

Rex Stout

A Checklist of Primary First Editions by ROBIN H. SMILEY

THE FOLLOWING IS A CHECKLIST of Rex Stout first editions. The list includes only book-length publications and the American first editions through the last of the Viking Press editions in 1977. The price estimates given are for copies in very good to fine condition in like dust wrappers. Please note that condition is a large variable in pricing Stout titles; bright, fresh copies from any era bring a premium.

The early Nero Wolfe titles, published in the early 1930s by Farrar & Rinehart, are truly scarce. Pricing them often amounts to a "guesstimate," since collector's copies in dustwrapper appear in the marketplace only infrequently.

The list is based on three sources. I primarily used Allen and Patricia Ahearn's "Author Price Guide" for

Rex Stout, the updated 2004 list. It is hard to imagine collecting Stout without a copy of this most useful guide, which includes a facsimile signature, information on omnibus editions and recombinations, British first editions, proof and advance reading copies, later printings, publications that are not book length, and posthumous publications. None of these are included here, but Stout completists will want them, and should consult the Ahearn A.P.G. I also consulted the *St. James Guide to Crime and Mystery Writers, Fourth Edition* (Detroit, MI: St. James Press, 1996) and a private collection. I have not seen several of the books in the list; for these, I relied on the Ahearns' descriptions. The price ranges given, however, are my own. Signed and/or inscribed copies bring a considerable premium.

1. *How Like a God*
NY: Vanguard, 1929
No statement of printing on the copyright page
First edition, \$4,000-\$7,500
2. *Seed on the Wind*
NY: Vanguard, 1930
No statement of printing on the copyright page
First edition, \$2,500-\$4,000
3. *Golden Remedy*
NY: Vanguard, 1931
No statement of printing on the copyright page
First edition, \$1,500-\$2,500
4. *Forest Fire*
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1933
Farrar & Rinehart colophon on the copyright page
First edition, \$2,000-\$3,000
5. *The President Vanishes*
(published anonymously)
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1934
Farrar & Rinehart colophon on the copyright page
First edition, \$1,500-\$2,500
6. *Fer-de-Lance* (Wolfe)
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1934
Farrar & Rinehart colophon on the copyright page; no reviews on the back panel of the dustwrapper
First edition, \$15,000 and up
7. *The League of Frightened Men* (Wolfe)
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1935
Farrar & Rinehart colophon on the copyright page
First edition, \$15,000 and up
8. *O Careless Love*
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1935
Farrar & Rinehart colophon on the copyright page
First edition, \$2,500-\$4,000
9. *The Rubber Band* (Wolfe)
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1936
Farrar & Rinehart colophon on the copyright page
First edition, \$15,000-\$30,000
10. *The Red Box* (Wolfe)
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1937
Farrar & Rinehart colophon on the copyright page
First edition, \$15,000-\$30,000
11. *The Hand in the Glove*
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1937
Farrar & Rinehart colophon on the copyright page
First edition, \$5,000-\$7,500
12. *Too Many Cooks* (Wolfe)
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1938
Farrar & Rinehart colophon on the copyright page
First edition, \$2,500-\$5,000
13. *Mr. Cinderella*
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1938
Farrar & Rinehart colophon on the copyright page
First edition, \$2,000-\$4,000
14. *Some Buried Caesar* (Wolfe)
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1939
Farrar & Rinehart colophon on the copyright page
First edition, \$2,500-\$5,000

15. *Mountain Cat*
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1939
Farrar & Rinehart colophon
on the copyright page
First edition, \$1,500-\$2,500

16. *Double for Death* (Fox)
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1939
Farrar & Rinehart colophon
on the copyright page
First edition, \$1,000-\$2,000

17. *Over My Dead Body*
(Wolfe)
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1940
Farrar & Rinehart colophon
on the copyright page
First edition, \$4,000-\$7,500

18. *Where There's a Will*
(Wolfe)
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1940
Farrar & Rinehart colophon
on the copyright page
First edition, \$4,000-\$7,500

19. *The Broken Vase* (Fox)
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1941
Farrar & Rinehart colophon
on the copyright page
First edition, \$750-\$1,500

20. *Alphabet Hicks*
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1941
Farrar & Rinehart colophon
on the copyright page
First edition, \$1,500-\$2,500

21. *Black Orchids* (Wolfe)
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1942
Farrar & Rinehart colophon
on the copyright page
First edition, \$3,000-\$5,000

22. *Not Quite Dead
Enough* (Wolfe)
NY: Farrar & Rinehart, 1944
Farrar & Rinehart colophon
on the copyright page
First edition, \$1,000-\$2,000

23. *The Silent Speaker*
(Wolfe)
NY: Viking, 1946
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$400-\$750

24. *Too Many Women*
(Wolfe)
NY: Viking, 1947
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$400-\$750

25. *And Be a Villain*
(Wolfe)
NY: Viking, 1948
States "First published..."
on the copyright page; Ahearn
notes that the book club edi-
tion states "Printed in USA"
while the first trade edition
adds "by Colonial Press, Inc."
and that the back flap of the
first trade is blank.
First edition, \$300-\$500

26. *The Second Confession*
(Wolfe)
NY: Viking, 1949
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$300-\$500

