

The English Playing Card Society



Newsletter

July 1984

The English Playing-Card Society was formed in January 1984. Its purpose is to bring together collectors, researchers and interested persons who wish to share information concerning designers and manufacturers of English playing-cards and card games 1660-1960.



This attractive design is to be the society's motif. The idea is from The History of Playing Cards by the Rev. E.S. Taylor published in 1865. On page 238 is a picture of the dog and the devil entitled 'Deuce and Tray'. An ace symbol has been added to make this a representation of the first three cards, ace, deuce and three. Ace and deuce need no explanation but the dog tray is both interesting and obscure. Taylor makes no reference to it but I know of an instance in which the three of clubs is so named. I have also seen a Staffordshire pottery figure group entitled 'The Dog Tray', showing a gallant with dog at his feet. Donald Welsh has commissioned some ties with the design on and these should be available for Christmas in the November newsletter. (PCW)

AN EXHIBITION

An exhibition of playing cards is being planned by Gordon Douglas, an EPCS member. It will be in the library at the University of Reading in the early autumn. If you would like precise details please send an SAE at end of August.

SOTHEBY AUCTION

We have been advised that the date has been moved to the 26th July. Some 50 lots of playing-cards and related literature are being offered. It includes some scarce items. Further details from their Grosvenor Saleroom 01-493-8080.

ODDS AND ENDS

We are going to hold a stock of single duplicate cards from standard, non-standard packs and card games. If you have any odds of English cards, we would be pleased to receive them. If you have any wants, let us know.

CATALOGUE

The sheets, listings and references are issued from The Standard Catalogue of English Playing-Cards by R.T. Welsh and P.C. Way. This material is copyright. Photocopies may be taken for discussion purposes only and not for any form of publication.

Pages and illustrations are now numbered for ease of reference.

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An Exciting Discovery.

A pack of cards with the anonymous Ace of Spades, shown on the left, and unknown court cards was found in a small London market by Ian Jeive. The box was entitled 'The Premier Playing Cards.'

On first sight I thought that they were probably of Belgian origin, but the Ace does bear a close resemblance to the anonymous Goodall Ace shown below.

I then remembered that court proceedings had been instituted by De La Rue who had sued Waddington in 1924 on the grounds that they were 'passing off' and copying the designs of their court card faces and particularly the Ace of Spades. (DLR had absorbed Goodall in 1922 and consequently had no competition. They were particularly annoyed that the firm of Waddington, primarily theatrical poster printers, were now expanding their playing card interests.)

There is a close resemblance in the court card design seen below. The last DLR design, before they used the newly acquired Goodall face, would certainly seem to have been copied. However Waddington produced exhibits in court of enlargements of these two aces which showed the differences to be so great that judgment was not given against them.

A further clue to identification was found in another pack by Waddington with exactly the same back design as this anonymous pack.

Victor Watson, the present Chairman of John Waddington plc and a member of the society, has confirmed that this ace was the one concerned in the court case of 1924. Whether this was the first Waddington design is not absolutely certain. Playing card production was seriously begun in 1921 and there had already been a dispute between Waddington and Goodall over the use of the word 'Linen' in relation to card quality. But that was settled out of court and took place before DLR's absorption of Goodall.

Once again a most interesting discovery has been made as a result of looking inside a rather unpromising box, and bears out the comments made in the editorial in March. (RTW)



(1) Anonymous Waddington



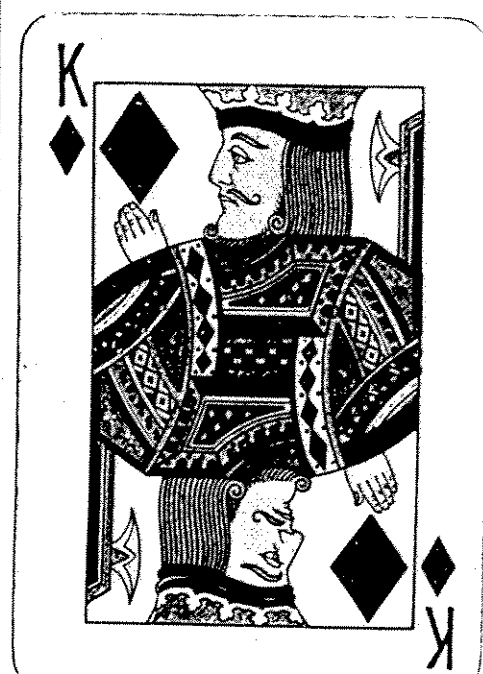
(2) Anonymous Goodall



(3) Goodall c1920



(4) De La Rue c1920



(5) Waddington c1924

Hunting

The Normans were great hunters. They hunted for pleasure and for the enjoyment of the fresh meat which was a welcome relief from the salted meat during winter.

