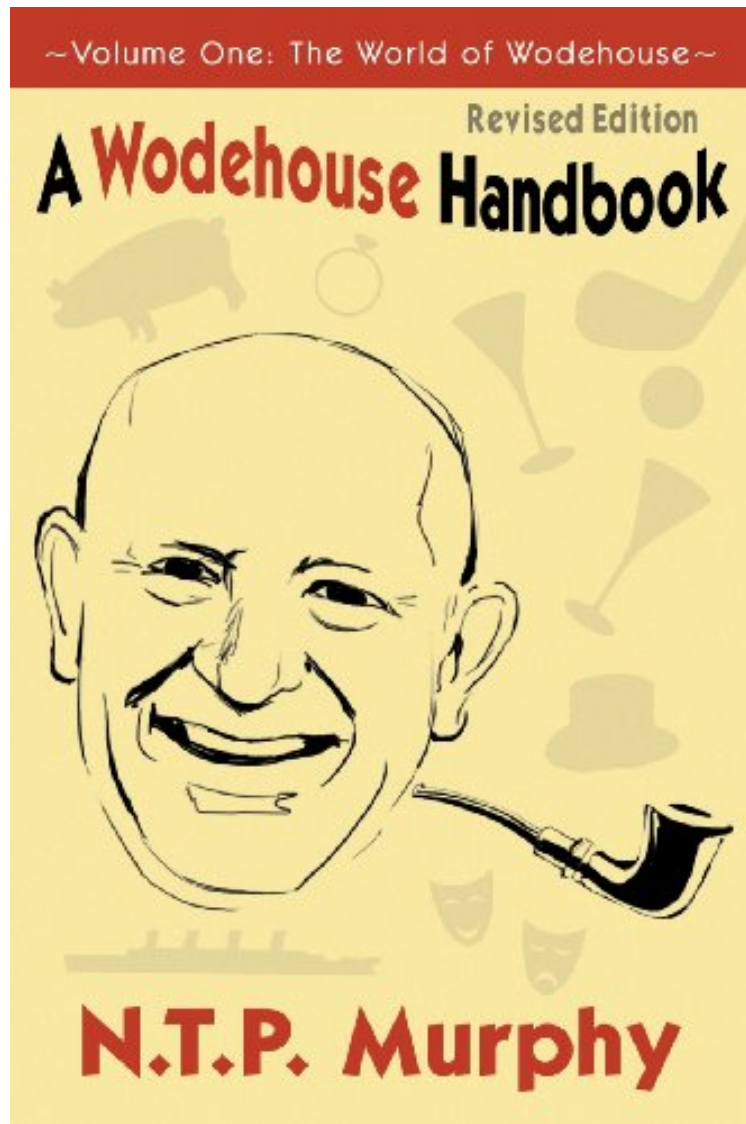


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## A Wodehouse Handbook: Vol. 1 the World of Wodehouse

*N. T. P. Murphy*

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people found the following review helpful. Tour de force reference workBy FSherridanThis is THE best Wodehouse resource there is (I rank it just a bit above Daniel Garrison's wonderful "Who's Who in Wodehouse" and "The Millennium Wodehouse Concordance" by Tony Ring and Geoffrey Jaggard.) I have the 1st edition and will be purchasing this edition also - my current edition is pretty dog-eared from constant use. It is such a handy reference, and not just for Wodehouse books, but for other books of the era during which Wodehouse wrote. There's a reason why Wodehouse enthusiasts the world over call Norman Murphy "The Man Who Knows Almost Everything" - and this is one of them.

In 1981, Norman Murphy caused a minor stir in literary circles when he published *In Search of Blandings*, which demonstrated that many of P.G. Wodehouse's legendary characters and settings were based on fact. In the two volumes of *A Wodehouse Handbook*, he reveals his findings across a wider field - the world that Wodehouse lived in and the sources of the many quotations and references Wodehouse used so brilliantly. In Volume 1, he tells us of Winston Churchill's first public speech; of Sam Goldwyn's typhoon that outdid Nature; how Clement Atlee made his first social protest; how the Gibson Girls kept England in suspense; of the longest golf hole ever played; and of the lady who flew the Atlantic without a map. We learn that immersion in the swimming pool (with all your clothes on) was not uncommon in a certain London club and that the home of Jeeves's Junior Ganymede is still to be found in Mayfair. The recipe for Green Swizzles is revealed at last - and a distant Wodehouse relation has provided an astonishing origin for the fabled "Buck-U-Uppo". Based on more than twenty years of searching through biographies, memoirs, obituaries and newspaper reports, Norman Murphy's discoveries encompass English and American social history from the Victorian era to the space race. He demonstrates conclusively that the world P.G. Wodehouse described was real enough. What Wodehouse did was to show the funny side of it.