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Michener, James A. Papers

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Summary information

Repository:	University of Miami Special Collections
Title:	Michener, James A. Papers
ID:	ASM0134
Date:	1985-1989 (date of creation)
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Physical description:	Boxes
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Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

James Albert Michener was raised as the foster child of Edwin and Mabel Michener. The exact date of birth is unknown, although many reference sources cite February 3, 1907, as the birth date. Michener grew up in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and he attended Doylestown Grammar School. Michener attended Swarthmore College and graduated in 1929, with a degree in English and History (summa cum laude) and a Phi Beta Kappa Key.

Michener taught briefly at the nearby Hill School. He enrolled at St. Andrew's University in Scotland, and also studies art in London and Siena, Italy. Michener returned to the United States during the Depression, and taught at the George School, near Doylestown, from 1933 to 1936. In 1937 Michener received a master's degree from the Colorado State College of Education. He remained in Greeley, Colorado, and served as an associate professor from 1939 to 1942.

Michener served as a visiting professor at Harvard University from 1940-41, and in 1941 he accepted a position on the staff of the MacMillan Company in New York. He volunteered for service in the U.S. Navy in 1942, and served as naval historian in the South Pacific from 1944 to 1946. During the course of the war Michener visited some fifty islands and began work on his first novel, *Tales of the South Pacific* (1947), which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1948. The author returned to MacMillan as a textbook editor when, in 1949, the stage adaptation of *Tales of the South Pacific*, appeared as the Broadway musical "South Pacific." The successful Rogers and Hammerstein musical, and the subsequent movie, provided a share of royalties that enables Michener to devote all his time to writing.

In 1955 James A. Michener marries Mari Yoriko Sabusawa, his third wife. Michener has travelled the globe extensively and produced a string of best selling works. In 1962, after turning his literary attention to national politics, Michener ran unsuccessfully for the House of Representatives in Pennsylvania's

Eighth District. Michener served as a member of the United States Commission on Information (1970-1974) and received the Medal of Freedom in 1977.

Scope and content

The James A. Michener Papers consist of correspondence, notes, research materials and drafts of manuscripts created and compiled by best-selling author James A. Michener (1907-1997) in the course of his work on the novel *Caribbean* (1989).

Correspondence and memoranda found within the files provides information concerning the intellectual preparation required to compose an historical novel that spans more than four hundred years. Michener chose to preserve the results of his research and editorial efforts "... so that aspiring writers can see what work lies ahead for them if they finally succeed. Stated better, what work they will have to do if they want to succeed." Exchanges with editorial staff members throughout the stages of manuscript preparation, and the concurrent suggestions, recommendations and revisions to the manuscript noted on various "copies" of the manuscript illuminate the internal aspects of the modern publishing industry.

The author includes notes and correspondence concerning the logistical, financial and personal decisions that influence the creative process. The pervasive degree of experimentation, discovery and change inherent in the process of creative writing appears throughout the stages of this manuscript. The very title of the novel, *Caribbean*, is a reflection of this evolutionary process, for the author first conceived on calling the volume *Lost in the Sun*.

Notes

Title notes

Arrangement

The Michener Papers consist of six linear feet of files, housed in fifteen boxes, and arranged in two series. The arrangement of the Papers and the terminology used for folder titles maintains, to the degree possible, the original organization of the files.

SERIES I: RESEARCH FILES, consists of notes, correspondence, memoranda and research materials created and compiled by James A. Michener for this novel, *Caribbean*. A small quantity of other research materials may also be found within selected files of manuscript "copies," as maintained by the author. Files in this series contain historical research materials on the Caribbean region, including maps, articles and timelines for important events. Additional files document the author's thoughts concerning the scope and vision of this novel, and include bibliographies, worksheets and character lists.

SERIES II: MANUSCRIPT FILES, consists of drafts of the manuscript throughout the creative and editorial process. The manuscript exists in six primary stages.

The original manuscript, exists as the author typed the pages, before a single correction is considered. Michener acknowledges that "I would never want it to be published in this form ... it is very raw."

Revised Manuscript files represent the second stage of the novel. Within this copy of the manuscript, the author has inserted numerous revisions and changes. Michener's physical process for accomplishing

this work involves a pre-word processing operation of cutting and pasting new text, inserting additional or revised language, and revising inconsistencies and inaccuracies. Following this personal exercise, the manuscript is re-typed with the use of a word processor. Revised Manuscript files include both "cut and paste" pages and the "clean" text produced by the word processor.

