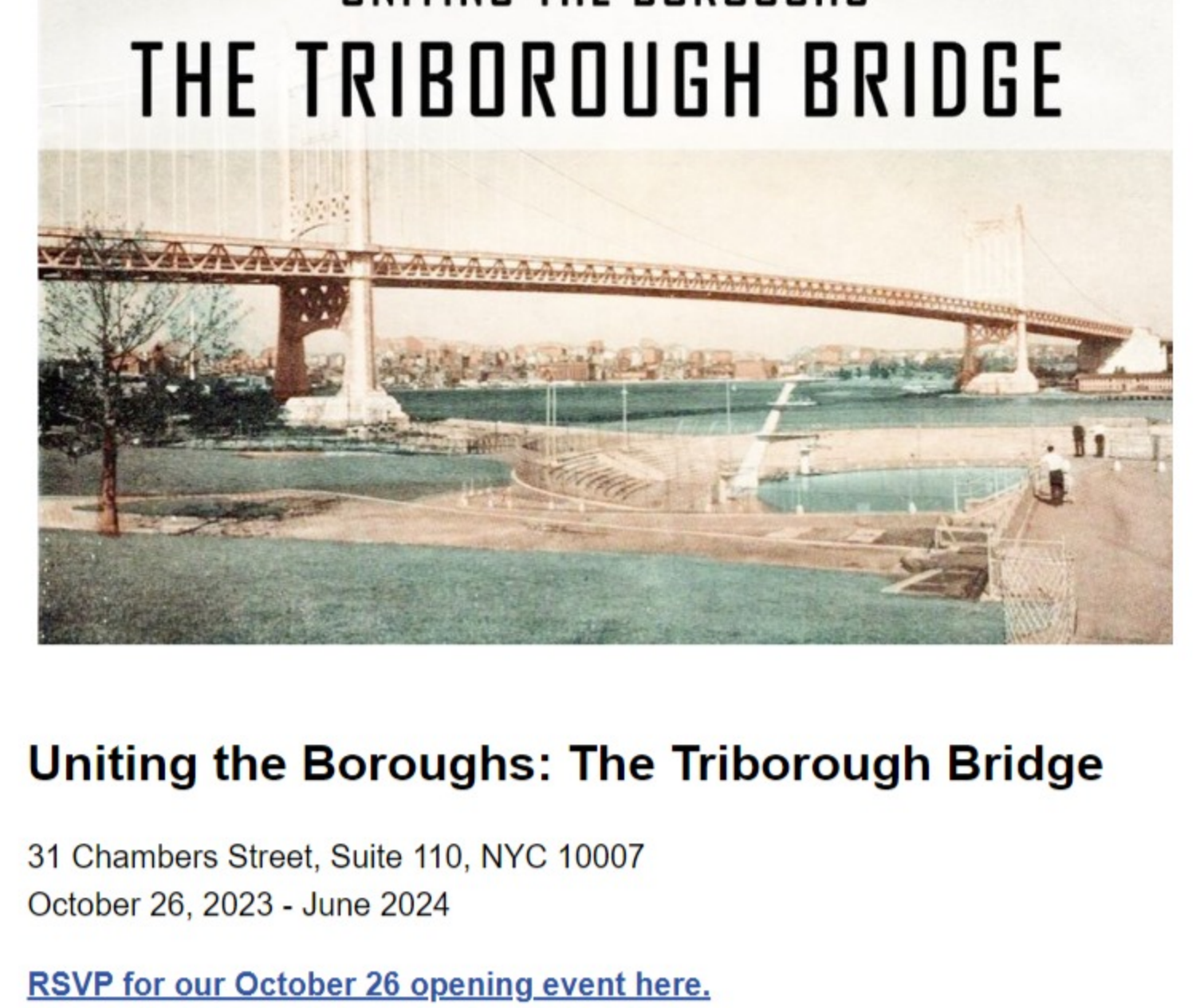


Municipal Library Notes - October 17, 2023



Uniting the Boroughs: The Triborough Bridge

31 Chambers Street, Suite 110, NYC 10007
October 26, 2023 - June 2024

[RSVP for our October 26 opening event here.](#)

Join the NYC Department of Records & Information Services and MTA Bridges and Tunnels for a celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the Triborough Bridge in our latest exhibit, *Uniting The Boroughs*. The exhibit explores the history of the bridge and its role in uniting Manhattan, the Bronx, and Queens in a rapidly modernizing city.

