

## James A. Michener Society Collection

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

**Collection number:** SC 1-34

**Title:** James A. Michener Society Collection

**Author:** Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2006 July 31; revised 2007 January 4; 2008 January 9; and July 18; revised 2009 September 2; revised 2010 August 5.

**Dates:** 1964- ; Bulk 1998- ; items are added continuously.

**Creator or Collector:** James A. Michener Society officers; Archival Services staff and others.

**Size:** 6 linear feet.

### Abstract:

The James A. Michener Society Collection contains correspondence, financial records, membership, newsletter, newspaper clippings, photographs, annual conference packages, and other materials related to the history of the organization.

### Scope and Content Note:

The James A. Michener Society Collection contains correspondence, financial records, membership, newsletter, newspaper clippings, photographs, annual conference packages, and other materials related to the history of the organization.

### History Note:

The James A. Michener Society was established in 1998 for anyone who was interested in Michener's life and work.

James A. Michener Society website: <http://webpages.charter.net/boerad/michener.htm>.

### 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.

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

This collection is organized into the following series:

**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 1-34), James A. Michener Society Collection, Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

**Locations of Originals (if applicable):**

**Acquisition Information (if applicable):**

Gift of James A. Michener Society beginning ca. 2000.

Items in Box were originally created by the Library Administration Office. Later they were transferred to the University Archivist. These files were added to the James A. Michener Society Collection on 2006 July 28.

T-Shirts from the Opening Day Celebration of the James A. Michener Special Collection, 1998 September 11 were removed from collection as these T-shirts were not paid for by the James A. Michener Society.

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

**Subjects:**

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

James A. Michener Society.

University of Northern Colorado. Libraries. James A. Michener Special Collection.

**Inventory:**

**Box 1 -- JAM Society Editor Files**

Folder 1 -- James A. Michener, articles about, 1993-1998

Folder 2 -- James A. Michener-miscellaneous, 1997-1998

Folder 3 -- World is My James A. Michener Society Collection-supplemental index, 1992

Folder 4 -- James A. Michener-biographical, 1964-1999

Folder 5 -- Talk for annual meeting, script for business meeting, 1999

Folder 6 -- Planning file-JAM Society annual conference, 1999

- Folder 7 -- JAM Society officers-biographies, 1999
- Folder 8 -- JAM Society-letterhead, envelopes, addresses, 1998-2002
- Folder 9 -- JAM Society-drafts of by-laws, first newsletter, misc., 1998-2001
- Folder 10 -- White, Donald L., 1998-2002
- Folder 11 -- Werbsha, Joe, 1998-2002
- Folder 12 -- Binkley-Tatem, Sue (some used issue #1), 1998-2002

**Box 2 -- JAM Society Editor Files**

- Folder 1 -- Authors League Fund articles, 1998-2002
- Folder 2 -- Silverman, Herman, 1998-2002
- Folder 3 -- Jensen, Henry, 1998-2002
- Folder 4 -- Grobel, Larry, 1998-2002
- Folder 5 -- Gibboney, Richard, 1998-2002
- Folder 6 -- Cronkite, Walter (contains photo used in issue #2, Fall 1999), 1998-1999
- Folder 7 -- Buckley, William F. (not yet used), 1998-2002
- Folder 8 -- Buchwald, Art, 1998-2002
- Folder 9 -- Brothers, Debbie, 1998-2002
- Folder 10 -- Bost, Tom (material not yet used), 1998-2002
- Folder 11 -- Balaban, John (used in issue #3), 1998-2002
- Folder 12 -- Anderson, Norris (not yet used in newsletter), 1998-2002
- Folder 13 -- JAM Society Newsletter, 1999-2002
- Folder 14 -- JAM Society Newsletter-misc., 1999-2002
- Folder 15 -- Photos-various, 1995-2002
- Folder 15 -- Photos-various, 1995-2002  
3 photographs taken by [Charles Rhine?] at a James A. Michener Society meeting in September 1998. Photographs added on 2008 July 18 by Shirley Soenksen.
- Folder 16 -- JAM Society Newsletter, issue 4, Vol. 2 No.2, Fall 2000, 2000
- Folder 17 -- JAM Society Newsletter, material for issue #3 out in Spring 2000, 1999-2000
- Folder 18 -- JAM Society Newsletter, Fall '99, Material for Second issue, Oct. '99, 1999
- Folder 19 -- JAM Society Newsletter, Spring 1999, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1999

Folder 20 -- JAM Society Newsletter, issues Vol. 1, 1&2, Vol. 2, 1& 2, 1999-2000

Folder 21 -- JAM Society membership, 1998-2002

Folder 22 -- JAM Art Museum, Doylestown, PA, 1998-2002

Folder 23 -- James A. Michener Prize, 2001

Folder 24 -- JAM Society membership forms and Kings' letter, 1998

Folder 25 -- Roberts, Frank (F.X.)-correspondence, 1998-2002

**Box 3 A -- Historian's File, 1998-1999**

Folder 1 -- Charter Members of the James A. Michener Society

Folder 2 -- John Kings Letter, 1999 February

Folder 3 -- Charter Membership Forms

Folder 4 -- Charter Membership Online Form, 1999

Folder 5 -- Spectrum, 1999 May

Page 5 has a small article on the James A. Michener Society.

