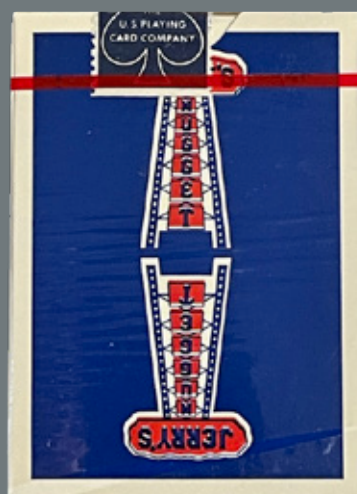
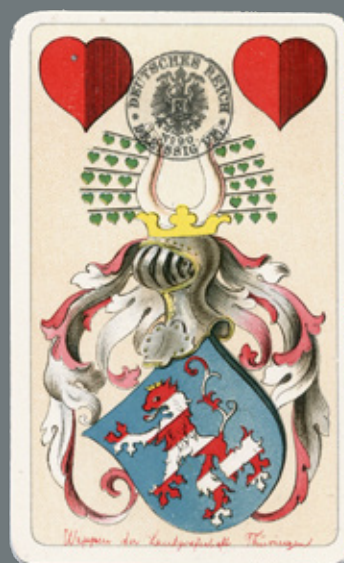


THE NEWSLETTER OF 52 PLUS JOKER

CLEAR the DECKS

THE PLAYING-CARD COLLECTORS CLUB

VOL. XXXIX

SEPTEMBER 2025

Nº 3

52 PLUS JOKER

52 Plus Joker was formed to facilitate :

The collection and trading of antique, vintage and modern collectable playing-cards and related items.
The advancement of knowledge about the history, manufacture and artistic aspect of playing cards,
The continual promotion of fellowship among members with similar interests

The club seeks new members and welcomes them whether they are experts or novices to playing card collecting. As one of the objectives of the Club is to introduce collectors to others with similar interests, we keep an online roster available only to members.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$25/ 45/ 60 for 1/ 2/ 3 years worldwide

Make checks payable to 52 Plus Joker and send to Steve Bowling

12205 Menalto Drive

Los Altos Hills

CA. 94022-4234 USA

Or use Paypal (your dues +\$3) to Steve Bowling

Email: payments@52plusjoker.org

Our bulletin Clear The Decks is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Materials for publication are most welcome and should be sent to the editor Paul Bostock: paul.bostock@gmail.com

Rates for advertisements: payable to Steve above:

¼ page \$32

½ page \$60

full page \$120

There is a 20% discount for four or more ads.

CONVENTION AUCTION

Members who have attended our conventions know we hold auctions with a wide variety of decks and ephemera, both live and silent. All the lots presented in this Clear The Decks issue will be auctioned at our convention in Charlotte. If you will not be attending, the auction will also be open for online bidding until 6PM Eastern on Oct. 3rd. You can also submit bids to Steve Bowling and we will enter proxy bids on your behalf. Mail bidders have been very successful in prior auctions. See the Auction Rules page.

WEBSITE www.52plusjoker.org

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Knave Reports	1
Direct from your Club President	2
Convention Speakers	3
Convention Registration	5
New Suit decks	6
Postage Stamps	13
Jokers Wild	17
The Red Rabbit Cancel	20
Diggo Decks	25
AUCTION	27

COVER (L – R, top row first) See Auction Listing

Lot #1 Bicycle Grand Opening Deck (Box)

Lot #36 Alice Millennium Deck (Ace)

Lot #40 Leipziger Skat Deck (Pip)

Lot #22 Royal Illuminated Deck (King)

Lot #7 Decatur's Victory Deck (Wrapper)

Lot #60 Jerry's Nugget DD Set (Box)

REAR COVER (inside) See Auction Listing

Lot #63 Tiffany Harlequin Deck (8 cards)

REAR COVER (outside) Lot # 64 Lawrence & Cohen Illuminated Bezique Deck

The Knave Reports



Welcome to *Clear The Decks* for quarter three. This is the time we are thinking ahead to our Convention and this year we are heading for Charlotte NC, scene of our 2019 Convention. In these pages you'll find all you need including a booking form but the easiest thing is to go to the club website and register online: 52plusjoker.org/product/2025-convention-registration/

Towards the back of this issue you'll find the auction pages and there are some fantastic decks available to bid on. Yes, I always say that, but only because these auctions really do have a great range of cards. If like me you collect standard or near-standard cards, wouldn't you say the illuminated Lawrence and Cohen set (Lot 64) on the rear cover is a candidate for the best deck *ever made*? Or perhaps you're saying no

because you prefer the slightly later Royal Illuminated (Lot 22)? Staying with older cards I'm wondering about lot 12 - a mixture not a deck, but these cards are around 150 years old and the opening price is not much more than a dollar a card! Prefer something newer? I count 13 decks from the 2000s including club decks, an Elaine Lewis and a choice of decks by Jackson Robinson. What a choice!

Sincere thanks to our contributors, beginning with Club President **Lee Asher** (page 2) and a preview of some of the conference highlights and presenters. **Steve Bacon** (p6) brings us a selection of decks that have new suit signs and **Alex Clays** (p13) brings us playing cards featured on stamps.

We then welcome a new contributor, magician **Erik Gerard** (p17) with an article on Jokers and magic. **Kristin Patterson** (p20) then tells us all about a special card-tax stamp, the Red Rabbit cancel. Then there's a Diggo Cartoon (p25) from **Aaron Marroquin** which sadly will be our last for a while as Aaron will be busy with work commitments. We finish with auction rules and the full **Auction Listing (p27 onwards)**.

As ever, we welcome your contributions. Tell us about something you enjoy in the world of playing cards and you can't go wrong...

Your knave and editor: paul.bostock@gmail.com



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Since 2005, seller of antique and vintage playing cards, card games, and related collectibles. Over 1800 decks and other items for sale, with something for every taste and budget. Card makers from more than 35 countries, decks spanning over 250 years.

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Tel: (302) 236-9099

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Direct From The Desk Of Your Club President



Let's talk about our annual convention. This year, we are getting together in Charlotte, NC.

If you're a recent member or have never joined us at one of these events, it's the playing card party of the year. Words cannot express the fun and excitement one experiences at our convention.

For the record, the hotel we've selected is outstanding. We were there in 2019, and the facilities are second to none. Charlotte is shaping up to be one of the best events we've ever held.

If you're thinking about it or have always wanted to attend one of these conventions, this is your year. Manage whatever it takes to make it. We won't disappoint. Plus, you'll gain new friends, make memories, and enjoy the time of your playing card life.

WHILE OUR EXACT SCHEDULE IS AS YET UNFINALIZED, EXPECT TO:

- Watch the 2025 club deck unveiling.
- Enjoy exciting speakers.
- Encounter heavy trading & selling.
- Participate in silent & live auctions.
- Attend the Diamond Awards banquet.
- Plus lots more.

You must come. It's your playing card destiny! See you in Charlotte, NC (more information on our club website). If you have any questions, reach out to me and ask. I'm right here to help.

El Presidente - Lee Asher

Straight From The Mouth Of The Head of Publicity

Anticipation is building as we approach the annual 52 Plus Joker playing card collectors convention, scheduled for **October 1st-5th, 2025, held in Charlotte, NC**. Who's talking? Great question!

LAWRENCE SULLIVAN: *Playing Card Manufacturing*
Owner of Legends Playing Card Company joins us to discuss playing card production methods. He'll share insights into his company's commitment to quality, exploring the innovations and techniques that set Legends apart in the industry.

GIOVANNI MERONI: *2025 Club Deck Designer*
Our talented artist, Giovanni Meroni, is set to redefine our annual playing card club deck, bringing a fresh perspective and innovative designs that will captivate and inspire.

STEFANI DANIELLE: *Playing Card Art*
Spend time with Stefani Danielle, the master of hand-made playing card flowers, as she shares her incredible craft and the life-changing journey that brought her here.

MATT SCHACHT: *The Rise of Souvenirs*
Seasoned collector Matt Schacht brings sharp research and a keen eye to every deck he hunts down, studies, and cherishes.

TIM COONFIELD: *On Karl Gerich*
Discover the genius of Karl Gerich through the eyes of Tim Coonfield, who brings Gerich's visionary card designs to life. More than a talk, it's your invitation into the hand-crafted world of an artist whose vision lives on beyond his time.

Imagine connecting with renowned card collectors and designers in one place. Envision yourself mingling with top card manufacturers, indulging in riveting conversations about playing cards that last through the night. All these opportunities become a reality at the 52 Plus Joker's Convention! Register for Charlotte, NC, today.

**Please note this line-up may change due to unforeseen circumstances. Check the club website regularly for updates.*

Director of Publicity & Membership - Lee Asher



2025 Convention Speaker Line-Up



LAWRENCE SULLIVAN

PLAYING CARD PRODUCTION

Owner of Legends Playing Card Company, professional magician, and all-around great guy, Lawrence Sullivan joins us to discuss how he manufactures playing cards. He'll share insights into his company's commitment to quality, exploring the innovations and precise techniques that set Legends Playing Cards apart in the industry.



STEFANI DANIELLE

Playing Card Art

Spend time with Stefani Danielle, the master of handmade playing card flowers, as she shares her incredible craft and the life-changing journey that brought her here. Discover the passion and creativity behind her one-of-a-kind designs that have captivated hearts around the world! You'll leave inspired by the beauty that can bloom from the unexpected.



TIM COONFIELD

ON KARL GERICH

Discover the genius of Karl Gerich through the eyes of Tim Coonfield, who brings Gerich's visionary card designs to life. More than a talk, it's your invitation into the hand-crafted world of an artist whose vision lives on beyond his time. Explore the craft, myth, and magic behind one of the most original playing card makers of the 20th century.

October 1st - 5th, 2025 (See you in Charlotte, NC!)



2024 Convention Speaker Line-Up



MATT SCHACHT

THE RISE OF SOUVENIRS

Seasoned collector Matt Schacht brings sharp research and a keen eye to every deck he hunts down, studies, and cherishes. With a deep love of history and a soft spot for souvenir decks, he'll reveal the historical views and hidden stories that many collectors are showing a renewed interest in.



GIOVANNI MERONI

2025 CLUB DECK ARTIST

Our talented artist, Giovanni Meroni, is set to redefine our annual playing card club deck, bringing a fresh perspective and innovative designs that will captivate and inspire. Stay tuned for exclusive insights and sneak peeks into his creative process, leading up to the grand reveal of the masterpiece he has crafted for us on Thursday, October 2nd, 2025.

2025 PANEL DISCUSSION

*Please note all line-ups may change due to unforeseen circumstances.



October 1st - 5th, 2025 (See you in Charlotte, NC!)



