

Edison Electric Light Company Records
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm97084023>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008127>

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Collection Summary

Title: Edison Electric Light Company Records

Inclusive Dates: 1879-1894

ID No.: MSS84023

Creator: Edison Electric Light Company

Extent: 3 items

Extent: 3 oversize containers

Extent: 0.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm97084023>

Summary: Copies of patents granted by the government of Canada to Thomas A. Edison and employees of his firm and codes for insurance underwriters in the United States to create national standards for electrical construction and operation.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Edison, Thomas A. (Thomas Alva), 1847-1931.

Organizations

Edison Electric Light Company.

Subjects

Electric generators--Canada--Patents.

Electric light fixtures--Canada--Patents.

Electric lighting, Incandescent--Canada--Patents.

Electric power systems--Canada--Patents.

Electric railroads--Canada--Patents.

Electric standards--United States.

Electric utilities--Canada.

Electric utilities--United States.

Electrical engineering--Insurance requirements--United States.

Acquisition Information

The records of the Edison Electric Light Company were given to the Library of Congress in 1995 by the Linda Hall Library of Kansas City, Missouri, which had acquired the material upon the dissolution of the Engineering Societies Library of New York. The collection was transferred to the Manuscript Division in 1997 by the Library's Geography and Map Division which retained the maps and charts that accompanied these records. Illustrated items were transferred by the Geography and Map Division to the Prints and Photographs Division.

Processing History

The records of Edison Electric Light Company were arranged and described in 1997. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the Thomas A. Edison Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Edison Electric Light Company is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The records of the Edison Electric Light Company are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Edison Electric Light Company Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the Edison Electric Light Company consist of three bound volumes spanning the period 1879-1894. Two of the volumes contain verified copies of patents granted by the Canadian government to Thomas A. Edison and other employees of his New York firm. The patents relate to improvements in such areas as incandescent lamps and methods of manufacture, fittings and fixtures, electric dynamo machines, electric railroads, and systems of electrical generation and distribution. The third volume documents the codification of regional codes in the United States by insurance underwriters to create national standards for electrical construction and operation. Edison founded the Edison Electric Light Company, the world's first central generating plant, in 1882.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Canadian patents
BOX OV 1	Vol. I, 1879-1894
BOX OV 2	Vol. II, 1890-1891
BOX OV 3	Codes for United States insurance underwriters, 1885-1894