

FLORIDA DOANES

This research is the result of 35 years of collecting, studying and researching Florida Doanes.

My interest in Florida Doanes would not have been possible without the popularization of these postmarks and the support of the late Richard W. Helbock and his book *United States Doanes*, published in 1993 with LaPosta Publications.¹

I would like to also thank the many individuals who have helped me in this project - Gary Anderson, Dick Laird, David Lindgard, Larry McBride, Dr. Gary Monsdeoca, Juan Riera, Christine Sanders, Doug Weisz, and the late Richard F. Bergman, Ted Light, Herbert P. McNeal, Mike Wiedeman and William Youngerman,

I have recorded over 511 different towns of which 17 have two Doane handstamps and 4 have three Doane handstamps used at their post office. The *Florida Doane Postmark Census* spreadsheet lists 536 handstamps including the towns, county, post office dates of operation, Doane type and number, earliest and latest known usages and special notes.

Tom Lera has spent numerous hours fact checking the Doane spreadsheet, writing the introduction, scanning, cropping and photoshopping the different handstamps from postcards and envelopes.

Together we have prepared a research report illustrating 433 different Doanes and a list of 103 partial and missing Doanes for 511 towns. There are 21 Type-1, 229 Type-2 and 183 Type-3 Doanes illustrated. The towns with their respective Doanes are sorted on alphabetical pages and if you decide to print everything, it is 98 pages.

The Margie Pfund Memorial Postmark Museum (PMM) and the Post Mark Collectors Club in Bellevue, Ohio have a fantastic collection of postmarks. Many of the confirmations, and several listing examples, are from their Willett-Thompson Section Collection. Also included in our census are listings of dial-only postmarks without the killer bars but are confirmed by the dates of use and the size and typeset of the dial.

Finally, if you have one of the missing Doanes, please send a scan to deanebriggs@gmail.com.

Deane R. Briggs, M.D.
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¹ Helbock, Richard W., 1993, *United States Doanes*, La Posta Publications, Raven Press, Lake Oswego, Oregon, 224p.

Doane Handstamps Used by Florida Post Offices

A new experimental handstamp device was issued in early 1903, as the Post Office Department's first attempt to improve the legibility of rubber handstamp postmarks. Approximately 500 post offices utilized these "experimental" Type-1 devices but unfortunately no record identifying these offices has been discovered. Their success led to permanent use of the postmarking device for all smaller, 4th class post offices where the receipts did not exceed \$500 annually. This handstamp was called a Doane, after the researcher Edith Doane, who, in the 1950s, assembled lists of markings and studied their history.²

Type-1 Doane 5-Bar handstamp. Approximately sixteen hundred handstamps with a number inside five killer bars and a 27-29 mm diameter dial were issued from August 28, 1903, to September 28, 1903. Twenty-one Florida towns are known to have used the Type-1 Doane postmark.



Type-2 Doane 4-Bar handstamp. Approximately 17,500 of these were issued from September 29, 1903, until June 30, 1905. The handstamp had a number inside four-paired line (railroad track) killer bars, and a dial between 28 – 30 mm. Two hundred and twenty-nine Florida towns are known to have used the Type-2 Doane postmark



Type-3 Doane 4-Bar Handstamp. Approximately 12,000 of these were issued from July 1, 1905, until the fall of 1906. This handstamp had a number inside four solid bars as well as dial measuring 31 – 32 mm with standard block letters. One hundred and eighty-three Florida towns are known to have used the Type-3 Doane postmark

² Helbock, Richard W. *United States Doanes: A Catalog of Doane Cancellations Used in United States Post Offices*. [computer file] Scappoose, Oregon: La Posta Publications.



The number in the bars of all three types refer to the postmaster's annual compensation in the previous fiscal year. A "1" meant annual compensation had been less than \$100, "2" signified compensation between \$100 and \$200, and, for each additional \$100 increment, the number increased by one.

Used anywhere from one to ten years, most of these devices became worn or damaged from repeated use or improper handling. There are many variations within the design parameters. For example, the order of month, day, AM/PM, and year; missing letters and disfigured postmark dials resulting from wear and tear; and actual design variations that mimic a Doane-like double circle dial. A few postmasters, however, took such good care of their canceling devices, they were able to be used continuously throughout the 1930s and 1940s.

Earliest and Latest Known Usages are recorded as is a mention of known usage of the later distributed 4-bar postmarking devices which can help determine when the use of the Doane device was discontinued. The earliest known Florida example is from Mims dated September 26, 1903. The latest Florida Doane postmark is a type 2/2 from Arran dated June 19, 1924.