

**An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers,  
F. X. Roberts Collection**

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

**Collection number:** SC 1-58

**Title:** An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, F. X. Roberts Collection

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

**Dates:** 1998-1999

**Creator or Collector:** Roberts, F. X. (Francis Xavier), 1932-

**Size:** 0.125 linear feet (9 color photographs & 1 memo)

**Abstract:**

Nine color photographs taken by F. X. Roberts on 1998 September 11 during the opening of the James A. Michener Special Collection.

**Scope and Content Note:**

Nine color photographs taken by F. X. Roberts on 1998 September 11 during the opening of the James A. Michener Special Collection.

**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 F. X. Roberts:**

F.X. Roberts graduated from Simmons College in 1968 with a Masters in Library Science. He later earned a Ph.D. and was a reference librarian and Professor of Library Science at the University of Northern Colorado. While at the James A. Michener Library he taught bibliographic instruction and worked on collection development in the areas of education as well as English and American literature.

Frank Roberts researched, collected, and wrote about the history of bookmarks. The F. X. Roberts Bookmark Collection can be found in Record Group SC73. Digital images of Roberts' bookmark collection are available.

He was co-author, along with C. D. Rhine, of the book *James A. Michener: A Checklist of His Works, with a Selected, Annotated Bibliography (Bibliographies and Indexes in American Literature)*.

### **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.polamjournal.com/Library/Biographies/Piszek\\_E/piszek\\_e.html](http://www.polamjournal.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/> >.

### **Biography of Gary Pitkin:**

Dr. Pitkin is Dean of University Libraries at the University of Northern Colorado. He received his Master of Arts in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1971, an Education Specialist degree from Appalachian State University in 1984, and a Doctor of Education degree from UNC in 1993. He has published seven books on topics ranging from systems migration, to technology for reference services and bibliographic instruction, to information management and organizational change. He has been the editor of the Haworth Press journal *Technical Services Quarterly* since 1985, and has over 35 presentations to professional organizations. In addition, he teaches library science courses at three universities and is an international consultant, most recently in the Middle East and Africa. As a result of his close relationship with James A. Michener, Gary was instrumental in bringing the James A. Michener Special Collection to UNC.

### **Biography of Hank Brown:**

Hank Brown was President of the University of Northern Colorado from 1998 to 2002. He is currently the President of the University of Colorado.

For more information on Hank Brown, see:

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=B000919>

<http://www.cu.edu/president/brown/about.html>

**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 1-58), F. X. Roberts Collection, Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

**Acquisition Information (if applicable):**

Gift of F. X. Roberts in 1999.

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

**Subjects:**

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

Roberts, F. X. (Francis Xavier), 1932-

Brown, Hank, 1940-

Pitkin, Gary M., 1947-

**Inventory:**

Folder 1 -- Photos: Opening Day, 9-14-98

"Acquisitions Memo Required," 9/14/99. F. X. Roberts, Reference Librarian at the University of Northern Colorado Libraries, Donor.

Order envelope dated 9/12/98 from Longs Drugs, Greeley, Colorado for Standard 3 1/2" prints for FX Roberts

9 color photographs (plus negatives) taken by F. X. Roberts on 9/11/98 during the opening of the James A. Michener Special Collection.

Ed Piszek. Standing at a podium. 3 1/2"x 5 1/8". 2 copies.

Hank Brown, President, University of Northern Colorado Libraries. Standing at a podium. 3 1/2"x 5 1/8". 2 copies.

Stan Musial. Standing at a podium. 3 1/2"x 5 1/8". 2 copies.

Stan Musial. Seated and being interviewed by an unidentified man.

3 1/2"x 5 1/8". 2 copies.

Hank Brown, President, University of Northern Colorado Libraries, talking to an unidentified man. Gary Pitkin, Library Dean, University of Northern Colorado Libraries, is standing in the background talking to an unidentified woman.