52 PLUS JOKER CONVENTION 2025

Wednesday, October 1st - Sunday, October 5th

Reservations: +1-800-HILTONS

Hilton Charlotte University Place, North Carolina

Ask for the 52 Plus Joker Group Rate - JOKER

Enjoy an exclusive rate of \$139 + tax per night (includes breakfast for 2). See our website for the convention schedule and more information. As we know that many attendees might want to come early or leave later in order to enjoy all the attractions that this area has to offer, we have arranged for our special rate to be available for three nights on each side of the actual convention dates.

We would like all participants to pre-register by September 1st, 2025 by sending this form with a convention fee payment of US \$50, to the address at the bottom of this page. This fee includes: table set-up, receptions, & convention activities other than the banquet. Add US \$50 if you are attending the banquet. If you have a non-member spouse or guest, add another US \$50 for him/her to attend the banquet.

Please pre-register for this meeting, as we must provide the hotel with the number of people who will be attending the convention and the banquet numbers. We may need to email all registrants, so if your email is not in the roster, please provide it below. We will allow registration at the door - at an increased price of US \$75 (excluding the banquet).

Registration for 52 PLUS JOKER CONVENTION 2025

(\$50 PER MEMBER PLUS \$50 PER BANQUET ATTENDEE MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM)

NAME (print clearly) _____

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES _____

Email address _____

MAIL FORM and PAYMENT [Checks payable to 52 Plus Joker] to:

Steve Bowling - srbbowling@gmail.com

12205 Menalto Drive

Los Altos Hills, CA 94022 USA

Payment by PayPal [please add 4% to total] to (Payments@52PlusJoker.org)

“New Suit” Decks

Steven Bacon

“I need a new suit” - Batman to Alfred, The Dark Knight, 2008.

As members of this Club well know, the nations of the English speaking world, including the United States, typically use French suits in their playing cards. However, from time to time a deck is encountered that can be described as a “new suits” or, perhaps more inclusively, a “new suit signs” deck. The Dawson/Hochman Encyclopedia devotes Chapter 31, “New Suit Signs”, to American decks that it describes as “early efforts by our manufacturers to modify our familiar suit signs.” The most recent of these early efforts described in the Encyclopedia is the Secobra 6-suit deck from 1965 (Encyclopedia, p. 291, NS17).

This article is a look at several new suit decks, and has 2 basic goals: (i) to bring the subject forward in time, examining more recent decks that qualify for inclusion; and (ii) to include decks made outside the United States during the same approximate time period. However, this article is concerned with a specific type of new suits deck out of several that are mentioned in the Encyclopedia. The focus here is on what I have decided to call “Replacement Suit” decks, those in which the four standard suits are replaced by suits with entirely different names that have entirely different symbol designs appropriate to those names. In the Encyclopedia, the “Court of Music” deck is an example of this type (Encyclopedia, p. 292, NS23).

The Encyclopedia mentions two other kinds of new suit sign decks, both of which are not covered here. One type might be called “Modified Suit” decks, those in which traditional suits remain identifiable, but in which the symbols of those suits have been modified, sometimes radically. An example of this in the Encyclopedia is the “Prince Charles” deck (Encyclopedia, p. 290, NS9). In that deck, the symbols used are those that result from a visual presentation of the literal names of the suits: the symbol for the Spade suit is a shovel; the symbol for the Heart suit is a human heart; the symbol for the Club suit is a club in the shape of a baseball bat; and the Diamond suit symbol is the jewel itself. To be sure, these are new suit signs, and thus the decks clearly belong in that chapter of the Encyclopedia; however, the cards in the “Prince Charles” deck are organized and assigned

ranks within a structure consisting of the four traditional French suits, notwithstanding their radically altered symbols. This article is limited to decks which are divorced completely from a traditional suit referencing structure.

There is a third type of new suit deck that is mentioned in the Encyclopedia. For convenience, it can be said to consist of “Additional Suit” decks. These decks also have suits with different names and symbols, but the new suits are in addition to the four standard suits. The standard suits are not replaced, but rather supplemented. The Encyclopedia has a discussion of several 5-suit decks, along with two 6-suit decks, including the Secobra deck noted above (Encyclopedia, p. 291-292, NS16-NS22, inclusive). This type of deck is not included in this article, primarily because the 5-suit and 6-suit decks were largely a phenomenon of the 1930s and 1940s, and there have been few additional multi-suit decks of interest published since the Encyclopedia.

Finally, in this article a deck in which the pip designs have been changed but corner suit symbols remain the same is not considered a new suits deck. It is viewed as a standard suit deck with altered pips.

We begin with a somewhat unusual and very rare type of new suits deck, one in which the decision to use new suits appears to be motivated, at least in part, by an antagonism toward and rebellion against traditional suits, over and above a desire to promote something new.

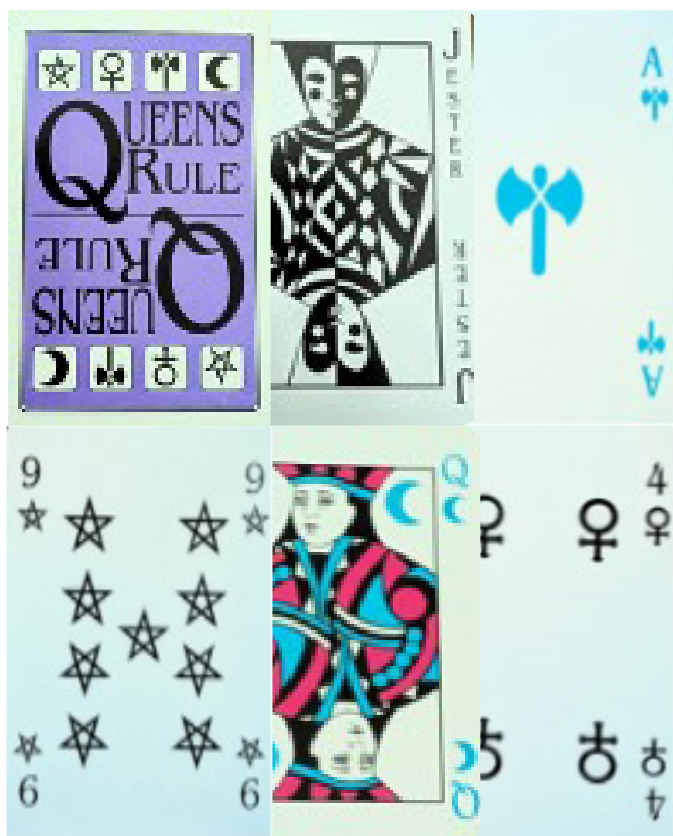
“Replacement Suit” Decks – Out with the Old

It is probably fair to say that in the United States at least one early new suits deck, known as the “Union Playing Cards,” arose in part out of a rejection of standard suits for political reasons. In 1862, American Playing Card Co. sought to capitalize upon a period of patriotic fervor by designing, manufacturing and promoting a deck with suits pertinent to the American experience – Eagles, Shields, Stars and Flags. As the Encyclopedia points out, the change was motivated to some extent by a “hope to take away the hated royalty images and replace them with patriotic symbols.” (Encyclopedia, p.289, NS1) The desire for change was driven not only by a desire to affirm something new, but also by a desire to tear down the old. It should be noted that in these cases the new

suits are always accompanied by changes in the names and identities of the royal figures on the court cards.

This rebellion against the old may be inferable in at least one contemporary setting. When a deck deals with gender inequality and feminist priorities a decision to change or modify suits is usually based in part upon a feeling that standard suits and suit signs embody and represent objectionable aspects of the existing social order, a social order that is perceived to be male dominated.

Perhaps the most full-throated of the decks with a gender message – and one that is a Replacement Suit deck – is an American deck published c.1992 by the Queens Rule Poker Club of Chicago, and marketed either as the “Queens Rule” deck or sometimes as the “Dyke Deck.” [The latter title is not to be confused with photographer Catherine Opie’s deck of the same name]. Shown below are images of cards from a “Queens Rule” deck, starting with the box:



In this deck, the four new suits are Labrys, Pentacle, Crescent Moon and Women's Symbol, each with its own unique suit symbol. The colors of the suit symbols are black and aqua, and absent an explanation from those responsible for the deck, there is no way

to determine the order of the suits, or for that matter, to know which new suits replace which original suits. Indeed, while it is assumed that the replaced suits are the four traditional French suits, that conclusion is not mandated by anything inherent in the playing cards themselves. And, at the risk of emphasizing what may be obvious, if one wishes to play bridge (and perhaps other games) with these cards, one must first decide how the new suits rank between and among themselves. Does a bid of “one Pentacle” take precedence over a bid of one Crescent Moon? Or is a bid of two Pentacles required over one Crescent Moon?

As is true with many decks that assert feminist principles, this deck also introduces all-female court cards with new “royal” names. From highest to lowest ranking, the court cards are Queens (Q), Ladies-in Waiting (L), and Maidens (M), respectively.

“Replacement Suit” Decks – In with the New

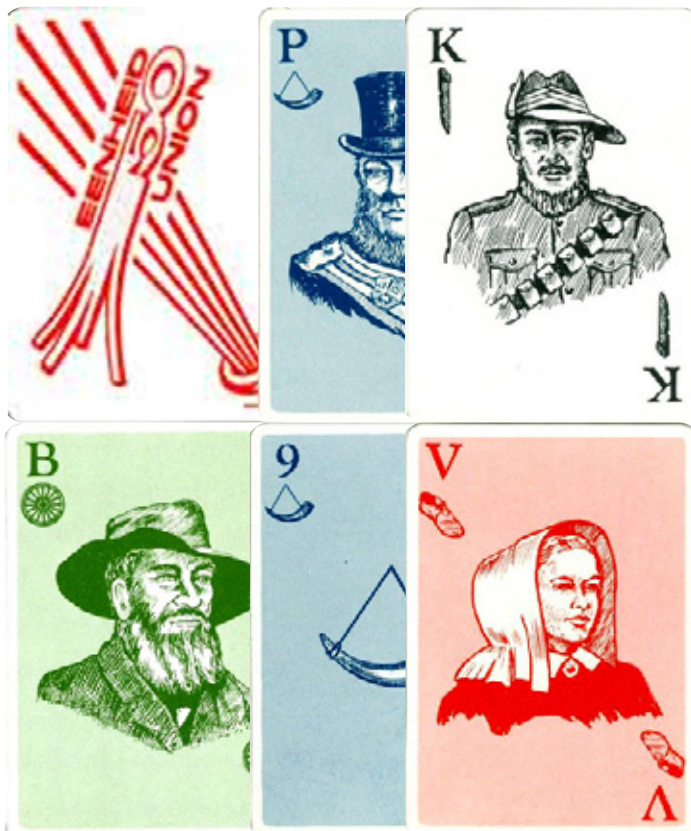
Aside from gender protest decks, I think it is accurate to say that new suit decks of the past 100 years should not be seen as a protest against traditional suit symbols. The suits and suit symbols have been changed simply as a way to promote or enhance a message, theme or subject with which the deck is concerned.

