A quincunx is a shape like the points of the number five on dice. In the early manuscript drafts of what would become Watt, the shadowy protagonist is known as Quin. All that survives of him in the published text is the erroneous suggestion that his descendant Watt is snug in Quin's hotel. In Mercier et Camier a cry of "Vive Quin!" is vaguely heard in a noisy bar. The irony of this appeal for longevity is signalled by Mercier's explanation of the name: "Ça doit être quelqu'un qui n'existe pas." In Malone meurt we hear of, though fail to encounter, two more Quins - one who lent Malone a flannel (the Turin shroud?) and the other a visitor to the Saxon in his dreams. These recurring, non-appearing Quins (mentioned at five points in three novels) are all aborted, never properly born, whence the X curtailing 'the cunt of existence'. 