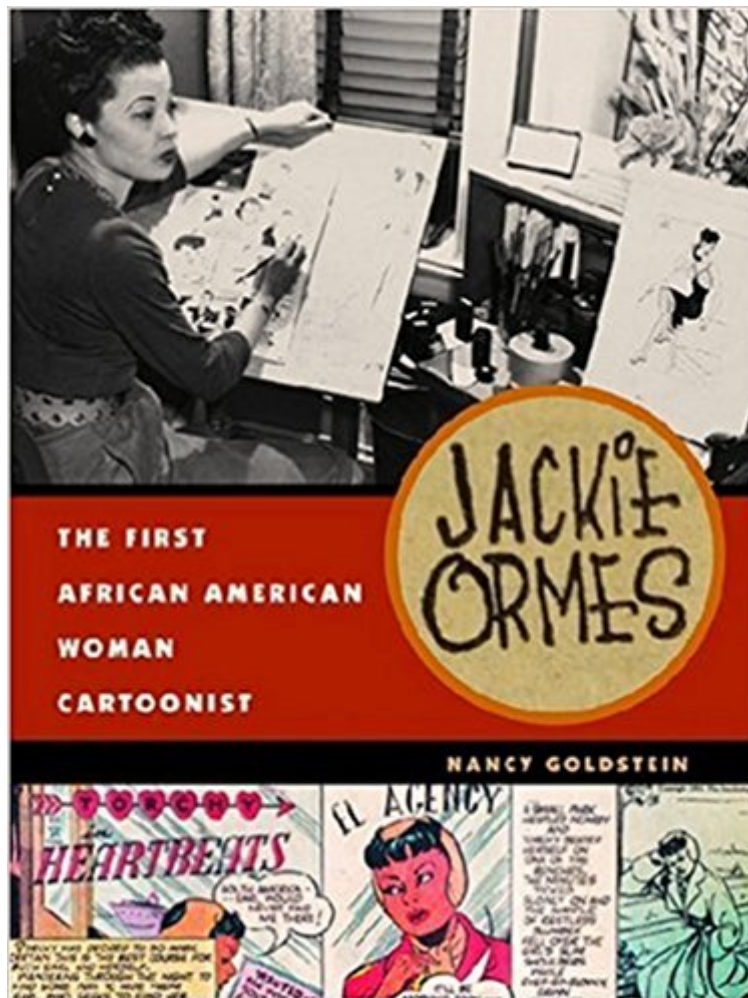


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Jackie Ormes: The First African American Woman Cartoonist



Synopsis

In the United States at mid-century, in an era when there were few opportunities for women in general and even fewer for African American women, Jackie Ormes blazed a trail as a popular artist with the major black newspapers of the day. Jackie Ormes chronicles the life of this multiply talented, fascinating woman who became a successful commercial artist and cartoonist. Ormes's cartoon characters (including Torchy Brown, Candy, and Patty-Jo 'n' Ginger) delighted readers of newspapers such as the Pittsburgh Courier and Chicago Defender, and spawned other products, including fashionable paper dolls in the Sunday papers and a black doll with her own extensive and stylish wardrobe. Ormes was a member of Chicago's Black elite in the postwar era, and her social circle included the leading political figures and entertainers of the day. Her politics, which fell decidedly to the left and were apparent to even a casual reader of her cartoons and comic strips, eventually led to her investigation by the FBI. The book includes a generous selection of Ormes's cartoons and comic strips, which provide an invaluable glimpse into U.S. culture and history of the 1937-56 era as interpreted by Ormes. Her topics include racial segregation, cold war politics, educational equality, the atom bomb, and environmental pollution, among other pressing issues of the times. "I am so delighted to see an entire book about the great Jackie Ormes! This is a book that will appeal to multiple audiences: comics scholars, feminists, African Americans, and doll collectors. . . ."---Trina Robbins, author of *A Century of Women Cartoonists* and *The Great Women Cartoonists* Nancy Goldstein became fascinated in the story of Jackie Ormes while doing research on the Patty-Jo Doll. She has published a number of articles on the history of dolls in the United States and is an avid collector.

Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: University of Michigan Press; 1st edition (February 21, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 047211624X

ISBN-13: 978-0472116249

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.9 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #236,104 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Drawing > Cartooning > Anime & Cartoons #361 in Books > Biographies &

Customer Reviews

Starred Review A stylish woman holds a newspaper behind her back as a perky little girl enters the room and says, "I don't want to be touchy on the subject . . . but, that new little white tea-kettle just whistled at me!" • Published in the wake of the 1955 murder in Mississippi of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African American who allegedly whistled at a white woman, this is one of hundreds of seductive, technically exceptional, and slyly hard-hitting newspaper cartoons created by Jackie Ormes (1911–85), the first and only African American woman cartoonist of her time. An artist of conscience and a prominent activist, the glamorous Ormes entertained, inspired, and provoked readers with her unique female characters, especially precocious, sharp-tongued five-year-old Patty-Jo and her forbearing fashion-plate older sister, Ginger. In the first book devoted to Ormes, Goldstein not only recounts with enthusiasm the trailblazing cartoonist's remarkable story from her birth in Pittsburgh to her celebrity-filled life in Chicago but also keenly analyzes Ormes's influential cartoons and the role black newspapers played in the struggle for racial equality. With a generous selection of Ormes's forward-looking cartoons resurrected for the first time, this is one exciting and significant book. Viva Jackie Ormes. --Donna Seaman

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I was hoping for a bit more art, but it's mostly Ormes life story, which is cool and deserves to be told. Also the art that is reproduced is not from original art sources, but from printed matter so the quality is often mediocre. Still a good book. Well researched.

The story of Jackie Ormes is unique that she was female cartoonist at time when that field was

solely male. Secondly Jackie Ormes was an African American in a field predominately white. With two strikes against her, what does Ms. Ormes do but hit a home run. She was a timely and politically correct artist who kept herself and her work contemporary and relevant with her African American community at a time when they were neglected in the mainstream white papers. Jackie's work was artistically well done with dialogue and a story line to keep her readership ready to read the next issue. The research done by the author Nancy Goldstein was thorough and the writing keeps the reader's interest focused without losing a beat page after page. I wish that someone would publish her columns in a single volume so that today's readers could get a feel for this talented artist who needs to be recognized for her consistent and her ground breaking work that would allow other female artists to follow in her foot- steps. I highly recommend this scholarly book to anyone interested in the field of writing, cartoon artwork, and in African American history.

This is a welcome addition to Black History literature, especially during Black History month. For those who espouse getting rid of this annual celebration, the Jackie Ormes book is testimony to the continued need to learn more about blacks from the past whose lives would be forgotten without diligent authors and researchers determined not to let black talents disappear. The Ormes biography is well written, fully illustrated, and inclusive of historical data about Ormes's family and the geographic areas where she and her family lived. Readers also learn about the effects of politics on the entertainment and journalism industries of the Ormes eras. It is a certainty that many readers old enough to remember E. Simms Campbell and the "Jess Be Simple" columns had never heard of Jackie Ormes. It would be a disgrace to have gone through life not knowing about such a charismatic and talented artist.

Jackie Ormes was a fascinating woman. I found this book to be interesting, fun, and well-done. The author uses a great deal of Jackie's artwork throughout the book. Readers also get a very detailed biography about the woman who is known as the first African American woman cartoonist. I think readers will enjoy this item.

Should have been more pictures since she is an artist.

I had never even heard of her, my father and I used to read the comics daily, so finding this hidden jewel was an amazing discovery. It was a wonderful way to look back in time and see the foresight of Ms. Ormes . Love it !

I bought the book for my mother because she has the Patty Jo Doll which was made from the Patty Jo and Ginger comic strip. She was please to know that her was famous. My mother passed but we still have the doll.

Excellent book, very interesting, I have been reading comics for sixty years but only heard about her recently.

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