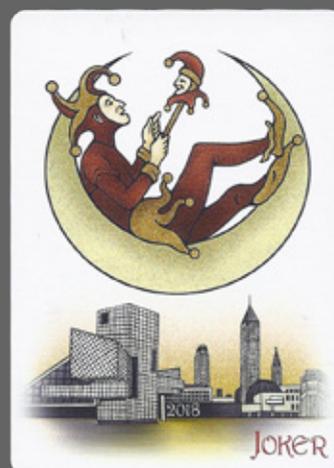
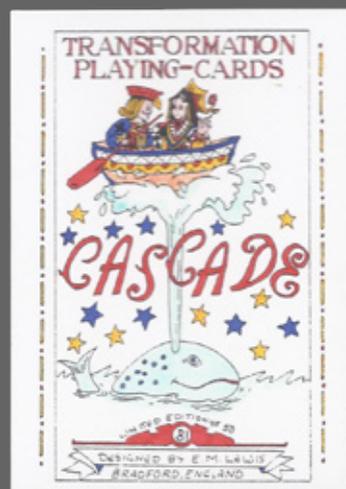


THE NEWSLETTER

OF 52 PLUS JOKER

# CLEAR *the* DECKS



THE PLAYING-CARD COLLECTORS CLUB

VOL. XL

MARCH 2026

N° 1

# 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  
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CA. 94022-4234 USA

Or use Paypal (your dues +\$3) to Steve Bowling  
Email: [payments@52plusjoker.org](mailto: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](mailto:paul.bostock@gmail.com)

Rates for advertisements: payable to Steve above:

¼ page \$ 45  
½ page \$ 75  
full page \$ 145

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

## APRIL AUCTION

All the lots presented in this Clear The Decks issue will be auctioned live in an **online auction on April 26th**. We have a wide variety of antique and modern decks, singles and ephemera. Even If you will be attending online, you may want to submit bids to Steve Bowling and we will enter proxy bids on your behalf. Proxy bidders have been very successful in prior auctions. See the Auction Rules on page 30.

**WEBSITE** [www.52plusjoker.org](http://www.52plusjoker.org)

## CLUB OFFICERS

Lee Asher – President, Publicity, Marketing,  
Card Culture Editor  
Steve Bowling – Treasurer/Conventions  
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Phil Bollhagen – Founder, CTD Editor, Auctioneer  
Lenny Schneir – Founding President  
Bob Harrison – Founding Secretary/Treasurer

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

Lot #29 Great Mogul Dos Tigres #25 Deck (Ace)  
Lot #43 Four Continents Deck (Ace)  
Lot #56 Cascade Transformation Deck (Title)  
Lot #22 Hustling Joe Deck (Pip)  
Lot #36 Golden Diamond Deck (Order Form)  
Lot #57 2018 Club Deck (Joker)

## REAR COVER (inside) See Auction Listing

Lot #70 Anheuser-Busch Spanish-American War Deck (9 courts)

**REAR COVER (outside)** Lot # 8 Once Upon a Time Deck (8 cards)

## The Knave Reports



Welcome to the first Clear The Decks for 2026. I hope you are enjoying your playing cards and keeping up with any resolutions you made. I am delighted that this issue has turned into a bit of a monster. It has the most pages since I became editor in 2017.

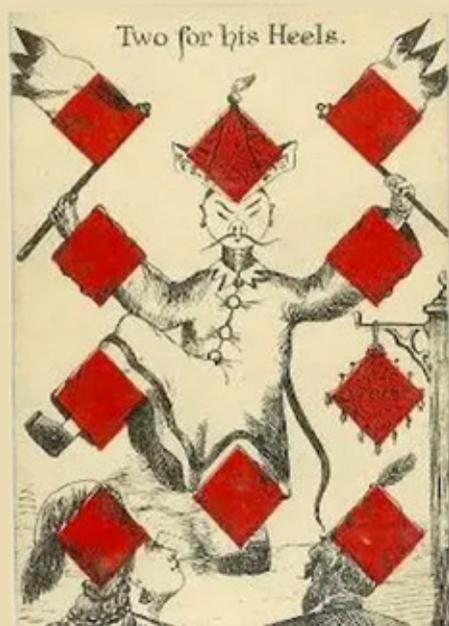
The club's spring auction is coming soon and there is a full listing beginning on p31. There is, as always, a very wide selection of collectable cards from antiques to contemporary designers. A wide range of interests is covered such as a good selection of transformation cards, hand made cards (both transformations and others), several USPC and bicycle sets but also some rare and one-off makers, some souvenir cards, a German-suited set and some singles.

If you are not familiar with auctions or you don't feel comfortable with what's going on, we've put together a guide with some advice from our own experience, see page 4. These auctions are a valuable benefit of membership because they make financial sense for both buyer and seller as well as offering real variety and quality in the decks that come through. The club just takes 10% from the seller. Commercial auctions usually take 40-50% in total, coming from both the seller and the buyer.

A warm thank you from the club to Lorenzo Gaggiotti Stockholm 17 for our fabulous cover graphics! Thanks to all our contributors: Lee Asher, Erik Gerard, Alex Clays, Steve Bacon, Dave Motto, Dave Serette, Steve Bowling and Nick Prentice. Thanks also to our wider Auction team and to our proof readers.

Several of these authors are first time contributors and by all means feel inspired to join them and send an article. We would welcome your contribution. 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](mailto:paul.bostock@gmail.com)



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Store: [www.rubylane.com/shop/twoforhisheels](http://www.rubylane.com/shop/twoforhisheels)

## Direct From The Desk Of Your Club President



### OUR APRIL 2026 PLAYING CARD AUCTION

We'd love for you to join our online auction on Sunday, April 26th, at 3 PM (EST), where a fantastic selection of 70 different playing card lots will be up for grabs. As you browse all the treasures, a few special pieces stand out.

Keep in mind, I haven't submitted any decks. I'm excited to share some personal favorites with you, and my choices come straight from the heart.

#### LOT #8: ONCE UPON A TIME

Elaine Lewis, a celebrated hand-drawn artist, released a stunning transformation deck that brings a classic children's story to life. Numbered and still in its unopened plastic, it comes As Issued OB1, meaning flawless condition.

#### LOT #19: HARGRAVE - A HISTORY OF PLAYING CARDS

A cornerstone for collectors. Hargrave's 468-page hardback, in excellent condition, signed by John Omwake and Catherine Perry Hargrave (1930). Dust jacket shows minor wear, but the signatures make this edition exceptional. *Note to Self: I need to win the lottery!*

#### LOT #29: GREAT MOGUL DOS TIGRES #25 DECK

By Karl Gerich, another of the celebrated hand-drawn artists, this Near Mint deck includes four extra Aces. A highlight for serious collectors, especially after the wonderful talk about Gerich at our last convention.

#### LOT #57: 2018 CLUB DECK

Mint 2018 Club deck #384 of 500 by Randy Butterfield. Features unique courts, striking Jokers with the club logo, and an extra card listing all 52 Plus Joker conventions. And that box! So clever. The Butterfield club deck seldom appears at auction.

#### LOT #64: MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE ACE OF SPADES

Issued in 1824 to honor the Marquis de Lafayette on his return to the USA, this Jazaniah Ford Ace of Spades was made in Milton, Massachusetts. Somewhat faded, it carries a sense of history and charm that makes it a standout for any collector.

#### LOT #65: BICYCLE BLACK RESERVE NOTE DECK

An early As Issued Bicycle Black Reserve, 2013, #14 of 1,550, signed by Jackson Robinson. Numbered and signed, it's a real must-have for any serious Kings Wild Project collector.

#### LOT #70: ANHEUSER-BUSCH SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR DECK

With a perfect mix of history and advertising, this deck is a conversation starter you'll put on your shelf! Comes in Near Mint condition, with sparkling gold edges and courts showing Spanish-American War officers, including Teddy Roosevelt.

Join us at our upcoming online auction hosted through Zoom on the club's website. Make sure you're logged in to your club account before bidding begins; otherwise, your bids won't go through.

Placing bids is quick and easy, so participate and grab those decks you've been eyeing.

Remember, only current club members can join the fun, so double-check your login details ahead of time.

I'm looking forward to seeing you online and wish you the best of luck landing your favorite decks.

Happy Bidding!

*Your faithful club President,*  
Lee Asher

Now Available For Purchase

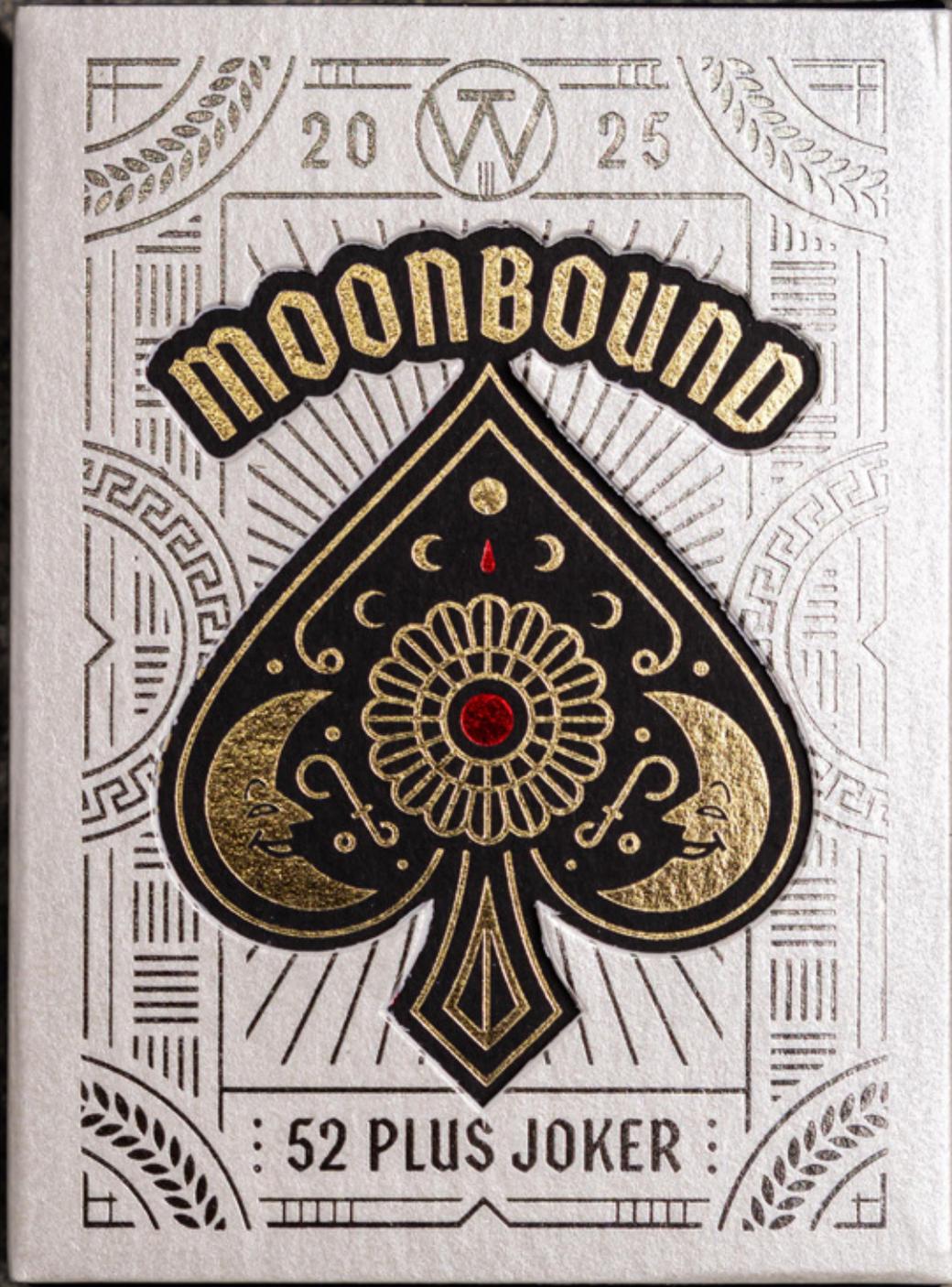


Photo by Chris Moyer.

By Giovanni Meroni

## 2025 Club Decks

Grab your cards now at our club website before they're all gone.

Limited: 3 Decks Per Member

## How to enjoy buying and selling cards at an auction

Paul Bostock, Lee Asher, Steve Bowling

Do you feel uncomfortable at the thought of an auction? The setting can be intimidating and a certain amount of fear is perfectly natural. It is worth conquering your fears because auctions are a very good way to buy and sell items for your collection and it is usually very enjoyable to participate. When I started I had two common fears and now I really enjoy auctions, even when I don't get something I was hoping for: I tell myself the price went above what I wanted to pay and I didn't want it as much as the winner did.

We will talk about overcoming the common fears in a moment, but we first note that an element of nerves is natural before any live event. Actors, musicians and sports competitors often say that harnessing their nerves positively is part of preparation. Feeling some adrenaline means our body is getting ready for action, and we can think of it as excitement.

So let's deal with my two fears. First up was the classic auction fear that I might place a bid by mistake and it's way more than I can afford. This doesn't really happen, because auctioneers know that people scratch their heads, nod, stretch and so on. Auctioneers tune-in to the gestures and mannerisms of their audience. An auction will have a standard way to make a bid: in a commercial auction, participants usually get a numbered paddle and hold it up to bid. In our club auctions we wave to attract the auctioneer's attention. If you do, somehow, wave your hands accidentally and it's taken as a bid, all is not lost: gestures like shaking your head can tell the auctioneer you didn't intend the bid. It really isn't good for the auctioneer to sell to someone who didn't want the item and can't pay!

