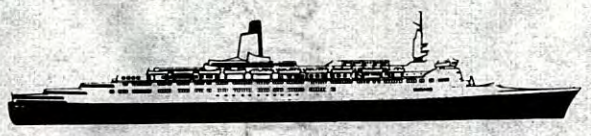


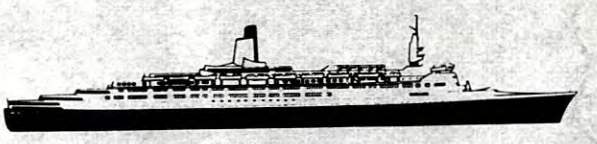
Cunard Queen Elizabeth 2

11th Oct. 1979

Dear Dad & Mom,

We are having quite a rough trip - it looks like about 10' to 12' seas. It is amazing to feel a ship of this size being tossed about by waves that seem so comparatively small. The ship otherwise is fabulous, many things to do so long as you are ready and prepared to search them out.

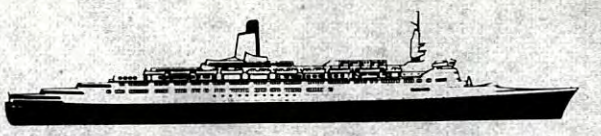
I went to a talk yesterday given by a man who is vice-president of an investment analysis firm on Stock Options. He invited me for a drink afterwards and we talked about various approaches to the market. It turned out that many of our ideas were similar, he uses a model based on short-term analysis and statistical probability. He is going to send me some of his books and his own work at Oxford.



Cunard Queen Elizabeth 2

People on the ship are all fascinated at having 45 Rhodes Scholars on board and we are often stopped by the other passengers who attempt to test us ~~and to~~ see how much we really know. One gets the feeling that they think we can walk through walls. The ship daily has quizzes that one can do, issued by the library. many of the passengers have either decided not to do them because "what is the point with so many Rhodes Scholars on Board" or find a scholar to do them with.

When I arrived at the terminal on Sunday evening to depart there was a bit of a ~~cais~~ as my ticket had been cancelled in Southampton. Stobbo strikes again. Apparently Cunard expected me to collect the ticket in Southampton. Anyway



Cunard Queen Elizabeth 2

all is well, however.

I had a great time in New York, despite the fact that I have decided that I do not like the City. I went on a tour of the United Nations, a ferry ride to the Statue of Liberty and bummed around with my friends.

I will send you all of handouts of paper and photos etc. that I received. I can now comfortably say that you should have come along, so long as you were prepare to relax and do those nothing little things that they provide for your amusement. Although, I think you would probably enjoy the cruises much more. As you must by now be aware, I was unsuccessful in my efforts to have the ship stop in at Bermuda - well there is always next time. John

P.S. No sign of R. Gorham.

Oxford.

21st November 79.

Dear Mum.

Tuesdays have become known as my tutorial day which usually means that Mondays are a heavy library day. Nevertheless, I am getting the work done, learning alot and most of all, enjoying myself. As I was expecting Oxford is very different from anything that I have been used to, although I have now decided how it is best to study law.

I went to Rugby on Saturday and saw Charles in the school play, The Pajama Game. It was very interesting and alot of fun although he did look a bit like a pierrot. I saw Tom and he offered me a place to stay if ever I was up and then Barry Walton, after the play, took me out for a drink. I hope to go back for the O.R. day at the end of this term.

I have started a rowing team and the eight of us and a coach get up every morning at 6:00 am and run out to the river for an hours practice. This getting up early nonsense is beginning to kill me but we are doing fairly well and competing for Corpus next week against the other Colleges. I'll make to the Olympics yet. This has been a very cold couple of weeks, people say as cold as it usually gets in the winter, and the past two days we have lived in dense fog. Oh well - that is England I suppose.

See you in a Couple of Weeks. John.

JOHN C. COLLIS

Oxford.
3rd February 1980

Dear Dad + Mum,

First I must thank you for the money which arrived last week and is now safely deposited, and undrawn upon. I have managed to do one of the things that you asked about - the Torpids begin on Wednesday Feb. 27th and end Saturday March 1st. I don't as yet know when eights week begins but I will endeavour to find out for you. I see in my book that you don't plan to arrive until that Sunday - I don't think you'll miss much, I have got so much work this term that I ~~dof~~ declined to row in the first or second boats even though I would have loved to but will possibly row in what they call a Schools boat, which is people who don't have the time to do alot of training but go into it for the competitive spirit and train only 2 or 3 times a week. I am also playing rugby with the 2nds, again time considerations, but its alot of fun. I had dinner tonight at the house of a Canadian professor here who I met last term sometime and that was enjoyable. I went to that Hunt ball last weekend which was wild - I borrowed a Tux from Brookes - but all the masters of the Hunt ~~are~~ had red tails. They had a large marquee - I mean this thing was big man, - I have seen large tents - it had enough

room inside to seat abaut 900 people plus dance floor and band. This girl had a party of about ten and when we arrived we took over the dance floor and got all the old guys moving. Mum. I didnit know what you were talking about re Slingsby - I know you said he wanted us to have dinner - just tell me when else you arrange with him.

