

# Katharine Ketcham collection

Ms Coll 95



Katherine Isham

2023

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library  
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333 Cedar St.  
New Haven, CT 06520-8014  
203-737-1192  
203-785-5636  
historical.library@yale.edu  
<http://historical.medicine.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** Ms Coll 95

**CREATOR:** Ketcham, Katharine (1915-1999)

**TITLE:** Katharine Ketcham collection

**DATES:** 1942–1952, circa 1998

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** .5 linear feet (1 box + 1 panoramic photograph)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection includes materials related to Katharine Ketcham (1915-1999), Yale School of Nursing class of 1939. Items include a manuscript diary dated July 1942-September 1944 written by Ketcham about her World War II experiences: training at Camp Edwards, travelling across the United States and awaiting assignment; voyage to New Zealand and experiences while serving as an RN, captain rank, attached to the United States Army 39th General Hospital, Yale Unit. Also included is a copy of a typewritten transcript of the diary created by Ketcham's sister, Jean Ketcham, circa 1998; photographs taken by Ketcham or others in New Zealand during her service; a panoramic photograph of the Yale 39th Hospital Unit; and photographs taken by Ketcham or others at the Yale School of Nursing in 1952 while she was teaching students from the YSN class of 1954.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0095>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0095>.

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Susan Lominska, 2023, in memory of her aunt Katharine Ketcham (MSN, Yale class of 1939).

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## Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

Katharine Ketcham collection. Historical Library, Harvey Cushing / John Hay Whitney Medical Library, Yale University.

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## Biographical / Historical

Katharine Ketcham was born in 1915 in East Orange New Jersey. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1936 and received her Master of Nursing in 1939 from Yale School of Nursing (YSN). She served during World War II as a Captain Army Nurse in New Zealand attached to the US 39th General Hospital, Yale Unit. After the war she returned to Connecticut and taught at YSN. She received her M.A. in Nursing Education from New York University in 1951 and continued teaching at YSN and at Hartwick College School of Nursing until she retired in 1975. Ketcham died in 1999.

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## Content Description

The collection includes materials related to Katharine Ketcham (1915-1999), Yale School of Nursing class of 1939. Items include a manuscript diary dated July 1942-September 1944 written by Ketcham about her World War II experiences: training at Camp Edwards, travelling across the United States and awaiting assignment; voyage to New Zealand and experiences while serving as an RN, captain rank, attached to the United States Army 39th General Hospital, Yale Unit. Also included is a copy of a typewritten transcript of the diary created by Ketcham's sister, Jean Ketcham, circa 1998; photographs taken by Ketcham or others in New Zealand during her service; a panoramic photograph of the Yale 39th Hospital Unit; and photographs taken by Ketcham or others at the Yale School of Nursing in 1952 while she was teaching students from the YSN class of 1954.

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## Collection Contents

Diary, volume I Leaf 1-168 (336 pages), handwritten in blue ink on loose sheets of lined paper. Diary pages were housed in small vinyl binders by family members after Ketcham's death.	July 11, 1942 -December 23, 1943
Diary, volume II Leaf 169-282 + 2 leaves of conversions (230 pages total) handwritten in blue ink on loose sheets of lined paper. Diary pages were housed in small vinyl binders by family members after Ketcham's death.	December 25, 1943 - December 17, 1944
Transcript of diary, volumes I and II Spiral bound photocopy of diary transcript typed by Katharine Ketcham's sister Jean Ketcham Lominska circa 1998. Transcript includes message from Lominska on first page.	circa 1998
Photographs, US Army 39th General Hospital, Yale Unit, New Zealand 102 photographs, images include military weddings; hospital facilities, wards, and grounds; medical unit staff at work and off duty; and landscapes. Also includes one exterior photograph of Eleanor Roosevelt visiting the medical unit. Many photographs include notes and names written in pencil on the back of prints.	1942-1944
Panoramic photograph of US Army 39th General Hospital, Yale Unit, staff Access to this item is restricted until preservation treatment is completed.	circa 1942-1944
Photographs, Yale School of Nursing 49 photographs of Yale School of Nursing staff and students participating in lessons including administering injections, applying bandages, preparing food, and preparing equipment. Many photographs include names written in pencil on the back of prints. The note on the back of one photograph reads "For Miss Ketcham from the class of 1954, Feb. 1952."	circa 1952

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Genres / Formats**

Diaries  
Photographs

### **Subjects**

Medicine, Military  
Nursing  
Nursing schools  
World War, 1939-1945

### **Geographic Names**

New Zealand

### **Occupations**

Nurses

### **Corporate Body**

Yale University. School of Nursing