My other fear was feeling that everyone else was an expert and I'd do something wrong and make a fool of myself. The key to conquering this fear is to do your homework - find out how the auction works before it starts. If you do something wrong - waving when you should be holding up a paddle - it's likely the auctioneer will just ignore you!

I asked some in-house experts for their advice and President Lee Asher had a great list of tips as follows:

### 1. Set A Clear Ceiling Before You Bid

Before you place a bid, choose the highest amount you feel comfortable paying. Base it on your budget and what the item is worth to you. Once you pick that number, keep it in mind so you do not get carried away during the auction.

### 2. Look at past results to understand value

Spend a few minutes checking what similar items have sold for. Sites like eBay, Worthpoint, SoCal Playing Card Auctions, and Potter and Potter are great for research. It helps you better understand market value and keeps you from guessing.

### 3. Always check the condition

If you are bidding online, feel free to ask for extra details or photos. If you are coming to the live auction, look the lots over in person. A simple check can prevent surprises later.

### 4. Get comfortable with how bidding works

Auctions move in set increments, so each bid increases the price by a fixed amount. You can bid yourself or use proxy bidding, which means Steve Bowling will bid for you up to your max. Sometimes two or more people bid back and forth quickly. It's normal, and part of the thrill.

### 5. Take your time and ignore FOMO

You do not need to win every lot you bid on. Another great deck will always come along. Staying patient helps you avoid emotional decisions.

### 6. Expect a tiny bit of lag online

If you bid at the last moment, give yourself a little time so your bid goes through. The software may have a slight delay during busy moments, and waiting until the final second can cause you to miss out.

### 7. Know what happens after you win

If you win a lot, you will receive a message with payment instructions. We will guide you through the following steps, including shipping. When your item arrives, look it over to make sure everything matches the description.

## 8. Give yourself credit

Everyone is new at this once. Even experienced bidders sometimes feel they messed up. The more you take part, the easier and more fun it gets. But how is it possible to be happy about *not* getting something you wanted? If you take Lee's advice you'll have done enough homework to know about the value and you'll have set a limit accordingly. Instead of "I wish I'd won that deck", how about "I wanted that, but not at that price". There's also a common mistake we all make. Let's say you bid up to \$950 and an item finally sells at \$1050. The error is thinking that you could have got it for just that bit extra. It's an error because you really don't know what would happen if you carried on bidding. It could be that the winner would have paid \$1,500 or even more.

The key is to know that *you and only you* choose whether or not you bid, so any potential spending is within your control.

### **Advice for Selling**

Many members will know Steve Bowling, the club's Treasurer and Convention Tsar: This is a man who likes to get a good deal. Steve is a key member of our Auction team and he has some advice that will be particularly useful for sellers.

As a seller you have 3 options: the Club Auction, eBay or an Auction House.

#### Club Auction:

Cost to you = 10% commission.

Bidders are club members.

All 750 members will see your deck/item.

Almost zero work for you

#### eBay:

Cost to you = 14% commission

plus required paypal, 4%, so about 18% total  
Bidders can be anyone, anywhere but they may not see the listing. And they must pay sales tax in most US States.

You do all the work

#### Auction House:

Cost to you = 25% commission usually  
Bidders can be anyone, anywhere but unless they are known bidders to the auction house, they may not be advised of the auction and not see the auction.

In addition, they must pay a Buyer's premium, usually 20 – 25%, plus professional shipping charges and sales tax in most US States.

The dollar difference to you as Seller with an Auction House is about 33% *less*. Suppose a Buyer is willing to pay \$200 *gross including all costs* for your deck: With the club you will get \$180. With an Auction House you will get a bid of \$160 (because the buyer knows they have to pay fees on top), and then you pay commission, netting \$120.

Decks with a value of less than \$100 are often rejected, or lumped together in a group lot. Almost zero work for you.

Generally the club auction will be best for you. If your item might attract other collectors (baseball, military), eBay may be worth your additional time/work investment.

Steve also commented on your options as a buyer. You have the same 3 options: club auctions, eBay and Auction Houses. If you have the time, you may find playing card decks and/or related items on any of the three. The advantage with the club is that you can rely on accurate descriptions/grading and are guaranteed satisfaction – you can return for any reason. Buying from an auction house is normally a binding contract.

Participating in an auction should be fun, and winning the auction for a special deck is a great feeling - so if you haven't been sure, give it a go!

*This wonderful Dondorf ace of hearts is from the club auction: see Lot 43.*



## Jokers Wild: Variations on a Theme

Erik Gerard

I find it really interesting when artists create variations on a well known piece. Some of the differences are subtle, like a simple change of jacket color, while others are wildly different, like the Graveyard version of the classic Bicycle joker. As you're about to see, the Bicycle jokers come in a really wide variety of variations, though there are others that have more limited modifications.

### Bicycle Cards

We are all readily aware of the classic Bicycle joker, a king riding a bicycle, but are you aware there are over 20 variations of this joker? I love seeing what the artists will do to make this iconic joker different.

For those of you who are not aware, the "808" on the joker and Ace of Spades has become a well-known number assigned to bicycle cards by United States Playing Card Co. The series started with Tigers 101, then Sportsman 202, Army Navy 303 and so on.



While this first set, above, shows variations on the classic Bicycle joker, the next selections go further with design elements from the deck they accompany.





Freedom to anchor: The freedom and unpredictability of the flute-playing jester are anchored in the stability of his own situation, suggesting both independence and security.



### Tally-Ho

Tally-Ho playing cards use an image of a huntsman as their joker. Here you'll find the classic version, an "old" version, which just looks old but really isn't, and one with a black background w/ silver print version.

### The Flute Playing joker

This joker shows up in several decks and is a classic. The spirit of The Fool: In tarot, the joker is linked to The Fool, who is a carefree, childlike spirit with "unlimited potential". The flute represents this freedom, as a wind instrument requires breath and is not fixed like other stringed instruments.

You'll see that some have the joker leaning on an anchor which symbolizes the duality of the joker card — the potential for both joy and chaos. The image of the flute-playing jester on an anchor suggests the contradiction that encapsulates the essence of the joker. It may represent:

Playfulness within stability: A wild and unpredictable element (the joker and flute) that exists within a system of order (the anchor).

The grounding of hope: The anchor of hope can help one remain resilient and stable, even as the "wild-card" of fate (the joker) plays its tune and introduces an element of chaos or unpredictability.



## Joker Dropping Cards

The classic version of this is the joker spilling a deck of cards onto a globe. The alternate version is with the joker holding the King of Hearts, which comes in two different colors. These are helpful for magicians who need a King of Hearts prediction.



## Joker's Proboscis

Apparently, a large nose is part of what makes a joker funny as there are numerous variations on this particular theme. Several depict jokers carrying scepters and wearing classic costumes. On some, check out the collar and shoes! Others have the joker sitting cross-legged with one shoe off. Then you have the standing jokers, again holding their scepters. I also like the head-only versions.

Erik Gerard is a retired full-time magician who has collected over 500 unique jokers! You can find his weekly "Jokers Wild" posting on:

Facebook: [facebook.com/wizardandoz](https://facebook.com/wizardandoz)

Instagram: [instagram.com/thewizardandoz](https://instagram.com/thewizardandoz)

TikTok: [tiktok.com/@thewizardandoz](https://tiktok.com/@thewizardandoz)

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## My Playing Card Story

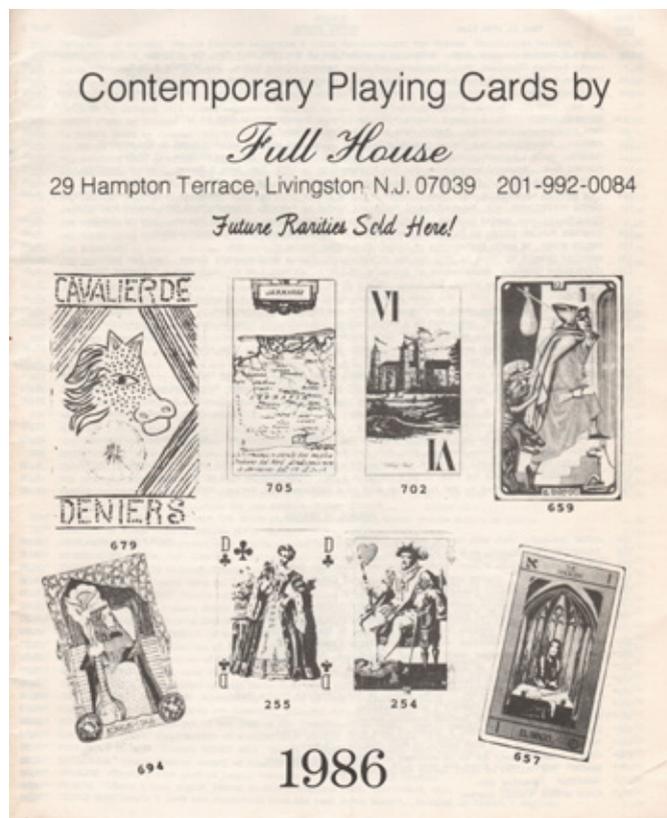
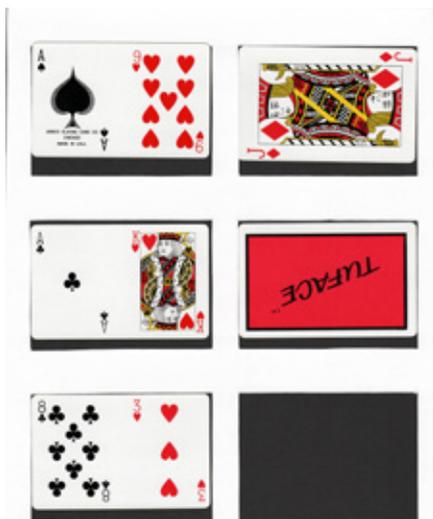
David Motto

As I began to write this, I had been amassing decks recently for a little over 9 months. Has this given birth to a collector or a hoarder?

“He who dies with the most toys wins.” A phrase I learned from co-workers when I worked for the IT department at the central office of a chain of retail stores in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas and Florida. That phrase might be what drove me at first. I read one of the books on collecting playing cards (the one by Mark Pickvet was in our local library) and soon after I began in earnest. The recommendation was to pick a type of deck to collect and stick with it. I ignored the recommendation and just picked up anything inexpensive that I found remotely interesting.

### When it all began.

The Toy House was a local institution in my city (long before Toys R Us). Originally in a house, the family-owned store moved to a much larger venue a few miles away. It expanded its stock but retained the values that it started with: nothing that needed batteries, powered only by the child’s imagination. They carried playing cards, erector sets, Lincoln Logs, Lionel and other train sets, model kits, puzzles, games, bicycles and tricycles, sports equipment, dolls, puppets, books, balsa wood, rockets, and eventually items for babies such as cribs and clothing. After many decades the family closed the location and the space is now occupied by a furniture store. I miss it! I still have Dal-Jon PentaKribb with Tuface and some Hoyle Mini decks I bought there, along with other games like Drueke chess and checker sets.



I also bought card decks at other local stores including a deck of pinups at a liquor store that I discarded. Another source was mailings from Contemporary Playing Cards by Full House, 29 Hampton Terrace, Livingston NJ 07039. “Future Rarities Sold Here!” The only flyer I have left from that era is a 1986 list.

I never participated in any of the auctions they held. I just bought some decks at the list price in the flier. I no longer have any of the decks I bought from them, and am unsure what they would have been. I wish I still had the flyers; maybe I could figure out what I used to have. Perhaps someone in the club has some flyers?

Growing up I played cards with relatives. Grandparents taught my cousins, brother and me a simple game called Kings on the Corner. It was a good game for children, with easy rules. I have only run across it two other times: once in *Hoyle’s Modern Encyclopedia of Card Games* as Kings in the Corners and the other time in a boxed game (from the Toy House!) which “improved” it by adding a plastic card holder for the draw pile and to line up the plays and the corners, as well as some chips for scoring.

One uncle had an interesting game he called Rum. Different from other Rummy variants, there were four deals (one for each player) and you couldn’t play on

another's cards until you put down your own meld of three or more cards. Other relatives tried in vain to teach me Cribbage; it was not until I worked for the aforementioned chain store that someone taught me the game, as well as Euchre. In return I taught them to play Seven-Up and Enfle from the Gibson book, and Creights (a version of Crazy Eights from Games Magazine that was much like the later game Uno).

Another cousin-in-law had a Braille deck (he was blind, but that did not stop him from being a triathlete). I always wondered if there was a way for him to cheat while using the deck (not that he would!).

Once when my younger sister went off to college, I was helping her move in and during a break in the action, one of the students taught me 500 Rummy. I have since introduced it to many friends and relatives.

In college I was playing cards with friends, and the one sitting across from me said he could see my cards reflected in my eyeglasses. What did I do then? I shut my eyes!

#### Items sold on eBay:

- ♣ James Bond 007 Tarot like the one used in Live and let Die (2 of them? - maybe sent the second one when the buyer of the first complained to me about what I had sent him).
- ♣ Pino Zac Anamorphic deck.
- ♣ Deck with bar codes.
- ♣ Zbyte deck.