Otherwise everything is going well and I am getting all of my work done though barely. I am trying to do alot of subjects at once and that means alot of cases to read every week plus the lectures. I think I told you that Lisa came up here for a night a week or so ago and I hope she had a good time. I haven't heard a word from old Charlie although I suppose that he must be working fairly hard with 'A' levels in a couple of months. And of course Graham never communicates. I have put my name down to get involved in the moot court competitions that happen occasionally. I have already got the Robert Marley waist coat and know how to hang my hands in the pockets and swing them around as I attempt to make my point. Even if I don't get my point across at least I'll have the style. Now don't forget to take me out dinner when you are here — see you soon

John

JOHN C. COLLIS

Oxford,
5th February

Dear Mum and Dad,

You are really being favoured with letters this term and hope you appreciate it. Nobody seems to know exactly when Eights week is but the general consensus seem to be in 5th week of Trinity term, ie. Wednesday 28th May until Saturday 31st May. If I later hear to the contrary I will tell you but I am pretty sure that those are the dates. I forget to tell you about the doctor. As soon as I arrived back here my stomach returned to normal - strange considering Corpus food - but it did! However, I still want to see the Doctor, so I called and he was away for a while. Rather than ask to see someone else since it was fine for the time I decided to wait till he gets back. Today, you will be no doubt pleased to know, I learnt all about voluntary gifts under the topic of trusts. Which means that in effect that should you decide to repudiate liability to give me the remainder of the money I will be able to enforce the covenant. What with equity and little bit of the doctrine of part performance thrown in for good measure I have got a sure case, might even be able to pull in a little bit of interest on the unpaid sum to boot. Seems a bit silly that the law

will allow one to enforce such voluntary gifts but, apparently it will.

One last thing can have the Flat on Friday night and Saturday of February 29th just before you come? I am going to a party in London.

See you in March.

John

JOHN C. COLLIS

23rd January 80

Dear Mum and Dad.

We have now just started the formal term and I have got alot of work to do this term. As I expected I would I caught a cold almost my first day back at Oxford (last Tuesday) but I am slowly getting rid of it. I am going to Stratford tonight to see Othello. I had originally invited Lisa up for today and then to go to see the play but she has gone to her aunt Barbara's instead so maybe she'll be able to come up tomorrow.

This weekend I am going to a Hunt Ball - whatever that is - somewhere outside of Cambridge with one of the girls that I rescued in Bermuda towards the end of the summer. Man, I hope that you have sold all of your Gold and Silver by now otherwise you won't be able to lend me that money. I have got your's, Mum, earning 15%.

I will be studying Law of Contract and Law of Trusts this term. Contract seems, at the outset, to be very interesting. When I got back my Tutor told me that I was having a collection on Friday. I had no idea what a collection was, I thought possibly we were all going to Church, but it turned out to be an exam in Torts. I didn't do too badly either; I get the paper back yesterday. Dave the Scout always enquires about you and I keep ensuring him that you are fine. Now - gotta split — thanks a Bunch for the holiday it was Super. Mr la Varappe says he wants to see us next year.

John

JOHN C. COLLIS

Oxford.
16th February 1980.

Dear Mum and Dad.

Well I am back again complete with a few requests, I figured that you needed a few chores to keep you busy. Firstly, my license, it should be down TED. Secondly, when I left Bermuda in the sommer I wanted to buy anew one of those light weight blazers and they didn't have my size. (42 Regular) - all Framinghams had were short and X long. Man, you know what I want not those sacking types but the real light ones. I played a game of rugby on Wednesday against Oriel College and we won 34/10 - I scored a try. Charlie called me the other day and Betty Walton at Rugby wants me to show a friend of his around Oxford. Sounds Kool - I might even wangle a greese out of it. I am told this is a very mild winter for Oxford or England. It never really seemed that cold but rather damp. I had a cold for about 2 weeks at the beginning of Term but that has gone now. I went rowing yesterday on the boat that we are rowing as a schools boat (which means people with too much work to do all the training) Trouble is that so many of the others in the boat are just hopeless as athletes. Anyway it is fun at least to go out.

See you soon John

JOHN C. COLLIS

6th January 1981

Dear Dad & Mum,

Well I am back in Oxford and I suppose that if pressed I could say that it was nice to be back once again. Mind you, I think I would rather be on top of Saulire. I have just spent today getting everything sorted out and Checking with tutors. I trust that you all had safe trips back to Bermuda and that you found the island as you left it.

I actually just wanted to thank you for the fabulous Christmas holiday, yet again. I think, all things considered, it was probably the best one yet. It is funny how it all comes to an end so fast and suddenly everyone is once again split up all over the world. The next time that we will all be together is the summer and before that I have got a lot of work to do. Still I suppose that I will get it all done and hopefully be ready for the exams in June. I still think that it is a bit unfair that they start on my birthday - what a present. I am sure that you will find someone to be passing through England in the near future and I will look forward to seeing you then. Jx

VIA AIR MAIL

OXFORD
D3

15P

Be prom[illegible]
addressed
POSTCARD

Mr + Mrs C. Collis,
Greenhill,
Middle Road,
Devonshire.
BERMUDA.

JOHN C. COLLIS

VIA AIR MAIL

Dear Man

It's your big day,

you lucky guy - what a

prize!!

I was going to send

$100.00 but I sealed the envelope

before I thought of it.

I don't suppose any of my family will have been astute enough to realize what this letter is and put aside for you until Sunday - but the thought is still here.

Dear Mama,

I almost forgot - and I bet you forgot - about Mothers Day. Yet despite remembering this will still be late because I did not remember in time. I am sorry that this is all pink and flowers and mushy but it is the only thing that people are expected to send Mamas. little boy Cards are much easier and more fun with pictures of bikes and toads etc.

Anyway sorry that it is so late but happy Mothers Day

Joe

Thanks for dinner in London.

With love to you, Mother,
And thanks to you, too,
For all that you are
And all that you do,
For all of the happiness
You give to others,
And, above all, for being
The dearest of mothers!

Happy Mother's Day
With Love