Right through the Middle Ages hunting served as an excellent training for active service in the field. Those who could afford to ride horses in the country would have been called to the service of the king in time of war.

The most favoured animal for hunting was the hare. It jiggled and dodged to avoid the dogs and riders. Next in popularity was the deer, wild boar, wolf, fox etc down to the otter in last place. Although hunted with the use of dogs, principally wolfhound and deerhound, the victim was most likely to be despatched with arrow or lance.

The card illustrated is a beautiful production in full colour on a silver background. The costume depicted is of the later Medieval period. Curiously the hunting animal appears to be a tame leopard which was probably brought back from the Crusades.



(1) Goodall c.1935

Hare and deer hunting continued in great popularity but the fox was regarded only as vermin, not really yet a creature of sport. For many years the stag was the prime quarry for hunting parties. There is certainly plenty of meat for a feast after the hunt.

The picture on this card back has been adapted from Landseer's Monarch of the Glen which was painted in 1851. It shows the way in which Victorian romanticism and sentimentality endowed creatures with human feelings. Such an idea would have had little appeal to our Georgian predecessors who would run horses or dogs into the ground for the sake of a wager in an age of manic gambling.



(2) Goodall c.1910

The father of modern fox hunting is perhaps Hugo Meynell, squire of Quorndon Hall in the county of Leicestershire. Widespread enclosure of fields had forced an unwelcome change upon the countryside during the late eighteenth century. Hedges and ditches are eminently suitable for jumping and whereas the old way had been to dismount at obstacles these new lower jumps gave just the challenge that was wanted.

The fox was chosen as the quarry because it could run both fast and straight, and it was clever enough to escape. Further improvement in the breeding of horses and the speed of hounds advanced the sport.

This card back, very much in the style of Phil May, shows the open country with low field enclosures much favoured for hunting. It is typical of Leicestershire.

Wellington kept a pack of foxhounds behind the Lines of Torres Vedras during the Peninsular War; they tested his officers' warlike qualities - so he said.



(3) Universal c.1930



(4) 'Full Cry'



(5) 'Gone to ground'

The eighteenth century is well known for its excesses and recklessness. Hunting was gradually brought under control by those who were keen to preserve its noble heritage.

A hunting uniform was introduced. At first green it later was changed to scarlet. (After the American War of Independence a tailor named Pink with vast surpluses of army scarlet material persuaded huntsmen that red was more suitable than green and indeed 'Pink' coats were to become the new fashion.)

Because of the cost involved in maintaining horses for hunting there has always been a class division. Because of the moral questions raised there has always been controversy. (I should think

that all school children in this country have 'debated' blood sports at some time - really a very bad subject since the emotive issue rarely produces sensible discussion. The morality is of no concern to this article and I hope that no-one finds it offensive.)

There are a great many backsto be collected on this theme. The two illustrated above are typical of the mid-30s. Produced by Waddington from paintings by Cecil Aldin who is particularly well-known for his hunting pictures they are very collectable. Such designs were usually done in pairs for Bridge sets. They are in full colour and most attractive.

Illustrated to the right here is another one of a pair, though the design on both packs is the same and only the border colour is different, obviously a less expensive production. Perhaps more than any of the other packs this one shows the pleasure of horse, rider and hound working together.

Unlike continental makers there are no English manufacturers who have produced a non-standard pack in which hunting plays a part. For those who collect cards from all countries there is a wide selection of old and new packs on this theme.

(PCW)



(6) Waddington c.1940

Nothing New!

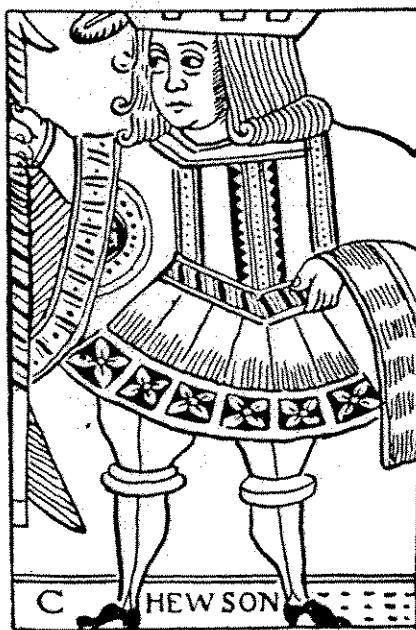
The following advertisement appeared in The Star daily newspaper on Friday the 6th December 1895 and was sent to me by Ray Cook:

LORNE WHISKY PLAYING CARDS. Supply exhausted. Applications cannot be attended to for at least six weeks, and then 5d in stamps must be remitted to cover Government duty and postage. Greenleas Bros. 29 and 31 Commercial Street, London E.