#### Given away or sold at a garage sale:

- ♣ ESP (not marked) deck from Piatnik I used in a high school science class that proved one of my classmates was psychic (see above story about my glasses for another possible explanation).
- ♣ Kling metal playing cards and magnetic board.
- ♣ Split card game.
- ♣ Scan card game.
- ♣ Casino deck.
- ♣ Marked deck.

Also special card games given to relatives including Cwards, Krypto, Royalty, Oh Scrud, 3M Bookshelf Games Challenge Bridge and Foil, Double Trouble, Flinch, Fill or Bust, Josh, Vole, O'No 99, 100 Plus, Dot-O, Pressman's Black and Blue, Prism, Gypsy Witch, Dutch Blitz, Rook, Flinch, Tarot trump.



I gave a deck of Kems to a friend that is now disintegrating (the cards, not the friend).

#### When I started again...

With perhaps a dozen decks of cards in the house, in January 2025 I began purchasing Bicycle mini decks (online) and Muralis decks (Blain's Farm & Fleet (in person and ordering; the price was right, then having the order partially fulfilled then cancelled by the seller; ordering from a different source)).



#### Bicycle Muralis

Then I began to search for interesting decks from:

- ♣ Walgreens, bookstores, Walmart, Sam's Club and other department stores.
- ♣ Thrift stores (a single Bicycle Solitaire deck (high-wheel) from a set of them, leading to Bicycle Games are Fun buying spree).
- ♣ Shift to antique malls and flea markets. Some of my finds there have shaped what I am looking for, including mini decks, foreign decks, souvenir and advertising decks, double decks, and decks with four indices. Sometimes I run into one that ticks more than one box, like the souvenir Lufthansa deck that had four indices.
- ♣ The counterfeit deck (box).

## My types of cards

I came up with my own categories and numbering system. Some of my categories include incomplete/mixed decks and damaged decks. I have found decks with four indices, foreign decks, mini decks, advertising decks, and so many souvenir (airline and other) decks. Transparent decks. Odd shaped decks. Yes, Umbra and Splish Splash decks.



*Umbra splish splash*

## Inexpensive decks from discount stores and not-so-inexpensive Bicycle and Theory 11 decks.

I have lumped Advertising into Souvenirs. I might break them out again as Souvenirs are getting too numerous. I store the decks by type and by manufacturer or distributor and the boxes I use (28 quart Sterilite) can only hold so many decks. I use larger boxes for collections like bricks, half-bricks, and double decks, odd-shaped decks (triangular, square, crooked, Splish Splash) and similar items. I have created a spreadsheet to keep track of what I have and I want to scan some cards in order to determine who the manufacturer is or was. I separate Bicycles from other USPCC cards; will I fold them into the Carta Mundi category now?

♣ One antique mall had a very expensive deck which would be good if I was a collector and not a hoarder. I bought it after going back three times (each time hoping it was gone so I wouldn't have to make a decision). It was a Victory deck; inside the box was a location and date written in ink on both the top and bottom pieces. It said "Lake City Mich. Aug 1942" which might be the date the owner went into the

service (as I understand it, Victory decks came out in 1945). Lake City at the time was heavily involved in naval pilot training, using a makeshift aircraft carrier (on Lake Michigan) named the U.S.S. Wolverine, a converted paddle wheel steamer (a Steamboat - a card connection!). So far, this is the only deck I have that is older than I am. And it is the most I ever paid for a deck (perhaps not adjusted for inflation; the Kems I bought new in the 1970s and 1980s might have been more expensive in 2025 dollars).

♣ At another antique mall I bought a Foxcraft Metal Bridge Board with 4 decks (it was heavy!) and I had no idea what it was or why I bought it. Perhaps that is my secret: I don't know what I am doing.

I have had some problems online - with companies not individuals - including cancelled orders, being ignored and having fulfillment issues after paying for something. But most purchases have gone smoothly.

Reading about missing 10s of clubs in old issues of Clear The Decks reminded me that one of my cousins for whom I was buying decks with flowers on the back (for scrapbooking; it got to be a little ridiculous when she asked for certain flowers - roses and irises among others - when it comes to identifying flowers, I am in the position of the man who knew two tunes: one was Yankee Doodle and the other one wasn't). Recently she sent me two cards from one of those shiny silver-toned plastic decks with a hundred dollar bill on the back. Oddly, the cards she sent were the 10 and king of clubs. I assumed she was 10-king me for some of the decks I had sent her (groan!).

Earlier this year (2025) I was visiting another cousin and went to a large antique mall nearby. When I got back to their house with my haul (about 45 decks or so), one of her sons asked me if I had any "World War 2 airplane spotting" cards. I did not, but I had seen a deck of reproductions there. There was no time to go back to the mall during the trip. When I returned home, I went to several other antique malls and at one of them picked up a different reproduction spotter deck, and sent it to him. His mother said that it was in much better shape than the one he currently had. Since then I have bought more reproduction spotter decks online, just in case, and recently found another one from the 1980s (so, not World War 2 planes and not a reproduction) at a toy show.



*Military cards*

Yet another cousin was a US Marine. I found two decks at a flea market that had originally been sold at a Post Exchange (PX): a US Marine deck and a US Air Force deck, from The Military Playing Card Co (no longer in business). The faces had the usual corner indices, but instead of pips in the center there were single rank insignia (Private or Airman, Sergeant, Major, Colonel, etc.). Jokers had amusing caricatures of one of the members of the armed force on a 25 cent kiddie ride: a train for the Marine and a jet plane for the Air Force. Both had very large heads. After thanking me, the first thing she said was that you can't play Euchre with the cards (you can't use the 5s for scoring). Now my spreadsheet listing all my decks has a new column: No Euchre. She is a big Euchre player and puts on a tournament in her house some weekends. If I am lucky, she will invite me to one soon, and I will bring her some 4s, 5s and 6s from my incomplete decks (I call them "mixed"; or "damaged" if some of the cards are torn and thus identifiable from the back) which she can use as score cards.

I like to buy little decks online in bulk (smaller than minis) and give them to kids (grandkids of some cousins). First I ask them if they want to "play a little cards", then I hand them one of the miniature decks.

Some of my friends and relatives support me in my card buying. They see that I'm staying active in mind and body, and that I have a purpose. Others probably wonder about me. In the past, I have collected books, DVDs, CDs and LPs and cassette tapes, calculators, PC software, PCs and computers and when I was younger there were comic books (traded with neighbors) and baseball cards (clothes-pinned to bicycle spokes to make a sound like a motorcycle; the gum was so hard I could have used that as well).

At some point in my life I will give up my collection, perhaps at the end (I want people to pick over the decks and take what they want, and the rest to go to some charitable institution like Goodwill because many came from there and I feel bad depriving others of the cards, even though I always pay more than they are asking, usually rounding it up to the nearest \$5 or \$10). In the meantime, I can see myself jumping into a pile of cards (or playing 150,000 plus pickup) swimming around like Scrooge McDuck does in his piles of coins. Maybe I shouldn't wait too long.

As well, I am reminded also of the Star Trek episode Amok Time, where Spock says "Having is not so pleasing a thing, after all, as wanting. It is not logical, but it is often true."

On the other hand, I do derive some pleasure from going to a flea market, thrift store or antique mall that I haven't already picked clean (and there are very few of those, now) and finding something interesting. Once I get it home, I open it (I don't really care about resale value), and if it is old and the cards are stuck together from having been wrapped in plastic, I enjoy bending the cards first in one direction and then in another in order to free them a bit (the crackling sound is a little like what I imagine cracking your knuckles would be; I never cracked mine). In a few cases, I have damaged a card or two in a deck by peeling it off another card, and have also bought some old Kem cards that were already damaged in the corners. If the deck is not sealed (and I only pay a few dollars for those), I will open it up and go through the cards, sorting them by suit and then by rank, to see if any are missing. I have a large assortment of what I called "Mixed" decks; sometimes there are Jokers that can make up for the missing or damaged cards, and sometimes a card is missing but there is another card of the same rank but in a different suit. I have not found an excess of 10s of clubs.

One interesting deck I found at an antique market, is mentioned in Clear the Decks Vol. 15 No. IV page 15. I picked it up because it was round; it has a photo of a baseball on the back and photos from baseball games on the faces.

One fear I have is that I will somehow be evicted from my home right before Christmas. That presents a problem: would I "deck the halls" or "haul the decks"?

## The Dairy Deck

Dave Serrette, Nov 2025



On Monday afternoon I was struggling with the itis. With blood flow increasing to my digestive system, and my eyes fighting to stay open, it was going to be a slog to the end of the day when I could call it quits and head out for beers. While I was mid yawn, arms outstretched toward the heavens, my phone buzzed against the top of my particle board cubicle furniture.

It was an email.

I peeked at my lock screen with every intention of dismissing the notification. That is, until I saw who it was from.

It was from Kickstarter.

That by itself wasn't surprising. I have a habit of following damn near every project that I see, but I very rarely back any. As much as I love all of them, I'm trying to teach myself discipline. I'm trying to learn that I don't have to acquire every single thing out there, that a collection should be curated to tell a specific story, and that's what I'm doing with my collection.

I opened the email to see what it was about. That's when I saw it was about a deck that I had every intention of backing immediately. It was now live.

I did the responsible thing. I thought about it. I checked my bank account and credit card balances. I went over my P&L report which, as a freelancer, is always screaming in pain.

I carefully weighed the return on my investment.

Oh....Who am I trying to fool?

As soon as I opened the email, I scrolled down until I saw the most expensive option and smashed that pledge button. From the moment I saw some teasers on Reddit, I knew I had to have this deck in every single iteration it would ever come in.

*Haha such a random theme too. Like who asked for dairy playing cards? Lol - A Redditor*

People never know what they want until you give it to them. I'm sure someone richer than me said that. There's just no way that's an original quote of mine. I'm not that witty. That doesn't make it any less true though.

Simpletons.

But that doesn't change the fact that I had no idea that I needed a deck about milk until I saw it. From there, it was all I could do to not message the designer directly and say "Take my money. Please."

It was exactly that spirit of unbridled capitalism that Sinecure was taking aim at with his Dairy deck.

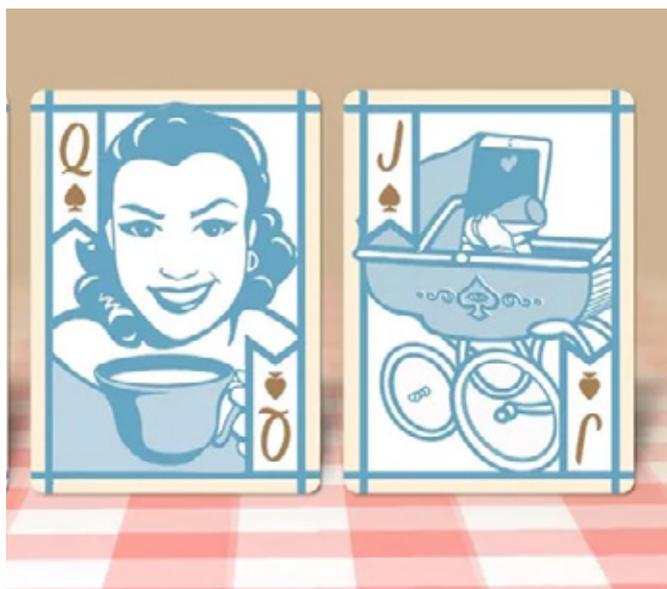
"By the time I was growing up folks had become cynical and suspicious of advertising. They'd built up an immunity to it. But you could still see cultural remnants of my parents' generation all around - where everything was simple, farm-fresh, sugary and so overtly positive - without a hint of irony."

At first glance, Dairy looks benign, almost boring, but any audience raised in late Twentieth century western cultures will instantly begin to notice the sinister contagions lurking underneath. Therein lies the genius of this design. That juxtaposing somehow makes it exist, all at once, as a piece of satirical faux-advertising pop art and an artifact from some alternate universe where the Cold-War era military industrial complex won leaving behind a sheen of milktoast desire driving rampant consumerism.

"I feel like there's an Atlas Aerospace sitting ominously behind every Daffodil Farm." Sinecure told me.

I fear, however, that the reality is far more insidious than this. “Even just trying to exaggerate everything a bit - overly wide smiles, ultra wholesome slogans - comes off as a bit cracked and creepy through a modern lens - without really trying.”

Cracked and creepy. I liked how he put that. I’ve seen the way the Queen of Spades looks at me. I can’t muster an ounce of trust for her despite her charming smile. There’s just something in her eyes.



And just yesterday I sat at a table in a restaurant eating dinner with some colleagues, and across the room I spotted Lil Dee raising a glass of Vitamin D homogenized to us. A feeling washed over me that I can only compare to what Mrs. Parsons must have felt looking into the eyes of her daughter just before the thought police broke down their door.



I began to wonder if I was going mad while I waited in line at Jenkins’ Pharmacy. They must have reported my purchasing habits by now.



I had finally cracked when I sat down to a bowl of cornflakes this morning, and noticed all the faces on the milk carton of those same children who I’d just seen.



“For me the dairy theme was already so jammed packed with ‘bright smiles’, ‘pure and wholesome’ iconography that it barely needed a push to go a bit dark.”

I fear I’ll never drink milk again.

