

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910791083603321
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Titolo	O.D. Skelton : the work of the world, 1923-1941 // edited by Norman Hillmer
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Montreal [Canada] : , : McGill-Queen's University Press, , [2013] ©2013
ISBN	0-7735-9002-1 0-7735-9001-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (538 p.)
Collana	The publications of The Champlain Society ; ; 74
Altri autori (Persone)	HillmerNorman
Disciplina	538
Soggetti	Political consultants - Canada Statesmen - Canada International relations - History - 20th century Canada Officials and employees Biography Canada Foreign relations 1914-1945
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	CatMonthString:november.13.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Documents. I The Imperial Conference of 1923 -- II Counsellor Skelton, 1924-25 -- III Succeeding Sir Joseph, 1925 -- IV The Rhine is 3,000 Miles Away -- V The Imperial Conference of 1926 -- VI Washington, 1927 : Massey and Massachusetts Avenue -- VII The League of Nations, 1927 -- VIII The Renunciation of War, 1928 -- IX Legislating Liberty, 1929 -- X Change of Scene and Change of Government, 1929-30 -- XI Canada and the Pacific, 1931-33 -- XII In London and Geneva, 1933 -- XIII Experimenting with the Soviets, 1934 -- XIV Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference of 1935 51. Foreign Policy Discussions in London, [April] 1935 -- XV Ethiopia and an Election, 1935 -- XVI Peace (and Canada) in Jeopardy, 1936 -- XVII Diplomatic Representation, 1936-37 -- XVIII The Imperial Conference of 1937 -- XIX The Czech Crisis, 1938 -- XX A Great Country Not Bound by Pledges, January-March 1939 -- XXII When the Devil Is Loose, April-August 1939 -- XXIII Stampede over the Edge, August-September 1939 -- XXIV War Aims, October-November 1939 -- XXV Adversaries and Allies, and Those in Between, December 1939-January 1941.

"O.D. Skelton: The Work of the World, 1923-1941 is a lively and compelling trip through the letters, diary entries, and official memoranda of O.D. Skelton, one of the most important and influential civil servants in twentieth-century Canada."--Publisher summary. Skelton was a towering foreign policy advisor to Canada's prime ministers and a lonely advocate for the country's independence from Great Britain. His accounts detail his work as he co-operated and clashed with William Lyon Mackenzie King and R.B. Bennett over Canada's participation in the international arena. Norman Hillmer's selection and assessment of Skelton's writings offer a behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of the federal government as Skelton systematically built up the Department of External Affairs and the Canadian diplomatic service as instruments of the national interest, confronted the Manchurian, Ethiopian, and Czech crises of the 1930's, aligned himself with senior francophone politicians such as Ernest Lapointe and Raoul Dandurand, and watched in despair as Europe and Asia descended into war.--Publisher summary. Providing avenues into a time when Canada was struggling to define itself, this collection shows the ways in which O.D. Skelton pushed the country onto the global stage.--Publisher summary.
