

Information Sheet

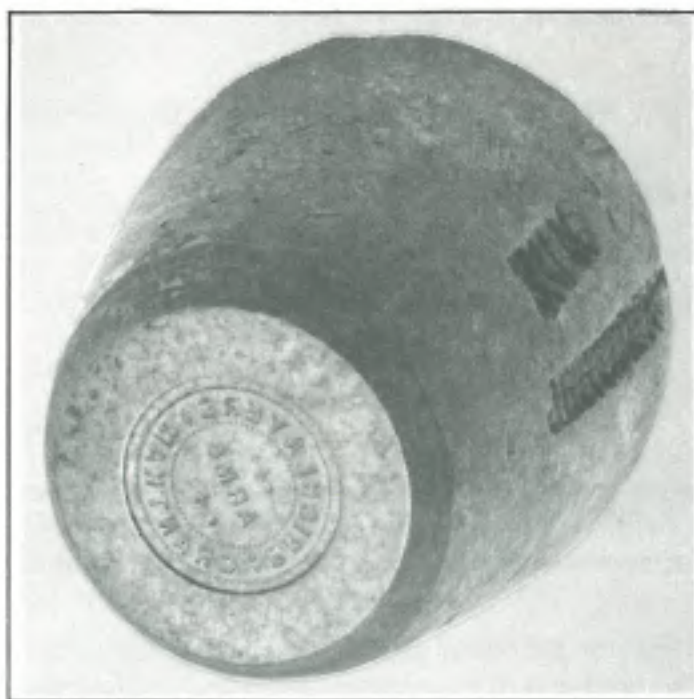
Numismatic Series No. 1

NINETEENTH CENTURY LINCOLNSHIRE BEER TICKETS

INTRODUCTION

The rapid growth of shops and businesses in the towns and villages of Victorian Britain led to a proliferation of advertisements of all kinds as part of the fierce competition for customers. One little studied form of these advertisements was the circulation of metal discs or checks bearing the name and address of the trader and details of the goods which he sold.

These metal advertisement checks are as varied as the products and the trades they advertise. This Information Sheet deals with one particularly common group of discount ticket which was associated with hotels, public houses and beer houses.



*Steel die for the obverse of the
Bricklayers Arms, Grantham (A15)*

BEER TICKETS

Beer tickets first appear in the second quarter of the nineteenth century and continue in use until the First World War. The commonest form had the name of the publican, the public house and often the street and town on the obverse or front of the ticket. On the reverse was a large numeral indicating a value and often the name and address of the manufacturer of the ticket. The tickets were mostly made of brass but occasionally copper and other base metals were used.

All parts of Great Britain used beer tickets at one time or another and many thousands of varieties are known. In Lincolnshire all of the larger towns had tickets but for some as yet unexplained reason the Grantham public houses account for more than half the recorded

varieties from the county. How far this is a reflection of the drinking habits of the Grantham people or enthusiastic collecting by local Museum curators remains to be explained.

The denominations of the beer tickets range from a halfpenny upwards. In Lincolnshire the commonest values are 1 ½ d. and 3d. The exceptionally high value of one shilling occurs on a ticket of the Newmarket Hotel in Lincoln (A69). A feature which rarely occurs outside Lincolnshire is the use of the volume measure 'half pint' rather than a cash value (A22, A41, A45, A61).

THE USES OF BEER TICKETS

The actual purpose for which these tickets were issued is still the subject of some speculation and research into contemporary trade publications is needed before a definitive account can be written. A number of alternative uses have been suggested:—

- (a) Since gambling for cash in public places was illegal under the 1845 Gaming Act these tickets could have been bought from the publican and used as an alternative to money.
- (b) The tickets were used as prizes for games of skittles, darts, bagatelle or dominoes.
- (c) Those public houses which had a concert hall (A55), bowling green or skittle alley would charge a small entrance fee and then refund all or part of the charge in tickets which could be exchanged for drink or tobacco. This ensured that visitors spent some money and did not receive an evening's warmth or entertainment for nothing.
- (d) Employers of casual labour could pay for services using beer tickets. These would probably have been bought in bulk at a suitable discount. Certain auctioneers used tickets in this way.
- (e) Wives bought a supply of tickets on pay day and then rationed their husbands' drinking during the week.
- (f) A drinker when offered a drink would take a ticket for use on another occasion.
- (g) The tickets may have been given as refunds on returned bottles and containers.
- (h) The tickets may have been an advertisement and distributed by the publican to attract customers to his bar.