As I began to come out of that lactose-induced haze, I wondered if it was all a lie. Or not a lie, but rather poetic truth about the world we were coming to inhabit.

This was all together a new experience for me. Pam and the Tax Card, after all, is about telling our stories through playing cards, but I cannot say that I'd ever seen a deck of playing cards that so aptly sucked me into its universe.

"Playing cards aren't an obvious vehicle for storytelling but I kinda like that you can't be too explicit with 54 tiny pictures that still need to function as cards. It's mostly just hints and snippets of a wider story."

I like to think of Sinecure sipping his tea at this moment, though I can't even say for sure if he drinks tea at all. If he does, this would punctuate the power of his statement about the ability of playing cards to construct a narrative. Dairy, more than most, has been able to place itself in that uncanny valley of metaexistence. It does not just tell a story, it creates a substitute reality that it can inhabit and draw the audience into.

This desire to differentiate, to tell a story through its creation, was what made Dairy such a perfect project for X-Decks to embark on. When Sinecure's vision met with X-Deck's practical production abilities, it would amalgamate into something unstoppable.

Jeff, the General Manager at X-Decks who I got to speak with, would win me over with his enthusiasm for this sort of high concept playing card.

"Ultimately this is the direction X-Decks has been striving toward. Not just a deck, but a personality. Not just a new color for the next edition, but a continuation of the storyline."

With that passion for pushing the boundaries of what a deck of playing cards can be, Dairy was an inevitable continuation from Passport, the 1970's Cold War spy mystery that was their first collaboration. Those too were more than just a set of playing cards. They were talismans that transported me directly into a John le Carré novel and left me scrambling to get back home.

Even still, a deck of cards still has a job to do. They are more than just portraits to hang in a gallery. They are the plow mules of so many industries. As opulent as we may want to make them, they still must be instantly recognizable and able to function for their intended purpose. If there is a thing more useless

than a broken umbrella, it is a badly designed deck of playing cards.

"We wanted them to and believe that Passport and Dairy successfully check a lot of boxes. Simple yet elegant backs for cardistry. Puzzles, storyline and easter eggs to find for those that like to dive deeper."

Deeper dives are what drives a man to the brink of insanity. Obsession leads to paranoia. I drank my coffee black this morning. I couldn't bring myself to reach into the fridge and pull out the half-and-half knowing that Atlas Aerospace was likely behind it all. There was no telling what sorts of drugs or nano-machines they were using to control my thoughts and movements. It took both hands holding that shaking cup of coffee to get the bitter caffeinated potion into my belly and bring me back to a reality where I no longer had to be afraid of evil megacorporations. That is, at least not this evil megacorporation.

In this universe, there may not be a genetic research division funding dairy production, but there are always toxins lingering under a wholesome exterior presenting itself to be as pure as a cold glass of milk.

When I sat down to finish this article, I checked my phone again. The Kickstarter was almost fully funded with plenty of time left to go. There is no choice but for this to manifest, and to bring with it the tulpa of Daffodil Farms.

If you want to get your hands on this deck, support the Kickstarter. It'll be out before you know it. Just don't ever trust Lil Dee. She already knows too much.

All images used with permission. Seriously. Go check out the Kickstarter.





## The “Sacred Squeal of Now” and Playing Cards (Part One)

Steve Bacon

“I can’t tell you what I had for breakfast, but I can sing every single word of rock ‘n’ roll.”

Patty Duke

Recently I had occasion to take a close look at a deck of cards that deals with rock ‘n’ roll music. The deck was published in about 1991 by *New Musical Express* (“NME”), the famous British newspaper and magazine, and it featured photographs of British and American rock stars, presumably compiled from photographs that had appeared in an NME publication.

I was expecting the deck to be somewhat straightforward and “typical,” a collection of performance pictures conveying the excitement of rock music concerts and performers. But I was a bit surprised. The photographs – frequently by well-known British photographers – reveal something more than the glitter and glamour surrounding that world. Many if not most of the pictures are facial portraits, and they often seem to suggest a bit about the person behind the performer. To give several examples from many that could be cited, it seems fair to say that these photographs of Kurt Cobain, Jimi Hendrix, and Debbie Harry are not exactly what one might expect:



The name shown in the side margin of each photo above is the name of the photographer, while the name of the artist is at the bottom. These photos, and others like them in the deck, seem to convey a somewhat thoughtful and even hesitant side to the performers involved.

As both a huge fan of all music, and an enthusiastic collector of playing cards, I have been personally dis-

appointed over the years by how rock music is represented in the playing card world. To be sure, there are literally thousands of decks concerned with the music and its performers. I am not suggesting the issue is one of quantity. However, for me the entire subject matter has not been taken as seriously as it should, something the world’s critical establishment has acknowledged with an award to one of its performers of a Nobel Prize in Literature.

To some extent, rock music probably has itself to “blame” for this. After all, it has a hedonistic and rebellious image to protect – “sex, drugs and rock ‘n’ roll” – and seriousness of purpose probably works counter to that image. And, yes, music performed to a sold out audience at Dodger Stadium is easy to dismiss as excessive and even bombastic. However, after something like 65-75 years in which rock music broadly defined has dominated the music landscape, it may be time to focus and reflect in a respectful way on what the music has meant to successive generations, how it has shaped and sustained their views of what is important and what is not.

The tremendous appeal of rock music has not been just a matter of catchy melodies and dance rhythms. Rock music captures not only the feelings of youth, but the thoughts of youth as well, and in the quotation that begins this article, Patty Duke speaks for many rock music enthusiasts. We also remember the words. Long after the teen years are but a distant memory, those words continue to reflect and even influence some part of who we truly are or would like to be.

To be clear, there are obviously many very good reasons to collect and own decks of cards that consist of standard performance photographs of Elvis, or the Beatles, or for that matter, any major rock performer(s) of the past 75 years. This article is not meant to be critical of them. But those decks are not hard to find, and with a simple search on Ebay or Google, you will have as many decks and singles of this type as you could hope to own. Most important, those cards pretty much speak for themselves. If you are a fan of a given performer, you will understandably enjoy a deck that features their pictures.

The purpose of this article is to give some visibility to decks of cards that arguably offer something a little different or additional, either from a substantive

standpoint or as examples of the card maker's art. This does not make them "better," but perhaps they are more interesting, at least to readers of this publication. Some of them are scarce and not well known. All of them involve original artwork, rather than photographs. And many were made outside the United States and Great Britain.

The article is presented in three parts of which this is Part One. In this first part we will consider decks about the music itself, decks made to promote and/or celebrate two famous rock musicals. In future editions of Clear the Decks we will look at decks that focus on performers and other aspects of rock music.

**Rock Musicals: Home of Happiness**  
**"Rocky Horror" – Karly Dytrych Artist (2008)**



The 2008 Annual Convention of the Rocky Horror Picture Show was held on September 25th-27th at the Showboat Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City. In connection with that Convention, a deck of cards was prepared. I do not know if it was sold or simply distributed gratis to those attending. It was apparently created by fans, and the artwork is credited to Karly Dytrych. The deck had a limited edition run of 500.

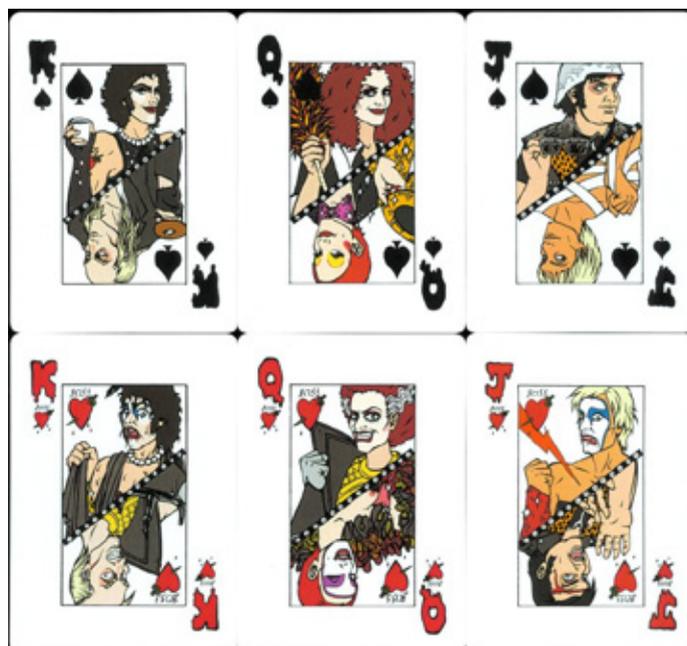
To be unfamiliar with the Rocky Horror Picture Show, one would probably have to have been living on a different planet during the past 50 years. Love it or hate it, it has been impossible to ignore. First as a play that opened in 1973, and then a movie in 1975, it has become the ultimate cult phenomenon. Moreover, it is the embodiment of what has always divided the generations about rock music, dealing with important values and sensitive, often taboo subjects in a bold

and irreverent way. It energized and provided affirmation to the gay community and others who felt marginalized by society, and in turn outraged those who would have them remain in the shadows. It is not just that it was subversive; it was brazen and proud. It said to those who might be offended: "Deal with it."

I suspect that the deck sold and/or distributed at the Convention did not disappoint the attendees: it has 52 suited cards, 2 Jokers and 4 extra cards, and is quite faithful to the look of the movie. Shown below are the Jokers, two of the Aces and several of the court cards; you will note that the Jokers and court cards are double ended with different images at each end:



There is an excellent description of the deck at the dxpo website, with images of the court cards, and in addition, the faces of many of the cards that are not shown here can be seen at the World Web Playing Card Museum website.



**The Beatles Yellow Submarine  
Carta Mundi (2004), Aquarius (2008), Theory 11  
(2022), and University Games (2024)**

Around 1968, to fulfill an obligation to United Artists, the Beatles approved the release of a film titled *Yellow Submarine* which, despite the Fab Four's indifference to the project at the time, has come to be regarded as one of the finest animated films in history. It is described in the Rotten Tomatoes critical consensus as "a joyful, phantasmagoric blend of colorful animation and the music of the Beatles."



The Beatles had nothing to do with the animation. The origin of the music that appears in the film is quite complicated – most of it is recycled from existing albums, or resurrected from the cutting room floor – and ultimately there were two different “original soundtrack” albums, which can add to the confusion. “Yellow Submarine” is not a movie based upon a particular Beatles album. Rather, to the extent it can be said that the film has “new” Beatles music, that new music was written because of and specifically for the film. The “Yellow Submarine” soundtrack, particularly in its first version, is what today we would call the “Yellow Submarine” album.

Equally noteworthy is the fact that critical enthusiasm for the film has probably had as much to do with its success as the popular adulation that attended almost everything the Beatles touched. The Beatles themselves had very little to do with this movie and even less interest in it, although they are said to have been very pleased with the result. To repeat, the group had a contractual obligation to United Artists, and this film was a way of dealing with it. But the critics admired it. Typical is this, reported by Wikipedia:

Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times praised the film for its creative animation and screenplay, giving it three and a half stars in his original review, saying ‘Yellow Submarine, curiously enough, exists on two levels with nothing in between. It is beautifully simple and childlike on one level, and erudite and deep on another’. He later upgraded the film to a full 4 stars, hailing it a masterpiece of animation, and believed that it ‘boasts the best soundtrack of any animated film.’ He then placed it on his ‘The Great Movies’ list.

Worldwide box office for the film was \$1.2 million, roughly 10% of the box office enjoyed by earlier films “A Hard Day’s Night” and “Help!”.

Turning to the cards themselves, it appears that at least four decks of cards have been published in relation to the film: (1) A deck made by Carta Mundi, c.2004; (2) a deck published by Aquarius of Canada, printed in China, c.2008; (3) a deck made by USPC and published by Theory 11, c.2022; and (4) a deck said to be published by University Games of the UK and printed in China, c.2024.

The two most recent decks have artwork only on the Jokers, Aces, and court cards, while the earlier two decks have artwork on every card. For this reason, and while one may have reasons to prefer the more recent decks, the images of the cards presented below are taken only from the Carta Mundi (2004) and Aquarius (2008) decks. We begin with the back design and the four Aces.

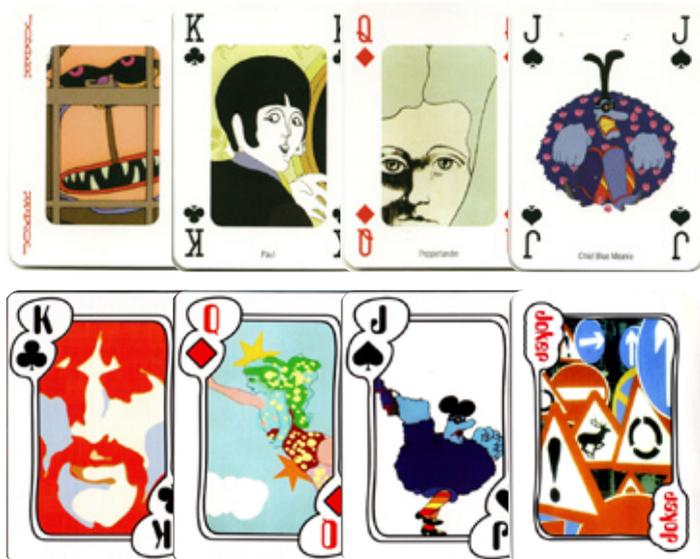
These are cards from the Carta Mundi deck ...



