

# Guide to the Amy L. Lettick Papers

MS 1593



compiled by Carol King

May 1991

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New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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(203) 432-7441

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1593

**CREATOR:** Lettick, Amy L.

**TITLE:** Amy L. Lettick papers

**DATES:** 1920-1998

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 25.17 linear feet (30 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, journals and diaries, audio and video tapes, films, and publications relating to the development and care of an autistic child and the founding of the Benhaven school.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1593>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1593>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Amy L. Lettick, 1990-1992, and 1998, 1999.

## Conditions Governing Access

Original audiovisual materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be played. Researchers must consult use copies, or if none exist must pay for a use copy, which is retained by the repository. Researchers wishing to obtain an additional copy of non-commercially produced items for their personal use should consult the ordering reproductions information on the Manuscripts and Archives web site.

Original born digital files, as well as preservation masters, may not be accessed due to their fragility. Researchers must consult use copies, or if none exist request that they be made. Born digital files cannot be accessed remotely. System requirements include a Manuscripts and Archives computer and file viewing software.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Amy L. Lettick Papers (MS 1593). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Amy L. Lettick was the founder of Benhaven, a private, nonprofit school community in New Haven for autistic and neurologically impaired individuals. Benhaven was founded in 1967 as an outgrowth of Lettick's search for an educational and social program for her autistic son, Benjamin. In 1975, Yale University conferred an honorary doctorate upon Amy Lettick for her work with autistic children and the founding of Benhaven. Lettick died on November 22, 2017 in Tempe, Arizona.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist of correspondence, journals and diaries, audio and video tapes, films, and publications relating to the development and care of an autistic child and the founding of the Benhaven school.

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## Collection Contents

### Inventory, 1912, 1935, 1937, 1940, 1955–1990, undated

6 linear feet (6 boxes)

Preliminary inventory by Carol King, 1991 May

Received from: Amy L. Lettick, 1990-1991

b. 1, f. 1	"Benjamin Lettick, from birth 1955 Apr 7 - 1956 Nov," correspondence and printed material English	1961 Jul, Aug, Oct, undated
b. 1, f. 2-18	Journal of Amy L. Lettick recording Benjamin Lettick's daily progress	1961 October 27 - 1967 December 3, 1990 March 9, undated
b. 1, f. 19-26	Typescript of Amy L. Lettick's journal, entitled "The Daily Records of A 6-Year Educational Program Designed For A Severely Autistic Boy,"	1955-1963, 1990
b. 1, f. 27	Incomplete original foreword of journal by Sylvia Kottler	1990 July
b. 1, f. 28	Notebooks containing observations	1958, 1959
b. 1, f. 29	Diaries of Amy L. Lettick	1935, 1937
b. 1, f. 30	Correspondence, notes and newspaper clipping found in 1937 dairy	1912, 1937, 1940, undated
b. 1, f. 31	Photographs of Benjamin Lettick and his family	1955-1962
b. 2, f. 32	Presentation on learning behavior of the child, by Dr. Newell Kephart at the state convention of the Texas Society for Crippled Children and Adults	1962 October 26
b. 2, f. 33	"The Brain Injured Child, and the Slow Learner in the Classroom," class lecture by Newell Kephart, Purdue University English	1963 May 13
b. 2, f. 34	Lecture notes and related material on the care of autistic children	undated
	Benhaven:	
b. 2, f. 35	Correspondence	1979, 1980
b. 2, f. 36	Public relations material pertaining to Benhaven	1978, 1980–1981, undated
	Publications:	
b. 2, f. 37	<i>Benhaven's Two Paths Into the Future</i> , by Amy L. Lettick English	1971
b. 2, f. 38	<i>Benhaven's Way</i> , by Amy L. Lettick English	1972