(PCW)



(1) Maréchal, Rouen 1570



(2) English 1675



(3) Brotherton 1800

The Jack of Clubs.

No other Jack or King portrays so clearly the emasculation of the cardboard court. Marechal's knave of 1570 with his aggressive stance and self-assured air would laugh in the face of the twentieth century wide-eyed boy feebly holding his shapeless arrow and sporting a limp leaf in his hat. By 1830 the hand-in-belt assurance had become a silly hand-on-hip, thankfully lost in the process of double-ending. The mighty arrow wielded by the Rouen knave retains its feather until double-ending, but ends its life as a harmless looking stick.

At Trerice House in Cornwall (National Trust) hangs a picture called 'Pam, Flush and Loo' by John Opie. The Jack of Clubs is known as Pam in the game of Loo and is the highest card in the game. Likewise Lancelot in the French pack is a powerful character, of which not a vestige remains in the modern card. The word HEWSON is enigmatic, Gurney Benham has some unlikely ideas; it remains a problem still to be solved. (PCW)



(4) Hunt & Sons 1830



(5) De La Rue 1875



(6) Goodall 1900

Master Pots the Painter's Son.



Master Pots the Painter's Son.

(1) Happy

MRS BOBBY THE POLICEMAN'S WIFE.



MRS BOBBY THE POLICEMAN'S WIFE.

(2) Funny

HAIR Restorer



MR SCISSORS THE BARBER.

(3) Familiar

Happy Families

Happy Families is probably one of the most popular games ever produced. It is interesting to see the great variety and different names given to the games and the families.

Happy Families

John Jaques & Son	6 editions, 48,44,40,28,24,20.
C.W.Faulkner & Co	1 edition of 56 cards
H.P.Gibson & Son	2 editions, 52,36.
J.W.Spear & Son	3 editions, 48,40,36.
Chad Valley	4 editions, 64,60,44,40.

Cheery Families

De La Rue & Co	1 edition of 52.
H.P.Gibson & Son	1 edition of 44.

Merry Families

J.W.Spear & Son	1 edition of 36.
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Jovial Families

A.Collier	2 editions, 52,40.
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Familiar Families

Unknown maker	1 edition of 48.
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Funny Families

J.W.Spear & Son	4 editions, 48,44,40,36.
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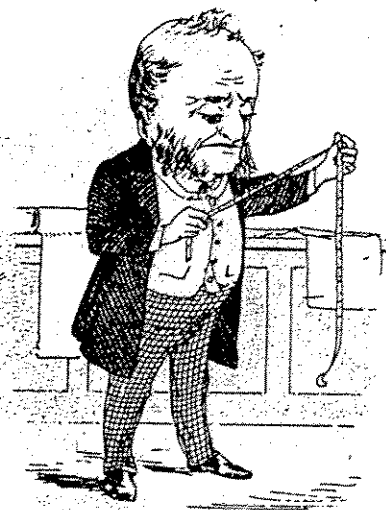
Jolly Families

Woolley & Co	1 edition of 32 cards.
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Information about any other known editions would be welcome.

(RTEW)

Mr. Trim the Tailor.



Mr. Trim the Tailor.

(4) Cheery

Mr. Stain the Dyer.



Mr. Stain the Dyer.

(5) Merry

Miss Cutbush



Gardener's Daughter.

(6) Jovial

London Cries

The story of London street cries is almost a history of London in itself. They have been a source of inspiration for artists, writers and musicians since the Restoration; and also thankfully, a hunting ground for the social historian and collector of local customs.

The milkman is one of only two modern descendants of London criers. He still calls at the door, though no longer shouting 'Milko!'. In the 18th century the cry was 'Milk, maids below!', then shortened to the still familiar Milko! The milk walks were advertised when up for sale and changed hands at not inconsiderable prices.



(1) Milk !



(2) All-a-Growing !

The cry 'Have you any chairs to mend?' was to be heard over three hundred years ago. Naturally enough solid seated chairs were not likely to need mending but the new cane seated styles were not so durable.

