Guide to the Mille Gade Corson Collection

NMAH.AC.0063

NMAH Staff
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Collection Overview

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)

[Box 1, Folder 1] [Mille Gade Corson with her two children. black & white photoprint], Circa 1925
1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.; 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.

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

Local Numbers
AC0063-0000001 (AC Scan)

Topic:  Swimmers
Swimming

Genre/  Black-and-white photographs
Form:

Box 1, Folder 1  [Corson at kitchen table with her family, black & white photoprint], Circa 1926
1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.; 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.

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

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)

Box 1, Folder 2  Mrs. Corson going strong, [black & white photoprint], Circa 1926
1 Item *(Silver gelatin on paper.; 8.0" x 10.0").*

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

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

Mille Gade Corson swimming.

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

Local Numbers

AC0063-0000002 (AC Scan)

Topic:  
Swimmers
Swimming

Genre/Form:  
Black-and-white photographs

Box 1, Folder 2

[Corson completing the English Channel swim with large crowd watching, black & white photoprint], Circa 1926

1 Item *(Silver gelatin on paper.; 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.

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

Local Numbers

AC0063-0000003 (AC Scan)

Topic:  
Swimmers
Swimming

Genre/Form:  
Black-and-white photographs

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

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