

Aiken Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

**Repository Identifier**

mawelhs

**Local Identifier**

M.14

**Name and Location of Repository**

The Wellesley Historical Society  
229 Washington Street  
Wellesley, MA 02481  
(781) 235-6690  
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**Title**

Aiken Family Papers, 1854 – 1981

**Date**

1854-1981

**Extent**

3.25 linear feet, 6 Boxes & 1 flat file folder

**Name of Creator**

Estate of Charles Avery Aiken

**Biographical Note**

Artist Charles Avery Aiken and composer Mary Thaxter Aiken were the children of Reverend John Francis Aiken and Henrietta L. P. (Wheeler) Aiken (died 1921). Their sister Fannie Appleton Aiken (1871-1883) died at age eleven. The two shared a work studio in New York City and spent their summers at “Ledgewood” the family home built in 1897 located at 102 Woodlawn Avenue in Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts.

Charles Avery Aiken (1872-1965) was born on September 29<sup>th</sup> 1872 in Georgia, Vermont. He grew up in Worcester, Massachusetts and studied drawing and painting at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts. He organized the Fifteen Gallery exhibition corporative in New York City to assist other artists. He exhibited in Milan, Italy and was Director of the Allied Artists of America Inc. for a number of years. A founding member of the Wellesley Society of Artists, Aiken was well known for his watercolors of flowers and landscapes in oil. He originated the process of printing from a plaster block and was the first exhibitor of prints produced by that process. The textile artist Edith Huntington Snow was the subject of many of his paintings. He died on February 10<sup>th</sup> 1965, and was buried in his family’s burial plot in Worcester, Massachusetts.

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Mary Thaxter Aiken (1874-1951) was a composer most known for her chamber music and the short "Greeting Song," with lyrics by Minnie Palmer. She was born on July 2, 1874 in Worcester, Massachusetts. A pianist, she studied with Arthur Foote, Homer Norris, and Antoinette Szumowska-Adamowska. She produced one of her works with the Kraeuter Quartet in New York City. She died on September 1, 1951 in Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts.

### **Scope and Content**

Highlights of the five-box collection include original sheet music by Mary Thaxter Aiken and original drawings by Charles Avery Aiken.

Charles Avery Aiken's subseries includes Christmas Cards he sent in conjunction with other family members, calendars, an address book, newspaper clippings related to his career, exhibit announcements, exhibit catalogues, magazine articles, and original sketches. The exhibit catalogue books include eight catalogues from exhibits held by the Art Association of Newport between 1941 and 1951.

Mary Thaxter Aiken's subseries includes her grammar school notebook, autograph book, personal calendars, original manuscripts, librettos, and her magazines.

Materials relating to additional family members include Fannie Appleton Aiken's notebooks, Henrietta L. P. Wheeler Aiken's household notebooks and a tintype of Elinor Panis Thaxter.

### **Index Terms**

Aiken Family  
Aiken, Charles Avery, — 1872-1965  
Aiken, Charles Avery, — 1872-1965 — exhibitions  
Art Association of Newport (Newport, R.I.)  
Artists — Massachusetts — Wellesley  
Clippings  
Composers — Massachusetts — Wellesley  
Correspondence  
Genealogy  
Journals (Diaries)  
Mary Thaxter Aiken  
Massachusetts — Wellesley  
Wellesley (Mass.) — History  
Wellesley (Mass.) — History  
Wellesley Society of Artist  
Women  
Women Composers — Massachusetts — Wellesley

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## **System of Arrangement**

The Papers are divided by individual and then by medium. The media subdivisions are Correspondence, Manuscripts, Diaries, Printed Material, Artwork, Photographic Material, and Library. Oversize material is located in Boxes 4 and 5.

Charles Avery Aiken material is in Boxes 1, 4, 5, and 6. His printed exhibit catalogue books (Box 1) are arranged by date. Relevant page numbers are noted in pen on the cover the exhibit catalogue books and magazines.

Mary Thaxter Aiken material is in Boxes 2, 4, and 5. The librettos in her library (Box 2) and her music manuscripts (Box 4) are arranged alphabetically.

Material related to Fannie Appleton Aiken, Henrietta L. P. Wheeler Aiken, John Francis Aiken, William Appleton Aiken, Elinor Panis Thaxter, and Mary Francis Wheeler are located in Box 3.

## **Conditions Governing Access**

The papers are open for research purposes by appointment only. Please contact the Wellesley Historical Society for more information.  
info@wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org  
(781) 235-6690

## **Physical Access**

Some of the materials are fragile.

