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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, 2009
Extent: 3 Cubic feet (8 boxes)
Creator: Arias, Roger
United States. Dept. of State
Arias, Clotilde, 1901-1959
Thompson, J. Walter (advertising agency).
Language: 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
- Composers
- 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

Preferred Titles:
- *Star-spangled banner (Song)*
### Container Listing

**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.

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

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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)
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
Box 2, Folder 8  Latin American Catalog, undated
Image(s)

Subseries 2.3: Early Manuscripts, 1921-1956
| 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 |

**Subseries 2.4: Lyrics, 1945-1953**

| Box 6, Folder 17 | Lyrics untitled, undated |
| Box 6, Folder 18 | Lyrics A-C, 1945-1948 |
| Box 6, Folder 19 | Lyrics D-G, 1946 |
| Box 6, Folder 20 | Lyrics H-M, 1946-1953 |
| Box 6, Folder 21 | Lyrics N-Y, 1944-1946 |
| Box 6, Folder 22 | "Sing a Song of Safety" lyrics, undated |

**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 |
| | Image(s) |
| Box 7, Folder 2 | Newspaper clippings, undated |
| Box 7, Folder 3 | Advertising Women of New York directory, 1951-1952 |
| | Image(s) |
| 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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