

Card Game Trivia

Stewart Lamle

14th Century: Decks of one-sided Tarot playing cards first appeared in Europe. They were soon banned by the Church. (Cards, like other forms of entertainment and gambling, competed with Holy services.) Card-playing spread like wildfire.

16th Century: The four suits were created to represent the ideal French national, unified (feudal) society as promoted by Joan of Arc: Nobility, Aristocracy, Peasants, the Church (Spades, Diamonds, Clubs, Hearts).

18th Century: Symmetric backs and fronts were designed to prevent cheating by signaling to other players.

19th Century: The Joker was devised by a Mississippi riverboat gambler to increase the odds of getting good Poker hands.

20th Century: After 600 years of playing with one-sided cards, two-sided playing cards and games were invented by Stewart Lamle. “Finally, you can play with a full deck!”—ZeusTM, MaxxTM, and BettoTM, are all two-sided card games.

Over 100 million decks of cards were sold in the United States last year!