19; revised 2008 May 27; slightly revised 2010 May 12.

**Dates:** 1983-

**Creator or Collector:** Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997; *Linscome, Mary L. (Collector)*

**Size:** 1.5 linear feet

**Language:** English

### **Abstract:**

This collection consists of a variety of artifacts associated with James A. Michener. They have been donated and/or purchased from a variety of individuals.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

This collection consists of a variety of artifacts associated with James A. Michener. They have been donated and/or purchased from a variety of individuals.

### **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 Mary Linscome:**

Mary Linscome was a librarian at the University of Northern Colorado Libraries for over twenty years. She served as the head of Cataloging, Government Publications, and Archives Departments.

**Arrangement (required for multiple level collections):**

**This collection is organized into a single series:**

Series 1: Artifacts

**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 or 970-351-2854 for further information.

**Preferred Citation:** [Description of Item], James A. Michener papers, James A. Michener Artifacts (SC 1-33), Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

**Acquisition Information (if applicable):**

Various individuals have given these materials to the James A. Michener Special Collection.

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

**Subjects:**

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

Linscome, Mary L.

**Inventory:**

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
James A. Michener Artifacts	SC 1-33	Series 1	Box 1	Folder 1	<p>"Where Did We Get Such Men." 8"x8". Framed matted quote by James A. Michener.</p> <p>"Where Did We Get Such Men?" is a question asked by Admiral Tarrant, a character in James A. Michener's novel <i>The Bridges at Toko-ri</i>. The quote appears on page 146.</p>
James A. Michener Artifacts	SC 1-33	Series 1	Box 1	Folder 2	Black ink pen (in bubble wrap).
James A. Michener Artifacts	SC 1-33	Series 1	Box 1	Loose	<p>Yellow clothespin ().</p> <p>One yellow plastic clothespin used by James A. Michener to hold newspaper clippings or other pieces of papers.</p>
James A. Michener : Artifacts	SC 1-33	Series 1	Box 1	Loose	<p>Metal File Handle</p> <p>One metal file handle used by James A. Michener. The handle may have come from a file box or</p>

<b>Collection</b>	<b>MSS #</b>	<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
					container of some kind.
James A. Michener : Artifacts	SC 1-33	Series 1	Box 1	Loose	Steuben glass (in grey box) from the University of Miami.
James A. Michener : Artifacts	SC 1-33	Series 1	Box 1	Loose	Hungary Freedom Essai (coin or medal?) – in small green box.