Numismatic Series No.2

LINCOLNSHIRE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND LATER TICKETS, CHECKS AND PASSES:
A Provisional Listing

The nineteenth and twentieth centuries saw the appearance of a great variety of coin-like metal discs bearing the names and addresses of private traders and firms. These tickets served many purposes. Most were simply advertisements for traders, others served specific functions like the Co-operative Societies’ prepayment tickets and dividend vouchers while others were simply admission tickets or pay tokens.

The metal disc had many advantages over other materials: it was simple to produce, easy to carry, difficult to copy and virtually indestructable. Almost every type of metal was used. Brass and copper were the most common but iron, zinc, aluminium and more recently materials like vulcanite and plastic have all been used. Occasionally obsolete copper coins were stamped with countermarks to form traders’ tickets.

THE TYPES OF TICKETS, CHECKS AND PASSES

1. Advertisement tickets

The most numerous group of tickets was that issued by traders as advertisements for their shops and products. Many types of traders used them but the most commonly found are for tea and coffee dealers, clothiers, outfitters and hatters and grocery stores.

The tickets do not bear any indication of value since private trade tokens had been declared illegal in the early nineteenth century. Despite this it is quite likely that the tickets had nominal values of a farthing or a halfpenny to be set against any purchases.

One group of tickets issued by Cocoa and Coffee Taverns mostly bear the value of one penny and may be connected with games played in the Tavern (B12, B26). Some private traders seem to have used dividend tickets similar to those issued to Co-operative Societies.

2. Auctioneers’ tickets

Several firms of auctioneers used tickets to pay for casual work in the stock markets and the sale rooms. These tickets would have been accepted by local traders and redeemed by the auctioneer for cash.

3. Beer tickets

This important series of tickets have been dealt with separately in an Information Sheet (Numismatic Series No.1).

4. Co-operative Society tickets

The numerous Co-operative Societies which flourished in the second half of the nineteenth century issued many metal tickets to assist their trade. There are two basic types: the dividend voucher and the prepayment ticket.
Dividend vouchers: The basic principle of the Co-operative Societies was that any profits should be redistributed to members in proportion to the amount of their purchases during the year. To keep account of the purchases a system of metal dividend vouchers was introduced. These usually had values ranging from five pounds to a halfpenny. A member was given vouchers to the value of his purchases and when the dividend was declared the vouchers held could be exchanged for cash. The system worked well but it was replaced by a central register of purchases kept under an account number held in the member’s name. More recently the use of Co-op stamps redeemable for cash or goods has become the common practice.

Prepayment tickets: The other type of Co-operative ticket was for the prepayment of goods delivered to the member’s home. In Lincolnshire the Societies issued tickets for bread, coal and milk. Of these only milk tokens are still in use. The ticket had many advantages since it avoided staff handling cash and guaranteed advance payment for goods rather than credit. Most Societies held identical series of tickets in different coloured metals like brass and aluminium. When the price of an item altered a different coloured ticket was used so that the value of the prepayment was known.

5. Industrial tickets

Industry, especially in factories where a large number of workers were employed, made considerable use of metal tickets. The most common were used to record that a workman was present on a shift. The numbered ticket was handed in as he entered the factory and returned by the ‘check boy’ during the day. Other tickets were used as receipts for tools drawn from a central store.

Another type, not yet found in Lincolnshire, was the canteen ticket which entitled a worker to a free meal or a reduced price meal in the factory canteen.

6. Pickers’ tickets

A type of ticket which has only recently been identified in the Fenland area of South Lincolnshire is that used by farmers to pay for work done gathering crops in the field. The soft fruit, vegetable and new potato growers make great seasonal use of casual workers. Payment is made by the supervisor on the spot for the weight or quantity of crop picked. At the end of each day or week the worker can exchange the tickets for cash. It was apparently not uncommon for a person to work for two or three different farmers during the same day and to move on as each crop was exhausted.

Similar tickets were used elsewhere in the county for willow cutting at Barton upon Humber (B2) and for bonus work in a shipyard at Grimsby (B55).

7. Transport tickets

Many local authorities issued tickets which gave free or reduced rate travel on public transport. The only example yet recorded for Lincolnshire is one issued by the National Dock Labour Board for travel on the Immingham to Grimsby tramway (B66).

8. Miscellaneous tickets

There are many other uses to which tickets were put. Some gave admission to places of public entertainment (B6) and others were used to refund part of the admission charge to concert halls (B77/8).

Some education committees used tickets to show entitlement to school meals (B61/2, B139). Tickets were issued by Clubs as proof of membership (B40, B42) and others were connected with the facilities offered to members (B41, B83).