“Eenheid 50 Union” aka “The Boer Deck”

One subject that has witnessed new suit treatment is history, in which the deck is primarily concerned with a particular historical event or series of events. An excellent example was published c.1960 in South Africa by Cape Times, Ltd., and the backs of the cards bear the title, “Eenheid 50 Union.” It is sometimes called simply, “The Boer Deck,” and it commemorates the 50th anniversary of the South African Union. In 1910, what was then known as the “Boer Orange Free State” joined the Union of South Africa as the “Orange Free State Province.”

The Boer Deck is a Replacement Suit deck, and in addition to new suits, it has differently designated Aces and court cards, along with color coding of the new suits. Images are shown at the top of the next column including two extra cards.

The non-standard suits are represented by four different colors (blue, green, red and white), the new suit signs are Wagon Wheels (green), Powder Horns (blue), Shoes (red) and Pegs (white).



The Boer Deck

Anticipating issues relating to play, the extra cards that accompany the deck give the equivalency of these new suits relative to traditional suits so that the rank of the suits can be known (i.e., Wagon Wheels outrank Powder Horns for bidding purposes in Bridge). The Aces and court images are repeated in each suit and represent the President (P-Ace), King (K-Kommandant), Queen (V-Vrou) and Jack (B-Boer). The original wrapper of the cards had a red seal that was cut out in the shape of the Orange Free State.

EPCS "Millennium"

A second example of a new suits deck that pursues a historical theme is a deck titled "Millennium," published c.2000 by the English Playing Card Society ("EPCS"), and made by Games & Print Services, Ltd. Though no doubt occasioned by the arrival of a new millennium, the deck is concerned with persons and events of significance in the United Kingdom during only the 20th century. It is likewise what this article calls a Replacement Suit deck. Credit for the brilliantly designed cards is given jointly to Simon Wintle, founder of the World of Playing Cards website, and Donald Welsh, one of the founders of the EPCS.

The four suits of the deck are Roses, Thistles, Leeks, and Shamrocks, the heraldic badges of four countries

of the United Kingdom: England (Roses), Scotland (Thistles), Ireland (Shamrocks) and Wales (Leeks), respectively. Images are set forth below:

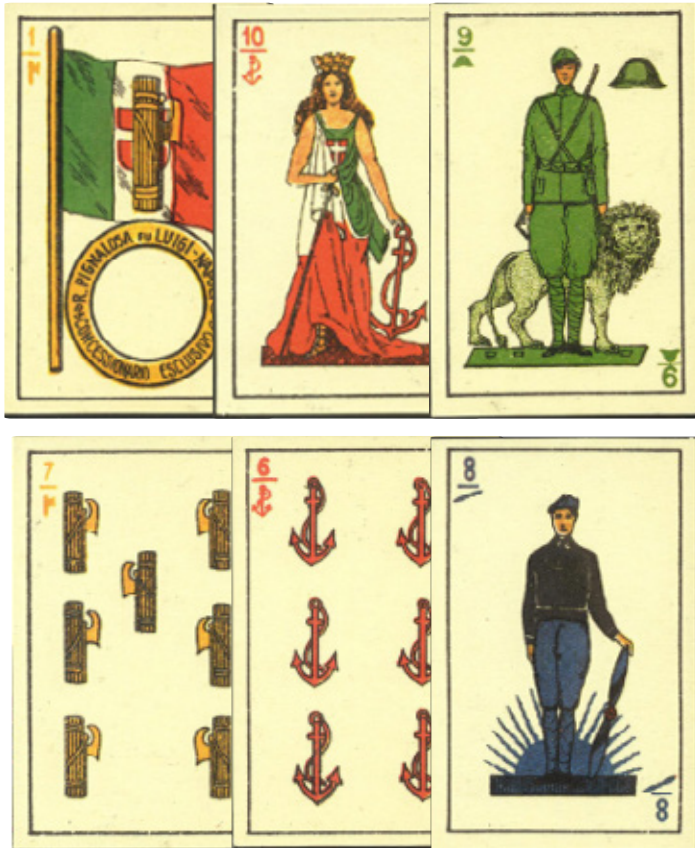


EPCS Millennium

"Italia Nuova"

Another subject whose decks frequently receive new suit treatment are those featuring political commentary, including political humor and satire. A particularly outstanding example of such a deck was first made in Italy in 1928 by Raffaele Pignalosa of Naples, and was accurately reproduced by Il Meneghello in a facsimile deck c.1989. The original and facsimile decks are both titled "Italia Nuova," and while research has not confirmed this, it seems plausible that the deck got its name from an early fascist newspaper published in Venice in the 1920s.

Whatever the origin of the title of the deck, the obvious purpose for using new suits in this deck is to promote fascism. It is a Replacement Suit deck. Set forth below are images of several cards from the facsimile deck which show the new suits used in the deck: a fasces (yellow suit), the symbol of the Italian fascists; and a propeller (blue suit), anchor (red suit), and helmet (green suit) for each of 3 branches of the military, namely, the air force, navy and army,



Italia Nuova

respectively. The Aces show the Italian flag, the 10s show Italia, and the 9s and 8s show soldiers in the uniform of the fascist party. It is a 40-card deck with Aces numbered 1, and other cards numbered 1 to 10 in each suit.

“António”

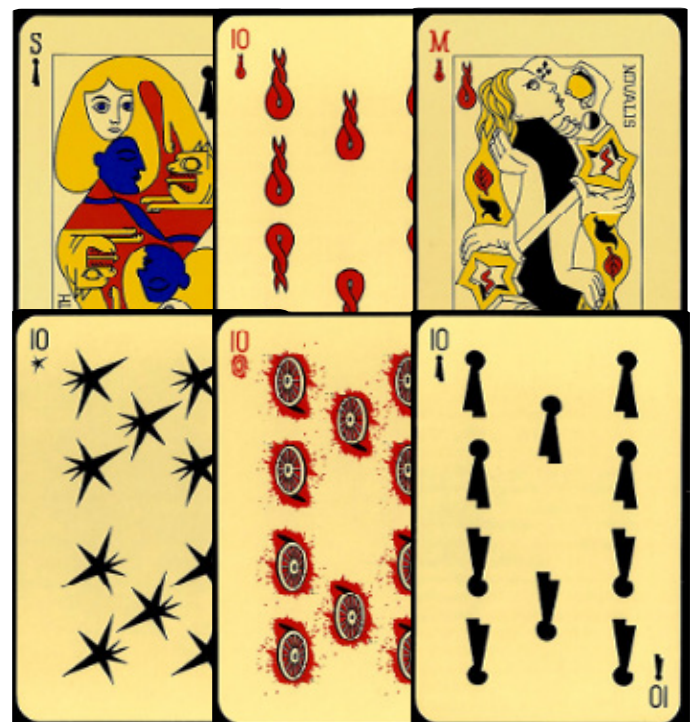
A second example of a Replacement Suit deck that was published in connection with politics is a deck from 1985 featuring the political satire of provocative cartoonist António Moreira Antunes of Portugal, who goes by his first name alone, António. António is famous for a cartoon ridiculing the Pope in 1993, and he generated considerable controversy with a 2019 cartoon critical of Netanyahu and Trump.

The 1985 deck shown here appears to have been self-published by António, and it satirizes four political parties in Portugal and their leaders at the time. The four new suits are the logos of the four parties. The satire is biting and powerful. Shown opposite are cards from the deck.

It may be a fair generalization to say that many Replacement Suit decks are message-driven. One reason they have been published seems to be to



António



Jeu de Marseille

promote ideas and attitudes, and certainly history and politics are not the only areas in which the urge to advocate exists.

In or about 1941, a group of prominent surrealists led by Andre Breton and his wife, Jacqueline Lamba published prints of designs for a deck of cards that promote surrealist ideas and celebrate persons admired by the movement.

It is a wonderful deck, with new suits appropriate to the subject: Locks (black) for knowledge, Wheels (red) for revolution, Stars (black) for dreams, and Flames (red) for love and desire. As frequently happens with new suit decks, the identities of the court cards have also been changed.

The cards from “Le Jeu de Marseille,” were made by Grimaud and ultimately published as a physical deck of cards by André Dimanche in 1983. A set of 10s is included because pip cards show clearly the suits.



Rasta cards

“Rasta cards”

An issue that appears to inspire strong feelings and opinions is recreational drug use – in particular, legalized marijuana. One such deck made by Fournier c.2002 is titled “Rasta,” and the issue is presented in the context of Rastafari, considered both an Abrahamic religion and a social movement, in which the smoking of cannabis is a sacrament. Shown are cards from the deck, including a set of Aces in which the new suit symbols can be seen clearly:

“The African Renaissance Deck”

In or about 2000, the African Wisdom Conference of South Africa published a profound and exceptionally

beautiful Replacement Suit deck titled “The African Renaissance Deck.” Its purpose was to raise awareness (and funds) in support of Nkosi’s Haven, an NGO in Johannesburg that provides assistance to women and their children who have been affected by HIV/AIDS. Each suit is devoted to a major African people, and the suit signs are objects of significance to African life: pots (Ndebele), shields (Swazi), huts (Xhosa) and beads (Zulu).

The suit signs are explained on a folded paper that accompanies the deck, and, as was true with the Boer deck, it anticipates the problem that is inherent when certain card games are played with a Replacement Suit deck by stating the equivalent traditional suit for each new suit. Cards showing the new suits and insert cards describing the African peoples are set forth below.



African Renaissance

“Logger-Reno”

The final deck we consider here is a Replacement Suit deck with a unique color scheme that celebrates logging in Oregon. It is titled “Logger-Reno,” and there are two green suits (Fir Trees and Trucks) and two black ones (Pine Trees and Bulldozers). The deck is an affectionate and respectful look at the logging industry and those that work in it. Shown below are representative cards that show the new suits

This brings us to the end of this brief survey of new suit decks of the type defined here as Replacement Suit decks.

Literally dozens of additional decks could be shown, and it is difficult to escape the impression that they are much more prevalent in the past 75 years than they were in times previous. The Dawson/Hochman Encyclopedia makes reference in its New Suit Signs chapter to card makers and their “hope that card players would welcome the change and that they might profit from obtaining a competitive advantage from the change.” (Encyclopedia, p. 289). I think that this statement is particularly true with Additional Suit (5-suit and 6-suit) decks, and the complexities they introduced into standard card games.



