

The Wolfe Pack



Rex and Pola, 1944



BLACK ORCHID MEDIA FEST



DECEMBER 4, 2015
PETE'S TAVERN, NYC

FEATURING

RADIO, TELEVISION, & MEDIA
APPEARANCES

NERO WOLFE, REX STOUT,
POLA STOUT & RUTH STOUT

PROGRAM

Title	Length (min:sec)	Media Type
<i>Omnibus - The Fine Art of Murder</i> (Rex Stout Guest Appearance 1956)	17:37	TV excerpt
Italian Nero Wolfe Series (RAI Casanova, 2012)	01:25	TV Trailer
<i>Fer-de-Lance</i> (Subtitled) from 2012 Italian <i>Nero Wolfe Series</i> (RAI Casanova)	08:12	TV excerpt
<i>The Dick Cavett Show</i> (Rex Stout Guest Appearance in 1969)	11:15	TV excerpt
<i>Zu viele Köche (Too Many Cooks)</i> from 1961 German, 5-part, TV Mini Series	7:11	TV excerpt
" <i>Over Our Coffee Cups</i> " (September 27, 1940) Eleanor Roosevelt interviews Rex Stout and other noted authors regarding FDR and the upcoming presidential election on the episode, <i>Democratic Women's Day</i>	4:22	Radio excerpt
<i>Per la fama di Cesare (Some Buried Caesar)</i> Introductory scenes from 1969 Italian Nero Wolfe Television Series (RAI)	7:10	TV excerpt
<i>Speaking of Liberty</i> (Introductory overview plus excerpt from radio show episode of November 13, 1941 featuring Rex Stout and Frank Gervasi)	7:05	Radio overview + excerpt
<i>Book Beat</i> (CETV) Rex Stout Interview (at High Meadow in 1973)	15:14	TV excerpt
<i>Our Secret Weapon-The Truth</i> (Rex Stout exposes the lies and contradictions in the Nazi propaganda in episode from August 20, 1942)	5:05	Radio excerpt
<i>Nero Wolfe Series Pilot</i> (Thayer David 1977 Screen Test presented to the Wolfe Pack by the 2008 Black Orchid Banquet keynote speaker, Frank D. Gilroy)	11:41	TV Screen Test
<i>The Doorbell Rang</i> 1979 TV Series Pilot with Thayer David Intro	3:25	TV excerpt
Intro sequence from the 1981 <i>Nero Wolfe Series</i> (Conrad)	:56	TV excerpt
<i>In the Best Families</i> 1981 <i>Nero Wolfe Series</i> (Conrad)	2:23	TV excerpt
Rex Stout Address Regarding <i>The Doorbell Rang</i> at Books and Authors Luncheon (broadcast on WNYC radio 2/14/1966)	7:38	Radio excerpt
" <i>The Eleanor and Anna Roosevelt Show</i> " (July 27, 1949) Interview of Pola Stout, noted textile designer and wife of author Rex Stout	4:12	Radio excerpt
"I smashed up a saloon with Carrie Nation" with Ruth Stout <i>I've Got a Secret--1964 (Garry Moore)</i>	7:09	TV excerpt
<i>The Red Box: The Play</i> -- Park Square Theater production, St. Paul, MN June 2014	1:31	Play Trailer
<i>The Gun with Wings</i> from 2001 Russian Television Series	9:02	TV excerpt
<i>Ruth Stout's Garden (or How I garden)</i> (1976)	8:10	Movie excerpt
"The Eleanor Roosevelt Show" (July 30, 1951) Eleanor & Elliott (son of ER & FDR) interview Rex Stout, discussing "The Baker Street Irregulars" [actual interview is missing as of 2015.]	1:00	Radio excerpt
<i>The Mother Hunt</i> (Clips from the 2001--2002 A&E Network series, <i>A Nero Wolfe Mystery</i>)	12:58	TV excerpts
TOTAL (Hours:Minutes)	2:28	

© Audio and Video materials are copyright their respective owners.



NERO WOLFE MEDIA PRESENTATIONS



NERO WOLFE ON TELEVISION

Zu viele Köche (Too Many Cooks)

1961 German, 5-part, TV Mini Series (original length approx. 3 hours)

CAST:

- Heinz Klevenow (Nero Wolfe)
- Joachim Fuchsberger (Archie Goodwin) (Joachim Fuchsberger is a celebrated German-Australian actor)
- Karl Paryla (Marko Vukow)
- Horst Tappert (Odell, hotel detective) Trappert became world-famous in the 1970s and 1980s as "Inspektor Derrick" in the German TV series that ran for over 25 seasons (!) in over 100 countries

To view videos or for more information, search YouTube or Google, using quotation marks as shown: "zu viele koche."

Available for sale online in VCR & DVD format.
(Original Length, approximately



Italian Nero Wolfe Television Series (1969 RAI Television)

(original length approximately 1 hour each)

Showing *Some Buried Caesar*

Italian RAI television featured a Wolfe TV Series from 1969 through 1971. VHS & DVD-PAL versions of ten episodes (approx.. 55 min. each) can be purchased online (Search for *nero wolfe tino buazzelli dvd.*)

The scenes in the Introduction/Credits for each show and some footage for scenic shots were filmed in New York and the US.

FROM Wikipedia:

In a television interview, Paul Ferrari said that Rex Stout had been greatly pleased by the success of the program, indicated as exemplary, especially when compared to American productions on the same subject. During the same interview, Ferrari also said that Stout and Giuliana Berlinguer discussed contract issues speaking in Latin.

Cast information: Tino Buazzelli is the model for the Nero Wolfe Commemorative stamp issued by San Marino, a small sovereign European republic, an enclave of Italy. For images of the stamp: http://www.nerowolfe.org/pdf/misc_media/Nero_Wolfe_Stamps.pdf.

