

Retford Waits Badges

photographs
by
Roger Offord

Three Retford Waites' badges are housed in the Bassetlaw Museum.



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Retford Waites Badges – Bassetlaw Museum

CAPTION

“Wait's badge. Silver with traces of gilding. Oval shape with embossed border with leaf design. Scroll engraved VILLA DE EST RETFORD. Central shield divided with a five petalled rose surmounted by a lion passant dexter. Loops soldered to the reverse for attaching to a belt. Edges are pierced with pairs of small holes at intervals, for stitching to sleeve. 12.7 x 10.7 cm. Unhallmarked. Engraved on reverse WB, scratched IG. c 1680. Waits were night watchmen, and the badge would have been worn on the arm. Later it was incorporated into the mayoral chain used before 1880. Part of the Borough of East Retford Civic Plate.”

Attaching to a belt... ? I have never heard of any other Waites badge being placed on a belt? Do you think it more likely that these badges were attached to arm-bands? That sounds more plausible to me. Any views?

Al

Allister Garrod
City of Lincoln Waites
8th August 2009

I have seen the badges (both sides) and in my opinion, as you say, the loops would be for straps to fasten the badges to your arm and that indeed is how they are displayed.

All the badges have traces of different initials carved on their backs and one has a name – possibly relating to past holders.

The badges have been dated to 1670-80 based on the heraldry. They have small holes around the edge which could have been used for sewing to a sleeve. The loops are thought to be a later addition, presumably making them easier to wear and transfer between owners.

Roger Offord
Doncaster Waites
10th August 2009

Badge 1 - Obverse



Badge 1 - Reverse



Badge 2 - Obverse



Badge 2 - Reverse



Badge 3 - Obverse



Badge 3 - Reverse



Badge 1 – “I S”



Badge 3 – “WB”



Badge 2 “Joseph Hallam” and “CH (or possibly CW)”



