

**An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers
James A. Michener
and the
University of Northern Colorado, 1997-**

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

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Title: An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, James A. Michener and the University of Northern Colorado, 1997-

Author: Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2007 November 8 and revised on 2009 September 4.

Dates: 1997-2003

Creator or Collector: Archival Services staff and others.

Size: .5 linear feet

Abstract:

This collection consists of a student paper, an article from the Spectrum, and printouts from web pages created for two history classes offered in the summer of 1998.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists of a student paper, an article from the Spectrum, and printouts from web pages created for two history classes offered in the summer of 1998.

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 3rd 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: User is responsible for copyright compliance.

Preferred Citation: [Description of Item], James A. Michener Papers, James A. Michener and the University of Northern Colorado, 1997- (RG SC 1-55), Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

Acquisition Information (if applicable):

Materials collected by Archival Services staff and other following James A. Michener's death on 1997 October 16.

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

Subjects:

Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997.
Reifschneider, Jill.
Welsh Michael E.
Jackson, Kevin E., 1960- .

Inventory:

Box 1

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box 1	Folder	Title
JAM & UNC 1997-	SC 1- 55		Box 1	Folder 0 – Finding Aid	Finding Aid
JAM & UNC 1997-	SC 1- 55		Box 1	Folder 1 – Student Papers	Reifschneider, Jill. "Rethinking Michener." Photocopy. [Greeley, CO:] Jill Reifschneider, 1997. Student paper used in Dr. Michael Welsh's HIST 480 class.
JAM & UNC 1997-	SC 1- 55		Box 1	Folder 2	On Michener's Trail: Discovering the Colorado Plains (HIST 513-411), Summer 1998.
JAM & UNC 1997-	SC 1- 55		Box 1	Folder 3	Discovering Michener's Colorado, Summer 1998.
JAM & UNC 1997-	SC 1- 55		Box 1	Loose	McConnellogue, Kieran. "What Michener Left Behind." 38 copies. <i>Spectrum</i> (University of Northern Colorado, May 2003, cover & pp. 16- 18.

