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 (both variants appeared that year).

Seen for (years) 1840, 1841, 1842 (old title wording), 1842 (new title 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. 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.

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, Scotland replacing GB for some issues each year; price 6d. Although not numbered, this is classed as the first issue of the series running to 1961; numbered from January 1842 - issue no. II. 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

III (= 3): February 1842: Bradshaw’s Monthly Railway Guide

Changed from issue


Changed by issue


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

Changed after issue 159: Oct 1846 but by issue


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

Changed after issue 184: Nov 1848 but by issue

198: January 1850: Bradshaw’s (Monthly) General Railway and Steam Navigation Guide, for Great Britain and Ireland, and The Continent

Changed after issue 219: Oct 1851 but by issue

250: May 1854: Bradshaw’s (Monthly) General Railway and Steam Navigation Guide for Great Britain and Ireland [prefixed: “Published Officially Every Month”]

Changed after issue 294: Jan 1858 but by issue

306: January 1859: 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 6½” (124mm x 165 mm) to 6” x 9” (150mm x 230 mm)

Changed from issue

1644: 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 from January 1845 (un-numbered) to September 1901 (no. 812). The first numbered issue was April 1848 as no. 171 (although it ought to have been no. 40 so the total was only 681 issues) which was six lower than the numbering of the (full price) Guide itself for the same month. This can help - when studying library catalogues – to ascertain whether the holding is of the 6d or 3d edition.

The full title (on green paper cover) (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.

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