## Benhaven: &gt; Publications: (continued)

b. 2, f. 39	<i>An Experimental Training Project for Autistic and neurologically Impaired Children</i> , by David F. Freschi English	1973
b. 2, f. 40	<i>Benhaven Policy Manual</i> English	1978
b. 2, f. 41	<i>Staff Orientation Handbook: Benhaven</i>	1978
b. 2, f. 42	<i>Benhaven at Work: May through August 1978</i> , by Amy L. Lettick English	1979
b. 2, f. 43	<i>Benhaven Then and Now</i> , by Amy L. Lettick English	1979
b. 2, f. 44	<i>Benhaven Maunual for Handling Severe Agression and Self-Abuse</i> , by Amy L. Lettick, Daniel H. Davis, Larry Wood, Stephen M. Simonson, and Linda R. Simonson English	1980
b. 2, f. 45	<i>Benhaven at Work, Vol. II: January-June 1984</i> , (part 1) by Amy L. Lettick English	1986
b. 2, f. 46	<i>Benhaven at Work, Vol. II: January-June 1984</i> (part 2), by Amy L. Lettick English	1986
b. 2, f. 47	<i>The Benhaven Staff Evaluation System</i> , by David F. Freschi	undated
b. 2, f. 48	<i>Sexuality and Social Awareness: A Curriculum for Moderately Autistic and/or Neurologically Impaired Individuals</i> , by Dawn A. Lieberman and Mary Bonyai Melone	undated
b. 2, f. 49	<i>Vocational Education Lesson Cores</i> , by David F. Freschi and Larry Wood	undated
b. 2, f. 50	Correspondence and printed material pertaining to Benhaven Press publications and others	1976, 1979-1981, 1984
b. 2, f. 51	Correspondence and printed material pertaining to Benhaven Press publications and others	undated
b. 3, f. 52	Book buyers card index (cardbox)	1979-1980s
b. 3, f. 53	Color slides of Dedication and Annual Awards Dinner	1971, undated
b. 3, f. 54	Color slides of Board Dinner	1971
b. 3, f. 55	Visitor's Register, Benhaven	1968 March 4 - 1974 September 5
Films:		
Benjamin Lettick:		
b. 3, f. 56	No. 1	1963 January 13
b. 3, f. 56	No. 2	1963 Apr, May
b. 3, f. 57	No. 3	1963 June 1

## Benhaven: &gt; Films: &gt; Benjamin Lettick: (continued)

b. 3, f. 58	Nos. 4-5 (part 1 of 2)	1964 April 21
b. 3, f. 58	Nos. 4-5 (part 2 of 2)	1964 April 21
b. 3, f. 59	No. 6	1964 Summer
b. 3, f. 59	No. 7	[1966?]
b. 3, f. 60	No. 8	1965 March 28
b. 3, f. 60	No. 9	1968-1969
b. 3, f. 61	Rehabilitation Center (No. 10)	1971
b. 3	Woodcutting (No. 11)	1972-1973
b. 3	Resistive Walking (No. 12)	1969 January 14
b. 3	Gym (social) (No. 13)	1971
b. 3	Resistive movement	Circa 1969
b. 3	Unidentified, unnumbered reel	
Audiocassettes (cardbox):		
b. 3	Benjamin Lettick, Paul Roberts (5 tapes)	1969 January 1 - May 12
b. 3	Benjamin Lettick (10 tapes)	1969 June 13 - 1970 November
b. 3	Benjamin Lettick: McGinness Method/ Word acquisition (1 tape)	1971 April
b. 3	Benhaven's Twentieth Anniversary, New Haven Lawn Club (1 tape)	1987 October 29
Videotapes:		
	Benhaven: Professional Training Videotape Series	1982-1984
b. 4	Program #1 - Applied Academics: Developing a Functional Curriculum Using Applied Academics and Practical Living Skills	
b. 4	Program #2 - Pre-Vocational Training	
b. 4	Program #3 - Gross Motor Curriculum	
b. 4	Program #4 - Residential Program for Autistic and Neurologically Impaired Individuals (Parts 1 and 2)	
b. 4	Program #5 - Residential Program	
b. 4	Program #6 - Vocational Work Program (Parts 1 and 2)	
b. 5	Program #7 - Vocational and Work Activity Benchwork, Horticultural and Farm Activities	
b. 5	Program #8 - Teaching Autistic People How to Play	
b. 5	Program #9 - Functional Language	

