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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Clotilde Arias Papers
Identifier: NMAH.AC.1164
Date: 1919-1957
Extent: 3 Cubic feet (8 boxes)
Creator: Arias, Roger
United States. Dept. of State
Arias, Clotilde, 1901-1959
Thompson, J. Walter (advertising agency).
Language: Collection is in English. Some materials in Spanish.

Summary: This collection documents the life and career of Peruvian musician, composer, and translator Clotilde Arias. Her work includes a Department of State-commissioned translation of "The Star-Spangled Banner" titled "El Pendón Estrellado", advertising jingles, original compositions, and translations of music originally written in English. She also was heavily involved in numerous Pan-American organizations including La Unión de Mujeres Americanas/United American Women. This collection contains correspondence, music manuscripts, photographs, newspaper clippings and printed materials, and four compact discs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Processing Information
Collection processed by Sarah Corona, intern, August 2019.

Preferred Citation

Restrictions on Access
Collection is open for research.
Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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 / Historical

Clotilde Arias was a Peruvian-born musician, composer, and translator who lived in New York City following her migration from Iquitos, Peru, to the United States in the 1920s. Her full name was Maria Clotilde Arias and she briefly took her husband Jose Anduaga's last name during their marriage from 1929 to 1942 but was known most often as Clotilde Arias. With Jose Anduaga, Arias had one son, Roger Arias. While she is known for her Department of State-commissioned translation of "The Star-Spangled Banner" titled "El Pendón Estrellado," Arias worked diligently as a translator and musician in a variety of contexts as well as working with a variety of organizations that promoted Pan-Americanism. Prior to her life in the United States, Arias worked for the Iquitos newspaper *El Oriente* writing satirical pieces related to local issues. Arias died in 1959 in New York City.

Scope and Contents

The collection documents the life and career of Clotilde Arias, who was chosen by the U.S. State Department to write a Spanish translation to "The Star Spangled Banner," during the years of the Good Neighbor Policy. In addition to materials related to her translation of the National Anthem, entitled "El Pendón Estrellado," the collection includes music manuscripts, lyrics, composition notebooks, parts for instruments, and correspondence with the State Department. This collection also contains papers related to Arias's work in advertising, her work as a translator, and her own business records. Personal papers include correspondence, immigration and naturalization documents, printed material, and photographs as well as items from a scrapbook. Also included are compact discs containing images from items in the collection.

Arrangement

This collection is composed of six series.

Series 1: Personal Papers, 1923-1956
Series 6. Photographs and Scrapbook, 1939-1957
Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Advertising agencies
- Commercial art
- Good neighbor policy
- Jingles (Advertising songs)
- Jingles (Advertising songs) -- Writing and publishing
- Minorities in advertising
- Music by women composers
- Music in advertising
- National songs
- Naturalization records
- Pan-Americanism
- Translations
- Translators
- Women -- Peru
- Women composers
- Women composers -- United States
- Women in the advertising industry
- Women musicians
- Women musicians -- 1930-1950
- Women translators
  advertising

Types of Materials:
- Commercial art
- Compact discs
- Contracts
- Correspondence -- 20th century
- Immigration records
- Music -- Manuscripts
- Parts (musical)
- Photographs -- 20th century
- Scrapbooks -- 20th century
- Sheet music -- 1920-1960
- Songbooks

Occupations:
- Composers

Preferred Titles:
- *Star-spangled banner* (Song)
Series 1: Personal Papers, 1923-1956

This series contains materials related to Arias's personal life including documents relating to travel and migration, her divorce, and activities associated with her work as a translator. This series is composed of correspondence, personal records, and handwritten notes.

