N. Shure Novelty Company of Chicago details the vast selection of playing cards.

COOL VINTAGE AD
Playing Card themed postcards received during the holiday season.

THE SAUCY SEASIDE
Find out who won Deck of the Year, Artist of the Year & the Dawson Award.

DIAMOND WINNERS
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Lee Asher, President/Editor-in-Chief: CARD CULTURE
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Andrea Whitlock, Staff Writer: CARD CULTURE
Alex Clays, Staff Writer: CARD CULTURE
WINNERS OF THE DIAMOND AWARDS

BY DON BOYER | CONTRIBUTOR

THE 52 PLUS JOKER CONVENTION WILL HAVE JUST ENDED AND THE FIRST ANNUAL DIAMOND AWARDS WILL HAVE BEEN HANDED OUT TO THE DESERVING WINNERS.

“Congratulations to all the nominees and winners! You all deserve an award.” — Judy Dawson

WINNER: DAWSON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

GENE HOCHMAN

It would be difficult to argue that any other person had a more long-lasting effect on the pastime of collecting playing cards than Gene Hochman. Below is part of the speech that our esteemed “Queen of Hearts,” Judy Dawson, prepared for the presentation of the award to his son, Michael Hochman, at the gala dinner.

A TRIBUTE TO GENE HOCHMAN

When Tom and I took over the job of publishing CTD in October 1989, I wrote our first featured collector column on Gene Hochman - the man who contributed so much to all the collectors of playing cards in North America and elsewhere.

Gene, along with his wife Ellen, spent many hours researching anything and everything at the United Playing Card Co. Museum in Cincinnati as well as libraries in New York, Philadelphia and other centers. Gene also corresponded with a number of collectors of playing cards, in many different countries, as part of the cataloguing of the thousands of decks produced by the many American companies over the years.

We were delighted and somewhat awed when Gene asked us if we would undertake the job of revising his major work and publishing it in a single volume. This turned out to be a huge job for us, mainly due to time constraints imposed by jobs, family, Clear the Decks, etc., and it made us even more appreciative of the gargantuan task performed by Gene when he had to start it from scratch.

Of all the volumes in the original Encyclopedia, Volume Four, on the standard cards, really defined the vast output of the American manufacturers. It was a huge job; researching, cataloguing, photographing and describing these decks and we actually found very few areas where Gene’s work was not right on target.

The revised version of The Gene Hochman Encyclopedia of American Playing Cards included a number of new entries and...
discoveries made since 1981 when the last volume, Volume Six, was published. We know that it was an improvement on Gene’s original publication however it would have been impossible for us to produce anything resembling Gene’s major accomplishment in writing his original work.

The real measure of the man, however, was not his many contributions to our hobby, but Gene himself. He had a great enthusiasm for collecting and collectors and was always willing to share his experience, knowledge and expertise. The playing card world in America will forever be grateful to him for changing the course of a little known collectible into a serious study of playing cards through photographs and text. Without this most of us would still be floundering.

WINNER: DECK OF THE YEAR

GOLDEN OATH, BY LOTREK/OATH PLAYING CARDS

Lotrek, a Greek playing card designer who’s working name is derived from that of one of his favorite painters, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, managed to create a masterpiece of a deck - all without using a single drop of ink! Everything from the tuck box to the cards themselves were created using an all-black stock which was stamped with silver, gold and red metallic foil, creating brilliant, bright yet classic playing card images. His designers were a clear favorite among the voting members of the club, winning close to 50% of the votes cast.

WINNER: ARTIST OF THE YEAR

LINNEA GITS AND PETER DUNHAM/UUSI, FOR THEIR WORK ON BLUE PAGAN AND HYDE PARK MOULDINGS

Gits and Dunham (pictured below), collectively known as Uusi, are a husband-and-wife team based out of Chicago and a longtime fan favorite since their introductory deck, Blue Blood, was made available as a Kickstarter project in 2012. Their playing card work covers a wide range, often blending two different artistic styles to wonderful effect.

Two projects won them their award this year. Blue Pagan is a limited-edition poker deck printed to coincide with the release of their Pagan Otherworlds tarot deck and is the third color of their original Pagan deck. Hyde Park Mouldings is an advertising deck for the Hyde Park Moulding Company of, operating out of Long Island, NY, and is based in part on moulding designs by Vincent Kallenbaum of HPMC.
I remember my first deck of cards. I was a teenager learning magic and I hid the cards under my pillow. As the sun set and I was left in the quiet darkness of the night I would discover the magic of playing cards. Sitting up all night I would try to familiarize myself with this complex and layered tool of astonishment. I had never played cards growing up so everything was new to me. Four suits, thirteen different values, ten spot cards per suit, three court cards, 26 red cards and 26 black cards to make a total of 52 cards plus a Joker. (It’s funny to me, at first I did not even know the names of the black suits and I never thought I would ever be able to remember the words: Spades and Clubs.) I was overloaded with information and thought my brain would explode! But even then there was something very thrilling knowing that despite my ineptitude that I was being initiated into a secret and ancient practice of deciphering and manipulating these mystical wells of mystery by the playing cards themselves.

