

## Notice of Three Engraved Plates

FOR

A PACK OF HERALDIC PLAYING CARDS.

BY

THE REV. G. H. DASHWOOD, F.S.A.

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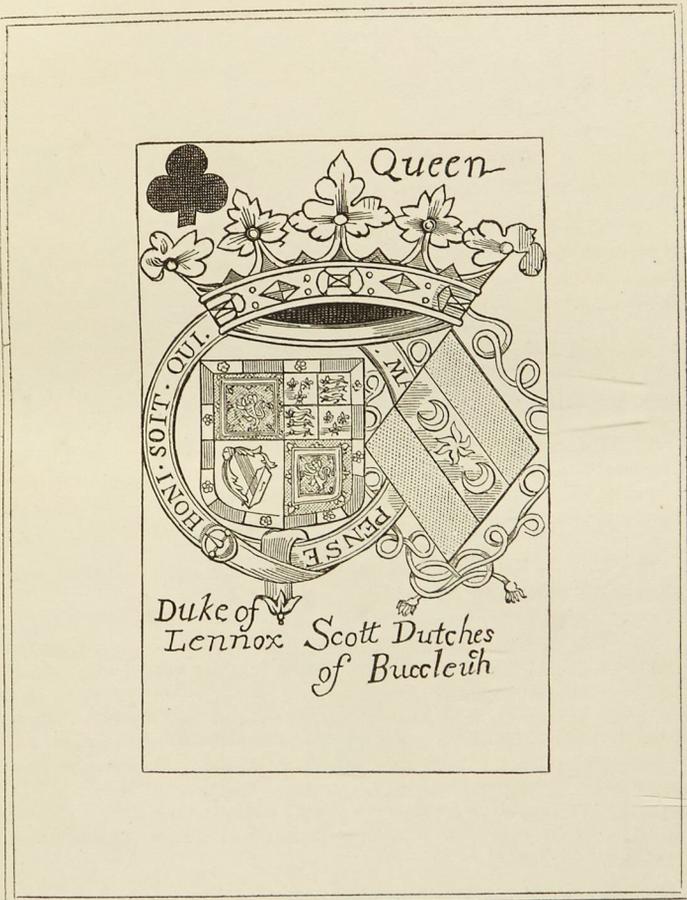
MY DEAR SIR,

IN presenting the accompanying specimens of the Scotch Heraldic Playing Cards, which, on the part of Mrs. Lee Warner, I had the pleasure of exhibiting at a former anniversary meeting, it is not my intention to enter upon the general History of Playing Cards, since this has been done so ably in Mr. Chatto's very interesting work, "Facts and Speculations on the Origin and History of Playing Cards," that it leaves little to be said on the subject. I would merely observe that from his researches it would appear that cards are of eastern origin, and were known at an early period in Hindostan and in China; that their introduction into Europe probably took place between the years 1360 and 1390, and that they were not in general use till towards the close of the fourteenth century.

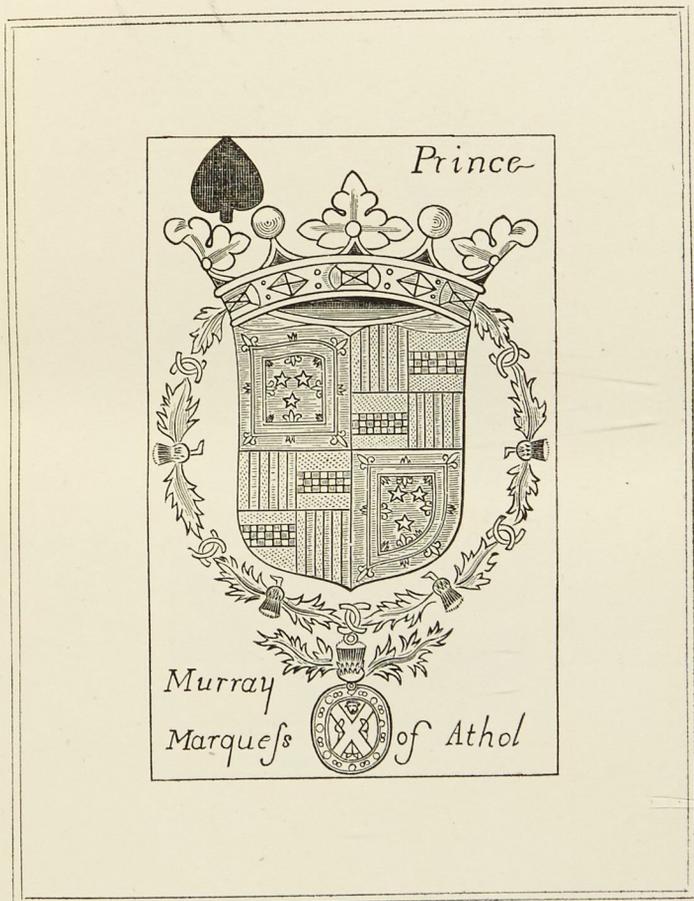
It has been commonly supposed that they were *invented* for the amusement of Charles VI. of France, when in a low state of melancholy in 1693, from this entry occurring in the

