

## **An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Elderhostel Collection**

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

**Collection number:** SC 1-67

**Title:** An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Elderhostel Collection

**Author:** Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2006 July 13; revised 2008 January 3

**Dates:** 1990-1991, 1994-1995, 1999(cancelled), 2000-2007

**Creator or Collector:** Guthmann, Laurie (Collector); Archival Services Staff (Collector)

**Size:** 1.5 linear feet

**Abstract:** This collection consists of materials produced for James A. Michener Elderhostel programs sponsored by the University of Northern Colorado. The programs featured the life and writings of James A. Michener, particularly his novel *Centennial* and the television mini-series of the same name.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

This collection consists of materials produced for James A. Michener Elderhostel programs sponsored by the University of Northern Colorado. The programs featured the life and writings of James A. Michener, particularly his novel *Centennial* and the television mini-series of the same name. Items in this collection include promotion flyers, schedules of events, itineraries, biographical sketches of the speakers, program evaluations, handouts, newspaper articles, issues of the *James A. Michener Society Newsletters* and miscellaneous items.

### **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 Laurie Guthmann:**

Laurie Guthmann served as the Elderhostel Coordinator at the University of Northern Colorado from 1998-January 3, 2008. She had been an administrative assistant for eighteen years in various departments at the University when she retired in 2005.

She received a B.S. in Education from the University of Nebraska and taught kindergarten for five years in Nebraska and Colorado.

Laurie is a charter member of the James A. Michener Society.

**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, Elderhostel Programs on James A. Michener (SC 1-67), Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

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

**Acquisition Information (if applicable):**

Gift of Laurie Guthman in 2006 and on 2008 January 3.

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

**Subjects:**

- Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997.
- Guthmann, Laurie.
- Elderhostels
- Adult education -- Colorado
- Continuing education -- Colorado
- Elderhostels -- United States -- Periodicals.
- Adult education -- United States -- Catalogs.
- Continuing education -- United States -- Catalogs.
- Older people -- Education -- United States -- Catalogs.
- Elderhostel, Inc.
- United States & Canada catalog
- Elderhostel. United States catalog.

**Inventory:**

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 1 – Elderhostel Catalog 2006	<i>The Elderhostel U.S. &amp; Canada Catalog, Summer 2000.</i> Boston, MA: Elderhostel Inc., 2000.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 2 – Elderhostel 2006 -- UNC Website	Guthmann, Laurie.. “James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work And His Legacy, June 4 - 9, 2006.” Greeley, CO: University of Northern Colorado, School of Human Sciences. Printout from website:

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
					<a href="http://www.unco.edu/elderhostel/060406.htm">http://www.unco.edu/elderhostel/060406.htm</a> . Printout dated 2006 July 13.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 3 -- Elderhostel 2002: PowerPoint Presentation by Roiann Baird (Printout).	<i>Elderhostel 2002: PowerPoint Presentation</i> by Roiann Baird (Printout). 60 slides.  Available at: S:\Archives\JAM\Elderhostel\Elderhostelcopy.ppt
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 4 -- Elderhostel 2003: Schedule	University of Northern Colorado, Elderhostel, June 8-13, 2003, James A. Michener, the Man: His Life, His work, and His Legacy (2 page printout).
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 5 -- Michener EH Prior to 1999	UNC Elderhostel Summer 1990: Friday Elegy.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 5 -- Michener EH Prior to 1999	Colorado Elderhostel Schedule, April-December 1991. "Centennial": <i>Colorado's Geology</i> was scheduled for July 28-August 3, 1991.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 5 -- Michener EH Prior to 1999	Colorado Elderhostel Schedule, April-June 1994. <i>Go West Young Man: History, Geography and Geology of Northern Colorado</i> was scheduled for June 5-11, 1994.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 5 -- Michener EH Prior to 1999	Correspondence, undated and correspondent unknown
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 5 -- Michener EH Prior to 1999	<i>Exploring Breadbasket Colorado: UNC "Go West Young People Elderhostel, June 9, 1994.</i> Itinerary.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 5 -- Michener EH Prior to 1999	Colorado Elderhostel Schedule, July-September 1994. <i>Michener's "Centennial": The Facts Behind the Fiction</i> was scheduled for July 2-8, 1994.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 5 -- Michener EH Prior to 1999	<i>Exploring Geography Down the Platte: University of Northern Colorado Elderhostel, June 15, 1995.</i> Itinerary.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 5 -- Michener EH Prior to 1999	<i>Exploring Geography up the Poudre: University of Northern Colorado Elderhostel, June 13, 1995.</i> Itinerary.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 6 -- Elderhostel 1999 (cancelled)	<i>Come Experience Elderhostel at the University of Northern Colorado -- Greeley.</i> Flyer. <i>Archiving a Literary Giant: James A. Michener's Gift</i> was originally scheduled for May 23-19, 1999.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 7 --	<i>July 16-21, 2000, James A. Michener:</i>

