

James A. Michener Papers Collection
Chris Knasiak-Nadia Orapchuck Collection

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

Collection number: JM062

Title: James A. Michener Papers Collection, Chris Knasiak-Nadia Orapchuck Collection

Author: Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2007 February 9; revised January 30, 2012.

Dates: 1933, 1960 - 1998 (bulk 1970s-1980s)

Creator or Collector: Orapchuck, Nadia (Collector); Knasiak, Chris (Collector); Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997 (Creator); Michener, Mari Yoriko Sabusawa, 1920-1994 (Creator)

Size: 10.5 linear feet

Abstract:

This collection includes correspondence from Nadia Orapchuck's era (1960s-1980s), photographs, slides, a typed carbon copy of "Mitch the Witch" with his notes, autographed posters (*Iberia*), and the actual red stamp (original). Nadia Orapchuck was Michener's secretary during the 1960s-1980s.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection includes correspondence from Nadia Orapchuck's era (1960s-1980s), photographs, slides, a typed carbon copy of "Mitch the Witch" with his notes, autographed posters (*Iberia*), and the actual red stamp (original). Nadia Orapchuck was Michener's secretary during the 1960s-1980s.

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 Nadia Orapchuck and Chris Knasiak:

Nadia Orapchuck was James A. Michener's secretary for many years.

Chris Knasiak is Nadia Orapchuck's daughter.

Arrangement (required for multiple level collections):

This collection is organized into the following series:

Series 1:Correspondence

Series 2: Biography, Manuscripts & Other Items

Series 3: Clippings

Series 4: Photographs

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research unless restrictions are noted.

Restrictions on Use: Copyright restrictions may apply. User is responsible for all copyright compliance. Please contact the UNC University Libraries Archival Services Department at library.archives@unco.edu or 970-351-2854 for further information.

Preferred Citation: [Description of Item], James A. Michener Papers Collection, (JM062), Knasiak-Nadia Orapchuck Collection, Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

Acquisition Information (if applicable):

The library purchased this collection from Chris Knasiak in 2004.

The library also purchased a collection from Nadia Orapchuck in 1999 (SC 1-35).

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

Subjects:

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

Michener, Mari Yoriko Sabusawa, 1920-1994

Michener, Edwin

Michener, Mabel

Michener, Ezra

Michener, Margueretta

Michener, Esther

Michener, Ruth

Michener, Robert

Michener, Alice

Michener, Grace

Orapchuck, Nadia

Knasiak, Chris

Inventory:

Series 1:Correspondence

Box 1

Folder 0– Finding Aid

Folder 1 – Correspondence 1933 - George School

Folder 2 – Correspondence -- 1960

Folder 3 -- Correspondence -- 1966

Folder 4 -- Correspondence – 1967

Folder 5 -- Correspondence -- 1968

Folder 6 -- Correspondence – 1968 – Venezuela

Folder 7 -- Correspondence – 1969

Folder 8 -- Correspondence – 1970

Folder 9 -- Correspondence – 1971 Jan. - June

Folder 10 -- Correspondence – 1971 July – Dec.

Folder 11 -- Correspondence – 1972 Jan. – June

Folder 12 -- Correspondence – 1972 July – Oct.

Folder 13 -- Correspondence – 1972 Nov. – Dec.

Folder 14 -- Correspondence – 1973 Jan.-Mar.

Folder 15 -- Correspondence – 1973 Apr. – Aug.

Folder 16 -- Correspondence – 1973 Sept.-Nov.

Box 2

Folder 17 -- Correspondence – 1974

Folder 18 -- Correspondence – 1975 June-Dec.

Folder 19 -- Correspondence – 1976

Folder 20 -- Correspondence – 1977

Folder 21 – Correspondence – 1978

Folder 22 – Correspondence – 1979 Jan. – Sept.

Folder 23 – Correspondence – 1979 Oct.

Folder 24 – Correspondence – 1979 Nov.

Folder 25 – Correspondence – 1979 Dec.

Folder 26 – Correspondence – 1980 Jan.

Folder 27 – Correspondence – 1980 Feb.

Folder 28 – Correspondence – 1980 Mar.

Folder 29 – Correspondence – 1980 Apr.-May

Box 3

Folder 30 – Correspondence – 1980 June

Folder 31 – Correspondence – 1980 July

Folder 32 – Correspondence – 1980 Aug.

Folder 33 – Correspondence – 1980 Sept.

Folder 34 – Correspondence – 1980 Oct.-Dec.

Folder 35 – Correspondence – 1980 Undated

Folder 36 – Correspondence – 1981 Jan.-Oct.

Folder 37 – Correspondence – 1981 Nov.-Dec.