Final Draft Manuscript files represent the author's finished work. Michener describes the text "as good as I can make it at the moment... but I have no estimate whether others will think it good or bad, or whether the reader will want to stay with it to the end." This manuscript is forwarded to the publisher, and the editorial process begins once more. The files also contain a copy of the manuscript as produced on the word processor, with occasional editorial comments supplied by the author or the editor.

Edited Manuscript files contain the comments of the copy editor, as assigned by the publisher. Editorial questions and comments are either typed out separately or applied directly to the manuscript. The exchange of ideas, text and language requires the diligent effort of both parties. For this novel, the editorial process required six months. Upon completion, the current manuscript is deemed acceptable to both parties.

Final Manuscript files are the production of a language specialist, not the copy editor, who examines every sentence for accuracy and style. This process is designed to create an accurate manuscript, one devoid of factual errors, unnecessary repetition and related matters. The manuscript thus proceeds to the printer, and typed galley proofs are produced. The paper-bound volume is an accurate representation of the published book, although the text remains open to corrections by the writer, editors and proof readers.

Author's Galley proofs files are Michener's personal copy of the galley proofs, printed on one side of each page. The writer is responsible for a review of each line of text, and has the opportunity to supply corrections deemed necessary. The inclusion of these changes and the completion of another proof reading represent the final pre-publication steps.

Other Material files include a wide range of materials related to the editorial work and publication of a modern novel. The printing of the finished book proceeds in concert with a number of related activities including the preparation of text, images, and designs for the book jacket. The preparation of "slip sheets," special printed pages autographed by the author and inserted into a limited number of the volumes, also occurs at this stage.

"Dead Material" files consist of draft pages from various stages of the manuscript, as returned to the author by the publishing company. The pages are often duplicate material from the files of the publisher or the author. The pages are retained here for their potential value in contributing to an understanding of the complete manuscript.

Restrictions on access

This collection is open for research, but is kept in an off campus storage facility. Please allow up to 72 hours for delivery of requested materials.

Conditions governing use

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Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

- **Description identifier:** ArchonInternalCollectionID:644

Access points

- Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997 (subject)
- Articles (documentary form)
- Drafts (documents) (documentary form)
- Manuscripts (documentary form)
- Maps (documentary form)
- Scores (documentary form)
- American literature -- 20th century (subject)
- Authors and publishers (subject)
- Caribbean Area -- History (place)

Series descriptions

Series id356745: Research Files

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id356746	File -			1
id356747	File - Art Work			1 1
id356748	File - Bibliographies			1 2
id356749	File - Caribbean			1 3
id356750	File - Characters lists			1 4
id356751	File - Data			1 5
id356752	File - Date line			1 6
id356753	File - Final copy			1 7
id356754	File - Front Matter			1 8
id356755	File - Justification			1 9
id356756	File - Map (Studies)			1 10
id356757	File - Progress Chart			1 11
id356758	File - Report to Random House			1 12
id356759	File - Research notes			1 13
id356760	File - Research notes			1 14
id356761	File - Research notes			1 15
id356762	File - Research notes			1 16
id356763	File - Time lines			1 17
id356764	File - Transmission			1 18
id356765	File - Work sheets			1 19

Series id356766: Manuscript FilesPublication status:

Published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id356767	File - Original Manuscript			2
id356768	File - Chapter I			2 20
id356769	File - Chapter II			2 21
id356770	File - Chapter III			2 22
id356771	File - Chapter IV			2 23
id356772	File - Chapter V			2 24
id356773	File - Chapter VI			2 25
id356774	File - Chapter VII			2 26
id356775	File - Chapter VIII			2 27
id356776	File - Chapter IX			2 28
id356777	File - Chapter X			2 29
id356778	File - Chapter XI			2 30
id356779	File - Original Manuscript (Cont'd)			3
id356780	File - Chapter XII			3 31
id356781	File - Chapter XIII			3 32
id356782	File - Chapter XIV			3 33
id356783	File - Chapter XV			3 34
id356784	File - Chapter XVI			3 35
id356785	File - Revised Manuscript Chapter I			3 36
id356786	File - Chapter I			3 37
id356787	File - Chapter II			3 38
id356788	File - Chapter III			3 39
id356789	File - Chapter III			3 40
id356790	File - Revised Manuscript (Cont'd)			4
id356791	File - Chapter IV			4 41
id356792	File - Chapter IV			4 42
id356793	File - Chapter IV			4 43
id356794	File - Chapter IV			4 44
id356795	File - Chapter IV			4 45
id356796	File - Chapter V			4 46
id356797	File - Chapter V			4 47
id356798	File - Chapter V			4 48
id356799	File - Revised Manuscript (Cont'd)			5
id356800	File - Chapter VI			5 49
id356801	File - Chapter VI			5 50
id356802	File - Chapter VI			5 51
id356803	File - Chapter VII			5 52
id356804	File - Chapter VII			5 53
id356805	File - Chapter VIII			5 54
id356806	File - Chapter VIII			5 55
id356807	File - Revised Manuscript (Cont'd)			6
id356808	File - Chapter IX			6 56

