Nero Wolfe
The Comic Strip

• Dates: November 26, 1956 - 1957.

• Syndicated by: Columbia Features

• Writer: John Broome (credited to Rex Stout) & Ed Herron (?)

• Artist: Mike Roy (1956-57), Fran Matera (1957).

• Inker: Mike Peppe (1956).

Mike Roy, age 75, died March 25, 1996 in Springfield VA.
Nero Wolfe - The Comic Strip
(continued)

• Nero Wolfe was printed in the following newspapers:

  – Indianapolis Star, Indianapolis, Indiana (in April 14, 1957)
  – Newark Evening News, Newark, New Jersey
    (unconfirmed, folded 1972, newspaper morgue housed in Charles F. Cummings New
     Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library)
  – New York Post, New York City, NY (unconfirmed)
  – Rocky Mountain News, Denver, Colorado
    (strip published only in 1957)
  – Sunday Express-News, San Antonio, Texas
    (in September 1, 1957)
  – Winnipeg Free Press, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
  – The Globe and Mail, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
    (in January 25, 1958)

• Nero Wolfe was also printed in Italian newspapers
and in the Sunday Mirror in New Zealand (starting in 1959).
“... Larry Nadle's son has a Feb. 1957 letter from Rex Stout indicating he likes the writing Nadle has turned in... that wouldn't have come out, probably, till a few months later. . .”

“The only writer names I've ever seen associated with the strip are Ed Herron and John Broome.”

Arthur Lortie
from July 10, 2007 e-mail communication
Nero Wolfe - The Comic Strip
Story Titles

• The Curse of the Bad Luck Mine
• Exposed To Danger
• Healthier to be Dead
• The Hypnotist
• . . .

and in Belgium Nero Wolfe comic books:
  – Champaign for One
  – The Red Box
January 23 1957

Dear Mr. Nadle:

I have received the series for the weeks of February 11th and 18th.

One thing is wrong. Fritz never calls Archie "Mr. Archie." He calls him "Archie."

Another thing is terrible. Wolfe says to Fritz, "If Archie has not contacted us by now..." Ouch. Wolfe once refused to take a lucrative case because the prospective client used "contact" as a verb. I told Mr. Boychuk I wouldn't be fussy, and I am not, but there are limits, and this is way out of bounds.

I understood that the text for the balloons would be sent me in advance, and I suppose that is the only way this sort of calamity can be avoided.

Sincerely,
December 24, 1956
December 24, 1956
(continued)
January 3, 1957

You'd better keep going, mister! All right... but remember what I said Bennett...

Print that article about me--and I'll kill you!

Get out before I call the police, Wickman!

Take me to Nero Wolfe's residence!

Yes, sir...
January 4, 1957
Italian version
January 21, 19xx
Italian version
January 22, 19xx

(first 3 panels same as earlier January 12, 1957 U.S. strip)

(4th panel same as upcoming 1st panel January 23, 1957 U.S. strip)
January 23, 1957
(first 2 panels same as previous January 23, 1957 U.S. strip 2nd and 3rd panels)

(last 2 panels same as upcoming January 24, 1957 U.S. strip first 2 panels)
Italian version
January 25, 19xx

(1st panel same as upcoming January 24, 1957 U.S. strip last panel)
January 24, 1957

- Yeah! I'll tell all about Wolfe, Bennett--but I've got to work in utter secrecy! And I'm no typist..

- What I need is someone to types while I dictate...

- Mmm... Why not work at that office with glossy? It shouldn't take too long...

- Des-Lig-Ted!
March 10, 1957

[Comic strip image]
March 17, 1957
Rocky Mountain News

(Note that the 3rd panel in the original art, on the previous slide, is missing from this published version.)
March 24, 1957
May 5, 195x
row 2 & 3, column 1 & 2

BABY GREENE! YOU'RE ASKING FOR A PAY-OFF FOR WHAT YOU DID TO VIOLET LEIGHTON.

HERE'S HIS GUN -- HEREB'S SOMETHING EVEN MORE INTERESTING, INSPECTOR --

GREENE SHOT HER BECAUSE HE FEARED STRAYKER'S SKETCHBOOK, IN HER POSSESSION WOULD LEAD THE POLICE TO HIM -- WHICH IT DID!

COME ON MISTER...

ONE MORE THING, WOLFE -- THAT PAINT MARK, STRAYKER MADE WHILE DYING --?

OH, YES! IT WAS IF YOU RECALL A BLUE MARK ON A YELLOW BACKGROUND, INSPECTOR...
May 5, 195x
row 2 & 3, column 3 & 4

... A COMPLETE WORKSHOP FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF FAKE ART MASTERPIECES PAINTED BY STRAYKER, AND AGED BY GREEN.

IT'S BEGINNING TO FIT -- GREENS MUSTIVE KILLED STRAYKER BECAUSE HE GOT COLD FEET AND WAS GOING TO EXPOSE THE HOAX TO THE POLICE!