The exhibit uses original documents, photos and footage from the Municipal Archives and the Bridges and Tunnels' Special Archive and includes a large model of the Triborough Bridge and surrounding areas commissioned in 1935. Uniting the Boroughs documents how the bridge contributed to the development of the city, including the history of Randalis and Wards Islands as parks.

ERMS Project's Continued Growth

By Rose Yndigoyen, Director, Municipal Records Management

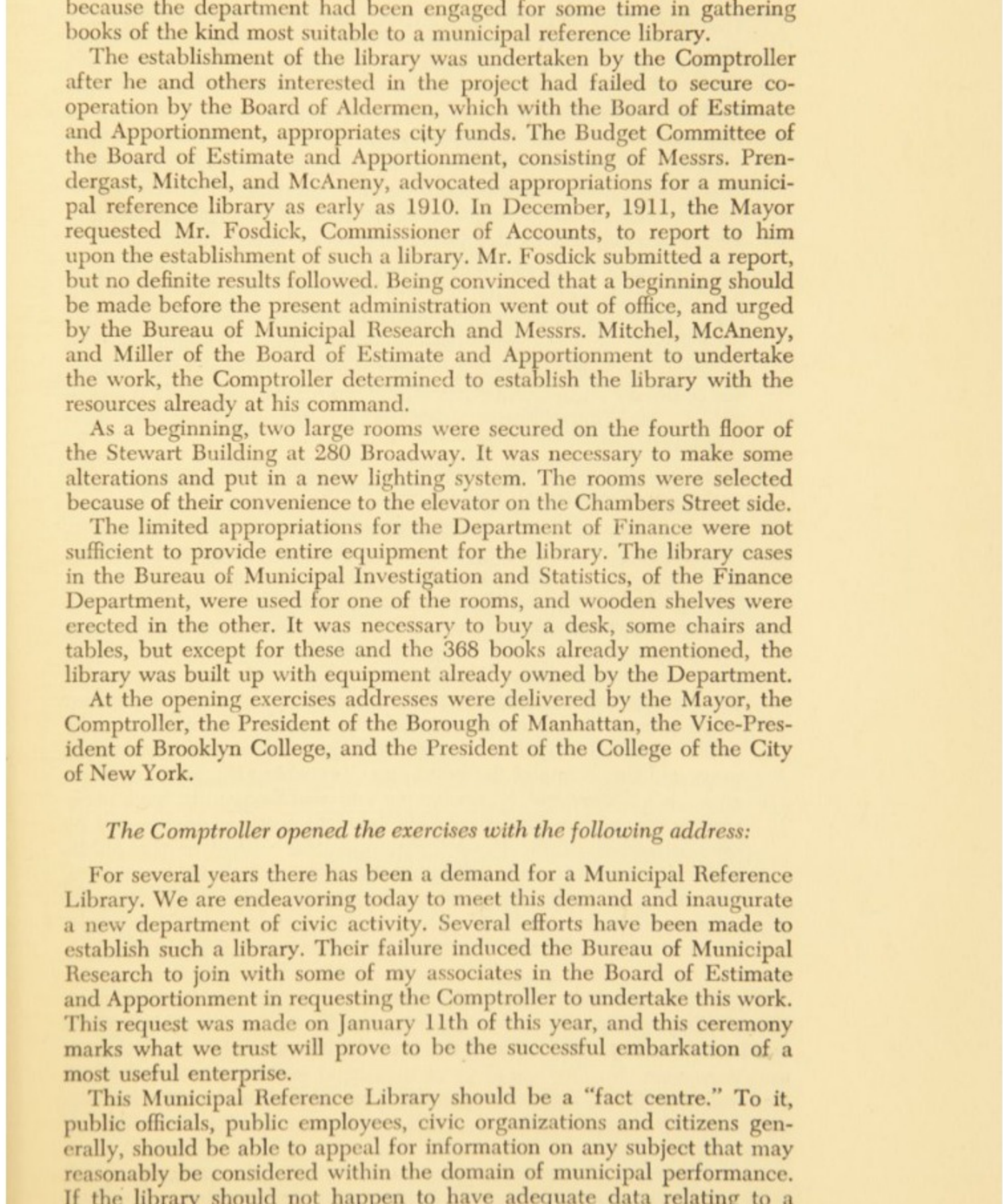
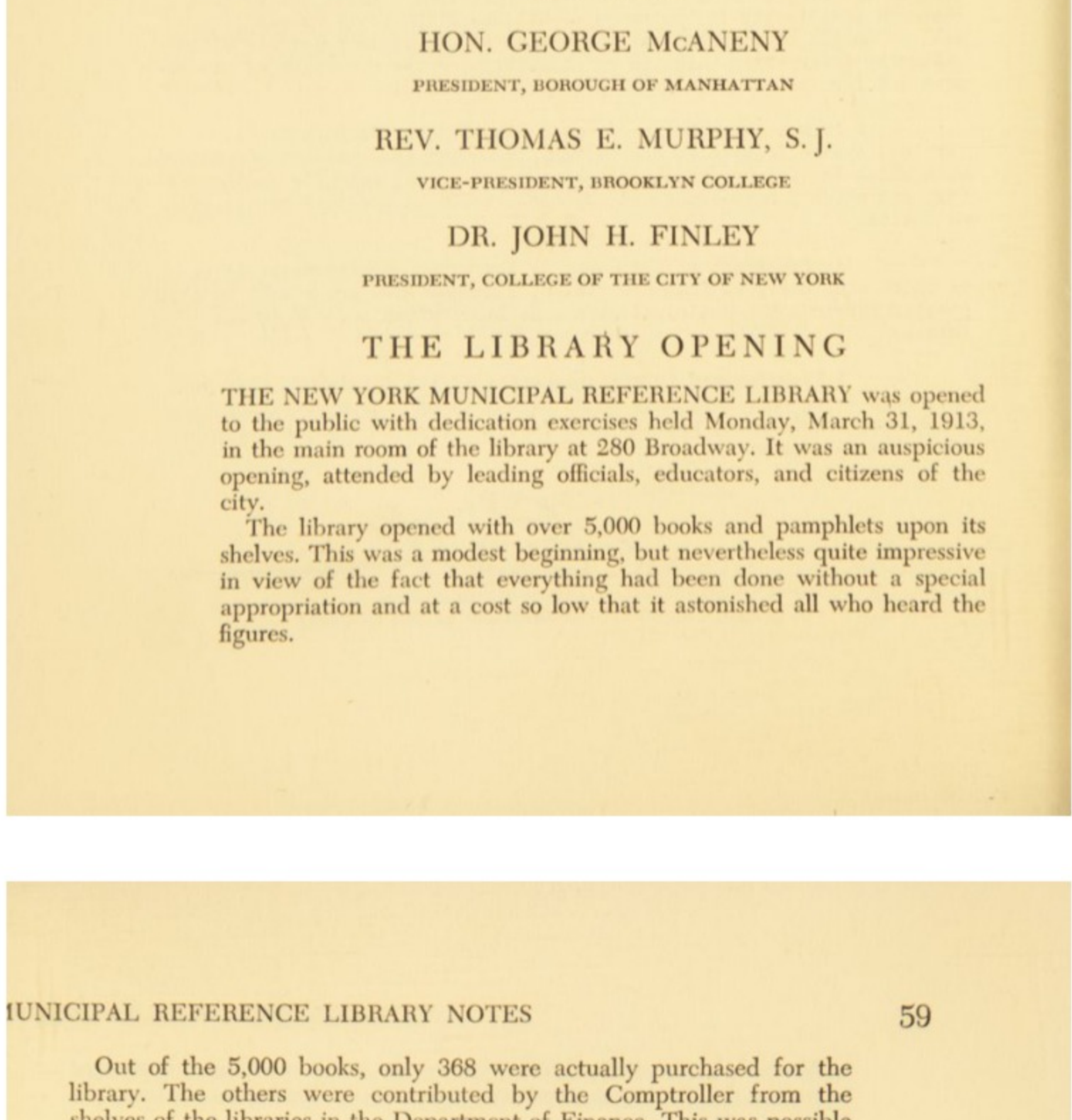
The ERMS project currently being spearheaded by the DORIS Records Management division has made substantial strides in recent months. The primary goal of this project is to provide a tool to city records managers to view, schedule and manage electronic records. Although still in the implementation phase, the project is already making a substantial impact by enhancing citywide engagement with the current landscape of electronic records management issues and bolstering compliance with records management standards.