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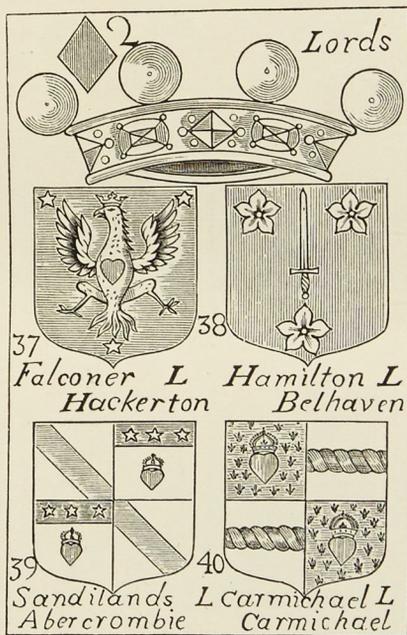
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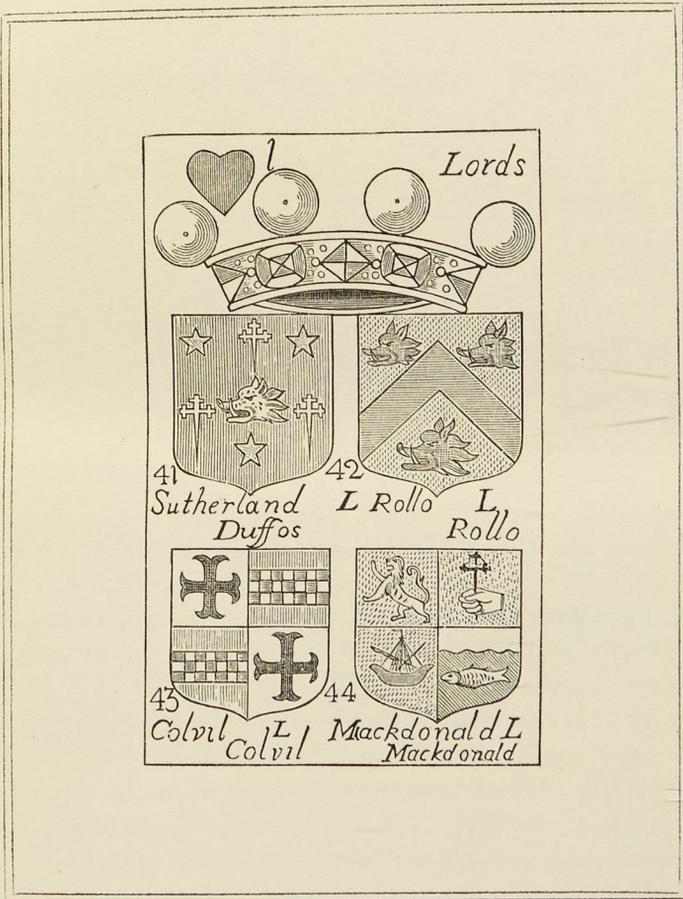
HERALDIC PLAYING CARD.



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HERALDIC PLAYING CARD.

accounts of his treasurer for that year: "*Given to Jacquemin Gringonneur, Painter, for three Packs of Cards, gilt, coloured, and variously ornamented, for the amusement of the King, fifty-six sols of Paris.*" This, however, does not prove the *invention* of cards, but would rather, from the simple manner in which they are mentioned, imply that they were previously well known.