THE METHOD OF MANUFACTURE

Like coins and medals the tickets were struck from steel dies on either hand or steam operated presses. The design was engraved or stamped into the flat die surface as a mirror or reverse image so that the letters and design appear the correct way round when struck onto the brass disc.

Few dies have survived because the high quality of the metal ensured a good scrap value. However the Grantham Museum collection contains the obverse die from which the Bricklayers Arms ticket was struck (A15).

THE MANUFACTURERS

In the late eighteenth century Birmingham developed as the major British coin, token and medal manufacturing centre and by the nineteenth century there were many die sinkers producing these metal advertisement tickets. Clearly the competition was intense but to judge from the surviving varieties the die sinkers had an effective team of commercial travellers who went out and sold their products.

A feature of the beer tickets is the freedom which the makers had to use the reverse to advertise not only their name but often a full address, town and a description of their products (A10, A12, A39). This information enables a detailed picture of the die sinking trades to be formed.

Die sinkers worked in other towns as well as Birmingham and the Lincolnshire issues include examples from makers in Hull, Sheffield and London.

LINCOLNSHIRE MUSEUMS COLLECTIONS

The Coin Room in the Usher Gallery, Lincoln has a comprehensive display of these beer tickets. Others are on show at the Grantham Museum.

The tickets listed in this paper are probably only a small proportion of the total number issued. If any reader owns or knows of other examples then the Lincolnshire Museums would like the opportunity to record details of the pieces. Please write to the Usher Gallery, Lincoln.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

During the preparation of this list many museum colleagues and private collectors made specimens available for examination. I am particularly grateful to Mr. J. Hutchinson of Cleethorpes who made his collection accessible and offered much useful advice and Mr. F.A. Hardy of the Grantham Library who checked many trade directories for information. Mr. John Durnell of Bristol, Mr. Roy Hawkins of Croydon and Dr. Neil Todd of Newtonville, Mass., U.S.A. have all added information and given advice over many years of correspondence.

Antony Gunstone

CATALOGUE

Each catalogue entry contains all the information on the ticket together with details of size, metal and a reference to the collections containing specimens. Additional information drawn from trade directories and other sources has generally been put within parentheses. An asterisk indicates that the ticket is illustrated. All illustrations are full size. Only for the Grantham series has any detailed search of the trade directories been made.

COLLECTIONS

- LCC Lincolnshire Museums: City and County Museum, Lincoln
LGr Lincolnshire Museums: Grantham Museum
PeM City of Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery
Pri Private Collection
SGS Spalding Gentleman's Society Museum, Spalding
Todd Dr. Neil B. Todd coll., Newtonville, Mass., U.S.A.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Neumann

- Neumann J. Neumann *Beschreibung der bekanntesten Kupfermünzen*. 6 vols. 1858 onwards. (Reprinted 1966)
Todd Neil B. Todd *British and Irish Tokens etc. ca. 1830-1920*. Second edition 1979
Vipan J.A.M. Vipan *Coins, Medals and Local*

Traders' Tokens . . . in the Peterborough Museum. 1908

BOSTON

- A1* Black Swan Hotel, Frederick Armstrong. 1½d. Brass, 26mm. See also Spalding (A81) for a similar token issued by F. Armstrong. (SGS; PeM)
A2 Corn Exchange Hotel, Market Place. 3d. Copper? (Neumann iv, no. 27192)
A3* As for A2 but value 1½d. Brass, 26mm. (LCC; Neumann iv, no. 27191 in copper)
A4 Dolphin Inn, Dolphin Lane. George Willett, 1½d. Maker: E. Cottrill, Birmingham. Copper. (Neumann iv, no. 27193)
A5* Kings Head Vaults, (Emery Lane), Ward. 1½d. Brass, 26mm. (SGS; Pri.)
A6* Peacock and Royal Hotel, Market Place, Daniel Jackson. 1½d. Brass, 26mm. (LCC; Pri.)
A6a As for A6 but 3d. Brass, 26mm. (Pri.)
A7* As for A6 but issuer R.H. Clemow. 1½d. Brass, 26mm. (LCC; Hull Museum; Pri.)
A7a Pen Street Brewery, John Glover. 6d. Brass, 26mm. (Pri.)
A8 Robin Hood Brewery, (High St.), Swinn & Son. 2½d. No other details. (Dealer list via Todd)
A8a White Horse. 3d. Brass (Via Todd)