Folder 38 – Correspondence – 1981 Undated

Folder 39 – Correspondence – 1982 Jan.

Folder 40 – Correspondence – 1982 Feb.

Folder 41 – Correspondence – 1982 Mar.

Folder 42 – Correspondence – 1982 Apr.

Folder 43 – Correspondence – 1982 May

Box 4

Folder 44 – Correspondence – 1982 June

Folder 45 – Correspondence – 1982 July 1–July 15

Folder 46 – Correspondence – 1982 July 16-July 30

Folder 47 – Correspondence – 1982 Aug.

Folder 48 – Correspondence – 1982 Sept.

Folder 49 – Correspondence – 1982 Oct.

Folder 50 – Correspondence – 1982 Nov.

Folder 51 – Correspondence – 1982 Dec.

Folder 52 – Correspondence – 1982 -- Texas

Includes 1 piece of correspondence from 1980 and 3 from 1981. Also includes Tucker lineage (10 pages), February 1983 issue of Texas Times (pages 1 & 2 only), and an advertisement for a Sigma guitar.

Folder 53 – Correspondence – 1982 – Undated

Folder 54 – Correspondence – 1982 – Undated

Box 5

Folder 55 – Correspondence – 1983 Jan. – 1983 Feb.

Folder 56 – Correspondence – 1983 Mar.

Folder 57 – Correspondence – 1983 Apr.

Folder 58 – Correspondence – 1983 May

Folder 59 – Correspondence – 1983 June – 1983 July

Folder 60 – Correspondence – 1983 Aug.

Folder 61 – Correspondence – 1983 Sept. – 1983 Oct.

Folder 62 – Correspondence – 1983 Nov. – 1983 Dec.

Folder 63 – Correspondence – 1983 Undated

Folder 64 – Correspondence – 1983 Undated

Folder 65 – Correspondence – 1984 Jan. – 1984 Apr.

Folder 66 – Correspondence – 1984 May – 1984 June

Box 6

Folder 67 – Correspondence – 1984 July

Folder 68 – Correspondence – 1984 Aug-1984 Sept.

Folder 69 – Correspondence – 1984 Oct. – 1984 Nov.

Folder 70 – Correspondence – 1984 Dec.

Folder 71 – Correspondence – 1984 Undated

Folder 72 – Correspondence – 1985 Jan. – 1985 Oct.

Folder 73 – Correspondence – 1985 Undated

Folder 74 – Correspondence – 1986

Folder 75 – Correspondence – 1987

Folder 76 – Correspondence – 1988

Folder 77 – Correspondence – 1989

Folder 78 – Correspondence – 1990

Folder 79 – Correspondence – 1991

Folder 80 – Correspondence – 1992

Folder 81 – Correspondence – 1993

Folder 82 – Correspondence – 1994

Folder 83 – Correspondence – 1995

Folder 84 – Correspondence – 1996

Folder 85 – Correspondence – 1997

Folder 86 – Correspondence – 1998

Folder 87 – Correspondence – John Kings

Folder 88 – Correspondence – JAM & Nadia

Folder 89 – Correspondence – Undated

Series 2: Biography, Manuscripts & Other Items

Box 7

Folder 90 – Artifacts

Folder 91 – Avenick, Joe

Folder 92 – Biography – James A. Michener

Folder 93 – Biography – James A. Michener

Folder 93a – Bio—Follow-up

Folder 94 – *Centennial* – Correspondence 1970s-1980s

Folder 95 – *Chesapeake* – Notes

Folder 96 – CH6 & Auto

Folder 97 – *Collectors, Forgers – And a Writer: A Memoir*. By James A. Michener, 1983. Galleys.

Folder 98 –Commitments

Folder 99 – Contacts – E.J.P. [Edward J. Piszek]

Folder 100 – Cross, Neal. *The Death and Birth of a Culture: The Way To Go*. Manuscript, Typed.

The correspondence accompanying the manuscript was not found in JM062, Box 1, Folder 10. It might be filed in the Nadia Orapchuck Collection, ca. 1968-1972, Box 2, Folders Sept. 1971 or Oct. 1971.

Folder 101 – *Dynasty*. Manuscript, Typed.

Folder 102 – Erskine, Albert

Folder 103 – Fan Mail. 1983

Folder 104 – *Fathers and Sons: The Bingham Family and the American Mission* by Char Miller. Advance Proof.

Folder 105 – Financial Statements – JAM

Folder 106 – Fortune Telling Manuscript

See also: Fortune Telling Manuscript in *Owen Laster Collection: Michener's Unpublished Manuscripts* (SC 1-45, Folder 1).

Folder 106a – Franklin Award. 1980

The photographs taken at the award ceremony are located in Box 10, Folder 3.