Apart from a few tools the mender needed a good supply of split cane and rush. Small repairs would cost from 4d to 1/- while the charge for completely recovering a rush seated chair was from 1/6 to 2/6 depending upon the fineness of rush and the quality of the workmanship. Rush seats began to experience a revival in the Victorian period as a part of the Aesthetic and Arts and Crafts fads.



(3) Chairs to Mend !



It is not so long since the demise of the knife-grinder. Now that kitchen knives are made of surgical steel and probably last longer than their owners there is no place for the wandering grinder.

I can certainly remember the old grinder calling house to house in the mid-fifties. His noisy apparatus having changed little in a hundred years. In the eighteenth century it cost 1d or 2d for the grinding of scissors, and about 2/- a dozen for table knives. In the 50's I think we used to give the chap 1/- to go away!

Young gentlemen attend my cry,
And bring forth all your knives;
The barbers Razors too I grind;
Bring out your scissars, wives.

(4) Scissors to Grind !

Before the days of Kit-e-Kat and Pedigree Chum barrows of pet meat were wheeled through the street. However, unlike this illustration it seems that the unsavoury occupation was followed only by women.

Here's famous meat- all
lean no fat
No better in Great Britain;
Come, buy a penn'orth for
your cat
A happ'orth for your kitten.

Writing in 1885 Andrew Tuer in his book Old London Street Cries suggests that the London cats were consuming £100,000 worth of horse meat annually.



(5) Cat's Meat !



'Sweep Soot Ho!' was the cry of the chimney sweep. His was an occupation which underwent extensive reform in the Victorian period. It is one of the oldest cries. Coal provided a cheap fuel for the masses heaved up from the mines by young boys and girls. The sweep gathered up his apprentices from the parish workhouses selecting the smallest of the children who were forced dangerously up the narrow crumbling chimneys. Apprentices eventually were obliged to wear a brass cap badge inscribed with the name of the sweep to whom they belonged so that the employer could be traced.

These cards are from a set by J.W. Spears c.1890. The other cards are illustrated on the photosheet. They are: Winners(newspaper), Hokey Pokey(ices), 1d all the way(on a tram), 1d a bunch, Muffins 0, Old Clo(thes), All hot and floury(Hot potatoes), Coals.

(6) Sweep !

Queries



(1) Royal Series

40 cards: 8 x 5. 64x92mm

A nip; breezy; oh! oh! oh!;
Charlie; going on sick leave;
I've got you; dangerous;
a catch (as illustrated).



- (2) 45 cards: 9 sets of 5. size 60x88mm c.1920
Snap; snapped it; about to snap; snapped up;
snapping; snappish; would like to snap;
snapped; snap-shot.



- (3) 12 cards: 4 x 3
56x82mm, printed in blue
Mr Neverenough;
Mr Globe trotter;
Mr Singer; Mr Beadle.



- (4) 14 cards: 7 sets of 2, 60x90mm
mostly clown costume, no writing
on any card. Tumblers; balancers;
acrobats; musicians; musicians;
musicians (as illustrated); clowns.



- (5) Felix Snap 36 cards
6 sets of 6, 58x90mm
no writing on cards,
each features Felix.

Any further information or similar sets in
members' collections? (RTEW) ?

Stall No. 19—Picturesque England.

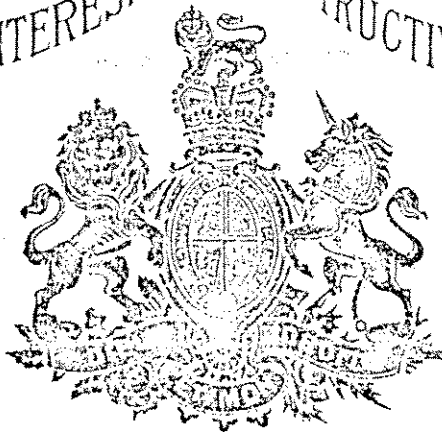
Victorian Era Exhibition, Earls Court.

A ROYAL GAME

INTERESTING & INSTRUCTIVE

Price:

2/6 per Pack.



Price:

2/6 per Pack.



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN,
EMPERESS OF INDIA,
CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

PATENT NO 17184

1896-7.



THE "ROYAL GAME," having 73 Portraits, is issued with the view, among other objects, to instruct young people in the relationship of our Royal Family. It is in the attractive form of a Game of Cards, and, whilst it will be the "Game of the Season," it will, undoubtedly, become one of the most popular pastimes throughout Her Majesty's Realms.

