



The New York Public Library  
Music Division

Guide to the

**Correspondence between Maria Callas and Dorle Soria**

1950-1982

JPB 09-2

## Summary

**Creator:** Callas, Maria, 1923-1977

**Title:** Correspondence between Maria Callas and Dorle Soria

**Date:** 1950-1982

**Size:** 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

**Abstract:** Correspondence between Maria Callas and Dorle Soria consists of the personal and business correspondence of Angel Records co-founder Dorle Soria and soprano Maria Callas, as well as letters written by Dario Soria, John Coveney, Henry Sell, and others regarding Callas's career, especially her affiliation with Angel Records. A small collection of the Sorias' mementos and handwritten memoirs of Callas is included, as is a collection of press materials, mainly photographs of Callas.

**Conditions Governing Use:** For permission to publish, contact the Chief, Music Division, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Preferred citation:** Correspondence between Maria Callas and Dorle Soria, JPB 09-2. Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Language of the Material:** English English

### Related Materials:

*Dorle Soria papers, 1930-1991*, JPB 13-16, Music Division, New York Public Library

*Cetra-Soria collection, 1946-1954*, JPB 88-1, Music Division, New York Public Library

## Creator History

Maria Callas (December 2, 1923 – September 16, 1977) was an American-born Greek soprano. She was one of the most renowned and influential opera singers of the 20th century.

Dorle Jarmel (born December 14, 1900) worked for Arthur Judson as the press representative of the New York Philharmonic from around 1926. Among her responsibilities was the publicity of Toscanini's European tour with the Philharmonic in 1930. She married Dario Soria on July 26, 1942. It was her second marriage. In the 1950s Dorle Soria was head of press, promotion and advertising for Angel Records, which was known not just for its full-length recordings of operas but also for its elaborate packaging, which included complete libretti and photographs. In the 1960s Dorle wrote a weekly column that was published in Carnegie Hall programs; she also wrote for High Fidelity, Opera News, and Musical America, where her monthly column was called "Artist Life." Dorle Soria died July 7, 2002, at age 101.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Letters (correspondence)  
Promotional materials

### **Names**

Callas, Maria, 1923-1977  
Soria, Dorle  
Cetra-Soria Series

## Container List

### Correspondence 1952-1975

- b. 1 f. 1     **1952-1954**  
4 letters, 2 cablegrams. Includes correspondence from Dario Soria, R. Degoy and John Lee.
- b. 1 f. 2     **1955**  
4 letters, 1 cablegram. From Maria Callas, Dario Soria and John Lee.
- b. 1 f. 3     **1956**  
7 letters, 1 cablegram. Includes correspondence from Dorle Soria, Dario Soria, Henry Sell Paul Hume, and Maria Callas.
- b. 1 f. 4     **January-April 1957**  
6 letters, 1 cablegram. From Dorle Soria, Lawrence V. Kelly, Mary Ellis, Francis Robinson, Walter Legge, and Henry Sell.
- b. 1 f. 5     **July-December 1957**  
8 letters, 2 cablegrams, 1 postcard. From Henry Sell, Dario Soria, Dorle Soria, Maria Callas, and John A. Aaron (CBS).
- b. 1 f. 6     **1958-1959**  
6 letters, 2 cablegrams. From Giovanni Battista Meneghini, Dorle Soria, Dorio Soria, and Maria Callas.
- b. 1 f. 7     **1960-1961**  
5 letters, 1 Christmas card. From Maria Callas and Dorle Soria.
- b. 1 f. 8     **1962-1964**  
7 letters, 3 telegrams/cablegrams. From Emmaline J. Duncan (draft Jan 11, 1962), Dorle Soria, Dario Soria, Maria Callas, Teresa D'Addato (secretary to Callas), S.A. Gorlinsky (manager to Callas).
- b. 1 f. 9     **1968-1969**  
5 letters. From John Coveney, Arthur Germond, Maria Callas.
- b. 1 f. 10    **1972-1973, 1975**  
8 letters, 1 clipping, 1 postcard. From John Coveney, Maria Callas, Dario Soria, and Henry Wisneski.
- b. 1 f. 11    **Christmas cards [undated]**  
4 Christmas cards. From Maria Callas.

### Mementos 1955-1982

- b. 1 f. 12    **Sponge cake recipe 1955**
- b. 1 f. 13    **Notes and memos 1959-1969, undated (9 items)**
- b. 1 f. 14    *Soria, Dario*  
**Memoir of Callas [between September 1975 and 1979?] (6 pages)**  
*Soria, Dario*
- b. 1 f. 15    **Miscellaneous papers 1978, 1982, undated**  
includes typed excerpts of letters in Series I, correspondence with E.J. Duncan regarding donation of Callas materials

### Press Materials 1950-1974

- b. 1 f. 16    **Clippings 1950-1959, undated (10 items)**  
Various clippings from U.S., British and Italian periodicals
- b. 1 f. 17    **Press releases 1956-1957**  
2 press releases

### Photographs 1954-1974

- b. 1 f. 18    **Life magazine 1954 (2 photographs)**

Photographs (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 19     **1955, 1968** (7 photographs)  
Separated from correspondence in folders 2 and 9
- b. 1 f. 20     **Ischia, Italy Summer 1956** (14 photographs)
- b. 1 f. 21     **Color transparencies 1957** (4 color transparencies)  
Separated from folder 5
- b. 1 f. 22     **Callas in Athens 1957** (18 photographs)
- b. 1 f. 23     **Callas with Elsa Maxwell 1957** (3 photographs)
- b. 1 f. 24     **Callas at Carnegie Hall 1974** (6 photographs)
- b. 1 f. 25     *Piccagliani, Erio*  
**Callas in costume and onstage at La Scala** undated (7 photographs)  
*Piccagliani, Erio*
- b. 1 f. 26     *Piccagliani, Erio*  
**Callas rehearsing and recording at La Scala** undated (10 photographs)  
*Piccagliani, Erio*
- b. 1 f. 27     *Rapisarda, Henry*  
**undated** (9 photographs)  
*Rapisarda, Henry*
- b. 1 f. 28     *Siegel, Arthur S.*  
**Time magazine** undated (3 photographs)  
*Siegel, Arthur S.*
- b. 1 f. 29     **Callas at home** undated (5 photographs)  
Posed shots of Callas at home, with colleagues, rehearsing
- b. 1 f. 30     **Callas in costume** undated (6 photographs)  
Posed shots of Callas in costume
- b. 1 f. 31     **Callas backstage** undated (11 photographs)  
Journalistic photographs of Callas backstage, rehearsing, recording.
- b. 1 f. 32     **Callas on stage** undated (3 photographs)