

**An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers,  
James A. Michener Centennial Celebration 2007 Collection**

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

**Collection number:** SC 1-83

**Title:** An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, James A. Michener Centennial Celebration 2007 Collection

**Author:** Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2009 June 29 and revised on 2009 December 4, 2010 March 31, and 2010 June 1.

**Dates:** 2007

**Creator or Collector:** Archival Services staff: Guill, Kacy; Zuniga, Heidi; Kay Lowell; Eve Measner, and Shirley Soenksen. Performing & Visual Arts Faculty: Womble, Kenneth F. and Hartgers, Sieger. University Publications Staff: Myers, Thomas W. (Woody).

**Size:** 3 linear feet

**Language:** English

**Abstract:**

This collection consists of posters, flyers, postcards, placards, and other items created for the James A. Michener Centennial Celebration in 2007.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection consists of posters, flyers, postcards, placards, and other items created for the James A. Michener Centennial Celebration in 2007. Individuals who worked on publicity for the celebration included:

Library staff: Kacy Guill, Head of Archival Services; Heidi Zuniga, graduate assistant and Library Technician; Kay Lowell, Archival Services Librarian; Eve Measner, Library Technician; Shirley Soenksen, Library Technician

Thomas W. (Woody) Myers, Director of Publications, Creative Services.

Womble, Kenneth F., Associate Professor of Theatre Arts & Dance School of Theatre Arts & Dance at the University of Northern Colorado researched, produced and directed the promotional documentary *James A. Michener, An Epic Life*.

Sieger Hartgers, Asst. Prof. Art & Design, School of Art and Design at the University of Northern Colorado, volunteered to help with the design of the James A. Michener Permanent Exhibit.

**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):**

This collection is organized into a single series:

Series 1: James A. Michener Centennial Celebration 2007 Collection

**Restrictions on Access:** The collection is open for research.

**Restrictions on Use:** Copyright restrictions may apply. User is responsible for all copyright compliance. Please contact the UNC University Libraries Archival Services Department at [library.archives@unco.edu](mailto:library.archives@unco.edu) or 970-351-2854 for further information.

**Preferred Citation:** [Description of Item], James A. Michener papers, James A. Michener Centennial Celebration 2007 Collection (SC 1-83), Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

**Acquisition Information (if applicable):**

**Subjects:**

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

Guill, Kacy.

Zuniga, Heidi.

Lowell, Kay

Soenksen, Shirley.

Myers, Thomas W. (Woody)

Womble, Kenneth F.

Hartgers, Sieger.

University of Northern Colorado. Libraries. James A. Michener Special Collection.

University of Northern Colorado. Libraries. James A. Michener Library.

**Inventory:**

Folder 0	Finding Aid
Folder 1	Sieger Hartgers – Proposed floor plan and watercolor drawings of the James A. Michener Permanent Exhibit (3 items) Transferred to: SC 1-48, Drawer 1, Folder 10
Folder 2	James A. Michener Centennial Celebration – Posters Transferred to: SC 1-48, Drawer 1, Folder 11
Folder 3	James A. Michener Centennial Celebration – Brochures, Postcards, Flyers
Folder 4	James A. Michener Centennial Celebration -- Menus
Folder 5	<i>Northern Vision</i> – Winter 2007 and Spring 2007 issues
Folder 6	James A. Michener Centennial Celebration -- Clippings
Folder 7	Notes & Photocopies Used by Heidi Zuniga & Kacy Guill for a website or exhibit
Folder 8	Robert Vavra Exhibit – Jan. 10-Feb. 14, 2007
Folder 9	Artists Interpret James A. Michener. An Invitational Exhibit – Feb. 21-Mar. 28, 2009
Folder 10	James A. Michener Centennial Celebration – Registration Packet
Folder 11	Nametags
Folder 12	James A. Michener Centennial Celebrations at Other Institutions
Folder 13	Multi-media and scanning request from Richard Gibboney for a Mountains and Plains Parapros conference
Folder 14	Michener Celebration 2007 (2 CD-ROMs)
Folder 15	James A. Michener, An Epic Life (CD-ROM)
Folder 16	James A. Michener Society 2007 Annual Meeting. Schedule and Postcard. 7 copies.