One of the most notable achievements of the ERMS project is the number of documents that have been successfully connected to the RecordPoint records management system. To date, the system has linked over 12.7 million documents to this records management tool. As DORIS continues to expand and deepen ERMS engagement, we anticipate a significant increase in the number of electronic records under management by the end of FY24.

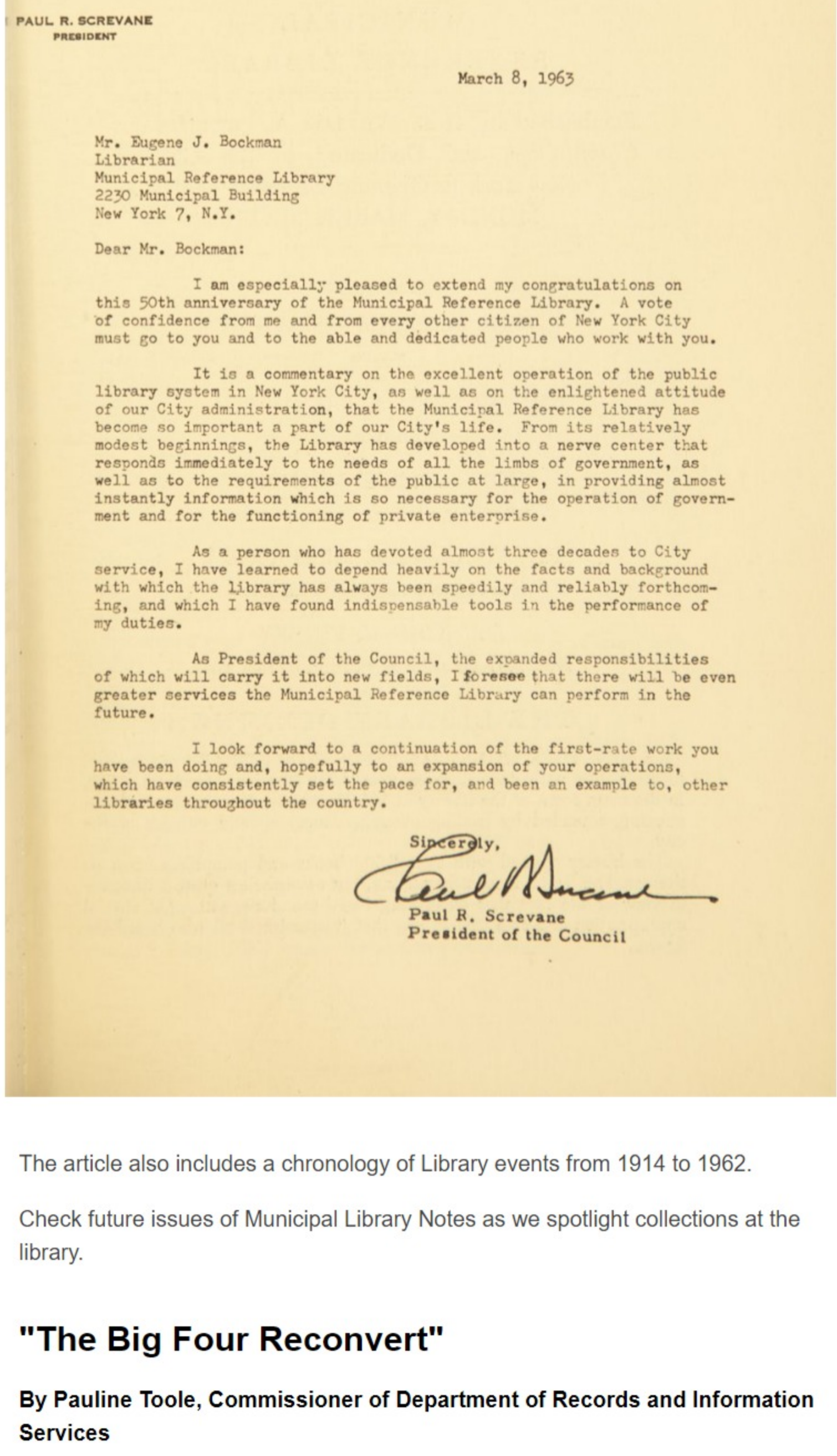
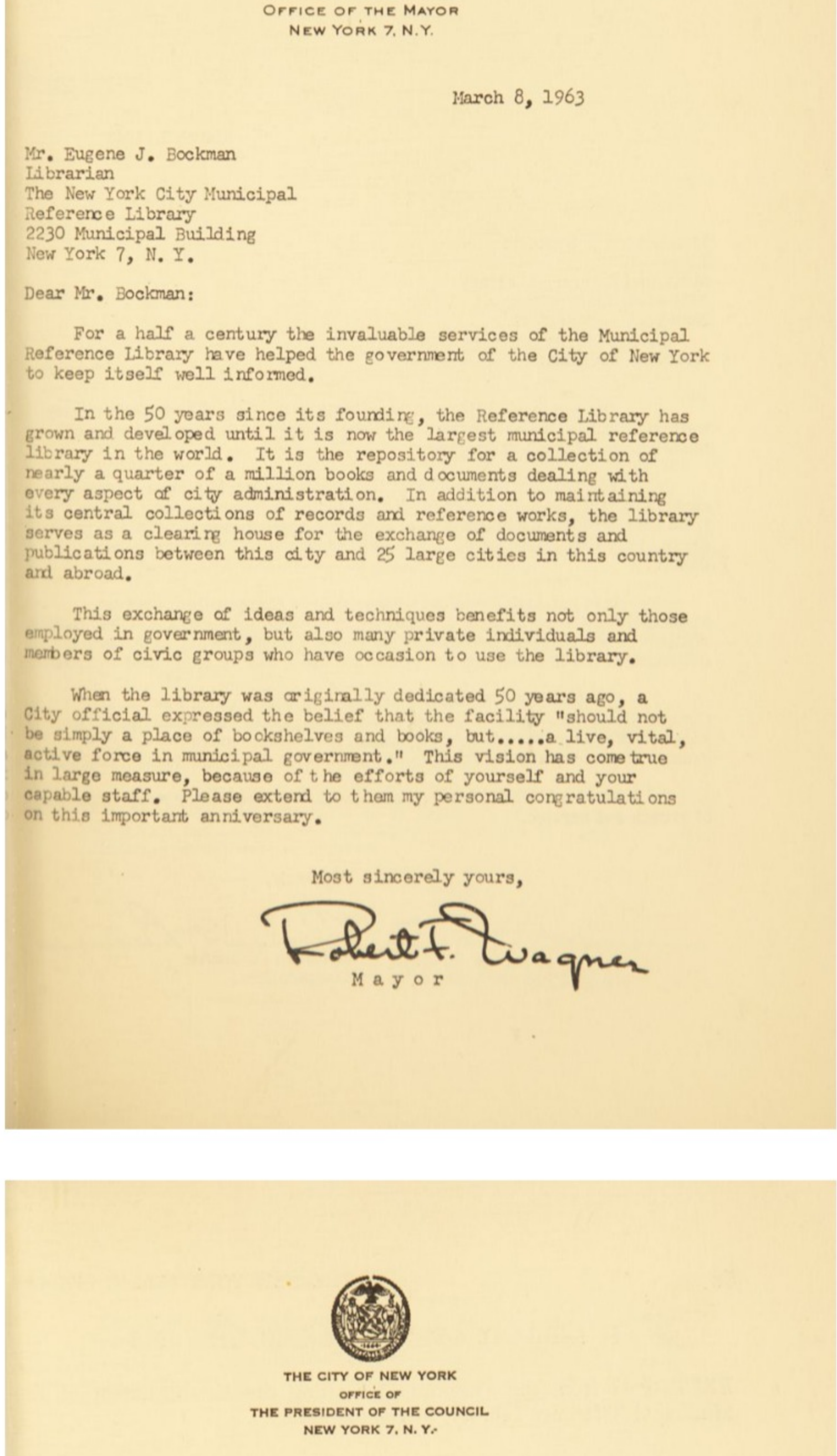
Municipal Library Celebrates 110th Birthday

