

## **An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers Oversized Shelving**

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

**Collection number:** SC1-49

**Title:** An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Oversized Shelving

**Author:** Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2010 October 26; slightly revised 2010 November 19.

**Dates:** ca1940s-2008

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

**Size:** 40 linear feet

**Language:** English

### **Abstract:**

This collection consists primarily of oversized items, such as photographs, posters, certificates, plaques, as well as other items. Oversized Shelving contains items from several collections.

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

This collection consists primarily of oversized items, such as photographs, posters, certificates, plaques, as well as other items. Oversized Shelving contains items from several collections.

### **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.

**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](mailto:library.archives@unco.edu) or 970-351-2854 for further information.

**Preferred Citation:** [Description of Item], James A. Michener Papers, Oversized Shelving (SC 1-49) Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

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

**Acquisition Information (if applicable):**

Gift of various individuals.

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

**Subjects:**

Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997.  
Louisjuste, Janvier.  
Vavra, Robert, 1935- .  
University of Texas at Austin. Humanities Research Center.  
Potato Brumbaugh's Restaurant & Saloon (Greeley, CO).  
Elderhostels.  
Piszek, Edward J., 1916-2004  
Piszek, Bill (Piszek, William P.)  
Orapchuck, Nadia.

**Inventory:**

**Shelf 1**

The Headliner Foundation. Award.

Texas. Empty octagonal box for promotional materials. Approximately 15"x14<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>".

**Shelf 2**

[Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center Collection. SC 1-27, Boxes 13 & 23](#)

**Shelf 3**

Home Collection. SC 1-31. Home 7.

Home 7. James A. Michener Art Museum. Color photograph.

Home 7. Newspaper. *Austin American-Statesman*. A). "Sports," Jan. 22, 1995, pp. G1-G6. B). "Show World," Feb. 4, 1996, pp. 1-40.

Home 7. Newspaper. *Pacific Citizen*, Oct. 15, 1982-June 29, 1984 (incomplete).

Home 7. Newspaper. *Rocky Mountain Jiho*, Apr. 6, 1983-Feb. 15, 1984 (incomplete).  
English/Japanese newspaper published in Denver, Colorado and addressed to Mari Michener.

[Harry Ransome Humanities Research Center \(HRC\) Collection. SC 1-27, Box 28.](#)

**Shelf 4**

Scanned copies of photographs used in "Robert Vavra Presents James Albert Michener Photographic Collection." January 10 - February 14, 2007.

[Displays & Exhibits Collection. SC 1-44, Box 1](#)

[Ephemera Collection. SC 1-73, Box 2](#)

[Piszek Family Collection. SC 1-06, Box 68](#)

**Shelf 5**

[Robert Vavra Photographs and Correspondence Related to James A. Michener, 1965-2005, Boxes 5-7.](#)

**Shelf 6**

[Potato Brumbaugh's Collection. SC 1-74, Boxes 1-4](#)

**Shelf 7**

[Elderhostel Collection. SC 67, Box 1](#)

**Shelf 8**

[Centennial Collection. SC 1-01, Boxes 28-30](#)

**Shelf 9**

Empty

**Shelf 10**

Supplies

**Shelf 11**

[Nadia Orapchuck Collection, ca. 1968-1972. SC 1-35, Box 4.](#)

Metal sculptures by Janvier Louisjuste, an Haitian sculptor.