



Jackie Ormes: The First African American Woman Cartoonist

By Nancy Goldstein

The University of Michigan Press



The biography of an innovative artist and creator of dolls with over 150 illustrations

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A pioneering woman cartoonist, glamorous style-setter, and civic leader in South Side Chicago, Jackie Ormes is known to doll collectors as the creator of the Patty-Jo doll and *Torchy Togs* paper dolls. Patty-Jo stepped out of Ormes's newspaper cartoon *Patty-Jo 'n' Ginger* in 1947 as a doll made by the Terri Lee company. Departing from the stereotyped Topsy and mammy-type images, the Patty-Jo doll was a prideful image of a real little girl who could be dressed in stylish clothing from the Terri Lee catalog.

Ormes's fashionable *Torchy Togs* paper dolls accompanied *Torchy in Heartbeats*, a romance-adventure color comic strip about an independent woman that appeared from 1950 until 1954. Torchy's sometime pin-up poses and bold attire set her apart from other paper doll characters of this era. This biography of Jackie Ormes includes a chapter on black dolls and the Patty-Jo doll. It will be published in February 2008, Black History Month.

Author Nancy Goldstein is an avid Terri Lee collector and serves as a judge for Modern Competitive Exhibits, UFDC. For more information on *Jackie Ormes*, please visit www.jackieormes.com.

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