Folder 6 -- Newsletters, 1999  
1999 Spring and 1999 Fall

Folder 7 -- Letterhead

Folder 8 -- Envelopes

Folder 9 -- Correspondence, 1999

Folder 10 -- Registration Form: 1999 Meeting

Folder 11 -- Negatives: 1st Annual Meeting, 1999

Folder 12 -- Newspaper Articles, 1999

Folder 13 -- Minutes of the First Annual Business Meeting

Folder 14 -- Michener Society Planning Team Minutes, 1998

Folder 15 -- Treasurer's Report, 1999

Folder 16 -- Bylaws, 1999

Folder 17 -- Biographies of Elected Officers

Folder 18 -- Membership Information and Renewal Forms

Folder 19 -- Packet Distributed at First Annual Business Meeting, 1999

**Box 3 B -- Historian's File, 1999-2000**

- Folder 1 -- Foundation of JAM Society -- , 1999
- Folder 2 -- By-laws (includes draft)
- Folder 3 -- Meeting agenda and minutes, 1999-2000
- Folder 4 -- Correspondence, general, 1999-2000
- Folder 5 -- Correspondence, Gift money, 1999
- Folder 6 -- Correspondence, Ed Cowman e-mail, 1999-2000
- Folder 7 -- Financial, 1998-1999
- Folder 8 -- Elderhostel 2000, 2000
- Folder 9 -- Membership
- Folder 10 -- Proposed coordinator for Society
- Folder 11 -- Michener Society mailing list (RESTRICTED)
- Folder 12 -- Newsletter
- Folder 13 -- Newsclippings-photocopies
- Folder 14 -- Newsclippings-originals
- Folder 15 -- Photos-packaging
- Folder 16 -- Negatives
- Folder 17 -- Photos
- Folder 18 -- 1st Annual meeting of JAM Society, Greeley, CO, 1999
- Folder 19 -- 2nd Annual meeting of JAM Society, Austin, TX, 2000

**Box 4 -- Secretary/Treasurer's Files, 1999-2000**

- Folder 1 -- JAM SOC – Bylaws
- Folder 2 -- JAM Society Planning Team
- Folder 3 -- JAM Soc – Request for Funds, 1999
- Folder 4 -- JAM SOC – Accounting, 1999
- Folder 5 -- JAM SOC – Monthly Reports/Foundation
- Folder 6 -- JAM SOC – Deposits / Foundation

Folder 7 -- Donations 1999

Folder 8 -- Donations 2000

Folder 9 -- JAM SOC -- Requests / Foundation

Folder 10 -- JAM SOC Foundation

Folder 11 -- JAM SOC -- Names of Prospective Members

Folder 12 -- JAM SOC -- Karen Groseclose

Folder 13 -- JAM SOC -- Miscellaneous

**Box 5 -- Membership Mailings, Forms, Information, 1999-2001**

Folder 1 -- Membership Forms with Newsletters, Postcards, 1999

Folder 2 -- Letter and Forms from Ed Cowman, 1999

Folder 3 -- Charter Membership Forms

Folder 4 -- John Kings Letter, 1999 February

Folder 5 -- Brochure: James A. Michener Special Collection

Folder 6 -- Bibliotech, 2000 Spring

Folder 7 -- Annual Meetings, 1999-2001

Folder 8 -- Packets Distributed at First Annual Business Meeting, 1999

Folder 9 -- Membership Applications 1999, A-G

Folder 10 -- Membership Applications 1999, H-O

Folder 11 -- Membership Applications 1999, P-Z

Folder 12 -- Brochure: 1998-99 Exhibits, James A. Michener Special Collection

Folder 13 -- Printout: James A. Michener Special Collection Website 1998

**Box 6 -- Master Videos: James A Michener Society First Annual Meeting -- Oct. 1 & 2, 1999**

Contents: Annual Business Meeting; The James A. Michener Special Collection; River of Life: Michener's South Plate Then and Now -- Tom Noel; The Life and Influence of James A. Michener -- Panel Discussion; A Citizen of the World and Pawnee Buttes -- Elliot West; Closing Remarks

**Box 7 -- Membership Forms with Newsletters, Postcards, 1999-**

**Box 8 -- Correspondence Files: University of Northern Colorado Libraries, 1998-**

Folder 1 -- James A. Michener Society. 1998.

