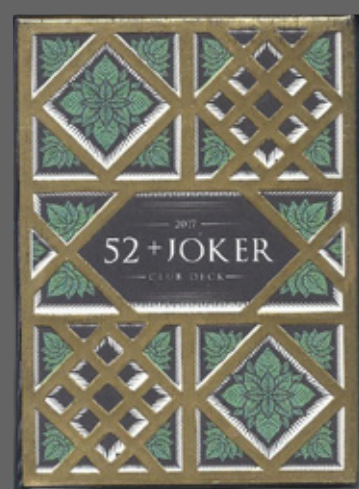
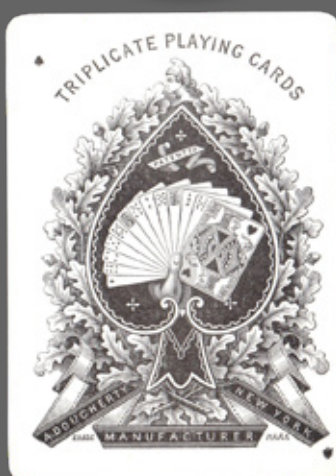


THE NEWSLETTER OF 52 PLUS JOKER

CLEAR the DECKS

THE PLAYING-CARD COLLECTORS CLUB

VOL. XL

SEPTEMBER 2026

N° 3

52 PLUS JOKER



52 Plus Joker was formed to facilitate :

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

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

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

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

12205 Menalto Drive

Los Altos Hills

CA. 94022-4234 USA

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

Email: payments@52plusjoker.org

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

Rates for advertisements: payable to Steve above:

¼ page \$ 45

½ page \$ 75

full page \$ 145

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

CONVENTION AUCTION

Members who have attended our conventions know we hold auctions with a wide variety of decks and ephemera, both live and silent. All the lots presented in this Clear The Decks issue will be auctioned at our convention in Niagara Falls. If you will not be attending, the auction will also be open for online bidding until 6PM Eastern on Oct. 23rd. You can also submit bids to Steve Bowling and we will enter proxy bids on your behalf. Mail bidders have been very successful in prior auctions. See the Auction Rules page

WEBSITE www.52plusjoker.org

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Card Culture Editor

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FRONT COVER (L-R, top first) see auction listing

Lot #1 Tom and Judy Dawson Legacy Deck (box)

Lot #57 Dougherty Triplicate Cat Back Deck (ace)

Lot #42 Vannini Pocker (back)

Lot #43 Union Cards Civil War Deck (box)

Lot #22 1896 Worshipful Company Deck (ace)

Lot #15 2017 Club Deck, Alex Chin (box)

REAR (inside)

Lot #36 Hard-a-Port Tobacco Insert Deck (6 cards)

Lot #59 USA 250th Anniversary Gilded Set (boxes)

REAR COVER

Lot #8 Bicycle Salesman Sample Foldout

The Knave Reports



Niagara calls! The convention is the highlight of our year and I am booked for travel and looking forward to seeing everyone. I'll enjoy hearing the speakers talking about their playing card interests and specialisms, hearing all about the new deck launches, getting some cards bought in the trading room and maybe in the auction and the general playing card buzz all the way through to the Diamond Awards.

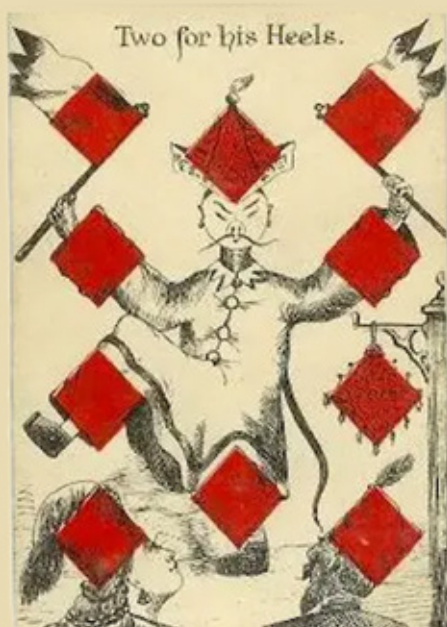
I have mentioned before that the Worshipful Company in the City of London, England, is going to be 400 years old in 2028. We are writing a book to celebrate this amazing milestone and history, and I have been researching so that we will be able to add some new material. I will present some new findings in some articles I'm planning for the next few issues.

The Club Auction is one of the great benefits of our membership. The selection on offer is usually full of interest, and this time it certainly has a lot of high quality decks. There are old decks and new, standard decks and some with great artistry - and some great items that *aren't* cards like the folding sales sample set on the back page and a real printing block. We benefit from having a membership with such a wide range of interests. It's also good to know that the club takes 10% from the seller and absolutely nothing else, and this is a terrific deal for everyone. Don't miss out! My experience is that I've had some club auction items at very fair prices and no regrets - I try to stick to a top price and if someone wants it more than I do, I really hope they enjoy it!

Thanks to all our contributors: Lee Asher, Erik Gerard, Alex Clays, Peter Endebrock, Steve Bacon, Dave Seaney, Steve Bowling and the Auction team. Thanks also to our proofreaders.

All our authors and contributors are collectors and enthusiasts just like you. 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



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Tel: (302) 236-9099

Store: www.rubylane.com/shop/twoforhisheels

Direct From The Desk Of Your Club President



Let's talk about our annual convention. This year, we are getting together in Niagara Falls, New York.

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

For the record, the hotel we've selected is outstanding. We were there in 2024, and the facilities are second to none. Niagara is shaping up to be one of the best events we've ever held.

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

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

- Watch the 2026 club deck unveiling.
- Enjoy exciting speakers.
- Encounter heavy trading & selling.
- Participate in silent & live auctions.
- Attend the 10th annual Diamond Awards.
- Plus lots more...

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

El Presidente - Lee Asher

Straight From The Mouth Of The Head Of Publicity

Anticipation builds as we approach the annual 52 Plus Joker playing card collectors convention, scheduled for **October 21st-25th, 2026, held in Niagara Falls, NY**. Who's talking? Great question!

TIFFANY COUSTEAU: *Playing Card Manufacturing*
Join US Playing Card Co.'s Tiffany Cousteau for a clear, engaging look into her world of custom cards.

STACEY JAY KELLY: *2026 Club Deck Designer*
Stacey takes the annual club deck in a bold new direction with a fresh design that is built to stand out. Wait until you hold her new club deck in your hands!

KEVAN SEANEY: *Matthew Andrew Daly & Congress*
How do you shrink a life-sized painting onto the back of a playing card? Today, it's a few clicks. Back in the 1890s, it was anything but simple.

AARON SOLORZANO: *Father's Vision, A Son's Determination*
Luis Solorzano was ahead of his time. Luis believed cards could be more than simple objects. He created 15 fully illustrated decks. None were printed. Then he died during COVID. His son Aaron refused to let the work disappear.

TIMOTHY SHERLOCK: *A Collector's Journey*
Hear the remarkable story of how Timothy Sherlock's fascination with vintage playing cards took root in complete isolation, flourished through years of dedicated discovery, and has now connected him with an unexpected group of collectors worldwide.

JAMES HEYGSTER: *Ciphered Suit*
From following trails of clues across the internet to exploring the many different styles of puzzles found in playing card decks, Heygster shows how creators blend logic, storytelling, and misdirection into a unique experience.

Imagine connecting with renowned card collectors and designers in one place, indulging in fascinating conversations about cards that last through the night. All opportunities become a reality at the 52 Plus Joker's Convention! Register for Niagara Falls, NY.

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

Director of Publicity & Membership - Lee Asher



52 PLUS JOKER CONVENTION 2026

Wednesday, October 21st - Sunday, October 25th

Reservations: +1 (716) 285-3361

Sheraton Niagara Falls, New York

Ask for the 52 Plus Joker Group Rate - 52PlusJokerConvention26

Enjoy an exclusive rate of \$130 + tax per night (includes complimentary parking). See our web-site for the convention schedule and more information. As we know that many attendees might want to come early or leave later in order to enjoy all the attractions that this area has to offer, we have arranged for our special rate to be available for three nights on each side of the actual convention dates.

We would like all participants to pre-register by October 1st, 2026 by sending this form with a convention fee payment of US \$50, to the address at the bottom of this page. This fee includes: table set-up, receptions, & convention activities other than the banquet. Add US \$50 if you are attending the banquet. If you have a non-member spouse or guest, add another US \$50 for them to attend the banquet.

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

Registration for 52 PLUS JOKER CONVENTION 2026

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

NAME (print clearly) _____

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES _____

Email address _____

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

Steve Bowling - srbbowling@gmail.com

12205 Menalto Drive

Los Altos Hills, CA 94022 USA

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



It's only the beginning...

2026 Convention Speaker Line-Up



TIFFANY COUSTEAU

CUSTOM CARD PRODUCTION

Join Cousteau as she breaks down the entire process, from early design ideas and smart submission tips to what it takes to run a successful Kickstarter project. She tackles the biggest myths about the industry and offers practical guidance for first-time creators looking to bring their decks to life. She'll also take us through the evolution of design and production, sharing insights valuable to both artists and collectors.



