

James A. Michener Papers, *Dangerous Summer* (1985), detailed. 11/17/2008. sjs.

**An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, *Dangerous Summer* (1985) by Ernest Hemingway  
-- "Introduction" by James A. Michener.**

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

**Collection number:** SC1-59

**Title:** An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, *Dangerous Summer* (1985) by Ernest Hemingway  
-- "Introduction" by James A. Michener.

**Author:** Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2006 August 2, revised 2006 November 13.

**Dates:** 1985

**Creator or Collector:** Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997 (Creator); Wershba, Joseph (Joe), 1920- (Collector)

**Size:** 1 linear foot

**Abstract:**

This collection consists of a typed copy of James A. Michener's "Introduction" to Ernest Hemingway's book *Dangerous Summer* and one letter.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection consists of a typed copy of James A. Michener's "Introduction" to Ernest Hemingway's book *Dangerous Summer* and one letter.

**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.

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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 Joseph Wershba:**

Joseph Wershba, a professional writer, was born in New York in 1920 and graduated from Brooklyn College in 1941. He began working for CBS radio in the late 1940s and then moved on to television. During the 1960s Wershba wrote for the *New York Post* and contributed occasionally to *Forward*. In the 1950s Joseph Wershba worked with Edward R. Morrow on the "See It Now" programs, including the shows that challenged United States Senator Joseph McCarthy. Later Wershba worked as a producer on "60 Minutes."

Wershba won two Emmy Awards, a Silurian award for lifetime excellence in journalism, and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his work in 1963 on a Lee Harvey Oswald story.

*A Guide to the Joseph and Shirley Wershba Papers, 1936-2004* is available online at:  
<<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utcah/00163/cah-00163.html> >.

**Sources:**

"Ann M. Sperber Award." Fordham University. Available [Online]:  
<[http://www.fordham.edu/Academics/Programs\\_at\\_Fordham\\_/Communication\\_and\\_Me/Sperber\\_Award/Jo\\_Wershba\\_10897.asp](http://www.fordham.edu/Academics/Programs_at_Fordham_/Communication_and_Me/Sperber_Award/Jo_Wershba_10897.asp)>. Last Viewed: 2006 August 2.

**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 1-59), *Dangerous Summer* (1985) by Ernest Hemingway -- "Introduction" by James A. Michener, Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

**Acquisition Information (if applicable):**

Gift of Joseph Wershba in 2000.

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

See also: SC 1-29, Alaska Collection, Box 11, Folder 287: *Dangerous Summer*—Introduction by Michener.

**Subjects:**

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

Wershba, Joseph (Joe), 1920-

Hemingway, Ernest, 1899-1961

**Inventory:**

Letter dated 2000 November 3 from Joseph Wershba to Gary Pitkin, Dean of University Libraries, University of Northern Colorado, enclosing a copy of Michener's "Introduction" to *the Dangerous Summer*.

Typed manuscript of Michener's "Introduction" to *the Dangerous Summer*. Pages 29-43 and 44-45 may be originals as the paper has faded. The other pages are white and may be photocopies. Pages 44-45 include notations of deleted material not included in the book. Wershba makes reference to the deleted material in the letter mentioned above.