



This Just In: New Archive On 20th Century Government Reform

HOW WILL YOU

IMPACT
THE WORLD?

Call it “**An Adventure in Democracy.**” Now this exciting new Public Affairs archive at Baruch College of the City University of New York – **the IPA Collection (1906-2003) and the Luther Gulick Papers** -- awaits you and your students.

More than 100 years ago, an elite band of New York plutocrats revolted against municipal corruption and founded a new science of honest, accountable, efficient, and professional government that spread around the country. Backed by Rockefeller, Carnegie and Harriman fortunes, the reformist **Bureau of Municipal Research (BMR)** pioneered training for public servants, budgets, and investigative studies to expose waste and corruption. It grew into the influential **Institute of Public Administration (IPA)** with its motto “An Adventure in Democracy” and mission “to make Democracy work.”

Treasures and oddities include signed letters from Albert Einstein and half a dozen presidents; historic photos, maps, and organizational charts; a souvenir quill pen from FDR; a seating chart from the Nuremberg Trial; and an original wartime radio script by Eliot Ness of “The Untouchables.”

Its mastermind was **Luther Halsey Gulick** (1892-1993), a visionary civic leader who counseled presidents and mayors through economic recovery, wartime mobilization and reconstruction, peace, prosperity and urban modernization.

In 2007, Baruch was deeded ownership of more than 700 boxes of reports and files of the BMR/IPA Collection and Gulick Papers. Processed under generous grants from **Carnegie Corporation of New York**, and with the enthusiastic partnership of Baruch's vaunted **School of Public Affairs**, the archive is now open and parts are being digitized for wider public access by everyone interested in how American government became answerable to its people and how it might improve.

Sound timely?

The vast, unique and fragile collection -- encompassing one of the most vital yet overlooked chapters in the history of the Progressive Era, and the impact of a New Deal insider who put a distinctive American twist on the field of public administration -- includes the founding records and meeting minutes of the BMR since 1906. It also includes hundreds of reports laying bare the workings of municipalities around the country for a good part of the 20th century, surveys and audits that reformed New York and other troubled cities from Newark to Baltimore, New Orleans to St. Louis, as well as the unwieldy federal government itself.

Check out our finding aids and blog here:
tinyurl.com/IPAarchives

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OUR MISSION The mission of the School of Public Affairs and its programs is to enhance the performance of governmental and nonprofit institutions in New York and the nation in the interest of effective and equitable public service and public policy in a diverse society. We place special emphasis on educating responsive and accountable leaders who combine managerial expertise, creative and critical thinking, and rigorous analysis in the formation and execution of public policy.