

Archives & Manuscript Collections  
National Sporting Library  
Middleburg, VA

**Lida Fleitmann Bloodgood  
Papers  
c1906-1982**

Name: **Bloodgood, Lida Fleitmann (1894-1982)** MC 0002

Materials: Papers

Dates: c1906-1982 (bulk dates c1930-1982)

Volume: 5.5 cubic feet (Document boxes 1-11)

Donation: Gift of Lida Bloodgood, 1968 and 1982

Usage: Unless otherwise noted by NSL staff, this collection is open for research without restrictions.

**Biographical Note**

Lida Fleitmann Bloodgood (1894-1982) was a renowned horsewoman in both America and Europe. In addition to being an exponent of the side-saddle, she was a show-ring rider, member of the New York Ladies' Four-in-Hand Club, MFH of the Smithtown Hunt on Long Island. She also served as a judge of hunter, jumper, and show classes in the U.S. and in England between the wars. The author of several books on horses and art, she was a frequent contributor to *The Chronicle of the Horse* and other well-known sporting periodicals of the English-speaking world. She spent many years residing in Rome, Italy.

A significant part of the collection consists of material originally belonging or directly relating to Major Piero Santini (1881-1960). Son of an Italian father and an American mother, Santini was an Italian cavalry officer and student of Federico Caprilli (d1907), the developer of the "Forward Seat" riding style. After a hunting accident in 1930 left him unable to ride, Santini devoted himself to instructing horsemen everywhere on the benefits of the "Forward Seat". Caprilli had left very few notes on his new system, and it wasn't until Santini published *Riding Reflections* (1932) and *The Forward Impulse* (1936) that the English-speaking world was able to study first-hand the doctrines laid out by Caprilli and expanded upon by Santini. He later published *The Riding Instructor* (1952) to further clarify the principles of the style. With Santini's teachings the "Forward Seat" had a profound influence on modern horsemanship and forms the basis of jumping today. Santini was also a lifelong opponent of inhumane gadgets commonly used to train or control horses. Largely

due to his work, the use of many of these devices declined significantly or was discontinued altogether.

Bloodgood and Santini were close friends and collaborated on *The Horseman's Dictionary*, published in 1963, three years after Santini's death.

### Collection Description

The material in the Bloodgood Collection spans from c1906 to 1982, the bulk of it being from c1930-1982. The collection is divided into three series, based on distinct activities which produced the material. These series represent the groupings of files created by Bloodgood, unless otherwise noted. A creator-generated file list exists for each series.

The first and largest of the three series, Equine Art Research Materials, consists of Bloodgood's collection of equine art clippings, photographs, and reproductions. She apparently began collecting this material while researching her book *The Horse in Art* (1931). However, many of the clippings and the artwork reproduced are dated post-1931, leading to the conclusion that she continued to add to the collection after the book's publication. There is a great deal of material here that students of equine art history might find useful. The artwork represented is in various media, dates from prehistoric times to the 1970s, and comes from a great variety of cultures and regions. This series is arranged into subseries which preserve the original order and categorization of the material imposed by Bloodgood. The subseries are generally arranged either by geographic region or in some instances by medium. An alphabetical index for the entire series has been created by Bloodgood and is housed before the rest of the materials; in addition, indexes for each subseries are located in the first folder of each subseries, along with the cover of the original portfolio in which Bloodgood kept the materials.

The short second series, Personal Correspondence and Clippings, contains a few folders of correspondence, mostly between Bloodgood and Harry T. Peters. A few letters to the editor are also included in the series. The materials in this series are divided into Clippings and Personal Correspondence and then are arranged chronologically thereafter.

The third series is the Piero Santini Papers. This series, which consists of writings and correspondence of Bloodgood's friend Santini, is arranged into five subseries: "Caprilli Papers," Articles and Other Writings, Photos, Personal Correspondence, and Scrapbooks. More detailed descriptions of these subseries can be found in the Series and Subseries listing.

