

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

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

**Collection number:** SC 1-82

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

**Author:** Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2009 January 12.

**Dates:** 1939

**Creator or Collector:** Bullock, Martha.

**Size:** .5 linear feet

### **Abstract:**

This collection consists of a copy of *The Buying Survey*, prepared by students at College High School under the supervision of James Michener.

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

This collection consists of a copy of *The Buying Survey*, prepared by students at College High School under the supervision of James Michener. In 1939, Michener's social studies students circulated questionnaires to students, faculty, businessmen, and consumers to determine who shopped outside of Greeley and why. Michener evaluated the project and the work of the students at the end of the survey. We believe Michener took the photographs that are included in this publication.

### **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 Martha Bullock:**

**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 1-82), Martha Bullock Collection Name, Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

**Acquisition Information (if applicable):**

Gift of Martha Bullock in 2007.

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

**Subjects:**

Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997.

Bullock, Martha.

Colorado State College of Education. College High School -- Students.

Greeley (Colo.) -- Economic conditions.

Weidner, William.

**Inventory:**

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
Martha Bullock Collection	SC 1-82		Box 1	Folder 0 – Finding Aid	Finding Aid
Martha Bullock Collection	SC 1-82		Box 1	Folder 1 – Buying Survey	College High School Students. <i>The Buying Survey</i> . Greeley, CO: Colorado State College of Education, College High School Students, Spring 1939.