... and the same cards from the Aquarius deck:



We proceed to the Joker of each deck and representative court cards, in the same order:



And finally, shown opposite are the 7s from each deck to give a sense of the pip cards:

The point of this exercise is that, if you have decided to purchase a deck of the “Yellow Submarine” cards, but not all four, you will want to familiarize yourself with the artwork of the several decks.



The cards are not as similar as one might expect given that they are all derived from the same original source material. The designs of the recent decks vary from those shown above in a similar way and to a similar extent.

This brings us to the end of Part One of this article. In a future edition of Clear the Decks, Part Two will consider decks about performers of the music.

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## Switch on the light

By Alex Clays

Nowadays it is hard to imagine what life looked like, using candles and oil lamps, before we had electric lighting. The history of electric lighting began with early demonstrations of arc lamps in the early 1800s, but widespread adoption came with the invention of the commercially viable incandescent light bulb by inventors like Joseph Swan and Thomas Edison in the late 1870s.

After these initial inventions, electric lighting and power systems were developed, and by the early 20th century, electricity was becoming common in homes and cities for clean and safe lighting at the flick of a switch.

The Edison and Swan Electric Light Company, a manufacturer of incandescent lamp bulbs and other electrical goods, was formed in 1883 with the merger of Swan United Electric Co and the Edison Electric Light Co. By combining forces, the Company was able to suppress competition in Britain and dominate the market with their 'Ediswan' light bulb. Their offices were at 155 Charing Cross Road, London, and their factories were in Brimsdown, Ponders End and Sunderland.



*Two Ediswan cards: an early one from the 1920s and a later one.*

One can't talk about the history of the light bulb without mentioning William Sawyer and Albon Man, who received a U.S. patent for their incandescent lamp. Eventually Edison's U.S. lighting company merged with the Thomson-Houston Electric Company - the company making incandescent bulbs under the

Sawyer-Man patent - to form General Electric.

In 1904, General Electric began advertising a new carbon-filament lamp (the GEM lamp) as more energy efficient than older designs.

One of the major incandescent light bulb brands was Mazda, a product of General Electric introduced in 1909. The Mazda name was derived from the ancient Zoroastrian god of light, Ahura Mazda, and was used to market the new, high-efficiency tungsten filament bulbs. Before that date, every light bulb company used a different metal base and a carbon filament inside the glass bulb. They licensed the Mazda name, socket size and filament technology.

GE also licensed the name to their subsidiary National Electric Lamp Companies, to Westinghouse and to British Thomson-Houston (in 1911 BTH acquired licenses for all of General Electric's drawn-wire light bulbs, which they produced under the Mazda trademark.) Other companies too, such as Edison Co. used them. I want to show the next card, from Westinghouse and dating around 1922, to illustrate their use of Mazda as one of their brands.



In 1918, at the end of the first world war General Electric commissioned illustrators Maxfield Parrish and Norman Rockwell to create a group of advertising illustrations for its popular light bulb known by its trademark as the Mazda lamp.

From 1919 until 1931 a series of Edison Mazda playing cards, printed by American Playing card Co, were issued. Maxfield Parrish designed ten beautiful card backs (Hoch AB6). Two of them, 'Enchantment' and 'The Waterfall' are shown at the top of the next column.



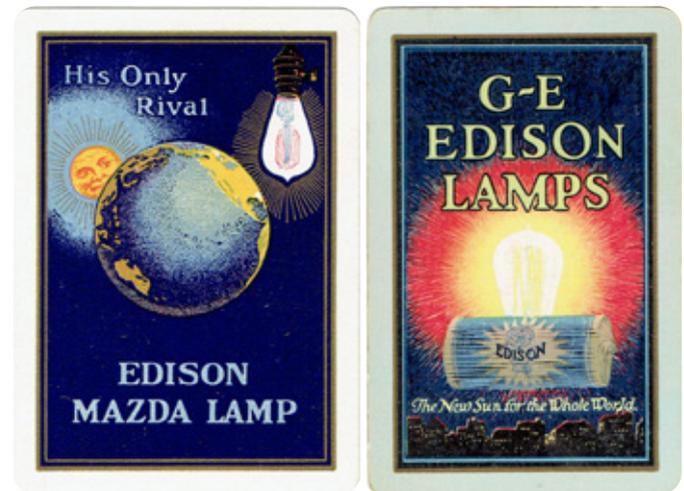
I have two playing cards of this campaign. Though not signed by the artist, it's possible that these two cards were also by the hand of Maxfield Parrish.

For Norman Rockwell it was one of his earliest and most successful advertising campaigns. These appeared as magazine advertisements, posters and point-of-purchase signs. Rockwell created no fewer than twenty-four images depicting the power of light during the seven-year-long campaign.

Last year, from March 2025 to the end of December, the Norman Rockwell museum at Stockbridge MA had a special "Incandescent" exhibition. Rarely seen paintings by Illustrators of Light: Rockwell, Wyeth, and Parrish were on show including 16 original works, eight by Rockwell. They were on loan for the first time through GE Aerospace. One of his paintings, oil on canvas dated 1921, was named Man Playing Cards by Lamplight.



In the early 20s The Sun's Rival logo, by Maxfield Parrish, became the visual centerpiece of an advertising campaign, appearing on everything from lamp packages to billboards.



General Electric dropped the Mazda trademark in 1945 and ceased licensing the name as well. In 1909, close to the Edison Swan company at Brimsdown, Middlesex, a German firm Julius Pintsch, established the Imperial Lamp Works Ltd. Pintsch was a pioneer in the field of oil and gas lighting, and quickly acquired a strong position after developing a vibration-resistant gas lighting system suitable for use on the railways. One year later in order to make the company appear more British, it was re-named "Brimsdown Lamp Works". At the start of World War I, the company was taken over by the Public Trust Custodian.

In 1917 British Westinghouse, a British heavy industrial firm, acquired the factory to make drawn-wire filament lamps under the trade name Cosmos. The Cosmos Lamp Works was formed on July 23, 1917. Here we show two early advertising cards depicting a girl reading a book by lamp light.



Two years later Cosmos became part of the new Metropolitan-Vickers company, also known as Metrovick or Metrovicks. They published a considerable number of advertising backs for playing cards promoting their wares. The 'MV' logo was subtitled "The Mark of Efficiency".

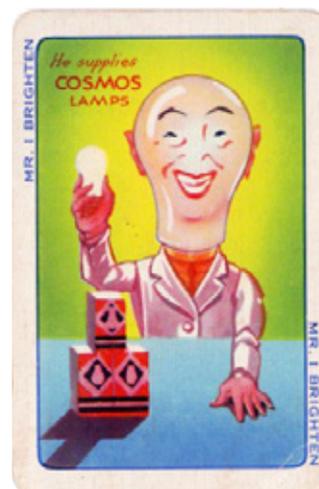


I also want to show this great Brimsdown lamp advertising card (below, card on the right), though I do not know which company published it.

Associated Electrical Industries was formed in 1928 as a result of the merger of Metropolitan-Vickers and its rival British Thomson-Houston. Also included in the new group was Edison Swan Electric or 'Ediswan'. Metropolitan-Vickers's merchandising businesses, including Cosmos, were transferred to Edison Swan Electric Co while the Cosmos works concentrated on the manufacture of lamps and valves.



In 1930 a promotional card game named 'Brighter Families' was published. It contained eight families that were related to Cosmos light bulbs, promoting their efficiency and longer life.



In *Clear The Decks* of December 2024 I put the Dutch Philips Company into the picture so there is no need to repeat it now. But I do need to mention Osram Lamps. Osram's history began in 1906 with the brand's registration in Germany and Britain for incandescent lamps using tungsten/osmium filaments developed by Carl Auer von Welsbach and marketed by Auer-Gesellschaft.

By 1907, General Electric Co established Osram lamp production in the UK through a joint venture and imported Osram filaments for their own production of light bulbs. OSRAM GmbH is founded in Berlin in 1919 by Auer-Gesellschaft, AEG, and Siemens & Halske, consolidating German lighting production.



By 1926 the familiar orange, white, and blue Osram oval logo is introduced, featuring a stylized lamp. Osram advertising playing cards were printed in the 1930s by Vereinigte Stralsunder Spielkartenfabriken (VSS) of Altenburg, Germany. The court cards feature double-ended light-bulb people (the Kings are repeated in each suit but the Queens and Jacks

have different attributes) and the numeral cards have vignettes at each end illustrating how Osram light bulbs lighten the darkness. At least two different back designs were used.



Sylvania started in 1901 in Massachusetts, renewing light bulbs. The company evolved into Hygrade Sylvania by merging predecessor companies (Bay State, Hygrade, Nilco) to make new lamps and radio tubes, becoming Sylvania Electric Products in 1942 and a major electronics and lighting player before being acquired by General Telephone (GT&E) in 1959.

Beginning in the 1940s and continuing into the 1950s Sylvania had a 'Miss Sylvania' and a 'Miss Betty Light' advertising campaign and relied upon images of beautiful women to sell its products. The artwork was by the hand of American pin-up photographer Earl Moran (1893 - 1984). His career was launched when two calendar companies, Thomas D. Murphy and Brown & Bigelow bought his work.

Brown & Bigelow published a series of playing cards portraying Miss Sylvania and Miss Betty Light, with specific reference to Sylvania lighting products. It has been suggested that the woman portrayed on the backs is Betty Grable (1916 – 1973) an American

actress, pin-up girl, dancer, model and singer. Her bathing-suit poster made her the top pin-up girl of World War II, competing with Rita Hayworth.



Tungram was a manufacturing company located in Hungary and known for light bulbs and electronics. It was established in Újpest, today part of Budapest, Hungary, in 1896 initially producing telephones, wires and switchboards.

Tungram is a conjunction of tungsten and wolfram, the name and the older name of the metal used for making light bulb filaments. Before becoming nationalized by the Communist government in 1945, the company was the world's third largest manufacturer of light bulbs and radio tubes, after the American General Electric and RCA companies. In 1934, Tungram incorporated a patent by Imre Bródy for bulbs filled with krypton gas, providing for a longer bulb lifetime.



I want to end with 2 Belgian Companies, MBLÉ and Sigtay. Manufacture Belge de Lampes et de Matériel Electronique, abbreviated MBLÉ, was a Belgian factory making light bulbs, electronic components and electronic equipment. It was established in 1911 in Vilvoorde, Belgium, with the name La Lampe Brabant and they mainly manufactured incandescent light bulbs as the Mazda brand. It became a subsidiary of the Dutch electronics giant Philips in 1925. At that time they also started the production of valves and radio parts and introduced the name 'Adzam', an anagram of 'Mazda' - or Mazda spelt backwards.

It was increasingly integrated by Philips from 1957 onwards and fully absorbed in 1981 when the name MBLÉ disappeared.

Lampes et Entreprises Electriques Sigtay - or just Sigtay - was a Flemish company founded in 1927 in Ninove, specializing in electric lamps and bulbs. The company operated until the late 1970s.

Q: So how many light bulbs are sold?

A: [light bulb sales are \\$100bn/yr \(Google\)](#)

No surprise these companies advertised heavily - including playing cards like these!



gilding  
edge coloring  
beveling  
round cornering  
layering  
foil stamping  
letterpress printing  
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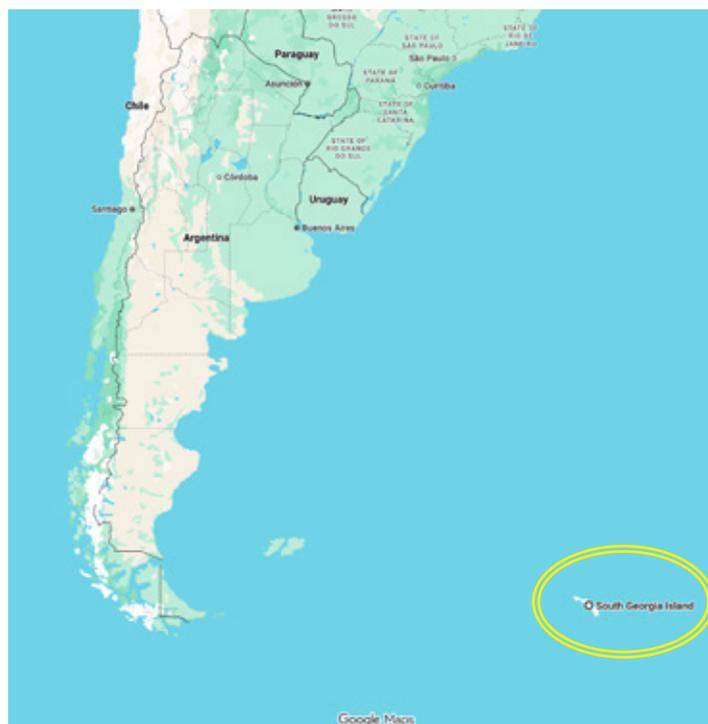
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## The Worshipful Company Installation Cards 2025 - 2026: South Georgia 250 years

Paul Bostock and Nick Prentice

This year's cards from the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards commemorate the 250th anniversary of the first landing on the island of South Georgia by Captain James Cook on 17 January 1775. This goes back to the reign of King George III, during Cook's second voyage on behalf of the Royal Society in command of HMS Resolution.

If you aren't sure where South Georgia is, you are forgiven: it really is one of the world's truly remote spots, surrounded only by the South Atlantic and 2,700 km east of Argentina.



