

English Sign Names from 1636

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In the 1630s, John Taylor, the "Water Poet," created two documents that described taverns: the first listed 367 taverns in London and Westminster (the text says "more than thirty times twelve"), the second listed 283 named taverns (and many more taverns with other identifications) in the shires surrounding London. Between the two, 650 inn-signs are named. This section analyzes the distribution of those signs. It does not include all spelling variants (in part because it's a piece of a longer work that includes spelling variants elsewhere).

<u>Distribution of Names By Type of Name</u>	
Single Charge (unmodified)	424
Monarch's Head (<i>king, queen, king of Sweden</i>)	47
Color+charge (colors are: <i>white, red, black, green, blue</i>)	43
Royal Arms (<i>king, queen, prince</i>)	34
Number+charge (numbers found are: <i>three, two, seven</i>)	31
Saints images	27
Biblical Figures	12
Pope's/Bishop's Head	6
Two charges (joined by <i>and</i>)	4
Other: Arms of the East India Company, Cross Keys, Two Necked Swan, Spread Eagle, Maydenhead and George, Man in the Moon	10

Distribution of Names by Frequency:

Kings Head	33
Lyon	30
Ship	25
Sun	21
Rose	20
George	19
Mermayd	18
Three Tuns	18
Bell	17
Swan	17
Prince Arms	16
Angell	14
Kings Armes	14
Crown	13

Hart	13
Bull	12
Nags head	12
Queenes head	12
Castle	11
White Hart	11
Greyhound	10
Dog	9
Globe	9
Miter	9
Dragon	8
three Cranes	8
Cock	7
Salutation	7

Star	7
Beare	6
Bush	6
Bull head	6
Fountaine	6
Katherine Wheele	6
Maidenhead	6
Anker	5
Bores head	5
Chequer	5
Popes head	5
Red Lyon	5
Saracens head	5
Antelop	4
Christopher	4
Cross Keyes	4
Garter	4
Harrow	4
Moone	4
Queenes Armes	4
White Lyon	4
Cat	3
Cross	3
Falcon	3
Fleece	3
Golden Lyon	3
Hoope	3
Horse	3
White Horse	3
Black Lyon	2
Blew Boare	2
Black Bull	2
Red Bull	2
Cardinalls Hatt	2
Crane	2
Dolphin	2
Elephant	2
Bell	2
Flower de Lice	2

Fortune	2
Goat	2
Green Dragon	2
Halfe Moone	2
Horne	2
Iohns Head	2
Man in the Moone	2
Mouth	2
Peacocke	2
Tun	2
White Hart	2
Adam and Eve	1
Andrewes Crosse	1
Anker and Ship	1
Antwerp	1
Archer	1
Arms of the East India Company	1
Beare and Dolphin	1
Bell Savadge	1
Bishops-head	1
Black boy	1
Bull or Buffles Head	1
Coopers hoope	1
Griphon	1
Red Cross	1
White Cross	1
Dragon and Mermayde	1
Eagle	1
Ostrich	1
Ship	1
Glove	1
Goat or Antelop	1
Golden field-Gate	1
Golden fleece	1
Grashopper	1
Grave Maurice	1
Gunne	1
Hand in hand	1

Miter	1
Huntfman	1
King of Swedens head	1
King, or Princes Armes	1
Lamb	1
Maydenhead and George	1
Miter and Castle	1
Paul head	1
Pellican	1
Phoenix	1
Plough	1
Popinjay	1
Pye	1
Queene Elinor's head	1
Raine-Deere	1
Ram	1
Rams head	1
Saint Iohns Head	1
Saint Iohns of Ierusalem	1
Seven Stars	1
Shepherd	1
Spred Eagle	1
St. Dunstane	1
Stilliyard	1
Saint Martin	1
three Cups	1
three Kings	1
Three Pidgeons	1
Three Squirrels	1
Turnstile	1
two Lyons	1
two neck'ed Swan	1
two Wrastlers	1
Venice	1
Vine	1
Vineyard	1
Vintage	1
Wheat-sheafe	1

Windmill	1
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Distribution of Names Alphabetically:

