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Guide to the British Lottery Handbills circa 1806-1826



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Descriptive Summary

Identifier	ICU.SPCL.LOTTERY
Title	British Lottery Handbills
Date	circa 1806-1826
Size	0.5 linear feet (1 box)
Repository	Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.
Abstract	The collection contains handbill advertising lotteries held in Great Britain from 1806 to 1826.

Information on Use

Access

The collection is open for research.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: British Lottery Handbills, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Historical Note

State lotteries were used in 18th and early 19th century Britain to raise the capital for a variety of state projects. In this capacity, early state lotteries essentially functioned as loans to the government and prior to 1796 every ticket was guaranteed some return.

Initially, state lotteries worked to curb popular participation. Individual tickets were priced beyond the means of anyone but the wealthy out of a paternalistic concern to protect the lower classes from being seduced into deprivation. This scheme worked well for a time until lottery brokers devised schemes to sell fractional shares of tickets enabling them to reap greater profits from an expanded popular participation. This shift by ticket sellers seeking to draw a popular audience is reflected in the handbills used to advertise state lotteries.

Thomas Bish, accrued both fame and notoriety as a lottery broker. Bish was a major proponent, and profiteer, of state lotteries and played a significant role in their popularization. To this end he produced a variety of handbills designed to appeal to people of more modest means. The

lotteries came to an end in 1826 amidst increasing corruption, unscrupulous practices by ticket sellers and intensifying concerns over the promotion of gambling.

Scope Note

The collection contains handbills advertising state lotteries in Britain from 1806 through the last state lottery held in 1826.

Related Resources

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html>

Subject Headings

- Lotteries -- Great Britain

INVENTORY

Box 1

Folder 1

Bills illustrating the conditions of particular lotteries, circa 1808-1815

Box 1

Folder 2

Bills emphasizing opportunities for social advancement, circa 1810

Box 1

Folder 3

Bills used as advertising literature, circa 1807-1810

Box 1

Folder 4

Bills used as advertising literature, circa 1808-1813

Box 1

Folder 5

Bills printed for ticket seller Thomas Bish, circa 1808-1810

Box 1

Folder 6

Bill emphasizing luck, circa 1810

Box 1

Folder 7

Bills advertising non-money prizes, circa 1808

Box 1

Folder 8

Bills advertising the last lottery, circa 1806

Box 1

Folder 9

Miscellaneous bills, circa 1806-1808