

Full details of -

- 1) the restoration of the panels on the State Coach may be obtained from William Drown,
110 New Bond Street, W.1.

- 2) the fitting of the rubber tyres to the wheels of the State Coach may be obtained from
Messrs. Hooper & Co. Ltd.,
54 St. James's Street, S.W.1.

March, 1953.

The following programme will be adhered to, and films may be taken throughout the period 2.00 p.m. till 4.00 p.m. on Thursday, 19th March, 1953.

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| 1400-1430 | Parade of State Coach including postillions and walking grooms in State dress. |
| 1430-1600 | State Coach and its renovated panels. |
| 1445-1515 | Parade of Irish Coach. |

Some notes concerning the coaches and Royal Mews personnel are attached.

DESCRIPTION OF

HER MAJESTY'S STATE COACH

Her Majesty's State Coach, which was finished in the Year 1761, was designed by Sir William Chambers, and built under his supervision.

The emblematic and other paintings on the panels and the doors were executed by Cipriani, of which explanations are appended, viz:-

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| The Front Panel | Victory presenting a Garland of Laurel to Britannia, who is seated on a Throne holding a Staff of Liberty in her hand, being attended by Religion, Justice, Wisdom, Valour, Fortitude, Commerce and Plenty.

In the background is a view of St. Paul's Cathedral and the River Thames. |
| The Right-Hand Door | Industry and Ingenuity giving a Cornucopia to the Genius of England. |
| The Right-Hand Panels | History recording the reports of Fame.

Peace burning the implements of War. |
| The Lower Back Panel | Neptune and Amphitrite, attended by the Winds, Rivers, Tritons, Naiads, etc., issuing from their Palace in a Triumphal Car, drawn by Sea Horses, to bring the tribute of the world to the British Shore. |
| The Upper Back Panel | The Royal Arms, beautifully ornamented with the Order of St. George, the Rose, Shamrock and Thistle being entwined. |
| The Left-Hand Door | Mars, Minerva and Mercury supporting the Imperial Crown of Great Britain. |
| The Left-Hand Panels | The Liberal Arts and Sciences protected. |

The Front and four Quarter Panels over the paintings are of Plate Glass.

The Framework of the Body of the Coach consists of eight Palm Trees, which, branching out at the top, sustain the roof. The four corner trees, each of which is supported by a lion's head, are loaded with trophies allusive to the victories obtained by Great Britain during the glorious war that terminated just prior to the completion of the Coach.

Four large Tritons support the body of the Coach by means of braces, which are covered with Morocco leather and ornamented with gilt buckles. The two figures in front are represented in the action of drawing the carriage, cables attached to the cranes being extended over their shoulders, and in that of announcing, through the medium of the shells which they hold, the approach of the Monarch of the Ocean. The figures at the back carry the Imperial Fasces, topped with tridents.

On the centre of the roof stand Three Boys, representing the Genii of England, Scotland and Ireland, supporting the Imperial Crown of Great Britain, and holding in their hands the Sceptre, Sword of State and Ensigns of Knighthood respectively. Their bodies are adorned with festoons of laurel, which fall from thence to the four corners of the roof.

Among the minor portions may be mentioned The Driver's Footboard, which is a large Scollop Shell, ornamented with bunches of reeds and other marine plants: The Pole, representing a bundle of lances: The Splinter Bar, composed of a rich moulding issuing from beneath a voluted shell, with each end terminating in the head of a dolphin: and the Wheels, being imitations of those of the ancient Triumphal Chariot.

The whole of the carriage is richly ornamented with beautifully gilt Carved Work.

The following are the dimensions of the Coach, viz:-
Length 24 feet; width 8 feet 3 inches; height 13 feet;
length of pole 12 feet 4 inches; while it weighs 4 tons.

This Coach is kept in The Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace. It is drawn by eight grey horses and the harness used is of Red Morocco leather, decorated with Crimson ribbons and richly gilt Coats of Arms and other ornaments. Rubber tyres have recently been fitted to the wheels, and the paintings on the panels by Cipriani have been restored and transferred to new panels, and a description of the process is issued in a separate pamphlet.

THE IRISH STATE COACH

Built in Dublin in 1852 by Mr. Hutton, the then Lord Mayor of Dublin, and purchased from him by Queen Victoria during her visit to Ireland in that year.

In pre-war days it was used by the Sovereign to go to Levees at St. James's Palace, and since the War it has been used by the Sovereign at the Opening of Parliament instead of the Gold State Coach. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will use it at the Coronation.

STATE LANDAU

This type of carriage was first introduced into the Royal Stables in 1838 and since then has been used in many Ceremonial Processions, such as Coronations and the Openings of Parliament. Since the last war they have been used to convey Foreign Ambassadors to Buckingham Palace when they go there to present their Letters of Credence to the Sovereign. They will be used in the Coronation Procession this year to convey Princes and Princesses of the Blood Royal and the suites of Her Majesty The Queen and of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

POSTILLIONS

Postillions are employed on certain types of carriages which are not driven by a Coachman and each Postillion is in charge of a pair of horses, riding the near (left) side horse and leading the off (right) side horse. Considerable skill, gained by long practice, is required in making turns and in keeping an even pull on the traces.

The livery consists of a short gold and scarlet jacket, a dark blue velvet hunting cap worn over a white wig, white buckskin breeches, black hunting boots with light coloured tops and gilt spurs.

WALKING GROOMS

Eight walking grooms are employed with the Gold State Coach. Their duty is to walk beside the horses, one man to each horse, and to render the Postillions any assistance necessary. They are equipped with crooked handle walking sticks with which they can hold the traces up on the inside of any turn made by the coach.

The Livery consists of a scarlet and gold knee length jacket, a dark blue velvet hunting cap, white buckskin breeches, black hunting boots with light coloured tops.

March, 1953.