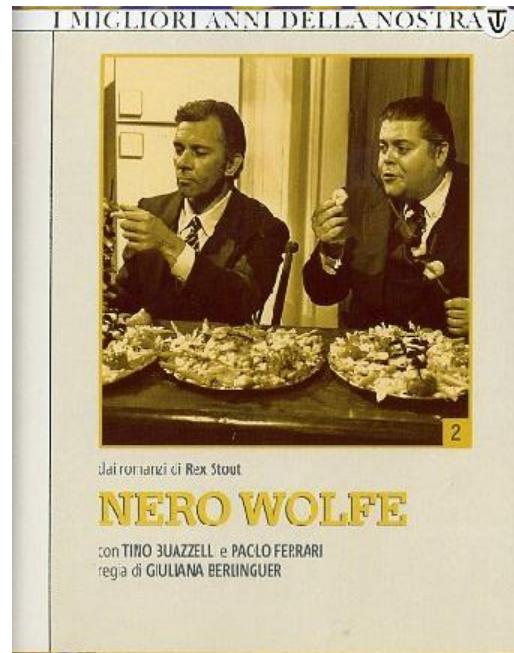
To view videos or for more information, search YouTube or Google , using quotation marks as shown: "nero wolfe tino buazzelli"

CAST:

Tino Buazzelli (Nero Wolfe)
Paolo Ferrari (Archie Goodwin)
Pupo De Luca (Fritz Brenner)
Renzo Palmer (Inspector Cramer)

10 EPISODES:

Veleno in sartoria (The Red Box)
Circuito chiuso (If Death Ever Slept)
Per la fama di Cesare (Some Buried Caesar)
Il Pesce più grosso (The Doorbell Rang)
Un incidente di caccia (Where There's a Will)
Il patto dei sei (The Rubber Band)
La casa degli attori ("Counterfeit for Murder")
La bella bugiarda ("Murder Is Corny")
Sfida al cioccolato (Gambit)
Salsicce 'Mezzanotte' (Too Many Cooks)



Nero Wolfe

1979 TV Pilot with Thayer David & Tom Mason

1981 TV Series with William Conrad and Lee Horsely

Showing In the Best Families



In 1977, Thayer David and Tom Mason starred in the made-for-TV movie based on *The Doorbell Rang*, intended as the pilot episode for a television series. Very soon after the pilot was completed, Thayer David died (July 17, 1978). The show was first telecast on late night TV in December 1979. The delay in the telecast may be attributed to Mr. David's untimely death, as well as the plot's controversial treatment of the FBI. The pilot is considered a good adaptation of the book's plot and characters.



The series with William Conrad and Lee Horsley was eventually made rather quickly. The 14 episodes (45 min. each) ran from January through August, 1981 as a mid-season replacement.

The series was poorly received by many fans of the books due to its lack of adherence to the books' plots and characters (even in those few instances when the episode name corresponded to a book title) and Mr. Conrad's lack of similarity to Mr. Wolfe in appearance and personality.

Neither the pilot nor the series were ever released on VCR or DVD. Unauthorized copies are occasionally available for purchase on ebay and other online.



See IMDB for further details regarding episodes, cast, and crew for the series as well as for the pilot/TV movie. Search YouTube ("Nero Wolfe William Conrad" or "Nero Wolfe Thayer David") for series theme song with introductory scenes, full pilot episode, full episodes of the series.

<p>NERO WOLFE (1981) EPISODES (original length 45 minutes):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Golden Spiders 2. Death on the Doorstep 3. Before I Die 4. Wolfe at the Door 5. Might As Well Be Dead 6. To Catch a Dead Man 7. In the Best of Families 8. Murder by the Book 9. What Happened to April? 10. Gambit 11. Death and the Dolls 12. The Murder in Question 13. Blue Ribbon Hostage 14. Sweet Revenge 	<p>TV SERIES CAST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Conrad — Nero Wolfe • Robert Coote — Theodore Horstmann • Lee Horsley — Archie Goodwin • Allan Miller — Inspector Cramer • George Voskovec — Fritz Brenner • George Wyner — Saul Panzer <p>NERO WOLFE TV MOVIE (Pilot) of <i>The Doorbell Rang</i> (original length 127 minutes)</p> <p>Cast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thayer David — Nero Wolfe • Tom Mason — Archie Goodwin • Brooke Adams — Sarah Dacos • Biff McGuire — Inspector Cramer • John Randolph — Lon Cohen • Anne Baxter — Mrs. Rachael Bruner • David Hurst — Fritz Benner • John O'Leary — Theodore Horstmann • Lewis Charles — Saul Panzer • Frank Campanella — Fred Durkin
---	---



Russian Nero Wolfe Television Series

[Нуро Вульф] (2001-2002, 2005)

(original length approx. 1.5 hr. each)

Showing *The Gun with Wings*

(available for sale at: <http://www.petershop.com/en/catalogue/video/sergey-viktorovich-zhigunov.html>)

Cast (both series)

Donatas Banionis (Nero Wolfe)
Sergey Zhigunov (Archie Goodwin / also Producer)
Sergey Parshin (Inspector Kramer)

Sergey Migitzko (Fritz Brenner)

Series 1 Episodes (2001-2002):

The Affair With the Cap (Disguise for Murder)
Poka ya ne umer (Before I Die / Trouble in Triplicate)
Resurrect to Die (Man Alive)
Flying Gun (Gun with Wings)
A Voice From the Other Side (The Silent Speaker)

Series 2 Episodes (2005):

A Gift for Lily (Black Orchids)
A Last Will of Marko (Black Mountain)
Too Many Women (Too Many Women)

Score by Vladimir Dashkevich, who also wrote the score for the Holmes series. He says he found it important for the Wolfe series to feature period music of the 1930s. Nevertheless, he "composed" the opening tune of the Wolfe series by simply playing backwards (!) his own opening tune of the Sherlock Holmes series of the 1980s.