That first deck was a blue deck of Fan Back Tally-Ho’s and at first I found the design too geometric and distasteful but as I used it more and more I would get sucked into the hypnotic design for hours. Throughout the years as I developed in skill, the deck opened it’s secrets to me. I slowly would recognize shapes, objects, and patterns, where they would stop and begin again and where they would be repeated and completed at scale.

All this serves as the foundation and inspiration for Hidden Leaves. I wanted to design a deck that was mysterious and filled with secrets, secrets that had to be earned through time, practice, and study. The name of the deck itself eludes to this. Throughout history a sheet a paper was referred to as a leaf of paper. When combined with the unseen nature of the card worker’s art I thought it would appropriate to name my deck Hidden Leaves, a deck of playing cards,

Embracing The Rainbow,
Painted Strokes
Drawn from & Bringing color
to Life, Lies, & Love.

The design of Hidden Leaves started in back when I was in university studying film. We were studying French film and I discovered Jean-Pierre Melville’s masterpiece, Le Samouraï. It was a powerful experience watching that film. There’s almost no dialogue but every scene is charged with emotion. I was tremendously moved by that experience and wanted to recreate that with a deck of playing cards.

I wanted people to hold a piece of art in their hands that told a story with each moment and at every pause. I wanted people
to behold a wonder, playing cards painted by a sleight of hand magician born without hands. I wanted people to be overwhelmed by the impossibility and the beauty of what they held, an awesome triumph over this world.

I used to draw a lot when I was growing up, it was one of my favorite hobbies. As I grew older drawing became more and more stressful for me as it became harder and harder to put on paper what I had in my heart and mind so at 17 years old I traded in my pencil for a deck of cards and took up sleight of hand in it's place. At first, I really didn't want to design and draw this deck of cards, it had been ten years since I picked up a pencil to draw so I looked for an artist. Unfortunately, every single artist I found that I could approve of was just too expensive for me to hire. I knew that if I wanted to get this done that I would have to buckle up, pick up my pen again and get to work. I spent months studying classic playing card artwork; identifying what aligned with my tastes and what didn't, how to draw those classic cartoony faces, how to create patterns, how to import my artwork into Adobe Illustrator and turn scans into vector files.

I must have redesigned the whole deck three times and each card at least four times, each time playing with size, balance, shape, and color. Each of the court cards took about 16 hours on average to illustrate, the back design took about 48 hours, the Joker about 6 hours and 40 minutes, the ad cards about 5 hours, and the Ace of Spades about 12 hours. I have been designing this deck since January, it is now the end of August as I write this and I'm very close to being finished. I've spent months working on this project in pure agony, frustration, bliss, and joy. I can see the castle on the hill from where I'm standing, it won't be much further now..

*insert ad card*

The face cards are inspired by the old school Goodall playing cards from the U.K. In my quest to find the most beautiful cards, they absolutely stood out as they were in the style that modern card players use and are strikingly simple and beautiful. To save money, some of the Goodall designs were only printed in black and red which forced the designers to severely restrict the lines they made and how they separated in the artwork which left strong contrast and powerful imagery if done well. Another thing they use to do was press the colors in one at a time into the cards and because of this every single card was unique as the ink would bleed differently on each and every card leaving slight imperfections. These imperfections reminded me of the Japanese aesthetic which is imperfect and asymmetrical by design and I wanted to incorporate that into my design. A hugely noticeable feature of Hidden Leaves is the conspicuous lack of index. This allows the borders of the court cards to extend much larger than usual so you can see more detail of the artwork.

All the spot cards are one directional and also feature a lack of indexes. The lack of indexes on the faces allows you to do many, many techniques and routines as they were performed in Hofzinser’s Salon of Wonder. I have been working on many techniques and routines (Ambitious Card, Everywhere & Nowhere, Transpositions, and many more!) that specifically take advantage of playing cards without indexes and I cannot wait to share them with you, they are incredible!

The Joker is one of the most important cards as it represents one of the most powerful figures in a deck of playing cards. In Hidden Leaves the Devil himself plays the fool. Innocuous to a deliberate fault. The credo of the pure fool in the words of James Joyce, “...I am not afraid to make a mistake, even a grave mistake, a lifelong mistake and perhaps as long as eternity too.”

Traditionally, a deck of playing cards features one Joker. Following the iconic traditions of Carter, Thurston, and Kellar I wanted to feature the motif of a devil in my artwork. The Joker is often depicted as a court jester, which I always thought of as a nefarious character; slithering in the background seemingly harmless whilst
masterfully and nefariously manipulating the outcome of every event. My original idea was to try to match the same style as the court cards for my joker. You can see these attempts in my original sketches.

