

<b>Title:</b>	Lighting recommendations for the Ryan Electric Scintillator and Fireworks Program for the official dedication Niagara Falls illumination, 1925		
<b>Creator:</b>	W. D'Arcy Ryan, illuminating engineer of Niagara Falls illumination; A.F. Dickerson, directing scintillator and J.W. Schaffer, directing fireless fireworks.		
<b>Dates of Material:</b>	June 4, 1925	<b>Record Group Number:</b>	RG 358
<b>Summary of Contents:</b>	1 duo tang containing 2 documents. The first 2 page document lists the illuminations which will take place at the official dedication of the Official Niagara Falls Illumination. The second document is a five page list of instructions to the operators regarding the same dedication.		
<b>Physical Description / Condition:</b>	Folder and contents have water and mould damage. Both the cover and pages are brittle and are crumbling at edges. On the cover the words "Lighting Recommendations" and the GE (General Electric) logo are embossed in gold. Underneath this are the typed words "Ryan Electric Scintillator & Fireworks Program Official Dedication Niagara Falls Illumination June 8, 1925". This document was written on June 4, 1925 in Schenectady, New York		
<b>Administrative/ Biographical Sketch</b>	Walter D'Arcy Ryan was born in 1870 in Kentville, Nova Scotia. He became the chief of the department of illumination at the General Electric Company of Schenectady, New York. He was a founder in the field of electrical illumination. He built the electric steam scintillator which had numerous nozzles and valves. The operator would release steam through the valves. The nozzles all had names which included: Niagara, fan, snake, plume, column, pinwheel and sunburst. The steam scintillator was combined with projectors, prismatic reflectors, flashers and filters to produce the desired effects. In 1920 a group of businessmen from Niagara Falls, New York formed a group who called themselves the "generators". They lobbied the American and Canadian governments to improve the illumination of the Falls. They were able to raise \$58, 000 for the purchase and installation of 24 arc lights to illuminate the Falls. On February 24 <sup>th</sup> , 1925 the Niagara Falls Illumination Board was formed. Initially, the board had a budget of \$28,000 for management, operation and maintenance of the lights. The power was supplied free by the Ontario Power Company. They had 24 lights installed in a row on the Ontario Power Company surge tank which was next to the Refectory in Victoria Park on the Canadian side. The official opening ceremony took place on June 8 <sup>th</sup> , 1925 and included a light parade in Niagara Falls, New York and an international ceremony held in the middle of the		

	<p>Upper Steel Arch Bridge. Walter D'Arcy Ryan was the illuminating engineer and A.D. Dickerson who was his New York field assistant directed the scintillator.</p> <p><i>with information from American Technological Sublime by David E. Nye and the Niagara Falls info website</i></p>		
<b>Location:</b>	Brock University Archives		
<b>Source Information:</b>			
<b>Subject Headings:</b>	100	Ryan, W. D'A.  q (Walter D'Arcy),  d 1870-1934	
	610	General Electric Company	
	650	Lighting, Architectural and decorative	
	650	Lighting  z New York (State)  z Niagara Falls	
<b>Added Entries:</b>	700	Dickerson, A.F.	
	700	Schaffer, J.W.	
<b>Related material held at other repositories:</b>	<p>The Niagara Falls Museum in Niagara Falls, Ontario has a program (pamphlet) dedicating new lighting in 1958 and it has postcards depicting the illumination of the Falls.</p> <p>Some of Ryan's accomplishments can be seen at <i>The Virtual Museum of the City of San Francisco</i>.</p>		
<b>Described by:</b>	Anne Adams	<b>Date:</b>	Sept 26, 2011