KEVAN SEANEY

Matthew Andrew Daly & Congress

How do you shrink a life-sized painting onto the back of a card? Today, it's a few clicks. Back in the 1890s, it was anything but simple. In this talk, Seaney unpacks the process that made it possible long before digital tools existed. At the heart is Matthew Andrew Daly, a respected oil painter and ceramic artist who later led the art dept. at USPCC. Until now, Daly's contributions have remained hidden in plain sight. But this talk brings them into focus.



STACEY JAY KELLY

2026 Club Deck Designer

We are back at it again, and this year Stacey Jay Kelly is taking the annual club deck in a bold new direction, with a fresh design built to stand out. Full reveal happens on Thu, Oct 22, 2026, in Niagara Falls, NY, during an evening of new playing card launches that leads up to the debut of our club deck. Picture the moment you finally hold her club deck in your hands for the first time, fresh, crisp, & worth the wait.

October 21st - 25th, 2026 (See you in Niagara Falls, NY!)



2026 Convention Speaker Line-Up



AARON SOLORZANO

Father's Vision, Son's Determination

Luis Solorzano was ahead of his time. Before designing cards became fashionable, he was illustrating custom decks in Los Angeles in the 1990s. He created 15 fully illustrated decks. None were printed. Then he died during COVID. His son Aaron refused to let the work disappear. Aaron gathered everything his father left behind, met the right people, found partners, and pushed the vision toward reality.



TIMOTHY SHERLOCK

A Collector's Journey

What happens when a lifelong passion thrives not as much at bustling flea markets or crowded auction houses, but in the quiet corners of the internet? This is the remarkable story of how Timothy Sherlock's fascination with vintage playing cards took root in complete isolation, flourished through years of dedicated discovery, and has now connected him with an unexpected group of collectors worldwide.



JAMES HEYGSTER

CIPHERED SUIT

The author behind CARD CULTURE's popular monthly column, "*Ciphered Suit*," dives into card puzzles, hidden clues, and deck-based mysteries. From following trails of clues across the internet to exploring the many different styles of puzzles found in playing card decks, Heygster shows how creators blend logic, storytelling, and misdirection into a unique experience.

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

October 21st - 25th, 2026 (See you in Niagara Falls, NY!)

NIAGARA FALLS 2026 CONVENTION



ENTIRE SCHEDULE IN EDT TIME ZONE

Wednesday, October 21st, 2026

2:00 PM - Meeting of Club Officers

6:00 PM - Registration/ Opening Reception

Thursday, October 22nd, 2026

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM - Submit Lots for Auction

9:30 AM - Trading Room Opens

10:00 AM - Official Opening/ Announcements

12:00 AM -2:00 PM - New Members Lunch

2:15 PM - 2:45 PM - **Timothy Sherlock**

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM - **Tiffany Cousteau**

3.45 PM - Members' Annual Meeting

5:45 PM - Trading Room Closes, Dinner Break

8:00 PM - Club Deck & New Decks **Stacey Jay Kelly**

Friday, October 23rd, 2026

9:00 AM - Trading Room Opens

9:00 AM - Set up and Bidding on Silent Auction

10:00 AM - Silent Auction Closes /Settling up

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM - **James Heygster**

10:45 AM - 11:30 AM - **Surprise Guest**

12:00 PM -1:30 PM - Lunch Break

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM - **Kevan Seaney**

2:45 PM - 3:15 PM - **Aaron Solorzano**

6:00 PM - Trading Room Closes, Dinner Break

8:00 PM - Trading Room Opens

7:30 PM - Poker (*and other games*)

10:00 PM - Trading Room Closes

Saturday, October 24th, 2026

9:00 AM - Trading Room Opens

9:15 AM - 10:00 AM - Viewing for Auction

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Auction

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM - Settle Auction Results

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM - Close Trading Room

6:00 PM - Red Carpet Event/ Silent Auction Viewing

7:00 PM - Diamond Awards and Banquet

- Silent auction continues

8:30 PM - Silent Auctions Settled

10:00 PM - Official Close

Schedule is subject to change without notice.

How sweet can it be? Part two

Alex Clays

Previously I mentioned Cadbury chocolates as part of the Mondelez International group. Cadbury is internationally headquartered in Buckinghamshire and operates in more than 50 countries worldwide. Cadbury was founded in 1824 in Birmingham, England, by John Cadbury (1801–1889), a Quaker who sold tea, coffee and drinking chocolate.

Cadbury developed the business with his brother Benjamin, followed by his sons Richard and George. The latter developed the Bournville estate, a model village designed to give the company's workers improved living conditions. The firm's first major breakthrough occurred in 1866, when Richard and George introduced an improved cocoa into Britain, thanks to the new Van Houten cocoa press, which they managed to buy in Holland.

Cadbury merged with J. S. Fry & Sons in 1918. Cadbury is known for its Dairy Milk chocolate, the Creme Egg and Roses selection box, and other confectionery products.



One of the best-known British brands, in 2013 The Daily Telegraph named Cadbury among Britain's most successful exports.

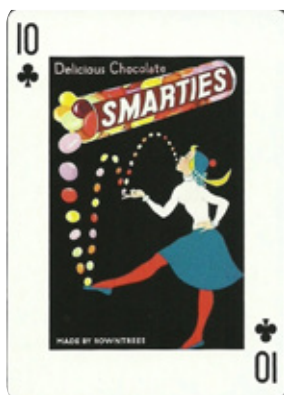
Throughout much of the 19th and 20th centuries there were three big British confectionery manufacturers: next to Cadbury and Fry's comes Rowntree's. All three were founded by Quakers.

Rowntree's was founded in 1862 at Castlegate in York by Henry Isaac Rowntree (1838-1883). In 1881, Rowntree introduced Fruit Pastilles and the product proved to be a great success allowing the company to invest in a Van Houten press to produce better quality chocolate in order to compete with Cadbury's.

In the 1890s, Rowntree transformed from a small family business into a large-scale manufacturer. Around 1898, the company acquired its own cocoa plantations in the West Indies. Though invited to participate in the merger with Cadbury's and Fry's, the company declined to do so.



The Chocolate Crisp, a wafer-and-chocolate bar later known as the Kit Kat, was launched in 1935.



Chocolate beans were first sold loose in 1938, but were later packaged in a cardboard tube and branded as Smarties.

In 1969, the Rowntree board rejected a £37 million takeover bid from General Foods. The same year, Rowntree entered into a long-term agreement with Hershey, whereby Hershey would produce Rowntree products under license in the US, and began to distribute Kit Kat in 1970.

The Hershey Company was founded by Milton S. Hershey (1857-1945) in 1894 as the Hershey Chocolate Company, originally established as a subsidiary of his Lancaster Caramel Company. The first Hershey bars were sold in 1900 and proved so popular that he was able to build his own company town of Hershey, Pennsylvania.



I want to show some playing cards (above), the first 2 promoting their well-known Hershey's Kisses, the latter for their 'Hero of Manila' chocolate segars.



Also in 1969, Rowntree merged with John Mackintosh and Co, to become Rowntree Mackintosh.

The history of Mackintosh chocolates began in 1890 in Halifax, England, when John and Violet Mackintosh created "Celebrated Toffee". In 1932, the company expanded into chocolates by acquiring A.J. Caley & Son, leading to the launch of the iconic Quality Street toffees in 1936 (opposite column next page).



Lion chocolate bars were introduced in 1976. By 1988 the Rowntree Mackintosh Confectionery was purchased by the Swiss Nestlé company.

And of course we can't pass by the Mars Chocolate Company! Mars, Incorporated started in 1911 when Frank C. Mars began making and selling buttercream candies from his home kitchen in Tacoma, Washington. The family-owned empire exploded after inventing the Milky Way bar in 1923 and introducing iconic global treats like Snickers and M&M's, growing into one of the largest privately held businesses in the world.



Mars, or the 'Mars bar', is a chocolate bar consisting of caramel and nougat coated with milk chocolate. It was manufactured in Slough UK from 1932 by Forrest Mars Sr., son of Frank C. Mars. He modelled the Mars bar after his father's Milky Way bar, popular in the US, adjusting the recipe to suit European tastes.



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x-decks.com

Comments on SCU3

Peter Endebroek



This is about a well-known pack which is listed in the *Hochman Encyclopedia* as SCU3. It is described there as a Cuban souvenir pack by an “unknown Cuban manufacturer, c1930”. The distinct feature of this pack is the Cuban/American back - above - with the two flags, Uncle Sam, and a Cuban. I have comments on some aspects of this pack.

The first is about the composition of the pack. In my collection is a deck with 52 cards plus a Joker. But strangely enough, there are 12 additional cards, three in each suit. And what is even stranger: all 65 cards fit into the box. Some of the extra cards are obviously from a different print run with the surrounding colours of the pictures less distinct. But others show completely different views for the same card value.



I have seen a lot of similar packs on the internet, and many of them show cards with different views than mine, although usually only as concerns the suit signs. I am showing here two cards of the same value with different views (above) and two cards with the same view but different values (opposite, top).



Note that all these illustrations are from my pack with the extra cards, I didn't use additional cards from the internet. These are just examples; there are more cards that show these differences. There must have been several editions of the pack.

My pack is in an anonymous box with one of the cards from the pack pasted to it (a two of spades). Again on the internet I have seen these cards with a box with a different card pasted to it – which is not surprising. The manufacturer will have used spare cards to paste to the box. But I also saw them with the identical Cuban/American back in a box attributing them to Romo & Kredi. According to the *Encyclopedia* there is also a Romo & Kredi Cuban souvenir pack with a different back (SCU2), made in c1905. This would mean that the views on these older cards should be different. But was possibly Romo & Kredi also the “unknown manufacturer” of the SCU3 pack, too?

