

**An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers,
Brothers-Dillon Photograph Collection**

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

Collection number: SC 1-57

Title: An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Brothers-Dillon Photograph Collection

Author: Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2006 June 2.

Dates: 1996-1998

Creator or Collector: Brothers, Deborah E.; Dillon, Susan

Size:

Abstract:

This collection consists of photographs of James A. Michener, Ed Piszek, and Stan Musial taken by Deborah E. Brothers and Susan Dillon.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists of photographs of James A. Michener, Ed Piszek, and Stan Musial taken by Deborah E. Brothers and Susan Dillon.

Researchers may also want to consult the following collection for additional photographs by Susan Dillon:

James A. Michener Papers, Miscellaneous Photograph Collection (SC 1-77)

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 Deborah E. Brothers and Susan Dillon:

Deborah E. Brothers was James A. Michener's assistant for fifteen years.

Susan Dillon took the photographs used in James A. Michener's *A Century of Sonnets*.

Biography of Edward J. Piszek:

Edward J. Piszek was the co-founder of Mrs. Paul's Kitchen (frozen fish) and a close personal friend of James A. Michener. He encouraged James A. Michener to write the novel *Poland*. Edward J. Piszek, Stan Musial, and Michener were known as the "Three Boys."

For more information on Edward J. Piszek, see:

http://www.polanjournal.com/Library/Biographies/Piszek_E/piszek_e.html

Biography of Stan Musial:

The great baseball player, Stan Musial, was a close personal friend of James A. Michener. Stan Musial (aka Stan-The Man), Edward J. Piszek, and Michener were known as the "Three Boys."

For more information on Stan Musial, see: <http://www.stan-the-man.com/>

Arrangement (required for multiple level collections):

This collection is organized into a single 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 1-57), Brothers-Dillon Photograph Collection, Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

Locations of Originals (if applicable):

Acquisition Information (if applicable):

Gift of Deborah E. Brothers and Susan Dillon in 1998.

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

Subjects:

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

Brothers, Deborah E.

Dillon, Susan

Piszek, Edward J., 1916-2004

Musial, Stan, 1920-

Inventory:

Folder 1 -- Photos – JAM, Piszek, Musial, 1996, 1997

Photocopy of a letter dated 1998 October 7 from Deborah E. Brothers and Susan Dillon, Independent Co-Executors, Estate of James A. Michener, Austin, Texas.

Color photograph of Ed Piszek and Stan Musial visiting James Michener at his home in Austin, Texas in the fall of 1996. Photograph taken by Susan Dillon, Austin, Texas. 4"x6". 1 copy.

Color photograph of Ed Piszek and Stan Musial visiting James Michener at his home in Austin, Texas in the fall of 1996. Photograph taken by Susan Dillon, Austin, Texas. 3 ½"x5". 1 copy.

Color photograph of Ed Piszek, Stan Musial, James A. Michener, and an unidentified woman in February 1997 for Michener's 90th birthday. Photograph taken by Debbie Brothers. 4"x6". 1 copy.

Color photograph of Ed Piszek, Stan Musial, James A. Michener, and an unidentified woman in February 1997 for Michener's 90th birthday. Photograph taken by Debbie Brothers. 3 ½"x5". 1 copy.

Envelope with two negatives, one for each photograph.