GRANTHAM

- A9* Angel Tap Inn, (High St.), Ed. Taylor.

- 1 ½ d. Brass, 25mm. (LGr)
- A10* Blue Bull Inn, (Westgate), John Brown -)1872-1892(-. 2d. Maker W.J. Taylor, London, Brass, 29mm. (LGr)
- A11* Blue Cow, (63) Castlegate. Formerly the Red Cow, changed to Blue Cow in 1826 and closed in 1959. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Brass, 26mm. (LGr)
- A12* Blue Dog Inn, (10 Watergate). Mentioned in 1819 and closed in 1858. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Maker: S.A. Daniell, Birmingham. Brass, 26mm. (LGr)
- A13* Blue Lion Hotel, (5 Market Place). Mentioned in 1822 and closed in 1965. No issuer. 2d. Stamped on a brass disk. 28mm. (LGr)
- A14* Blue Pig Inn, (9 Vine St.), Thomas Hackworth -)1872(-. Countermarked CC on reverse. 1 ½ d. Brass, 25mm. (LGr)
- A15* Bricklayers Arms, (22/3 Watergate). Licensed for sale of Beer only. Mentioned first in 1872 and closed in 1958. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Maker: Mole & Son, Birmingham. Brass, 24mm. (LGr)
The obverse die for this token is in the Grantham Museum. The steel block tapers slightly from its base to the top which was flattened to receive the design. The design was punched into this prepared surface. On the sides of the die two words have been deeply stamped J. BRIDEN and RUN.
- A16* Cross Keys Inn, (73 New St.). Licensed for sale of Beer only. Mentioned first in 1856 and closed in 1958. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Brass, 25mm. (LGr)
- A17* Durham Ox (Inn, 64 Wharf Rd.). Mentioned in 1869 and closed in 1967. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Brass, 23mm. (LGr)
- A18* Foresters Arms, (27 Castlegate), John Naylor -)1882-1900(- as a 'Butcher and Beer House Keeper'. 1 ½ d. Brass, 26mm. (LGr)
- A19* Fox and Hounds Inn, (30) Westgate. Mentioned first in 1822/3 and closed in 1959. No issuer. 3d. Maker: H. Jenkins & Sons, Birmingham. Brass, 28mm. (LGr)
- A20* As in A19 but denomination 1 ½ d. (LGr)
- A21* George Tap, George Yard, High St. J.B. 1 ½ d. Brass, 22mm. (LGr)
- A22* Globe Inn, (24 Market Place). H.B(urnett)? The Inn was run by the Burnett family between 1842 and 1901. Half pint. Brass, 23mm. (LGr)
- A23 Hand and Heart, (33 Wharf Rd). No issuer. Open in 1826 and closed 1957). Half pint. Brass, 24mm. (Dealers' list via Todd)
- A24* Hare and Hounds, (15 East St.). Mentioned first in 1868 and closed in 1955. No issuer. 3d. Brass, 26mm. (LGr)
- A25* Huntingtower Arms, (96 Harlaxton Rd.). No issuer. Earliest mention 1916 - still open. 2 ½ d. Brass, 24mm. (Pri)
- A26* Jockey Inn (Horse and Jockey Inn), (43 High St.), J. Taylor -)1882(-. 1 ½ d. Brass, 25mm. (LGr)
- A27* Joiners Arms, Spittlegate. Mentioned first in 1892 and destroyed in 1940. No issuer. 3d. Brass, 27mm. (LGr)
- A28* As A27 but denomination 1 ½ d. (LGr)
- A29* Junction Inn, (7 Grantley St.), (Edward) Cole -)1892-1901(-. 1 ½ d. Brass, 24mm. (LGr)
- A30* Layton's Inn, (94 Grantley St.), J(ohn) B(urton) -)1897(-. Beer licence. 1 ½ d. Brass, 23mm. (LGr)
- A31* Lord Harrowby, (66 Dudley Rd.). Earliest mention 1892. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Brass, 23mm. (LGr)
- A32* Malt Shovels Inn, (21 Westgate), stamped J.T. HARE -)1888-1895(-. 3d. Brass, 27mm. (LGr)
- A33* As A32 but denomination 1 ½ d. (LGr)
- A34* Masons Arms. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Maker: Vaughton, Birmingham. Brass, 26mm. (LGr)
- A35* Musicians Arms, (13) Wharf Rd. Mentioned first in 1882 and closed in 1937. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Maker: S.A. Daniell, Birmingham. Brass, 23mm. (LGr)
- A36* Nag's Head, Wharf Rd. Earliest mention 1861. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Brass, 23mm. (LGr)
- A37* Oddfellows Arms, (35 North Parade). Mentioned first in 1897 and closed in 1976. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Brass, 24mm. (LGr)
- A38* Peacock Inn, (3 Welby St.). Mentioned first in 1882 and closed in 1937. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Brass, 24mm. (LGr)
- A39* Railway Tavern, St. Peters Hill. Mentioned first in 1869, became the Guildhall Tavern in 1963 and closed in 1971. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Maker: M. Mole & Son, Birmingham. Brass, 23mm. (LGr)
- A40* Reapers, (24 later 51) London Road. Mentioned first in 1896 and closed in 1958. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Maker: H.B. Sale, Birmingham. Brass, 23mm. (LGr)
- A41* Royal Oak, Stuart St. No issuer. Half pint. Brass, 25mm. (Pri.)
- A42 Royal Oak, (27 Market Place). G. Willoughby -)1897(-. 3d. Brass, 24mm. (Todd)
- A43* As A42 but denomination 1 ½ d. (LGr; Todd)
- A44* Shepherd and Dog, (71 Westgate). Mentioned first in 1857 and closed in 1937. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Brass, 25mm. (LGr)
- A45* Sir Isaac Newton, Wharf Rd. Mentioned first in 1861 and closed in 1927. No issuer. Half pint. Brass, 24mm. (LGr)
- A46* Spotted Cow, (London Rd.). Mentioned first in 1861. No issuer. Half pint. Brass, 24mm. (LGr)
- A47* Star and Garter, (13) Castlegate. Mentioned first in 1861 and closed in 1932. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Maker: Sale, Birmingham. Brass, 23mm. (LGr)
- A48* Sun Inn, (7 Brownlow St.). Mentioned first in 1793 and closed in 1958. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Brass, 26mm. (LGr)
- A49* Three Tuns Inn, (37) Norton St. Mentioned first in 1826 and closed in 1958. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Brass, 28mm. (LGr)