Teleplay written by Vladimir Valutskiy, who had written the 1980s Russian Sherlock Holmes TV series, considered to be one of Russia's all-time TV classics.



A NERO WOLFE MYSTERY

The A&E Television Series, 2001-2002

(original length approx. 40 min per episode.; novels were shown in two episodes))

Showing *The Mother Hunt*



Set in New York City in the early 1950s, the stylized period drama starred Maury Chaykin as Nero Wolfe and Timothy Hutton as Archie Goodwin. A distinguishing feature of the series was its use of a repertory or ensemble cast to play non-recurring roles. The show was also distinguished by its plots and dialogue which closely followed those from the books and its music.

Despite a large fan base and ratings, A&E dropped the show when the decision was made at the network to pursue Reality Show programming.

The episodes, including "The Making of Nero Wolfe" are available in a DVD package entitled "Nero Wolfe: The Complete Classic Whodunit Series" in region zero encoding format (play on all regional DVD players).

The original production of all shows other than the pilot were several minutes longer and in wide screen format with a 16:9 aspect ratio. This was the international standard, but the US television standard at the time was 4:3. The longer episodes (AKA "The Missing Minutes" for which Freemantle Enterprises has the overseas rights) have never been telecast in the US, but most were telecast in Europe. The only wide screen version released in the US on DVD (but never telecast) was *The Silent Speaker*. The longer production version was created because that international market prefers a full 1 hour of content (as well as letterbox or wide screen 16:9 format). The US standard for new productions is now 16:9.



Pearson/Freemantle released many episodes in Europe (PAL encoding only) with Dutch subtitles, available on the Amazon.co.uk page and sometimes on Amazon.com. See the missing minutes page for more information about the DVD release, with Dutch subtitles. Although excellent playing quality, it has a few errors in labeling and not all episodes that were shot in wide screen have been released in wide-screen format. Freemantle Enterprises lists the episodes on their site: <http://www.fmescreenings.com/>.

The producers used two methods for producing extended stories for Europe and shortening them for US telecast/DVD release:

- each episode has various scenes that were cut from the US version.
- pairs of novellas were lengthened with the use of footage consisting of scenes at the beginning, between stories, and at the end. These scenes tied the plots of the two stories together. U.S. Telecasts and DVD releases do not include the connecting introduction and intermezzo footage. These were the Season One episodes:
 - In *Wolfe Steps Out* (*Door to Death* and *A Christmas Party*), the plot of the connecting scenes is Lily & Archie dancing at the Flamingo.

- In Wolfe Stays In (*Disguise For Murder* and *Eeny Meeny Murder Mo*), the plot of the connecting scenes is the weekly poker game, this time in Wolfe's Living Room, with Fritz providing snacks to Archie, Saul, Orrie, & Lon.
- In Bad Taste (*Poison a la Carte* and *Murder is Corny*) (Never aired; the longer version of *Poison a la Carte* was broadcast in Europe, but not *Murder is Corny* or the combined show.)
- the episodes were filmed in letterbox format, but framed for easy “clipping” of the edges to accommodate both widths, 16:9 and 4:3.



To see an immense amount of detail regarding the cast (including the entire repertoire company), the Missing Minutes, the music, reviews, the Wolfe Pack on the set in 2002, etc., see: www.nerowolfe.org/htm/AE_tv_series/AE_tv_series.htm.

Full episodes are frequently available for viewing on YouTube and the DVD set

EPISODES:	Regular and Recurring Characters.
<p>THE PILOT: <i>The Golden Spiders</i></p> <p>THE FIRST SEASON: <i>The Doorbell Rang</i> <i>Champagne for One</i> <i>Prisoner's Base</i> <i>Eeny, Meeny, Murder, Mo</i> <i>Disguise for Murder</i> <i>Door to Death</i> <i>Christmas Party</i> <i>Over My Dead Body</i></p> <p>THE SECOND SEASON <i>Death of a Doxy</i> <i>The Next Witness</i> <i>Die Like a Dog</i> <i>Murder Is Corny</i> <i>The Mother Hunt (</i> <i>Poison a la Carte</i> <i>Too Many Clients</i> <i>Before I Die</i> <i>Help Wanted, Male</i> <i>The Silent Speaker</i> <i>Cop Killer</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Timothy Hutton as Archie Goodwin ● Maury Chaykin as Nero Wolfe ● Colin Fox as Fritz ● Gerry Quigley as Lon Cohen (in the pilot) ● Saul Rubinek as Lon Cohen ● R. D. Reid as Purley Stebbins ● Saul Rubinek as Saul Panzer ● Conrad Dunn as Saul Panzer ● Fulvio Cecere as Fred Durkin ● Trent McMullen as Orrie Cather ● Bill Smitrovich as Inspector Cramer ● Hrant Alianak as *Parker ● George Plimpton as *Parker ● James Tolkan as *Wragg ● Aron Tager as *Commissioner Skinner ● Ken Kramer as *Dr. Vollmer ● Joe Flaherty as Dr. Vollmer ● David Hemline as Lewis Hewitt ● Kari Machete as *Lily Rowan ● Bill MacDonald as *Lt. Rowcliff ● Kari Matchett played Carla Lovchen ● Manon Von Gerkan played Sally Corbett ● Penelope Ann Miller played Lucy Valdon ● George Plimpton played General Carpenter



Italian Nero Wolfe Television Series

(2012 RAI Casanova) (original length 48 min. ea.)

