



24 engraved playing cards with pink hand-colouring.

“WILL YOU BE FAITHFUL?”

[Jeu de cartes par demandes et par réponses]

Author

? FRERES

Publication date

[1880-1890].

Publisher

David,

Publication place

Paris,

Physical description

24 engraved playing cards with pink hand-colouring.

Dimensions

82 by 50mm (3.25 by 2 inches).

Notes

The Maker

The card bearing the answer “d’en doute” has the publisher’s imprint inscribed on the upper right-hand side of the card: “David, Paris”, while a question card reading “avez vous bon caractere” may bear the name of the maker, although it is illegible.

The Cards

Popular during the nineteenth century in France, question-and-answer card games were divided into suitably generic inquiries and responses to allow players to create a variety of funny combinations. In the present deck the questions and answers are combined with caricature stock-characters for greater comedic effect.

To the matronly figure asking “Serez-vous fidèle” (‘will you be faithful’), for example, players could choose a range of responses, “d’en doute” (‘doubtful’), said by a stern-looking man in a bow tie, to “quelquefois” (‘sometimes’), according to a mischievous man in a round hat. Those cards that bear responses have their writing highlighted in pink, while those with answers are uncoloured; on all cards, pink is used to highlight aspects of the caricatures dress or appearance.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price: £800

Inventory reference: 20737