

1. Record Nr.	UNISA990001731940203316
Autore	CASAS, Bartolome : de las <1474-1566>
Titolo	Vol.4 : Apologetica historia / de Fray Bartolome de las Casas ; estudio critico preliminar y edicion por Juan Perez de Tudela Bueso
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Madrid : Atlas, 1958
Descrizione fisica	472 p. ; 26 cm
Collocazione	VI.5.A. 76/106.4(II sp A 5/106)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Spagnolo
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
2. Record Nr.	UNINA9910452258403321
Autore	Kahn David <1930->
Titolo	The reader of gentlemen's mail [[electronic resource] ] : Herbert O. Yardley and the birth of American codebreaking / / David Kahn
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2004
ISBN	1-281-72207-3 9786611722074 0-300-12988-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (357 p.)
Disciplina	940.4/8673/092 B
Soggetti	Cryptographers - United States World War, 1914-1918 - Cryptography Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 291-304) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- A Short Course in Codes and Ciphers -- How Yardley Wrote His Best-Seller -- 1. All-American Boy

-- 2. His Life's Work -- 3. A History of American Intelligence before Yardley -- 4. A Rival -- 5. Staffers, Shorthand, and Secret Ink -- 6. The Executive -- 7. Morning in New York -- 8. Yardley's Triumph -- 9. The Fruits of His Victory -- 10. The Busy Suburbanite -- 11. End of a Dream -- 12. The Best-Seller -- 13. The Critics, the Effects -- 14. Grub Street -- 15. A Law Aimed at Yardley -- 16. Hollywood -- 17. China -- 18. Canada -- 19. A Restaurant of His Own -- 20. Playing Poker -- 21. The Measure of a Man -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Illustration Credits -- Index

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## Sommario/riassunto

One of the most colorful and controversial figures in American intelligence, Herbert O. Yardley (1889-1958) gave America its best form of information, but his fame rests more on his indiscretions than on his achievements. In this highly readable biography, a premier historian of military intelligence tells Yardley's story and evaluates his impact on the American intelligence community. Yardley established the nation's first codebreaking agency in 1917, and his solutions helped the United States win a major diplomatic victory at the 1921 disarmament conference. But when his unit was closed in 1929 because "gentlemen do not read each other's mail," Yardley wrote a best-selling memoir that introduced-and disclosed-codemaking and codebreaking to the public. David Kahn de-scribes the vicissitudes of Yardley's career, including his work in China and Canada, offers a capsule history of American intelligence up to World War I, and gives a short course in classical codes and ciphers. He debunks the accusations that the publication of Yardley's book caused Japan to change its codes and ciphers and that Yardley traitorously sold his solutions to Japan. And he asserts that Yardley's disclosures not only did not hurt but actually helped American codebreaking during World War II.

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