The illustrations are not really surprising for a souvenir pack. Most of them are views, and some show people. But there is the Jack of Spades with the “CAMAGUEY AGRAMONTE MONUMENT”. This monument was inaugurated in Camagüey in



1912, and I wonder what the strange (non-existent) five-pointed star above the statue on the card signifies. I couldn't find an explanation for that.



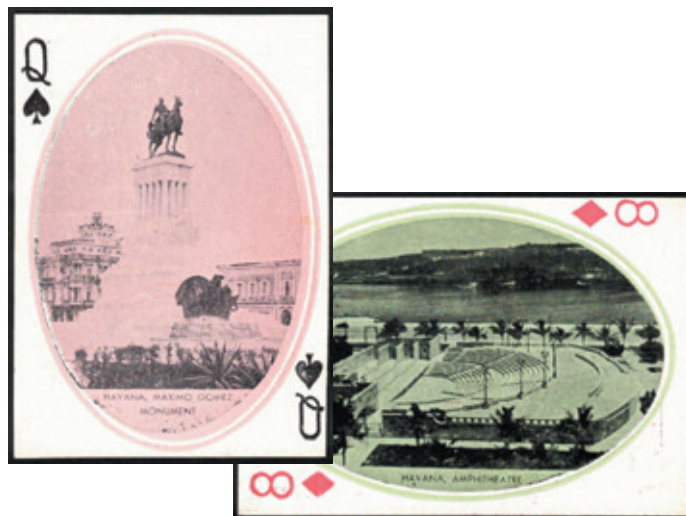
Finally the dating. Certainly “c1930” is not completely incorrect, but the cards are definitely from after 1935 or later. A first indication is the date that you can see on the Nine of Clubs (and also on an extra King of Clubs) in my pack. If you look closely, you can read there the text “4 DE SEPTIEMBRE 1933”. This is the date of one of the Cuban revolutions. So the pack must be from after that date.



And that’s not all: There is a partial tax band on the box which refers to a law from 23 August 1935, so the cards were published definitely after that date.

The views on some of the cards confirm that they were printed even later than 1935. The “Maximo Gomez Monument” on the Queen of Spades was built by Aldo Gamba in 1935, and the “Amphitheatre” on the Eight of Diamonds was built in 1936.

All of this makes me wonder. Obviously, there were different editions and printings of the pack, whoever made it. And were Romo & Kredi possibly the makers/publishers? Is there a way to decide about the editions? One pack and more questions than answers.



New from artist Jeff Daymont

Gospel Deck

Featuring art inspired by
the Book of Kells

jankendeck.com/gospel



The “Sacred Squeal of Now” and Playing Cards, Part Three

Steve Bacon

This is the third and concluding part of a three-part article dealing with playing cards that are related to rock ‘n’ roll music. The first part appeared in the March 2026 edition of Clear the Decks and looked at decks that celebrated two extended musical works: “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” and “Yellow Submarine.” The second installment in the June 2026 edition examined certain decks that relate to performers of the music. This final installment examines decks that deal with additional aspects of rock ‘n’ roll music. As was true of the first two sections of the article, this section explores decks that primarily feature artwork and that might be considered atypical.

A Rock Music Venue



Leo Scherfig “Good Grief” – CBGB (2023)

In 2023, Danish playing card designer Leo Scherfig issued a deck through his publishing entity, Moon Playing Cards, titled “Good Grief.” The deck is his tribute to a punk music club in New York named “CBGB,” and it is terrific.

For those unfamiliar with CBGB, “Punktuation!” magazine has an excellent article about it that appears online and includes the following introductory words:

“CBGB is a name that is synonymous with punk rock. This legendary music club, located in New York City’s East Village, was the epicenter of the punk rock revolution that shook the world in the 1970s and beyond. CBGB became the breeding ground for a new music

genre that defied conventions and challenged the status quo.

“The impact of CBGB on punk rock cannot be overstated. It was a place where musicians, artists, and fans came together to celebrate their passion for music, freedom, and individuality. It was a sanctuary for rebels and misfits, a place where creativity could flourish and new ideas could be born. CBGB was more than just a music venue; it was the embodiment of the punk rock spirit.”

The deck created by Scherfig features well-known punk artists on the court cards, and one of the Jokers identifies them and the bands to which they belonged. It is a new suits deck with skulls, hearts, fire and pentacles, respectively, replacing spades, hearts, diamonds and clubs. The aces show the symbols of these suits, and there are three jokers, one of which is the explanatory card noted above. Shown below are: the back design of the cards, the explanatory card joker, and three court cards – Joan Jett, David Byrne and Sting.



The Instruments

Perhaps more than any other type of music, rock ‘n’ roll has an obsession with its principal musical instrument – the guitar. This fascination is reflected in the many decks of cards that feature pictures of them.

To name just a few that are interesting and/or enjoyable: Gretsch Guitars “Gretsch,” Paul Reed Smith

Guitars “PRS,” John Hornby Skewes & Co “Encore,” “Guitar Odyssey” (Michelle Baker designs), Carta Mundi “Century” (Shyleen Fenney designs), and numerous decks promoting Fender Guitars. However, even more interesting than the guitar decks are two decks made by Nintendo in or about 1978, celebrating the Akira Tsumura banjo collection.

Nintendo “Akira Tsumura Banjo” Decks (1978)

1. Headstock Deck

At one time, Akira Tsumura had what was widely acknowledged to be the finest collection of banjos ever assembled, and he wrote extensively about them. He also authored books about ukuleles, guitars, and string instruments generally. Considerations of time and space do not permit a description of what happened to the collection, but it is a fascinating story. Both of the decks discussed here are shown at the World Web Playing Card Museum, and there are articles on both decks at the World of Playing Cards website.

One of the two Nintendo Akira Tsumura banjo decks consists exclusively of images of the banjo peghead or headstock from 53 different banjos in the Tsumura collection, and it is visually quite compelling. Shown below are: the back design of the cards in that deck, the extra card identifying the banjos highlighted, the Joker, and three of the suited cards out of 52 that could be shown.



2. Complete Banjo Images w/ Catalogue and Historical Materials

The other Tsumura collection banjo deck made by Nintendo was an ambitious project. It is my understanding that it was published in a double deck set and accompanied by a Catalogue, in a limited edition of 500.

I have never seen these cards, but my impression is that the two decks in the set had different Jokers. The listing at the World Web Playing Card Museum website, shows four Jokers, while stating that each deck had two of them.

Each of the suited cards in each deck shows an entire banjo in the same upright position. However, the accompanying Catalogue, the back design of the cards, and the Jokers have historical images that reflect the origin of the banjo as an instrument created by enslaved Africans, and in the process, reflect the racial attitudes that were held by those who enslaved them. Today those attitudes, and the artwork reflecting them, are offensive. The pictures set forth below show: the cover of the Catalogue, the back design of the cards, two of the four Jokers, and two of the suited cards showing individual banjos out of the 52 that could be shown.



Many years ago, I heard rock 'n' roll music defined as "the sacred squeal of now." My recollection is that Alan Freed was credited with the expression, but I can't confirm it; indeed, today I can't find the quote anywhere. Yet I continue to think it is a useful way of looking at the music. The phrase captures the importance of the music's themes and messages ("sacred"), its urgency, freedom, and rebelliousness ("squeal"), and its relevance for the young and contemporary ("of now").

This is not to say that the rock music industry as a whole, or its participants as individuals, answer to a higher calling than the rest of us. The messages of rock – the angst and yearning reflected in a lot of the music – are extremely profitable, and in the academic literature much has been written about the irony, if not downright hypocrisy, involved when angry rock millionaires arrive in stretch limos to perform songs protesting the spiritual emptiness of capitalism.

But whether profitably or not, messages are in fact communicated by the music, and, regardless of the messenger, it is important that this inherent tension between protest and profit be exposed to the light of day, right along with everything else.

It is no doubt highly debatable whether Bob Dylan should have been awarded a Nobel Prize in literature. However, what is important is to acknowledge that it is inconceivable a classical or jazz musician could ever be similarly honored. Rock music concerns itself with things outside of itself, some trivial but some profound. It has its eye firmly trained on its fans, and what they need and want. It seeks to communicate and it cares about its audience, something that is and has been sadly lacking in many corners of the art world for the past 75 years.

Sometimes that desire to please simply results in a song that works on American Bandstand – "Dick, I give it a 9. It has a good beat and the kids can dance to it" – and sometimes the result is something that transcends time and place.

To be sure, the decks described in this 3-part article only occasionally trouble themselves about anything that could be considered "sacred." But that is hardly the point. Rather, what matters is that they can if they want to, and hopefully, this article conveys some sense of what might be possible.

There is no shortage of material in the rock music world inviting serious treatment, material full of dramatic and visual potential. By way of example, it would be fascinating to see a deck of cards with artistic richness and complexity comparable to the best of the great album covers.

Or, turning to social commentary, The Vietnam Songbook, compiled and published in 1969 by Barbara Dane and Irwin Silber, presents a total of 100 songs, all of whose lyrics could be the basis for profound visual images on playing cards.

