



36 chromolithograph cards, black tax stamp to Ace of Hearts, black heraldic design to versos, housed in original slipcase.

GERMAN WWI CARDS

Vaterländische Spielkarten 1915

Author

HERWIG, Ferdinand

Publication date

1915

Publisher

F[ridrich] A[dolf] Lattmann,

Publication place

Goslar,

Physical description

36 chromolithograph cards, black tax stamp to Ace of Hearts, black heraldic design to versos, housed in original slipcase.

Dimensions

94 by 58mm (3.75 by 2.25 inches).

Notes

The Maker

The name of the designer of the present deck, Ferdinand Herwig, appears on the slipcase and the Seven of Diamonds. Herwig was better-known as a painter, and does not appear to have produced

any other decks of cards. The present were published by Friedrich Adolf Lattmann, whose name appears to the verso of the case.

In 1794, the prolific Ernst Wilhelm Gottlieb Kircher had transformed his family printing business into a playing card factory. Political upheaval in the following decades meant that the factory was closed, but after its reopening some years later, it was taken over by Friedrich Adolf Lattmann, under whom the company prospered. Lattman produced English, French and German decks centred around a range of themes and subjects. The firm continued to operate until 1929.

The Cards

During the First World War, Lattmann produced two decks of cards around the theme of the conflict, one using the German suits and the other the traditional French, albeit slightly modified, as here, with clubs replaced by crosses. While the pip cards are relatively generic, the court cards show double-figure characters from the war. The Kings represent German leaders:

Clubs - Wilhelm II of Württemberg

Diamonds - Friedrich August III of Saxony

Hearts - Emperor Wilhelm II of Prussia

Spades - Ludwig III of Bavaria

Each of the accompanying Queens is dressed in a typical regional outfit, while the knaves display the uniforms of a variety of military ranks and positions, from seaman to cavalry.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price: £1500

Inventory reference: 20701