

Mystery Dinner Plate Pattern 85

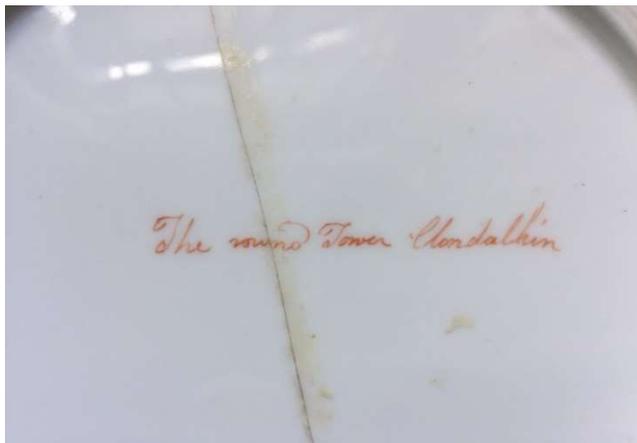
With a View of the Round Tower at Clondalkin



There is nothing like a good mystery to try to solve. The plate shown above is 22.5cm in diameter and is from a Dinner Service which would have been produced at some time between 1844 and the late 1850s. This simple statement brings in to play a possible 60+ manufacturers of china who commenced to trade in Staffordshire during that period.

It is unfortunate that no other part of this Dinner Service is known to have survived. Sadly, as you will see, this well executed plate has been the victim of rather careless handling in the past.

Frustratingly, the shape of the plate appears to be rather familiar to me, but an attribution is, of course, another matter. The quality of the flower painting in the reserves is good, as is the portrayal of The Round Tower. On the back of the plate is a handwritten description of the view together with the pattern number 85, both in red.



Attached to the plate are two labels which provide the following narrative: "Given to Edith (née Young) wife of Sandy Hannay who was a Judge in India. The plate formed part of a

Dinner Service she came across at a friend's house when they were in India and was given to her by her sister Alice (my grandmother) was married to William Roper-Caldbeck of Clondalkin, Dublin". The plate is now in the ownership of Lorne Roper-Caldbeck.

The Round Tower is situated at Clondalkin, South Dublin and is a National Monument of Ireland. It formed part of the monastery of Saint Chrónáin Mochua, a 'healer' from Connaught, and dates from the 7th Century. It is believed to be the oldest standing Round Tower in Ireland and survived an explosion in 1787 at the Gunpowder Mill, situated in Moyle Park. The explosion was so massive that it was felt in Dublin city centre and blew out windows on Usher's Island.

The topographical view on the plate is taken from a source print engraved by Robert Brandard in 1844, after a painting by G. Petrie. I am unable to reproduce an image of the print here as, although out of copyright, a photograph is not available for personal use, currently. Suffice it to say that the painting on the plate is a remarkably accurate copy.

Due to the lack of other plates from this Dinner Service, one can speculate that the decorative theme throughout was of Irish Views. Should you be a collector of wares with topographical views and this theme or the style of the narrative rings any bells, I shall be pleased to hear from you and, likewise, should the shape and/or style of décor of the plate and/or the shape of the reserves fit with any wares in your collection. My contact details are given below.

Many thanks to Anton Gabszewicz for the images and his help with the narrative on the labels, and to Gregory Freear for his information relating to the source print.

References: Alamy.com via Google for the Source Print image

Wikipedia for further information on the Clondalkin Round Tower

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