Or, if you are of a philosophical or religious turn of mind, rock music is rich with literally hundreds of songs about God (e.g., "One of Us," Joan Osborne), the afterlife (e.g., "Where To Now St. Peter," Elton John), ultimate meaning (e.g., "Fountain of Sorrow," Jackson Browne) and/or ultimate values (e.g., "Desperado," The Eagles).

Many themes with rich visual possibilities exist, and hopefully playing card artists and designers will look to rock music in the future as a somewhat neglected resource for exciting decks of cards.



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Jokers Wild: Jokers Gone Goth

Erik Gerard

Intro

As I was reorganizing my collection of Jokers (now over 800) after returning from the fabulous 52+Joker conference this year, I noticed that I have almost 20 goth and skeleton style Jokers. I find these to be a nice counterpoint to the jester style; sort of a yin/yang thing going on. Some of these you might recognize while others are a bit rarer.

Examples



Zombie Joker (left above): A great twist on the classic Bicycle Joker, complete with 808 tombstone. **Dan Sperry Joker (right, above):** Dan is a great goth magician whose deck uses his image for the Joker. His “Lifesaver” routine is one of my all time favorites!



Prediction Jokers (above): Jokers are sometimes used as prediction cards for magicians and these two have one if you look carefully: “You will choose the queen of hearts” and “3 hearts”.



Pirate Jokers (above): These are from the Piracy deck by Peter McKinnon.



Devil Joker (above left): A great silhouette of the devil laughing. **Promo Joker (above right):** In this case, the Joker on the Ace of Spades, which is already interesting, has contact information.



New Orleans Joker: All the colors and style of a New Orleans Mardi Gras. **Gas Mask Joker:** Another nice twist on this theme, complete with hand grenades.



Latin Message Joker: I'm sure someone in this group can probably add insights to the message on this Joker: "Meliora non facit venum nisi mens sit vera" = "Better things do not make the sale unless the mind is true." **Angel Joker:** Again, a nice juxtaposition having the angel joker with wings, praying.



Threatening Jokers: Between the knife & bomb, and the pair of rifles, these Jokers are clearly on the offensive.

Jokers can be silly, serious, scary, goth, jesters, famous, infamous, people, animals, places, and so many other wonderful things! I am constantly surprised by what artists come up with. While there are certain requirements for all the other cards in a deck, Jokers truly are the wild card!

Erik Gerard is a retired full-time magician who has collected over 800 unique jokers. You can find his weekly "Jokers Wild" posting on:

Facebook: facebook.com/wizardandoz

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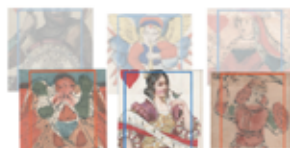
Fellowship

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

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Where did we come from?

Dave Seaney

In The Beginning... what do an advertising man, an insurance broker, a mentalist, an internal revenue agent and a music teacher have in common? They created and organized popular playing card collecting almost 100 years ago. You will learn who these forgotten pioneers of playing card collecting were.

Let's start with the "story" of the beginning. I heard this from Hilary Oates, President of Melbourne Playing Card Collectors. Like all often-repeated stories there's usually a grain of truth. Here's what I was told:

"In 1927 a group of gentlemen gathered at a Golf and Country Club, in Dunedin, Florida. One person in attendance was a man celebrated as America's best short story writer. He brought up the topic of 'hobbies' and particularly how people start collecting things such as cigar bands, chauffeur badges and other trifles, of no intrinsic value. He wondered who started these fads and how were they kept going. Rashly a gentleman, Mr. Gordon K. MacEdward stated that he could start a new hobby, collecting some item that would achieve popularity and recognition within five years. Another man bet \$500 that he couldn't. Mr MacEdward took up the challenge. "What will it be"? MacEdward searched for an idea then saw about thirty decks of playing cards strewn face down on tables – relics of a women's Bridge tournament, that had been at the Club that afternoon. They provided an attractive spot of colour in that dimly lit room. 'Individual specimens of the designs on playing cards' MacEdward stated loudly."

Is this the total or partial truth? Total fabrication? Let's start with this MacEdward character.

GORDON KENNETH MacEDWARD

Gordon's Scottish ancestors emigrated to Carleton, Ontario, where his father William grew up until age 17 (1885). He then came to America and started working on the Chicago and Atlantic Railway. While William was working on part of the line in Indiana, he met Luetta Hilligoss. They married in 1887 and the next year Gordon was born in Huntington, Indiana, where his father was now stationed.

Before long William was promoted and he moved the family to Elmira, New York, until he retired in 1903

and moved to Saginaw, Michigan. With the University of Michigan nearby 18 year-old Gordon headed to school there in 1906.

Gordon graduated in 1910 with a degree in literature and then went to work for Gray Motors as their Advertising Manager in Detroit. Originally called the Michigan Yacht and Power Co, the Gray Marine Motor Company was a US manufacturer of marine engines between 1910 and 1967. The advertising business seemed to be made for Gordon, who became very good at it. In 1912 he left Gray Motors and went to work as Advertising Manager for Detroit Lubricating.

By 1915 Gordon moved on to Chalmers Motor Car Co, then resigned as Assistant Advertising manager to become stockholder, director and advertising manager of the new H. A. Jones Real Estate Co., Detroit.

That year he also married Bessie Bowers, a 27 year old New York girl living in Detroit with her widowed mother. Then in September 1917 a strange thing happened. Mrs. MacEdward decided the patriotic thing to do for the war effort was to allow her husband to go to war and leave her at home with their baby. Married men with children were exempt at the time. So, when he registered for service in World War I, he was granted an exemption to the exemption. How very patriotic of Mrs. Gordon to do this. But wait, there was more to this patriotism. You see, also in July Bessie had filed for divorce from Gordon for "extreme cruelty". Maybe their time apart would help the marriage.

**Wife Plans for Support,
Husband Waives Exemption**
There is one young woman in the Third division, Second ward, who is not going to keep her husband out of the country's service just because he might be exempted under a literal interpretation of the draft law.
Mrs. Gordon K. MacEdward, 118 West Willis avenue, talked the matter over with her husband after he had filed a claim for exemption, as he had his wife and child to support. Mrs. MacEdward decided she could live with her parents and thus allow her husband to go to war.
Monday the board members were surprised when MacEdward demanded that he be allowed to withdraw his exemption claim. The

When Gordon joined the Army he was an officer of Field Artillery, stationed at Camp Sherman in Ohio. He also conducted a vocational school for soldiers about sales and advertising while there. When he returned to Detroit, he and his mother moved into their own home while he and his wife went to court to argue over property and their daughter.

In 1923 he remarried and became manager of Walker & Co Outdoor Advertising. Tired of Michigan winters, MacEdward had already started spending them in Florida. He soon made it permanent and in 1926 joined Fischkorn Florida Co to develop Dunedin Isles. He also became President of their Chamber of Commerce. Now MacEdward is in Dunedin, per our story.

SEWELL FORD

Sewell Ford is remembered for his "Torchy" and "Shorty McCabe" stories. He was born in Maine but later his family moved to Haverhill Mass. where his father worked as a procurement clerk. Sewell began as a newspaper reporter there and was a reporter or editor on papers in Baltimore, Boston and New York.

Sewell's first book "Horses Nine: stories of harness and saddle" was published in 1903. Over 20 years he would publish around 20 books, mostly "Torchy" and "Shorty McCabe" stories. These led to a number of movie shorts. In 1926 Sewell was finishing his long running "Inez and Trilby May" series at his winter home in Clearwater Florida, on the south side of Dunedin where he enjoyed golfing.

MacEdward's selling point for Dunedin was not just the great weather, it was *playing golf* in great weather. The developer made sure they had a great course, designed by architect Donald Ross. Dunedin Golf and Country Club opened on January 1st, 1927 and it became a PGA National Golf Club in 1944. Playing on opening day, according to news articles, were Sewell Ford and Gordon MacEdward.

AUTHOR BACK AT FLORIDA RESIDENCE



Sewell Ford, left, above, well known as a contributor to magazines, and especially for his authorship of the "Torchy" and "Teasie" series of stories, is back at his winter home in Clearwater for the season. He is shown above talking things over with Norman V. Hansplant, executive vice president of the Clearwater Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Ford has made his winter home at Clearwater for the past several years.

We now have proof of MacEdward and a famous short story writer Sewell Ford being there on the date of our story. Did they make a \$500 bet to start a hobby of card collecting? I have not found proof but we have what they call circumstantial evidence. Let's check that out.

By February 1930, a short lived national newspaper column called "Ol' Dan Tucker Sez, Sezee" states that Gordon supposedly has the world's largest collection of playing cards. And that a card collecting bug in America has started. Was it due to him? Increasing interest, MacEdward also writes an article in 1935 for Hobbies Magazine (Volume 40, Issue 3). It was entitled "Cards From A Collector's Angle".



In March 1938 Gordon appeared on the national radio broadcast of "Hobby Lobby". This long running show allowed listeners to write in so they could come on the radio and "lobby for their hobby." Gordon spoke about his collection of 4,000 aces of spades. That same year he and other new collectors started forming the Playing Card Collectors Association (PCCA). The club was headquartered in Milwaukee and by the end of the year they had over 70 members. MacEdward's collection was now listed as almost 13,000 cards.

