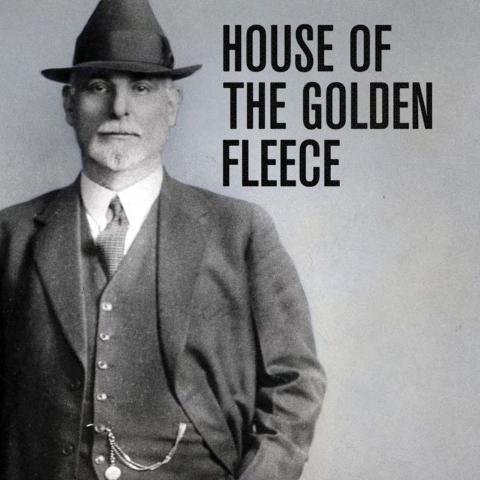




SINCE 1904: HOUSE OF THE GOLDEN FLEECE



**THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS HAVE SEEN** numerous iconic brands born out of the industrial and complex past of the United States. Through both war and peace, the lows and highs of America have mirrored the woeful missteps and meteoric successes of the American fashion scene.

Isaac Spiewak is a compelling example of one such success. Mr. Spiewak grew up in a turbulent Warsaw, Poland, fled to America in 1903 and created a small family-run garment house in Brooklyn New York in 1904 with his family by his side.

Over a century after its founding, I. Spiewak & Sons, Inc., under the leadership of Isaac's great grandson, has grown into one of the premier names in fashion and workwear. The authentic Spiewak industrial line has been trusted by the soldiers of WWI and WWII and is currently worn with pride by thousands of police, fire and EMS agencies around the globe.

The authenticity and integrity of its designs have also earned Spiewak iconic status as a classic brand (considered by many to be America's best kept secret), with a growing loyal following at cutting-edge boutiques and retailers across America and around the globe.

Looking back, it is fitting that the Golden Fleeced Flying Ram – from Greek mythology's "Quest for the Golden Fleece", was chosen as a symbol of Isaac Spiewak's journey, his company, and what has developed into an enduring and growing legacy.

The following is a brief tour of the House of the Golden Fleece as seen from the images and photos themselves, pulled from historical archives kept in their 53 year-old factory in Ruleville, Mississippi.

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BROOKLYN FACTORY PHOTOGRAPH | 1917

ISAAC CUTTING LEATHER OPPOSITE SON PHOTOGRAPH | 1917



BY 1917, ISAAC SPIEWAK'S HANDMADE SHEEPSKIN VEST was in sufficient demand around New York for him to establish a small sun-lit manufacturing room in Brooklyn; the House of the Golden Fleece was born. Playing off the idea of the sheepskin used, the moniker "Golden Fleece" was first branded in 1919. As his brothers entered into the various facets of the outerwear business, the Spiewaks developed different – and sometimes competing – lines and companies to capitalize on prevailing trends and emerging market segments. Among the companies and brands the Spiewaks created are names such as Prince Jason, Bronco Manufacturing, Ram Manufacturing, Trappings, and Flight Deck USA.

The fickle nature of fashion has seen many of these labels and firms fade into obscurity; the remainder were consolidated in the 1990's under the two principal brands: Spiewak and Golden Fleece. While Golden Fleece is typically attached to special domestic production and limited edition garments, Spiewak has endured over the years as the prevailing name for the main uniform and fashion lines of the original House of the Golden Fleece.



















































**THIS BRIEF GLIMPSE** through Spiewak's advertising history offers an amusing and enlightening journey through a drastically changing American landscape. From WWI and the Great Depression, early ads illustrate how Spiewak survived by streamlining and adapting new production methods to produce a jacket at the astonishing price of \$1.50.

Later ads illustrate how after the ensuing post-World War II boom, the US was left with an excess of wartime bomber and parka jackets to sell to consumers, creating the first army-navy shops and forever altering American post-war fashion.

More recent ads, born in the age of the Internet and the multiplicities of consumer demographics, de-emphasize the "price value" of the jackets and instead promote the "lifestyle values" of the brand and its product – highlighting themes such as New York City, heritage, and sophisticated youthfulness.