- A50* Victoria Tavern, (33 Rycroft St.), J(ohn Henry) Greenwood -)1896-1906(-. 1 ½ d. Maker: Sale, Birmingham. Brass, 23mm. (LGr)
- A51* Waggon and Horses Inn, (36 Manthorpe Rd.). First mentioned in 1855. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Brass, 26mm. (LGr)
- A52 Welby Arms, (16 Welby St.). Opened 1897 and closed in 1958. W(illiam) H(arwood) Keys -)1907-48(-. 1 ½ d. Brass, --mm. (LGr)
- A53* Wheatsheaf, (33) Inner St. Mentioned first in 1826 and closed in 1936. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Brass, 23mm. (LGr)
- A54* White Lion Inn, Spittlegate. Mentioned first in 1861. No issuer. brass, 24mm. (LGr)

GRIMSBY

- A55* Bakewell's Hotel, (Victoria St. corner of Lower Spring St.). 3d. Maker: M. Debus, Hull. Brass, 22.5mm. (LCC)
- A56* Blue Bell, Victoria St., George Bayton. 1 ½ d. Brass, 23mm. (LCC)
- A57* Bowling Green Inn/ Horse and Jockey Inn, (Grimsby?), J. Holland. 2d. Brass, 23mm. (Grimsby M)
- A58* Corporation Arms, (Corporation Rd.), J. Allbones, beer retailer. 3d. Brass, 25mm. (LCC)
Horse and Jockey Inn. See above A57
- A59* Grimsby I(ndependent) L(icensed) V(ictuallers) A(ssociation). One pint. Brass, 25mm. (LCC)

LEAKE (OLD)

- A60* G.G. Horton, maltster and brewer. 1 ½ d. Brass, 27.5mm. (LCC; Pri.)