### Series and Subseries

- |           |  |                |
|-----------|--|----------------|
| <b>I.</b> | <b>Equine Art Research Material, c1926-c1970</b>   | <b>9 boxes</b> |
| A.        | General<br>Includes and alphabetical listing of artists, etc. found within the research materials.   | 2 folders      |
| B.        | Prehistoric Art, c1930<br>[Arranged by subject (culture producing the art)]<br>Photographs, clippings, post cards, pen & ink drawings depicting cave drawings, sculpture, tapestries, and bas-reliefs. From Archaic, Assyrian, Egyptian, and "Red Indian" cultures.  | 1 folder       |
| C.        | "Oriental" Art, c1930<br>[Arranged by subject (culture, medium)]<br>Photographs and clippings depicting paintings, pottery, and sculpture. From Asian, Arab, Turkish, and Armenian cultures, prehistory to 19th century.   | 6 folders      |
| D.        | Greek and Roman Art, c1926-c1930<br>[Arranged by subject (culture, medium)]<br>Photographs, clippings, cards, pen & ink drawings depicting sculpture, pottery, coins, and mosaics (including original pen & ink drawings by Ned King used in <i>The Horse in Art.</i> )<br>From Greek, Roman, and Etruscan cultures, prehistory to 3rd century A.D.  | 5 folders      |
| E.        | Tapestry, Porcelain, Pottery, etc.<br>[Arranged by culture producing the art]<br>Photographs, clippings, and post cards depicting sculptures, embroidery on textile, pottery, etc. From Italian, Flemish, French, English, and American cultures.  | 6 folders      |
| F.        | Italian Art, c1930, 1961<br>[Arranged by artist, subject, and medium]<br>Photographs, clippings, and cards depicting Italian painting, 13th-19th centuries, and sculpture, bas-relief, and statues, 12th-20th centuries.   | 18 folders     |
| G.        | Flemish, Dutch, and Danish Art, c1930<br>[Arranged by artist]<br>Photographs and clippings depicted Flemish, Dutch, and Danish painting and sculpture, 15th-20th centuries.  | 11 folders     |
| H.        | Germanic and Eastern European Art, c1930<br>[Arranged by country and then artist]<br>Photographs, clippings, and cards depicting German woodcuts, engravings, paintings, and armor, c14th-20th centuries. Also Photographs and clippings depicting Austrian, Albanian, Polish, Czech, Hungarian, and Russian painting and sculpture, 19th-20th centuries. Also includes a typescript of an article about Polish artists Julius and Adalbert Kossack, written by Bloodgood. | 9 folders      |
| I.        | Spanish Art, c1930<br>[Arranged by artist]<br>Photographs, clippings, and cards depicting Spanish painting and sculpture, 16th-20th centuries.   | 5 folders      |

**Series and Subseries (cont.)**

**I. Equine Art Research Material, c1926-c1970 (cont.)**

- J. French Art, c1930 23 folders  
 [Arranged by artist, subject, and period]  
 Photographs, clippings, and cards depicting French painting, woodcut, and sculpture, c15th-20th centuries.
- K. English Art, c1930-c1970 29 folders  
 [Arranged by artist, subject, medium, and period]  
 Photographs, clippings, and cards depicting English painting and sculpture, 18th-20th centuries.
- L. American Art, c1930-c1970 18 folders  
 [Arranged by artist, subject, and period]  
 Photographs, clippings, and original drawings depicting American painting, and drawing, 17th-20th centuries.

**II. Personal Correspondence and Clippings, 1971-1982 1 box**

- A. Clippings and Related Correspondence, 1971-1982 1 folder  
 [Arranged chronologically]  
 Copies of letters to the editor and articles written by Bloodgood; letter concerning Bloodgood's daughter, the Princess Radziwill; copy of Bloodgood's obituary.
- B. Personal Correspondence, 1971-1979 3 folders  
 [Arranged chronologically]  
 Letters written by Bloodgood to Harry T. Peters. Descriptions of letters can be found in each folder.

**III. Piero Santini Papers, c1906-1962 2 boxes**

- A. "Caprilli Papers," c1906-1962 2 folders  
 Correspondence between Bloodgood and Alexander Mackay-Smith, editor of *The Chronicle of the Horse*, concerning "The Caprilli Papers," a series of articles written by Federico Caprilli, translated and edited by Piero Santini, and published in the Australian magazine *Hoofs and Horns*, 1953-1954. Contains copies of these articles from *Hoofs and Horns*. Also included are over fifty photographs (c1906-c1930) of Caprilli and several Italian and other cavalry officers at Tor di Quinto, an Italian cavalry school, demonstrating both pre-forward seat and forward seat jumping and riding styles.
- B. Articles and Other Writings, 1935-1969 5 folders
1. Typescripts and Illustrations, 1940 1 folder  
 Typescripts of articles and lectures on equitation written by Santini, with handwritten corrections and remarks. Also includes several hand-drawn illustrations used in the published articles.
  2. Equitation Articles and Illustrations, 1935-1954 2 folders  
 Copies of published articles on equitation written by Santini. Also two pen & ink drawings. Bloodgood collected these "with the idea that they might make a posthumous book." The articles are from several magazines: *The Chronicle of the Horse*, *Riding*, *Horse*, *Polo*, and *Country Life*.

