



36 chromolithograph playing cards, with blue pattern to verso with imperial crest.

CARDS FIT FOR A KING

Deutsche Spielkarte von 36 Blatt

Author

BURGER, Ludw[ig]

Publication date

[1885].

Publisher

T[heodor] O[swald] Weigel,

Publication place

Leipzig,

Physical description

36 chromolithograph playing cards, with blue pattern to verso with imperial crest.

Dimensions

100 by 64mm (4 by 2.5 inches).

Notes

The Makers

German painter and illustrator Ludwig Burger produced a wide variety of work, from illustrations for the works of La Fontaine to the ceiling murals of Berlin City Hall. Active from the 1850s to the 1880s, Burger had occasion to present his work at a number of historic events, including the silver

wedding anniversary of Crown-Prince Friedrich-Wilhelm, later Friedrich III of Germany, and his wife Victoria, eldest daughter of Queen Victoria of England.

The Cards

The cards present the themes thought suitable for the future king, who admittedly would rule for just 99 days, with the Acorns illustrating the art of warfare, Bells craft, industry and commerce; Hearts: love; and Leaves: hunting. The three masculine court cards shown full-length figures with the Kings seated while the Ober and Unter executing tasks associated with their suit's theme. On the pip cards, the value is shown by the number of suitmarks, and is also written in German along the upper and lower edges. Various figures, animals and plants decorate the cards.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price: £600

Inventory reference: 21546