

**An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers,
Miscellaneous JAM Tapes**

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

Collection number: SC1-42

Title: An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Miscellaneous JAM Tapes

Author: Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2010 November 10.

Dates: 1980-1992

Creator or Collector: Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997

Size: .6 linear feet (3 letters, 2 audio tapes).

Language: English

Abstract:

This collection consists of three letters and 2 audio tapes.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists of three letters and 2 audio tapes.

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:

Series 1: Correspondence

Series 2: Audio Tapes

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, Miscellaneous JAM Tapes (SC 1-42), Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

Acquisition Information (if applicable):

Unknown acquisition.

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

Subjects:

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

Inventory:

Box 1

Folder 0 – Finding Aid
Finding Aid

Series 1: Correspondence

Folder -- Correspondence

Letter dated 1987 January 5 from Hannah Klein, United States Information Agency to James A. Michener, enclosing a complimentary copy of, a show, "Almanac #12."

Letter dated 1992 July 29 from Don E., Carleton, Director and J. R. Parten Fellow in the Archives of American History, The General Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin, to James A. Michener, enclosing three videotapes of the John Henry Faulk Conference on the First Amendment on 1992 April 29 as well as a photocopy of an article on the conference, "Buchholz, Brad. "Private Lives, Public Servants," Dallas Morning News, July 26, 1992, n.p.

Letter dated 1983 November 15 from Lisa Albert, Ballantine Books, to James A. Michener, enclosing an excerpted conversation between Albert and Michener from August 18th as well as two copies of a video release (video tapes) on Space.

Series 2: Audio Tapes

Folder – Audio Tapes

National Archives and Records Administration. General Services Administration. "James Mitchner, LBJ Library. 12-3-84." Reference Tape 1 of 2. 1 audio tape.

National Archives and Records Administration. General Services Administration. "James Mitchner, LBJ Library. 12-3-84." Reference Tape 2 of 2. 1 audio tape.