Cards have been made both in England and France for the purposes of scientific instruction, and used as auxiliaries in teaching a knowledge of grammar, geography, history, heraldry, &c. Mons. de Bramville invented at Lyons, about 1660, a pack of Heraldic Cards, in which the aces and knaves exhibited the arms of princes and nobles. In 1678 Antoine Bulifon introduced similar cards to Naples, and about the same time a pack of Heraldic Cards were engraved in England, specimens of which are given in Mr. Chatto's book. He refers also to another pack of Heraldic Cards entirely relating to England, which would appear very similar to those under consideration, and with regard to which he remarks, "From a kind of title page, or perhaps wrapper, preserved in Bagford's collection, in the British Museum, it would appear that the publication of those cards was licensed by the Duke of Norfolk, as Earl Marshal of England, and as such entitled to take cognizance of all matters relating to heraldry. In playing the game armorial, with Heraldic Cards, the players were required to properly describe the various colours and charges of the different shields; but as this could not be done without some previous knowledge of the science of Heraldry, a Mons. Gauthier was led to devise, in 1686, a new pack of Heraldic Cards, simply explaining the terms of Blazon, and thus serving as an introduction to the grand game. The Heraldic Game, however, never was popular; and does not even appear to have been in much esteem with the higher orders, for whose instruction and entertainment it was specially devised. It would seem to

have declined in France with the glory of Louis XIV., and not to have survived the revolution in England.”

Mr. Chatto makes no mention of any Scotch Heraldic Cards, which I presume were unknown to him.

I am, my dear Sir,  
Yours truly,

GEO. HEN. DASHWOOD.

To H. Harrod, Esq., F.S.A.,  
Hon. Sec. N. & N.A.S.

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The Scotch Heraldic Cards, of which specimens are given, are not made up, but are contained in three plates, each containing eighteen divisions; and they exhibit, together with the arms of Scotland, England, France, and Ireland, the armorial ensigns of the nobility of Scotland in the year 1691.

The four Kings are represented by the arms of Scotland, England, France, and Ireland, with the blazon of each inscribed below, thus—

King of Hearts.—Armes of Scotland, or, a lyon rampant gules, armed and langued azure within a double tressure flowred, and counter-flowred with flowre de lis of the 2<sup>d</sup> within the order of Scotland.

King of Clubs.—Armes of England, gules, three lyons passant in pale or, armed and langued azure all within the garter.

King of Spades.—Armes of France, azure, three flour de luces, or, within the orders of France.

King of Diamonds.—Armes of Ireland, azure, an Irish harp or, stringed argent.

The four Queens are represented by the arms of four Dukes. Queen of Hearts, by those of the Duke of Hamilton; of Clubs, by those of Duke of Lennox, with Scott, Dowager Duchess of Buccleuch, in a lozenge

by the side; of Spades, by those of Duke of Gordon; of Diamonds, by those of Douglass, Duke of Queensberry.

The four Knaves, here called Princes, are represented by the arms of Douglass, Marquis Douglass, for Hearts; of Graham, M. Graham, for Clubs; of Murray, M. of Athol, for Spades; and three coats, namely of Campbell, E. of Argyle, Lindsay, E. of Crawford, and Errol, E. of Hay, for Prince of Diamonds.

The number of Earls, with the three above, is 68, and the tens, nines, eights, sevens, and sixes exhibit their arms, three, and in some instances four, coats on one card.

Ten of Hearts.—Keith, Earl Marischal; Gordon, E. of Sutherland; Areskin, E. of Marr.

Ten of Clubs.—Graham, E. of Airth and Monteith; Leslie, E. of Rothes; Douglass, E. of Morton.

Ten of Spades.—Areskin, E. of Buchan; Cuninghame, E. of Glencairn; Montgomery, E. of Eglinton.

Ten of Diamonds.—Kennedy, E. of Cassils; Sinclair, E. of Caithness; Stuart, E. of Murray; Maxwell, E. of Nidhisdale.

The nines exhibit the arms of—

Seton,	E. of Winton
Levingston,	— Linlithgow
Home,	— Home
Drummond,	— Pearth
Seton,	— Dumferling
Fleeming,	— Wigton
Lyon,	— Strathmore
Hamilton,	— Abercorne
Ker,	— Lothian
Ker,	— Roxburgh
Areskin,	— Kellie
Hamilton,	— Haddington

The eights bear the arms of—

Stuart,	E. of Galloway
Makenzie,	— Seaforth
Lauderdale,	— Maitland
Hay,	— Kinnoul
Campbel,	— Lowden
Crichton,	— Dumfries
Alexander,	— Stirling
Bruce,	— Elgin
Carnegie,	— Southask
Stuart,	— Traquair
Ker,	— Ancram
Weems,	— Weems

## The sevens bear—

Ramsay,	E. of Dalhousie
Ogilvy,	— Finlator
Dalziel,	— Carnwath
Livingston,	— Calender
Lesley,	— Leven
Johnston,	— Annandale
Murray,	— Daysert
Maude,	— Panmure
Hamilton,	— Selkirk
Hay,	— Twadell
Carnegie	— Northask

