

**University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
Archives and Special Collections**

**Affonso Ferreira - Ferreira Mendes Portuguese American Archives
Josephine Teixeira Silhouettes and Papers, 1968-1990**

MC 60/PAA

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 small manuscript box)

Biographical Note: Josephine Teixeira was born in Camacha, Funchal, Madeira Islands in 1911 to Antonio Baptista (1867-1950) and Genevieve Neves. She was one of five sons and two daughters and is the sister of Joseph Baptista, whose family papers and photograph albums are also in the Affonso Ferreira - Ferreira Mendes Portuguese American Archives (see MC 35/PAA). She emigrated in 1919 with her mother, four brothers, and a sister, joining her father and older brother Joseph in Providence. Josephine was selected to manage the family-run Liberty Super Market in New Bedford because she had attended some school and could read and write. She married Joseph Teixeira in 1935 and they had two sons, William and Lawrence. She worked at Kilburn and Wamsutta Mills, and later was employed by Saltmarsh's department store in New Bedford. She sold her cut-paper silhouette portraits at craft fairs and other local festivals. Bibiana Xavier (1892?-1987), some of whose papers are included in this collection, was one of Josephine's co-workers from Wamsutta Mill, and lived with her following Joseph Teixeira's death in 1974. She was born in the Azores, made her living as an embroiderer, and is pictured at work in the accompanying Wamsutta Mills pamphlet. She lived at Sacred Heart Nursing Home in New Bedford at the time of her death. For a more detailed biography of Josephine and Joseph Teixeira, see box 1.

Scope and contents note: The collection consists mainly of 282 cut paper silhouette portraits done by Josephine Teixeira. Some are mounted in a scrapbook of Saltmarsh Store employees, some glued in a sketchbook, others are mounted on cards, or collaged. Most were done in the late 1960s through the mid-1970s. The collection also contains papers relating to the death and burial of Bibiana Xavier.

Acquisition: Donated by William Teixeira in 2002.

Access: Unrestricted

Copyright note: Transferred to UMD Archives. Please credit Josephine Teixeira as the artist.

Processing note: Maura McGurk '07, May 2006

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	Biography of Josephine and Joseph Teixeira by William Teixeira
	2	Scrapbook, Saltmarsh's Store Family Handmade, blue, plastic-wrapped cover, 11" x 9" Contains 69 silhouette portraits of Saltmarsh's store employees, labeled with at least first names, grouped by department, (1968 - 1971) Includes 4 newspaper articles, 1969-1970
1	3	Sketchbook 6" x 9", tan cover 183 silhouette portraits, 1971-1974 Most portraits glued directly on page, some labeled with name, date, or fee Includes some notes on local craft fairs, and 2 receipts for commissions on sales made at local craft fairs in 1971

Box #	Folder #	Description
1	4	Valentine collage with silhouettes of 14 children, most with first and last names, one nun, not named, (no date)
1	5	Collage of silhouettes, "At the Surrey Shoppe", 1968 7 silhouettes of clerks and others, some named
1	6	7 silhouettes, 4" x 6", (1971-1990) 6 mounted on cards, 1 mounted and hinged, greeting card-style. 2 named, some numbered or priced for sale.
1	7	2 silhouettes, 4" x 5", (no date) Mounted on cards, packaged in plastic sleeves One of Pope John Paul II and one of Victorian woman, labeled "1890"
1	8	Business card: Silhouettes by Josephine B. Teixeira
Documents relating to Bibiana Xavier		
1	9	Social Security card, no date, Death Certificate for Bibiana Xavier, 1987
1	10	Correspondence, statement, and receipt from Aubertine Funeral Home, Trustee Card from New Bedford Institution for Savings, designating Aubertine Funeral Home as Trustee for Bibiana Xavier's account, 1982
1	11	Receipt from St. John Cemetery, copy of Treasurer's Check, for reserved grave for Bibiana Xavier, 1982
1	12	Copy of Treasurer's Check, correspondence, business card from The Last Tribute Monuments regarding headstone for Bibiana Xavier, 1982
Miscellaneous		
1	13	Wamsutta Mills pamphlet, featuring Bibiana Xavier, 1944