By Christine Bruzzese, Director, Municipal Library

The New York City Municipal Reference Library opened on March 31, 1913. It was located at 280 Broadway and contained over 5000 books and pamphlets. Comptroller William A. Prendergast was integral in the establishment of the library. From the March 1963 issue of *Municipal Library Notes*: here are some excerpts from the opening ceremony. Mayor William J. Gaynor was one of the speakers.



Fifty years later, Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Comptroller Abraham D. Beame and City Council President Paul R. Screvane paid tribute to the Municipal Library on its Golden Anniversary.



The article also includes a chronology of Library events from 1914 to 1962.

Check future issues of *Municipal Library Notes* as we spotlight collections at the library.

"The Big Four Reconvert"

By Pauline Toole, Commissioner of Department of Records and Information Services

Today, when we speak of the City University of New York (CUNY) we refer to a system of 25 colleges with more than 243,000 students. In 1945, the system consisted of four colleges: City College, Hunter College, Brooklyn College and Queens College, according to the Report of the Chairman of the Board of Higher Education 1945-1946.

Titled "The Big Four Reconvert" the report is dedicated to then-Mayor William O'Dwyer and notes his "quick, warm and ready sympathy for the cause of free higher education." At this point, there wasn't a CUNY. The Board of Higher Education served as trustees for the four colleges, with an administrative committee for each and additional committees overseeing legislation, finances, facilities, etc. The City budget appropriated a little more than \$12 million dollars to fund all of the colleges.

In 1946, the colleges faced the challenge of accommodating an influx of veterans who were eligible to attend the schools. "The 'G.I. Bill of Rights,'" while it has imposed unprecedented burdens upon the colleges, represents a splendid effort toward a true democratizing of the opportunity for higher education, the beneficial influence of which will be a permanent force in American democratic society," extolled the report.

No veteran who met the qualifications was turned away and those who did not meet the qualifications were provided remedial opportunities. Enrollment in both the Day and Evening sessions increased substantially, although construction of new facilities did not keep pace. This demand led Hunter College, to abandon its women-only policy and admit male veterans.

- Total Enrollment in all four colleges:
- 1945 Enrollment-Day sessions 19,494
 - 1946 Enrollment-Day session 23,425
 - 1945 Enrollment Evening Session 17,513
 - 1946 Enrollment Evening Session 23,968
- At that time, Hunter College also had an "uptown" campus in the Bronx. During the war, the campus was used exclusively by the United States Navy to conduct training and regular college students enrolled elsewhere. In 1946, the campus served as the site of the United Nations first conference in North America. "The opportunity to welcome the U.N. to our campus came about by virtue of the fact that the WAVES...and the reconversion of the property to regular college use had not yet begun...It should be a source of gratification to all citizens of New York City that Hunter College was able to be the host to this distinguished world organization in the epoch-making inception of its labors," the report states. This location became Lehman College in 1968.