THE MANUFACTURERS

Birmingham was a prolific die sinking centre in the nineteenth century and the majority of the
tickets included in these lists were made there. Quite often the name of the die sinker and his
town of origin — sometimes even a full postal address — is included within the design of the
tickets. Some Lincolnshire tickets were also made in Leeds and London.

LINCOLNSHIRE MUSEUMS COLLECTIONS

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

The pieces listed in this paper probably represent 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 piece. Please write to the Usher Gallery, Lincoln.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

During the preparation of this list many museum colleagues and private collectors have made
specimens available for examination. I am particularly grateful to Mr. N.J. Hutchinson of
Cleethorpes who made his collection accessible and offered much useful advice and Mr. F.A.
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added valuable 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.

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 Gentlemen’s Society Museum, Spalding
Todd Dr. Neil B. Todd coll., Newtonville, Mass., U.S.A.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Bell R.C. Bell Unofficial Farthings 1820-1870 1975
Montague British Museum Cat. of the Montague Guest Collection of Badges, Tokens and Passes etc. 1930
Scott J. Gavin Scott British Countermarks on Copper and Bronze Coins 1975
Todd Neil B. Todd British and Irish Tokens etc. ca. 1830-1920. Second edition. 1979
Vipan J.A.M. Vipan. Coins, Medals and Local Tradesmen’s Tokens . . . in the Peterborough Museum. 1908

ALFORD


BARROW UPON HUMBER

B2* J.W. Beeton, Hull and Barrow. 6d. Brass, octagonal. 30mm. Described in 1876 direc-
B22* As B13 but 1d. Iron, 20 mm. (PeM)
B23* As last but different dies. (LGr)
B24* G. Housham. Hats and fashionable clothing. Brass, 19 mm. Advertisement ticket. (Birmingham Mus.)

GRANTHAM

B25* C. Basker & Son, 75/6 Westgate. Jewellers and clothiers. Ticket imitating a 'Spade Guinea' of George III. Brass, 25.5 mm. Advertisement ticket. (LGr)
B26* Dysart Coffee Tavern, Market Place. Brass, 28 mm. Advertisement ticket. (LGr)
B28* As last but with different rev. die. (LGr)
B29* As B27 but 3d. (LGr)
B30* As last but with different rev. die. (LGr)
B31* As B27 but 2d. (Dealer's list 1978)
B32* As B27 but ½ d. (LGr)
B33* As last but with different rev. die. (LGr)
B34* Escritt and Barrell, Auctioneer. Same rev. die as B29. 3d. Brass, 28.5 mm. Maker: W.J. Taylor, London. Auctioneer's ticket. (LGr)
B35* Golding, Auctioneer. 3d. Brass, 25 mm. Auctioneer's ticket. (LGr, PeM)
B36* As B35 but 1 ½ d. (LGr)
B37* Grantham Co-operative Society Limited. 2d. Tin, 23 mm. Discount ticket. (Pri.)
B38* Grantham Co-operative Society Limited. Bread ticket. Copper, oval 22 x 31 mm. Prepayment ticket. (LGr)
B39* Grantham Equitable Co-operative Industrial Society Limited. £1. Brass, 21.5 mm. Discount ticket. (LGr)
B40* Grantham Football Club. Membership ticket. White metal, 28 mm. (LGr)
B41* Grantham Liberal Club. Billiards ticket. 3d. Brass, 28 mm. (LGr)
B42* Grantham Public Literary Institute. Music class membership ticket. Brass, 31 mm. (LGr)
B43* Grantham Town and County Liberal Club. 1d. Brass, 24 mm. (Dealer's list)
B44* Grantham Wesleyan Day School. Present every time. Brass, 31 mm. Attendance ticket. (LGr)
B45* J. Grocutt, Market Place. Provision merchant. £1. Brass, octagonal 23 mm. Discount ticket. (LGr)
B46* Hempstead and Co. Brass, 32 mm. Time check. (LGr)
B48* R. Hornsby and Sons, Spittlegate Iron Works. Reverse inscribed MORNING. Brass, 38 mm. Time check. (LGr)
B49* As B48 but reverse inscribed DINNER. (LGr)
B50* As B48 but R. Hornsby and Sons Ltd and without any indication of time. Obv. die similar to B48/9 but a different die. (LGr)
B52* Same obv. die as B51 but reverse with wreath and dotted circle. Stamped 1821. (LGr, Scunthorpe Museum)