Showing *Fer-de-Lance* (subtitled)

Plot/Premise (from Wikipedia, translated by Google)

"Rome, 1959. The famous American detective Nero Wolfe, after several disagreements with the head of FBI, has left New York and moved to Rome in a sort of "voluntary exile."

Following him in this new adventure is the faithful assistant Archie Goodwin, with whom he rents a big house on the Nomentana. Wolfe's two goals: find a chef who knows how to satisfy his appetite, and build a greenhouse as soon as possible for his beloved orchids. These pastimes, however, require money, so Archie begins to procure Wolfe new customers, and the gruff detective begins working with the Italian police to solve various crimes."



Cast

Francesco Pannofino (Nero Wolfe)
Pietro Sermonti (Archie Goodwin)
Giulia Bevilacqua (Rosa Petrini / female Lon Cohen character)
Andy Luotto (Nanni Laghi / Fritz Brenner character)
Michele La Ginestra (Spartaco Lanzetta / Saul Panzer character)
Marcello Mazzarella (Commissario Graziani / Inspector Cramer character)
Davide Paganini (Maresciallo Bordon / Sergeant Stebbins character)

Episodes

La traccia del serpente (Fer-de-Lance)
Champagne per uno (Champagne for One)
La principessa Orchidea (The Golden Spiders)
Il patto dei sei (The Rubber Band)
Scacco al Re (Gambit)
Parassiti (If Death Ever Slept)
La scatola rossa (The Red Box)
Coppia di spade (Over My Dead Body)



The Red Box: The Play June, 2014 (Approx. 2 hr.)

Showing the trailer

On June 6, 2014, more than 20 members of The Wolfe Pack attended the opening performance of [the first stage-play adaptation of a Nero Wolfe story](#) and the cast party following it.

Park Square Theater, St Paul, MN, two-act production

Written by Joseph Goodrich

Directed by Peter Moore

Cast:

E.J. Subkoviak (Nero Wolfe)
Sam Pearson (Archie Goodwin)
Michael Paul Levin (Inspector Cramer)
Jim Pounds (Fritz Brenner, Rene Gebert)
Nicholas Leeman (Lew Frost)
Rebecca Wilson (Helen Frost)
Suzanne Egli (Calida Frost)
James Cada (Dudley Frost)
Bob Malos (Boyden McNair)



MOVIES OF NERO WOLFE & OTHER STOUT CREATIONS



Lionel Stander as Archie

Meet Nero Wolfe

(based on *Fer-de-Lance*)

Columbia Pictures, 1936 (73 min.)

The League of Frightened Men

Columbia Pictures, 1937 (71 min.)

Rex Stout authorized Columbia to make two movies. He never again sold movie rights to his Nero Wolfe books.

Both starred Lionel Stander (photo above) as Archie. *Meet Nero Wolfe* starred Edward Arnold and was loosely based on *Fer-de-Lance*. *The League of Frightened Men* starred Walter Connolly (photo below) as Wolfe.

The plots are drastically altered as is the cast of characters and their characteristics. Stander, for instance, has a thick "Bronx" accent and in this plot is married. He is more "recently" remembered as the gravely-voiced chauffeur/house man, Max, in the TV series *Hart to Hart* (1979-1984) with Robert Wagner. Rita Hayworth has a small role playing Maria Maringola and using her birth name, Rita Cansino.



WALTER CONNOLLY



EDWARD ARNOLD

Neither movie is usually available for viewing on YouTube, but you can try to Google "Nero Wolfe Edward Arnold" or "Meet Nero Wolfe" or "League of Frightened Men Connolly." Both are sometimes available for sale on DVD on eBay, but the quality is poor.





The President Vanishes

Paramount Pictures, 1936 (80 min.)

In an interview printed in *Royal Decree* (1983), Rex Stout's official biographer John McAleer asked the author if there was any chance of Hollywood ever making a good Nero Wolfe movie. "I don't know," Stout replied. "I suppose so. They made a movie of another story I wrote — *The President Vanishes*. I hate like hell to admit it but it was better than the book, I think."

Rex Stout's 1934 novel, originally published anonymously, was quickly transformed into a feature film by Paramount Pictures. *The President Vanishes* (1936, British title *Strange Conspiracy*) was produced by Walter Wanger and directed by William A. Wellman, and featured a cast that included Arthur Byron, Edward Arnold, and Andy Devine. See IMDB for further information. It premiered November 1935 and was released in January 1936.

On February 28, 2012, it was shown as part of the William A. Wellman Film Festival at the NYC Film Forum. It has never been released in video or DVD or telecast.

- [Read The NY Times review from Dec. 8, 1934 following the screening](#)
- [Read the review from the 2012 showing at NY Film Forum](#)
- [Read the NY Times book review](#) (1934)



Lady Against the Odds

NBC, 1992 (73 min.)

In 1992 Stout's 1937 novel *The Hand in the Glove*, featuring Theodolinda (Dol) Bonner, was adapted for an NBC TV movie titled *Lady Against the Odds*, which aired April 20, 1992. Crystal Bernard starred as Dol Bonner; Annabeth Gish co-starred as Sylvia Raffray.

Bradford May, who also directed, received an Emmy Award for outstanding individual achievement in cinematography. It has never been released as a video, but is available for streaming on Netflix.



NERO WOLFE ON RADIO

Nero Wolfe was featured in radio shows in 1943, 1946, 1950-1951, and 1982. Sidney Greenstreet was the most famous actor to play Nero Wolfe (1940-1951). The two earlier series have only one episode each available. Wolfe was played by Santos Ortego in the earliest series, then by Francis X. Bushman in the second series. Francis X. Bushman was an extremely famous silent film star.

Radio broadcasts are available for listening at:

http://www.nerowolfe.org/htm/misc_media/radio.htm



"THE ADVENTURES OF NERO WOLFE"

1943 -- 1944 Series (one episode remains) (29 min. ea.)

