

BRADSHAW'S RAILWAY GUIDE : title changes

Denotes words added at this change ~~Denotes words deleted at this change~~

Precursors to the Guide

Bradshaw's Railway Time Tables and Bradshaw's Railway Companion

Beware of confusion between the early editions of the Time Tables, the Companion, and early editions of the Guide. They get muddled one with another in some library catalogues and histories of *Bradshaw*.

Timetable/Time Tables

10th Mo 19th 1839 (= 19 October 1839): cover: Bradshaw's Railway Timetable (*singular*); **title page:** Bradshaw's Railway Time Tables (*plural*), and assistant to Railway Travelling with Illustrative Maps and Plans

This first issue (price 6d.) was northern lines only. The reprint issued by Turntable Publications, 1971, has a "false" frontispiece reading "Bradshaw's Guide 1839" and is enlarged page/print size.

10th Mo 25th 1839 (= 25 October 1839): cover: Bradshaw's Railway Timetable; **title page:** Bradshaw's Railway Time Tables, and assistant to Railway Travelling with Illustrative Maps and Plans

This second issue – endorsed (No. 2) (price 6d) - was southern lines only.

1st Mo 1st 1840 (= 1 January 1840): cover: Bradshaw's Railway Timetables (*plural*); **title page:** Bradshaw's Railway Time Tables, and assistant to Railway Travelling with Illustrative Maps and Plans

This issue – endorsed (No. 2) (price 6d) - was northern lines only.

Companion

10th Mo 25th 1839 (= 25 October 1839): cover: Bradshaw's Railway Companion; **title page:** Bradshaw's Railway Time Tables,

Endorsed (No. 3) (price 1s.) this was country-wide – a combination of the 6d. northern and southern editions. Version no. 3 has also been noted with dates of 18 November and 14 December 1839 and 1 January 1840.

Thereafter, the dichotomy between the cover and the title page was eliminated and (generally) an annual edition appeared, although 1840 had both a "1st. Mo 1st. 1840" and a plain "1840" issue:

1840: cover: Bradshaw's Railway Companion; **title page:** Bradshaw's Railway Companion, containing The times of departure, fares &c of the Railways in England †, and also Hackney Coach fares from the principal railway stations..... (price 1s.)

† = "England" was replaced by "Great Britain and Ireland" from 1842, and Bristol replaced Leeds in the town plans (both variants appeared that year).

Seen for (years) 1840, 1841, 1842 (old title page wording), 1842 (new title page wording), 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, with at least three variants: 1. published by D Bogue, Fleet Street, London; 2. published by Bradshaw & Blacklock, Manchester [1842 (new title, with "England"), 1845 4th Mo (April) 1st, 1845 5th Mo (May) 1st, 1845 10th Mo (October)]; 3. published at Bradshaw's Railway Information Office, 59 Fleet Street (London) [1846 3rd. Mo.]

The "Companion" contained engraved and tinted maps. Dating was erratic – some were issued as updates by "paste-in" amendments – but appeared occasionally (some 40 variants known) until late 1848, by which time it had been replaced by the regular monthly 6d. Bradshaw's Railway Guide and the abridged Threepenny Guide.

The Guide itself

Beware of confusion between the Guide proper and the Threepenny (abridged) edition – see below. They get muddled one with another in some library catalogues and histories of *Bradshaw*. For those months when both were published, the Threepenny edition was six lower than the numbering of the (full price) Guide. This can help - when studying library catalogues – to ascertain whether the holding is of the 6d or 3d edition.

For December 1841: Bradshaw's Railway Guide containing a correct account of the hours of arrival and departure of the trains on every railway in Great Britain, a map of England with the railways completed and in progress, hackney coach fares &c.

Its price was 6d. This lacked the quality maps of the 1s. Bradshaw's Railway Companion – for later editions of the Guide, the tip-in map varied by issue: May 1842 was County of Lancaster; June 1842 -Cheshire; July 1842 – Derbyshire; August 1842 – Staffordshire; September 1842 – Great Britain; October 1842 – same; November 1842 – Lancashire and Yorkshire; December 1842 – around London; January 1843 – Essex, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire; February 1843 – Midland Counties, Birmingham, Derby &c.; March 1843 – Wiltshire, Somerset, Glamorgan; April 1843 – North of England; May 1843 – Scotland; June 1843 – around London; July 1843 – Great Britain, and generally Great Britain thereafter.

Although not numbered, this is classed as the first issue of the series running to 1961; numbered from August 1842 - issue no. IX. Until about issue 30, issue number was in Roman numerals. Months were rendered “xth. Mo.” for many years.

The variations in the principal element of the title (ignoring the qualifying text following the word “containing”) were as follows

Changed from issue (= 3): February 1842: Bradshaw's [Monthly](#) Railway Guide

Changed from issue (=7): June 1842: Bradshaw's Monthly Railway [and Steam Navigation](#) Guide

Changed from issue (=9): August 1842: Bradshaw's Monthly Railway and Steam Navigation Guide [for Great Britain and Ireland](#)

Changed from issue (=20) July 1843: Bradshaw's Monthly Railway and Steam Navigation Guide for Great Britain, Ireland, [France, Belgium and Germany](#)

Changed from issue (=21) August 1843: Bradshaw's Monthly Railway and Steam Navigation Guide for Great Britain, Ireland, [The Continent and Foreign Ports](#)

40: March 1845 | *mis-numbering by 100 started here, and never corrected*
141: April 1845 | *(so only 1421 editions were published)*