## The sixes bear—

Bruce,	E. of Kincardine
Lindsay,	— Balcarrase
Douglas,	— Forfar
Scot,	— Tarres
Medelton,	— Medilton
Gordon,	— Aboyne
Livingston,	— Neuburgh
Boyd,	— Kilmarnock
Cockran,	— Dundonald
Keith,	— Kintore
Campbell,	— Bredalban
Gordon,	— Aberdeane
Drummond,	— Melfont
Murray,	— Dumoor
Melvill,	— Melvill

The arms of the Viscounts, eighteen in number, and of the Barons, fifty-three in number, are distributed among the smaller cards.

## The fives bear—

Carey,	V. of Falkland
Constable,	— Dunbar
Murray,	— Stormant
Gordone,	— Kenmour
Arbuthnot,	— Arbuthnot
Crichton,	— Frendraught
Seaton,	— Kingston
Mackgill,	— Oxinfoord
Ingram,	— Irving
Levingston,	— Kilsyth
Osburn,	— Dumblane
Graham,	— Preston

## The fours—

Cheney,	V. of Newhaven
Mackenzie,	— Tarbit
Spencer,	— Tevet
Drummond,	— Strathallan
Grahame,	— Dundee
Dalrymple	— Stair
Forbes,	Lord Forbes
Fraser,	— Saltoun
Gray,	— Gray

Cathcart,	Lord Cathcart
Stewart,	— Ochiltree
Sinclair,	— Sinclair
Douglass,	— Mordington
Semple,	Lady Semple

## The threes bear—

Elphinston,	Lord Elphinston
Oliphant,	— Oliphant
Frazer,	— Lovat
Borthwick,	— Borthwick
Ross,	— Ross
Sandilands,	— Torphichen
Lindsay,	— Spanizie
Lesley,	— Lindors
Elphingston,	— Balmerinloch
Stewart,	— Blantyre
Areskin,	— Cardross
Cranston,	— Cranston
Balfour,	— Burlic
Ker,	— Tedburgh
Drummond,	— Mathertie
Elphingston,	— Couper

## The twos bear—

Naper,	—	Naper
Fairfax,	—	Cameron
Richardson,	—	Cramond
Makie,	—	Rae
Forrester,	—	Forrester
Forbes,	—	Pitsligo
Mackleland,	—	Kirkcubright
Frazer,	—	Frazer
Hamilton,	—	Bargeny
Ogilvie,	—	Bamff
Murray,	—	Elebank
Galloway,	—	Dunkel
Falconer,	—	Hackeston
Hamilton,	—	Belhaven
Sandilands,	—	Abercrombie
Carmichael,	—	Carmichael

## The aces or ones bear—

Sutherland,	Lord Duffos
Rollo,	— Rollo
Colvil,	— Colvil
Macdonald,	— Mackdonald
Ruthven,	— Ruthven
Bellenden,	— Bellenden
Lesly,	— Newark
Nairne,	— Nairne
Churchill,	— Eymouth
Kinnaird,	— Kinnaird
Abercrombie,	— Glassfourd
Home,	— Polwart

There are two additional compartments, intended for the case or wrapper of the pack. They display, the one, the arms of the town of Edinburgh, with this inscription under—

PHYLARCHARUM SCOTORUM GENTITICIA INSIGNIA ILLUSTRUM A GUALTERO SCOT AURIFICE CHARTIS LUSORIIS EXPRESSA. SCULPSIT EDINBURGI.

ANNO DOM. MD. LXX. XCI.

The other, with the official seal of the then Lion King at Arms, surrounded with small shields, representing the metals and chief colours used in heraldry. The shield, which surmounts two batons in saltire, is surrounded by the collar sustaining the badge of St. Andrew, and is charged with *argent, a lion seiant full faced, gules, holding in the dexter paw a thistle slipped, vert; in the sinister, an escutcheon of the second; on a chief azure, St. Andrew's cross of the first* (for the arms of the Herald's Office of Scotland), *impaled with quarterly 1 and 4 gules an imperial crown within a double tressure flory counter-flory or; 2 and 3 argent a pale*

*sable, a crescent for difference*, as the arms of Sir Alexander Erskine of Cambo, Knight and Baronet, Lion King at Arms.

Sir Alexander Areskin or Erskine appears to have been the designer of this seal of office. His father Sir Charles, who was Lion King at Arms before him, used only his paternal coat on his seals appended to grants of arms.