NETWORK: NBC, SPONSOR: JERGENS LOTION

STARS: Santos Ortego (Wolfe), Elliott Lewis (and others) as Archie

OTHER: Aired as part of "MYSTERY PLAYHOUSE" with Peter Lorre



"THE AMAZING NERO WOLFE"

1945 --1946 Series (one episode remains) (29 min. ea.)

NETWORK: ABC, SPONSOR: JERGENS LOTION; TIME: Sunday 8:00pm

STARS: Francis X. Bushman (famed silent movie star) played Wolfe;

Archie Goodwin was played by a variety of actors.



"THE NEW ADVENTURES OF NERO WOLFE"

1950 -- 1951 Series (25 episodes remain) (30 min. ea.)

NETWORK: NBC, TIME: Fridays: 8:00 - 8:30 PM

STARS: Sidney Greenstreet (Nero Wolfe); Archie Goodwin was played by five different actors over two years.

WRITER: Louis Vittes based on the stories by Rex Stout

ANNOUNCER: Don Stanley, PRODUCER: Edwin Fadiman, DIRECTOR: J. Donald Wilson



Nero Wolfe

CBC Radio Play 1982 (approx.. 50 min.)

These shows actually follow the plot of the books and are, to a great extent, an extremely well done reading of the books using an ensemble cast.



NETWORK: CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Company)

STARS: Mavor Moore (Nero Wolfe), Don Francks (Archie Goodwin), Cec Linder (Inspector Cramer), Frank Perry (Fritz Brenner), Alfie Scopp (Saul Panzer)

WRITER, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER: Ron Harmmann

13 Episodes (Aired: January 16, 1982 – April 10, 1982)



DOWNLOAD OR LISTEN ONLINE TO AVAILABLE NERO WOLFE RADIO EPISODES

The available titles from the three early radio shows (1940s & 1950s) are apparently in the public domain and available for online listening, free download or purchase from a number of "Old Time Radio" (OTR) sites. The Internet Archive (archive.org), a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, and more, now has a number of the public domain broadcasts available for free (and easy) download or listening:

- **THE NEW ADVENTURES OF NERO WOLFE:** https://archive.org/details/Nero_Wolfe (23 episodes)
- **NERO WOLFE:** <https://archive.org/details/NeroWolfe> (10 episodes)

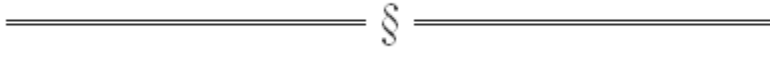
There are MANY "Old Time Radio" sites with information and downloads or listening copies. However, the sites change (come and go) often, so you can search for additional sites and information using the phrase "nero wolfe otr free download" or "nero wolfe otr".

Steve Hood's excellent summary of the various radio series is online at: http://www.old-time.com/otrlogs2/nero_sh.html



The 1982 Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's (CBC) show is **NOT** in the Public Domain. The series was released on audio cassette by Durkin Hayes Publishing (DH Audio). They are no longer in business and the recordings have never been released by another company. However, the 13 episodes are *sometimes* available online for **free download and/or listening**. The site noted below recently had all 13 episodes plus "Murder in the Flood Stranded House" with Sydney Greenstreet: NERO WOLFE: <http://www.otrrlibrary.org/n.html>.

Additional information and downloads of Nero Wolfe radio shows may exist. Use the search string "Nero Wolfe CBC radio" (with the quotation marks) for best results.



REX STOUT MEDIA APPEARANCES

TELEVISION

Omnibus Television Series

"The Fine Art of Murder" (Season 5, Episode 10)

Rex Stout Guest Appearance, December 9, 1956
(original length 43 minutes)

From Wikipedia:

"*Omnibus* was created by the Ford Foundation, which sought to increase the education level of the American public. The show was conceived by James Webb Young, who hired Robert Saudek as producer. Saudek believed that *Omnibus* could "raise the level of American taste" with educational entertainment.



"The show was hosted by Alistair Cooke and broadcast live, primarily on Sunday afternoons at 4:00pm EST, from November 9, 1952 until 1961. *Omnibus* originally aired on CBS, and later on Sunday evenings on ABC. The show was never commercially viable on its own, and sources of funding dwindled after the Ford Foundation ended its sponsorship in 1957.

"The series won more than 65 awards, including seven Emmy Awards and two Peabody Awards. The series is held at The Library of Congress and Global ImageWorks, among other archives. The *Omnibus* programs with Leonard Bernstein were released in a 4-DVD set for Region 1 and Region 2 in 2010."

From Time magazine:

"A homicide as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Edgar Allan Poe [and] **Rex Stout** would variously present it"

From TV.COM:

"The first segment *The Fine Art of Murder*" is a dramatization of a murder but not its solution (sic). Solving it is up to a trio of famous detectives in this masterful whodunit."

From TV Guide:

"James Daly (*Foreign Intrigue*) narrates and Rex Stout plays himself in a play in which murder occurs and then is solved in different ways by some detective story writers and their heroes. "

Cast:

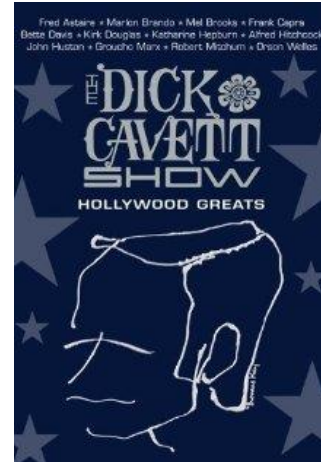
Alistair Cooke (Host)
James Daly* (Narrator)
Robert Eckles (Nero Wolfe)
Dennis Hoey (Arthur Conan Doyle)
Felix Munro (Edgar Allan Poe)
Gene Reynolds (Archie Goodwin)
Rex Stout (Himself)
Herb Volland (M. Dupin)
Written by Sidney Carroll and directed by Paul Bogart, "The Fine Art of Murder" is in the collection of the Library of Congress (VBE 2397-2398).