The report concludes with three questions that were meant to guide the development of the colleges and would seem to be relevant today:

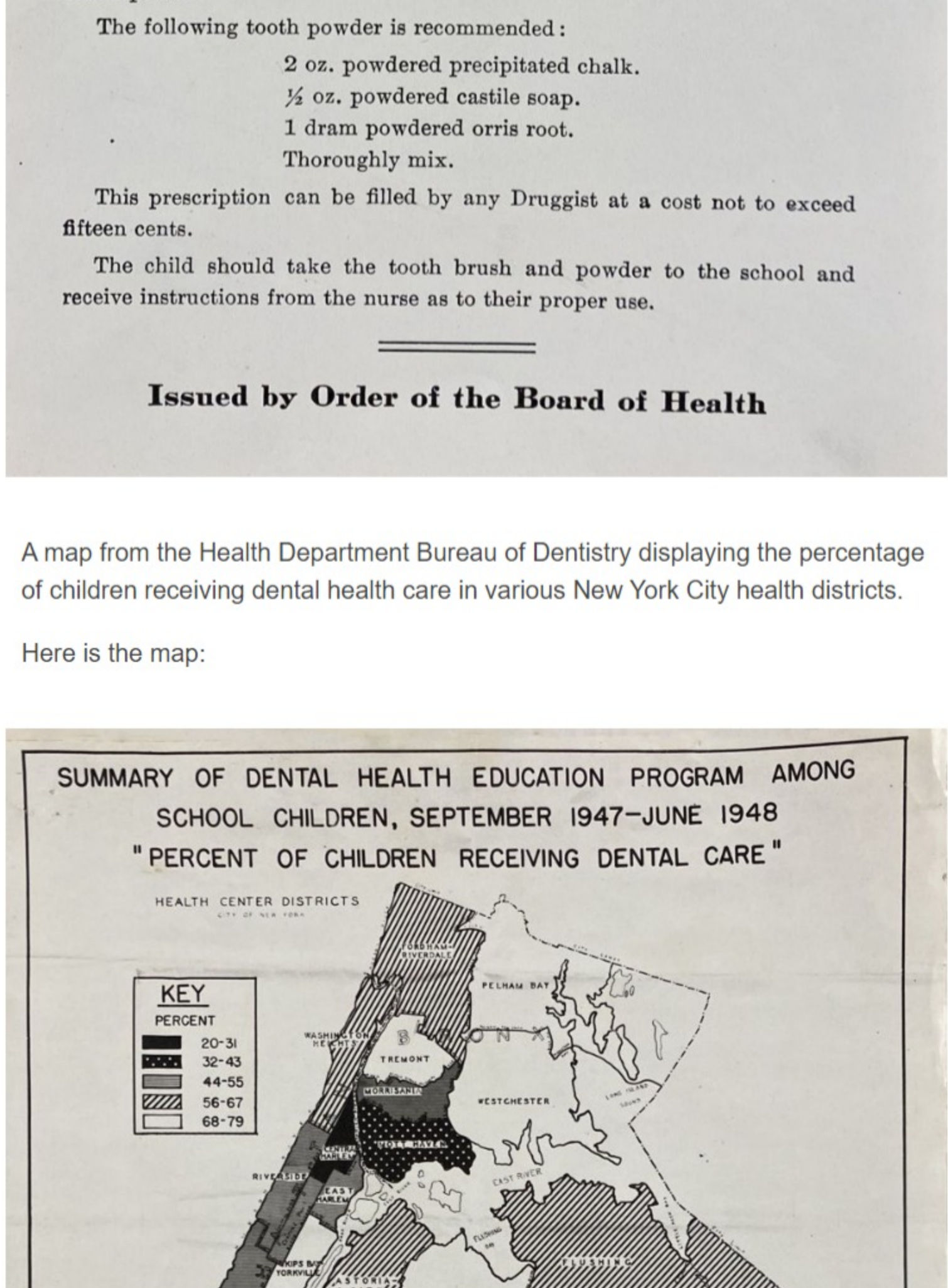
- What kind of adults do we want our young people to be?
- How do we purpose (sic) to help them become persons of that kind?
- How sure are we that our present efforts are by way of assuring that the kind of young Americans society requires will in fact emerge from the educational process?

