

THESE ARE YOUR TICKETS TO THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION
TO BE HELD IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS MAY 1 - OCTOBER 30, 1893

The set consists of six different portrait tickets. The Franklin and Handel tickets were not issued with the other four. The Indian, Columbus, Washington and Lincoln tickets went on sale April 1, 1893. They were intended to represent four epochs in the history of our country. First, that period when the country was entirely under the dominion of the Indian. Second, the discovery by Columbus of the new world and the introduction of European civilization. Third, the separation from the Mother Country and beginning of an independent government in the U.S.A. Fourth, the abolition of slavery and the preservation of the Union.

All the tickets in the set were engraved on bond paper by the American Bank Note Co. of New York and were as intricate and of the same quality as fractional paper currency in an effort to curtail counterfeiting. The Franklin and Handel tickets have distinctive differences from the four earlier tickets. The Franklin ticket has the word "COMPLIMENTARY" on it and was mailed out to banks and other institutions to be given to prospective visitors to the fair. Electricity supplied everything at the Columbian Exposition so Benjamin Franklin was selected to appear on a souvenir admission ticket because of his known experiments with electricity and the prominence of this new force at the fair.

George F. Handel was selected to appear on another ticket which has the word "MUSIC" on it. Handel had composed a symphony for George I of England about 1714 titled "Water Music." Since the theme of the Columbian Exposition was water, buildings and music, it was decided that Handel came closest to meeting this theme.

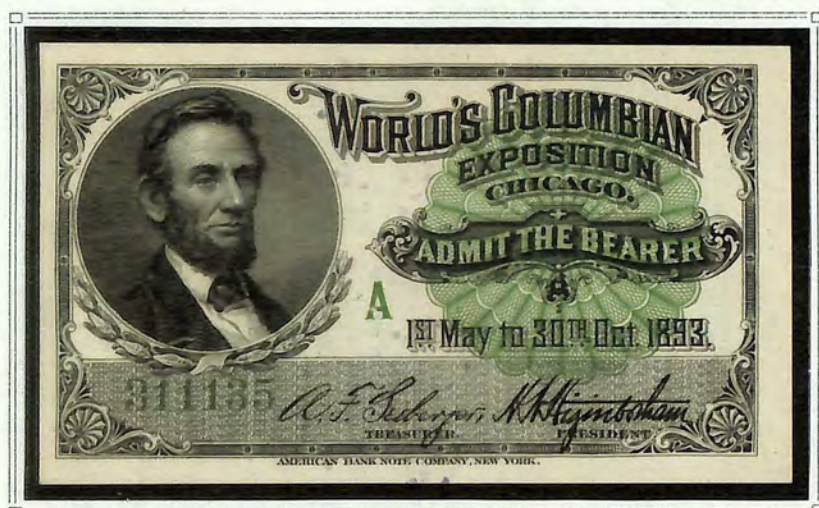
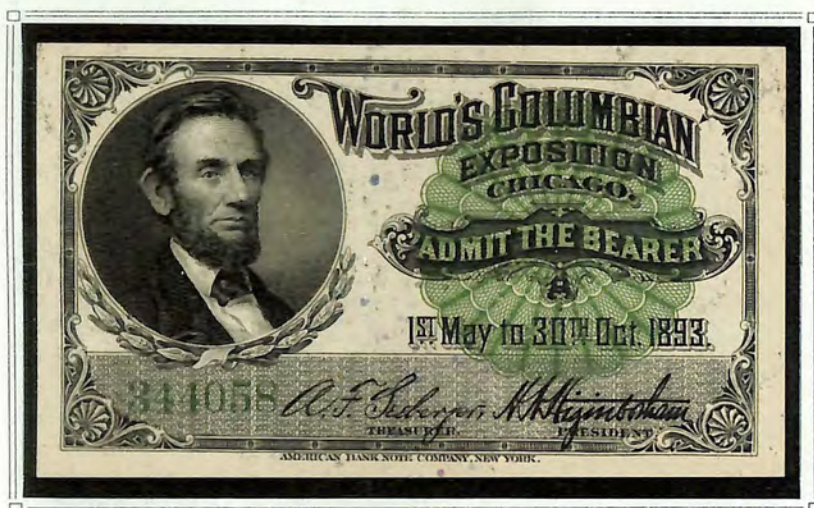
The earlier set of four tickets exist in two series. Those without an "A" and those with an "A". The Franklin ticket exists in the "A" series only and the Handel ticket does not have an "A" series. The Franklin and Handel tickets are more scarce today than are the four tickets initially issued.