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
				Elderhostel 2000	<i>Centennial Themes and Sites, Archives and Acquaintances</i> . Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 7 – Elderhostel 2000	<i>University of Northern Colorado Elderhostel, July 16-21, 2000, James A. Michener: Centennial Themes and Sites, Archives and Acquaintances</i> . Schedule.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 7 – Elderhostel 2000	UNC Elderhostel July 16-21, 2000, Biographical Sketches, <i>James A. Michener: Centennial Themes and Sites, Archives and Acquaintances, Faculty</i> . Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 7 – Elderhostel 2000	<i>Elderhostel Evaluation, July 16-21, James A. Michener: Centennial Themes and Sites, Archives and Acquaintance</i> .
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 7 – Elderhostel 2000	James A. Michener Society Newsletter, Spring 1999.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 7 – Elderhostel 2000	Geography maps, charts, and tables
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 7 – Elderhostel 2000	"Weld County Past Times." <i>Greeley Tribune</i> , Aug. 21, 1999, pp. T1-T20.2 copies.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 7 – Elderhostel 2000	<i>University of Northern Colorado 2000 Elderhostel, Exploring Michener's Northern Centennial-Land 7.18.00</i> . Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 8 – Elderhostel 2001	<i>July 15-20, 2001, James A. Michener: Centennial Themes and Sites, Archives and Acquaintances</i> . Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 8 – Elderhostel 2001	<i>University of Northern Colorado Elderhostel, July 15-20, 2001, James A. Michener: Centennial Themes and Sites, Archives and Acquaintances</i> . Schedule.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 8 – Elderhostel 2001	<i>University of Northern Colorado Elderhostel, July 15-20, 2001, James A. Michener: Centennial Themes and Sites, Archives and Acquaintances</i> . Biographical Sketches.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 8 – Elderhostel 2001	<i>University of Northern Colorado Elderhostel Program Evaluation Form Summary, July 15-20, 2001, James A. Michener: Centennial Themes and Sites, Archives and Acquaintances</i> . Schedule.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 8 – Elderhostel 2001	Cowman, Edward F. <i>University of Northern Colorado Elderhostel Program, July 19, 2001, The Ideas and Ideals of James A. Michener – In His Own Words</i> -. Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 8 – Elderhostel 2001	<i>Books by James A. Michener</i> . Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 9 – Elderhostel 2002	<i>Come Experience Elderhostel at the University of Northern Colorado – Greeley/Off Campus. Flyer; June 9-14, 2002, James A. Michener:</i>