I can remember that when I played bridge in the 1960s and early 1970s, there were something like 10 intimidating books that had been written instructing on how to bid and play hands using decks with additional suits. A whole new sub-industry of the bridge world had grown up around these decks. As if the game of bridge was not complicated enough already!

However, Replacement Suit decks of the kind discussed in this article serve a very different purpose. It seems to me that for makers of these decks, card games are very much a secondary priority, an incidental consideration. These cards do not exist to facilitate the playing of a card game; rather, the card game serves as a mechanism to facilitate communication of a statement or message. The growth of these Replacement Suit decks probably reflects the diminished role that card playing has in society today as a form of entertainment, while bearing witness to the inherent potential and ongoing resilience that playing cards have as a vehicle for expression and communication, artistic and otherwise.

Logger Reno cards (left)

gilding
edge coloring
beveling
round cornering
layering
foil stamping
letterpress printing
hand bordering
deckling

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Our 2024 Club Deck
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Stamps

By Alex Clays

In Clear the Decks vol. XXII No.1 of March 2009, there was an article on Postage Stamps by long time club member Rhonda Hawes. Rhonda showed poster stamps advertising playing card manufacturers from Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark.

The poster stamp (sometimes named a Cinderella) was an advertising label a little larger than most postage stamps which originated in the mid-19th century and quickly became a collecting craze, growing in popularity until World War I and then declining by World War II, until they were almost forgotten, except by collectors.

I have a lot of these stamps in my collection, so let's have a look at stamps that use suit signs or playing cards to advertise products. We'll start with some German ones.



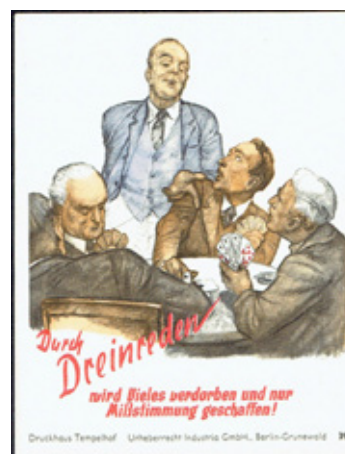
Abadie, is a French make of rolling paper used for making cigarettes. This stamp comes with an advice: don't bother if you get a miserable hand, just have a double filter Abadie smoke!



Next comes one printed by F.M.Lenzner from Stettin, advertising Eberl – Brau beer (Boar - Beer), based at Dresden.



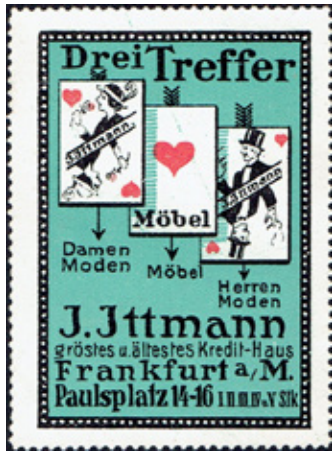
This green stamp is advertising a new book about a Magician from printers G. Danner at Mühlhausen.



This stamp is by the printer Tempelhof, from Berlin-Grünwald. "To continue discussing might ruin a lot of things and it might create discontent !"



The next two stamps are promoting 'Munich Fashion week'. The first dates October 1968 and the second is from October 1970.



J. Ittmann, the oldest and biggest credit store at Frankfurt issued this Drei Treffer stamp; their 3 trumps consist of Women and Men's clothing and a furniture department (left). To its right, Fox Paste is a Shoe cream offering a better leather treatment. In their series of Dutch Masters, the stamp depicts a painting of card players by Jan Steen.

Some printers had a choice of different 'blanco' stamps available for their customers. Hence it is not rare that same series come with different or even no advertising on it. A nice example is this next series of 6 'Kartenspiele' stamps. This comes with Selbmann's Cacao and Malzal Coffee advertising and ads from firms of Hamburg and Dresden.



The following stamp, of English origin, dates from 1929 and promotes a bakers Exhibition. On show is the Jack of hearts with a tray of tarts (did he steal these ones too?)



In the next example we switch to stamps from Denmark. Promoting Restaurant Harmonien at Arhus this was issued by Knud Jenssen, Hjallesø 3587. In Denmark this sort of label is called Maerkater (= Mark). The printers who made most of them were Becker and Bording from Copenhagen. Later on these companies merged to one (Becker). They used to number all the different labels they made in order to make it possible to collect a complete series.



Just recently, part of a 52 playing card series of labels issued as poster stamps came my way. Coming from around 1945 this brings us very colorful labels with different advertising subjects. As we can't show them all, a small selection will give you a pretty good idea what this series looks like. Though you'll find out the meaning of some obvious ads, some others can use a bit of info and did help me to date this series: The King of Spades wants you to read books by Carit Etlar, the better-known pen name of Johan Carl Christian Brosbøll (1816 – 1900), a Danish author known mostly for his 1853 book *Gjøngehøvdingen*.



The Queen of Hearts above brings us Marika Röck (1913 - 2004) a German-Austrian dancer, singer and actress of Hungarian descent who gained prominence in German films in the Nazi era. She resumed her career in 1947 and was one of Europe's most famous operetta singers.



The King of Clubs shows Hans Albers (1891–1960), a German Actor who is promoting his 1943 movie 'The adventures of Baron Von Munchhausen'. The Ace of Clubs shows Skipper Shroek (Popeye the Sailor Man) His kid prefers some Haribo Sweets over spinach.



The 4 of Hearts tells us you'll have a good hand with Warburgs Bridge Cards: "Warburg's Bridge Kort" were published by Emil Jensen of København, from 1945 until 1949, in the German 'Rhineland' pattern. The King of Hearts promotes Cometa staple machinery made in their plant at Copenhagen.

To finish here are more examples from this series. By now I have 33 stamps of this series, so I sure hope to complete it one day!





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Erik Gerard



Be Careful What You Wish For!

I say that because when I was young, I wanted to travel and see the world. Turns out I've been traveling every week for a total of 25 years (out of my 70)! I've had the good fortune to work in 30 states and travel to over 40 countries. Most of this was at other people's expense since I spent 16 years as a full-time professional comedy magician and 15 as a healthcare technology consultant.

Every Joker (or deck) has its own story. Some are touchpoints from various times in life, some have incredible artwork, some have historical significance, and some are interesting variations. Jokers have been a part of my life as a magician, collected while traveling, fond reminders of specific times or places, and required for entry to the Fools Guild parties. I hope to introduce you to some of my favorite jokers out of my collection of over 500.

Magic Castle Jokers

The Magic Castle - pictured here by courtesy of the



Academy of Magical Arts, Inc is a private club for magicians in Los Angeles. In order to become a member you must audition before a committee of other magicians (terrifying! And more on that later).



They also offer associate memberships for magic enthusiasts, but these are far more expensive. I've been a member of the Castle since 1981, have performed in the three main showrooms, given two different lectures and I was married on the main stage of the Palace of Mystery.

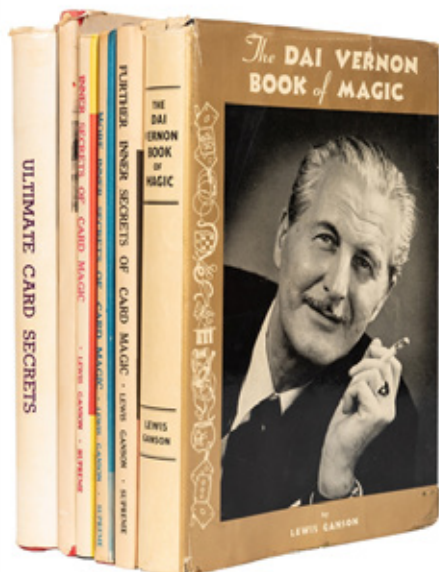


For their 50th anniversary, they published a special deck of cards featuring the two brothers who created the Magic Castle, Milt & Bill Larson, as the jokers. While both are gone now, I've had the pleasure of spending time with both. They've also published several other versions that have yet different jokers (owl, bunny, skeleton), which are truly unique!



Dai Vernon Decks

Dai Vernon is considered to be the Grand Master of close-up magic in the U.S. and was brought in to be a resident magician at the Magic Castle. When I first auditioned for membership, I performed several card



tricks, the last one being the particularly difficult “Cutting the Aces,” which was created by Dai.

Just as I was going into this routine, who walks in and sits down with the membership committee but Dai. I was about to perform Dai’s own trick in front of him!!! While the rest of my routines went very smoothly, I totally choked in front of Dai and could not find a single ace! The committee members were very gracious and understood what happened, so invited me back to re-audition the following month.



The Professor, as Dai was known, was a great source of quality control of the magicians performing there because he was a bit deaf and would sometimes comment rather loudly from the front row (example: “He looks like he’s doing rope tricks 101”). He was also wonderful about feedback to the many magicians that brought new ideas to him. I’ll never forget him chastising Larry Jennings, who himself was a well established, published author of magic effects, telling him “Larry, that’s the worst move I’ve ever seen!”

The one deck is from an old photo of Dai that hangs in the Magic Castle. The other deck is of his silhouette, since he used to cut silhouettes at theme parks in his early career. The dedication on the left is from Bill Cosco, who was on several of the committees at the Castle, to Johnny Ace Palmer. Johnny was one of the first close-up magicians to win FISM, the international grand prix of magic. The dedication on the right is from Johnny to Don Fenwick, who was the producer of MagiCruise. Don passed these decks along to me as a way of saying “thank you” for my help producing MagiCruise (magic conventions on cruise ships). These decks, because of the dedications, are collector items.



Erik Gerard is a retired full-time magician who has performed everywhere from Caesars to Sea World, comedy clubs around the country and cruise ships around the world and in 40+ countries. He’s collected over 500 unique jokers. Known as The Wizard & Oz - that’s Oz in the middle of the photo - he has been a member of the Magic Castle since 1981 and you can find his weekly Jokers Wild posting on:
Facebook: facebook.com/wizardandoz
Instagram: instagram.com/thewizardandoz
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52 + JOKER MEMBERS RECEIVE NEXT TIER PRICING: J52NTP

The Red Rabbit Cancel

Kristin Patterson



Figure 1, The Red Rabbit cancel

The Stamp and Cancel

In my collection, and now in my U.S. Playing Cards Tax Stamps and Uses (1894-1965) exhibit, is a block of "1 Pack" unwatermarked, dry-printed playing cards tax stamps with an interesting pink cancel that covers all 6 stamps (figure 1).

In large bold pink letters, the cancel starts: THE RED RABBIT then in a smaller font the following lines read: (DIVISION OF THE RED LAMB) 326 CENTRAL AVENUE NEW HAVEN 15, CONNECTICUT UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Little has been written about The Red Rabbit or about the cancel, so I thought I would do some research and this is what I discovered:

The Red Rabbit

While little information is out there about The Red Rabbit, I was fortunate in 2012 that a friend gave me some playing card research material (mostly articles) that he had not done anything with. I happily accepted them. Included in the bundle were five lists printed on 8.5" x 14" sheets of paper (Figure 2 shows the front of the 2-sided page) and a single order form (Figure 3) from The Red Rabbit.