The Dick Cavett Show

Rex Stout Guest Appearance September 2, 1969

Season 3 Episode 43 (original length 1 hour)

Dick Cavett hosted "The Dick Cavett Show" on multiple networks for more than 35 years while interviewing a wide range of guests, from authors and politicians to musicians, actors and other creative types. He often featured controversial people and topics which weren't the norm for the variety talk shows that were airing at the time. He won three Emmy Awards for his work.



In Episode 43, host Dick Cavett welcomes guests: actor William Holden, singer-actress Eartha Kitt and mystery writer Rex Stout. Topics covered include the Authors League's and Stout's ultimately successful efforts to induce Congress to update outdated provisions of U.S. copyright law (which dated to 1909), Stout's life as an author, and his recent book *The Father Hunt*.



Book Beat (Chicago Educational Television / WTTW)

November 1, 1973 (original length 28 min)



Host Robert Cromie interviews Rex Stout in his living room at his home, High Meadow (near Brewster, NY).

From WTTW.COM (Window to The World) public television station from Chicago)

"...Book Beat, hosted by Robert Cromie, delivered a steady stream of literary notables into viewers' homes, and became the first of seven WTTW offerings to win the prestigious George Foster Peabody Award for excellence in broadcasting."

Robert Cromie and Book Beat won the 1978 Peabody Award for Television Education. Robert Cromie was a reporter for The Chicago Tribune, as well as WTTW. For further information, see <http://archives.chicagotribune.com/1968/10/27/page/387/article/cromie-and-book-beat-add-up-to-top-tv>.



Copies of the following two television productions have not been located.



"First Prize of Murder" (*Studio One* episode)

Broadcast on September 16, 1957 as an episode of the anthology series Studio One. Based on an idea by John D. MacDonald (of Travis McGee fame, among many other books), adapted by Phil Reisman, Jr.

Starring Darren McGavin, Philip Coolidge, Barbara O'Neil, Ross Martin, Colleen Dewhurst, Jonathan Harris, Larry Hagman and Peter Falk. **Featuring (as themselves) mystery writers Rex Stout, Brett Halliday, Frances & Richard Lockridge, Georges Simenon and George Harmon Coxe.**



"The Baker Street Irregulars and Rex Stout" (*Odyssey*)

The TV Guide for February 3, 1957 describes an "Odyssey" program that aired at Sunday at 4:00 p.m. on CBS that would interest Sherlockians as well as Wolfeans.



"All of today's show is devoted to Sherlock Holmes. Though most people regard Holmes as a merely fictional detective, the creation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the Baker Street Irregulars look at things differently. It's a dogma of the Irregulars that Holmes was, in fact is, a real person, that furthermore Dr. Watson was his actual chronicler, and that Conan Doyle simply acted as an agent for Watson. Today's 'Odyssey' program opens with a film of the annual meeting of the Irregulars in New York City last month where Holmes's 103rd birthday was toasted.

"The climax of this meeting comes in a speech by mystery writer **Rex Stout**, creator of Nero Wolfe. Stout 'reveals' his discovery that an affair of the heart actually took Holmes to New York City during the 1890s and that it was in Brooklyn, not in London, that Holmes studied his celebrated case of 'The Red Headed League.' The one hour program concludes with a full-length live dramatization of this case as it 'actually' took place on this side of the Atlantic.

"Aiding Stout in digging up the facts about Holmes's clandestine visit to our shores are three Irregulars: Dr. Richard Hoffmann, New York psychiatrist; Edgar Smith, retired auto-company executive; and Red Smith, syndicated sports columnist.

"To enhance the 1890s atmosphere there will be films of little-known still photographs of the New York of the day and of the city's police force, to which Holmes gave his help in solving the 'crime.' David Eban wrote today's script. Charles Collingwood is host."

TV Guide concluded the entry with the cast. Holmes was played by Michael Clarke Laurence. Wilson by Donald Marye. Harry Gresham portrayed the remaining member of the three-man cast, Hargreave. Charles Collingwood hosted the series.



REX STOUT ON RADIO

Rex Stout was a host or a guest on a number of radio programs throughout the 1940s. From the late 1930s until the end of World War II, Stout curtailed his lucrative writing career, producing only four Wolfe novellas during that time. His guest appearances on quiz and talk shows appear to have been paid engagements. He was also paid for the rights to the Nero Wolfe radio shows that were broadcast during the 1940s and early 1950s.

The two radio shows he hosted, *Speaking of Liberty* and *Our Secret Weapon*, were pro bono and part of his contribution to the war effort.

***Speaking of Liberty* (4/17/1941 to 12/11/1941)** (original length 30 minutes)



This half-hour radio show focused on the importance and value of citizenship and liberty for all people regardless of race, creed, or color. The show featured top writers, including Rex Stout, reporters, and intellectuals as they reflect about the meaning of democracy on the eve of America's entrance

into WWII. Shows' topics centered on the American Constitution, law, the definition of civil liberties, and other intellectual and political topics.

Created and sponsored by "the Council on Democracy" and broadcast by the NBC Red network, Rex Stout hosted a variety of guests who were "speaking of liberty." The show aired for an initial series of episodes and the audience response was so positive, the show returned for "Round 2." The last show of the broadcasts was the week following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Frank Gervasi, a reporter who covered the Spanish Civil War & WWI in Europe, was the author of 10 books and was a reporter and war correspondent for *The Philadelphia Record*, *The Associated Press*, *Hearst International News Service*, *Colliers Weekly*, and *The Washington Post*.