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
					<i>Centennial Themes and Sites, Archives and Acquaintances</i> . Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 9 – Elderhostel 2002	<i>UNC Elderhostel, June 9-14, 2002, Biographical Sketches, James A. Michener: Centennial Themes and Sites, Archives and Acquaintances</i> . Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 9 – Elderhostel 2002	<i>University of Northern Colorado Elderhostel, June 9-14, 2002, James A. Michener: Centennial Themes and Sites, Archives and Acquaintances</i> . Schedule.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 9 – Elderhostel 2002	Partial printout of a PowerPoint presentation by Roiann Baird on Michener's novel <i>Caravans</i> . PowerPoint presentation at: S:\Archives\JAM\Afghanistan, Caravans\ Caravans.ppt
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 9 – Elderhostel 2002	<i>UNC Elderhostel Program Evaluation Form June 9-14, 2002, James A. Michener: Centennial Themes and Sites, Archives and Acquaintances</i> . Schedule.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 9 – Elderhostel 2002	Jackson, Bill. "Elderhostel Program on Michener Begins Today." <i>Greeley Tribune</i> , June 9, 2002, p. A2.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 9 – Elderhostel 2002	<i>University of Northern Colorado, 2001 Elderhostel, 6.11.02, Exploring Michener's Centennial – Land. Guides = John Dietz and Lee Shropshire, UNC Emeritus Faculty</i> . Itinerary.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 9 – Elderhostel 2002	Gibboney, Richard E. <i>Internet "Free Time</i> . Handout.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 9 – Elderhostel 2002	Gibboney, Richard E. <i>UNC Elderhostel 2002 James A. Michener Internet Scavenger Hunt</i> . Handout.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 9 – Elderhostel 2002	Gibboney, Richard E. <i>UNC Elderhostel 2002 James A. Michener Internet Scavenger Hunt. The Question and Answer Sheet</i> . Handout.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 10 – Elderhostel 2003	<i>Come Experience Elderhostel at the University of Northern Colorado – Greeley/Off Campus; James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy, June 8-13, 2003</i> . Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 10 – Elderhostel 2003	<i>University of Northern Colorado Elderhostel, June 8-13, 2003, James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy</i> . Schedule.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 10 – Elderhostel 2003	<i>UNC Elderhostel, June 8-13, 2003, Biographical Sketches, James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy</i> . Handout.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 10 – Elderhostel 2003	<i>UNC Elderhostel Program Evaluation Form, James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy</i> .
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 11 – Elderhostel	<i>Come Experience Elderhostel at the University of Northern Colorado – Greeley/Off Campus;</i>

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
				2004	<i>James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy, June 6-11, 2004.</i> Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 11 – Elderhostel 2004	<i>University of Northern Colorado Elderhostel, June 6-11, 2004, James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy.</i> Schedule.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 11 – Elderhostel 2004	<i>UNC Elderhostel, June 6-11, 2004, Biographical Sketches, James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy.</i> Handout.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 11 – Elderhostel 2004	<i>UNC Elderhostel Program Evaluation Form, James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy, June 6-11.</i>
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 11 – Elderhostel 2004	<i>Facts About 060604.</i> Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 11 – Elderhostel 2004	<i>University of Northern Colorado Elderhostel, June 7, 2004, Exploring the World with James Michener.</i> Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 11 – Elderhostel 2004	<i>Dietz, John. Univeristy of Northern Colorado Elderhostel Field Trip, June 8, 2004 – Looking for Centennial-Land in the South Platte Basin.</i> Handout.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 12 – Elderhostel 2005	<i>Come Experience Elderhostel at the University of Northern Colorado – Greeley/Off Campus; James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy, May 15-20, 2005.</i> Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 12 – Elderhostel 2005	<i>University of Northern Colorado Elderhostel, May 15-20, 2005, James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy.</i> Schedule.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 12 – Elderhostel 2005	<i>UNC Elderhostel, May 15-20, 2005, Biographical Sketches, James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy.</i> Handout.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 12 – Elderhostel 2005	<i>UNC Elderhostel Program Evaluation Form, James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy, May 15-20.</i>
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 12– Elderhostel 2005	<i>James Albert Michener.</i> Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 12 – Elderhostel 2005	<i>Synopsis of Centennial: James Michener's Fictional Geography of Colorado.</i> Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 12 – Elderhostel 2005	<i>Dietz, John. Univeristy of Northern Colorado Elderhostel Field Trip, May 17, 2004 – Looking for Centennial-Land in the South Platte Basin.</i> Handout.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 13 – Elderhostel 2006	<i>Come Experience Elderhostel at the University of Northern Colorado – Greeley/Off Campus; James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy, June 4-9, 2006.</i> Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 13 –	<i>University of Northern Colorado Elderhostel,</i>