The Red Rabbit mailed these lists to playing card collectors. The red-font lists included up to five different sections labeled "A", "B", "C", "D", and "W".

"A" lots were best 20th Century playing card decks, all mint with jokers. "B" lots were typically antique, rare

or only one available. "C" lots included individual face cards of outstanding decks. "D" lots included cards for back collectors only. "B" lots made up the largest section and were auction lots with minimum bid prices listed. They went to the highest bidder while the rest were usually priced lots for immediate purchase to the first buyer. If there was a tie for a bid, the bidder with the earliest postmark won. On occasion, the "C" lots were also auction lots. Finally, the "W" list was The Red Rabbit's want list which included mostly decks but also playing card related material.

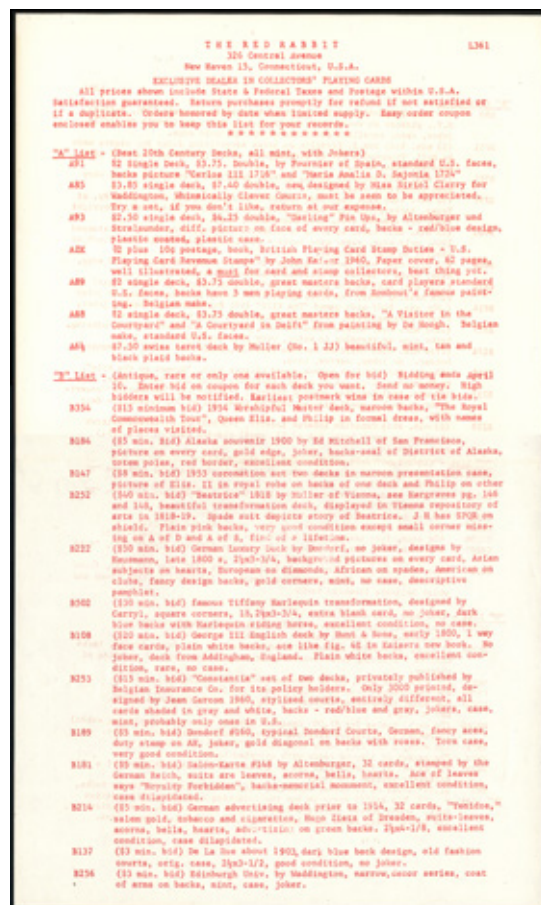


Figure 2: A Red Rabbit List

On one sheet, The Red Rabbit wants to buy the following in good condition only "Quote lowest price you will accept: Ivory and mother of pearl counters, decks from Laos, Turkey, Syria and Arabia". In another sale, he wants books by Hargraves, Morley, Sargent, Merlin, D'Allemagne, Ummon, Rive, Bullet, Leber, Chatto, O'Donoghue, and Strieber.

All prices included State and Federal taxes and postage within the U.S.A. Satisfaction guaranteed. Return purchases promptly for refund if not satisfied or if a

duplicate. Orders honored by date when limited supply. Easy order coupon (Figure 3) enclosed enables you to keep this list for your records.

Figure 3, the easy order form

It is a pity that The Red Rabbit lists were never dated. There were bid-by dates which included only a month and a date but no year. The person who received one of the lists (that is now in my hands) wrote "Rec. 5-2-64" (Figure 4) for the bid sheet that needed to be mailed back by May 10. The year 1964 makes sense and we learn more.

Figure 4 Note the hand-written date

Whoever The Red Rabbit was, the business sold a variety of fine decks and singles from around the world, for example B184 (\$5 min.) Alaska souvenir 1900 by Ed Mitchell of San Francisco, picture on

every card, gold edge, joker, backs-seal of District of Alaska, totem poles, red border, excellent condition. In the same auction, B252 (\$40 min.) "Beatrice" 1818 by Muller of Vienna, see Hargrave pg. 146 and 148, beautiful transformation deck, displayed in Vienna repository of arts in 1818-19. Also, included for sale CB323 \$2 each, spade ace or joker from the 1923 Worshipful Masters deck and "D" list item D323, at \$1 each, Worshipful Masters 1923 white border backs – "Barts Octocentenary" with founder Rahere and a picture of the hospital building. You could purchase a \$1 packet of 20 assorted cards with advertising on the backs. There was something for everyone interested in playing cards in each of the sheets.

Division of the Red Lamb

Under the first line of THE RED RABBIT cancel is (Division of the Red Lamb). Unlike The Red Rabbit, I was able to find Red Lamb listed in the 1956 to 1967 New Haven CT City Directories by Price and Lee Company. The Red Lamb Gift Shop was run by Helen B. Lambert and located at 326 Central Avenue, New Haven CT. This address matches perfectly with The Red Rabbit cancel.

It appears the name Lamb came from a shortened version of her last name, Lambert. Possibly, but I have no proof, she liked the color red or she had red hair, so named her gift shop, Red Lamb. Did she branch out and start The Red Rabbit business?

The Address

Let's take a close look at the address, 326 Central Avenue, New Haven 15, Connecticut. It is the smaller unit of a 2-story multi-unit brick building located at the corner of Central and Edgewood Avenues. The small side-unit shop has a convenient, adjacent off-street parking lot.

The address first housed Antonio Fiore's Shoe Store then Joseph Barbiro's Shoe Store followed by Andrew LaPorto's Shoe Store. In 1952, it was changed to a gift shop owned by Gertrude S. Green. By 1956, it was the Red Lamb Gift Shop and until 1967 under Helen Lambert's management. The building still exists but has changed hands many more times since then. The two-digit postal codes started in May 1943 for large cities, were called "local zone numbers." The USPS initiated 5-digit zip codes on July 1, 1963. These became mandatory for 2nd and 3rd class mailers in 1967 and soon followed for all mailings.

The Red Rabbit cancel would have been produced sometime before 1967. This coincides with the earlier 1964 handwritten date.

At the top of second list (Fig. 4 above), the header shows "Store – 326 Central Avenue, New Haven 15, Conn." and also "Office – 775 Edgewood Avenue". The City Directory lists Helen's residence as 775 Edgewood Avenue, matching the office address. The store and office locations are just 4 houses away from each other; so an easy commute by all standards.

Lambert

On February 13, 1926, Helen Elizabeth, née Beckley, married Latham Benjamin Lambert. It is likely both attended New Haven High School. Helen went on to attend the all-girls Elmira College. They married after Latham had graduated in 1925 from Yale University. Latham's father, also a Yale graduate, was the grade school principal at Truman Street School in New Haven. By this time in 1924, Latham had joined the New Haven Magic Society and the following year the Society of American Magicians.



Figure 5 Latham Lambert

In 1929, as a salesman for the Southern New England Telephone Company, SNET, Latham performed many sleight-of-hand card tricks at company events. In 1931, he was asked to perform sleight-of-hand tricks for the 1st Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Association of Civil Engineers and the Connecticut Surveyors Association. On May 14 1932, at the SNET HQ, Latham gave an amazing and interesting performance of magic (figure 5.) It appears he liked using rabbits in his tricks and may have kept them as pets.

In 1941, Latham was promoted to manager and took over the Bristol office of SNET. While living in Bristol, CT, he would entertain his fellow Rotary Club members with thirty minutes of sleight-of-hand tricks. In 1946, he was elected President of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce. About 1947, Latham and Helen moved back to New Haven and were living at 775 Edgewood Avenue, a 2-story, 4-bedroom home. He served as the President of the New Haven Colonial Historical Society from 1952 to 1953.

By 1956, Helen opened her gift shop, the Red Lamb, which was located less than 4/10 of a mile from her home. In 1961, we see the first Red Rabbit ad in Esquire Magazine. The next year, an article in The Linking Ring (International Brotherhood of Magicians) mentions The Red Rabbit located at 775 Edgewood Ave., New Haven. The author states, "Lambert handles mostly playing cards for collectors. He has one of the largest collections I have ever seen. He also imports playing cards and handles antique decks." So Latham Lambert was The Red Rabbit.



Figure 6 Latham Lambert (right) and Gabrielle family

Figure 6 shows Latham (seated at far right) with SNET stockholder, Ralph Gabrielle and his family after the 1963 annual shareholders' meeting held in New Haven. Latham continued to advertise in different magazines like Nouvelles de l'estampe, a French magazine, and in American Home.

Let's take another look at the list in Figure 4: there is a small oval with the initials MDA in the upper left corner. The initials stand for Magic Dealer's Association - proving that Latham was The Red Rabbit; but there is more. On September 24 1971, sharing his

passion for playing cards, Latham gave a talk on The History of Playing Cards at the Stratford Historical Society meeting. The talk was given at the United Methodist Church in Stratford, CT which is about 17 miles Southwest of New Haven. There is no doubt that Latham had a passion for playing cards, both his collection and selling.

Block of 6 Stamps

Most Playing Cards tax stamps were individually canceled with the sellers' initials and date and then applied to single (54 or fewer cards) or a double deck (up to 108 cards). It is unusual to see a cancel nicely centered over six stamps and without a date. Also, all copies of these blocks still have gum on the back meaning they were never applied to a package of playing cards. With the Federal tax on playing cards ending on June 22, 1965, I suspect that Latham used up his remaining stock of tax stamps by canceling blocks of 6 with his large red cancel, thereby creating a promotional item and selling them to collectors.



Figure 7 A Red Rabbit cancel from 1961

First RED RABBIT Cancel

The above cancel is not the first Red Rabbit cancel. The same cancel was applied to a block of four "1 Pack" watermarked, dry printed, playing cards stamps. Watermarked "1 Pack" stamps were printed before the unwatermarked "1 Pack" stamps (Figure 1) were produced.

The pair in Figure 7 has an identical THE RED RABBIT cancel with the top cut off including the top of (Division of Red Lamb) which would have been on the top pair of stamps if they had still been attached, but added is the handstamped date May 1, 1961. I believe this pair was used on a box of double deck playing cards that The Red Rabbit sold on May 1, 1961. This proves that The Red Rabbit did use the Federal playing cards tax stamps for their intended use; to collect the 13¢ tax on every 54 playing cards sold.

The End of The Red Rabbit

On February 14th 1974, Joseph Pari advertised (see Figure 8) in the Hartford Courant:

"Antiques at Auction removed from the Home of Mr & Mrs Latham Lambert, 775 Edgewood Avenue, New Haven. For convenience of Sale to be held at 3836 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT on Saturday, February 23rd starting at 10:00am".



