

**An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Yuri Nakata Collection**

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

**Collection number:** SC1-60

**Title:** An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Yuri Nakata Collection

**Author:** Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on.

**Dates:** 1955-

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

**Size:** .5 linear feet

**Abstract:**

This collection consists of correspondence and clippings about James A. Michener. Yuri Nakata was a friend of Mari Michener.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection consists of correspondence and clippings about James A. Michener. Yuri Nakata was a friend of Mari Michener.

**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 Yuri Nakata:**

Yuri Nakata was a close friend of Mari Michener. She first met Mari Michener in the 1950s when both women worked for the American Library Association in Chicago. They retained their friendship through the years, speaking weekly on the telephone. Yuri Nakata was the first Government Documents Librarian at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**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-number), Collection Name, Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

**Acquisition Information (if applicable):**

Gift of Mrs. Yuri Nakata in 2002.

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

**Subjects:**

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

**Inventory:**

**Correspondence**

Letter dated 2003 January 3 from Yuri Nakata to Roiann M. Baird, James A. Michener-Endowed Archivist, University of Northern Colorado Libraries, regarding the Mari Michener. Photocopy (original in Acquisitions folder).

Correspondence dated 1994 October 7 and 1994 October 20 between Yuri Nakata and Wayne Newell, Executive Director, College Harbor Retirement Community, St. Petersburg, Florida, regarding a donation of Michener's books by Yuri Nakata.

Note dated October 27 [no year] from Barbara [no surname] to Yuri.

**Photographs**

Nakata, Yuri. Mari & Jim Michener Wedding, Chicago, 1955. Black and white photograph. (Digitized copy available).

**Books and Brochures**

*James A. Michener Art Museum Exhibitions 1998-1999.* Brochure. Doylestown, PA: The James A. Michener Art Museum, ca.1998.

Nicholas, Lisa, comp. *James A. Michener: A Register of his Papers in the Swarthmore College Library, Special Collections Department.* Swarthmore, PA: Swarthmore College Library, 1981.

Photocopies of pages from Congressional Information Service's *CIS Annual* of James A. Michener's appearances before United States congressional hearings, 1972-1979?

An online version of the CIS Annual is now known as LexisNexis® Congressional.

**Newspaper/Magazine Articles**

James A. Michener Papers, Yuri Nakata Collection (SC 1-60). 11/19/2008. sjs.

Barnes, Bart. "Epic Novelist James Michener is Dead at 90." *The Washington Post*, Oct. 17, 1997, pp. A1, A25. Photocopy.

Birmingham, Nan. "Worldly Writer James Michener." *Vis à Viz*, Mar. 1990, pp. 80-82.

Casey, Constance. "Michener Short and Blunt: Save America." *Oregonian*, Sept. 1, 1996, B1, B5.

"Chesapeake Bay: Enclave for the Elite." *W* [aka *Women's Wear Daily*], June 20-27, 1980, pp. Cover, 2, 22, 24-25. Photocopy of cover, pages 2, and 22 only.

This article includes a photograph of James A. Michener and his wife Mari. Although the article continues on pages 24-25, they are not included.

Donohoe, Victoria. "New Wing at Michener Museum is Feathr in Buck County's Cap." *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Nov.3, 1996, n.p.

Elizondo, Juan B., Jr. "James Michener, 90, Epic Novelist, Dies." *Chicago Sun-Times*, Oct. 17, 1997, p. 4. Photocopy.

Fuller, Edmund. "Penetrating the Mysteries of the Great Bay." *The Wall Street Journal*, July 24, 1978, p. 10. Photocopy.

A book review of Michener's novel *Cheasapeake*.

Havighurst, Walter. "Michener of the South Pacific." *The English Journal*, vol. XLI, no. 8, Octo. 1952, pp. 397-403. Photocopy.

*James A. Michener Art Museum Exhibits 1998-1999*. Brochure. Doylestown, PA: The James A. Michener Art Museum, [1998].