- **Box 6, Folder 1** Biographical materials, 1940-1945
- **Box 6, Folder 2** Identity and migration documents, 1923-1956
  Image(s)
- **Box 6, Folder 3** Divorce paperwork, 1942
- **Box 6, Folder 4** Petition for name change, 1947
  Image(s)
- **Box 6, Folder 5** Jose Anduaga Eguren papers, 1953
- **Box 6, Folder 6** Essay on Baha'i faith, undated
  Image(s)
- **Box 6, Folder 7** United Nations translator examination, 1949
- **Box 6, Folder 8** Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, 1941-1942
- **Box 6, Folder 9** Correspondence, 1947-1953
  Image(s)
- **Box 6, Folder 10** Handwritten notes, undated
  Image(s)
- **Box 6, Folder 11** Drawing book, undated
  Image(s)
- **Box 6, Folder 12** Arbrefen correspondence, 1947-1951

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Series 2: Music Materials, 1921-1953

This series is composed of papers that reflect Clotilde Arias's musical career including translations, original compositions, jingles for various products, and lyrics that accompany her music. This series contains numerous handwritten drafts and pieces of music as well as published pieces of music. Also included are Arias's business records relating to copyright for her original music as well as her work at a variety of advertising agencies throughout New York City.

This series is composed of 5 subseries.

Subseries 2.1: Commercial Compositions, 1952-1955

Subseries 2.2: Published Music Manuscripts, 1926-1947

Subseries 2.3: Early Manuscripts, 1921-1956

Subseries 2.4: Lyrics, 1945-1953

Subseries 2.5: Business Materials, 1940-1952

Subseries 2.1: Commercial Compositions, 1952-1955

Box 2, Folder 1 Commercial manuscripts, 1954-1955
Image(s)
Spanish; Castilian.

Box 6, Folder 13 Advertisements, 1952
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 2 Alka-Seltzer commercial storyboard, undated
Image(s)

Subseries 2.2: Published Music Manuscripts, 1926-1947

Box 2, Folder 2 Published music manuscripts A-C, 1926-1945
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 3 Published music manuscripts E-H, 1942-1946
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 4 Published music manuscripts M-P, 1945-1947
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 5 Published music manuscripts R, 1944-1945

Box 2, Folder 6 Published music manuscripts S, 1943-1953

Box 2, Folder 7 Published music manuscripts T-Z, 1945-1949
Subseries 2.3: Early Manuscripts, 1921-1956

Box 2, Folder 8  Latin American Catalog, undated

Subseries 2.4: Lyrics, 1945-1953

Box 2, Folder 9  Early manuscripts untitled, 1921-1939

Box 3, Folder 1  Early manuscripts A-F, 1921-1935

Box 3, Folder 2  Early manuscripts G-I, 1931-1940

Box 3, Folder 3  Early manuscripts J-L, undated

Box 3, Folder 4  Early manuscripts M-P, 1934-1946

Box 3, Folder 5  Early manuscripts R-S, 1921-1938

Box 3, Folder 6  Early manuscripts T-V, 1936-1938

Box 3, Folder 7  Early manuscripts W-Y, 1930-1938

Box 3, Folder 8  "Come to Me", 1925-1926

Box 3, Folder 9  "Huiracocha", 1952

Box 3, Folder 10  "Vem Cá Minina", 1939

Box 6, Folder 14  Counterpoint book, 1926

Box 6, Folder 15  Untitled notebook, undated

Box 6, Folder 16  Song book, 1924-1925

Box 6, Folder 17  Lyrics untitled, undated

Box 6, Folder 18  Lyrics A-C, 1945-1948

Box 6, Folder 19  Lyrics D-G, 1946
Subseries 2.5: Business Materials, 1940-1952
This subseries contains correspondence, publicity materials, and documents relating to Arias's career as a lyricist and composer as well as her work with advertising agencies in New York City.

- Box 4, Folder 1: Manuscripts by other musicians, undated
- Box 6, Folder 23: General business correspondence, 1941-1956
- Box 6, Folder 24: J. Walter Thompson papers, 1951-1952
- Box 6, Folder 25: Interviews and radio programs, 1940-1952
- Box 7, Folder 1: Copyright papers, 1944-1945
- Box 7, Folder 2: Newspaper clippings, undated
- Box 7, Folder 3: Advertising Women of New York directory, 1951-1952
- Box 7, Folder 4: Finance notebook, 1946-1947
- Box 8, Folder 1: "Huiracocha" contract, 1941

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This series reflects Arias's experiences preparing for and writing "El Pendón Estrellado." Included are drafts of the music and lyrics as well as publications of the final version. Materials in this series also document the use of "El Pendón Estrellado" and Arias's knowledge of Portuguese to aid in the creation of a Portuguese version of "The Star-Spangled Banner" entitled "O Pendão Estralado". This series is comprised of newspaper clippings, printed materials, handwritten notes, correspondence, and four compact discs. The compact discs were created by Arias's son, Roger Arias, and contain images of items in the collection and other items related to Clotilde's life, links to websites relating to Clotilde's music, and brief descriptions of some of the included images written by Roger.