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
				Elderhostel 2006	<i>June 4-9, 2006, James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy.</i> Schedule.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 13– Elderhostel 2006	<i>UNC Elderhostel, June 4-9, 2006, Biographical Sketches, James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy.</i> Handout.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 13 – Elderhostel 2006	<i>UNC Elderhostel Program Evaluation Form, James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy, June 4-9.</i>
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 13 – Elderhostel 2006	060406 <i>Who Are We?</i> Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 13– Elderhostel 2006	<i>Synopsis of Centennial: James Michener's Fictional Geography of Colorado.</i> Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 13 – Elderhostel 2006	<i>Books by James A. Michener.</i> Bibliography.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 13– Elderhostel 2006	<i>Centennial Actors/Centennial Episodes/Hollywood Comes to Centennial-land.</i> Handout. 2 copies.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 13 – Elderhostel 2006	Dietz, John. <i>Univeristy of Northern Colorado Elderhostel Field Trip, 06-06-06 – Looking for Centennial-Land in the South Platte Basin.</i> Handout.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 14 – Elderhostel 2007	<i>Come Experience Elderhostel at the University of Northern Colorado – Greeley/Off Campus; James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy, June 3-8, 2007.</i> Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 14– Elderhostel 2007	<i>University of Northern Colorado Elderhostel, James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy, Schedule of Activities for Week: June 3-8, 2007.</i> Schedule.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 14 – Elderhostel 2007	<i>UNC Elderhostel, June 3-8, 2007, Biographical Sketches, James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy.</i> Handout.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 14 – Elderhostel 2007	<i>UNC Elderhostel Program Evaluation Form, James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy, June 3-8.</i>
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 14– Elderhostel 2007	<i>James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy.</i> Fax dated 04/27/2007.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 14 – Elderhostel 2007	<i>University of Northern Colorado Elderhostel panel Discussion, June 7, 2007, James A. Michener, The Man: His Life, His Work, and His Legacy.</i> Flyer.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 15 – Order Forms for <i>Michener A Writers Journey</i> by Stephen May	Available October 2005 <i>Michener A Writers Journey</i> by Stephen May, Foreword by Valerie Hemingway. Norman, OK: Univeristy of Oklahoma Press, [2005]. 8p.

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 16 -- Books by Michener (bibliography)	<i>Books by James A. Michener.</i> Bibliography.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 17 -- James A. Michener Society Newsletters	<i>James A. Michener Society Newsletter</i> , Spring 2000.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 17 -- James A. Michener Society Newsletters	<i>James A. Michener Society Newsletter</i> , Volume 2, Number 2, Fall 2000. 2 copies.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 17 -- James A. Michener Society Newsletters	<i>James A. Michener Society Newsletter</i> , Volume 3, Number 2, Winter 2002. 2 copies.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 17 -- James A. Michener Society Newsletters	<i>James A. Michener Society Newsletter</i> , Volume 4, Number 1, Summer 2002. 2 copies.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 17 -- James A. Michener Society Newsletters	<i>James A. Michener Society Newsletter</i> , Volume 5, Number 1, Spring 2003. 2 copies.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 17 -- James A. Michener Society Newsletters	<i>James A. Michener Society Newsletter</i> , Fall 2003.
Elderhostel	SC 1-67		Box 1	Folder 17 -- James A. Michener Society Newsletters	<i>James A. Michener Society Newsletter</i> , Spring 2005.