## **Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use**

Copyright restrictions may apply.

## **Languages and Scripts of the Material**

English

## **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Estate of Charles Avery Aiken  
1966.123  
1966.124  
1966.133.5  
1966.135.1-6  
1966.136.1-17

## **Accruals**

The Historical Society may add materials to the Papers in the future; however, no further accruals are currently expected.

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**Related Materials**

The Wellesley Historical Society has 24 pieces of art by Charles Avery Aiken in the Art Collection and holds chalk drawings of his mural in Steinhart Hall, Boston, in the Maps and Plans Collection.

**Description**

DACS Finding Aid created in June 2013.

Finding Aid was updated in 2016 to reflect additional materials.

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**Appendix: Box and Folder List**

**I. Charles A. Aiken Papers, 1880-1981, Undated**

**Box 1**

- Folder 1: Correspondence, 1884-1961, Undated
- Folder 2: Christmas Cards, Undated
- Folder 3: Manuscripts, 1880, Undated
- Folder 4: Diaries, 1882, 1912-1913, Undated
- Folder 5: Report Cards, 1886-1889
- Folder 6: Certificates, 1885, Undated
- Folder 7: Exhibit Announcements, 1915-1963, Undated
- Folder 8: Exhibit Catalogues, 1925-1964, Undated
- Folder 9: Exhibit Catalogue Books, 1929, 1936, 1941
- Folder 10: Exhibit Catalogue Books, 1942-1946
- Folder 11: Exhibit Catalogue Books, 1948-1951
- Folder 12: Edith Huntington Snow Obituary, Undated
- Folder 13: Newspaper Clippings, 1915-1965
- Folder 14: Obituaries, 1965
- Folder 15: Charles Avery Aiken Biographical Material, 1954-1981
- Folder 16: Pencil Sketches, 1884, Undated
- Folder 17: Published Prints, 1927, Undated
- Folder 18: Photograph, Undated

**Box 6**

- Folder 1: Paint on Paper, Loose, Small Format; Undated
- Folder 2: Painting, Hill Kingston Harbor Jamaica; Undated
- Folder 3: Painting, Jamaica; Undated
- Folder 4: Pencil & Ink Sketches, Loose, Small Format; Undated
- Folder 5: Pencil Sketches, Loose, Small Format; Undated
- Folder 6: Sketchbook, Charcoal; Undated
- Folder 7: Sketchbook, Pencil & Watercolor; Undated
- Folder 8: Sketchbook, Medium, Pencil; Undated
- Folder 9: Sketchbook, Small, Pencil; Undated
- Folder 10: Unbound Sketchbook, Pencil & Ink Sketches; Undated
- Folder 11: Unbound Sketchbook, Pencil Sketches; Undated

**Archives Oversize Box 10**

- Folder 14: Paint on Paper; undated

**II. Mary T. Aiken Papers, 1882-1951, Undated**

**Box 2**

- Folder 1: Correspondence, 1881, Undated
- Folder 2: Diaries, 1882, 1886
- Folder 3: Report Card, 1886

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- Folder 4: Obituaries, 1951
- Folder 5: Programs, 1916, 1959, Undated
- Folder 6: Name Cards, Undated
- Folder 7: Sheet Music, 1908, 1909
- Folder 8: Metropolitan Opera Association Program, 1937-1938
- Folder 9: Librettos, B-C, Undated
- Folder 10: Librettos, D-P, Undated
- Folder 11: Librettos, R-W, Undated

**Box 6**

- Folder 12: Cross Stich Square; Undated

**III. F. A. Aiken, H. L. P. W. Aiken, J. F. Aiken, W. A. Aiken, E. P. Thaxter, and M. F. Wheeler Papers, 1880-1946, Undated**

**Box 3**

- Folder 1: Fannie Appleton Aiken Correspondence, 1880, Undated
- Folder 2: Fannie Appleton Aiken Diaries, Undated
- Folder 3: Henrietta L. P. Wheeler Aiken, Correspondence 1888, Undated
- Folder 4: Henrietta L. P. Wheeler Aiken Diaries, Undated
- Folder 5: Henrietta L. P. Wheeler Aiken Printed Material, Undated
- Folder 6: John Francis Aiken Correspondence, Undated
- Folder 7: John Francis Aiken Name Cards, Undated
- Folder 8: William Appleton Aiken Printed Material, 1938
- Folder 9: Elinor Panis Thaxter Tintype, Undated (Acc.#: 2012.742)
- Folder 10: Mary Francis Wheeler Obituary, Undated

