

Title:	The Great Fall of Niagara, 1838		
Creator:	W. Morgan		
Dates of Material:	1838	Record Group Number:	RG 639
Summary of Contents:	1 coloured print of Niagara Falls. This is no. 7 of Morgan's Improved Protean Scenery entitled <i>The Great Fall of Niagara</i> showing an image of the Falls in peace, but when held up to the light, a view of the burning and destruction of the steamship Caroline is visible.		
Physical Description / Condition:	A 17 ½ cm. x 23 cm. mounted, hand-coloured, lithographic, informational print of Niagara Falls mounted on construction paper. The print represents a view of the great Fall of Niagara by day. By holding the picture up to a light, or looking from the reverse through the tissue, one is able to view the American Steamer, the Caroline, on fire as it appeared a few seconds before it was launched into the abyss on the night of December 29, 1837.		
Administrative/ Biographical Sketch:	<p>This was published on Feb. 24, 1838 by W. Morgan, of 25 Bartlett's Buildings, Holborn Hill, London, England.</p> <p>The Caroline affair or Caroline case began in 1837 and it involved the United States, Britain and the Canadian independence movement. William Lyon Mackenzie, along with other Canadian rebels who had been commanding the Caroline, fled to an island in the Niagara River. British forces boarded the ship, killed an American crew member, burned the ship and sent it over the Falls.</p> <p>The Americans were outraged by this, and in turn, a group of American and Canadian raiders attacked and destroyed a British ship. There were many other attacks between the British and Americans in 1838. The crisis was defused by negotiations leading to the Webster-Ashburton Treaty in 1842 in which both parties admitted to wrongdoing.</p> <p>In Protean views, a picture is transformed, not just enhanced by backlighting. Rudolph Ackermann of London, England published 109 hand coloured transparencies between 1796 and 1802. He also published a book entitled <i>Instructions for Painting Transparencies</i>. Ackermann's were the first transparencies to be sold by individual print. George Townshend had</p>		

	<p>previously published his transparencies in books. The primary company to produce this type of picture was Spooner in the 1830s. William Morgan's Protean Views did not measure up to Spooner's standards.</p>		
Location:	Brock University Archives		
Source Information:	Purchased from Marlborough Rare Books, March 2018		
Described by:	Anne Adams	Date:	March 2018