## Benhaven: &gt; Videotapes: &gt; Benhaven: Professional Training Videotape Series (continued)

b. 5	Program #10 - (tape not made)	
b. 5	Program #11 - Administration of Benhaven's Residential Program	
b. 5	Program #12 - A Model for Operating a School/ Vocational Training Program for Autistic Children and Adolescents	
b. 5	Program #13 - Untitled, incomplete master	
b. 5	Program #14 - Benhaven: Historical Perspective Overview	
b. 5	"Amy Lettick on Teaching" English	
b. 6	Tape #1 - Structuring Learning	
b. 6	Tape #2 - Planning a Lesson	
b. 6	Tape #3 - Variations on a Task	
b. 6	Tape #4 - Kitchen Activities	
b. 6	Tape #5 - Housekeeping	
b. 6	Tape #6 - Teaching Play, Stringing Beads	
b. 6	Tape #7 - Teaching Jigsaw Puzzles	
b. 6	Tape #8 - Teaching Ballroom Dancing	
b. 6	Tape #9 - Teaching Card Playing	
b. 6	Tape #10 - Introduction to Recreation	
b. 6	Tape #11 - Goal Setting: Its Form and Function (Parts 1 and 2)	
b. 6	Tape #12 - Addressing and Teaching the Autistic (Parts 1 and 2)	
b. 6	Benhaven orientation (copy 2)	1978
b. 6	Update of Yale Benhaven film, interview at end (Part 2)	1978 (Aug)
b. 6	End of Winter Dance	1987 March 7
b. 6	Jarrold Law's Dancing class	1987 Jan, Sep, 1988 June
b. 6	Matt Hochman Keyboard and Dancing; Jarrold Law Doing the Twist	1989



**Accession 1992-M-041: Additional Material, 1953-1991, undated***6.25 linear feet (7 boxes)*

Addition inventory by Carol King 1992 Jul

Received from: Amy L. Lettick, 1991 Oct 28

## Correspondence/subject files:

b.1	Accreditation and licensure	1967-1974, undated
b.1	Articles	1972-1983, undated
Autism Society of America (formerly National Society for Autistic Children (NSAC):		
b.1	1970-1982	1970-1982
b.1	1986-1989, undated	1986-1989, undated
b.1	Benhaven board dinners (awards)	1972-1987, undated
b.1	Benhaven brochures	1967-1986, undated
Benhaven correspondence:		
b.1	1960-1961	1960-1961
b.1	1966-1989	1966-1989
b.1	Benhaven twentieth anniversary dinner	1986-1987, undated
b.1	Diaries of Amy Lettick, with typed transcriptions	1953, 1955-1957
b.1	Drazen, Beatrice	1971-1973, undated
b.1	Eastside	1972-1977, undated
b.1	Fenichel, Carl	1966-1967, 1976
Fund-raising:		
b.1	Dorm Delights	1982-1984, undated
b.1	Friends of Benhaven	1972-1989, n.d
b.1	Miscellaneous	1967-1977, 1980- 1986, undated
b.1	Probus Club	1968-1974

## Correspondence/subject files: (continued)

b. 2	Harrison, Ida	1972-1988, undated
b. 2	Harrison playground	1987-1989, undated
b. 2	Impact of Benhaven	1976-1978, undated
b. 2	Jayhaven-Northside	1971-1973 March-Dec, 1974-1977, undated
b. 2	Jayhaven-Northside: photographs	undated
b. 2	Kephart, Newell C., Purdue University	1962-1973, undated
b. 2	Legislation: fund raising	1968-1977, n.d
b. 2	Marks, Nancy Lurie	1972-1975, 1985, undated
b. 2	Medalie House	1969-1972, 1983- 1986, n.d
b. 2	Olander, Timothy	1986-1989, undated
b. 2	Oppenheim, Rosalind	1971, 1982, 1990, undated
b. 2	Parents' apartment	1982-1983, undated
b. 2	Potter, Moses	1974 June - 1975 Apr, undated
b. 2	Rimland, Bernard	1968-1982, 1989-1990, undated
b. 2	Shodell, Margaret	1966-1967, undated
	Ten year data:	
b. 2	Enrollees	1975-1989
b. 2	Medication records	1977-1983, undated
b. 2	Staff	1975-1976, 1987, undated
b. 2	Students' general information as a group	1967-1980, n.d

