FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE EDISON PAPERS HOSTS CEREMONY TO MARK 125 YEARS OF NYC LIGHTING AND LAUNCH NEWEST BOOK, ELECTRIFYING NEW YORK AND ABROAD

Celebrated Historian and Journalist Sir Harold Evans to be Featured Speaker at September 18th Event

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ - AUGUST 2007 - The Edison Papers at Rutgers University, a non-profit organization dedicated to the work and legacy of New Jersey inventor Thomas A. Edison, today announced it will mark the 125th anniversary of the electric lighting of New York City with the launch of Electrifying New York and Abroad, the 6th in a series of books illuminating Edison's life and career. Celebrated historian and journalist Sir Harold Evans will be the featured speaker at the September 18th ceremony, to be hosted by the law firm of Schlam Stone and Dolan LLP.

Area businesses and Edison enthusiasts are invited to participate in the ceremony, which will take place on September 18, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the Schlam Stone & Dolan offices located at 26 Broadway (at the intersection of Rector St) in Manhattan. Seating is limited. To register, contact Rachel Weissenburger at 732/445-8511x10 or email weissenb@rci.rutgers.edu.

About Edison’s Illuminating NYC History

The New York Edison Illuminating Co. built the first commercial electric lighting system at the center of New York's financial district. The boundaries of the distribution system encompassed banks, brokerage houses, offices, and newspaper publishers, encompassing approximately one thousand buildings. The generating plant occupied two adjoining buildings - 257 and 255 Pearl Street - on Manhattan's Lower East Side, near the new Brooklyn Bridge. All the electrical equipment, including lamps, meters, and sockets, was made by companies that Edison controlled wholly or in part.

Edison gave the station a final inspection on September 4, 1882. He then walked to the Drexel Morgan building where J. P. Morgan and the directors of Edison Electric Light Company waited to witness Edison flip the switch. At 3:00 pm., New York’s first lighting system began to operate.

About Volume 6: Electrifying New York and Abroad April 1881–March 1883

With his move from Menlo Park, New Jersey, to New York City at the end of March 1881, Edison shifted his focus from research and development to the commercialization of his electric lighting system. This 6th volume of The Papers of Thomas A. Edison document Edison's central role in the enormous effort to manufacture, market, and install electric lighting systems in the United States and abroad. Standard studies of this period emphasize the inauguration of the commercial electric utility industry at the Pearl Street central station. Edison and his associates
boldly maneuvered on a global scale focusing on the major cities of North America and Europe, reaching simultaneously from Appleton, Wisconsin, to Australia, through the Indian subcontinent and East Asia, to Central and South America.

**About Sir Harold Evans**

Harold Evans is the author of *The American Century* and *They Made America*. Evans was the editor of the *Sunday Times of London* and then the *Times of London* before settling in America in 1984. He has been successively founding editor of *CondéNast Traveler*, president and publisher of Random House, editorial director and vice chairman of *U.S. News & World Report*, *the Atlantic Monthly*, *Fast Company*, and the *New York Daily News*. In 2002 Britain's journalists voted Evans the greatest all-time British newspaper editor. He was knighted in Queen Elizabeth's 2004 New Year honors list and lives in New York with his wife, Tina Brown, and their two children.

**About The Edison Papers**

The Thomas A. Edison Papers, a research center at Rutgers University, publishes and develops the documentary legacy of America’s most prolific inventor and innovator. This is accomplished through books, articles, media appearances, Internet services, community outreach, and educational collaborations. The Edison Papers is a digital humanities flagship with a robust website (http://edison.rutgers.edu) that attracts over 700,000 visitors annually. Paul Israel is the Director and editor of the Thomas A. Edison Papers at Rutgers University and the author of the prize-winning biography, *Edison: A Life of Invention*. For more information or to become a Friend of The Edison Papers, visit http://edison.rutgers.edu or contact Rachel Weissenburger at 732/445-8511.

**About Schlam Stone and Dolan LLP**

Schlam Stone & Dolan LLP represents a wide array of clients, from Fortune 500 companies to high net worth individuals and small businesses, in all aspects of sophisticated civil and criminal business-related litigation, arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution, as well as in the negotiation and structuring of commercial transactions.

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