Figure 8: Auction of Antiques from the Lamberts

While there was a home at the Whitney address, the ad mentions:

"Extreme inclement weather next clear weekend," and this makes me think the auction was held outdoors possibly in the parking lot next door.

The list of auction items was extensive with most being furniture and household antiques, but the list does include near the end "Philatelic Material, Old Playing Cards, Magic Equipment, and Ventriloquist's Dummy." At this time, Latham would have been 68 years old. It is likely that he retired from Southern New England Telephone Company and moved to Bridgeport, CT. On February 1, 1981, Helen Lambert passed away, but Latham continued the business.

The Red Rabbit was listed in the July 1981 issue of Magic – Unity – Might, which is the monthly magazine of the Society of American Magicians. On December 19, of the same year, Latham married widow, Carolyn F. Gaines. They lived at 3030 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, which is now a Senior Living Facility. On November 25, 1986, at the age of 84, Latham died in Bridgeport. He was buried in Evergreen Cemetery, New Haven, CT, next to Helen, thus bringing an end to The Red Rabbit.

Price

Obviously, the price of any stamp is what a buyer is willing to pay. The 2024 Scott Catalogue lists the value of RF28B used single as \$12.50 and block of 4 as “—”. A “—” indicates the price is unknown as the stamp has not been up for sale recently and the value is likely high. In the March 2, 2019, Michael E. Aldrich Auctions Sale: 96, lot #656 had the stamp in Figure 9 with this description; (RF28) 1 Pack Blue, T. Margin Block of Six, fancy red HC, "The Red Rabbit, Division of the Red Lamb", sharp color, fresh and Extremely Fine, this is the most unusual cancel in all the Bureau Playing Cards and the only example we have ever seen, incredible showpiece item, (ENV 200-300). It sold for \$210 plus 15% hammer.

At the time of the Aldrich auction, I already had my copy (Figure 1). I had purchased my block along with a collection so do not have an individual price for it. I have seen 4 additional blocks; some with straight edges and some with perforations on all edges. Three of these blocks are, at the time of writing, available for purchase. Eric Jackson lists two blocks of 6; one for \$650 and one for \$500. Richard Friedberg lists one for \$395 on his website. I have also seen one other, so they are not as rare as Aldrich indicated.



Figure 9: Block of 6 cancels from Aldrich Auction Sale of March 2019

Conclusion

The Red Rabbit, aka Latham Lambert, was a collector, magician, and businessman. He actively sold playing cards from 1961 to 1982. His focus was on selling single playing cards and decks to playing card collectors, while at the same time adding to his own extensive collection. He sold directly to people as well as ran auctions for rarer material. His passion was entertaining and delighting people. I am delighted to have this block of 6 stamps in my collection.



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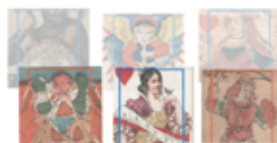
Fellowship

Club Members discussion board where questions can be asked to the most knowledgeable resource of members available

We have active Facebook Pages where members can post an interesting deck, seek identity of a pack or advise fellow members of card related events in their vicinity.

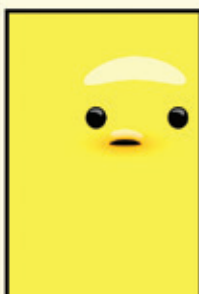
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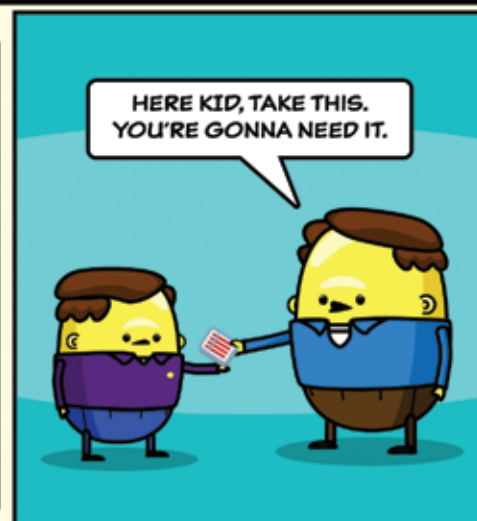


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52 PLUS JOKER AUCTION INFORMATION AND RULES

GENERAL INFORMATION - 52 PLUS JOKER is a nonprofit organization and offers Auctions to enhance the collections of its members, help members dispose of their collections and raise funds to help sustain its operations. **Only 52 PLUS JOKER members** may bid on the auction items. The closing date for mail bids to be received for the Sept CTD lots is **6:00pm EST on Thursday OCTOBER 2, 2025.** If you have any questions about lots in the Auction or about the rules, you may call or write Steve Bowling prior to October 3. Steve will also send additional photos on request.

BIDDING - When you bid by mail or email, please list your name, address and email address (if applicable), and for each item you are bidding on, the lot number, lot name and your maximum bid, and send to;

Steve Bowling 12205 Menalto Drive Los Altos Hills, CA USA 94022-4234	srbbowling@gmail.com Tel. 650-814-9653
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Please bid using the following increments:


\$0 to \$100 - \$5 increments	\$100 to \$300 - \$10 increments
\$300 to \$1000 - \$25 increments	\$1000 + - \$50 increments
Bids will automatically be rounded down to the proper increment.	

All email bids will be personally acknowledged. In order to avoid any conflict of interest, Steve and Auctioneer Larry Herold will have bid before any other bids are received. If a CTD auction lot did not receive a mail bid, Steve and Larry will be permitted to bid during the live auction event.

The club will provide Proxies to represent mail and phone bidders, advising Auctioneer of bids as the auction proceeds. **All winning mail bids in excess of the next highest bid, or minimum bid if there are no other bids, will be reduced to the next increment level above the highest bid, or the minimum bid.** In no case will bidders be notified the number or amounts of competing bids. There will be no price reduction or further offering of auction lots after the closing if the minimum bid is not met.

PAYMENT & SHIPPING - WAIT TO BE NOTIFIED of your winning bids and amount due. Invoices are due upon receipt and must be paid in U.S. currency. **CHECKS ARE PREFERRED vs. Paypal.** Foreign payments can be made by check only if it is in U.S. dollars and the check specifically states it is cleared through a named U.S. bank. International Money Orders in U.S. dollars also OK. International bidders may use PayPal by directing the payment to payments@52plusjoker.org, adding 4% to the total invoice to cover PayPal charges. If payments are not received within 20 days from the Auction's closing date, those lots will be returned to the consignor. If items received are not as specified in the Auction listing, you should contact Steve Bowling within a week of receipt to arrange for a refund or price adjustment. U.S. shipments will be made by US Post Office. Foreign shipments will, in most cases, be sent by First Class Airmail. Buyer may elect to add insurance at his/her expense. The Club will invoice you at approximate cost for the shipping charges plus a \$3 handling charge for each package. Please note that international postage rates have increased to approximately \$20/\$30 for 1 or 2 decks respectively **and Buyers are responsible for customs duties applicable in his/her country.**

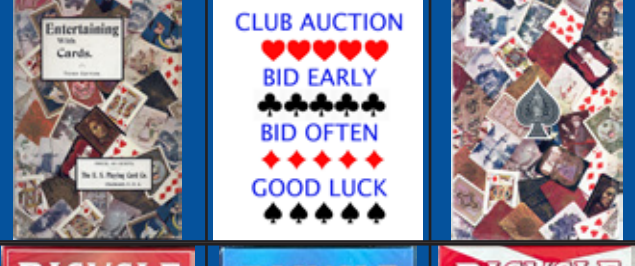
We have endeavored to describe all lots carefully so that members can be comfortable when placing their bids that they will receive items in at least as good condition as described. Any lots that are not as described can be returned for refund. Remember all lots are pictured in color on the auction webpage. For each deck listed we have indicated the lot number, its date of manufacture, maker, country of origin, number of cards, condition, condition of the box (if applicable, with OB1 being mint or near mint, OB2 being average with some use or wear and OB3 indicating considerable wear and often some damage), minimum bid, reference if found and a short description. Most references are to specific listings in the Dawson Hochman Encyclopedia. **NOTE: "Mint Sealed" refers to the deck, box may have been opened. "As Issued" means nothing has been opened.**

Lot 1	Bicycle Grand Opening Deck	2009	
USA	A true "white whale" among modern decks, the Bicycle Grand Opening deck was distributed at the opening of USPC's new Erlanger manufacturing plant on August 20, 2009. Fewer than 1,000 made, and only a few have surfaced for sale. See box on front cover.		
USPC	52+2J+2 Double Backers As Issued OB1	Minimum 100	  
Lot 2	Ames Whist Lesson Capitol Deck	BW1	1889
USA	Instructional deck with uniquely designed cards citing how to play Whist. Cards are in excellent condition, and the box is complete but falling apart, top detached.		
Russell & Morgan Printing Co.	52+J+Inst EX OB3-	Minimum 120	  
Lot 3	The Waterfall Maxfield Parrish Deck	AB6	1931
USA	Beautiful deck titled Waterfall was one of a series of 10 designs published over a decade for Edison Lamp Works. Notice card is slightly darker, probably because it was stored on top. It's the last of Parrish's card designs. Lovely series to collect. Lightly used.		
USPC	52+J+EC NM OB1	Minimum 85	  
Lot 4	Lockheed War Plane Deck		1960s
USA	The deck features an atomic bomb Joker and war plane silhouettes on the Aces, courts, and pips, which differ by suit. Extra card defines the background for the Aces and courts. Horrifying joker likely caused distribution to be terminated early, maybe rare to find.		
	52+J+EC Mint OB1-	Minimum 20	  
Lot 5	Chicago Milwaukee St. Paul Railway Deck	SR1	c1910
USA	The back of this nice railroad souvenir deck features the Falls of Minnehaha of Longfellow's "Hiawatha" fame. Deck looks to be unused with bright gold edges. The box is clean but has wear to the seams.		
USPC	52+J NM OB2-	Minimum 70	  
Lot 6	Molson Brewery Ltd. Deck		c1924
Canada	This beer deck has never been played with. The box advertises their India Pale Ale and XXX Porter. The Canadian Playing Card Company manufactured it, and it still bears the remnants of a tax stamp affixed. A nice one for beer aficionados.		
Canadian Playing Card Co.	52+J+Blank Mint OB1	Minimum 40	  
Lot 7	Samuel Hart Decatur's Victory Deck	NY39a	1873
USA	Unique deck honors Commodore Decatur's Victory in War of 1812 vs. the HMS Macedonian. AS is NY39. Special wrapper (cover) introduces Hart's "Satin Surface" and has the NYCC private die 5c stamp first issued in 1873.		
Samuel Hart	52+Blank+Wrapper Mint No Box	Minimum 400	  