- Folder 2 -- James A. Michener Society. 1999.
- Folder 3 -- James A. Michener Society. 2000.
- Folder 4 -- James A. Michener Society. 2001
- Folder 5 -- James A. Michener Society. 2002.
- Folder 6 -- James A. Michener Society. 2003.
- Folder 7 -- James A. Michener Society. 2004.
- Folder 8 -- James A. Michener Society. Undated.

**Box 9 -- Correspondence Files: University of Northern Colorado Libraries, 1998-**

- Folder 9 -- James A. Michener Society. 2005.
- Folder 9 -- James A. Michener Society. 2005.

**Box 10 -- Miscellaneous Items**

Folder 1 -- 2005 Annual Meeting (Alaska)

"Alaska Pilgrimage." The Daily Sentinel (Sitka, Alaska), Aug. 30, 2005, p. 1.

A photograph and text of James A. Michener Society members taking a tour of the cottage on the campus of Sheldon Jackson College where Michener wrote the novel Alaska. Individuals in the photograph include: Bob and Laurie Guthmann, Bob and Carol Matchett, Bob and Betty Sweet, all members of James A. Michener Society; and tour guides Chuck and Edie Bovee.

Guthmann, Laurie. "Tracing Michener in Alaska." [Greeley, CO: Laurie Guthmann], 2005.

Although the 2005 annual meeting of the James A. Michener Society was cancelled due to a lack of interest, Bob and Laurie Guthmann, Bob and Carol Matchett, and Bob and Betty Sweet decided to take the trip to Alaska anyway. This is a one page summary of their trip.

Folder 1 -- 2005 Annual Meeting (Alaska)

Folder 2 -- 2006 Annual Meeting

Folder 3a -- 2007 Annual Meeting (Greeley, Colorado)

Bliss, Joy. "Michener Soc. Greeley CO, Oct. 4-7, 2007." CD-Rom (2). Albuquerque, NM: The Book Stops Here, 2007.

Photographs taken during the James A. Michener Society annual conference and James A. Michener Library 25th Anniversary and Rededication Celebration, October 3, 1997.

Scanned images available.

Copyright resides with The Book Stops Here.

Michener Celebration 10/5/07-10/7/07 -- Pictures from Art Giffin

Michener Celebration 10/5/07-10/7/07 -- Pictures taken by Art Giffin sent to Joy Bliss

Folder 3b -- 2007 Annual Meeting

(Greeley, Colorado) Michener Celebration 10/5/07-10/7/07 -- Pictures from Art Giffin

Folder 3c -- 2007 Annual Meeting (Greeley, Colorado)  
Michener Celebration 10/5/07-10/7/07 -- Pictures taken by Art Giffin sent to Joy Bliss

Folder 4 -- 2008 Annual Meeting (New York City)  
Tentative Agenda, James A. Michener Society Annual Meeting, New York, New York, September 12-24, 2009  
Correspondence via email

Folder 4 -- 2008 Annual Meeting (New York City)  
3 photographs (photocopies)

Folder 4 -- 2008 Annual Meeting (New York City)  
Kristofic, Christina. "A Major Milestone." Photocopy. *Doylestown Intelligencer*, Sept. 21, 2008, n.p.

Folder 4 -- 2008 Annual Meeting (New York City)  
"Photograph Taken on October 6 of the 2008 Michener Society Officer & Board of Directors."  
Taken in Greeley, Colorado on October 6, 2007. Received on 2008 January 2008. Left to right: Gary Pitkin, Advisor to the Board; Joy Bliss, Secretary; John Dietz, Board member; Richard Gibboney, President; Art Giffin, Board member; A. Richard Boera, Treasurer; Robert Guthmann, Board member; Ed Gambs, Board member; David Groseclose, Board member.

Folder 5 -- 2009 Annual Meeting (Akron, Ohio)  
2009 Annual Meeting, Kent, Ohio, Oct. 2-4, 2009.

#### **Box 11 -- Newsletters -- Archival Copy**

1999 Spring; 1999 Fall; 2000 Fall ; 2000 Spring; 2001 Summer; 2001 Winter (No issue published); 2002 Summer; 2002 Winter; 2003 Fall; 2003 Spring; 2004 Spring (No issue published); 2004 Fall; 2005 Spring; 2005 Fall; 2006 Spring (Do not have); 2006 Fall (Do not have); 2007 Spring; 2007 Fall; 2008 Winter; 2008 Spring; 2009 (Do not have any issues); 2010 Summer

#### **Box 12 -- Newsletters -- Use for Photocopy or Scan**

1999 Spring; 2001 Summer; 2001 Winter (No issue published); 2002 Summer ; 2002 Winter; 2003 Spring; 2003 Fall; 2004 Spring (No issue published); 2004 Fall; 2005 Spring; 2005 Fall