### The Sub-Antarctic Island of South Georgia

South Georgia is a remote mountainous island in the South Atlantic, located east-southeast of the Falkland Islands, south of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current, and only accessible by sea. It is the main island of the British Overseas Territory of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI). Some 170 km in length and up to 40 km wide, South Georgia rises to 2,934 m at the peak of Mount Paget and appears like a slice of the Alps dropped into the ocean - an incomparable landscape of extraordinary beauty with more than 150 glaciers and 20 peaks over 2,000 m. Since 2022, South Georgia has been designated a Terrestrial Protected Area, and the surrounding seas

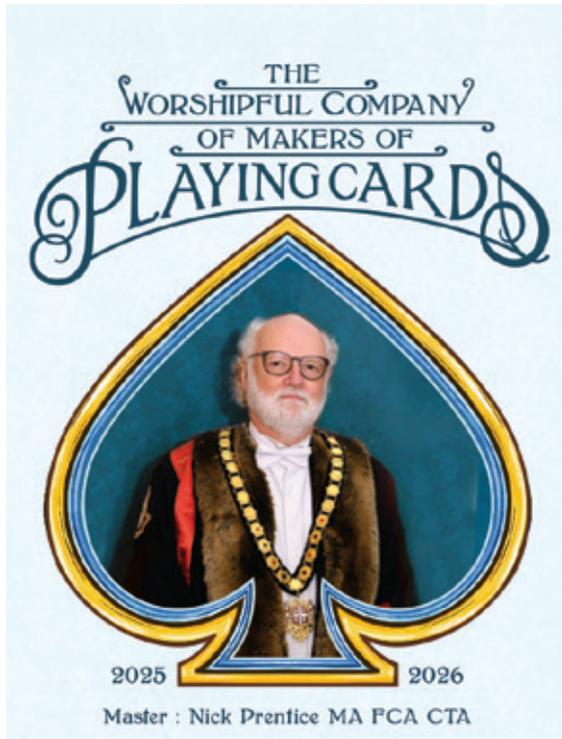


are part of a Marine Protected Area. Although treeless, its vegetation is surprisingly diverse, with over 25 native plant species. The island and surrounding waters are teeming with wildlife, with over 7 million seals and elephant seals, and over 100 million sea-birds (mainly penguins, albatrosses, petrels and prions) making South Georgia one of the most important islands globally for sea birds. The island's birdlife and plant life have benefited significantly from the 2011 – 2017 habitat restoration project led by South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT) during which invasive rodents were eradicated alongside the removal of reindeer by the Government of SGSSI.

With no permanent residents, South Georgia is a base for research scientists from the British Antarctic Survey. During the austral summer months, staff from the SGHT manage the South Georgia Museum on behalf of GSGSSI. In addition, between 10,000 and 15,000 tourists arrive each year on cruise ships between October and March to experience the magic of this island for themselves... once visited, never to be forgotten!

### The Master: Nick Prentice

Nick was born in Northampton and educated at a comprehensive school in Potters Bar before reading Mathematics at Queens' College, Cambridge. After nearly 40 years in the tax profession, Nick has focussed on roles in wildlife conservation. He was Treasurer of BirdLife International, and is currently Chairman of South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT), and of an Indonesian Foundation with responsibility for a lowland tropical rainforest in Sumatra. He is also a Trustee of Makers of Playing Cards Charity and the International Eco Fund.



Nick received his City of London Freedom in 1999 and became a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers, when it was still a Guild. He was clothed as a L/M of WCoTAs and WCMPC in 2005 and 2013, respectively.

He is married to Jane (1978), who is an English teacher, silversmith and jeweller. They have two wonderful daughters, Philippa and Kate, both working in the NHS in London as a consultant paediatrician and clinical psychologist, respectively. Nick and Jane also have two adorable grandchildren Kit and Sophie.

### The Cards

The blue and yellow twin set has card backs featuring the Company crest, with the crest from the flag of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands being prominent. The two decks of cards are different and both sets have illustrated court cards, 4s and 2s, the Wildlife pack depicting the abundant species of birds and marine mammals breeding on South Georgia, including the world's most southerly songbird, South Georgia Pipit. The court cards are framed by designs of flora native to South Georgia: tussock grass, shield fern, greater burnet and tufted fescue. The Cultural pack depicts the explorers, scientists, and famous residents of South Georgia over the past 250 years, as well as several of its well-known landmarks.



*Examples from the wildlife set*

The history of South Georgia is complex, and not every individual could be represented. The selection reflects some prominent figures who have contributed to its history. In this pack, the court cards are framed with ship's rope, rusty chains, whaling tools and rivets used in the construction of the whaling stations. All the other pip cards show a map of South Georgia in the form of a watermark. The Wildlife Jokers are rats and mice, inadvertently brought to the island by commercial sealers and whalers, illustrated as the Cultural set Jokers.

The cards are designed by Stacey J Kelly, her ninth annual design for the Company and, as ever, they are striking and beautifully executed and presented in a luxury format.



## LIVE ONLINE AUCTION April 26, 2026, 3PM Eastern Time

### NOTE - ALL AUCTION LOTS IN CTD AND ALSO REPRODUCED IN COLOR ON THE WEBSITE

Each page is listed on the Auction Home Page, can be viewed through your browser and downloaded using Adobe Acrobat or Reader so that you can study the lots at your convenience. Additional photos may be available on request.

This auction will be held live ONLINE. If you may not be able to attend or are worried about internet connection, you may email your bids. You will receive acknowledgment of bids received. **If you do not receive a response, we did not receive your bids - in which case contact us by email or phone.** If you send bids by US mail, please call a few days before the deadline to be sure they arrived. We will accept telephone bids up to 48 hours ahead of the auction start time.

### 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 is **6:00pm CST on Thursday APRIL 23, 2026**. If you have any questions about lots in the Auction or about the rules, you may call or write Lee Asher or Steve Bowling prior to April 26. Steve or another auction team member 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

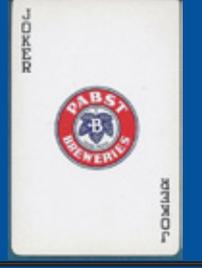
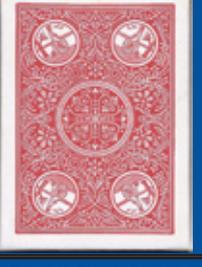
Bids not on increment will automatically be rounded down to the proper increment.

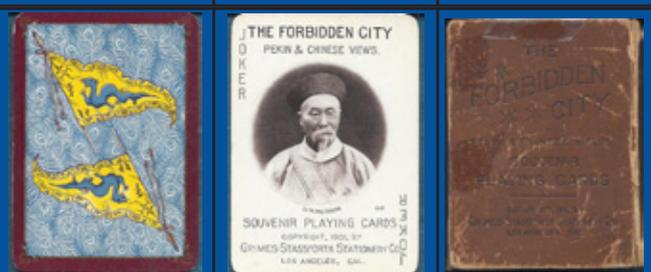
All email bids will be personally acknowledged. In order to avoid any conflict of interest, Steve, Lee Asher and Auctioneer Larry Herold will have bid before any other bids are received. If an auction lot did not receive a mail bid, Steve, Lee and Auctioneer will be permitted to bid during the live auction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

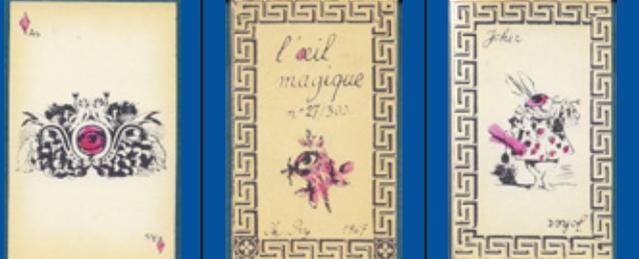
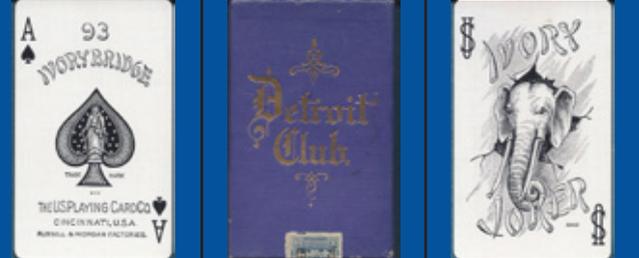
The club will provide Proxies to represent mail and phone bidders, advising Auctioneer of bids as the auction proceeds. **All winning mail bids in excess of the next highest bid, or minimum bid if there are no other bids, will be reduced to the next increment level above the highest bid, or the minimum 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.

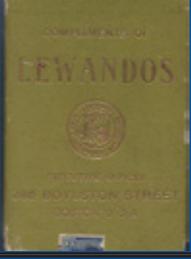
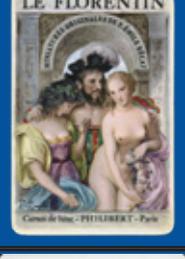
**PAYMENT & SHIPPING - WAIT TO BE NOTIFIED** of your winning bids and amount due. Invoices are due upon receipt and must be paid in US currency. **CHECKS ARE PREFERRED vs. Paypal.** Foreign payments can be made by check *only*: in US\$ and the check specifically states it is cleared through a named US bank. International Money Orders in US\$ also OK. International bidders may use PayPal, 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. US 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 \$25/\$35 for 1 or 2 decks respectively **and Buyers are responsible for customs duties applicable in his/her country.**

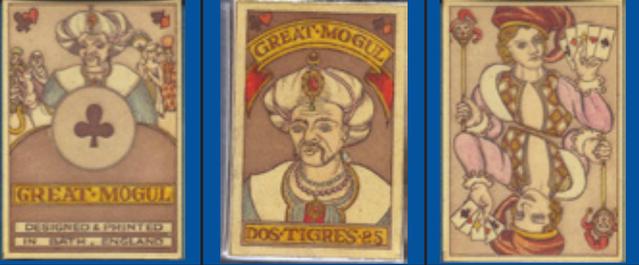
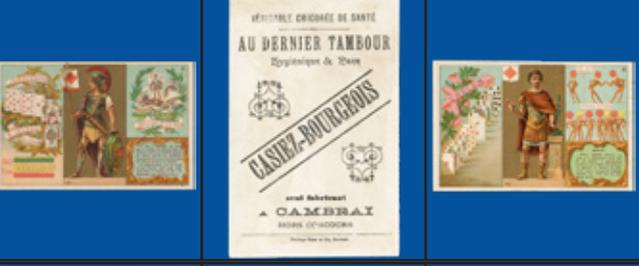
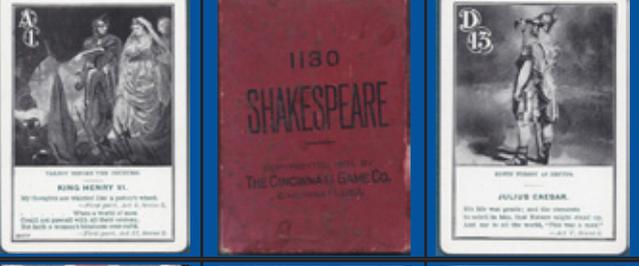
We have endeavored to describe all lots carefully so that members can be comfortable when placing their bids that they will receive items in at least as good condition as described. Any lots that are not as described can be returned for refund. Remember all lots are pictured in color on the auction webpage. 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 quite possibly some damage), minimum bid, reference if found and 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.**

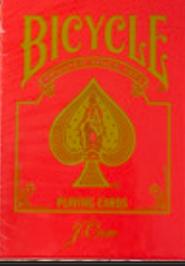
Lot 1	<b>Bicycle 140th Anniversary Coin Set</b>	2025				
USA	Bicycle 140th Anniversary Commemorative Set, #30 of 140 produced. Includes a signed Certificate of Authenticity by USPC President Craig Townsend and a commemorative bronze coin. A scarce, low numbered piece that marks a major milestone in Bicycle history.					
USPC	52+2J As Issued OB1 + Case	Minimum 200				
Lot 2	<b>Perfection Tip Top No. 350 Deck</b>	PU2	1887			
USA	Early Philadelphia deck with the Henry M. Rosenbaum patented Ace of Spades. Cards have edge soil, AS and Joker have small edge tears, KH has back scrape, JH small stain, 8H corner crease. Box has writing, missing top flap.					
Perfection Playing Card Co.	52+J VG- OB3 -Top	Minimum 50				
Lot 3	<b>Pabst Blue Ribbon Narrow Deck</b>		1939			
USA	Nice narrow advertising deck for Pabst beer with Pabst Ace, Joker, and solid gold edges. Back of box has an invitation from Miss Pabst Blue Ribbon to enjoy the product. Great advertising deck for your collection.					
Brown & Bigelow	52+2J EX OB2+	Minimum 15				
Lot 4	<b>Bicycle Expert Back Deck</b>	CDN15v	1915			
Canada	As Issued Bicycle Expert deck, red back. Made at the USPC Windsor, Canada plant, 15 cent Canadian Tax stamp. Deck not in Hochman, Ace is CDN15 but with Windsor address. We sometimes see a mint sealed Rider or Racer back, but a Canadian Expert is rare.					
USPC	52+J +EC As Issued OB1	Minimum 100				
Lot 5	<b>Stutzman Split Spades 3 Deck Set</b>		2008			
USA	These 3 decks were produced by David Blaine in association with Mark Stutzman. Jokers show Blaine & the Devil playing cards, while the bells on the Jokers contain faces of the custom Kings, Queens and Jacks. (2 decks As Issued, 1 MS, no cello) Pics from internet.					
USPC	52+2Jx3 MS OB1x3	Minimum 200				
Lot 6	<b>12 Wide Named Women Singles</b>		c1910			
USA	Twelve early 1900s photogravure playing cards, including a Kalamazoo Playing Cards Ace and a Bunco card. A rare assortment showcasing historic designs, perfect for collectors of antique and unusual playing cards.					
Kalamazoo, Standard	12 Singles VG-EX	Minimum 25				
Lot 7	<b>Deutsche Kriegs Skat Karte Deck</b>	Fournier 240	1916			
Germany	Special German Skat deck for Salem Cigarettes. German leadership and/or war scenes on each card. The Yenidze factory survived the Dresden bombing in WWII. Complete with inner wrapper.					
Spielkarten Fabrik, Altenburg	32 EX/NM OB2	Minimum 60				