CORRECT, INSPECTOR, AND AS FOR MISS LEIGHTON...

... AND IT WAS STRAYKER'S DYING ATTEMPT TO NAME HIS MURDERER! AS EVERY SCHOOLBOY KNOWS, BLUE PLUS YELLOW ADDS UP TO -- GREEN!

MEANWHILE IN NEW YORK'S FAMOUS BOLA PARK...

MY FATHER CAME HERE AT SEVEN O'CLOCK TO MEET MR. AND NRS. MAIN, AND -- YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE, MISS... THE PARK WAS LOCKED TIGHT AT SEVEN! BEIDES THERE'S NO ONE AROUND HERE BY THAT NAME!
March 15, 1959
Sunday Mirror, New Zealand

(1st Nero Wolfe strip published in Sunday Mirror is the same strip that was published in July 14, 195x U.S. newspaper.)
September 1, 1957
Rocky Mountain News

Nero Wolfe

I want two hundred thousand dollars, Sam.

I didn't handle this on my own.

I don't want my shoes marked.

I don't want your shoes marked.

I don't want your shoes marked.

I don't want your shoes marked.

I don't want your shoes marked.

I don't want your shoes marked.

I don't want your shoes marked.

I don't want your shoes marked.
November 29, 19xx

NERO WOLFE

They say the car that hit the poor guy was going eighty.

Now, look Wolfe! A man is deliberately killed seconds after leaving your home and you say you know nothing about him?"

("Laws,")

Inspector Gravino.

I merely said I was occupied when Mr. Parternon arrived and I've no notion what he wanted.

"Umm..."

But before you and Sergeant Ribben run along, Inspector Gravino, I have a question..."
between
December 2, 1956 & November 17, 1957
January 18, 1958
Winnipeg Free Press
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Two Belgian comic books were also produced,

La Cassette Rouge (The Red Box) & Les Compacnon de la Peur (The League of Frightened Men) were published with alternative covers.
Nero Wolfe
Les compagnons de la peur

or

Nero Wolfe
Les compagnons de la peur

- Scénariste: Jean-Claude de la Royère
- Dessinateur: André Taymans
- Coloriste: Liliane Denayer
- Editeur: Claude Lefrancq
- Collection: BDétectives
- Pages: 46
- ISBN: 2-87153-025-4

Jean-Claude de la Royère
Philippe Wurm
Liliane Denayer
Claude Lefrancq
BDétectives
46
2-87153-093-9
Fritz, Inspector Cramer, Archie, Theodore, and Nero Wolfe (left)

Archie Goodwin close-up from *La Cassette Rouge*. (right)
I ‘think’ this panel, by Philippe Wurm, is from *La Cassette Rouge (The Red Box)*
Copy of 135 mm (height) x 85 mm (width) polychrome illustration of Nero Wolfe by Philippe Wurm.
plus a British comic book series.

This digest, or pocket sized, comic was a 68-page reprinting of the Nero Wolfe black & white newspaper strip from the United States. The series ran for about 7 issues. This first issue was not dated. Other sources indicate 1959.

It was renamed *Theo Drake Detective*, most likely for copyright purposes (Archie Goodwin’s name remained unchanged).
THEO DRAKE
DETECTIVE
NO. 5

The Curse of the Bad Luck Mine
I’ve also come across a cartoon parody of Rex Stout’s Nero Wolfe.
And a series of comic strips and short stories about
Harry Slothe

Harry Slothe
• NAME: Heronymys "Harry" Slothe
• OCCUPATION: World Famous Private Investigator
• WEIGHT: between 120 kilograms and a fifth of a ton
• DISTINGUISHING TRAITS: Smoked glasses, custom-built wheelchair,
  mouthful of food and/or drink
• FAVORITE PHRASE: "I suppose you're all wondering why I've called you here."

Joe Baloney
• NAME: Joseph V. Baloney
• OCCUPATION: Harry Slothe's Confidential Assistant
• DISTINGUISHING TRAITS: Thick blond hair, toilet paper stuck to shoe
• HOBBIES: Chronicling the cases of Harry Slothe
• FAVORITE PHRASE: "Mr. Slothe can't be disturbed right now."

Inspector Kramer
• NAME: Sullivan Kramer
• OCCUPATION: Police Inspector
• DISTINGUISHING TRAITS: Rumpled raincoat, beleaguered scowl
• LIKES: Bubble gum, private eyes who mind their own business
• DISLIKES: Harry Slothe (most of the time)
• FAVORITE PHRASE: "One more stunt like that and I'll have your license!"
Nero Wolfe
the newspaper comic strip
Help!

September 2007

This is all the information I’ve uncovered about the Nero Wolfe newspaper comic strip. If you have any additional information, please pass it on to me so I can update this document. I can be reached at:

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