
Callas Books: 'Maria Callas – Kunst und Mythos' by Arnold Jacobshagen

MARIA CALLAS – Kunst und Mythos
(Art and Myth)

By Arnold Jacobshagen

Hard cover

Size of book: 14 x 22 cm

Pages: 368

Photographs: 40 bl/white

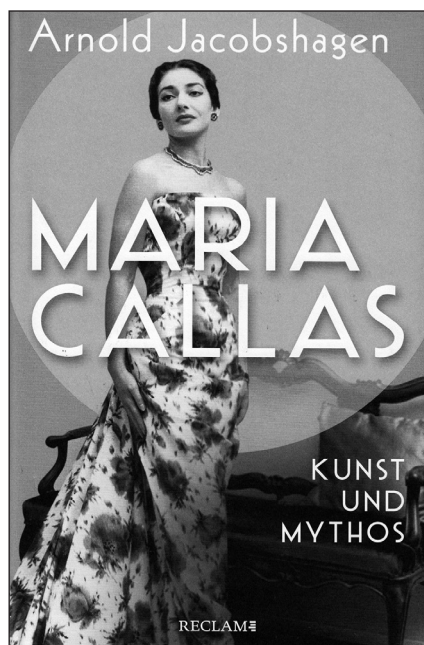
Language: German

Publisher: Philipp Reclam jun. Verlag
GmbH, Ditzingen, 2023

www.reclam.de

ISBN 978-3-15-011451-3

Price € 25



In the previous Magazine I reviewed two books that were published in German: *Maria Callas – Die Stimme der Leidenschaft* by Eva Gesine Baur and *Maria Callas. Tag für Tag – Jahr für Jahr. Eine Chronik* by Helge Klausener.

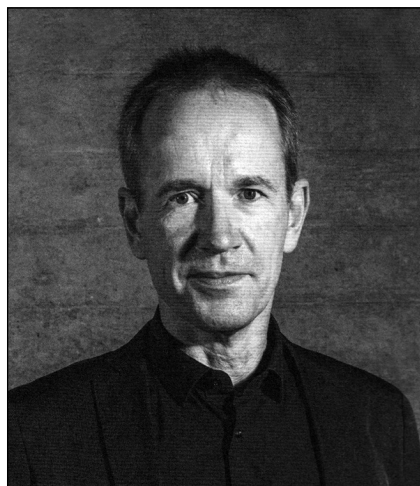
Now I can review another book about Maria Callas that has been published in German: Arnold Jacobshagen's *Maria Callas – Kunst und Mythos*.

The book by Klausener was full of mistakes and numerous incorrect facts about Callas. I wrote about Baur's book that this was in my opinion the best original book in German about Callas. Nevertheless, several mistakes and faults had crept into the extensive text and we disagree about

Karl H. van Zoggel

whether the baby boy, Omero Lengrini, was the child of Callas and Onassis.

Now that Jacobshagen's book has been published I can only conclude that this is the best original book about Callas from an author writing in German and it belongs amongst the best Callas books ever written, apart from the layout and image material. I think that this conclusion will last for a long time as it is quite likely that after this 100th anniversary year – in which some further books about Callas have been published, to be reviewed in the first *Maria Callas Quarterly Journal* – one can hardly expect many further publications about Callas' life and art that have more to offer than this one.



About the author, from the cover: "Arnold Jacobshagen, born in 1965, is a Professor of Musicology at the Cologne University of Music and Dance (since 2006). After studying in Berlin, Vienna, and Paris, he received his doctorate from the Free University of Berlin in 1996. He began as a music dramaturge at the Mainz State Theatre and from 1997 to 2006 was a research assistant at the University of Bayreuth at the Research Institute for Music Theatre. Arnold Jacobshagen is one of the world's most renowned researchers on opera history."

The contents of the book are as follows:

- Callas today
- Life (8 chapters, 170 pages)
- Art (6 chapters, 57 pages)
- Myth (6 chapters, 71 pages)
- Callas tomorrow
- Notes
- Bibliography
- Illustrations
- Overview of roles
- Selected discography (studio and live)
- Chronology
- Index
- Acknowledgments

I was pleased to be invited by the publisher to review the draft text and was given the opportunity to propose changes.

The biography part ('Life') is well researched, concise, and correct. Most interesting for our members is the subsequent part 'Art', consisting of Voice, Interpretation, Performance, Team, Roles, and Studio. I have never read before such a competent and combined description of all the aspects of Callas' art.

However, the part 'Myth' is in my opinion magnificent. This part consists of the components Biography, Love, Fairy tale, Diva, Media and Victim (in which he keeps an impartial opinion about Omero Lengrini). Almost all the items that adhere to Callas are addressed in an objective and sincere way.

Finally, the part 'Callas tomorrow' in which Jacobshagen gives his view on how Callas will be seen and appreciated in the future.

The book has further several useful and correct appendices.

The layout of the book is modest and the 40 black/white photographs are mostly of a small size and generally well known to our members. The photos are printed in between and on the same paper as the text. The captions are correct, except for an incorrect date for the photo on the front cover.

Conclusion: This is now one of my favourite books about Callas and it deserved to be translated and published into other languages, not least English.

THE MARIA CALLAS INTERNATIONAL CLUB



Maria Callas Magazine



No. 100 – December 2023

