

**An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, *Hawaii* Manuscript Pages: A Finding Aid**

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

**Collection number:** SC 1-11 (formerly Small 5. *Hawaii* manuscript pages)

**Title:** An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Hawaii Manuscript Pages

**Author:** Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on May 5, 2006

**Dates:** 1958

**Creator or Collector:** James A. Michener (Creator) and Bollenbach, Cheryl D. (Collector)

**Size:** Less than one linear foot.

**Abstract:**

A forty-eight page draft section of the novel *Hawaii* that was found by a sculptor student in a Honolulu trash bin in 1958, an undated cover letter by Michener and unrelated materials.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection was in an envelope recovered from a trash bin in Honolulu by the donor who was a sculptor student who was looking for art materials. The collection includes a carbon typescript on onionskin paper of a 48 page draft section from Hawaii, "From the Starving Village" and which became Chapter 4 with the same name in the published version and other materials.

**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.

**Arrangement (required for multiple level collections):**

**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), Hawaii Manuscript Pages, Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

**Locations of Originals (if applicable):**

**Acquisition Information (if applicable):**

Gift of Cheryl Bollenbach in 1998.

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

**Subjects:**

Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997  
Bollenbach, Cheryl  
Hawaii

**Inventory:**

Original finding aid created by Richard Gibboney on March 14, 2000.

Hawaii manuscript pages, 1958.

This collection was in an envelope recovered from a trash bin in Honolulu by the donor who was a sculptor student who was looking for art materials. The collection includes:

Carbon typescript on onionskin paper of a 48 page draft section from Hawaii, "From the Starving Village" and which became Chapter 4 with the same name in the published version.

An undated cover letter to the manuscript pages from Jams A. Michener with the salutation "To The Readers Of This Section."

Also included in this collection are unrelated materials found in the same envelope.

- Envelope dated Dec1-'58 from Violet Gasper to Mrs. Chinn Ho.
- "Sketch for MuuMuu for Mrs. Chinn Ho."

[A Michener friend, Jim Becker, noted that Michener lived in a Waikiki apartment owned by Chinn Ho].

Source: Becker, Jim. "[Remembering Michener.](#)" *Hawaii Magazine Online*, n.d. Available [Online]:

<<http://www.hawaiimagazine.com/hawaiimag/detail.aspx?aid=2969&cid=1222&category=>>. Last viewed: 2006 May 5.].