In 1940 Gordon was President of Adcrafter, a non-profit advertising organization in Detroit. In their company magazine, he wrote an article called "The History of Playing Cards In The History of the Graphic Arts". Who were the other forgotten charter members of the PCCA that advanced our hobby?

BJARNE SCHEEL ROSING

Bjarne was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1871. At age 18 he emigrated to America, arriving at Castle Garden Emigrant Landing Depot in New York aboard the SS Servia. He soon relocated to the northside

Chicago Cabrini-Green neighborhood. At the time it was known as Little Sweden, where other Rosing families lived. Here he met his future wife, Ella Morse who worked at Chicago's Elm Street Settlement House run by the Unity Church where she was the Superintendent. The area was known as "Little Hell". Settlement houses were marked by a residential approach to social work: the social workers ("residents") would live in the settlement house, and thus be a part of the same communities as the people they served.

In 1899 Bjarne began working for A. O. Smith, a car frame maker in Milwaukee. Bjarne, like his wife, was very socially conscious and in 1916, as Superintendent, he helped A. O. Smith make a huge difference for their employees. He had made an exhaustive study of the compulsory health insurance question and found that sickness caused seven times more loss of time to workingmen than accidents. Working with the state he helped pass a law that also provided that if the breadwinner of a family is sent to a hospital or sanitarium with an illness the family will receive 1/3 of his wages for a period not to exceed 26 weeks in any 1 year.

When Bjarne began his card collection is unknown but he did become one of the charter members of the new Playing Card Collectors Association. He placed this ad in a 1939 issue of *Avocations: A Magazine of Hobbies and Leisure*:

Bjarne Scheel Rosing, 2835 North Frederick Ave., Milwaukee, Wisc., is endeavoring to locate all collectors interested in collecting playing cards. Mr. Rosing has prepared a questionnaire which he will send without charge to all Playing Card collectors.

Unfortunately, Rosing did not get to see the fruits of his labor. Bjarne died June 7th shortly after placing the ad but his wife joined the group (Member #84) and was active until she passed away in 1956.

CLINNIE DILL PAVLICK
Clinnie Dodge Dill was born in 1893 in St. Louis, where her father was a printer. Clinnie was a gifted musician and was playing the piano by ear at age four. During her early years she played



COLLECTS CARDS — Mrs. Clinnie Dill Pavlick is a woman with 51 hobbies. Since her favorite is collecting cards, she shows off a few purchased in Windsor.

music for local vaudeville shows, opera and in area orchestras. She soon began teaching at Strassberger Music Conservatory St Louis. In 1916 she married Herman Pavlick, a first generation Hungarian-American. Clinnie was a collector of many things: souvenir handkerchiefs, napkins, bus transfers, pencils, tape measures, bottle openers, matchbooks and menus to name a few things. Her husband supported her and continually built shelves to display her collections. And of course, she collected playing cards.

A 1967 newspaper interview about hobbies said she had over 46,000 one of a kind playing cards. She was one of the first to answer Rosing's ad, and became a charter member of the PCCA. She served as President for 4 years. Chicago Playing Card Collectors Club started in 1951 and she was active in that.

FRANCIS BALLARD STERLING

Francis's early life is almost as mysterious as his later life. He was born in 1885 in California (probably San Francisco). By the early 1900s he was living in Chicago. When he registered for the draft during World War I, his day job was working as a Steamfitter.

His night job was performing as "Mahat S Mahendra the psychic from Delhi, India".

He specialized in mentalism and was sometimes billed as "The Mystic" or "Doc" Mahendra. He spent his early performing years in Chicago, when not on the road, and joined the Chicago Conjurers' Club in 1919 when it started.



In 1921 he also co-wrote a book with Hugh Roger Johnston, organizer of the Chicago Conjurers' Club, titled "Modern Card Miracles". The book is based on card tricks popularized by the magician Si Stebbins (William Henry Coffrin), and can be constructed from a standard 52-card deck. Frequently used in card magic, its properties allow the position and value of each card in a deck to be determined.

Francis was active in IBM (International Brotherhood of Magicians) and wrote a column for "The Linking Ring" magazine. He was on the cover in October 1940. Besides a number of articles he also wrote the books; *He Can't Read My Mind* (1937), *Amazing Card*

Miracles (1938) and Crystal Gazing Act (1940). Francis knew Bjarne Rosing from Chicago and became a charter member of the PCCA. He became president of the club and owned over 8,000 different playing cards. By 1940 he made his home in San Antonio, Texas. By 1951 he opened a popular nutritional store there. He passed away in 1970 at age 85.

HENRY BRUCE SPENCER

H. Bruce Spencer was born in 1880 in Clinton, Iowa. His father was a druggist and the family later moved to Racine, Wisconsin and Henry would sometimes help his father in the trade. He moved to Chicago by 1900 and soon married. He was an Insurance Broker for his entire working career. He and a brother also owned a pharmacy in Evanston. When Henry became a charter member of the PCCA he was the secretary-treasurer. His collection at the time held 15,000 singles and 1,200 decks. Mr. Spencer would also become the guiding inspiration for the formation of the Chicago Playing Card Collectors Club in 1951.

DID MacEDWARD WIN HIS BET?

Did Gordon K MacEdward actually win the bet?

If there actually was a bet, he stood a good chance!

I found *this* in a 1941 Chicago newspaper article "Another Card Game - Collecting!" It's mostly on H. Bruce Spencer but the writer did some research with playing card manufacturers and wrote:

"Manufacturers of cards say that the children's hobby first came to their attention about 10 or 12 years ago, when they began receiving letters requesting samples of cards."

That would be 1929-31 just within the 5 year limit of the wager. The 1930 newspaper article also mentioned the hobby had begun. Within 3 years the PCCA had regional chairmen in 10 states and 5 foreign countries. Unfortunately, this pioneering club would fade away in the 1990s after spawning other card collecting groups.



Gordon K. MacEdward

Gordon died in 1966 and none of his obituaries mention his connection to playing card collecting.

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Please bid using the following increments:

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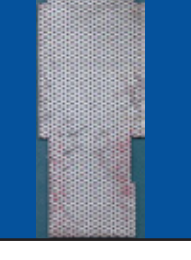
Bids will automatically be rounded down to the proper increment.

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

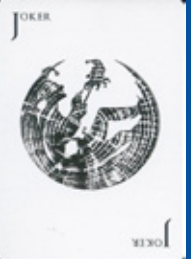
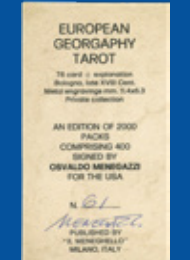
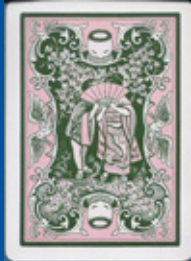
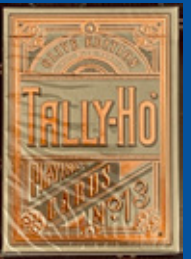
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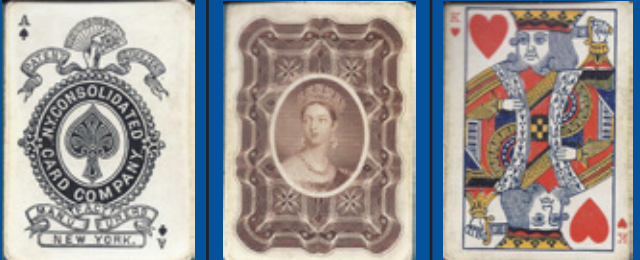
PAYMENT & SHIPPING - WAIT TO BE NOTIFIED of your winning bids and amount due. Invoices are due upon receipt and must be paid in U.S. currency. **CHECKS ARE PREFERRED vs. Paypal.** Foreign payments can be made by check only if it is in U.S. dollars and the check specifically states it is cleared through a named U.S. bank. International Money Orders in U.S. dollars also OK. International bidders may use PayPal by directing the payment to payments@52plusjoker.org, adding 4% to the total invoice to cover PayPal charges. If payments are not received within 20 days from the Auction's closing date, those lots will be returned to the consignor. If items received are not as specified in the Auction listing, you should contact Steve Bowling within a week of receipt to arrange for a refund or price adjustment. U.S. shipments will be made by US Post Office. Foreign shipments will, in most cases, be sent by First Class Airmail. Buyer may elect to add insurance at his/her expense. The Club will invoice you at approximate cost for the shipping charges plus a \$3 handling charge for each package. Please note that international postage rates have increased to approximately \$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 often some damage), minimum bid, reference if found and a short description. Most references are to specific listings in the Dawson Hochman Encyclopedia. **NOTE: "Mint Sealed" refers to the deck, box may have been opened. "As Issued" means nothing has been opened.**