GRIMSBY

B54* Teddy Allen, Commission Agent, Grimsby. c.1900. Brass, 32 mm. (LCC)
B56* Gibson, Pasture St., Clothier. Bronzed metal, 19 mm. Advertisement ticket. (LCC)
B57* As B56 but brass. (LCC)
B58* Great Grimsby Co-operative Society Ltd. 1/-. Aluminium, 31.5 mm. Discount ticket. (Pri.)
B59* As B58 but ½ d. 28 mm. (Pri.)
B60* As B58 but 2½ d. 22 mm. (Pri.)
B61* Grimsby School Board. Dinner ticket. Brass, 32 mm. (LCC)
B62* As B61 but different die. (Grimsby Museum; Pri.)
B63* Geo. Hickson, 27 Freeman St. Tailor and Gents' Mercer. Brass, 19 mm. Advertisement ticket. (Pri.)
B64* Langridge. Tailor. White metal, 19 mm. (LCC; Todd)
B65* Lawson and Wabby, 101 Cleethorpe Rd, and 1 Riby St. Drapers and clothiers. Plated brass, 19 mm. (LCC; Todd; Grimsby Museum)
B67* Theatre Royal. Ticket for the Pit. Brass, 30 mm. (LCC)
B68* T.G. Tickler, Pasture St. Jam manufacturers. 2d. Zinc, 30 mm. (LCC)
B69* As B68 but 1d. (Pri.)
B71* As B70 but with W. Richardson stamped on reverse. (Pri.)

HOLBEACH

B72* J. Blinkhorn, Whitesmith -1835- Countermarked on a George III 1897 penny. Scott p. 24, no. 21:3. (Pri.)
B73* H. Laming, Cranesgate Farm. 1/-.
Aluminium, 25 mm. Picker's ticket. (SGS)

B74* As B73 but 1d. Brass, 25 mm. Maker: Vaughton, Birmingham. Picker's ticket. (SGS)

B75 H. Roughton. Brass. No further information. Picker's ticket. (LCC records)

LINCOLN

B76* Bainbridge. Drapers and clothiers.
Aluminium, 24 mm. Trader's advertisement. (LCC; SGS)

B77* Budd's Alhambra Concert Hall. 6d. Brass, 26 mm. (Todd)

B78* As B77 but 3d. (LCC)

B79 Christ's Hospital, Lincoln. '18', Copper, engraved on a copper disc. 38 mm. Batté vol. i. 1888, p. 13, no. 123; D. and W.: p. 239, no. 278; Montague Guest, no. 954. (British Museum)

B80* Clayton and Shuttleworth, Stamp End Works. Brass, 39 mm. Time check. (LCC)

B81* J. Flint. Tea and coffee merchant. Copper, 21.5 mm. Neumann 1865, no. 23064; Batté vol. ii. 1877, p. 557, no. 374; Bell p. 73, no. 1. Trader's advertisement. (LCC)

B82* Grantham and Godson, (333 High St.). Tea dealers. Copper, 21.5 mm. Trader's advertisement. (LCC)

B83 Lincoln Conservative Club. 1½ d. Brass, 22 mm. (Todd)


B85* As B84 but small loaf and pink plastic. (LCC)

B86* Lincoln Co-operative Society Ltd. Coal dept. '10 sto. c. nuts'. Brass, 26 mm. Prepayment ticket. (Todd)

B87* Lincoln Co-operative Society Ltd. Dairy.
B88 Pint. Yellow or Blue or Red Plastic, 25 and 22 mm. In use in 1978. Prepayment ticket. (LCC)

B89* As B87 but Half pint. Green or White plastic. Obsolete by 1978. (LCC)


B93* As B92 but reverse with incuse and retrograde form of the obverse design but not a Brockage. (LCC)

B94* As B92 but Half Sovereign. Maker: H. Sale, Birmingham. Brass, 19 mm. (LCC; Leicester Museum)

B95* As B92 but 6d. Iron, 21 mm. (LCC)

B96* As B92 but 3d. Iron, 21 mm. (LCC)

B97* Lincoln House of Industry. Brass, 31.5 mm. Montague Guest no. 954. (LCC; British Museum)

B98* Lincoln Library ticket. 'Established January 1814'. Copper, 47 mm. Membership numbers added. (LCC). Davis and Waters records a white metal specimen.


B100* T. Old, 189 High St. Hat manufacturer. Young head of Queen Victoria. Brass, 24 mm. Neumann 1865, no. 26463 (said to be made by Cottrill of London but not confirmed by any specimens examined); Batté vol. ii. 1877, p. 128-9, no. 755. Trader's advertisement. (LCC; SGS)

B101* Robey & Co. Ltd. Brass, 21 mm. Time check. (Pri.)

B102* Ruston & Hornsby Ltd. Aluminium, 36 mm. Wages check. (Pri.)