Whatever the advertising message, Isaac Spiewak always emphasized integrity of product and innovation of design, now known simply as Spiewak's "tradition of innovation."



I. SPIEWAK & SONS c o J.C. Penney Co. Inc., N.Y.C. Terms: Net 30 days. Deliveries: START OCTOBER 15th. Shipped from: Jersey City, N.J. pecially for holiday selling. Send your order at once if interested. Sizes 10 to 20. Lot 20-628 PILE FABRIC FRONT, BACK, and COLLAR. Grained leatherette sleeves. facings and bottom. Check cotton kasha lined thruout. Colors: RED, GREEN, BLUE, BROWN with matched color leatherette trim.

(House No. 8286)

SPECIAL NOTE: There is a decided trend towards pile fabric and lambfur cossack jackets for this fall and winter season. The returns on men's and boys' has been so encouraging that we have figured a model for girls and misses, both in the popular priced pile fabric with leatherette trim and also the genuine lambfur with chrome tanned capeskin trim.

This should be a good item in many of the stores along with the mens and boys, es-

## GIRLS' AND MISSES' PILE FABRIC AND LAMBFUR COSSACK JACKETS



Lot 20-819

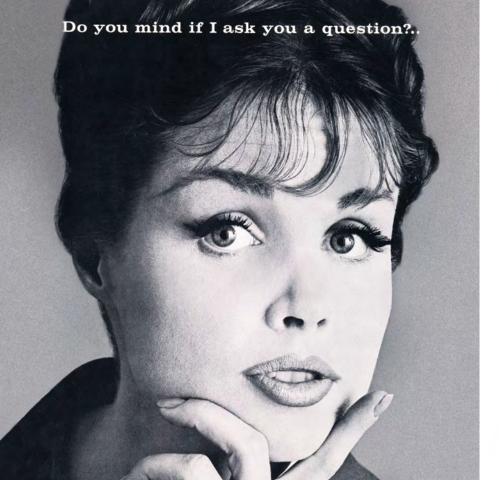
Made Raglan Shoulder Style, slash pockets, Talon front, strap sides and sleeves. Genuine LAMBFUR FRONT, BACK, and COL-

CGTU \$2.98 EF%

LAR. Chrome tanned capeskin leather sleeves, facings and bottom. Rayon lined thruout.

Colors: BROWN LAMB with cordovan trim. GREY LAMB with blue trim.

LTU \$9.90 ER%













SMART STYLES MACY'S COUNTER CARD | 1946

FLYING MAN FADER MAGAZINE ADVERTISEMENT | 2007





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GARY COOPER PROMOTIONAL POSTER | 1935



## I. SPIEWAK & SONS

## MENS SHEEPLINED COATS

### No. 1880 - 32-inch SHEEPLINED MOLESKIN COAT (With 2 Pockets) (See illustration on left)



Made of medium weight drab moleskin cloth; lined with selected sheepskin nelts. Sleeve lining made of warm, durable cloth, Has deep beaverized sheep. skin collar. Fitted with woolen wristlets in sleeves. Has two slash pockets reinforced with leather. Closes with buttons and loops in double breasted style, Length 32 inches. Sizes 36 to 48.

## No. 1883 - SHEEPLINED MOLESKIN COAT

(34 in., 2 Pockets and Belt)

Made of medium weight drab moleskin cloth; lined with heavy sheepskin pelts. Sleeve liningmade of strong heavy cloth. Has wide collar of beaverized sheepskins. Warm woolen wristlets in sleeves. Has two slash pockets, reinforced with leather. Closes with buttons and loops in popular double breasted style. Has a broad belt all around with tongueless metal button. Length 34 inches. Sizes 36 to 48.

#### No. 1881 - 36-inch SHEEPLINED MOLESKIN COAT (With 4 Pockets and Belt)

(See illustration on right) Made of medium weight dark brown moleskin cloth. Lined with fine sheepskin pelts. Sleeves lined with heavy material. Has deep beaverized sheespkin collar, Woolen wind protectors in sleeves. Is fitted with belt all around and has four non-tearable, leather tipped pockets. Closes with two rows of buttons and loops which may be used from either side. Length 36 inches. Sizes 36 to 43.

