

o. Amelie

5/31/99

C-SPAN

400 North Capitol ST, N.W. Suite 650

Washington, DC 20001

ATT:- Brian Lamb.

Dear Mr. Lamb:

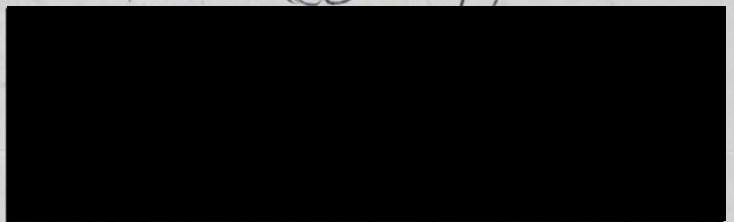
This past Friday, I watched the parts in the Presidential series that C-SPAN is doing on the ones of President Polk. I was very interested in the interview you had with the author of "Presidential I forget the other word" (where presidents tell lies about their health, etc.). One of the presidents you asked about was the 19th Century one who always tipped his hat at 3 PM to his wife across the street who was there because of seizures.

A short time after I had looked through a catalogue sent by a cruel line. On one page, they devoted a column to Tipping (enclosed). In that column, they had a box on the "Origin of

of the word 'tips'!" According to them,
it started out as an acronym (i.e.,
TIPS (to insure personal service), and
has become a word in the English
language. (It made me think of
your question).

If this is true, I thought it was
interesting. (A desk dictionary I
have doesn't give that explanation.
Anyway, I ended up with the feeling
that their words in the column
were more interesting - if it could
be substantiated!).

Sincerely,



Cruise News

CARNIVAL CRUISE LINES

Smoke free cruising is now a reality aboard the new *Paradise* which was launched in November, 1998. This is the first smoke-free ship in the Carnival fleet, and one of the only in the entire cruise industry. Public acceptance and demand will determine if this concept will be expanded. In response to suggestions by their guests, Carnival has increased the size of their latest *Nautica Spa* to 12,000 sq. ft. and expanded their children's facilities and programs. Vegetarian and Spa menu's along with 24 hour room service and casual dining options are now standard on all Carnival ships. Cruising aboard a Carnival ship is not what it used to be, it is much better than ever.

CELEBRITY CRUISES

Interestingly, this medium-priced cruise line is listed as one of the four best luxury cruise lines in the world in Frommer's '98 Cruising Guide. I have always felt that Celebrity was underpriced, but it is predicted that the prices for Celebrity Cruises will increase very soon. Two new Celebrity ships are under construction and are scheduled to join the fleet by January 2001.

CUNARD LINE, LTD.

Seabourn Cruise Line has merged with Cunard. The two *Sea Goddess* ships, plus the *Royal Viking Sun*, will become part of the Cunard-Seabourn fleet in 1999. All planned itineraries will remain unchanged. The *Vistafjord* will be renamed the *Coronia*, and Cunard has grand plans to build a new superliner "Queen Mary" that promises to bring back the golden age of sea travel.

CRYSTAL CRUISES

World's Best in the large ship category, three years in a row, according to The Travel and Leisure reader surveys. Unfortunately, Crystal has no plans for additional ships at this time. Reservations should be made several months in advance to avoid disappointment. The Travel Company has 35 exclusive sailings which offer SHIPBOARD CREDITS and PRE-PAID GRATUITIES, plus huge discounts off the brochure rates.

HOLLAND AMERICA LINE

The *Volendam* now under construction will join it's remaining Holland America fleet in August 1999 starting with a 7-night New England/Canada Cruise. She will spend the remainder of 1999 and the year 2000 in the Caribbean. The *Zaandam* will also be launched in 1999, with new itineraries including a 12-night Iceland to Ireland, and a 14-night Midnight Run cruise up to the arctic Circle.

ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL

Reservations are now being accepted for the new 142,000 ton *Voyager of The Seas*. I have seen this new goliath under construction at the shipyard in Turku, Finland and can attest that it will bring a new dimension to cruising that I never dreamed possible. Well over twice the size of the *QE2*, the *Voyager* class ships have the luxury of space which is put to good use to provide entertainment, facilities and services never before seen on a cruise ship.

Surely the most reluctant prospective cruiser should be drawn to this virtual vacation destination. If the *Voyager of The Seas* simply remained moved to the pier, she would provide a better vacation experience than almost any resort that I can think of. So to the enormous interest in this massive ship Royal Caribbean has already ordered two nearly identical sister ships in preparation for the expected popularity of this class of ships.

PRINCESS CRUISES

Members of the World Ocean and Cruise Line Society voted Princess Cruises "Best Value" in the 5-Star deluxe category. Princess continues to build new ships that offer a wide range of new features that are popular with their guests. Princess has also improved onboard service in recent years, while at the same time keeping its pricing competitive.

Cruise News provided by Robert Falcone

TIPPING

Many people find the whole question of tipping awkward and embarrassing. The information given here is meant as a guideline; you should then add your own good judgment.

On some ships there are subtle suggestions made regarding tipping whereas on others, cruise directors, under the direction of the hotel manager get carried away and are far too dictatorial as to the practice of tipping. Cruise lines (such as Princess Cruises) offer hints on tipping via the in-cabin video system.

The industry standard for cruises is roughly as follows:

- Dining room waiter: \$3-\$3.50 per person per day
- Busboy: \$1.50-\$1.75 per day
- Cabin steward/stewardess: \$3-\$3.50 per person per day
- Butler: \$3 per person per day

NOTE: Cruisegeers in accommodations designated as suites may have a butler to tip in addition to the stewardess. Suite and penthouse cruisegeers aboard *QE2* should tip \$5.00 per person per day to each of the dining room waiters and the suite stewards/stewardesses, as well as to the butler.

Gratuities are usually given on the last evening of a cruise of up to 14 days' duration. For longer cruises, you normally extend half of the tip half way through and the rest on your last evening.

NOTE: on some Greek-staffed ships (Royal Olympic Cruises, for example), gratuities are pooled and given to the chief steward, who shares them out at the end of each cruise. A daily amount of \$8-\$10 per person is the norm.

Gratuities are now included in the cruise fare on a number of ships, in which no extra tipping is permitted (in theory). Some examples: *QE2*, *Radisson Diamond*, *Royal Viking Sun*, *Sea Goddess I*, *Sea Goddess II*, *Seabourn Legend*, *Seabourn Pride*, *Seabourn Spirit*, *Silver Cloud*, *Silver Wind*, *Song of Flower*, *Vistafjord*.

ORIGIN OF THE WORD "TIPS"

Before the introduction of postage stamps, coachmen who carried cruisegeers were often asked to carry a letter or other package. A small recompense was given for this service, called a "tip"—which stands for "to insure personal service." Hence, when in future some special service was provided, particularly in the hospitality industry, tips became an accepted way of saying thank you for services rendered.