Box 4, Folder 2
National Anthems of the Twenty-One American Republics, undated

Box 4, Folder 3
Portuguese Versions, undated

Box 7, Folder 5
Correspondence, 1945-1947
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 6
Banner drafts, 1945
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 7
Final draft, 1945-1952

Box 7, Folder 8
Newspaper clippings, 1954
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 9
"Star-Spangled Banner" post card, 1925
Image(s): Star-Spangled Banner post card

Box 7, Folder 10
"O Pendão Estrelado", 1945

Box 7, Folder 11
Portuguese translation correspondence, 1945

Box 7, Folder 12
Other Spanish translations, 1919-1944

Box 7, Folder 13
National Anthem and Other Documents Disk 1, September 2009
1 electronic_discs_cd

Box 7, Folder 14
National Anthem and Other Documents Disk 2, September 2009
1 electronic_discs_cd

Box 7, Folder 15
National Anthem and Other Documents Disk 1, October 2009
1 electronic_discs_cd

Box 7, Folder 16
National Anthem and Other Documents Disk 2, October 2009
1 electronic_discs_cd
Series 4: "Himno de las Américas"/"Hymn of the Americas", 1939-1945

This series reflects Arias's experiences with writing and promoting her song "Himno de las Américas" or "Hymn of the Americas" which was originally composed for the 1939 World's Fair. Materials include correspondence relating to the adoption of the piece as the official hymn or song of various organizations including La Union de Mujeres Americanas/United American Women. Also included are newspaper clippings and drafts of manuscripts.

Box 4, Folder 4  "Himno de las Américas" manuscripts, 1940
   Image(s): Himno de las Américas manuscripts

Box 4, Folder 9  "Himno de las Américas" plate 1, 1940

Box 4, Folder 10  "Himno de las Américas" plate 2, 1940

Box 7, Folder 17  Adoption letters, 1939-1940

Box 7, Folder 18  General correspondence, 1940-1945
   Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 19  Handwritten notes, undated

Box 7, Folder 20  Lyrics, undated

Box 7, Folder 21  Newspaper clippings, 1940

Box 7, Folder 22  Union de Mujeres Americanas program, 1941
   Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 3  "Himno de las Américas" cover draft, 1939

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Series 5: Miscellaneous Printed Materials, 1942-1956

This series consists of a variety of printed materials that reflect Arias's interests and career. Materials include magazines, pamphlets, and newspaper clippings.

Box 4, Folder 5  Caretas, 1956

Box 4, Folder 6  Movie-Radio Guide, 1942

Box 4, Folder 7  Look Magazine, 1946

Box 4, Folder 8  Envelopes from music corporations, 1956

Box 7, Folder 23  Newspaper clippings, 1956

Box 7, Folder 24  Materials related to Latin American folklore, undated

Box 7, Folder 25  Psychology Associates booklets, undated

Box 7, Folder 26  Printed materials about Peru, 1956

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Series 6: Photographs and Scrapbook, 1939-1957

This series contains a scrapbook documenting Arias's achievements and activities during the years 1939-1957. Contents relate to the activities of La Unión de Mujeres Americanas/United American Women, with which Arias was heavily involved. Contains photographs, newspaper clippings, and printed material related to performances of her music.

Box 5, Folder 1  Loose materials from scrapbook, 1941-1952
Image(s): Loose Materials from scrapbook

Box 5, Folder 2  Photographs, undated
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 3  Scrapbook pages, 1939-1946
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 4  Scrapbook cover, undated

Box 1  Photo album, 1949-1957
Image(s)

Contains photographs of Arias and her family including photos of her son Roger Arias that document her travels across the United States as well as of her family in Iquitos, Peru. This album also includes numerous portraits of Arias and photos of La Unión de Mujeres Americanas/United American Women events.

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