### No. 1885 - SHEEPLINED MOLESKIN COAT (36 in. Heavy cloth, 4 Pockets and Belt)

Made of Heavy weight dark brown cloth. Is lined with grade A sheepskin pelts. Sleeves warmly lined with heavy cloth. Has broad beaverized sheep-skin collar.

Has four leather-trimmed pockets and a belt all around. Fitted with woolen wristlets in sleeves. Closes with buttons and loops in popular double breasted style.

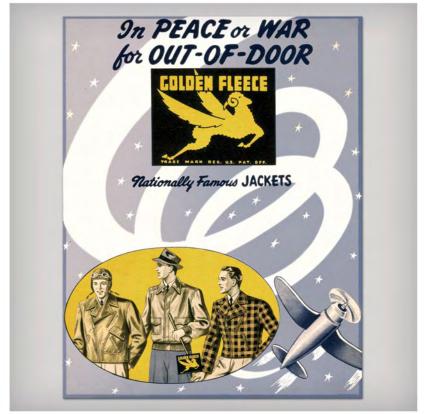
Length 36 inches. Sizes 36-48.



### No. 1840 - FULL LINED 36-inch SHEEPLINED MOLESKIN COAT (Heavy Cloth, 4 Pockets, Belt and Lining Full to Right Edge)

(See picture on lett)

Made of heavy weight dark brown cloth. Is lined with selected sheepskin pelts. The sheepskin lining extends full to the right edge of coat. Fitted with deep beaverized showl collar. Has a broad belt all around with tongueless metal buckle. Sleeves are lined with heavy cloth. The coat is equipped with 4 non-tearable leather-tipped pockets. Woolen wind protectors in sleeves. Buttoned tab at collar. Closes with buttons and loops. Double breasted. Length 36 inches. Sizes, 36 to 48.



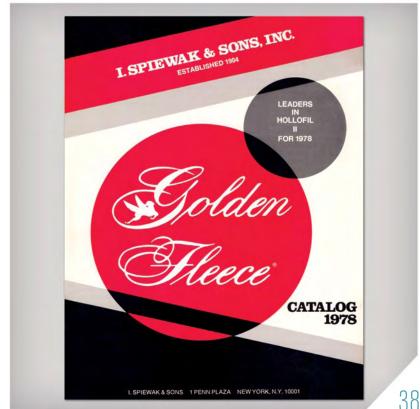


RIN TIN TIN JACKET BOYS' OUTFITTER MAGAZINE ADVERTISEMENT | 1957



THANKS TO THE EARLY FORESIGHT OF ISAAC SPIEWAK, many of I. Spiewak & Sons' catalogs survive to this day in the company's archival collection. From the first leather bound illustrated collection of 1930 – a 20-pound flip book with still-supple sheepskins and lambs' wool pasted inside – to the intricate computer designed, photographed and printed books of today, each catalog stands on its own merit exemplifying a particular time and place bound together by the ever-present Golden Fleece icon.





LEADERS CATALOG | 1978





FLIGHT DECK U.S.A. CATALOG | 1991





TRAINS CATALOG | 2009

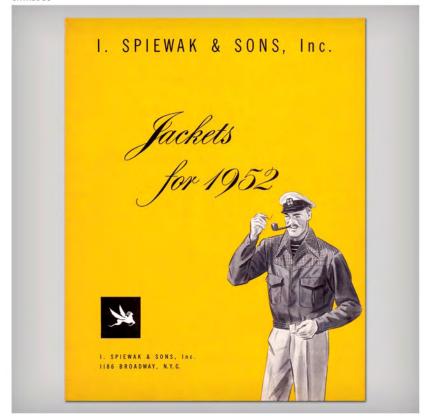




THE GOLD STANDARD CATALOG | 1956













FROST KING CATALOG | 1970



A BRAND CANNOT BE SELF-DEFINED. Popular culture is integral to creating and reshaping its identity. The countless artists, personalities, stylists, directors, and consumers that have worn Spiewak's products have enriched the brand and contributed to its constant evolution. Creative product placement of Spiewak by the media and retailers plays an active role in enhancing *The House That Isaac Built.* 





COMPLEX MAGAZINE | 2001 NORDSTROM CATALOG | 2008









NEW YORK TIMES NEWSPAPER | 1960 OUTSIDE MAGAZINE | 2003

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XRAY MAGAZINE | 2005



SPORTSWEAR:

# A (Family) Tree Grew In Brooklyn

The other day as we were making our way across the office, MEN'S WEAR's production expert (Joe Jacobson) called us over with: "Who's this I. Spiewak? . . . They have a lot of friends." It seemed that Joe was checking the insert that this outerwear house was planning to run in the book, and he was noticing the number of fiber houses throughout the Spiewak gatefold.