id356809	File - Chapter IX	6 57
id356810	File - Chapter X	6 58
id356811	File - Chapter X	6 59
id356812	File - Chapter XI	6 60
id356813	File - Chapter XI	6 61
id356814	File - Chapter XII	6 62
id356815	File - Chapter XII	6 63
id356816	File - Revised Manuscript (Cont'd)	7
id356817	File - Chapter XIII	7 64
id356818	File - Chapter XIII	7 65
id356819	File - Chapter XIII	7 66
id356820	File - Chapter XIV	7 67
id356821	File - Chapter XIV	7 68
id356822	File - Chapter XIV	7 69
id356823	File - Chapter XV	7 70
id356824	File - Chapter XV	7 71
id356825	File - Chapter XV	7 72
id356826	File - Chapter XV	7 73
id356827	File - Revised Manuscript (Cont'd)	8
id356828	File - Chapter XVI	8 74
id356829	File - Chapter XVI	8 75
id356830	File - Final Draft Manuscript Chapter I	8 76
id356831	File - Chapter II	8 77
id356832	File - Chapter III	8 78
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id356834	File - Chapter V	8 80
id356835	File - Chapter VI	8 81
id356836	File - Chapter VII	8 82
id356837	File - Final Draft Manuscript	9
id356838	File - Chapter IX	9 84
id356839	File - Chapter X	9 85
id356840	File - Chapter XI	9 86
id356841	File - Chapter XII	9 87
id356842	File - Chapter XIII	9 88
id356843	File - Chapter XIV	9 89
id356844	File - Chapter XV	9 90
id356845	File - Folder XVI	9 91
id356846	File - Edited Manuscript	10
id356847	File - Chapter I	10 92
id356848	File - Chapter II	10 93
id356849	File - Chapter III	10 94
id356850	File - Chapter IV	10 95
id356851	File - Chapter V	10 96
id356852	File - Chapter VI	10 97
id356853	File - Chapter VII	10 98
id356854	File - Edited Manuscript (Cont'd)	11
id356855	File - Chapter VIII	11 99
id356856	File - Chapter IX	11 100
id356857	File - Chapter X	11 101
id356858	File - Chapter XI	11 102
id356859	File - Chapter XII	11 103
id356860	File - Chapter XIII	11 104

id356861	File - Chapter XIV	11 105
id356862	File - Chapter XV	11 106
id356863	File - Chapter XVI	11 107
id356864	File - Author's Galleys	12
id356865	File - Bound Galley	12 108
id356866	File - Author's Galleys	12 109
id356867	File - Author's Galleys	12 110
id356868	File - Unmarked Galleys	12 111
id356869	File - Unmarked Galleys	12 112
id356870	File - Other Material - Dead Material	13
id356871	File - Chapter I-III (including Preface and Table of Contents)	13 113
id356872	File - Chapter I-VI	13 114
id356873	File - Chapter VI-V	13 115
id356874	File - Chapter VI	13 116
id356875	File - Chapter VII	13 117
id356876	File - Chapter VII-VIII	13 118
id356877	File - Folder IX-XIII	13 119
id356878	File - Folder IX-X	13 120
id356879	File - Chapter XI-XII	13 121
id356880	File - Chapter XIII-XIV	13 122
id356881	File - Chapter XIV-XV	13 123
id356882	File - Chapter XV-XVI	13 124
id356883	File - Chapter XVI	13 125
id356884	File - General	14
id356885	File - Caribbean Inserts	14 126
id356886	File - Editorial Changes	14 127
id356887	File - Editorial Changes	14 128
id356888	File - Edits - Chapter X	14 129
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id356891	File - General	15
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id356893	File - Letters	15 133
id356894	File - Maps	15 134
id356895	File - Miscellaneous Material	15 135
id356896	File - Miscellaneous Material	15 136
id356897	File - Miscellaneous Material	15 137
id356898	File - Miscellaneous Material	15 138
id356899	File - Slips Sheets	15 139
id356900	File - Time Lines / Character List	15 140
id380632	File -	16