

(8) Cousin and Correspondent Clare Hollingsworth, Edmonton, Alberta (Olympiad Country), in a letter of about Jan 1984, said his brother Ralph in Toronto, Ontario, met a Tom Hollingsworth, native of Ireland (MUST be one of our kinsmen-Ed.) who is a recent immigrant. He is an Account Executive. Tom told Ralph who told Clarence that the Royal Coach for the Queen and Prince Philip, of whom we know, was 'crafted, designed and built by a Tom Hollingsworth, and this is acknowledged by the engraved plate attached to the coach.' Your editor finally got round to an "enquiry" about this (cynic that we are) on 25 Dec 1987, a very impressive reply coming back dated 7th Jan 1988 from P. M. Almond, Chief Clerk, The Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace. He states, (in part) "...we have no record of a Tom Hollingsworth ever

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having designed or built a coach for The Queen or any previous British Monarch." He states that the Gold State Coach was designed by Sir Wm. Chambers and delivered to the Royal Mews in 1762. A list of every craftsman who worked on it is at hand and Mr. Hollingsworth's name is not on it. That coach does not have a plate on it bearing the name of the manufacturer. None of the other coaches or horse-drawn vehicles there have any connection to any Hollingsworth. He does say, however, that when a coach is repaired, (restored etc.) the renovator's new plate replaces the former one. (Aha! We thought. Maybe Tom the Irishman Hollingsworth saw a plate which has now been replaced.) Mr. Almond continues:

"I have also contacted the Archivist of the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and he has no record of Mr. Hollingsworth ever being recorded as a carriage/coach designer or builder." So there. Although that is not the last word (he says if we come up with more detailed information, year, exact coach, he might investigate further), it is Hollingsworth Register's last word. Let's just say it was the Blarney Coach that had the plate, ta-tah, ta-tah, sure an' begorrah. (Give me a Guinness, quick.) (See Sept 1986 HR. p. 45.)