Folder 107 – Greet the Peoples Venture

Folder 108 – Invitations – JAM to Answer Later

Folder 109 – JAM – Autographs

Folder 110 – JAM Library – Colo. -- UNC

Folder 111 – JAM – NO – Notes -- Schedules, Etc.

Folder 112 – Kent State

Folder 113 – Laster, Owen. Correspondence, 1977.

Folder 114 – Manuscript – by Byall, Paul H.

Box 8

Folder 115 – Manuscript – Savich, Paige M.

Folder 116 – Marjay Productions

Folder 117 – Michener, James A. "Lament for Pakistan." Manuscripts.

Folder 118 – Michener, James A. Congressional Testimony [on the arts]. Manuscript, Draft

- Folder 119 – Michener, James A. “The Assumptions of the Middle Class.” Manuscript, Typed with Edits
- Folder 120 – Michener, James A. “The Lost Olympics. Manuscript, Typed.
- Folder 121 – Michener, James A. “Holty’s Hegira.” Manuscript, Typed.
- Folder 122 – Michener, James A. “Editorial: Spiritual Ease: Barriers.” Manuscripts, Typed.
- Folder 123 – Michener, James A. “The Created Universe: reflections on the Historical Novel.” Galleys, Uncorrected.
- Folder 124 – Michener, James A. *Space*. “Acknowledgements.” Manuscript, Typed.
- Folder 125– Michener, James A. Op-Ed [on Quakers]. *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. 1982. Manuscript, Typed.
- Folder 126 – Michener, James A. The News American [on Baltimore’s New Symphony Hall]. Manuscript, Typed.
- Folder 127 – Michener, James A. “Peace of Mind.” Manuscript, Typed.
- Folder 128 – Michener, James A. “Introduction to: the Breadbox Papers.” Manuscript, Photocopy.
- Folder 129 – Michener, James A. “The Decline and Fall of Western Civilization.” Manuscript, Typed.
- Folder 130 – Michener, James A. “Needs of America.”
- Folder 131 – Michener, James A. “James Michener’s Forward to the Autobiography of Edward J. Piszek.” Manuscript, Photocopy.
- Folder 132 – Michener, James A. “Testimony of James A. Michener on Advantages of a Space Program.” Photocopy.
- Folder 133 – Michener, James A. [As Your Delegate to the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention...]
- Folder 134 – Michener, James A. “On Wasted Time.” Manuscript, Typed.
- Folder 135 – Michener, James A. “Members of the Committee on Law and Justice” [on pornography]. 1973. Manuscripts, Mimeographed
- Folder 136 – Michener, James A. “James A. Michener: My First 75 Years.” Manuscript, Typed.
- Folder 137 – Michener, James A. – “One Man’s Primary – And How He Lost.”
- Folder 138 – Michener, James A. Miscellaneous Manuscripts.
- Folder 139 – Michener Foundation – Application Forms, circa 1982
- Folder 140 – Miscellaneous
- Folder 141 – No. JAM
- Folder 142 – Notepads, etc.
- Folder 143 – Notes on Phone Messages

- Folder 144 – On Writing ca. 1966-1967
- Folder 145 – P.E.N. – Info News Writers
- Folder 146 – Piszek, Edward J. Autobiography. Manuscript, Typed.
- Folder 147 – *Poland*. Manuscript and Correspondence
- Folder 148 – “Red Kimono” – Article & Correspondence
- Folder 149 – Repair Bldg. – Farm – Tax
- Folder 150 – *South Pacific* – Playbill. Lambertville, New Jersey, 1960
- Folder 151 – *Space*. Manuscripts, Partial
- Folder 152 – Sports
- Folder 153 – Stationery – The Michener Foundation, Pipersville, Pennsylvania
- Folder 154 – University of Northern Colorado
- Folder 155 – “Why We’ll Never Elect a Bald President” – Comments on Article
- Folder 156 – Xerox

Series 3: Clippings

Box 9 -- Newspapers, Originals

Series 4: Photographs

Box 10 -- Photographs

- Folder 1 – Michener Family – Photographs
- Folder 2 – Michener, James A. – Photographs
- Folder 2a – Michener, James A. – Photographs – Autographed
- Folder 3 – Michener, James A. – Photographs – Franklin Award, 1980
- Folder 4 – Michener, James A. – Photographs – Lincoln Award
- Folder 5 – Michener, James A. – Photographs – Random House
- Folder 6 – Michener, James A. – Photographs – Requests for Photographs
- Folder 7 – Michener, James A. – Photographs – Television
- Folder 8 – Michener, James A. – Photographs – Photocopies

Folder 9 – Michener, James A. – Sketches

Folder 10 – Photographs (not of Michener)

Folder 11 -- Slides