The souvenir engraved tickets printed by the American Bank Note Co. of New York went on sale April 1, 1893, a full month before the fair opened and were sold to companies and individuals to satisfy advance orders. All adult tickets sold for 50c. Sale of the engraved tickets was discontinued in September 1893 but was resumed the last few days of the fair. One million of each of the tickets were printed without the "A". Only a half million tickets were printed with the "A". Approximately 245,000 of the Franklin tickets were printed and no more than 100,000 of the Handel ticket.









Copy of the back of a ticket

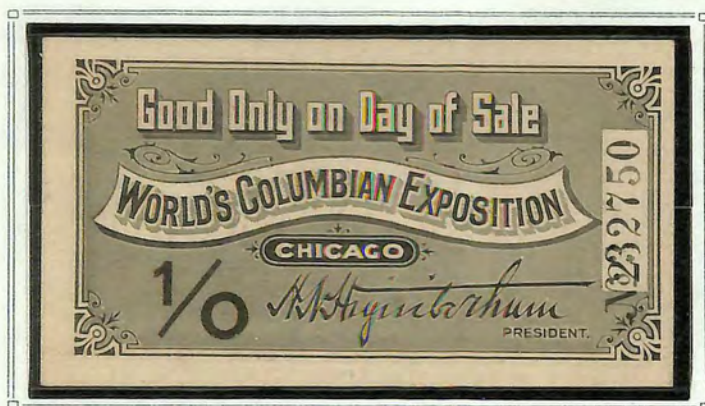
GOOD ONLY ON DAY OF SALE TICKET

For those people who bought their tickets at the fair gates a "Good Only On Day Of Sale" ticket was used. Since these type tickets were similar to railroad tickets of that time and could be easily counterfeited the authorities decided to use different number and letter combination on each day's tickets. The numbers used were 1 for the month of May, 2 for June, 3 for July, 4 for August, 5 for September, and 6 for October. It appears that any letter combination was used on a given day but only tickets with the number (1) were used in the month of May, (2) in the month of June, etc. There is also a ticket from this series that had no number on it but had only the letter "S" on it. How this "S" type ticket was used is not known at this time.



Printed by Rand, McNally & Co., Chicago
Quantity printed was 25,000,000





CHILDREN'S SPECIAL TICKET

May - Oct. 1893



Series "A" sold for 25c (7 thru. 11 yrs. of age)
Quantity printed was 1,000,000



Series "V" sold for 10c (7 thru. 17 yrs. of age)
Quantity printed was 500,000
The reduced rate was in effect Oct. 10-21, 1893

(Children six years of age or less were admitted free)

SPECIAL DAY TICKET

Chicago Day (Adult Ticket)
October 9, 1893



Series "A" Perforation 31
Quantity printed was 99,999



Series "B" Perforation 31
Quantity printed was 99,999

SPECIAL DAY TICKET

Chicago Day (Adult Ticket)
October 9, 1893



Series "C" Perforation 31
Quantity printed was 99,999



Series "D" Rouletted 18
Quantity printed was 99,999

SPECIAL DAY TICKET

Chicago Day (Adult Ticket)
October 9, 1893



Series "E" Rouletted 18
Quantity printed was 99,999



Series "F" Rouletted 18
Quantity printed was 99,999

SPECIAL DAY TICKET

Chicago Day (Adult Ticket)
October 9, 1893



Series "H" Rouletted 18
Quantity printed was 99,999



Copy of the back of a ticket

SPECIAL DAY TICKET

Chicago Day (Child's Ticket)
October 9, 1893



Series "X" (7 thru. 11 years of age) sold for 25c
Perforation 31 Quantity Printed was 50,000

October 9, 1871 was the day most of the downtown area of Chicago was burned. The bird on this ticket is the mythological Phoenix bird which is shown rising from the ashes. Twenty-two years after this fire the downtown area had been completely rebuilt and Chicagoans were justifiably proud of their progress and burgeoning skyscrapers.

SPECIAL DAY TICKET

Manhattan Day (Adult Ticket)
October 21, 1893



Printed by Western Bank Note Co., Chicago
Rouletted 20 Quantity Printed was 500,000

There was no historical significance to Oct. 21st being Manhattan Day. It was just a day decided upon by the New York Times newspaper and the Fair authorities to push for a large attendance from the country's largest city.