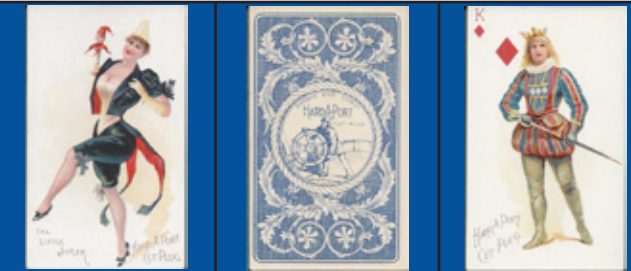
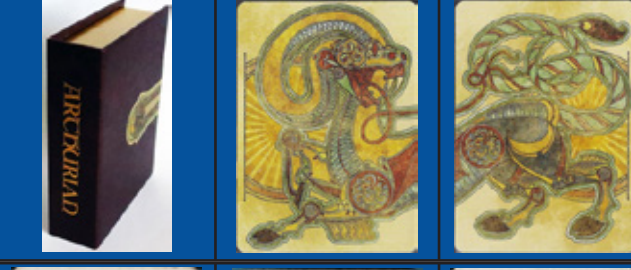
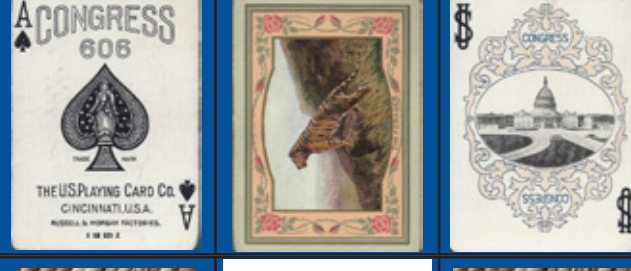
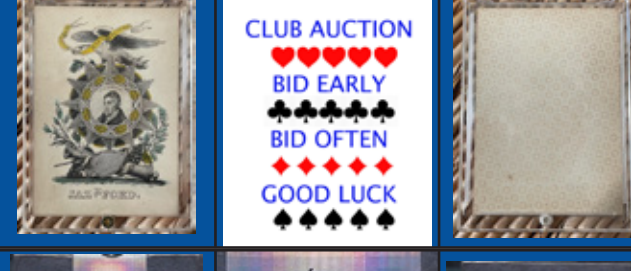
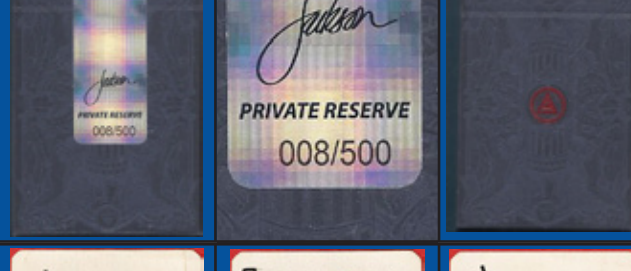
Lot 1	Tom and Judy Dawson Legacy Deck	2024	
USA	Did you miss the 2024 convention? Only 163 of these decks were produced and given to attendees. Designed by Brendan Hong to honor Tom and Judy for their years of dedication to the club. The two Jokers represent them. See box on cover. Images from an open deck.		
Shuffled Ink	52+2J As Issued OB1	Minimum 45	  
Lot 2	Goodall Pasha Deck	1886	
UK	This mint c1886 Pasha deck is housed in a slightly torn British generic wrapper protecting a special Pasha Wrapper. The Joker is a neat earlier variation. No box.		
Chas. Goodall & Son	52+J Mint No Box Wrapper	Minimum 45	  
Lot 3	Congress Sunlight Lacquer Back Deck	US6a	1885
USA	Red/gold Congress #606 Sunlight lacquer back deck, includes a Dundreary Joker (light crease and pencil erasure). Gold edges nearly gone, general wear and soiling throughout; AS, 2H, 3D and 8C with corner crease. Box complete but flimsy.		
Russell & Morgan Ptg. & Co.	52+J Good OB2-	Minimum 100	  
Lot 4	2009 Toronto Club Deck	2009	
China	Mint sealed 2009 Toronto joint convention with IPCS club deck, reproduction of Goodall & Son's 1909 Toronto Souvenir deck. Only 250 of these club decks were made. Card images from an open deck.		
Shanghai Yushen Playing Card Co.	52+3J +EC As Issued OB1	Minimum 50	  
Lot 5	Niagara Falls Souvenir Deck	S40	1901
USA	Fitting to have a beautiful Niagara Falls souvenir deck in our 2026 convention auction. Complete. In near mint condition with many picturesque views of the falls.		
Niagara Playing Card Co.	52+J +EC NM OB2+	Minimum 35	  
Lot 6	Apollo Baseball Back Deck	SE18	c1900
USA	One of two baseball back designs by National issued to honor the new sport that was gaining in popularity. No Joker.		
National Card Co.	52 VG/EX OB2	Minimum 50	  
Lot 7	USPC Big Red Printing Plate	c1970s	
USA	USPC printing plate for Big Red Chew Top Quality bubble gum. These types of printing plates are extremely hard to come by, and offer a wonderful peek into the manufacturing process.		
USPC	EX	Minimum 100	  

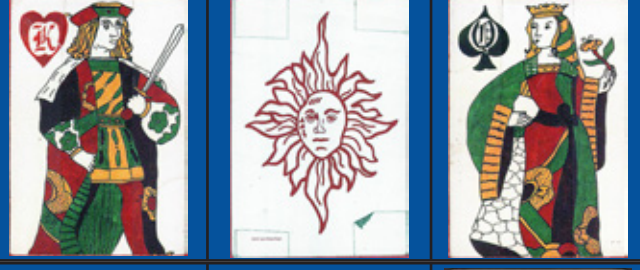
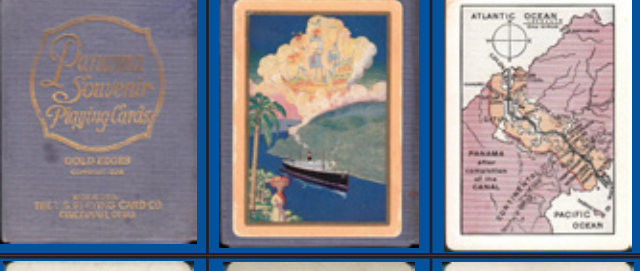
Lot 8	Bicycle Sample Foldout	c1900	
USA	Original early 1904 Bicycle salesman sample foldout. Fourteen panels display thirty cards showcasing twenty-nine designs. Front title panel separated. These are very special, a highlight in even advanced Bicycle collections. See back cover.		
USPC	VG Front Panel Separated	Minimum 400	  
Lot 9	Jeu De Revolution, 1830 Repro Deck	1982	
Italy	Vito Arienti's reproduction deck showcases vibrant 1830s scenes and revolutionary figures. Each card delivers a captivating glimpse into history. A unique piece for enthusiasts and historians alike.		
Vito Arienti	32 +Title Mint OB1	Minimum 20	  
Lot 10	Playing Card History Day Deck	2000	
Belgium	Commissioned by U.S. Games to honor the 2000 joint convention of IPCS & 52 Plus Joker. Signature of John Rowland, CT Governor, on the backs proclaims October 11th, 2000, as Playing Card History Day. Images from an open deck; housed in a generic plastic case.		
Cartamundi	52+2J As Issued OB1	Minimum 25	  
Lot 11	Rex #79 Joker Single	MSW89 1926	
USA	Rare Joker from a very small Johnstown, PA. maker. We seldom see decks from this maker and have never seen a Rex #79 deck. Excellent condition.		
Independent Card Corp.	1 Single EX	Minimum 25	  
Lot 12	Molson Brewery Deck	c1926	
Canada	A beautiful vintage deck with a back featuring a pub with a hanging Molson sign overhead. Several cards have very slight paper loss. A unique Joker and branded Ace highlight this deck. The Canadian tax stamp confirms its authenticity and origin.		
USPC	52+J VG+ OB2	Minimum 25	  
Lot 13	Bailey Banks & Biddle Deck	L75 c1910	
USA	Whist size advertising deck made for famous jeweler and silversmith with history tracing back to the 1830s. Cards are in EX condition, four cards have light soiling, and one back soiled.		
American PCC	52+J EX OB1-	Minimum 25	  
Lot 14	D. Blaine Dell Technologies Deck	2017	
China	David Blaine x Dell deck, designed by Mark Stutzman, is a highly sought-after deck, produced solely for a private event honoring Dell Technologies employees in 2017. Made by Expert PCC and never made available to the public. Mint sealed, and completely out of print.		
Expert Playing Card Co.	52+2J As Issued OB1	Minimum 50	  

