



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Mille Gade Corson Collection

NMAH.AC.0063

NMAH Staff

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Collection Overview

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|-------------------------|--|
| Repository: | Archives Center, National Museum of American History |
| Title: | Mille Gade Corson Collection |
| Identifier: | NMAH.AC.0063 |
| Date: | 1920-1930. |
| Extent: | 0.5 Cubic feet (2 boxes) |
| Creator: | Community Life, Div. of, NMAH, SI Stoyanoff, Esther Corson, Mille Gade , 1898- (swimmer) |
| Language: | Danish Some materials in Danish. |
| Digital Content: | Image(s): Mille Gade Corson Collection |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Esther Stoyanoff, October 25, 1981.

Ownership and Custodial History

Mrs. Corson gave this material to her friend, Esther Stoyanoff, who donated it to the Division of Community Life in 1981. The collection subsequently was transferred to the Archives Center in 1983.

Related Archival Materials

Artifacts from this accession located in Community Life collections, NMAH.

Processing Information

Collection processed by NMAH Staff, undated

Preferred Citation

Mille Gade Corson Collection, 1920-1930, Archives Center, National Museum of American History. Gift of Esther Stoyanoff.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical Note

Mille Gade was born in Denmark into the Gade family of noted musicians. At 16 she was awarded the Royal Life Saving Medal (only five in the world at that time) by the king. She also received recognition and a cash award from the Carnegie Foundation for her life-saving feats. She emigrated to the United States in 1919. In 1921 she became the second woman to swim around Manhattan Island and in the same year swam from Albany to New York City. On Sept. 21, 1921 she married Clemington Corson. Her first English Channel attempt was in August 1923, when she was forced to abandon the effort within two miles of the French coast. On Aug. 27 and 28, 1926, she swam the English Channel (France to England) in 15-3/4 hours, the first mother and only the second woman to conquer the Channel.

Scope and Contents

Three scrapbooks and two albums containing photographs of Corson; news clippings about the swim; a Certificate of Life Membership in the Danish American Athletic Club; a certificate from the American Red Cross; sheet music; a tribute to her which contains a picture of her and her children; programs with images of her; advertisements; and a Navy chart showing her route and time. Vaudeville appearances, product endorsements, and civic honors are depicted in photographs and playbills.

Arrangement

Arranged into two series

Series 1: Photographs, undated

Series 2: Scrapbooks, circa 1926

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

English Channel -- 1920-1930

Sports -- 1920-1930

Swimmers -- 1920-1930

Swimming -- 1920-1930

Vaudeville

Types of Materials:

Albums -- 1920-1930
Certificates -- 1920-1930
Clippings -- 1920-1930
Photographs -- 1900-1950
Playbills
Programs -- 1920-1930
Scrapbooks -- 20th century
Sheet music -- 1920-1930

Names:

Danish American Athletic Club.
Red Cross

Geographic Names:

Denmark -- Emigration and immigration -- 1920-1930

Container Listing

Series 1: Photographs, undated

Box 1, Folder 1 Family Photographs (includes Corson family members), undated
[Image\(s\)](#)

[Mille Gade Corson with her two children. black & white photoprint], Circa 1925

1 Item (10.0" x 8.0".)

[Image\(s\): \[Mille Gade Corson with her two children. black & white photoprint\].](#)

Corson, Mille Gade , 1898- (swimmer), Collector

All three are wearing swimming suits.

In Box 1, Folder 1.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.

Silver gelatin on paper.

Local Numbers

AC0063-0000001 (AC Scan)

Topic: Swimmers
 Swimming

Genre/ Black-and-white photographs
Form:

[Corson at kitchen table with her family, black & white photoprint], Circa 1926

1 Item (8.0" x 10.0".)

[Image\(s\): \[Corson at kitchen table with her family, black & white photoprint\].](#)

Corson, Mille Gade , 1898- (swimmer), Collector

Mille Gade Corson standing at the table mixing something in a bowl with husband and children seated at both ends.

In Box 1, Folder 1.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.

Silver gelatin on paper.

Local Numbers

AC0063-0000004 (AC Scan)

Topic: Family life
 Swimmers

Genre/ Black-and-white photographs
Form:

Box 1, Folder 2

Mille Gade Corson Photographs (swimming related), undated
[Image\(s\)](#)

Mrs. Corson going strong, [black & white photoprint], Circa 1926
1 Item (8.0" x 10.0").

[Image\(s\): Mrs. Corson going strong, \[black & white photoprint\].](#)

Corson, Mille Gade , 1898- (swimmer), Collector
Mille Gade Corson swimming.

In Box 1, Folder 2.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.

Silver gelatin on paper.

Local Numbers

AC0063-0000002 (AC Scan)

Topic: Swimmers
Swimming

Genre/ Black-and-white photographs
Form:

[Corson completing the English Channel swim with large crowd watching, black & white photoprint], Circa 1926
1 Item (8.0" x 10.0").

[Image\(s\): \[Corson completing the English Channel swim with large crowd watching, black & white photoprint\].](#)

Corson, Mille Gade , 1898- (swimmer), Collector
Mille Gade Corson swimming.

In Box 1, Folder 2.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.

Silver gelatin on paper.

Local Numbers

AC0063-0000003 (AC Scan)

Topic: Swimmers
Swimming

Genre/ Black-and-white photographs
Form:

Box 1, Folder 3

Mille Gade Corson Photograph Album (English Channel Swim), circa 1926

Box 1, Folder 4

Mille Gade Corson Photograph Album (English Channel Swim), circa 1926

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Series 2: Scrapbooks, 1921-1927

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Box 2, Folder 1 | Miscellaneous loose materials, undated |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Mille Gade Corson Swimming Scrapbook, 1921 |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Mille Gade Corson Swimming Scrapbook, 1926 |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Mille Gade Corson Swimming Scrapbook, 1927 , 1927 |

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