

Barre History Collection

**Gayleen Aiken (1934-2005)
Papers, 1977-1997
BHC 1-2**

Volume: .75 linear feet (2 archival flip top boxes)
Inclusive dates: 1977-1997
Records Types: Albums, correspondence, and photographs

Biographical Note

Gayleen Aiken was born on March 25, 1934, the daughter of Erwin and Verna Aiken. Erwin Aiken ran Aiken & Co., a sporting goods store in Barre, Vermont, from 1935 until his death in 1950. Gayleen, an only child, began at age nine to create the “Raimbilli cousins.” The cousins are life-sized dolls made out of cardboard. Never formally schooled in art, Gayleen continued creating paintings and cartoons that expressed her unique imaginary world. Gayleen described herself as artist, musician, comic book maker, camper, and writer. She exhibited throughout New England and was one of the few living artists represented in the collection of the Abby Rockefeller Folk Art Center in Williamsburg, Virginia. She was also the subject of an award-winning documentary by filmmaker Jay Craven. Gayleen Aiken died in 2005.

Scope and Content

The Gayleen Aiken Papers consist of album-like correspondence filled with cartoons, photographs, photocopies of photographs, and hand and type written material. The correspondence documents Aiken’s whimsical view of the world surrounding her and contains information on her family, the Barre granite industry, and her imaginary “Raimbilli cousins”.

Inventory

BHC 1:01 Adele Dawson, correspondence with, 1977-1985
02 Adele Dawson, album-like correspondence with, 1987-1990
03 Miscellaneous correspondence, 1980, 1990
04 Album-like correspondence, Fall-Dec. Newsletter, 1996
05 _____, Aldrich Public Library Staff, June, 1989
06 _____, _____, June, 1996
BHC 2: 01 _____, _____, December, 1997