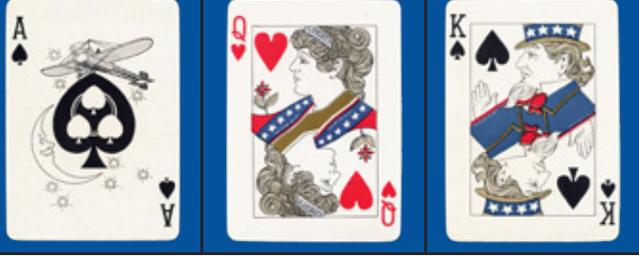
Lot 8	<b>Once Upon a Time Deck</b>	2020		
UK	<p>Fantastic transformation deck by Elaine Lewis; each card highlights one of many famous children's stories (see back cover). It is one of her favorites. Deck is in unopened plastic; do not know its # of the 50 issued. All photos from opened #2 deck.</p>			
Elaine Lewis	52+J +Title As Issued OB1	Minimum 250		
Lot 9	<b>Bicycle Tie Dye Deck</b>	2009		
USA	<p>This original Tie Dye deck was released with "Rider Back" on the front, while subsequent versions had "Tie Dye 2," etc. on the tuck. The Jokers and AS emphasize "peace" with peace sign images and a dove. Faces and stock are standard Bicycle. Two gaff cards included.</p>			
USPC	52+2J +2EC As Issued OB1	Minimum 55		
Lot 10	<b>1805 Cotta Repro Deck</b>	Field #7	1984	
France	<p>Mint reproduction of the Cotta Jeanne d'Arc transformation deck, made in France by B.P. Grimaud. This was Cotta's first of 6 transformation decks. A beautifully crafted piece every collector should have in their collection.</p>			
B.P. Grimaud	52 +Title Mint OB1	Minimum 20		
Lot 11	<b>Bicycle Victory War Decks Ad</b>	1918		
USA	<p>Nice magazine ad showcasing the 4 Bicycle War decks. The decks were available for a very limited time and are very rare. Ads are also likely hard to come by.</p>			
USPC	EX	Minimum 15		
Lot 12	<b>Lily Strollers No. 4 Joker</b>	RU10a	1904	
USA	<p>Hard-to-find Joker from a Kalamazoo Paper Box &amp; Card Co. Lily Strollers deck. We seldom this deck or joker offered at auction, making it a key addition for serious collectors.</p>			
Kalamazoo Paper Box & Card Co.	1 Single VG/EX	Minimum 40		
Lot 13	<b>Teddy Bear Deck</b>	N9	1907	
USA	<p>Unlike its cousin Buster Brown, this deck is very hard to find. Sadly, 16 cards have damage as shown, primarily paper scrapes, AS has edge tear. No Joker. Disappointing but the box is very good, 36 cards are EX and these decks are rare..</p>			
Standard Playing Card Co.	52 Good OB2+	Minimum 25		
Lot 14	<b>Forbidden City Souvenir Deck</b>	W37	1901	
USA	<p>Souvenir deck featuring Peking and Chinese views from the Boxer Rebellion, with nice gold-edged cards. Deck shows light edge wear; box is falling apart. A striking historical piece for collectors.</p>			
Grimes-Stassforth Stationery Co.	52+J +EC EX OB3-	Minimum 160		

Lot 15	<b>Democracy Deck</b>	W25	1918	<p>WW1 salute to our service men and women with democratic slogans. Kings are soldiers, Queens are nurses, Jacks are sailors, Aces are "Aces of the Air." Cards have light edge wear and soil; box torn. Tough to find.</p>	
USA					
James Cornelius Gaffney		52+J EX OB3	Minimum 160		
Lot 16	<b>L'oeil Magique Deck</b>	Fournier 110	1967	<p>Hand-drawn Charles Pry deck, #27 of a limited edition of 300. Always popular at auction, this example is in excellent condition and comes housed in a protective plastic case.</p>	
Belgium					
Charles Pry		32+3J +Title EX	Minimum 60		
Lot 17	<b>Bicycle Dreamcatcher Deck</b>		2011	<p>Designed by Handy Altan, this Bicycle deck reflects Native American spiritual culture. Only 1,000 produced, with just 500 released for sale, making it a standout collectible for Bicycle collectors.</p>	
USA					
USPC		52+2J As Issued OB1	Minimum 30		
Lot 18	<b>Congress Yacht Deck</b>	US6c	1900	<p>Nice wide Congress deck with a named joker. The majority of Congress decks have the standard Congress building Joker; these decks with the Joker matching the back are more popular. Gold edges are very worn with euchre pattern.</p>	
USA					
USPC		52+J VG OB3	Minimum 50		
Lot 19	<b>Hargrave: A History Of Playing Cards</b>		1930	<p>Classic Hargrave book on playing cards, 468 page hardback book in wonderful condition. Signed by John Omwake, Chairman of USPC and Catherine Perry Hargrave (1930). Dust jacket has edge wear. Both signatures make this edition a standout for collectors.</p>	
USA					
Houghton Mifflin		EX	Minimum 150		
Lot 20	<b>Ivory #93 Bridge Deck Detroit Club</b>	US16c	c1906	<p>The Ivory brand retained its popularity throughout the auction bridge era, but disappeared with the coming of contract bridge in the late 1920s. Great elephant Joker.</p>	
USA					
USPC		52+J EX OB1-	Minimum 20		
Lot 21	<b>Bicycle Voltes V Playing Cards</b>		2023	<p>Voltes V is based on a 1977 Japanese anime that proved hugely popular in the Philippines. Produced by Runit Decks; only 1000 were made. (This is deck 0707). It's rarely seen in the resale market. All 54 card faces fully custom. Photo of tuck bottom from the internet.</p>	
USA					
USPC		52+2J As Issued OB1	Minimum 55		

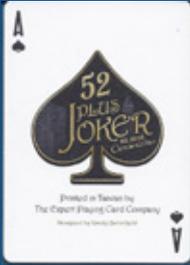
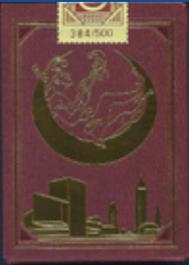
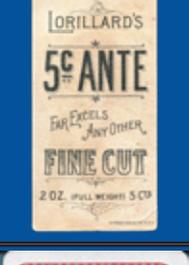
Lot 22	<b>Hustling Joe Deck</b>	T9	1895	<p>This is USPC's first effort to publish a transformation deck; quickly replaced (T10) to eliminate the full color background on the courts which could be seen. Joker has light corner ding but all the other cards are EX/NM. Well worn box is missing both end panels.</p>	  
USA					
USPC	52+J EX+ OB3-		Minimum 350		
Lot 23	<b>2006 Montreal Deck</b>		2006	<p>One of the two different club decks given away at the 2006 Montreal 52+Joker convention. We were uncertain that we'd have an artist deck, so the club commissioned this one. Produced by US Games Systems and printed by Cartamundi, a must-have for club completionists.</p>	  
Belgium					
Cartamundi	52+2J As Issued OB1		Minimum 40		
Lot 24	<b>Lewandos Advertising Deck</b>		1911	<p>Early narrow advertising deck with very attractive Ace, Joker and extra card listing shop services and locations. Cards have edge wear and soil (gold edges well-worn); 7S has edge ding.</p>	  
USA					
	52+J +Adv VG OB2		Minimum 30		
Lot 25	<b>Le Florentin Deck</b>	Fournier 405	1956	<p>This is #2900 of 12,000. Very popular deck featuring famous paintings by the Old Masters; JC is da Vinci. The reverse of the Title card describes the Jokers and each court card. Bright gold corners. No box.</p>	  
France					
Philibert	52+2J EX+ No Box		Minimum 50		
Lot 26	<b>INA Airplane History Deck</b>	W44	1972	<p>Beautiful oversized deck commissioned by the Insurance Co. of North America highlighting airplane history. Aces and courts feature famous aviators and pips &amp; Jokers different early airplane designs. Looks to be unused but AD has yellowing stain in one corner.</p>	  
USA					
	52+2J +Booklet NM OB2		Minimum 15		
Lot 27	<b>Bay State Deck</b>	SU23	1900	<p>We do not see many decks from this small maker. It has a very attractive AS and features special court designs. Cards have soil and wear and light creases. No Joker and no box.</p>	  
USA					
Standard Playing Card Co.	52 G/VG No Box		Minimum 30		
Lot 28	<b>Perfection #90 Steamboat Deck</b>	PU5	1888	<p>Scarce deck featuring the striking Rooster joker. Gold edges are heavily worn, and the 3S has a missing corner.</p>	  
USA					
Perfection Playing Card Co.	52+J VG/EX No Box		Minimum 100		

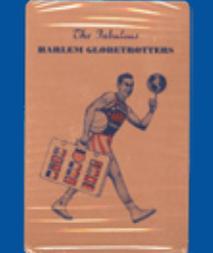
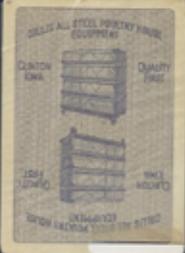
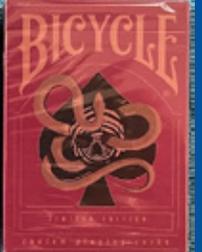
Lot 29	<b>Great Mogul Dos Tigres #25 Deck</b>	c1988			
UK	Beautiful hand-drawn Karl Gerich deck in Near Mint condition, including 4 extra Aces. Cards show uniform bending, without affecting overall quality.				
Karl Gerich	52+J +4EC NM OB1	Minimum 220			
Lot 30	<b>Cartier Narrow DD Set</b>	1924			
USA	Double deck set advertising Cartier, made by A. Dougherty. Decks have sparkling gold edges and very attractive back designs. No Jokers.				
A. Dougherty	52 x2 EX OB1-	Minimum 10			
Lot 31	<b>Vanity Fair #41 Transformation Deck</b>	T11	1895		
USA	The first true transformation deck by USPC, 1895. 4S has a damaged corner, but the rest of the deck is in near excellent condition. Features humorous court cards, a charming piece of playing-card history.				
USPC	52+J VG No Box	Minimum 100			
Lot 32	<b>Casiez Bourgeois Trade Cards</b>	c1900			
France	Twelve colorful French trade cards with playing card themes. Excellent condition.				
A Cambrai	12 Singles EX	Minimum 30			
Lot 33	<b>Cincinnati Game #1130 Shakespeare</b>	1901			
USA	Complete Cincinnati Game deck in great condition; instructions in inside lid. Each card features a scene from a Shakespeare play. Extra card lists 26 games including In Dixie Land.				
Cincinnati Game Co.	52+Instr+Games List NM OB2	Minimum 45			
Lot 34	<b>Goodall Canada Crest Deck</b>	1905			
UK	Mint sealed deck with sparkling gold edges. Inner box is missing the end panel. This crest can also be found on the Ocean To Ocean souvenir decks (SCA13 and SCA14). Pics from internet.				
Goodall	52+J MS OB3	Minimum 40			
Lot 35	<b>Great Northern Pacific Deck</b>	SR14	c1915		
USA	Scarce railroad souvenir deck; cards are in great condition with bright gold edges. Great Northern operated 5 different lines as shown on the extra card. Light soil on the Joker and extra card; wrong inner box.				
USPC	52+J +EC Mint- OB3	Minimum 180			

