

Envelope postmarked Boston, Mass Nov 2 7PM 1930
no return address
addressee

Mr. C.M.Hardenbergh
1788 Freemont Ave. S.
Minneapolis
Minn.

(page 1 has letterhead, ditto all pages)
COLLIS MORGAN HARDENBERGH
Standish B 31
Cambridge, Mass.

Nov.1

Dear Dad:

Thus far I have
spen according to my tabulations
\$50.40 on food since I left home
Sept 18. 45 days ago. That is equal
to only \$7.84 per week. Last year
in the freshman dorms the price was
\$9.60 a week. Even counting out my trip
to Intervale, paid for by Grandpa and
free meals at the Hutchins and Uncle
Don's I do not think that I have
subsisted so cheaply as my books would
show. Therefore I think I have left out
several meal prices and ~~I think~~ I feel
justified in saying that I have spent

[Sept 18! See below.]

(to back)
about \$55 on food. You will say
I should keep track better but with
my memory, as you know it, it is
hard to pull out a book and put down the
price after every snack, and I eat quite
a few of these. In the future, sire,
I shall keep better books.

[Maisie on her Bryn Mawr expenses below.]

When I left you gave me \$50
for food, and in October another \$25
so I should bother you about money
for food until next month, but
since I was rather free wih my
money at first, I spent a good part
of hat [sic] so you gave me on slips rather
than food. ~~Have done~~ If I am under
\$100 in the checking account the bank
charges \$.50. So if you sent me

another \$25. before December 1 you
would save the grande prix of 50 cents.
You probably don't understand all

COLLIS MORGAN HARDENBERGH
Standish B 31
Cambridge, Mass.

this.

But to continue. I have spent
\$100 summer allowance. \$40 September
\$50 October, \$50 you gave me, \$10 for the
Intervale rug, \$7 from the coop, \$5 from
Rog in Bets + for a pair of shoes. \$261!
I can account for a good part of this, however
as you probably will be pleased to know.

\$75. sofa

\$10. ½ chair

8. TIME magazine

[Collis had a sub through WWII at least.]

26. Books, maps, notebooks

22. Framing + buying 6 pictures. 2 Jap., one Hogarth,

[My sis MLH got the two Japanese
from the NCH estate in 2008. And the
Botticelli hangs in Quogue.]

6. table one Durer, the Botticelli.

5. Andirons

10. Cleaning, washing, suits, rugs, blankets, coats, covers.

10. Auto rent, repairs on Intervale trip.

[See earlier letter about repairs.]

4. Fortuniny (maybe F ortiny??)

[Can't make this word out.]

7. Lamp -----> \$183

(to back)

2.00 Dishes

3.00 Telegrams, stamps, envelopes.

2.00 Lampon Crimson

1.00 Telephone

9.00 Yale, Dartmouth game tickets

2.00 tools, paint, brush, paste

3.00 Victrola records

2.00 Auto license

8.00 3 Plays, movies.

4.00 20 rides to Boston 10 cents each way

[“Charlie handed in his dime at
the Kendall Square Station,” 1956!]

5.00 tooth brush, paste, wastebasket, cards, pillows,
camera pictures, and decanter.

41

183

\$224

+ \$50 on food 100

274 My bank account is now \$71.80

- 29.20 or 29.20 below

\$244.80 par \$100

So I have checked within \$5.00

I hope you see all this and sanction most of the articles. Call the \$5.00 soap expenses.

Love Cog

Bound for the Hutchins, Gret is calling.

Maisie comments

Don't know why you have exclamation point after Sept 18.? Collis was getting back to college after the big Sept 3 HPN birthday and attendant activities in Mpls.

I don't believe I kept track of expenses at BMC. But we have to keep remembering that BMC and Harvard were very different. Tuition at BMC included meals that you could eat anywhere on campus. At Harvard Collis had to pay for all meals. I find these details he had to supply his father rather appalling. I did get an allowance winter and summer for many years. I don't remember any accounting except the year I was in Mexico when the money he sent thru banks to get pesos got very complicated.

His Time magazine subscription always important to Collis, so much so that when I was in Mexico, 1941-42, he sent me a special air mail edition of Time to keep me up on U.S. and world doings.

Taking Harvard's odd expense business into account, I find the whole letter leads me to say the following: I think Clarence was very hard on his only son, expected a great deal, was critical, and as you can see from the way Collis alluded to his courses and efforts or LACK of same, his father had reason to be critical...a vicious circle perhaps.

In latter years I was often trying to explain Collis' actions to my father. A good bit of disagreement or lack of understanding. Of course, Clarence and Alice constantly argued and disagreed after Alice became poisoned by BMC and the Summer school for Industrial Workers that Alice became involved with, turning her into a socialist CMH would say. Despite CMH blaming BMC for ruining Alice, he let his other daughters go there and supported MBNH in all the work she did for BMC.

Back to his relations with Collis, cmh was certainly harder on him than on his daughters, and of course I was much younger and spoiled and often could do no wrong. So, it's sad, but this letter of expenses does upset me. But perhaps I should consider the circumstances of the Depression, CMH not being paid (only in shares of the company), probably short on cash all around, money more of an item than 10 years later in Clarence's life when I went to college.

Chalmers further notes and questions

Maisie, You've written a wonderful letter. Certainly I feel that Gramps was hard on Dad, that's captured in 'The Bridge Game', I think, or maybe I just remember it from bridge games.

Understandably you still feel upset.

Gramps was hard on me, but authentic, after I used his gift to me of stock to buy that house in Boston. "Why are you pouring money down that rathole?"

And I recall when Gramps took Nicky and me to Intervale circa 1958 that I had to keep track to the penny of the money he fronted me. A good experience, I suppose.

Perhaps you're right about money being tighter. But if it was that tight, why wouldn't Gramps just say, "Collis you get a job this summer which pays something," rather than giving him a summer allowance? Collis could say, as Cyrus might tell me, "No jobs to be had!" Fortunately Cy does have a job, he starts again at the restaurant in Rockport beginning of May.

Gramps must have had very good savings, if he was paid only in stock and could pay tuition for Alee at BMC and Collis at Harvard, plus keep the household going.

Can you tell more about latter years? Do you mean pre-marriage, or even after that? I'm interested that Dad chose to live in Minneapolis, even with a difficult father, given all the connections he had in Massachusetts, as noted in his other letter. Wish Mom were alive, with good memory (it was not that great in her last couple of years) to tell us why they did move back.

Maisie response

Great that Cy has that job again. Yes, colleges in our day started mid to late Sept. Charlie and I agree. Yes it was pre marriage when Collis was living at 66 that I was trying to interpret Collis to Clarence. I don't know why Cognac moved back to Mpls. I can only conjecture that Collis had many architectural connections in the area, that he loved the Minnetonka associations and the historic Hbergh past, that perhaps the Mpls.area was more open to his ideas than the large East Coast area.