The Commemoration of the Sixtieth Year of the Reign of our Most Gracious Sovereign is manifestly an appropriate opportunity for the issue of a "Royal Game," having such exceptional attractions as an interesting memento of an eventful era.

The Inventor has received the greatest courtesy from various members of the Royal Family in collecting the Likenesses, many of which could not have been obtained without such gracious assistance, and he confidently commends the "Royal Game" to the visitors to the "Victorian Era Exhibition."

In an article in the May newsletter dealing with the wedding of the Prince of Wales reference was made to a game pack called 'A Royal Game', maker unknown, and a card from it was illustrated. The title card carries a patent number - 17184 - and on checking this at the Patents Office I found that it had been registered jointly on 14th September 1895 by William Pitt Brook (Gentleman) of Anerley, Surrey, and Alfred Collier (Manufacturer) of Middlesex. The latter is of course better known as the printer and publisher of well-produced games packs. By chance I noticed that the previous patent - 17183 - was also taken out by the same two gentlemen for a different type of game.

(Dudley Ollis)

CATALOGUE NOTES

- Universal S1 : The Universal Playing Card Company started after the 1st World War. The courts clearly derive from De La Rue design. Extremely scarce.
- Universal S2 : Ace inscribed Universal Playing Card Company, Crown Point Works Leeds. The Joker is only in black. Courts in red, black and yellow only.
- Universal S6 : Ltd. added to the inscription on Ace. Joker in red/yellow.
- Universal S7 : Anonymous Ace. Joker as S6. Courts still only red/black/yellow, redrawn.
- Universal S8 : Redesigned courts, includes blue. Joker without scroll beneath. Alf Cooke Limited added to the Ace which is redesigned below the Spade.
- Universal S9 : Taken over by Castell Bros. (Pepys games) new anonymous ace and joker, sold to Waddington in 1970, now appears here with W's 'Goodall' face. Red/yellow/blue/black printing. A-Cee brand or New Bond (Woolworth's).
(Universal S3,4,5 will appear next issue.)
- 3M's T1 : Research needed to find the name of the designer, printed by 3M's
- Galloway T1 : Some variation but very similar, could be a copy or a redrawing by the original designer. This one Entered at Stationers Hall - could be located with a painstaking search!
- Jaques 30 : Designed by Tenniel, see paragraph from May newsletter 'Alice...'
See this month's article on Happy Families for number of cards.
- Spear 1 : One of their most frequently found games; exists in the following sets:
7 sets of 8 cards, 14 sets of 4, 9 sets of 4, 7 sets of 4,
10 sets of 3, 8 sets of 3. Lift-off box or Telescopic box (slides inside).
- Reynolds FT1 : With delightful and amusing drawings on every card humourously illustrating the messages, mostly moral warnings or for affairs of the heart. V. scarce.
- Goodall FT1 : Consists of 52 cards + subject card + instruction leaflet. Good quality Goodall production, usually turns up in very good condition.

(PCW)

New Games for the Season.

- "FISHPONDS."
- "NAVAL HAZARD."
- "SNAP SHOTS. HISTORICAL."
- "SNAP SHOTS. GEOGRAPHICAL."
- BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR."
- "COMPLICATIONS."
- "OLD MAID."
- "OCEAN GREYHOUNDS."
- "GO BANG."
- "FORT CHITRAL."
- "PENNY POST."
- "BICYCLE RACE."
- "THE BOAT RACE."
- "CAPITAL AND COUNTY."
- "ALFRED THE GREAT."
- "A VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD."
- "BUNNY."
- "NAVAL MANOEUVRES."
- "DERBY WINNER."
- "FUNNY FAMILIES."
- "FLIPPING THE TIPPER."
- "COURTSHIP OR MATRIMONY."
- "IRISH PARLIAMENT."
- "GOLF-COURSE." "ACCIDENTS."
- "BLOCKADE." "CAMPAIGN."
- "SNAP." "HOSTAGES."
- "PIG-A-BACK."
- "LUDO."
- "NOTABILITIES."
- "HALMA."

RULES

FOR THE GAME OF

"Snap Shots."

Interesting and
Educational.

PUBLISHED BY

WOOLLEY & Co., Ltd.,

FINSBURY, LONDON.

Some of the games listed here are obviously card games, e.g. Old Maid, Funny Families. Does anyone have any of these, or can say with certainty that they are or are not card games?