Journal appendix 2: material from Benhaven files

## Journal appendix 2: material from Benhaven files (continued)

b. 2	Part A: correspondence, instructional material (1 folder)	1962-1969
b. 2	Part B: tests, evaluations, recommendations (4 folders)	1969-1990
b. 2	List of contents of appendix 2, part B (compiled by donor)	
b. 3	Part C: monthly Benhaven reports (14 folders)	1968-1991
Journal appendix 3:		
b. 3	Part A: medical records from Drs. Wessell/LaCamera (1 folder)	1960s-1980s
b. 3	Part B: Yale Child Study Center records (1 folder)	1970-1986
b. 3	List of contents of appendix 3, parts A, B, and index (compiled by donor)	
Benjamin Lettick's training sessions and adult activities		
b. 3	Typed commentaries on films of training sessions	1962-1969
b. 8	<p>Master tape, part 1  <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 2:03:00 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i></p> <p>As a preservation measure, original materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access.</p> <p>A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives.</p>	
	Films of training sessions	1962-1971
	Adult activities	1989-1990
b. 9	<p>Master tape, part 2: Adult activities, Waldbaum's, Seton Name Plate Corp.  <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 0:46:48 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i></p> <p>As a preservation measure, original materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access.</p> <p>A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives.</p>	1990
Index of subject headings:		
b. 4	A - Lettick, Amy	
b. 5	Lettick, Amy (cont'd) - Z	
Index of main entries:		
b. 5	A - J	
b. 6	K - R	
b. 7	S - Z	

**Accession 1992-M-079: Additional Material, Circa 1920s-1992, undated**

8.75 linear feet (9 boxes)

Addition inventory by Carol King 1992 Jul

Received from: Amy L. Lettick, 1992 Jun 10

## Photocopy of original journal:

b.1	Pages 1-103	
b.1	Pages 104-205	
b.1	Pages 206-305	
b.1	Pages 306-399	
b.1	Pages 400-483, unnumbered pages	

## Index to journal:

b.1	Original, drafts 1, 2	
b.1	Original, drafts 3, 4, 5	
b.1	"Compiled by author" English	
b.1	<i>Benhaven Bulletin</i> English	1972-1988
b.1	Benhaven reports on Benjamin Lettick	1990 March - 1992 April
b.1	Diaries of Amy Lettick, some transcribed	1953, 1955-1957, 1991
b.1	<i>Benhaven at Work</i> : final draft English	1979
b.1	<i>Benhaven Then and Now</i> : final draft English	1979
b.1	RSVP radio talk show of <i>1 Audiocassette</i>	1971 February 11
b.1	Benhaven: printed material and button	undated

## Personal file:

See also: [box 5](#)

b.2	Clippings, memorabilia: school years (2 folders)	1926-1942
b.2	Clippings, early years	1931-1938
	Clippings, memorabilia:	
b.2	Dance programs	1935-1940

## Personal file: &gt; Clippings, memorabilia: (continued)

b. 2	Household inventory	1947
b. 2	Children's immunization records	1950-1967
b. 2	Moving book	1962
b. 2	Travel diary	1983
b. 2	Clippings	1949-1991, undated
	Clippings, miscellaneous:	
b. 2	Gift registry	1942, 1945
b. 2	Ladin, Harvey	1978, 1986
b. 2	Lettick, Birney	1941, undated
b. 2	Lettick, David	1963-1965, undated
b. 2	Marshall Journal	1992
b. 2	Cohen, Donald	1980-1992
b. 2	Correspondence	1940-1991
b. 2	Deinstitutionalization	1980-1981
b. 2	Divorce (3 folders)	1974-1987
b. 2	Internal Revenue	1983-1984
b. 2	L	1947-1949, 1955, undated
b. 2	Lafferty, Perry: radio scripts	1940
b. 2	Lettick, Birney	1942-1980
b. 2	Recording to Birney Lettick, made by Amy Lettick	1948
b. 2	Report cards, transcripts of Amy Lettick	1936-1942, undated
b. 2	Retirement from Benhaven	1989-1992
b. 2	Reviews, rejections (2 folders)	1973-1989
b. 2	Yale doctorate, University of New Haven	1973-1988
b. 3	Writings See also: <a href="#">box 6</a>	1931-1991
b. 4	Photographs	1920s-1990s, undated
b. 4	Individuals	

