

The Spoils of Avalon

By Mary F. Burns

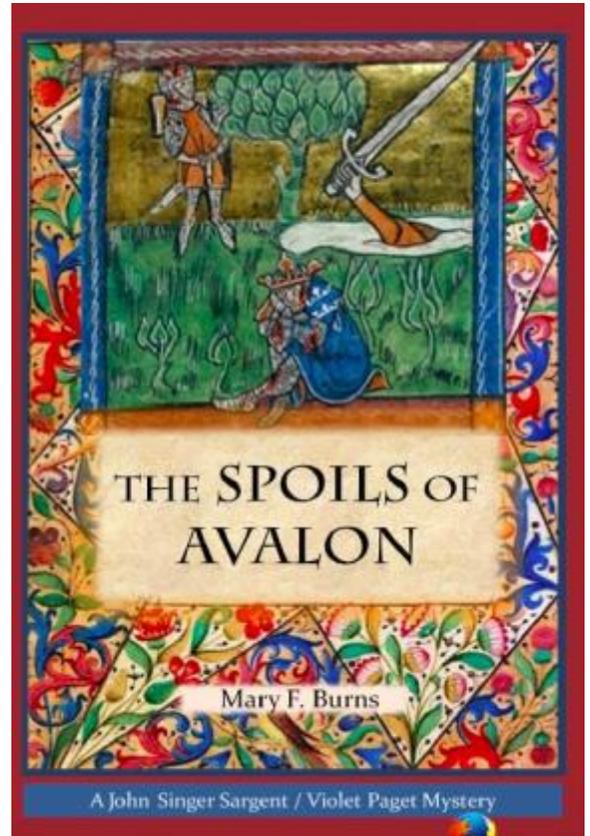
The Spoils of Avalon introduces two unlikely detective and life-long friends, young artists on the verge of making their names famous for the next several decades throughout Europe and America: the brilliant and brittle Violet Paget, known as the writer Vernon Lee, and the talented, genial portrait painter John Singer Sargent. For their first case, the death of a humble clergyman in 1877 leads the amateur sleuths into a medieval world of saints and kings—including the legendary Arthur—as they follow a trail of relics and antiquities lost since the destruction of Glastonbury Abbey in 1539. Written in alternating chapters between the two time periods, *The Spoils of Avalon* creates a sparkling, magical mystery that bridges the gap between two worlds—the industrialized, Darwinian, materialistic Victorian Age and the agricultural, faith-infused life of a medieval abbey on the brink of violent change at the hands of Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell.

The Spoils of Avalon blends the rich details of historical fiction with the suspenseful, clue-driven sleuthing that characterizes the best in mystery. Dual timelines and missing Arthurian artifacts add delightful layers to this compelling, well-written series, which not only offers a unique, artistic twist on the “Holmes and Watson” detecting pair but places a female sleuth—the brilliant Violet Paget—in the driver’s seat. A must for fans of historical mysteries.

— Susan Spann, Author of the *Shinobi Mysteries*

Mary Burns thoroughly evokes the world of high Victorian romanticism as murder in 1877 leads to a hunt for Arthurian relics hidden in 1539. Following the well-matched pair of sleuths on a path between the centuries, the reader confronts marvels astonishing in any age. Victorian poet Alfred Lord Tennyson would be pleased to know that lines from his Arthurian *Idylls of the King* appear as chapter headings.

— Judith Rock, author of the *Charles DuLuc Mysteries*



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About the Author

Ms. Burns writes historical fiction, is a member of and book reviewer for the Historical Novel Society, has won awards for short stories, and lives in San Francisco.

Previous Titles

- *J-The Woman Who Wrote the Bible* (O-Books, 2010)
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