



36 chromolithograph playing cards with blue diagonal design to versos, in original paper wrapper.

PLAY THAT FUNKE CARD GAME

Jass-Karten

Author

E. FUNKE & CO.

Publication date

1915

Publisher

E. Funke & Co.,

Publication place

St. Gallen,

Physical description

36 chromolithograph playing cards with blue diagonal design to versos, in original paper wrapper.

Dimensions

90 by 55mm (3.5 by 2.25 inches).

Notes

The Maker

Being active in the 1910s, Swiss publishers E. Funke & Co. produced a number of military-themed decks of cards during the First World War, including the present Jass deck and another Soldatenkartenspiel ('Soldier Card Game').

The Cards

Known as the national card game of Switzerland, Jass is a trick-taking card games played by two pairs. With 70 variants, the rules can vary, but is always played with a deck of 36 cards, lacking the Two, Three, Four and Five cards found in a 52-card deck. While it is generally played with Swiss-German, Austria or French suits, some decks were made with more unusual suits, as here, with the cards divided into Bullets, Grenades, Horses and Shovels.

These striking suits revolve around the military theme of this deck, in which the court cards depict the Hauptmann (captain), Korporal (corporal) and Oberleutnant (first lieutenant) in the place of the typical royal figures. The inscription of "Grenzbesetzung 1914/1915" (Border occupation 1914/1915) on the Ace of Shovels demonstrates that these cards were made to depict the Swiss army presence along the northwest border of the court during the early years of the First World War. Stationed in a staggered defensive position facing the Franco-German front, the troops were deployed in case of attempts to move the war south into Switzerland. The soldiers no doubt had plenty of time for Jass.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price: £2000

Inventory reference: 21525