

An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Tint-Michener Letters, 1952

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

Collection number: SC 1-19 (formerly Small 14. Letters: Mrs. Gilbert Tint, James A. Michener, 1952).

Title: An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Tint-Michener Letters, 1952

Author: Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2006 August 8.

Dates: 1952

Creator or Collector: Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997; Tint, Mrs. Gilbert

Size: Less than one linear foot per series (2 letters).

Abstract:

Correspondence between Mrs. Gilbert Tint and James A. Michener.

Scope and Content Note:

Two letters between Mrs. Gilbert Tint and James A. Michener regarding the origin of the name "Allegrì" in Michener's novel *Fires of Spring*.

Historical Note:

After reading Michener's novel *Fires of Spring*, Mrs. Gilbert (Edith) Tint recommended the book to her Geometry teacher at [Hunter College](#). It was the teacher who noticed the use of the Italian surname Allegrì in the novel. The teacher was curious to know if Michener got the name from a family owned bakery on Bleecker Street. Michener confirmed in his letter that he did indeed get the idea from the sign hanging above the bakery.

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 Mrs. Gilbert (Edith) Tint:

After reading Michener's novel *Fires of Spring*, she recommended the book to her Geometry teacher at Hunter College. It was the teacher who noticed the use of her surname Allegri in the novel. The teacher was curious to know if Michener got the name from a family owned bakery on Bleecker Street. Michener confirmed in his letter that he did indeed get the idea from the sign hanging above the bakery.

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.

Acquisition Information (if applicable):

Gift of Mrs. Gilbert Tint in 2000.

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

Subjects:

Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997
Tint, Mrs. Gilbert

Inventory:

Letter dated 1952 November 20 from Mrs. Edith Tint to James A. Michener.

Letter dated 1952 November 29 from James Michener to Mrs. Tint.