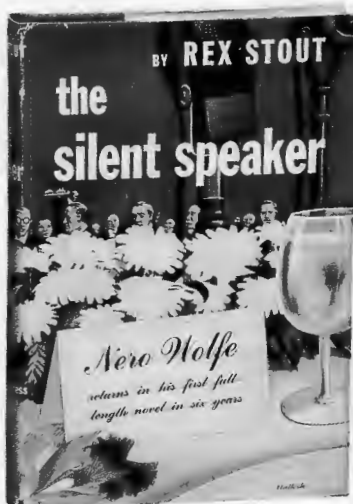
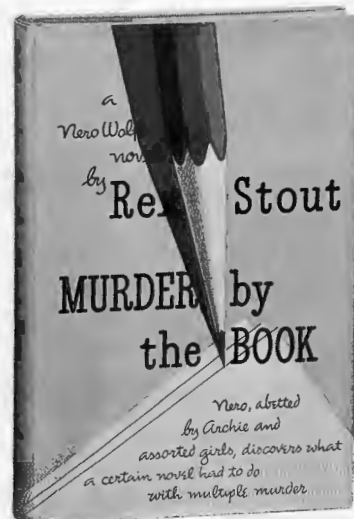
27. *Trouble in Triplicate*
(Wolfe)
NY: Viking, 1949
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$300-\$500

28. *Three Doors to Death*
(Wolfe)
NY: Viking, 1950
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$300-\$500

29. *In the Best Families*
(Wolfe)
NY: Viking, 1950
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$300-\$500

30. *Curtains for Three*
(Wolfe)
NY: Viking, 1950
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$300-\$500

31. *Murder by the Book*
(Wolfe)
NY: Viking, 1951
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$400-\$750



32. *Triple Jeopardy* (Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1952
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$300-\$500

33. *Prisoner's Base* (Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1952
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$300-\$500

34. *The Golden Spiders*
(Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1953
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$200-\$350

35. *Three Men Out* (Wolfe)

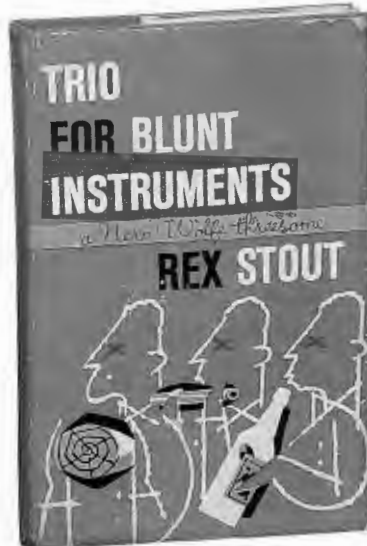
NY: Viking, 1954
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$200-\$350

36. *The Black Mountain*
(Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1954
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$200-\$350

37. *Before Midnight* (Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1955
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$200-\$350



38. *Might As Well
Be Dead* (Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1956
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$200-\$350

39. *Three Witnesses* (Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1956
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$200-\$350

40. *Three for the Chair*
(Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1957
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$200-\$350

41. *If Death Ever Slept*
(Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1957
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$200-\$350

42. *And Four to Go*
(Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1958
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition,
\$200-\$350

43. *Champagne for One*
(Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1958
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$200-\$350

44. *Plot It Yourself* (Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1959
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$200-\$350

45. *Three at Wolfe's Door*
(Wolfe)

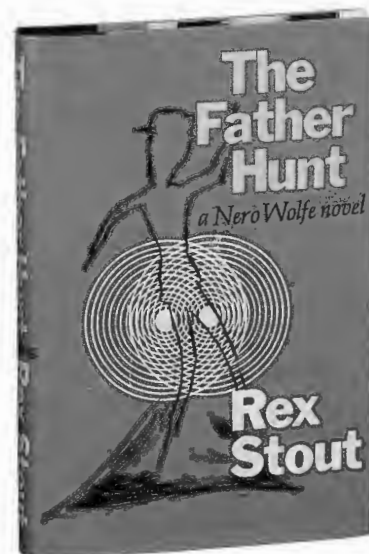
NY: Viking, 1960
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$200-\$350

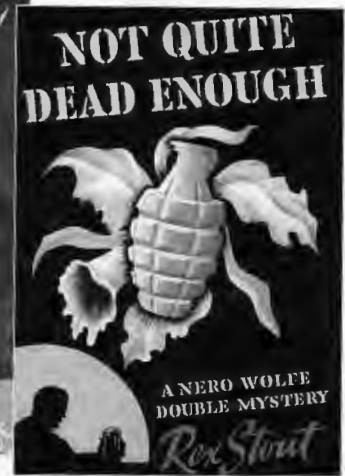
46. *Too Many Clients*
(Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1960
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$200-\$350

47. *The Final Deduction*
(Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1961
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$150-\$300





48. *Homicide Trinity*
(Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1962
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$150-\$300

49. *Gambit* (Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1962
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$150-\$300

50. *The Mother Hunt*
(Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1963
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$150-\$300

51. *Trio for Blunt
Instruments* (Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1964
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$150-\$300

52. *A Right to Die* (Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1964
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$150-\$300

53. *The Doorbell Rang*
(Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1965 (Official
publication date was October
22, 1964, but it was not
released until 1965,
according to Ahearn)
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$100-\$200

54. *Death of a Doxy* (Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1966
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$100-\$200

55. *The Father Hunt*
(Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1968
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$100-\$200

56. *Death of a Dude* (Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1969
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$100-\$200

57. *Please Pass the Guilt*
(Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1973
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$60-\$100

58. *The Nero Wolfe
Cook Book*

NY: Viking, 1973
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$60-\$100

59. *A Family Affair* (Wolfe)

NY: Viking, 1975
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$60-\$100

60. *Justice Ends at Home
and Other Stories*

(edited by James McAleer)
NY: Viking, 1977
States "First published..."
on the copyright page
First edition, \$60-\$100