Kernan, Michael. "James Michener: Telling His Own Tale." *The Washington Post Book World*, Dec. 8, 1991, pp. 1-2. Photocopy.

A book review of Michener's autobiography *the World is my Home*.

Mead, Walter Russell. *Europe on the Shoals*. *New York Times Book Review*, Oct. 5, 1997, n.p. Photocopy.

A book review of John Newhouse's *Europe Adrift*. This article does not contain anythings about James A. Michener or his wife Mari.

The reverse page has a book review by Robert B. Semple, Jr. os Linda Lear's biography of environmentalist Rachel Carson.

Michener, James A. "Caribbean." *American Way*, Oct. 15, 1989, pp. 63-64, 113-114, 116, 120-121. Photocopy.

Michener, James A. "Life Outside Academe." *The Key Reporter*, Spring 1994, n.p. Photocopy.

James A. Michener, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, describes the role that education played in his career.

"Michener's Fiction Gave Life to Hawaii's Reality." Editorial. *The Honolulu Advertiser*, Oct. 17, 1997, pp. A18. Photocopy.

Nakaso, Dan. "Author Opened Hawaii, but Found it Closed to Him." *The Honolulu Advertiser*, Oct. 17, 1997, pp. A1, A12-A13. Photocopy.

Radcliffe, Donnie and Barbara Feinman. "At the White House, Poles Together." *The Washington Post*, Mar. 22, 1999, pp. C1, C20. Photocopy.

Semple, Robert B., Jr. "Saving Spring." *New York Times Book Review*, Oct. 5, 1997, n.p. Photocopy.

A book review of Linda Lear's biography of environmentalist Rachel Carson. This article does not contain anything about James A. Michener or his wife Mari.

The reverse page has a book review by Walter Russell Mead for John Newhouse's *Europe Adrift*.

Shanin, Jim. "Michener." *American Way*, Oct. 15, 1989, pp. 56-62, 112. Photocopy.

*Sheldon Jackson College Adventures*, vol 77, no. 2, Special Edition, 1988. Includes photographs. One original and one photocopy.

The entire issue is devoted to the Micheners. Many of the articles appeared in *The Sitka Daily Sentinel* while the Micheners were on the campus.

- Kaelke, Michael. "The President's Corner." *Sheldon Jackson College Adventures*, vol 77, no. 2, Special Edition, 1988, p. 2. Photocopy.
- Sentinel Staff. "Michener Puts Pen to Many Copies." *Sheldon Jackson College Adventures*, vol 77, no. 2, Special Edition, 1988, p. 2. Photocopy.
- Sentinel Staff. "SJ Show Spotlights the Micheners." *Sheldon Jackson College Adventures*, vol 77, no. 2, Special Edition, 1988, p. 3. Photocopy.
- Sykora, Allen. "Michener Reviews 'Alaska:' Author 'Can't Guess' Reaction." *Sheldon Jackson College Adventures*, vol 77, no. 2, Special Edition, 1988, p. 2. Sykora was a Sentinel Staff writer. Photocopy.
- Sykora, Allen. "Micheners Given Welcome 'Home'." *Sheldon Jackson College Adventures*, vol 77, no. 2, Special Edition, 1988, p. 1. Photocopy. Sykora was a Sentinel Staff writer.
- Sykora, Allen. "Small News Item Lead to Big Event." *Sheldon Jackson College Adventures*, vol 77, no. 2, Special Edition, 1988, p. 4. Photocopy. Sykora was a Sentinel Staff writer.

Sones, Melissa. "Cover: James Michener: Common Man of Uncommon Accomplishments." *The Phoenix Gazette*, Jan. 18, 1986, pp. 4-6. Photocopy.

Streitfield, David. "Appreciation: the Wide World of James Michener." *The Washington Post*, Oct. 17, 1997, pp. D1, D3.

Taylor, Paul. "James Michener." *The Seattle Times*, July 4, 1984, pp. C13-C14. Photocopy.