Spotlight on: Dentistry

By Christine Bruzzese, Director, Municipal Library

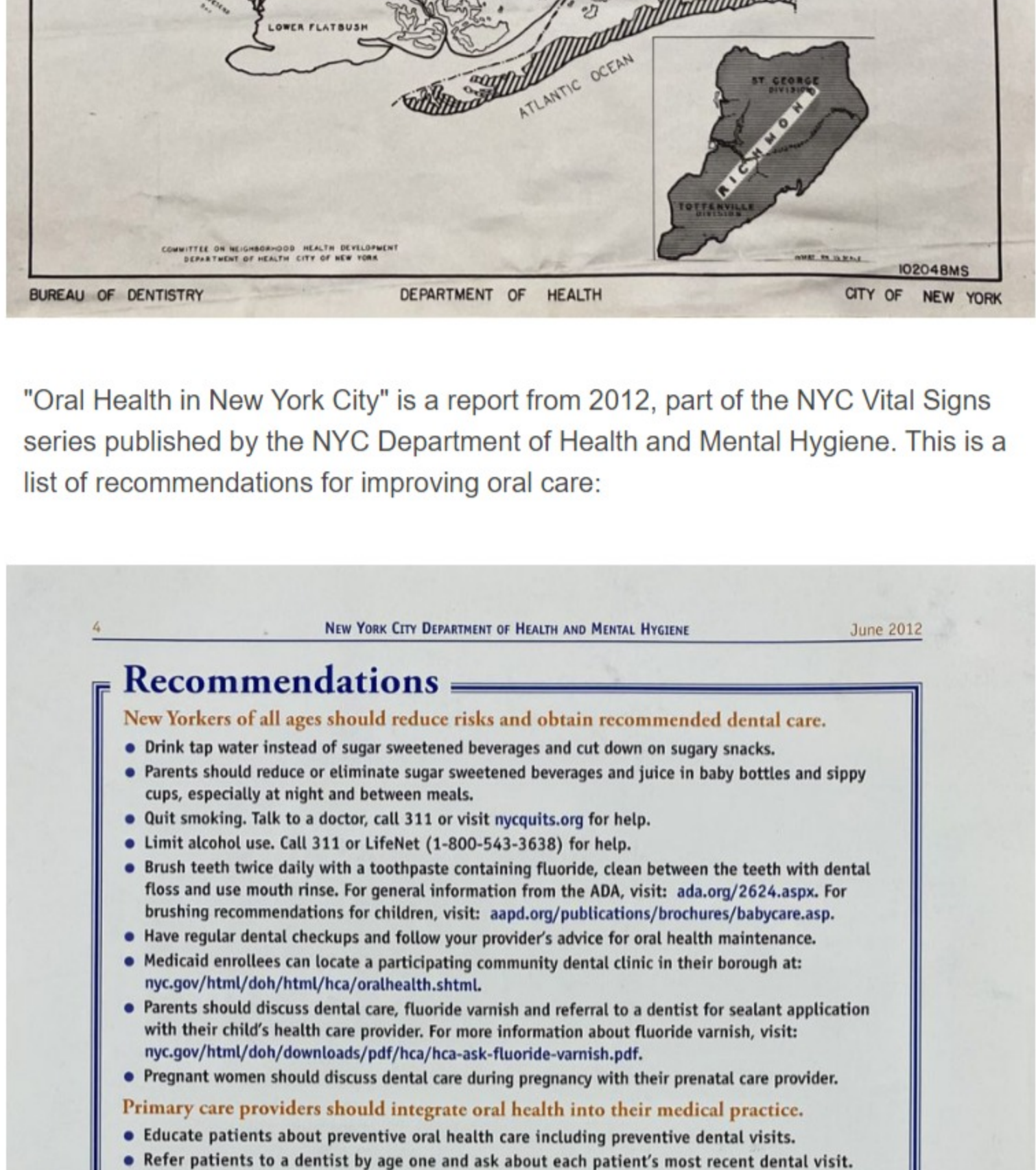
This article features some resources on dental and oral health from the Municipal Library collection. Circa 1909, the New York City Department of Health published an information flyer on how parents could help their children develop better oral hygiene. It sets out the consequences of neglecting to care for the teeth and explains what parents can do to remedy this. Included is a recipe for tooth powder!

Here is the publication:



A map from the Health Department Bureau of Dentistry displaying the percentage of children receiving dental health care in various New York City health districts.

Here is the map:



"Oral Health in New York City" is a report from 2012, part of the NYC Vital Signs series published by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. This is a list of recommendations for improving oral care:

