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From today's featured article



Georges Feydeau (1862–1921) was a French playwright of the era known as the [Belle Époque](#), remembered for his [farces](#). His first full-length comedy, *Tailleur pour dames* ('Ladies' tailor'), was well-received. After studying earlier masters of French comedy, particularly [Eugène Labiche](#), [Alfred Hennequin](#) and [Henri Meilhac](#), he wrote or collaborated on seventeen full-length plays between 1892 and 1914, many of which have become staples of the theatrical repertoire in France and abroad. They include *L'Hôtel du libre échange* ('The Free Exchange Hotel', 1894), *La Dame de chez Maxim* ('The lady from [Maxim's](#)', 1899), *La Puce à l'oreille* ('A flea in her ear', 1907) and *Occupe-toi d'Amélie!* ('Look after Amélie', 1908). His plays are marked by recognisable characters and fast-moving comic plots of mistaken identity, attempted adultery, split-second timing and a precariously happy ending. In the 1940s and 1950s, productions by [Jean-Louis Barrault](#) and the [Comédie-Française](#) revived interest in his works. ([Full article...](#))

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Did you know ...

- ... that the 19th-century poet **Cyprian Norwid** (*pictured*), now recognized as one of the most important Polish poets, led a poverty-stricken life and his works were rarely appreciated until decades after his death?
- ... that ancient Rome's **Temple of Piety** was closely connected with the legend of a daughter who breastfed an imprisoned parent?
- ... that the librarian **Paul Needham** has argued for the "respectful burial of the human remains" included in a book bound in human skin?
- ... that the **Solution and EU Party** aimed to represent 30 percent of **Turkish Cypriots**, but failed to enter the **Northern Cypriot parliament**?
- ... that **Seattle Sounders FC** players held their practices over **Zoom** during part of **their 2020 season**?
- ... that according to *Rolling Stone*, **Lauren Jenkins** blended music and acting for **No Saint** "in ways not currently common practice" in country music?
- ... that **Thorfinn's** journey to **Vinland** in the manga *Vinland Saga* was influenced by the author's anxieties during the **Cold War** and the **September 11 attacks**?
- ... that the **bicolor molly** inevitably goes off the deep end in adulthood?



Cyprian Norwid

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In the news

- The **OSIRIS-REx** spacecraft mission returns samples of asteroid **Bennu** to Earth (*return capsule pictured*).
- The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland** is accused of involvement in **a cash-for-visa corruption scandal**.
- **The oldest known wooden structure**, estimated to be at least 476,000 years old, predating *Homo sapiens*, is discovered at the **Kalambo Falls**.
- A ceasefire is announced following **Azerbaijan's military operation** in Nagorno-Karabakh.



OSIRIS-REx capsule

Ongoing: [Nigerien crisis](#) · [Russian invasion of Ukraine \(timeline\)](#) · [Sudan war](#)

Recent deaths: [Constance Clayton](#) · [JoAnne A. Epps](#) · [Stephen Gould](#) · [Horace Ové](#) · [Brereton C. Jones](#) · [Lionel Morgan](#)

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On this day

September 26:

- **46 BC** – **Julius Caesar** dedicated the **Temple of Venus Genetrix** in Rome to **Venus**, the mythical ancestor of his family.
- **1580** – English explorer **Francis Drake**'s galleon the **Golden Hind** (*replica pictured*) sailed into **Plymouth**, completing his **circumnavigation** of the globe.
- **1928** – The **Nationalist government** of China adopted **Gwoyeu Romatzyh** as the official system for the **romanization of Mandarin Chinese**.
- **1983** – **Cold War**: Soviet lieutenant colonel **Stanislav Petrov** averted a potential **nuclear war** by **identifying as a false alarm** signals that appeared to indicate an impending U.S. missile attack.
- **2010** – Scottish aid worker **Linda Norgrove** and three Afghan colleagues were kidnapped by members of the **Taliban** in **Kunar Province**, Afghanistan.



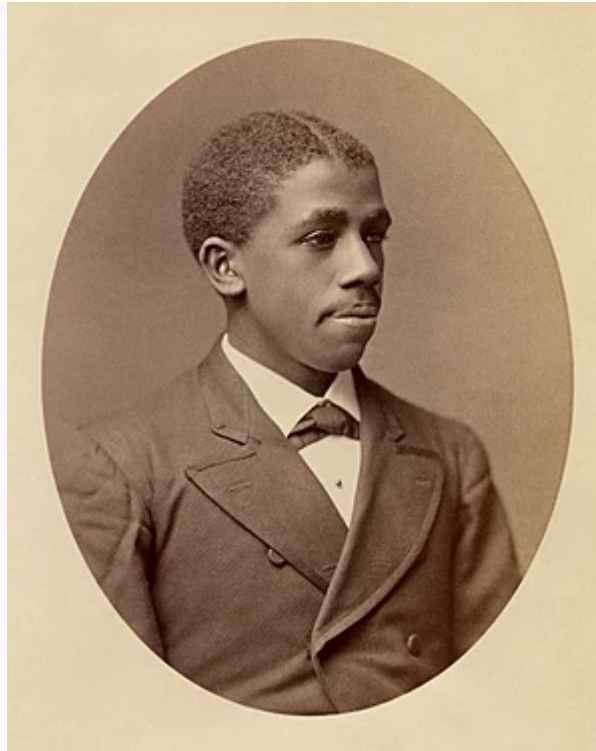
Replica of the *Golden Hind*

Hiram Wesley Evans (b. 1881) · **Leo Martello** (b. 1930) · **Wendy Saddington** (b. 1949) · **Alicja Iwańska** (d. 1996)

More anniversaries: [September 25](#) · **September 26** · [September 27](#)

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Today's featured picture



Edward Bouchet (1852–1918) was an American [physicist](#) and educator. He was the first [African American](#) to earn a PhD from an American university, completing his [dissertation](#) in physics at [Yale University](#) in 1876. Bouchet had become one of the first African Americans to graduate from Yale College in 1874. On the basis of his academic record, he was elected to [Phi Beta Kappa](#), an academic [honor society](#). Unable to find a university-teaching or research-facility position due to [racial discrimination](#), he moved to [Philadelphia](#) in 1876 and took a position at the [Institute for Colored Youth](#), where he taught physics and chemistry for the next 26 years. This photograph of Bouchet, from the archives of Yale, is part of a portrait album of students in the class of 1874.

Photograph credit: George Kendall Warren; restored by [Adam Cuerden](#)

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