Changed from issue 161: December 1846: Bradshaw's Monthly Railway and Steam Navigation Guide for Great Britain, Ireland, [and](#) The Continent

An **Index** of towns (principal towns initially) first appeared in issue 168: July 1847

Prefixed: “By Special and Official Authority” from issue 175: February 1848
but amended to simply “By Authority” from issue 188: March 1849

Changed from issue either 185: December 1848 or 186: January 1849: Bradshaw's Monthly Railway and Steam Navigation Guide for Great Britain [and](#) Ireland ~~The Continent~~

Changed from issue 188: March 1849: Bradshaw's [General](#) (Monthly) Railway and Steam Navigation Guide for Great Britain and Ireland

“General” and “Monthly” were later transposed: *General (Monthly) still at January 1850 but (Monthly) General by January 1851*

Changed from issue 246: January 1854: Bradshaw's ~~(Monthly)~~ General Railway and Steam Navigation Guide for Great Britain and Ireland [~~prefixed: "Published Officially Every Month"~~]

Changed from issue 297: April 1858: Bradshaw's General Railway and Steam Navigation Guide for Great Britain and Ireland [~~prefixed: "Published Officially Every Month"~~]

Changed from issue 712: November 1892:
Cover: Bradshaw's General Railway and Steam Navigation Guide for Great Britain and Ireland [~~prefixed: "Officially Every Month"~~]
Title page added: Bradshaw's Railway Guide

Changed from issue 875: June 1906:
Cover: Bradshaw's General Railway and Steam Navigation Guide for Great Britain and Ireland [~~prefixed: "Officially Every Month"~~]
Title page: Bradshaw's General Railway and Steam Navigation Guide

Changed from issue 1158: January 1930:
Cover: Bradshaw's General Railway, ~~and~~ Steam Navigation and Hotel Guide for Great Britain and Ireland.
Title page: Bradshaw's General Railway, ~~and~~ Steam Navigation and Hotel Guide

Changed from issue 1254: January 1938:
Cover: Bradshaw's General Railway, Steam Navigation Shipping and Hotel Guide for Great Britain and Ireland. [~~prefixed: "Officially Every Month"~~]
Title page: Bradshaw's General Railway, Steam Navigation Shipping and Hotel Guide.

In view of the centenary, "1839 – 1939" was temporarily added to title and a gilded cover provided for the issue May to September 1939 inclusive (but *not* for October 1939 as was stated - in the May issue – to be their intention)

Changed from issue 1275: October 1939:
Cover: Bradshaw's General Railway, Shipping and Hotel Guide ~~for Great Britain and Ireland to the British Railways~~ [~~prefixed: "Officially Every Month"~~]
Title page: Bradshaw's General Railway, Shipping and Hotel Guide for Great Britain and Ireland. [~~prefixed: "Officially Every Month"~~]
[published 23 October 1939 and containing war emergency service]

Changed from issue 1340: March 1945:
Cover: Bradshaw's Official Guide every month to the British Railways [~~prefixed: "Officially Every Month"~~]
Title page: Bradshaw's Official Guide every month for Great Britain and Ireland. [~~prefixed: "Officially Every Month"~~]

Changed from issue 1364: April 1947:
Cover: Bradshaw's British Railways Official Guide every month ~~to the British Railways and Hotel Directory~~
Title page: Bradshaw's Official Guide every month for Great Britain and Ireland. *[n.b. no mention of "Hotel Directory"]*

From 1460 to 1461, page size changed from 4 5/8" x 6 1/2" (124mm x 165 mm) to 6" x 9" (150mm x 230 mm)

Changed from issue 1466: November - 4 December 1955:
Cover: Bradshaw's British Railways Official Guide every month and Hotel Directory
Title page: Bradshaw's British Railways Official Guide every month ~~for Great Britain and Ireland~~.

1521: May - 11 June 1961: [FINAL ISSUE] same wording – no indication that it was to be the final issue

The Threepenny Guide

An abridged version (price 3d.) appeared as a sheet – from at least April 1841 – described later in the main Guide in these terms: “The pages of which it [*the Guide itself*] are composed are arranged as a Sheet, and issued on the first of every month, price Three-pence, as **BRADSHAW’S RAILWAY TIME TABLES**, Exhibiting AT ONE VIEW the hours of departure and arrival of the trains on every railway in the Kingdom...”. This was still in sheet form at December 1844 but was converted to booklet form, apparently from January 1845 (un-numbered), and appeared until September 1901 (no. 812). The first *numbered* issue was April 1848 as no. 171 (although it arguably ought to have been no. 71); this numbering – including the 3d. sheets as well as the 3d. booklets – cannot square with the Sheet having been available at least as early as April 1841 – another enigma to put alongside the jump of 100 in the numbering in 1845! The 3d. Guide was numbered six *lower* than the full price version for the same month, which can help - when studying library catalogues – to ascertain whether the holding is of the 6d. or 3d. edition. The Threepenny Guide – when in booklet form - was issued with a **green** cover, which distinguishes it from the full price edition (except, of course, when bound minus covers....).

The full title as at **217: February 1852** read: Bradshaw’s Threepenny Guide for all the Railways of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland containing the Official Tables of the hours of departure, arrival, distance and duration of transit to and from all the towns, places and villages on every railway in the United Kingdom [prefixed: By Special Authority]. The words ‘United Kingdom’ had been replaced by ‘Great Britain’ by **253: August 1853**.

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