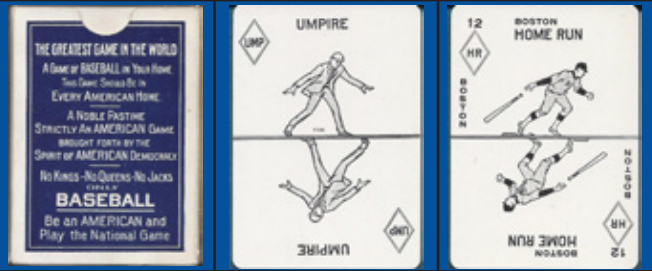
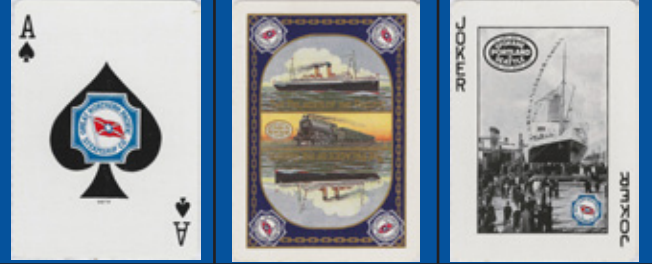
Lot 15	2017 Club Deck (Alex Chin)	2017	Beautiful club deck with special box foil (see cover). One of Alex Chin's masterpieces.						
Taiwan									
Expert Playing Card Co.	52+2J Mint OB1	Minimum 75							
Lot 16	Geography Tarot 1985 Repro Deck	1985	Beautiful reproduction of late 1700's geographic tarot deck with map cards and information cards. This is #61 of 400 signed by Osvaldo Menegazzi.						
Italy									
Il Meneghello	78 +Title+FactCrd Mint OB1	Minimum 20							
Lot 17	Congress College Series Samples	1908-1910	Complete set of sequentially numbered Congress sample cards, all 6 designs from the hard-to-find college series, 1908-1910. Cards were removed from sample books resulting in damaged faces but VG/EX backs display beautifully.						
USA									
USPC	6 VG/EX	Minimum 25							
Lot 18	Cincinnati Game Strange People #1100	1900	Complete game highlighting unique cultures from around the world. Instructions on inside top cover (as usual). Great condition with full Cincinnati Games list.						
USA									
Cincinnati Game Co.	52+Rules+GamesList EX OB2+	Minimum 35							
Lot 19	Union Playing Cards Deck	L43 c1880	Scarce 1880s deck by Union Playing Card Co. for Butler Brothers; OB is one-of-a-kind. Cards have edge wear and soil; AS and two others have corner off, 8 others with condition issues (see photos). Missing KD, No Joker.						
USA									
Union Playing Card Co.	51 G/VG OB3- -KD	Minimum 60							
Lot 20	Tally Ho Olive and Scarlett DD Set	2015-2018	Jackson Robinson had these decks made in honor of his daughters, Scarlett and Olive. The Olive Premium Edition (2018) is number 421/850. The Scarlett deck (2015) is not numbered. Both feature gold foil embossing on the tucks. Card images from open deck.						
USA									
Kings Wild Project	52+2J As Issued OB1 x2	Minimum 50							
Lot 21	Russell & Morgan Army #303 Deck	US3a 1883	Early Russell, Morgan & Co. #303 deck honoring the Army; great Ace and Joker (which is EX, used less). Cards have general soil from use.						
USA									
Russell & Morgan Co.	52+J VG- RMB1	Minimum 180							

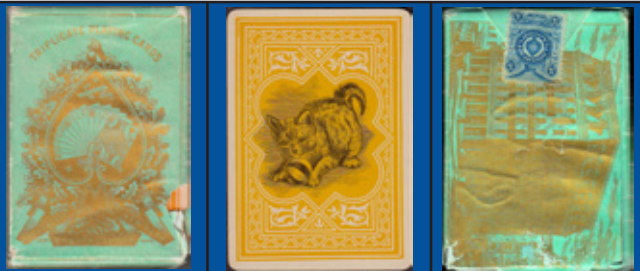
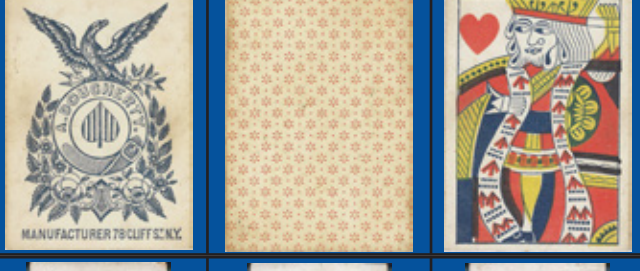
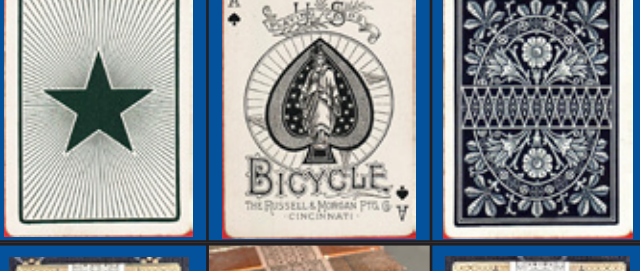
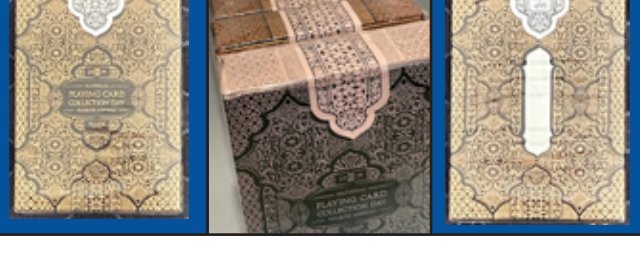
Lot 22	1896 Worshipful Company Deck	1896	UK	A stunning very early gold-edged Worshipful deck featuring Miss Patience on a background of suit signs. There is a beautiful Art Nouveau border running along one side. It was never issued with a Joker. See Ace on cover. A chance to own a rare one!	London Playing Card Co.	52 Mint OB1	Minimum 700	
Lot 23	Goodall's 19th Century Deck	Fourm 350 1900	UK	Commemorates the start of the 20th century, court cards are monarchs of England, France, Germany and Russia. Aces show various flags. No Joker. Cards are soiled, 4S corner crease, inner-half of the box only.	Goodall	52 VG	Minimum 25	
Lot 24	Bicycle Onyx Coffee DD Set	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. Card images from open decks.	USPC	52+2J+2EC As Issued OB1 x2	Minimum 50	
Lot 25	Stage 65x Deck	SE5 1908	USA	This most beautiful of the early Stage decks is mint, gold edged and was produced by USPC in 1908. Each suit features different Art Nouveau floral borders on both sides of the actor's portrait. The colorful back shows masks. It is worthy to be in any collection.	USPC	52+J Mint OB1-	Minimum 100	
Lot 26	Inter-Mountain Souvenir Deck	S30 1900	USA	One of the tougher-to-find Souvenir decks. Attractive back design highlights the gold rush to the west with a prospector and mule walking mountain terrain. AD has edge scrape as shown	USPC	52+J EX- OB2-	Minimum 40	
Lot 27	2005 Club Deck (Susan Peterson)	2005	China	Susan Peterson's 2005 Club Deck, the one that launched 52 Plus Joker's club deck series, is a cornerstone release for deck collectors. Card images from an open deck.	Shanghai Yushen Playing Card Co.	52+2J As Issued OB1	Minimum 50	
Lot 28	Queen Victoria Golden Jubilee Deck	NY48 1887	USA	Rare deck issued to celebrate Queen Victoria. Cards have edge soil and wear, 5C has edge nick as shown. We believe no Joker was issued with this deck, no box.	New York Consolidated Card Co.	52 Good Complete	Minimum 80	

Lot 29	NYCC Squeezers Calendar Trade Card	1900				
USA	NYCC 1900 Squeezers calendar trade card featuring pop-up Jack advertising when opened. Soiled exterior, approx. 3/4" tear at top, still displays nicely. Found on Hochman Trade Card color page.					
	New York Consolidated Card Co.	1 Good	Minimum 100			
Lot 30	St. Huberts Bridge Deck	1956				
France	This Philibert deck has beautiful court cards featuring people and animals. Great condition, but the original plastic box has a small crack.					
	Éditions Philibert	52+2J +Title, '+Adv NM OB2	Minimum 20			
Lot 31	Bicycle Your Logo Here Deck	2023				
USA	This sought-after Bicycle promotional deck was never sold, but used to encourage sales for the custom decks team at USPC.					
	USPC	52+2J+Adv As Issued OB1	Minimum 50			
Lot 32	Munsing Wear Advertising Deck	1912				
USA	A fabulous mint gold-edged deck with an especially great Ace of Spades and Joker. There is also an Auction Bridge card. This deck with its special Ace and Joker is a great example of the early wide advertising playing cards produced by USPC. A rare goodie!					
	USPC	52+J+AuctionCrd Mint- OB1-	Minimum 240			
Lot 33	National Boston #55 Deck	NU12	c1885			
USA	Boston decks were known as one of National Card Company's highest quality brands. Cards have very worn gold edges, box is faded.					
	National Card Co.	52+J VG/EX OB2 Faded	Minimum 65			
Lot 34	Art Series "The Japanese Girl" Deck	1905				
USA	We believe this deck is one of a limited two-deck Art Series issue from the early 1900s; not listed in Hochman, with no brand number. Unique Art Nouveau back design. Worn gold edges are more muted than the ones you'd find on a USPC-made pack.					
	Standard Playing Card Co.	52+J VG+ OB2-	Minimum 50			
Lot 35	2006 Club Deck (Karla Mattson)	2006				
China	Karla Mattson designed a clever transformation deck for our 2006 Montreal convention, it was given free to convention attendees. Mint sealed, photos from an open deck.					
	Shanghai Yushen Playing Card Co.	52+2J As Issued OB1	Minimum 50			