Information and Bio on Josephine and Joseph Teixeira

Josephine Baptista Teixeira was born on the Island of Madeira in the Town of Camacha on November 24, 1911. She with her family Mother Genevieve, Sister Mary, brothers Antonio Jr, Manual, Martin, and Louis immigrated to the US in 1919. Father Antonio Baptista and oldest Son Joseph Baptista were waiting for them in Providence R.I. for they had arrived a year earlier. I remember my Mother telling me that they had to remove all their clothes to be examined by a Doctor, and her Mother had her stand in front of her to hide her as they stood in line. They lived in New Bedford on the corner of Hollyhock Street and Field Street. Antonio Baptista Sr. and the family built a three tenement house next door at 108 Field Street so that all could have quarters. Antonio Baptista Sr was a very skilled carpenter in Madeira and did some work on a limited basis in New Bedford. He had the gift for doing carving and did many figures of Christ. Josephine Teixeira and her brother Joseph Baptista Sr. had the skill of their father for Josephine cut silhouettes and Joseph carved figurines.

Josephine B. Teixeira went to school in New Bedford the Duvall's school and learned English and was very good at math. She went on to the 6th grade but had to give it up to help at home and worked at the Kilburn Mill for a short period of time. Josephine being the only child who went back to school in the family and could read and write was selected to run the grocery business which Joseph Baptista Sr. and Brother in Law Joseph Ferreira who married Josephine's sister Mary had purchased. The first store was on the corner of Stowell Street and Dartmouth Street and then they purchased the building at the corner of Sidney and Dartmouth Streets. The store name was. "Liberty Super Market." Josephine was married to Joseph Teixeira who was born in Madeira in the town of Camacha on June 18, 1904. Josephine never knew Joseph in Madeira. They met in New Bedford and were married at Mount Carmel Catholic Church on Rivet Street on February 11, 1935. They had their first son John in 1937 that died at birth. Their second Son was born on October 22, 1938 and was named William Joseph Teixeira. Their second son was born on June 6, 1944 and was named Lawrence Teixeira. Josephine was a home maker while the boys were growing up and did not work during those years. Josephine had acquired the skill for cutting silhouettes during the time she was at home bring up her sons. She also attended the Swain School of Design which was located on the corner of County and Allan Streets. Josephine B Teixeira returned to work at the Wamsutta Mill from around 1950 to around 1955 and that was where she became friendly with Bibiana Xavier. Josephine left the Wamsutta Mills and started to work at Saltmarshes Department store until her husband Joseph Teixeira passed away on July 22, 1974. Joseph Teixeira worked at Liberty Super Market until 1965 when he had to retire due to illness. Living alone and in need of companionship she asked her friend to move in with her and that was Bibiana Xavier. Bibiana stayed with Josephine until she was unable to care for herself and passed away at Sacred Harts Home. Thought out the years Josephine was cutting Silhouettes of colleges at the Wamstta Mills, Salmarshs Depart Store, Liberty Market, Church Fairs, and other events in and around the city of New Bedford. She would also cut Silhouettes of Family and friends.

When Josephine first entered Sacred Heart Home in 2001 she would cut out silhouette angles on napkins or any paper she came in contact with. Josephine B Teixeira is still living and is a resident of Sacred Heart Home on Summer Street New Bedford. Suffering from that awful disease Alzheimer's she still walks with her walker each day as of this writing June 3, 2006 and still knows my brother and me. She will be 95 in November 2006.

Josephine Baptista Teixeira became a citizen of the United States on June 28, 1936.
Joseph Teixeira became a citizen of the United States on June 24, 1940.

Written By;
William J. Teixeira
June 3 th 2006