

Jackie-Ari Relationship Not Happy

By Jack Anderson
with Les Whitten

The intimate, human story can now be told of the world's most publicized marriage—the life together of Aristotle and Jacqueline Onassis.

Our information comes from sources so close to the celebrated couple that the details cannot be doubted.

The world was startled when the multimillionaire shipping tycoon in 1968 married the widow of the martyred President John F. Kennedy.

Onassis was a swarthy, gnome-like man, two inches shorter and 24 years older than the beautiful Jackie. For the Kennedy legions, who had looked upon her as the keeper of Camelot, it was the end of a glorious era.

She had been afraid, her friends said, that she might tarnish Kennedy's memory if she became Mrs. Anybody Else. But she had succumbed, they suggested, to Ari's submerged irresistibility.

Our sources swear, on the contrary, that it was Jackie who pursued Ari. As they recall the circumstances, Onassis got into a hot argument with his paramour, the tempestuous soprano Maria Callas, during a Caribbean cruise in the summer of 1968. She flew off in a fury to New York City.

About the same time, according to intimates, Jackie caught a commercial flight to the Virgin Islands and arranged an invita-

tion to join Onassis on his yacht. A couple of months later, he signed a premarital contract which, our sources say, awarded her \$3 million in tax-free bonds.

They were married on Oct. 20, 1968, on his private Aegean island of Skorpios.

The old tycoon enjoyed the romantic conquest of the exquisite Jacqueline, who was regarded as one of the world's most desirable women, his friends say. But it was not at all a happy marriage.

They confirm The New York Times' report that Onassis wanted a divorce. He had asked his confidant, John Meyer, to hire a private detective to seek evidence that could be used in a divorce proceeding. Lawyers had also been approached in both Greece and the United States to explore the legal obstacles to a divorce.

What concerned Onassis the most, apparently, were the financial consequences. For he had quietly determined, according to our sources, that the Greek Orthodox Church would allow him to dissolve the marriage on the simple grounds of incompatibility.

Apparently, Jackie received the message that the marriage was on the rocks. While she was vacationing with friends on Antigua in the British West Indies, aide Nancy Tuckerman called Onassis to give a routine report on Jackie's doings and to ask how long she should stay.

Sources with direct knowledge of the incident say he retorted: "Tell her to stay indefinitely."

Jackie's friends tell of an earlier quarrel over an incident in

Rome involving movie star Elizabeth Taylor. Onassis and the actress were lunching together, along with other friends, when an intruder began annoying the actress. Gallantly, Onassis splashed a glass of champagne in the intruder's face.

Jackie was embarrassed. "I am ashamed of you," she told Ari. She protested that "the children had seen news accounts" of the incident.

She frequently complained to her friends about Ari. "He is such a loner," she said. His tastes, she thought, were vulgar. She told of wearing a diamond he had picked out for her. She was mortified when a friend asked derisively: "What is THAT?" She also complained about being "stuck on Skorpios all summer long."

Worst of all, they couldn't stand one another's friends. Ari found Jackie's crowd too sophisticated, too jaded. He was even heard, not too discreetly, calling them "faggots."

One friend of Jackie's sister, Lee Radziwill, showed up at Skorpios and stayed for months. Ari complained, shaking his head hopelessly, that the uninvited guest had been caught cutting his wrist, dipping a quill in the blood and writing entries in his diary in his own blood. Onassis finally banned the man from his presence, our sources say.

Jackie, for her part, was bored by the oilmen Ari brought to Skorpios. One summer, a top executive of British Petroleum and his wife came to the island. Jackie virtually ignored them and entertained herself by running movies almost every night, according to sources who were there.

Another time, the Onassises were invited to dinner by a Mobil Oil executive. Jackie refused to go and invented the excuse that her son John was sick.

As we reported in earlier columns, Onassis also began to resent his wife's extravagance. One of his associates, in an attempt to describe Jackie's spending habits, told us: "You can believe anything, anything."

Ari kept cutting her budget until she complained bitterly to friends. She told them, for example, that she couldn't sue the photographer who took nude photographs of her with a long-distance lens because "Ari is so cheap."

One intimate summed up the Jackie-Ari relationship, after 6½ years of marriage, as "total incompatibility."

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