Lot 36	Hard-a-Port Tobacco Insert Deck	I19	1890		
USA	Magnificent Hard-a-Port tobacco insert deck. Not put together card-by-card. Issued as complete deck with original box (rare). Cards are NM with every corner sharp (see photo on inside back cover). Likely the best you will ever see.				
Moore & Calvi	52+J NM OB3	Minimum 500			
Lot 37	Jeu Tex Avery Cartoons Deck		1995		
France	Courts, Aces and Jokers feature Tex Avery characters like Droopy Dog and wolves and sexy cartoon women. Mint.				
Grimaud	52+2J+Title+EC Mint OB1-	Minimum 15			
Lot 38	Jackson Robinson Arthurian Deck		2017		
USA	Another great deck by Jackson Robinson with spectacular diptych Joker. Gorgeous seal indicates this deck is #675 of a limited edition of 1,000. Box looks like small book. Deck is mint sealed; images from an open deck.				
Kings Wild Project	52+2J MS OB1	Minimum 60			
Lot 39	Congress #606 Forager Deck	US6g	c1913		
USA	Forager is not easy to find in the popular Congress #606 wide named decks. Cards have edge wear and soil, very worn gold edges; KD has corner scrape. Joker VG+ with nice gold edges.				
USPC	52+J G/VG OB3	Minimum 25			
Lot 40	Marquis de Lafayette Ace of Spades	W3	1824		
USA	Issued to honor the Marquis de Lafayette on his return to the USA. Made in Milton, Massachusetts. Somewhat faded.				
Jazaniah Ford	1 Single EX	Minimum 75			
Lot 41	Bicycle Private Reserve Deck		2013		
USA	Bicycle Private Reserve by Kings Wild Project. Numbered #8 of 500. Seal signed by Jackson Robinson.				
Kings Wild Project	52+2J As Issued OB1	Minimum 50			
Lot 42	Vannini "Pocker" Deck		1945		
Italy	Produced for the 5th U.S. Army, 34th "Red Bull" infantry division stationed in Italy during WWII. Bold indices, non-standard stylized courts of that era and red & black pinup/bull skull back design (see cover). One Joker is pinup, one is Hitler/Mussolini. Scarce.				
Vannini, Firenze	52+2J EX No Box	Minimum 200			

Lot 43	Union Cards Civil War Deck	W5	1863		
USA	The patriotic suits are Eagles, Stars, Flags and Shields. Queens are Goddess of Liberty, Kings are Colonels and Jacks are Majors. OB has 1863 stamp! Cards are bright and crisp; ten with light stains. See box on cover.				
American Card Co.	52 EX- OB3 -side panel	Minimum 450			
Lot 44	White Heather Habana Cigars Deck	AB1	c1905		
USA	Beautiful tobacco advertising deck for luxury cigars made by Cuesta Rey & Co., Tampa, FL. Cards have gold edges that are slightly euchred.				
USPC	52+J+EC EX OB2	Minimum 70			
Lot 45	Lynn Wolsey Deck		1992		
USA	Unusual, possible prototype deck. Courts are full-length medieval style with a single different-style corner index. Most cards have top-to-bottom tape on the sides as issued, not because of any damage; 2S has diagonal crease, cards have an arc to them.				
Lynn Wolsey	52+J G/VG in Leather Case	Minimum 25			
Lot 46	Panama Souvenir Deck 1926	S50	1926		
USA	This Panama gold-edged deck includes a four page pamphlet that describes the view of each of the type E photos (see Hochman). Each suit is a different color. The map card shows the route of the Panama Canal from ocean to ocean. It was completed in 1914.				
USPC	52+J+MapCrđ Mint OB1-	Minimum 50			
Lot 47	Premier Color Eagle Back Deck	L56	1890		
USA	Premier was American PCC's brand offering colorful backs. We cannot remember seeing this back design before. Cards have very worn gold edges and general soil, no creases; Joker EX with bright gold edges.				
American Playing Card Co.	52+J G/VG OB3 -split seam	Minimum 50			
Lot 48	Auspicious Beasts 5-Deck Set		2025		
USA	Auspicious Beasts are Chinese mythological creatures, with one featured on each of 5 Bicycle decks. Only 1800 sets were made, and each is numbered. The decks and a commemorative coin are held in a presentation case.				
USPC	52+2J As Issued OB1 x5 -with presentation case	Minimum 45			
Lot 49	2015 Club Deck (Paul Carpenter)		2015		
Taiwan	Designed by Paul Carpenter in seven days, this 2015 club deck is sealed. Paul signed in gold pen on the cellophane wrapper. Numbered #22 of 1000.				
Expert Playing Card Co.	52+2J As Issued OB1	Minimum 55			

Lot 50	T. Norpoth Baseball Game Deck	1917			
USA	Scarce baseball card game deck designed and patented by Theodore Norpoth. Mint condition, includes Rules card, score card example and Umpire card (equivalent to Joker). Teams are Boston, NY, Chicago, and St. Louis.				
USPC	48+Ump+SC Mint OB1	Minimum 120			
Lot 51	United Cards of America Deck	2008			
Russia	Russian deck, in Cyrillic, making fun of George W Bush. Bush cabinet members on each pip card. Court cards are satirical and humorous.				
	36 Mint OB1	Minimum 10			
Lot 52	Madagascar Souvenir Deck	c1990			
	Unusual Madagascar souvenir deck, c1990?, different depictions of people and scenes pertaining to the country's history. Cards are irregularly cut but in EX condition. No box.				
	52+2J+EC EX No Box	Minimum 50			
Lot 53	Columbian World's Fair Deck	SX7	1893		
USA	Beautiful Columbian World's Fair deck with Ferdinand on Kings, Isabella on Queens, and Columbus on Jacks. Cards are EX/NM except AC and 2C (back) as shown. Only partial box but we usually don't see any box.				
Winters Art Litho Co.	52+J+EC EX/NM OB3-	Minimum 70			
Lot 54	Great Northern Pacific Deck	Boll GN-7	1915		
USA	Great Northern Pacific Steamship Co. also operated five different railroad lines. Although this deck has a back design that is very similar to SR14, it is an advertising deck, not a souvenir deck. It includes two extra cards and has an attractive tuck box (OB2).				
USPC	52+J+2EC EX OB2	Minimum 130			
Lot 55	Bee Year of Snake/Year of Horse Set	2025			
USA	USPC distributes specially designed decks for Chinese New Year to VIPs in Asian markets including casinos. These were handed out in 2025 (Year of the Snake) and 2026 (Year of the Horse.) Both have beautiful gold foiled and embossed tucks. Not sold at retail.				
USPC	52+2J As Issued OB1 x2	Minimum 50			
Lot 56	American Fortune Telling Deck	FT1	1837		
USA	This is the earliest American Fortune Telling deck. It is complete 36 cards: 1,K,Q,J,10,9,8,7 in each suit plus a 5S,4C,3H and 2D. It was never intended to be a game deck. Thick card stock (2" x 3") with plain backs. Deck is soiled and has uniform bend. Rare.				
Turner & Fisher	36 G/VG No Box	Minimum 120			

Lot 57	Dougherty Triplicate Cat Back Deck	AD12	c1876		
USA	Believed to be the first tiny indices triplicate deck that came with a blank instead of a Joker. Dougherty never issued an early deck with both, and there is no room in the beautiful wrapper for another card. A special deck from the Dawson collection. See AS on cover.				
Andrew Dougherty	52+x1Blank Mint Wrapper	Minimum 500			
Lot 58	Great Rock Island Route Deck	AB7	c1910		
USA	Nice advertising deck for the long-running Rock Island Route system. Deck is in excellent condition, attractive box has wear and is missing the top flap.				
USPC	52+J EX OB3	Minimum 75			
Lot 59	USA 250th Anniversary Gilded Set		2026		
USA	Limited to 250 of each deck when released, the set sold out within hours. The tuck cases are gold foiled with cutouts to show the gilded edges (US Flag, red, blue, silver and gold). The deck itself is identical to Stars & Stripes deck released in 2025. More photos >>				
USPC	52+2J+EC+Adv As Issued OB1 x5	Minimum 100			
Lot 60	Early Andrew Dougherty Faro Deck	AD1c	c1850		
USA	This 1850s faro deck is the earliest Dougherty deck we have auctioned. Complete, no Joker was issued. Courts are the same as used by Bartlett and Crehore. Cards have light edge soil; no box. Don't miss this special deck.				
Andrew Dougherty	52 VG/EX No Box	Minimum 350			
Lot 61	Wills Cigarettes Beauties Inset Deck		1897		
UK	This Wills Cigarettes playing card inset deck is tough to find. Single cards sell for \$10+. Complete 52 cards, no Joker issued. Most cards in excellent condition, light tobacco staining on some backs, QC has corner stain, 8C, 9C, 6H have small paper scrape.				
W.D. & H.O. Wills Ltd.	52 VG/EX No Box	Minimum 100			
Lot 62	Margin Star 1 & Lotus Bicycle Decks	US8	c1889		
USA	Two early US8 Bicycle 32 card decks including a very rare Green Margin Star #1 and a Blue Lotus. Obvious wear and general soiling, several cards w/light corner creases, Margin Star AS has small corner crease, Lotus 8H has small corner off. Found in damaged Piquet set.				
Russell & Morgan Ptg. Co.	32 x2 VG	Minimum 150			
Lot 63	2019 National Playing Card Day Set		2019		
Hong Kong	Inspired by the architecture and culture of Morocco, Alex Chin's 2019 National Playing Card Collection Day set might be his finest work. Of the seven decks made, five were limited to 499, one to 250 and one to only 99. All 7 here are number 40 in their series.				
Seasons Playing Cards	52+2J As Issued OB1 x7	Minimum 100			

LOT #36 - Hard-a-Port Tobacco Insert Deck



LOT #59 - USA 250th Anniversary Gilded Set x/250



LOT #8 - Bicycle Sample Foldout

