



52 chromolithograph playing cards, with joker and printed paper instruction booklet, housed in original slipcase.

LUCK OF THE IRISH

Irish Playing Cards - The Historic Set

Author

W & G BAIRD Ltd

Publication date

c1920].

Publisher

Irish Playing Card Mfg Co.,

Publication place

[Cork,

Physical description

52 chromolithograph playing cards, with joker and printed paper instruction booklet, housed in original slipcase.

Dimensions

90 by 60mm (3.5 by 2.25 inches).

Notes

The Maker

Founded in 1862, W & G Baird Ltd of Belfast remains in operation today as a printing firm. They produced a wide variety of material including prints, propaganda and programmes. Alongside the

present deck, the company also published a deck devoted to 'heroic' Irish history, featuring characters from native folk-tales and legends.

The Cards

Perhaps produced during the Irish War of Independence (1919-1920), this deck celebrates Irish history and culture. The backs of the cards decorated with an artistic Celtic pattern in four different colours, while the Jacks are harpers, a symbols associated with the land since the thirteenth century. The Kings and Queens depict historic members of royalty:

Clubs - Niall, Cairenn

Diamonds - Cormac Macairt, Ethne

Hearts - Brian Boru, Gormlaith

Spades - Lóegaire, Fedeln

The backs show typical Celtic decorative artwork. The pip cards are standard, with the number of suit marks reflecting the value of the card, which is written in Arabic numerals in opposite corners, with a miniature suit mark beneath it.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price: £800

Inventory reference: 20702