



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Major Mario de Bernardi Photographs

Melissa A. N. Keiser

2023

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway  
Chantilly, VA 20151  
Business Number: Phone: 703-572-4045  
NASMRefDesk@si.edu  
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Major Mario de Bernardi Photographs
<b>Date:</b>	(bulk 1926-1955) 2003
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.2018.0020.0005
<b>Extent:</b>	0.05 Cubic feet (1 folder; 7 photographs, 2 documents)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection consists of six black and white photographs of renowned Italian aviator Mario de Bernardi and one color photograph of his daughter Fiorenza de Bernardi, the first Italian woman commercial airline pilot. The collection also includes an informational document for each of the de Bernardis.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Fiorenza de Bernardi, gift, 2004; via Smithsonian Institution Libraries, transfer, 2018;  
NASM.2018.0020.0005

### Processing Information

Arranged and described by Patti Williams, 2018; scanned and encoded by Melissa A. N. Keiser, 2023.

### Preferred Citation

Major Mario de Bernardi Photographs, Acc. NASM.2018.0020.0005, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access

### Conditions Governing Use

Material is subject to Smithsonian Terms of Use. Should you wish to use NASM material in any medium, please submit an Application for Permission to Reproduce NASM Material, available at [Permissions Requests](#) .

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## Biographical / Historical

Mario de Bernardi, a renowned Italian aviator (1893-1959), received his wings in 1913 when serving with the Italian Army Service in the Baracca Squadron. De Bernardi was an experimental test pilot, aerobatic pilot, and racer, who won the Coupe d'Aviation Maritime Jacques Schneider (Jacques Schneider Maritime Aviation Cup) at Hampton

Roads, Virginia, in 1926 and the High Acrobatics Competition at the National Air Races in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1931. In 1940 he made test flights of the first Italian jet aircraft, the Caproni-Campini CC.2 (also known as the Camproni Campini N.1). He continued to fly until 1959 when he died following a heart attack suffered during an aerobatic flight.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of six black and white digital print photographs of Mario de Bernardi along with an information page on him. The collection also includes one color digital print photograph and a photocopy of an article on his daughter, Fiorenza de Bernardi, the first Italian woman commercial airline pilot and an advocate for women's aviation opportunities.

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## Arrangement

Materials are grouped by type; photographs are presented online in chronological order.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- Competitions
- Aeronautics, Commercial
- Aeronautics, Military
- Air pilots
- Airplanes
- Women air pilots

## Container Listing

### Photographs

9A20025: [de Bernardi, Mario; Events, 1926 Norfolk, Hampton Roads, VA, Coupe d'Aviation Maritime Jacques Schneider \(Jacques Schneider Maritime Aviation Cup\), November 13, 1926](#)

Notes: "Capt. Mario De Bernardi when he won the Schneider Cup with the Macchi 39 in Norfolk, 1926." Informal half-length portrait photograph of Captain Mario De Bernardi, at Hampton Roads (Norfolk), Virginia, during competitions for the 1926 Coupe d'Aviation Maritime Jacques Schneider (Jacques Schneider Maritime Aviation Cup); November 13, 1926.

9A20022: [de Bernardi, Mario; Caproni Ca.113; Events, 1931 Cleveland, National Air Races, August 29 to September 7, 1931](#)

Notes: "Capt. Mario De Bernardi in 1931 won the international aerobatic championship in Cleveland with the Caproni 113." One-quarter front left side view of Caproni Ca.113 on the ground; pilot Commander Mario De Bernardi poses standing beside nose of the aircraft; National Air Races, Cleveland, Ohio, August 29 to September 7, 1931.

9A20021: [de Bernardi, Mario; Caproni-Campini CC.2, circa 1940](#)

Notes: "Capt. Mario De Bernardi was the test pilot of the Italian jet Campini-Caproni, 1939-1940." Close-up one-half right front view from below of Mario De Bernardi in the cockpit of the Caproni-Campini CC.2 (a.k.a. Caproni Campini N.1) on the ground; two unidentified men stand on right wing root of the aircraft to speak with De Bernardi; circa 1940.

9A20024: [de Bernardi, Mario; Caproni-Campini CC.2, November 30, 1941](#)

Notes: "Capt. Mario De Bernardi flew from Milano to Roma carrying passenger Ing. Giovanni Pedace and airmail, first in the world, 30 Nov. 1941." Right side view of the second prototype Caproni-Campini CC.2 (a.k.a. Caproni Campini N.1), piloted by Mario De Bernardi, in flight from Milan to Rome, Italy; November 30, 1941.

9A20026: [de Bernardi, Mario; de Bernardi, Fiorenza, 1953](#)

Notes: "Capt. Mario De Bernardi and his daughter Fiorenza in 1953. She became the first airline women pilot in Italy 1967 and the first Captain 1969." Mario De Bernardi (left) leans in to speak with his daughter Fiorenza De Bernardi seated at the controls of a light aircraft, cockpit canopy open; 1953.

9A20023: [de Bernardi, Mario; Partenavia P53 Aeroscooter, 1955](#)

Notes: "Capt. Mario De Bernardi and his Aeroscooter, 1955." One-half right front view of Partenavia P53 MdB1 Aeroscooter (c/n 1, r/n I-REDI) on the ground; pilot Mario De Bernardi poses standing

beside right side of nose with his left hand on the engine; Italy, 1955.

9A20027: [de Bernardi, Fiorenza; Yakovlev Yak-40 Codling; Airlines, Aertirrena \(Italy\), circa 1970](#)

Notes: "Capt. Fiorenza De Bernardi with Yak 40." Close-up one-quarter rear right side view of the tail of Aertirrena Yakovlev Yak-40 Codling (r/n I-JAKA); pilot Fiorenza De Bernardi poses sitting on the center engine nacelle; circa 1970.

#### Documents

[Document, "Aquila Audiovisivi S.p.A. wishes to remember Mario de Bernardi", undated](#)

[Photocopy, Tomich, Patricia Leon \(Captain\). "Things of Interest: Who is Fiorenza de Bernardi?" International Society of Women Pilots, page 26, November 2003](#)