**Series and Subseries (cont.)**

**III. Piero Santini Papers, c1906-1962 (cont.)**

3. Articles - Other Equestrian Topics, 1939-1959      1 folder  
Copies of published articles on racing and horse shows by Santini from *The Chronicle* and *The Blood-Horse*.
  4. Articles - Roman Races, 1939-1969      2 folders  
Articles, typescripts, and illustrations by Santini on Roman races and carnival activities.
  5. Published Letters to the Editor and Book Reviews of Santini's books, 1951-1955      1 folder  
Items collected by Bloodgood from various publications, including *The Chronicle*, *Light Horse*, *Hoofs and Horns*, and *The Field*.
- C. Photos, 1947, n.d.      1 folder  
Several photographic facsimiles of Italian racing, race programs and race courses from the 19th and early 20th centuries. Includes a facsimile map of the Maryland Hunt Cup course in 1931.
- D. Personal Correspondence, 1934-1957      6 folders
1. Lord Cholmondeley, 1937-1957      1 folder
  2. Collette Devèze, 1939-1940, 1946      1 folder  
Includes riding advice. Santini apparently developed a close friendship with Devèze; she asks for his help during the early days of the German occupation of France.
  3. C. Miss R.E. Everard, 1937-1938      1 folder
- D. Personal Correspondence, 1934-1957 (cont.)
4. Mixed, 1934-1952      3 folders  
Essentially fan mail from horsemen and horsewomen around the world seeking advice and assistance. Copies of many of Santini's responses are included.
- E. Scrapbooks      (3)
1. "Riding Reflections," 1932-1934  
Contains photos of Santini, clippings and reviews re: *Riding Reflections* (1932), and letters re: the book and Santini's other works.
  2. Personal scrapbook, c1911-1976  
Begun by Santini himself and completed by Bloodgood after his death in 1960. Includes personal memorabilia, such as several photos of Santini during WWI and after, his military ID card, interior photos of his house in Italy, a photo of his father, and photos of his tomb. Also, clippings concerning his books, his obituary from *The Chronicle* - written by Bloodgood, and autographed photos of many famous horsemen of Santini's day.
  3. "Rome Fox-Hounds, 1844-1876"  
Several reproductions of artwork depicting the Rome Fox-Hounds. Also photos of apparently the Rome Fox-Hounds and the Rome Point-to-Point c1920-c1930, including at least one showing Santini. On the cover of the scrapbook is a reproduction of an illustration of the Chesterfield Hunt Races at Rome, 1844.

**Container List**  
**MC 0002**

**I. Equine Art Research Material**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1-2	General	c1930
1	3	Prehistoric Art	c1930
1	4-9	"Oriental" Art	c1930
1	10-14	Greek and Roman Art	c1926-c1930
1	15-18	Tapestry, Porcelain, Pottery, etc.	c1930
2	1-2	Tapestry, Porcelain, Pottery, etc.	c1930
2	3-12	Italian Art	c1930
3	1-8	Italian Art	c1930-c1961
3	9-19	Flemish, Dutch, and Danish Art	c1930
4	1-9	Germanic and Eastern European Art	c1930
4	10-14	Spanish Art	c1930
4	15-22	French Art	c1930
5	1-15	French Art	c1930
5	16-19	English Art	c1930
6	1-10	English Art	c1930
7	1-12	English Art	c1930
8	1-3	English Art	c1930
8	4-10	American Art	c1930
9	1-11	American Art	c1930

**II. Personal Correspondence and Clippings**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
10	1-4	Personal Correspondence and Clippings	1971-1982

**III. Piero Santini Papers**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
10	5-6	"Caprilli Papers"	c1906-1962
10	7-13	Articles and Other Writings	1935-1969
10	14	Photos	1947, n.d.
10	15-17	Personal Correspondence	1934-1957
11	1-3	Personal Correspondence	1934-1957
11	--	Scrapbooks	c1911-1976

This collection was processed by Robert Weber, 2002.