Adam and Eve	1
Andrewes Crosse	1
Angell	14
Anker	5
Anker and Ship	1
Antelop	4
Antwerp	1
Archer	1
Arms of the East India Company	1
Beare	6
Beare and Dolphin	1
Bell	17
Bell Savadge	1
Bishops-head	1
Black boy	1
Black Lyon	2
Blew Boare	2
Bores head	5
Bush	6
Bull	12
Bull head	6
Bull or Buffles Head	1
Black Bull	2
Red Bull	2
Cardinals Hatt	2
Castle	11
Cat	3
Chequer	5
Christopher	4
Cock	7
Coopers hoope	1
Crane	2
Griphon	1
Cross	3
Cross Keyes	4
Red Cross	1

White Cross	1
Crown	13
Dog	9
Dolphin	2
Dragon	8
Dragon and Mermayde	1
Eagle	1
Elephant	2
Bell	2
Ostrich	1
Falcon	3
Ship	1
Fleece	3
Flower de Lice	2
Fortune	2
Fontaine	6
Garter	4
George	19
Globe	9
Glove	1
Goat	2
Goat or Antelop	1
Golden field-Gate	1
Golden fleece	1
Golden Lyon	3
Grashopper	1
Grave Maurice	1
Green Dragon	2
Greyhound	10
Gunne	1
Halfe Moone	2
Hand in hand	1
Harrow	4
Hart	13
Miter	1
Hoope	3
Horse	3

Horne	2
Huntfman	1
Iohns Head	2
Katherine Wheele	6
King of Swedens head	1
King, or Princes Armes	1
Kings Armes	14
Kings Head	33
Lamb	1
Lyon	30
Maidenhead	6
Man in the Moone	2
Maydenhead and George	1
Mermayd	18
Miter	9
Miter and Castle	1
Moone	4
Mouth	2
Nags head	12
Paul head	1
Peacocke	2
Pellican	1
Phoenix	1
Plough	1
Popes head	5
Popinjay	1
Prince Arms	16
Pye	1
Queene Elinor's head	1
Queenes Armes	4
Queenes head	12
Raine-Deere	1
Ram	1
Rams head	1
Red Lyon	5
Rose	20
Saint Iohns Head	1
Saint Iohns of Ierusalem	1

Salutation	7
Saracens head	5
Seven Stars	1
Shepherd	1
Ship	25
Spred Eagle	1
St. Dunstane	1
Star	7
Stilliyard	1
Sun	21
Swan	17
Saint Martin	1
three Cranes	8
three Cups	1
three Kings	1
Three Pidgeons	1
Three Squirrels	1
Three Tuns	18
Tun	2
Turnstile	1
two Lyons	1
two neck'ed Swan	1
two Wrastlers	1
Venice	1
Vine	1
Vineyard	1
Vintage	1
Wheat-sheafe	1
White Hart	11
White Horse	3
White Lyon	4
White Hart	2
Windmill	1

Sources:

Taylor, John, (Ten Shires) The Honorable, and Memorable Foundations, Erections, Raiſings and Ruines, of divers Cities, Townes, Caſtles, and other Piccies of Antiquitie, within ten Shires and Counties of this Kingdome; Namely, Kent, Suffex, Hampſhire, Surrey, Barkſire, Eſſex, Middleſex, Hartfordſhire, Buckinghamſhire, and Oxfordſhire: With the Deſcription of many famous Accidents that have happened, in divers places in the ſaid Counties. Also a Relation of the Wine Tavernes either by their figures, or names of the perſons that allow, or keepe them in, and throughout the ſaid feveral Shires. By John Taylor, London, printed by A.M. 1636.

Taylor, John, (Travels) Travels and Circvlar Perambvlation, through and by more than thirty times twelve Signes of the Zodiack, of the Faous Cities of London and Weſtminſter. With the Honour and Worthineſſe of the Vine, the Vintage, the Wine, and the Vintoner; with an Alphabeticall Deſcription, of all the Taverne Signes in the Cities, Suburbs, and Liberties aforeſaid, and ſignificant Epigrams upon the ſaid ſeverall Signes., Written by John Taylor. London, Printed by A.M. 1636