

Dies for a Fantasy Bristol Public Free Libraries Token

Gary Oddie

Two previous articles have described a group of dies that have been used to create modern copies of various tokens. These included transport tokens from England⁽¹⁾ and a plantation token from the Dutch East Indies⁽²⁾. Two further dies from this group have recently been located and are described here.



Score marks made with a grinding wheel

As previously, each die is illustrated (50%) and a separate image of the die face is shown along with a mirrored image and a specimen of the token (100%).

#1 BRISTOL PUBLIC FREE LIBRARIES / OPEN DAILY FROM 10 AM. TO 10 PM around The Arms of Bristol.



The die is cylindrical, diameter 64.6 mm, height 53.3 mm, with a very smooth outer surface. Two steel dowels protrude from the die face to locate the opposing die.

#2 THIS TICKET IS ISSUED / SUBJECT TO / No / THE RULES AND REGULATIONS



The die is cylindrical, diameter 64.7 mm, height 49.8 mm, with a very smooth outer surface. There are two holes in the die face to take the dowels from the opposing die. It is noted that the location of the dowels and die design are not symmetric, thus forcing the dies to be aligned correctly.

There is also a deep score, made with a grinding wheel, along the edges of the two dies which will also help with checking correct alignment when looking from the outside. An XRF analysis of the two dies confirms the metal to be Ni-Hard 1 consistent with the other dies from this group⁽²⁾. The dies were probably made sometime around 1990.

The images below show a genuine and fantasy library token at 200%⁽³⁾.



Genuine x2

Fantasy x2

Apart from the obvious size difference (genuine 43.2×32.2 mm and fantasy 24.3×18.6 mm), the main difference between the tokens is that the modern tokens do not have a serial number counterstamped on the reverse. More subtly, there is less detail shown in the arms of the modern token, with no colouring in the shield and no traces of the motto VIRTUTE ET INDUSTRIA.

References and Acknowledgements

- (1) G.M. Oddie. A Group of Dies for Fantasy Tokens. BNS Research Blog, accessed 15 March 2020. <https://britnumsoc.blog/2019/10/20/a-group-of-dies-for-fantasy-tokens-gary-oddie/>
- (2) A. Lansen, K. Helling and G. Oddie Further Notes on a False Plantation Token. BNS Research Blog, accessed 15 March 2020. <https://britnumsoc.blog/2019/11/07/further-notes-on-a-false-plantation-token-adrian-lansen-koen-helling-and-gary-oddie/>
- (3) Thanks to Adrian and Christine Derrick for the images and dimensions of the genuine and false tokens.