

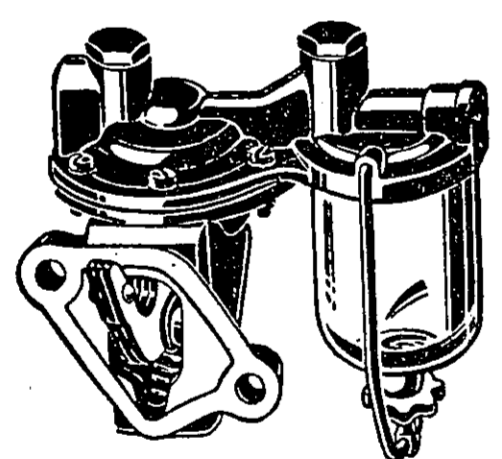
# New Year Greetings

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### WHY JEWISH WRITERS DO NOT WRITE FOR JEWISH MAGAZINES (Cont. from page 11)

published good Jewish stories. But the Jewish magazines have printed comparatively few that can stand up years later to a second reading. Why? A glimpse at the Jewish "market" may be part of the answer.

There are more than a hundred Anglo-Jewish weeklies in the United States, mostly all of them local papers which stress society and local Jewish news, with a sprinkling of news items culled from various Anglo-Jewish news and feature syndicates like the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Needless to say, practically all of the articles, which consist of syndicated columns or occasional pieces by the local rabbi, do not stand up as major contributions to American Jewish writing.

Apart from these weeklies there are only two other national weeklies in the United States which are intended for Jewish readers. They are the American Hebrew and Congress Weekly. At one time the American Hebrew was an influential, widely-read journal. Even its best friends could not say the same of it today. It certainly cannot attract free-lance Jewish writers when it pays, generally, \$15 for a story, and it was not

so long ago, that it paid \$5 an article. Congress Weekly, a serious journal of Jewish opinion is eager to publish articles on any and all phases of Jewish life. Although its rates are higher than that of the American Hebrew, they are by no means high. Congress Weekly, however, enjoys a wide circulation and a serious reading public. Thus, as an influential forum it attracts many Jewish communal leaders and thinkers who contribute to it without regard for payment.

There are two important literary quarterlies, the Menorah Journal and the Chicago Jewish Forum. . . . The Menorah Journal, instead of appearing four times yearly, manages to come out only three times a year, which certainly is not an attractive element to writers looking for markets. The Forum appears regularly, but its circulation is small, its payment, although prompt, is by no means generous, and few people see the magazine in the east, which is a factor that writers take into consideration.

There are a number of Jewish monthlies, practically all of which are sponsored by Jewish organizations. They have little, if any space, for fiction or literary themes. The Jewish writer who is unacquainted with the labyrinthine ways of Jew-

ish communal life is not only when he attempts to make head-tail out of the conflicting organizations, but he has little interest in contributing to the chaos. He is that he is incapable of writing such papers. For example there are two magazines called Jewish One, curiously enough, is spokes-

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Orthodox Jewry; the other for Jewish Communists. . . . One magazine, Commentary, issued by the American Jewish Committee, requires more than passing mention. It is an important magazine which, in many respects, has added to the prestige of the organization which sinks heavy sums of money into it. Commentary's yearly deficit is immense, compared with the working budgets of most Anglo-Jewish periodicals.

Yet in its own way, Commentary offers as limited a market as many other Jewish magazines. . . . For example, Commentary's fiction has almost most open to attack on the ground that it is often completely Jewish (recently an extremely interesting story dealt with the reaction of a Negro who moves in white

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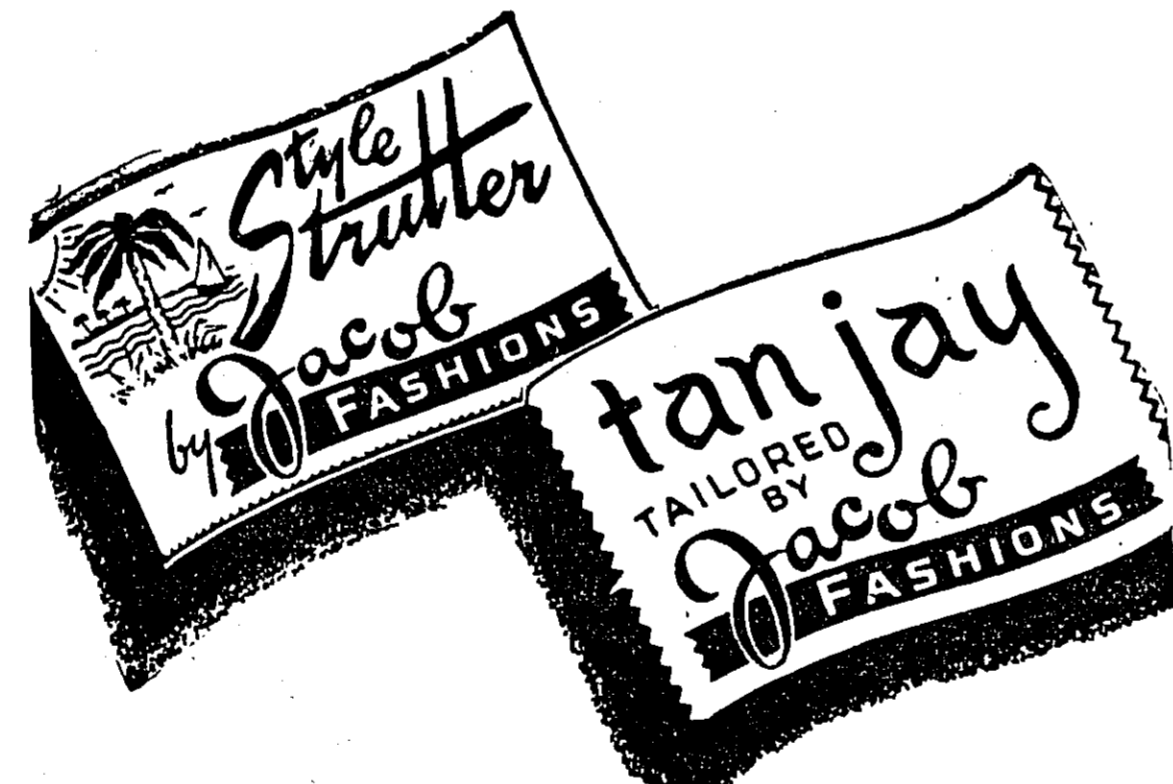
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