

## **An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Miscellaneous Photographs**

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

**Collection number:** SC1-77

**Title:** An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Miscellaneous Photographs

**Author:** Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2006 September 27; revised on 2009 February 24.

**Dates:** 1972-1997

**Creator or Collector:** Various individuals

**Size:** 0.1 linear feet

### **Abstract:**

This collection consists of photographs from unknown donors and/or photograph collections that are too small to be considered a manuscript collection on their own.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

This collection consists of photographs from unknown donors and/or photograph collections that are too small to be considered a manuscript collection on their own.

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

James A. Michener Papers, [Brothers-Dillon Photograph Collection \(SC 1-57\)](#)

### **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.

**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, Miscellaneous Photographs Collection (SC 1-77), Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

**Acquisition Information (if applicable):**  
Given by various individuals.

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

**Subjects:**

Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997  
Hoydar, Enda Mary, 1897-2006  
Skinner, Beverley  
Bond, Richard R.  
Caselli, Christopher.  
Dillon, Susan.

**Inventory:**

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
Miscellaneous Photographs	SC 1-77		Box 1	Folder 0 – Finding Aid	Finding Aid
Miscellaneous Photographs	SC 1-77		Box 1	Folder 1 -- Photographs, 1972	Undated note from Beverley Skinner, wife of Howard Skinner, Emeritus Professor of Music and Interim President of the University of Northern Colorado, to Gary Pitkin, Dean of University Libraries, enclosing a photograph of James Michener signing his novel <i>Centennial</i> at the dedication of the James A. Michener Library in 1972. Photograph of James Michener signing a copy of <i>Centennial</i> for Edna Hoydar at the dedication of the James A. Michener Library in 1972. Hoydar was a professor of music at the University for 25 years, retiring in 1962. President Dick Bond stands to the left of Hoydar. Bond was President of the University of Northern Colorado from 1971-1981.
Miscellaneous Photographs	SC 1-77		Box 1	Folder 2 -- Photographs, Undated	An undated photograph of the James A. Michener plaque at the Sydney Writers Walk in Sydney, Australia. 2 copies.

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
Miscellaneous Photographs	SC 1-77		Box 1	Folder 2 -- Photographs, Undated	Undated photograph of Mari and James Michener with a group of Japanese, possibly her family. Everyone in the photograph except the little girl is wearing leis. This may be of their wedding with too place in 1955.
Miscellaneous Photographs	SC 1-77		Box 1	Folder 3 – Photographs, 1997	Caselli, Christopher. James A. Michener & Gary Pitkin, Feb. 1997. #467-16. 4x6. Color. Michener is holding a cup in his hands.
Miscellaneous Photographs	SC 1-77		Box 1	Folder 3 – Photographs, 1997	Caselli, Christopher. James A. Michener & Gary Pitkin, Feb. 1997 #467.17. 4x6. Color. Michener with his hands folded over a napkin.
Miscellaneous Photographs	SC 1-77		Box 1	Folder 3 – Photographs, 1997	Dillon, Susan. Howard M. Skinner, an unidentified woman, and James A. Michener. July 17, 1997. 4x6. Color.
Miscellaneous Photographs	SC 1-77		Box 1	Folder 3 – Photographs, 1997	Dillon, Susan. Howard M. Skinner, James A. Michener, and the back of the head of David Groseclose. July 17, 1997. 4x6. Color.
Miscellaneous Photographs	SC 1-77		Box 1	Folder 3 – Photographs, 1997	Dillon, Susan. James A. Michener, David Groseclose, Gary Pitkin, and the back of an unidentified person. July 17, 1997. 4x6. Color.