Lot 8	Chicago & Alton Railroad Deck	Boll C&A-4a	1910				
USA	Chicago & Alton Railroad deck. Most cards are in excellent condition. KS is stained on the face. There is slight visible damage on the backs of 10S & 10C, and visible staining on the front & back of 5D. Unique AS & Joker. The box is whole and usable, but very worn.						
	52+J VG OB2-		Minimum 130				
Lot 9	Kings Wild Federal 52 Deck		2013				
USA	Federal 52 was the first deck produced by Jackson Robinson and Kings Wild Project. It features images of famous U.S. leaders whose pictures appear on U.S. currency. The deck is signed by Robinson. Photo of Joker from an open deck.						
USPC	52+2J+Double Back+Ad As Issued OB1		Minimum 50				
Lot 10	Congress 606 "Erin" Deck	US6f	1907				
USA	Stunning Congress 606 deck featuring the elegant 'Erin' portrait on the back. In Ex/NM condition. Flawless gold edges. Box OB1.						
USPC	52+J+Blank+EC EX/NM OB1		Minimum 50				
Lot 11	2005 Club Deck Peterson		2005				
China	Susan Peterson's 2005 Club Deck, the one that launched 52 Plus Joker's club deck series, is a cornerstone release that rarely comes up for auction. A must-have for completionists!						
Shanghai Yushen Playing Card Co.	52+2J Mint OB1-		Minimum 75				
Lot 12	33 Square Corner Courts		1850 - 1890				
UK	Nice group of 19th century courts from the UK and USA. 23 are one-way. Several are in excellent condition, making them perfect for display on your shelf or as standout additions to your collection.						
Various	33 Singles G-EX		Minimum 40				
Lot 13	George Hurd Ideal Deck	NY83	1920				
USA	NYCCC made this attractive deck for George Hurd, a NYC stationer. It features strong gold edges (70%) and colorful Aces and Jokers. Anyone in the club with initials "CLR"?						
NYCC	52+J+Blank EX/NM OB1-		Minimum 40				
Lot 14	Craddock's Soap Stage Souvenir Deck	SE2/A4	1895				
USA	Combination advertising/souvenir deck with stage stars of the era on each card. The Joker has a vertical crease along the left edge; otherwise, the cards are in EX condition. The box is rough, but we seldom see the box. Maybe the best version of this deck you will find.						
USPC	52+J+Ad EX OB3-		Minimum 90				

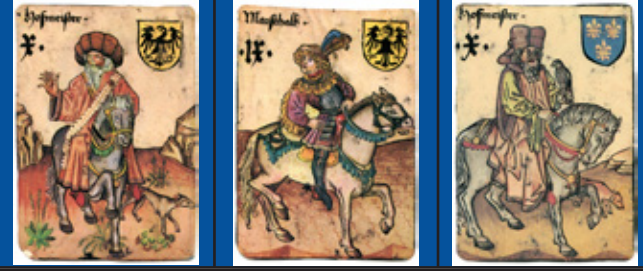
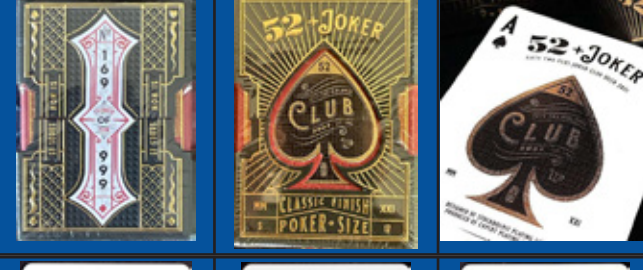

Lot 15	Baseball Game With Cards	1909	
USA	Very sophisticated baseball card game, complete with 71 cards and a Rules booklet, all in great condition. Likely rare; game too complicated to be popular. 5 pitch types, and each has a wide variety of results, including several that are uncommon. Box worn and taped.		
R.S. Snyder	71+Rules NM OB3- Panels Off	Minimum 140	  
Lot 16	Jeu Des Allies Deck	1919	
Belgium	World War I deck featuring elaborately designed courts with satirical figures, scenes, and slogans relating to the war. Sparkling gold edges; housed in a plain box.		
L. Biermans	52 EX Wrong Box	Minimum 150	  
Lot 17	2020 Club Deck UUSI	2020	
Taiwan	UUSI 2020 Club Deck. Fully custom artwork by Peter Dunham & Linnea Gits, inspired by natural earth tones. Designed exclusively for 52 Plus Joker and now sold out on our club website. A great opportunity to pick it up before it becomes harder to find.		
Expert Playing Card Co.	52+2J As Issued OB1	Minimum 50	  
Lot 18	Bicycle Four Seasons Deck Set	2024	
USA	Four decks, designed by Chinese artists, honor the four seasons. The decks are enclosed in a handsome, numbered case; only 1,288 were made, and they sold out quickly. A Chinese paper fan and four coordinated bookmarks are included.		
USPC	52+2Jx4 As Issued OB1x4	Minimum 50	  
Lot 19	New Era #46 Deck	US20 1896	
USA	The New Era brand was one of the most elegant decks produced by USPC; the design was copyrighted in 1896, but the exact date of manufacture is unknown. The courts are outstanding. Minor creasing noted on several cards. Missing the Joker.		
USPC	52 VG/EX Wrong Box	Minimum 75	  
Lot 20	Picket #515x Deck	CDN13a c1920	
Canada	This Picket deck was made at USPC's plant in Windsor, Ontario. The 15-cent tax stamps put the manufacture date in the early 1920s. The deck has gilded edges.		
USPC	52+J MS OB2	Minimum 30	  
Lot 21	Fireside Game Catalog	1899	
USA	Great catalog for USPC's inaugural game company, subsequently called the Cincinnati Game Co. Highlights 14 of the games and includes a complete price list for 1899-1900. We have never seen a Fireside catalog before; wonderful USPC ephemera.		
USPC	Book, 16 Pages EX	Minimum 100	  









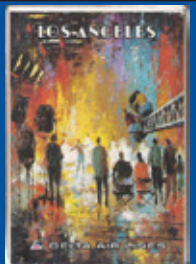


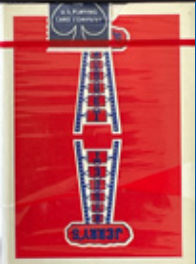

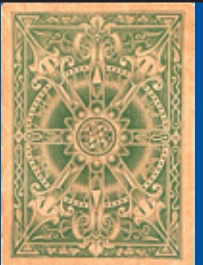







Lot 22	Royal Illuminated Deck	P22	1894		
USA	One of the most beautiful American decks with spectacular lithography and gold illumination. Celebrates the alliance of Germany (clubs), Austria (diamonds), Russia (spades) Italy (hearts); courts are royalty. Light euchre and soil; Joker light wrinkle & stain.				
NYCC	52+J EX Period Case	Minimum 300			
Lot 23	Peerless #304 Deck	SU4	1900		
USA	Peerless #304. Image of an unnamed lady in a hat on the back and Joker. Flawless gold edges. Box OB1. An extra card provides scoring for Bridge.				
Standard Playing Card Co.	52+J+EC NM OB1	Minimum 25			
Lot 24	Cincinnati Game #1108 White Squadron Deck		1900		
USA	The #1108 game features U.S. warships, 38 of which are named after a U.S. state. Complete with Cincinnati Educational Games price list and instructions in the box top.				
USPC	52+Games List EX/NM OB1-	Minimum 30			
Lot 25	Shakespeare Deck	Fournier Germanic Countries 204	1906		
Germany	This deck features beautiful court cards, including Richard III and Henry V. Bright gold corners; box says 52 cards but deck has 54.				
Dondorf	52+J+Info EX OB2	Minimum 100			
Lot 26	Las Vegas DD Set		c2010		
USA	Double deck set with historic Las Vegas photos on each card and the boxes. UNLV library provided the photos accessing 30+ collections in its archives. Cards show many celebrities, including Presidents, entertainers and the gangsters who built the early casinos.				
Cartamundi	52+2Jx2+Credits NM OB1-x2	Minimum 15			
Lot 27	Anna Held Cigars Deck	AB1	1900s		
USA	Anna Held, "Queen of All 5 Cent Cigars." Unique Joker and AS. Cards are in excellent condition, but there is no box.				
USPC	52+J+Ad EX No Box	Minimum 60			
Lot 28	Jeanne l'Hachette Transformation Deck	Field 44	1865		
France	This colorful transformation deck is named for the woman on the QS who led the defense of her town, Beauvais, against a siege in 1472. Beautiful courts; plain pink backs. Very good condition.				
B. P. Grimaud	52 VG+ No Box	Minimum 180			

Lot 29	St. Louis World's Fair Aluminum Deck	SX20/O2	1904		
USA	Rare Aluminum Souvenir Playing Cards from 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. Each card features a different scene from the fair. Card faces are all visible. Card backs show wear from use. The aluminum case is OB2 with a missing latch and an engraving attempt on the back.				
	Aluminum Mfg. Co.	52+J VG OB2	Minimum 250		
Lot 30	Buster Brown Deck	N8	1906		
USA	Buster Brown was a popular comic strip character. All cards are different, featuring a series of cartoons of Buster Brown and his dog Tige. Cards have light edge soil.				
	USPC	52+J VG/EX OB2	Minimum 45		
Lot 31	Woolley & Co. Deck		1860s		
UK	Woolley & Co. Standard deck with 2-way courts. No indices. Thick card stock. In very good condition, the 2S has a crease; the rest of the deck has soiling typical of age and wear. No box.				
	Woolley & Co.	52 VG No Box	Minimum 25		
Lot 32	1932 Olympics Deck	SE10	1932		
USA	A fund-raising deck for the 10th Olympiad in Los Angeles, the courts feature (no surprise) Hollywood stars. The backs show an athlete carrying a garland, while the pip cards feature flags of various participating nations.				
	P.G. Wenger	52+J EX OB2	Minimum 40		
Lot 33	Entertaining With Cards, 3rd Edition		1900		
USA	"Entertaining With Cards, 3rd Edition." 62-page booklet with suggestions on how to host a themed card party, "Rustic Party," "Picnic Party," "Dickens Card Party," etc. Plus 14 pages of advertising for Congress Playing Cards and card accessories. A hoot to read!				
	USPC	Book, 76 Pages VG/EX	Minimum 30		
Lot 34	Budweiser Beer 3 Deck Set		2019		
USA	Budweiser's logo has appeared on countless decks, but these three are seldom seen. One was produced for soccer's Premier League for distribution in Asia. The purpose of the other two, other than advertising, isn't clear.				
	USPC	52+2Jx3 As Issued OB1x3	Minimum 30		
Lot 35	Kings Wild Tigers Gilded DD Set		2019		
USA	Kings Wild Project produced this numbered, gold and silver-gilded Tigers set in 2019, and with only 200 sets made, it sold out quickly. This matched set is 017 of 200.				
	USPC	52+2Jx2 As Issued OB1x2	Minimum 100		