B103 Ruston Proctor & Co. Brass, 31 mm. Time check. (Pri.)

B104* Similar to last but Limited added. Brass, 31 mm. Time check. (Pri.)

B105* G. Smith, (36 Far Newland). Auctioneer. 3d. Brass, 37 mm. Auctioneer's check. (LCC)

B106* R.M. Wright & Co. 'Cycle and Motor Pioneers'. 1902. Brass, 23.5 mm. Advertisement medal. (LCC)

B107* Wyatt, (Hugh). Clothing mart. Est. c. 1867 at 322 High St. and moved to 196 High St. about 1875. Became Wyatt and Hayes in 1909. 21 mm. Advertisement ticket. (LCC Record)

B108* Lincoln Cathedral. A view of the Cathedral used on an advertisement medal by the Birmingham diesinker Vaughton. Copper, 17.5 mm. (LCC)

LONG SUTTON


B110 Piccaver. Issued c. 1920. 3d. Brass, 24 mm. Maker: J.R. Sale, Birmingham. The reverse die is very worn and the maker's name may be partially erased. Other denominations between 1/- and 2d. are said to exist. (LCC)

LOUTH


B113* As last but different dies. (LCC)

B114* As B112 but 2/-: Iron, 31 mm. (LCC)

B115* As B112 but 1/-: Iron, 31 mm. (LCC)

B116* As B112 but 1d. Iron, 25 mm. (LCC)

B117* T. Oldham. Clothing. Bronze, 20 mm. Advertisement ticket. (Pri.)

B118 As last but white metal on brass. (Pri.)

B119* Tate and Lill. Countermarked on a 1806 halfpenny of George III. Scott p. 24 no. 21. 4. Advertisement ticket. (Birmingham Mus.)
MARKET RASEN

B120* Market Rasen Equitable Co-operative and Industrial Society Limited. 1/- Iron or zinc with a rose-gold coloured surface, 24mm. Discount ticket. (LCC)
B121* As B120 but 3d. 24mm. (LCC)

SCUNTHORPE

B122 John Lysaght Ltd. Brass, oval 43 x 32mm. Time check. (Dealers list)
B123 Scunthorpe Mutual Co-op. Ind. Soc. Limited. 5/- Tinined iron, 28mm. (Scunthorpe Museum)
B123a As B123 but 1/-. Tinned iron, 28mm. (Scunthorpe Museum)

SKEGNESS

B124 Butlin’s Holiday Camp. 2/6. Iron, 32mm. No other details available. (Dealers list 1976)

SPALDING

B125* Spalding Industrial Co-operative Society Limited. £1. Brass, 22.5mm. Maker: Ardill, Leeds. Discount ticket. (SGS; Pri.)
B126* As B125 but Half sovn. Brass, 19mm. (SGS; Pri.)
B127 Spalding: Ladies Stand. Racing ticket. No. 10. Engraved on a silver disc. 38mm. Montague Guest no. 1235. (British Museum)

STAMFORD

B128* F. Dawson. Grocer, tea and coffee dealer. Copper, 22mm. Neumann no. 27032; Vipan no. 278; Bell p. 73, no. 2. Advertisement ticket. (British Museum; Todd)

SUTTON BRIDGE

B129* H.H. Stokes. 1½d. Brass, 27mm. Field ticket. (LCC)

SUTTON ST. EDMUNDS

B130* George Strickland Reeve) Jessop. Farms at Sutton St. Edmunds and Sutton St. James. 1½d. Brass, 24mm. Picker’s ticket. (Todd)
B131* J. T. Long. Issuer lived at Parson Drove, Cambs. and farmed land at Sutton St. Edmunds. 2d. Brass, 26mm. Picker’s ticket. (LCC)
B132 As last but 1d. (Vaughton, Birm.). (Todd)

SWINESHEAD

B133* W. Gilding. 3d. Brass, 26mm. Picker’s ticket. (LCC)
B134 As B133 but 1d. (Dealers list)

TIDD GATE


WHAPLODE

B136 Boyden & Co. 1d. Brass, 25mm. Picker’s ticket. (SGS)
B137* Emsley & Collins. 1d. Brass, 25mm. Picker’s ticket. (SGS)

WIGTOFT

B138 Robinson. Bonus check. 4d. Brass. No further details. (LCC Record)

LINCOLNSHIRE

B139* Kesteven County Council. School meal ticket. Grey plastic, 27mm. (LCC)
B140* Lincolnshire Automations. Machine ticket made by the IMI Kynoch Ltd. Mint c. 1965 for a firm based in Skegness. Brass, 19mm. (LCC)