## Photographs (continued)

b. 4	Family/friends	
b. 4	Benhaven/professional	
b. 4	Wedding album	1945
b. 4	<i>Marsahl Journal: A Daily Record of Life in Milford, Connecticut 1787-1790</i> , transcription, commentary, and index by A. L. Lettick (4 folders) English	1992
b. 5	Index to personal file (box 2)	
b. 6	Index to writings (box 3)	
	Chronological card file of Amy L. Lettick, Benjamin Lettick, and Benhaven--Events/ activities:	
b. 7	1905-1971 August	1905-1971 August
b. 8	1971 September - 1974 January	1971 September - 1974 January
b. 9	1974 February - 1981	1974 February - 1981

**Accession 1999-M-061: Additional Material**

b.1	Family photographs	1937, 1997
	<i>Ways and Means [by A.L.L.]</i>	
b.1	Gen Bk [draft]	Circa 1991
b.1	GB [draft]	1990
b.1	1 [draft]	1991
b.1	4 [draft]	undated
b.1	Floppy disk	1998
b.1	Published version	1998
b.1	"Benhaven" [by A.L.L.] English	Circa 1979
b.1	"The Marshall Journal" [photocopy of an original journal, 1787-1790, from Milford, Connecticut, with transcription and commentary by A.L.L.]	1992
b.1	"The Chapter Incident" [notes by A.L.L.] English	undated
b.1	"Teaching Low-functioning Autistic and Neurologically Impaired Students" [by A.L.L.] English	post-1993
b.1	Non-Resident Family Training Program, Achievement Center for Children [notes and reports on Benjamin Lettick]	1962-1963
	Benhaven--reports on Ben's progress:	
b.1	1992-1997	1992-1997
b.2	1995-1998	1995-1998
b.2	Correspondence	1975-1995
b.2	"Ben's Journal" [by A.L.L.] English	post-1993

**Accession 1999-M-085: Additional Material**

b.1	Correspondence	1994, 1998
b.1	<i>Benhaven's Key People</i> English	1991
b.1	<i>Follow-up of Autistic Children in Connecticut</i> English	1979
b.1	Writings	1973, 1983, 1987
b.1	Writings about Amy Lettick and Benhaven	1974, 1979



**Accession 2007-M-033: Additional material, 1929-2006**

b. 1, f. 1	Appointment books	1994, 1997-2001, 2003-2005
	Benhaven reports [re: Ben Lettick]	
b. 1, f. 2 - 6	1994-2002	1994-2002
b. 2, f. 7 - 10	2003-2006	2003-2006
b. 2, f. 11	Biographical [re: Amy Lettick]	2005, undated
b. 2, f. 12	Clippings [re: Amy Lettick]	1992
b. 2, f. 13	Correspondence	1975, 1993-2003, undated
b. 2, f. 14	Correspondence [from Beatrice Drazen estate]	1950
b. 2, f. 15	Essays [from Beatrice Drazen estate]	undated
b. 2, f. 16	Photographs	2006
b. 2, f. 17	Photographs [from Beatrice Drazen estate]	1929, 1941, 1945, 1949-1950
b. 2, f. 18	Seahaven furnishings appraisal	1993
b. 3	Interview of Amy Lettick on the occasion of her 85th birthday [ <i>original compact disc; restricted</i> ] <i>1 Audio Disc (CD)</i>  Original audiovisual materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be played. Researchers must consult use copies, or if none exist must pay for a use copy, which is retained by the repository. Researchers wishing to obtain an additional copy for their personal use should consult Copying Services information on the Manuscripts and Archives web site.	2006 June 22

## **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.

### **Subjects**

Autism  
Autistic children  
Children with disabilities -- Education  
Children with mental disabilities -- Education

### **Names**

Lettick, Amy L.

### **Corporate Body**

Benhaven (School)