Run Dates(s)/ Time(s):

Series One:

41-04-17 to 41-08-21; NBC [WEAF]; Nineteen, 15-minute programs; Thursday Evenings

Series Two:

41-10-09 to 41-12-11; NBC [WEAF]; Ten, 15-minute programs; Thursday Evenings

The episodes, each with a brief description of the show's topic, are available for listening or download at: <https://archive.org/details/SpeakingOfLiberty>.





Our Secret Weapon

(Aug. 17, 1942 to Friday, Oct. 8, 1943)

(original length 15 minutes)

This series of 62, 15 minute radio programs, 11 of which were sponsored by Freedom House, Inc., New York, and Philco and presented on the Columbia Broadcasting System were produced by Paul White, directed by John Dietz, and written by Rex Stout.

Our Secret Weapon was designed to whip up and excite the nation to to greater war effort — in industry, in buying war bonds, in every avenue toward victory," said series creator Sue Taylor White of Freedom House." Only two shows are currently known to have survived.

For links to additional information see:

http://www.nerowolfe.org/htm/stout/activism_wartime.htm



Address to the 1966 Books and Authors Luncheon

Broadcast on WNYC (NYC's NPR station) on February 14, 1966 (orig. length 16 min.)

Shortly after the publication of *The Doorbell Rang*, Rex Stout addressed the audience in New York City as if they were his "Committee on Grievances" regarding the attention paid to *The Doorbell Rang* because "I'd had the nerve to poke J. Edgar Hoover in the nose."

For links to download or listen to the address, go to

http://www.nerowolfe.org/htm/stout/Stout_in_the_media.htm.



Rex Stout & Pola Stout on Radio with Eleanor Roosevelt

During World War II, Stout worked with the advocacy group Friends of Democracy, chaired the Writers' War Board (a propaganda organization), and supported the embryonic United Nations. He lobbied for Franklin D. Roosevelt to accept a fourth term as President. He and his wife, noted textile designer Pola Weinbach Hoffmann Stout, carried on a correspondence with both Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt.

"Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt were the "first couple" of American radio. From the 1920s through FDR's fourth term, the president and first lady used this extraordinarily powerful new medium to win elections, combat the Great Depression and rally the nation to fight fascism.

Eleanor Roosevelt's radio work is almost entirely forgotten. But she was a radio star in her own right -- with commercial sponsors paying top dollar for her talents as a news commentator. The day of the bombing of Pearl Harbor is also the day that Eleanor Roosevelt, not FDR, spoke to the nation about the events."
WNYC Radio (NYC Public Radio)

"Democratic Women's Day"

(September 27, 1940 Radio speech)

"Guest Speakers: Thornton Wilder-Author, Robert Sherwood-Playwright, Edna Ferber-Author, Rex Stout-Writer, Alice Miller-Author, Dr. Frank Kingdon, Katharine Hepburn-Actress, Mark Connolly-Author, Elmer Rice-Playwright, Frank Sullivan, Henry Curren."

1941-1942--"Over Our Coffee Cups," Eleanor Roosevelt's NBC Radio Program, "discussed current events sponsored by *Pan American Coffee Bureau Series*." (September 28, 1941-March 25, 1942)



Eleanor Roosevelt's interview with Pola Stout

(July 27, 1949) (15 minutes)

"Mrs. Stout works in the field of textiles. She is the wife of Rex Stout, writer of the Nero Wolfe Mystery Novels."

1948-1949--"The Eleanor and Anna Roosevelt Show." ABC Radio (October 3, 1948-December 15, 1949)

"Anna [oldest daughter of ER & FDR] hosted while her mother checked in from various parts of the country and world. They also interviewed political figures, writers, scholars and celebrities. Topics ranged from homey interests to international relations."



"The Eleanor Roosevelt Program"

(July 30, 1951. Program 209, Guest: mystery writer Rex Stout.

(The portion of program with the Stout Interview regarding the Baker Street Irregulars is currently unavailable.)

"From the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City, Elliott Roosevelt [son of ER & FDR] reads a letter from listener Miss A. Fisher of New York City on the matter of tipping, which Elliott and Mrs. Roosevelt then discuss. At the beginning of the program, Elliott states that mystery writer Rex Stout will discuss The Baker Street Irregulars; however the interview is omitted from the recording of the program currently available at the FDR Library in Hyde Park, NY." [The Wolfe Pack has asked AG to assist in locating a source of the full recording.]

1950-1951--"The Eleanor Roosevelt Show." NBC Radio (February 1950-August 31, 1951)

"In 1950, ER teamed up with her son Elliott for a daily, *45-minute program*. In the course of 233 broadcasts, Eleanor and Elliott Roosevelt interviewed a wide range of notables...."



REX STOUT ADDRESS TO THE AUTHORS & CRITICS GATHERING

Radio Broadcast on WNYC (NYC's NPR station) on March 11, 1965 (24 min.)

Excerpt of a gathering of major book reviewers and a panel of authors, with Rex Stout as emcee. He first speaks of the copyright act, asking reviewers to consider writing columns about the copyright law. [The 1965 Copyright Act Revision, then before the Congress, was an ultimately successful attempt at updating the Act that dated from 1909.]

Stout then asks each author on the panel to answer the question "What do I think of book reviews and book reviewers." Panel includes C. D. B. Bryan, Muriel Resnick, Edward Albee, Ralph Ellison, and Barbara Tuchman.

§

AUTHOR MEETS THE CRITICS

Rex Stout participates in a Literary Panel Discussion Radio Show 1943 – 1949 (29 min.)



