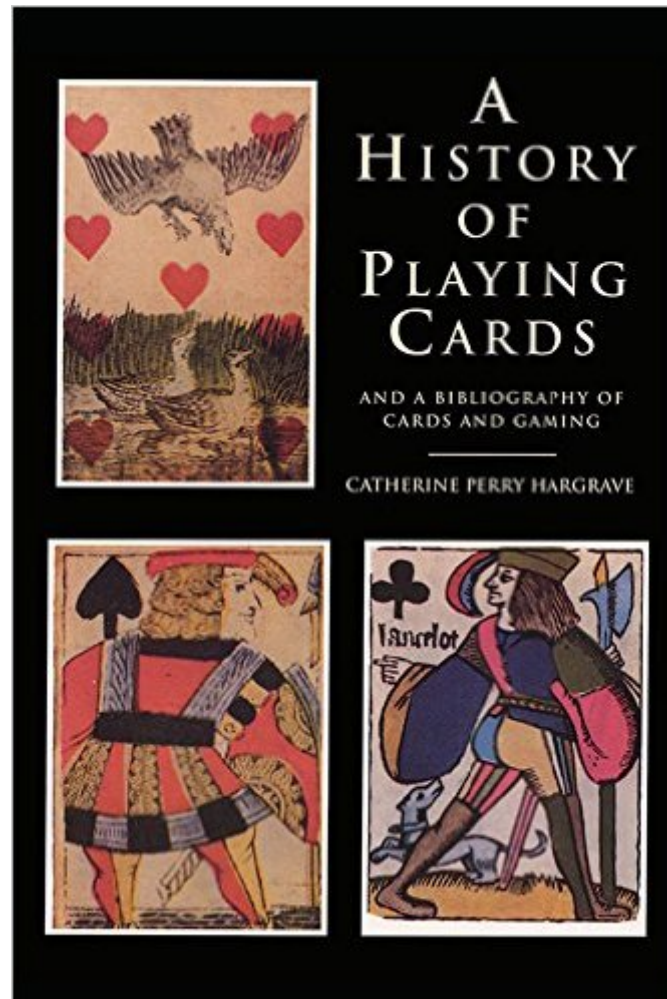


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# A History Of Playing Cards And A Bibliography Of Cards And Gaming



## Synopsis

Most likely invented in the Far East, playing cards arrived in Europe at roughly the same time as paper money and gunpowder, and by the early eleventh century were in widespread use in France. This classic history, never superseded, not only tells the story of playing cards and their manufacture, but also provides the reader with a fascinating overview of heraldry, geography, history, and social and political activities over the past six centuries. In addition to making extensive use of the magnificent collection of the United States Playing Card Company in Cincinnati, this volume focuses on playing cards of China, Japan, India, Europe, Russia, and America. Also included is an enormous annotated bibliography of more than 900 items on playing cards and games, and probably the largest range of card illustrations, all royalty-free, ever assembled in one place: 1,462 photographs, of which 16 are in color on the covers.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

First, an important note: There seems to be 2 versions of this book floating around. One with 16 color plates and one that is all B&W. I learned this when I received mine and found that it was all B&W. Be sure you know which you are getting. Also, many of the b&w images appear to be poor photocopies, either far too light or too dark. This book is no doubt the authority. It is very well researched. But the way it is organized is rather dull. Each chapter basically lists and briefly discusses all the cards that were found from that particular country. It might have been more interesting if there was more discussion of how the different suites evolved or how the countries

influenced each other.

This book is a well-researched, thorough and informative guide to the history of playing cards. I was especially interested in the medieval information, but found the entire work clear and easy to follow, while keeping up high standards of academic quality. I would recommend this work to anyone seriously interested in the history of the field. The Plates were also very helpful in illustrating the development and styles of cards through the centuries.

A History of Playing Cards and Bibliography of Cards and Gaming. by Catherine Perry Hargrave. 1966. I was surprised that this book is still published. I think that because this classical book has the many important information with 1462 illustrations which are current in the present generation. Viewing from nowadays, surely this book is old. The original publication was in 1930, by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. However, the construction of this book is based on the legitimate research. This is the reason, why the book is valued highly even now. In this book, the main cards of every country in the world, (from China to America, 15 countries) are studied with the chronological order. Bibliography is so large. It is useful for all of the aspects of the playing cards' world. Book of mine was issued in 1966, by Dover Publications, Inc. The pagination is the same to the edition 2012. The cover design and the place of color plates are different with each other, (but their 16 color plates are the same with). ---Every old card has a human wisdom.

I'd been looking around for a fairly comprehensive work on Playng Card history, and found this a pretty good choice. A bit wordy and heady at times, but covers things well.

I have to say this one has a really lot of info, but it is too crowded inside. I would prefer a larger format in order to get an easy reading. The info is great. The b/w images is something that IMHO should be changed.

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