**IV. Charles Avery Aiken Artwork and Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscripts, 1893-1946, Undated**

**Box 4**

- Folder 1-3: Items moved to flat file due to size
- Folder 4: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Apollo and Daphne*, Undated
- Folder 5: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *The City of Love*, Undated
- Folder 6: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Fairy Songs*, 1921
- Folder 7: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Fairy Songs*, 1921
- Folder 8: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Fairy Songs*, 1921
- Folder 9: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Fairy Songs*, 1921
- Folder 10: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *The Falcon*, 1893
- Folder 11: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Fantasia*, Undated
- Folder 12: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Ganymede and the Eagle*, Undated
- Folder 13: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Ganymede and the Eagle*, Undated
- Folder 14: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Greeting Song*, 1905 (Acc. #: 1985.121)
- Folder 15: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Greeting Song*, 1905
- Folder 16: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *How the blith lark*, 1898

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- Folder 17: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Impromptu for Two Violins and a Piano*, 1934
- Folder 18: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Impromptu for Two Violins and a Piano*, 1934
- Folder 19: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Impromptu for Two Violins and a Piano*, 1934
- Folder 20: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Narcissus and Echo*, Undated
- Folder 21: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Nature's Voices and Overture by "Footprint,"* 1931-1932
- Folder 22: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Nature's Voices and Overture by "Footprint,"* 1931-1932
- Folder 23: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Over his keys*, 1893
- Folder 24: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Painting at Evening, Venice*, Undated
- Folder 25: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Phytis*, Undated
- Folder 26: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Phytis*, Undated
- Folder 27: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Phythis, Pan, Boriac*, Undated
- Folder 28: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Quartette in A Flat for 2 Violins, Viola, Cello*, 1930-1931
- Folder 29: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Quinetette*, 1935
- Folder 30: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Serenade for two Flutes*, Undated
- Folder 31: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Serenade for two Flutes*, 1932
- Folder 32: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Syrinx*, Undated
- Folder 33: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Syrinx*, Undated
- Folder 34: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Syrinx*, Undated
- Folder 35: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Trio in D Major*, Undated
- Folder 36: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Trio in D Major*, Undated
- Folder 37: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Trio in D Major*, 1933 (Acc. #: 1985.121)
- Folder 38: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Trio in D Major*, 1933
- Folder 39: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Trio in D Major*, 1933
- Folder 40: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *The Violet*, 1893
- Folder 41: Mary Thaxter Aiken Manuscript, *Vision of Sir Launfal*, Undated

**V. Charles Avery Aiken Printed Material, Mary Thaxter Aiken Library, 1886-1946**

**Archives Oversize Box 10**

- Folder 1: Charles Avery Aiken Printed Material, *Art News* May 1946
- Folder 2: Charles Avery Aiken Printed Material, *The Art Digest*, May 1934
- Folder 3: Charles Avery Aiken Printed Material, *The Art Digest*, May 1936
- Folder 4: Charles Avery Aiken Printed Material, *The Art Digest*, May 1946
- Folder 5: Charles Avery Aiken Printed Material, Magic Lantern Exhibition Publicity; 1886
- Folder 6: Mary Thaxter Aiken Library, *Arensky Trio in D Moll (Minor)*, Undated
- Folder 7: Mary Thaxter Aiken Library, *Ladies Home Journal*, August 1904
- Folder 8: Mary Thaxter Aiken Library, *Harper's Bazaar*, July 1910

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- Folder 9: Mary Thaxter Aiken Library, *Harper's Bazaar*, October 1910  
Folder 10: Mary Thaxter Aiken Library, *The Etude Music Magazine*, December 1931  
Folder 11: Mary Thaxter Aiken Library, *Pictorial Review*, 1914  
Folder 12: Mary Thaxter Aiken, *The Etude Music Magazine*, December 1932  
Folder 13: "Grand Theoretical & Practical Piano School for Systematic Instruction"

**Flat File 2, Drawer 2**

- Folder 1: Mary Thaxter Aiken, Steinert Hall Advertisement, undated  
Charles Avery Aiken Artwork, Pen and Ink Sketch, Undated  
Charles Avery Aiken Artwork, Pen and Ink Sketch, Undated  
Charles Avery Aiken Artwork, Pen and Ink Sketch, Undated