

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Jennifer Haas**

**jhaas@bloodhorse.com; 859-276-6879**

***BEST OF THE WIDENER COLLECTION OPENS DOOR  
TO RACING'S GOLDEN ERA***

**Lexington, KY** – September 1, 2008 – Eclipse Press is proud to announce the release of *Best of the Widener Collection*, a showcase of never-before-published photography, featuring rare and historic photographs from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the advent of World War I.

*Best of the Widener Collection* features more than 200 “best-of” photos selected from the more than 1,000 in the collection. One of the sport’s first great racetrack photographers, John C. Hemment, produced the core of the collection. His subjects ranged from the great African-American jockey Isaac Murphy to racing stars Colin and Domino to celebrities such as Lillian Russell and Diamond Jim Brady.

Joseph E. Widener, an internationally known financier, Thoroughbred sportsman, and philanthropist, bequeathed the photo collection to *The Blood-Horse*. Cathy Schenck, head librarian at the Keeneland Library, wrote the foreword.

**Praise for *Best of the Widener Collection*:**

“The photographs are beautiful and really capture the essence of horse racing during the time period, particularly what life was like on the backstretch.” – Beth Sheffer, curator of collections, National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame.

“The photography in this collection is both a haunting and evocative representation of American racing in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Equine greats such as Domino and Beldame, along with owners and breeders like August Belmont and James R. Keene, are pictured in this book. Virtually every cultural and historical aspect of thoroughbred racing is on display in this publication ...” – Michael Veitch, *Saratogian*

ISBN-13: 978-1-58150-194-0

Pages: 204; Size: 8.75” x 8”

Retail price: \$24.95 Hard Cover, Jacketed

Available at your local bookstore or from Exclusively Equine

1-800-582-5604 ([www.ExclusivelyEquine.com](http://www.ExclusivelyEquine.com))

Distributed to the trade by Ingram Publisher Services Inc.

1-866-400-5351

-30-

Eclipse Press is the award-winning book publishing division of Blood-Horse Publications, publishers of *The Blood-Horse*; *The Horse*; *TBH MarketWatch*; *Keeneland*

magazine; the official *Kentucky Derby* and *Breeders' Cup* souvenir magazines; and equine-related books, DVDs, and annual references. Blood-Horse Publications also operates a family of popular websites including BloodHorse.com, TheHorse.com, EclipsePress.com, and Keenelandmagazine.com. In addition, Blood-Horse Publications operates Exclusively Equine ([www.ExclusivelyEquine.com](http://www.ExclusivelyEquine.com)), the Official Store of Blood-Horse Publications. *The Blood-Horse*, *The Horse*, *Eclipse Press*, *Exclusively Equine*, and *TBH MarketWatch* are registered trademarks of Blood-Horse Publications.