LINCOLN

- A61* Black Boy, (5 Castle Hill), John Thropp. Half pint. Maker: Smith, Birmingham. Brass, 25mm. (Pri.)
- A62 Brickmakers Arms, M. Brown. 1 ½ d. Maker: T. Pope, Birmingham. Copper. (Neumann iv, no. 27549)
- A63* Gate House Hotel, Canwick Rd., S. Snell. 1 ½ d. Maker: Smith, Birmingham. Brass, 25mm. (LCC; SGS)
- A64* Green Dragon Hotel, (31 Waterside North), Reed. 2d. Brass, 22.5mm. (LCC)
- A65* As for A64 but without issuer's name. Brass, 22.5mm. (LCC)
- A66* Great Northern Hotel, (176 High St.), Taylor. One shilling. Maker: Smith (Birmingham). Brass, 24mm. (Todd)
- A67* Kings Arms, (278 High St.), William Richardson. 2d. Maker: Smith, Birmingham. Brass, 26mm. (LCC; Todd)
- A68* Lord Nelson, (Waterside North), W. Rowbotham. 1 ½ d. Maker: T. Pope & Co., Birmingham. Brass, 23mm. (Pri.)

- A69* Newmarket Hotel, (8 Sincil St.), F.R. 1 ½ d. Brass, 25mm. (LCC)
- A70* Portland Arms Vaults, (56 Portland St.), W(illiam) T(homas) West. 3d. Brass, 26mm. (LCC)
- A71* Queen Inn, (323 High St.). No issuer. 1 ½ d. Brass, 25mm. Vipan no. 267. (LCC; PeM)
- A72* Swiss Cottage, John Jibb. 1 ½ d. Brass, 26mm. (LCC)
- A73* Wellington Hotel. No issuer. 1 ½ d. Brass, 26mm. (LCC)
- A74* White Swan, (274 High St.), R(obert) Read. No denomination. Lead, 19mm. (LCC)
- A75* White Swan, (274 High St.). No issuer. 1 ½ d. Maker: Smith, Birmingham. Brass, 25mm. (LCC)

LITTLE GONERBY, near GRANTHAM

- A76* Joiners Arms, (8 North St.). No issuer. -)1892-still open(-. 1 ½ d. Maker: S.A. Daniell, Birmingham. Brass, 26mm. (LGr)
- A77* Three Crowns Inn, (4 Manthorpe Rd.). No issuer. -)1826-1932(-. 1 ½ d. Brass, 23mm. (LGr)

LOUTH

- A78* Wellington Hotel, (Ramsgate). No issuer. 3d. Maker: Pilch, Sheffield. Brass, 19mm. (LCC)
- A79* As for A78 but 1 ½ d. (LCC)
- A80* Wheatsheaf, (Westgate). No issuer. 1 ½ d. Brass, 25mm. (LCC)

SKIRBECK

- A80a Queen's Head Inn, J. Thorpe. 6d. Brass, 23mm. (LCC)

SPALDING

- A81* Black Swan Hotel, (12 New Rd.), Frederick Armstrong. 1 ½ d. Brass, 27mm. See Boston (A1) for a similar token. (LCC; SGS, Pri.)
- A82* As A81 but countermarked on the obv. S and rev. H. (SGS)
- A83 Pied Calf Inn, (Sheep Market), W.U. Banks. 1 ½ d. Copper. (Neumann iv, no. 27826)

STAMFORD

- A84* Crown and Anchor Vaults, W.D. Adcock. ½ d. Brass, 25mm. (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford)
- A85* Queens Head, (St. Mary's Hill), Preston. 1 ½ d. Brass, 22mm. (LCC)

