

An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Nemesis of Power Collection

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

Collection number: SC 1-16 (formerly Small II. Nemesis of Power)

Title: An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Nemesis of Power Collection

Author: Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on May 9, 2006.

Dates: 1965

Creator or Collector: Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997; Franklin, Bruce H.

Size: Less than one linear foot (6 one page items).

Abstract:

A photocopy of an inscription by James A. Michener on the endsheet of *Nemesis of Power; German Army in Politics, 1918-1945*. Also on the endsheet is a brief topical outline to this book created by James A. Michener.

Scope and Content Note:

One letter, 2 photocopies of endsheets, and other items regarding inscriptions by James A. Michener in the book *Nemesis of Power; German Army in Politics, 1918-1945*.

Historical Note:

A photocopy of an inscription by James A. Michener on the endsheet of *Nemesis of Power; German Army in Politics, 1918-1945*. The inscription notes that this is the first book Michener read "after my heart attack." Also on the endsheet is a brief topical outline to this book created by Michener. Michener's heart attack occurred on September 10, 1965; the inscription is dated October 18, 1965.

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

Locations of Originals (if applicable):

Acquisition Information (if applicable):

Donated by Bruce H. Franklin in 1997.

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

Subjects:

Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997
Franklin, Bruce H.
Nemesis of Power; German Army in Politics, 1918-1945
Germany. Heer
World War, 1939-1945 -- Germany
Germany -- Politics and government -- 1933-1945

Inventory:

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

An accession record.

A photocopy of a letter dated 1997 July 29 from Bruce H. Franklin of the University of Pennsylvania Press to Mary Linscome, Archivist, University of Northern Colorado Archives.

A photocopy of an inscription by James A. Michener on the endsheet of *Nemesis of Power; German Army in Politics, 1918-1945*

A photocopy of a brief topical outline created by Michener on the endsheet to this book.

Handwritten notes [by Mary Linscome] on lined notebook paper with dates of Michener' heart attack and his inscription in the book.