Lot 36	<b>Golden Diamond Deck</b>	NR6	1925				
USA	One of 4 decks in a No-Revoke series. The others are Blue Spade, Green Club & Sweetheart (extremely rare). Mint sealed deck also includes an Order Form to purchase decks in the series. We have never seen this order form before. See cover for Sweetheart image.						
	S.F. Hanzel Card Co.	52+J MS OB1	Minimum 100				
Lot 37	<b>Gambling Secret Blue Book Repro</b>		1978				
USA	Beautiful 1978 reprint of classic 1932 Evans Gambling Catalogue. Includes 14 pages related to playing cards with illustrations, many in color. Six Bicycle backs are displayed showing how the designs are marked for easy "reading".						
	H.C. Evans	EX 80 Pages	Minimum 15				
Lot 38	<b>Bicycle J. Crew DD Set</b>		2016				
USA	J.Crew created this luxury set as a giveaway for top customers and as holiday gifts. It was never sold publicly. The cards are held in a white slide-in case with J.Crew embossed in silver on top.						
	USPC	52+2J As Issued OB1 x2	Minimum 100				
Lot 39	<b>Time Magazine Deck</b>	A17	1962				
USA	Attractive deck with unique courts and Joker. Each pip card features a promotional pitch for Time magazine, combining collectible appeal with historical advertising charm. Missing one Joker (text card).						
		52+J EX OB2	Minimum 20				
Lot 40	<b>Erotic Translucent Repro Deck</b>		1979				
Germany	Mint reproduction of a beautiful erotic translucent deck by Pieter Mefferdt of Amsterdam; 1000 copies made. Includes a 96 page booklet. Cards in a box (OB1) + booklet all in another box (OB2).						
	Pieter Mefferdt	52 Mint OB1	Minimum 50				
Lot 41	<b>Sportsman's #202 Joker &amp; Ace</b>	US2	1881				
USA	First Russell & Morgan Sportsman Ace and Joker; back name is Blue Deer. Cards are Good with soil from use; Joker has light notation as JH and AS has small edge tear.						
	Russell, Morgan & Co.	2 Singles Good Joker & Ace	Minimum 25				
Lot 42	<b>Exquisite Bold Deck</b>		2015				
China	This beautiful inaugural Exquisite deck was an experiment by Expert Playing Card Co.; less than 1,500 were made. Its success led to a series of follow-on Exquisite decks. This deck is as issued; card photos from an opened deck.						
	Expert Playing Card Co.	52+2J As Issued OB1	Minimum 55				

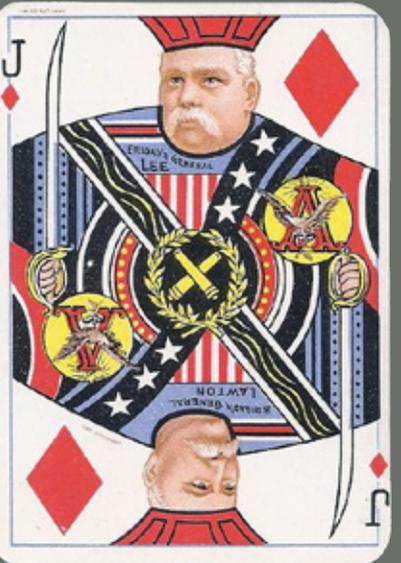
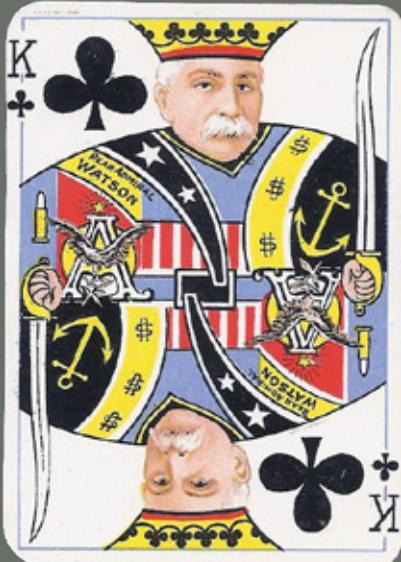
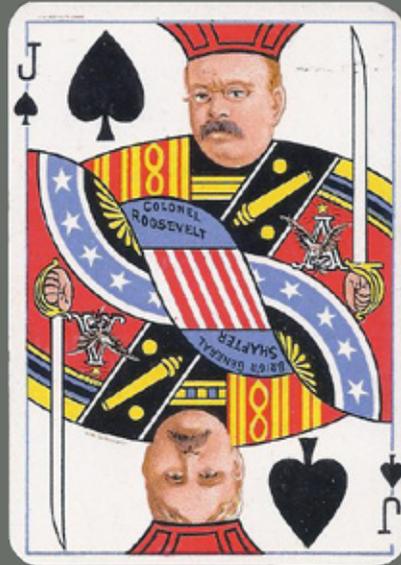
Lot 43	<b>Four Continents Deck</b>	Fournier 181	c1870	
Germany	Stunning Dondorf deck designed by Friedrich Karl Hausmann. Aces feature four continents and the courts represent their dress (see QD on cover). Every pip card has a different design in the background. Box missing the ends.			
Dondorf	52 EX OB3 -ends		Minimum 230	
Lot 44	<b>2020 Club Deck (UUSI)</b>		2020	
China	2020 Club Deck by Uusi, As Issued. Ace and card photos shown from an opened deck.			
Expert Playing Card Co.	52+2J As Issued OB1		Minimum 40	
Lot 45	<b>American Whist League Deck</b>	BW7	c1890	
USA	These decks were made for use in American Whist League tournaments and to sell to their affiliate clubs in the 1890s. Deck is in excellent condition; slip case box is plain on reverse side.			
Andrew Dougherty	52+J EX OB3		Minimum 60	
Lot 46	<b>Bicycle Atlanta Olympics DD Set</b>		1996	
USA	As Issued limited edition Bicycle brand set with two 1996 Atlanta Olympics Games decks. In a leatherette case and original box.			
USPC	52+2J As Issued OB1 x2		Minimum 20	
Lot 47	<b>Moroccan Playing Cards Deck</b>		c1970s	
Morocco	Spanish pattern deck. First time we have seen a Moroccan deck in our auction.			
A Camoin & Cie	40 MS In Original Wrapper.		Minimum 10	
Lot 48	<b>Bicycle Tricolor Deck</b>		2023	
USA	As Issued deck created for Belgian visitors to USPC's Erlanger factory. A pristine collectible with historical significance. A must-have for Bicycle collectors.			
USPC	52+2J As Issued OB1		Minimum 30	
Lot 49	<b>Freedom Deck</b>	W24	1917	
USA	The theme for this deck is "No Kings or Queens for Me," created and patented by John A. Beck of Portland, Oregon. Uncle Sam replaces Kings, Liberty replaces Queens and Infantry replaces Jacks. Missing the Joker; box taped.			
Freedom Playing Card Co.	52 EX+ OB3 Taped		Minimum 50	

Lot 50	<b>Philippine Souvenir Deck</b>	SX22	1904			
USA	Very desirable souvenir deck, made expressly for the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904, sold exclusively at the Philippine exhibit. Cards are in nice condition with light edge wear, gold still about 80%; box is rough, missing an end, and the inner box is wrong.					
The Philippine Photograph Co. 52+J VG+ OB3- Minimum 160						
Lot 51	<b>Saladee's Patent Bazique Register</b>		1864			
USA	Scoring Register invented by Cyrus W. Saladee and introduced by Samuel Hart in 1864. Some staining and light edge wear but dials work smoothly. Nice playing card ephemera from Civil War period.					
Samuel Hart VG Minimum 20						
Lot 52	<b>3 Hawaii Pin Up Decks</b>					
USA	Three attractive Hawaii pin up decks. The deck with the fully clothed model in red is in VG condition with light creases and one Joker. The other two decks are EX/NM with 2 Jokers. All in original plastic cases.					
52+1J,2J x3 VG, EX/NM Minimum 15						
Lot 53	<b>Success No. 28 Deck</b>	RU12	c1906			
USA	Early 20th Century Kalamazoo "Success No. 28" playing cards. Slight crease in corner of 5D, rest of deck excellent. OB3, missing top & bottom panels.					
Kalamazoo Playing Card Co. 52+J VG/EX OB3- Minimum 50						
Lot 54	<b>Sherlock Holmes 221B, Baker St. Deck</b>		2013			
USA	This limited edition 221B Baker Street deck from Jackson Robinson features gold foil on the tuck case. It is one of several Sherlock Holmes decks he produced, and is not often found for sale. This is 0062 of 1000 produced.					
Kings Wild Project 52+2J As Issued OB1 Minimum 100						
Lot 55	<b>Globe Playing Cards Deck</b>	O13	c1878			
USA	These round decks were not popular, not easy to find. Issued with 4 colors, clubs in green, diamonds in yellow. Deck has edge soil; box is solid but has stains and scrapes. Made during I.N. Richardson's son, I.W. Richardson's leadership of the company.					
Globe Playing Card Co. 52+J VG OB3+ Minimum 50						
Lot 56	<b>Cascade Transformation Deck</b>		1995			
UK	Another magnificent transformation deck by Elaine Lewis. Humorous images bursting with color. This is #31 of 50. Cards are unused, mint; back is plain shiny gold.					
Elaine Lewis 52+J +Adv Mint OB1 Minimum 140						

Lot 57	<b>2018 Club Deck (Randy Butterfield)</b>	2018					
China	Mint 2018 Club deck. #384/500, by Randy Butterfield. Deck features unique courts, beautiful Jokers with club logo and an extra card listing all 52 Plus Joker conventions to date. Very clever box design, see photo.						
Expert Playing Card Co.	52+2J +EC Mint OB1	Minimum 50					
Lot 58	<b>Congress Yale Deck</b>	US6f	c1907				
USA	USPC issued six Congress decks featuring major universities: Michigan plus five from the Ivy League. All are scarce. Gold edges remain at about 60%; Joker slightly darker tone, maybe from exposure on top of deck.						
USPC	52+J EX OB2	Minimum 50					
Lot 59	<b>Whist and Duplicate Whist Book</b>	1900					
USA	Rule book for Whist & Duplicate Whist printed by USPC in 1900. Consists of 79 pages of instruction and 17 pages of advertising (many in color) including rare Congress lacquer backs and Mystic brands.						
USPC	EX 96 Pages	Minimum 50					
Lot 60	<b>World Blackjack Championship Deck</b>	1978					
USA	Bee brand, casino-quality deck. Mint Sealed. Apparent souvenir from Sahara's World Championship of Blackjack. Missing cellophane. Pics from internet.						
USPC	52+2J MS OB1	Minimum 35					
Lot 61	<b>Lorillard 5c Ante Stage Types Cards</b>	N259	1890				
USA	Seventeen Lorillard 5c Ante Types of the Stage Cards. The pictures are similar to ones on their playing card sets but have names like Burlesque or Cleopatra. Some foxing, and some creases.						
P. Lorillard Co.	17 Singles VG-EX	Minimum 50					
Lot 62	<b>5 Golf #98 Decks</b>	L57	1895				
USA	The American Playing Card Co. issued at least 10 different backs under its Golf #98 brand. Six back designs are in this lot; five 52 card decks but one deck is a mix of two backs. One deck includes an original box in rough condition. No Jokers.						
American Playing Card Co.	52 x5 VG 1 OB3	Minimum 40					
Lot 63	<b>Columbia River Souvenir Deck</b>	S20	c1920				
USA	This is one of the tough souvenir decks to find. Condition is EX+ with gold edges at 80%+; 3 cards have very small light stains (see photo). Made in Portland; back design is Multnomah Falls.						
The Souvenir Playing Card Co.	52+J +EC EX+ OB2	Minimum 140					

Lot 64	<b>Marquis de Lafayette Ace of Spades</b>	W3	1824			
USA	Somewhat faded. Issued to honor the Marquis de Lafayette on his return to the USA. Made in Milton, Massachusetts.					
Jazaniah Ford	1 Single EX		Minimum 200			
Lot 65	<b>Bicycle Black Reserve Note Deck</b>		2013			
USA	As Issued Bicycle Black Reserve deck, #14 of 1,550, signed by Jackson Robinson. A numbered and signed collectible for serious Kings Wild Project collectors.					
Kings Wild Project	52+2J As Issued OB1		Minimum 30			
Lot 66	<b>US Printing Calendar Page (October)</b>		1893			
USA	Rare U.S. Printing Co. calendar page. Texan & Bicycle brand backs on reverse. Front side promotes the label & show cards business, picturing the Hinds & Ketcham factory in Brooklyn. We have not seen mention of Hinds & Ketcham before. Small edge stains on reverse.					
The United States Printing Co.	EX 1 Page		Minimum 160			
Lot 67	<b>Harlem Globetrotters Egypt DD Set</b>		1953			
USA	Mint sealed set commemorating a Harlem Globetrotters basketball exhibition in Egypt in 1953. In original plastic case with photo of Abe Saperstein and the President of Egypt. Tough to find.					
Brown & Bigelow	52+2J x2 MS OB1		Minimum 20			
Lot 68	<b>Collis Poultry Equipment Ad Deck</b>	AB8	c1930			
USA	Nice mint sealed advertising deck with sparkling gold edges. The joker is the wide version of Hochman CDN24b. Wrapper has some tears but still holds the deck solidly.					
Collis Poultry Equipment Co.	52+J MS OB1		Minimum 80			
Lot 69	<b>Bicycle Black Onyx Coffee DD Set</b>		2025			
USA	Onyx Coffee Lab included one deck of custom Bicycle cards in its Advent Calendar Coffee set. This black deck, with gold embossed tuck, is very hard to find. The red deck was sold separately.					
USPC	52+2J +2EC As Issued OB1 x2		Minimum 200			
Lot 70	<b>Anheuser-Busch Spanish-American War Deck</b>	W15	1898			
USA	Spectacular brewery advertising/war deck combination in NM condition with sparkling gold edges. Courts feature officers in the Spanish-American War (Teddy Roosevelt). Brewery in background on pips. Box is falling apart. More photos on next page.					
Gray Lithographing Co.	52+J NM OB3		Minimum 325			

LOT #70 - Anheuser Busch Spanish American War Deck



LOT #8 - Once Upon A Time by Elaine Lewis

