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## Sherlock Holmes Handbook: Second Edition

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*Sherlock Holmes Handbook* sums up a Canadian scholar's lifetime expertise about Sherlock Holmes – the characters and themes, the publishers and readers, Victorian London and the Houdini connection, radio actors and cartoonists, the fans who cling to Holmes's reality and the professors who tease out motifs from the fifty-six short stories and four novels.

The first edition of *Sherlock Holmes Handbook* appeared in 1993. This edition catches up on new films, new books (a few with a hint of the supernatural) and the advent of the Internet, which has spread Holmes's fame and Sherlockian fun even further worldwide. The intervening years have brought three multi-volume editions of the Sherlock Holmes stories, with hundreds of footnotes providing new insights and new amusement. They have also seen Holmes repeatedly on the amateur and professional stages, including a few Canadian productions. And there have been changes to everything from copyright rules to libraries, booksellers and audio recordings.



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## **Sherlock Holmes Handbook: Second Edition** By Christopher Redmond Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1954325 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Dundurn
- Published on: 2009-09-28
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.00" h x .82" w x 7.05" l, 1.50 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 336 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

Canadian author Redmond's unquestioned standing as a Sherlock Holmes expert, manifested in books such as *In Bed with Sherlock Holmes* and *Welcome to America, Mr. Sherlock Holmes*, is not displayed to best advantage in this updated edition of his guide to the Great Detective. He simply doesn't meet his goal of writing a comprehensive companion to the original stories and the cultural world that has grown up around them that will satisfy both neophytes and cognoscenti. Instead, both kinds of readers are likely to be disappointed. Only 25 pages are spent summarizing the Canon, in some cases spoiling the plots, but 40 are devoted to "Fans and Followers," a history of organized devotees of Holmes and Watson. Despite the author's pride in avoiding errors in the first edition, this one is not free of them, including the assertion that a "Merivale" was one of the Scotland Yarders pitted against Holmes by Doyle to the claim that actor Jeremy Brett authored the play he appeared in, *The Secret of Sherlock Holmes*. Those in search of a one-volume guide might want to wait for *Sherlock Holmes for Dummies*.

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Review

"...an essential item for any serious Sherlockian. The ordinary Holmes fan may not be interested in the intricacies of the plots of each story, but the chapter on Fans and Followers is wonderful reading for just how the Sherlockian societies (there are hundreds) began and the rules they set. There is a section dealing with serious academic studies of Holmes, as well as Conan Doyle, and plenty useful information and fun trivia on the Victorian setting. Redmond, as befits a serious Sherlockian, puts this all down in fine scholarly style."

*(Globe & Mail, The)*

"The new edition...is the finest overview of the world of Holmes and the Holmesian that we're ever likely to see."

*(The District Messenger)*

From the Inside Flap

Here, in one convenient volume, is everything needed for the enjoyment of Holmes's canon.

## **Users Review**

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