

An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, *Gone with the Wind*, 1975

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

Collection number: SC 1-15 (formerly Small 10. *Gone with the Wind*).

Title: An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, *Gone with the Wind*, 1975

Author: Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on May 8, 2006.

Dates: 1984 August 4 – 1984 November 26 and one undated letter written after November 26, 1984.

Creator or Collector: Donald L. White

Size: Less than one linear foot (9 letters).

Abstract:

Correspondence regarding Michener's "Introduction" to the 1975 Anniversary Edition of Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*.

Scope and Content Note:

Correspondence among Donald L. White, Macmillan Publishing Company, and Swarthmore College Library regarding Michener's "Introduction" to the 1975 Anniversary Edition of Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*. Included is a letter from Michener to White describing the "Introduction" as "among the best things I've ever done."

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 Donald L. White:

Donald L. White is a collector of Michener materials

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 1-15), Gone with the Wind, 1975, Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

Acquisition Information (if applicable):

Donated by Donald L. White 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

White, Donald L.

Mitchell, Margaret, 1909-1949

Gone with the Wind

Inventory:

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

Letter dated 1984 August 4 from Donald L. White to Macmillan Publishing Company.

Letter dated 1984 September 21 Donald L. White to Swarthmore College Library.

Letter dated 1984 September 26 from Michael J. Durkan, College Librarian, Swarthmore College Library to Donald L. White.

Letter dated 1984 September 28 from Don White to Macmillan Publishing Company.

Letter dated 1984 October 1 from Jim Michener to Mr. White.

Letter dated 1984 October 22 from Lorraine Earley, Macmillan Publishing Company, to Don White.

Letter dated 1984 November 15 from Betty Falk, Macmillan Publishing Company, to Donald L. White.

Letter dated 1984 November 26 from Lorraine Earley to James Michener.

Undated letter (written after November 26, 1984) from [D. L.] White to James Michener.