Beginning in 1942, the Mutual Broadcasting System (WHN radio) introduced *The Author Meets the Critics* radio show. During the show two literary critics discuss and dissect a recently published book. One of the critics is an advocate of the book and the other critic takes the opposing view. At some point, the author comes out to discuss the book with the critics. The show ran on radio on a number of stations for 12 years, and a TV show ran from 1948 to 1954. John K. M. McCaffrey and Kenneth Banghart were the announcers over the course of the show's run.

10/12/1943 (#31)	A discussion with John Roy Carlson, author of <i>Under Cover: My Four Years in the Nazi Underworld of America</i> Cast: Max Lerner, Victor Riesel, Rex Stout
2/2/1944 (#47)	A discussion with Louis Nizer, author of <i>What to Do with Germany</i> (1944, US Army) Cast: Russell Hill, Rex Stout
12/5/1946 (#29)	Moves to WQXR Cast: Paul Gallico , Virgilia Peterson, Rex Stout
1/2/1949 (#63)	Moves to WNBC A discussion of <i>Larks in the Popcorn</i> with author H. Allen Smith Cast: Eloise McElhone, Rex Stout

§

“Invitation to Learning” (CBS)

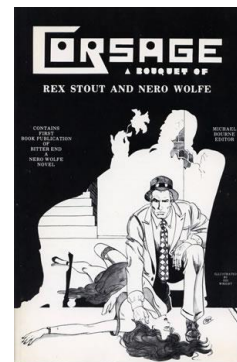
In late January 1942 Rex Stout joined [Jacques Barzun](#) and [Elmer Davis](#) in a discussion of [The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes](#) on [Mark Van Doren](#)'s popular CBS radio show, *Invitation to Learning*. Van Doren included a transcript in his 1942 book, *The New Invitation to Learning: The Essence of the Great Books of All Times*, published by Random House.



AN INFORMAL INTERVIEW WITH REX STOUT **by Michael Bourne (1977)**

A cassette tape of this interview, which originally accompanied the limited edition printing of *Corsage: A Bouquet of Rex Stout and Nero Wolfe*, is available at http://www.rockpublishing.com/Stout_Interview.htm. It is both entertaining and enlightening.

A clip of this interview is available on the Wolfe Pack web site.



INFORMATION PLEASE Radio Quiz Show (29 min.)

Moderated by Clifton Fadiman, "Information Please" aired from 1938 to 1952 and was the most literate, long-running radio show of its day. The show turned traditional quiz programs on their heads by allowing the public to ask questions of a panel of experts, who would then provide the answers, or at least a reply that was entertaining if not plausible. These programs are available on the Wolfe Pack web site.

Rex Stout was a guest contestant on four shows:

- March 28, 1939 -- Guests Rex Stout, Moss Hart
- August 29, 1939 -- Guests Rex Stout, Wilford Funk
- September 26, 1939 -- Guests Rex Stout, Carl Van Doren
- April 18, 1941 -- Guests Rex Stout, Henry Curran, Chief Magistrate

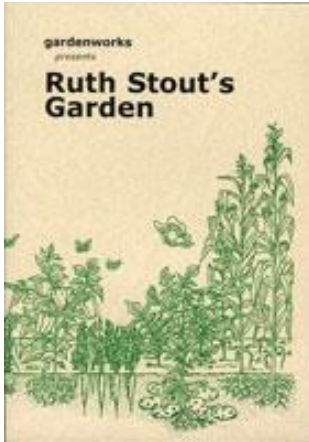


For additional information regarding Rex Stout on radio, see:

- **Wikipedia** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rex_Stout#Select_radio_credits
- **Rex Stout war-time activism:** http://www.nerowolfe.org/htm/stout/activism_wartime.htm



Ruth Stout (Rex's Sister)



Ruth Stout's Garden (or How I Garden), 1976 (original length 23 minutes)

Ruth Stout (1884-1980) is best known for her gardening method, the no-dig or no-work garden. Her 1976 video *Ruth Stout's Garden*, written and directed by Arthur Mokinvideo, won a Red Ribbon, American Film Festival in 1976.

Ruth is the author of a number of books and lectured widely on her gardening methods and other topics. There are many gardening and non-gardening web sites about her. Her video and 3 of her books are still available for sale and the complete video may be viewed on

youtube.com (search for "ruth stout").



I've Got a Secret TV Series (Ruth Stout Guest Appearance, March 9, 1964) (original length, 30 minutes)

The Secret? "I smashed up a saloon with Carrie Nation"

I've Got a Secret is a panel game show produced by Mark Goodson and Bill Todman for CBS television. Created by comedy writers Allan Sherman and Howard Merrill, it was a derivative of Goodson-Todman's own panel show *What's My Line?* Instead of celebrity panelists trying to determine a contestant's occupation, the panel tries to determine a contestant's "secret": something that is unusual, amazing, embarrassing, or humorous about that person.



I've Got a Secret premiered on June 19, 1952 and ended on April 3, 1967. The show was originally hosted by radio and television personality Garry Moore. The regular panelists were Bill Cullen, acerbic comedian Henry Morgan, actress Betsy Palmer, and former Miss America (and later, friend of Edward I. Koch) Bess Myerson. The announcer for most the 1952-1967 shows was John Cannon.

NOTE regarding media download or purchase of video and audio productions:

The encoding format of any DVDs purchased must be in Region 1 (US)/NTSC or Region 0 (zero) (universal) format to play on most TV DVD players purchased in the US. Region 2/PAL encoding or any Region number other than 0 or 1, will NOT play on US DVD players.

The encoding format for audio purchases should be in MP3 format to play on most recent automobile CD players, PCs, portable CD players, etc. OR in CDA/CD-DA format to play on a CD player attached to a stereo system, older auto, etc.