We explained to Joe that Spiewak was an old name in outerwear. "Yeah, about sixty years old," he countered. We soon learned that I. Spiewak was sort of celebrating its 60th birthday in a nifty looking series of ads and made a mental note to make our way up to 10 West 33rd\_to meet the family.

And a family it is, when you mention the name Spiewak in outerwear circles. Jerry Spiewak, who's president of I. Spiewak, explained to us that it all began when his grandfather Isaac, went into business and decided to spread his good fortune among his family. He had six sons and they all joined the business in years to come. I. Spiewak and Sons became a training ground for outerwear makers and today, you'll find about 30 Spiewak's and/or relatives at Robert Lewis, M. Rubin, Bronco, Ram, etc.

When the company first opened in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1904, sheeplined garments were the big thing. Jerry's dad, Philip Spiewak, then strolled into the office, and helped us get some of the early facts sorted out. Spiewak senior is now chairman of the board, and in true Spiewak style, has made his family a part of the business. His son Marty is vice president and secretary; Robert is treasurer. But everyone has much more than a title. He has a very serious part in this business that keeps the name Spiewak a young one in outerwear. Phil Spiewak confided that at latest count, he had ten grandsons. Obviously, he was planning bigger and better things for I. Spiewak, if only to follow in his father Isaac's in this end of the market. footsteps.

"You know, when the company first began producing leather and sheeplined garments, we sold our production to 32 wholesalers around the country. In fact, Golden Fleece, the name we registered back in 1919, became one of the major names in this trade." As Mr. Spiewak described the company's history, it underwent some big changes during and after the second World War.

"We started to sell directly to retail stores after the war, and we gave the name 'Golden Fleece' a new lease on life."

". . . A fashion image?" we of-

"Precisely. We began producing fashion goods and at better prices with the Golden Fleece label. We also developed some 'firsts' in the market. Remember the Swiss Blouse?" We did.

"Remember the Parbuster? We still run this golf jacket on a yearround basis," We did.

Well, after the Spiewaks told us about their early entry into stretch ski jackets and the hidden hood that zipped out of a collar, we tried to steer the conversation into talk about the "good old days." Immediately, the senior Spiewak's eyes lit up.

He asked Jerry to look for a catalogue of styles from years ago, and was very helpful in supplying a few facts about the company's industrial outerwear division. It forms roughly half of the firm's output and from what we understand, the Golden Fleece Industrial Outerwear label is highly regarded

From what we could see on the racks lining the showroom on 33rd Street, this sort of thing still provided direction for the business. Nowadays, the Spiewaks told us, ski parkas are hot all over the lot (industrial, specialty store. . . . "everywhere.") And to our question: "What's new for fall?", we saw one of the voungest racing ski parkas of the season. We liked the "pro" details and said so.

"Would you like a sample for photographing?"

"Make it size 40," we said. It seemed that we straved far from the interview we planned. But it was worth it and proved that you have to look and act young to be 60 years old in the outerwear S.E.G.

MEN'S WEAR





ANTENNA MAGAZINE | 2008

BARNEY'S CATALOG | 2006





CARGO MAGAZINE | 2003 FLIGHT JACKET MAGAZINE | 1992





Capes, cut with the swagger of a bobby's or a gendarme's, turn up this spring. Lionel Wiggam's is of tan poplin, lined with black (\$20, Golden Fleece: Witty Brothers, Bullock's Downtown). Ruth Ebling's reserses from blue to natural poplin (\$25, Fulwiline: Lew Ritter). Thomas Begg grouse helmels.