Lot 36	Alice Millennium Deck	2000				
UK	<p>"Alice Millennium" transformation deck designed by E.M. Lewis, #36/50. A top-tier deck by a top-tier artist, it was found during recent housecleaning on a forgotten shelf and is in immaculate condition. See AS on front cover. A true treasure!</p>					
E.M. Lewis	52+2J+Title Card As Issued OB1	Minimum 200				
Lot 37	Art Deco Table Tennis Deck	MSN1a	1935			
USA	<p>Lovely art deco deck with partially worn silver edges. No box, but does have the Arrco tax stamp and Quality Inspector note. Housed in plastic case.</p>					
Arrco	52+J EX/NM No Box	Minimum 10				
Lot 38	Congress Martha Washington Deck	US6c	1901			
USA	<p>These Congress decks with the named Joker are very popular. The condition is excellent, with bright gold edges and slight euchre wear. The box is solid but well-worn.</p>					
USPC	52+J EX OB3	Minimum 40				
Lot 39	2006 Club Deck Mattson	2006				
China	<p>2006 Carla Mattson Transformation Club Deck. One of the earliest 52 Plus Joker club decks, featuring whimsical transformation-style artwork. Only offered at auction a handful of times, making this a great chance to add it to your collection.</p>					
Shanghai Yushen Playing Card Co.	52+2J Mint OB1	Minimum 60				
Lot 40	Leipziger Skat Deck	1897				
Germany	<p>This deck commemorates the anniversary of the Leipzig Fair in 1897 with scenes from the fair and of local characters. It has bright gold corners; the beautiful box is rough, booklet is taped.</p>					
Schneider & Co.	32+Bklt NM OB3	Minimum 150				
Lot 41	USPC Card Games Book 1914-1915	1914				
USA	<p>19th edition in this annual series. B & W advertising in back promotes several brands including Congress and Bicycle, each showing 12 designs. Seven of the Bicycle designs are rare, including 4 different Plaid backs and Snowflake. Binding still tight.</p>					
USPC	Book, 268 Pages EX	Minimum 20				
Lot 42	Hyatt Roller Bearings Deck	AB5	c1915			
USA	<p>Fabulous advertising deck complete with original mailing box from Hyatt and 3 extra cards. Automobile history: Customer List card includes over 100 cars that are now long obsolete. EX/NM condition with bright gold edges.</p>					
USPC	52+J+3EC EX/NM OB2 In Hyatt Mailing Box	Minimum 130				

Lot 43	Vanda Planets 8 Deck Set	2018			
USA	Vanda Planets were a big success on Kickstarter. Full set includes decks for all 8 planets (Pluto is not a "planet," wasn't included). Each deck comes with a Solar System map card. Set is packed in a cello-wrapped jewel case. A beauty for your star-gazer shelf.				
USPC	52+2Jx8+2EC As Issuedx8	Minimum 75			
Lot 44	Dougherty Private Label Advertising Deck	AD15 c1905			
USA	Mysterious advertising deck made for "WFK." Back features a luxury railroad car called St. Nicholas, with a "K" in the upper photo. All pips, A-10, have a factory overprint of the Joker; Jack-King are standard. Why? Has a transformation look. Great condition.				
A. Dougherty	52+J NM OB1	Minimum 85			
Lot 45	Pan American Expo Souvenir Deck	SX18 1901			
USA	Nice souvenir deck of the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, NY in 1901. Each card features a different building of the fair's exhibitors (although not the USPC building). Cards have bright gold edges and are unused.				
Pan Am Souvenir Playing Card Co.	52+J NM OB2	Minimum 60			
Lot 46	Goodall & Son	c1880			
England	This early British deck has a beautiful back highlighted in gold. It has no indices, and the pips are one-way. The courts have tinted faces. The deck is very crisp but shows signs of use. A lovely example of an early square-cornered deck.				
Goodall & Son	52 EX No Box	Minimum 50			
Lot 47	Native American Playing Cards Deck				
USA	A Mint sealed deck with what appears to be an eagle and a Native American woman framed within a dreamcatcher. The courts are comprised of Native American figures. The images are from an opened deck.				
Whispering Winds	52+2J MS OB1	Minimum 5			
Lot 48	USPC 1899 Calendar	1899			
USA	Beautiful advertising calendar (6.5"x4.25"); missing October and December. Each calendar page is bright and colorful; reverse sides have advertising for various USPC brands and products, including Bicycle. Some staining on the advertising sides. Very scarce.				
USPC	Calendar, 10 Pages VG/EX	Minimum 80			
Lot 49	Willis Russell Baseball Boys Deck	SE16 1906			
USA	Back is "Shoot It Right This Way" in this scarce series. Includes patented Substitute card by Russell. Several cards have a light to moderate crease; KS, KC, JD, and 5H have an edge tear (backs shown in photo). Joker and Sub cards retain gold edges, remainder well worn.				
Willis Russell	52+J+Substitute Card G/VG No Box	Minimum 140			

Lot 50	Cullingworth Hard a Port Insert Deck	I15a	1890		
USA	We seldom see this version of the Hard a Port tobacco insert decks with the "Cullingworth" overprint. The 5H, 7D, and QS have a different overprint as shown online. KS has light staining with a darker tone. The plain box has come apart, with no end panels.				
Lindner Eddy & Clauss	52+J VG+Plain Box - No End Panels	Minimum 240			
Lot 51	Hofamterspiel Repro Deck		1976		
Austria	Beautiful reproduction of 1400s cards; each card is like a painting. Cards are quite different, being about twice the size of regular cards. The 137-page book is in German and English.				
Piatnik	48 Mint OB1+Book	Minimum 30			
Lot 52	Denver Rio Grande Souvenir Deck	SR10	1915		
USA	Denver & Rio Grande Western and Western Pacific Railways Souvenir deck. Mint sealed in torn wrapper with USPC seal intact. Light edge scuffs on the box. A real beauty!				
USPC	52+J MS OB1-	Minimum 20			
Lot 53	2021 Club Deck Stockholm17 #169		2021		
China	2021 Club Deck by Lorenzo Gaggiotti (Stockholm17). Numbered #169. This was the fastest-selling 52 Plus Joker club deck to date, gone in under two hours. A standout piece by one of modern card design's most respected creators.				
Expert Playing Card Co.	52+2J As Issued OB1	Minimum 120			
Lot 54	Seagram's Bowen's Deck		c1927		
Canada	Scarce deck featuring the thoroughbred racehorse, Sir Harry. Owned by the Seagram's family, it won the 1927 Coffroth Handicap, the richest NA race then. Deck was gently opened to expose contents, but with glassine completely intact. Beautiful back has gold highlights.				
USPC	52+J+EC MS OB1	Minimum 85			
Lot 55	Bicycle Prism Gilded Deck		2016		
USA	The Prism Gilded deck has unique holographic gilded edges that sparkle through the cutouts on the side of tuck. Only 1000 were produced; this is number 0020.				
USPC	52+2J As Issued OB1	Minimum 75			
Lot 56	Tigers #101 Deck	US1	1881		
USA	The Tigers 101 was Russell & Morgan's "economy" deck, made from 1881 until the 1930s. The cards are worn, several have small creases and the Joker has a chipped edge, but its "pedigree" as the first brand from R&M makes it a must-have. 2-way courts are featured.				
Russell & Morgan Co.	52+J VG/EX Wrong Box	Minimum 100			

Lot 57	Bezique #87 Deck	US41	1899				
USA	Scarce USPC brand, one of two issued without indices. Rare to find the wrapper and USPC seal, which was opened. The backs are blank; this beautiful Mint deck is housed in an inner slipcase, but the outer box is missing.						
USPC	32 Mint+Inner Box+Wrapper		Minimum 75				
Lot 58	Celluloid Trump Marker		c1900				
USA	Attractive celluloid "Don't Monkey With The Score" trump marker and scorekeeper. U. S. Tires was a brand of U. S. Rubber Co., which was merged with B.F. Goodrich in 1896. A lovely addition to any card collection.						
Whitehead & Hoag	1 EX		Minimum 20				
Lot 59	14 Delta Airlines Souvenir Decks		c1970				
USA	Nice Delta destinations lot. Chi. and LA are MS, Bermuda is NM, and N.C. is EX, light use. The 5 scenic decks by B&B have 2 Jokers; the 9 celebrity decks by USPC have one Joker, except Atlanta, which has 2. The Atlanta deck has Delta airplane on Aces as shown online.						
USPC; Brown & Bigelow	52+1 or 2Jx14 Mint OB1x14		Minimum 25				
Lot 60	Jerry's Nugget 1970 DD Set		1970				
USA	The rise of the Jerry's Nugget Casino deck from humble advertising deck to a titan among vintage collectibles is remarkable. Everyone loves the iconic back and white borders. Both original decks have slits in the cello but no harm otherwise. See box on front cover.						
USPC	52+2Jx2 MS OB1x2		Minimum 100				
Lot 61	Dougherty Excelsior Euchre Deck	AD7	c1885				
USA	The Excelsior brand went through several changes since it was introduced in 1859. This deck, which includes 7 through ace in four suits, has a Little Joker and two-way courts, placing it among the later printings of the deck. All cards are in individual plastic sleeves.						
Andrew Dougherty	32+J Mint No Box		Minimum 100				
Lot 62	Les Geants D'un Mythe Deck		1983				
France	Each card is a caricature of a Hollywood legend, including Marilyn Monroe, Charlie Chaplin, and Humphrey Bogart. Missing the Jokers.						
B. P. Grimaud	52 NM OB2		Minimum 10				
Lot 63	Tiffany Harlequin Transformation Deck	T4	1879				
USA	Considered the most artistic of all the American transformation decks with humorous courts and pip designs. Red backs, worn gold edges (50%) and original box missing half of the top case (shown online). Most cards excellent, bright & clean; some have light soil.						
Tiffany & Co.	52+Blank VG/EX OB3-		Minimum 450				

LOT #63 - Tiffany Harlequin Transformation Deck



LOT #64 - Lawrence & Cohen Illuminated Bezique Deck

ORIGIN: USA

MAKER: Lawrence & Cohen

YEAR: 1863

REFERENCE: Hochman NY10

CONDITION: 32 complete, NM-

OPENING PRICE: \$300

Complete Lawrence & Cohen Illuminated Bezique deck with gold edges, no box. A rare and visually striking Civil War–era deck.

All cards are illuminated, with gold detailing around the pips.

Includes a beautiful Ace of Spades. The 8 of Clubs (pictured below) has a small stain. The King of Hearts features an inverse pentagram in the pip, and the court cards are elegant and one-way.