Unfortunately I only understood the balance of the court cards as I was trying to design this Joker. I learned that there is a reason and placement for everything each courtly character is holding and that their corresponding pip is necessary to fill in empty space beside their heads. I did not have an identifying pip for the Joker so every single attempt was met with imbalance and I did not want to invent a Joker pip or use one from another deck (a star for instance) so I took a step back to clear my mind. I started to do research on Jokers and stumbled upon the Diavolo deck which features a strikingly bright (only) red Joker.

I loved this so I set out to design my own. I knew I wanted my Joker to be in full red flowing robe looking nefarious so I studied every representation I could find from old magic and theatrical posters. At first I tried to only use white and red in my design like the Diavolo deck but I found that it was almost impossible for me to get the right look for the face and hands so I opted to add black as well to really define some of the lines, leaving with the Joker you see in the deck now. I wanted to keep a border around the Joker, just like the court cards but I decided to cage this Devil in red. Like Johnny Cash, bound by wild desire, he fell into a ring of fire.

The Joker was such a strong and powerful choice for me and such an overwhelming sinister influence on my deck that I wanted to counterbalance it with an equally powerful symbol of light and innocence. But how was I to do this? Was I to create two distinct Jokers, one of light and one of darkness? And what would happen to my idea of only having a single Joker? As you could see I was distraught. Then it hit me. I would use the Ace of Spades, the most important and powerful card in the deck to contrast the Joker. But how?

I chose to feature a poor, peasant girl, on her knees praying as the most powerful and important card in the deck (see below). To show true strength in the weak as greater than pride in the worldly, life as stronger than pain, and love as stronger than death.
One of the main motifs of the deck is my hand holding a Royal Flush in Hearts which perfectly encapsulates the spirit of Hidden Leaves, which is: Play The Hand Life Dealt You! This comes from the attitude I grew up with, a life where you have have to make the most of what you have and transform liabilities into assets. I drew a lot of inspiration from the cover of the 1866 treatise on card games called, “The American Card Player” which features a lone hand holding a Royal Flush, spreading the cards in victory. I wanted to duplicate this but with my arms so I took photographs of myself holding fans of cards in every single position I could think of. None of them were symmetrical since I spread cards using both my arms at the same time and the aesthetic wasn’t what I had in mind. I was so frustrated and about to go back to the drawing board with a whole new design when I tried using just my right arm instead of both arms. The result is what you see. Since I can’t hold a fan of cards vertically with one arm, the image is impossible in the real world but rather captures the poetic ideal and it worked out brilliantly.

Enveloping the hands of victory are a pattern of branches in the center of the back design. These are directly inspired by the branches on the back of the legendary Tally-Ho fan back design. I redesigned them to fit with my visual style and placed them in the center of my design as roots to symbolically say that every tree needs strong roots. Which brings me back to the arm holding a fan of cards. I designed it in the shape of a tree to say, these are the hidden leaves that blossom to life when nourished.

Without doubt the hardest part of the whole back design was the outer layer of leaves, fruits and vines. I studied pattern making when I was a teenager and wanted to create a pattern that was dense and impenetrable. I wanted a wild bloom that concealed a vulnerable and majestic core. It also had to be 100% symmetrical which was a monumental task as any miscalculation meant that I would have to start from the beginning. The resulting pattern is true to the spirit of Hidden Leaves, which only strives to show the elegance and conceal all the sweat, toil, and tears. There is so, so many references in this back design to classic playing cards of old as well as many secrets hidden within those leaves. I really hope you have as good as a time exploring it as I did designing it.

The feel of a deck is very important and my favorite deck of cards in terms of touch are the Erdnase 216’s released by the Conjuring Arts Research Center. I wanted to duplicate that thin stock and smooth finish so I decided to work with USPCC to create a thin and flexible stock with a smooth finish, just like they use to print cards over a hundred years ago in America.

I really do hope you enjoyed this extended preview of one of the most important projects of my life and I also hope that fall in love with the design like I have. I took many bold and controversial moves designing (and hopefully soon printing) this deck and it will soon be time to send my baby off into the world. I’m reminded by that beautiful quote by Rene Lavand, “A deck of cards is like a fragile bird, if I squeeze it too hard, I will kill it, and if I let it go, it will fly away.”
And like a tender bird I’ve placed all my hope and dreams into these pieces of colored paper and I hope they not only are able to soar above the heavens but also carry me as well.

Hidden Leaves by Mahdi The Magician will be launched via Kickstarter this Winter. Please subscribe to Mahdi’s email list to get news about the deck before anyone else.
“I DIDN’T KNOW HE’D PASSED AWAY. WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?”
“HE TRUMPED HIS WIFE’S ACE AT A BRIDGE DRIVE!”

SAUCY SEASIDE PLAYING CARD POSTCARDS - PART 1

YER CHEATING, GILES!– I’LL BET YOU ALL I’VE GOT I NEVER DEALT YOU THAT ACE!

By Alex Clays | Contributor
Things are not quite going according to plan here!

On me déshabille ici!
"I take it you wouldn't care to have a little game of Bridge?"
"Sorry to interrupt Maria - but where's the soap?"

"My word, Miss Shuffle - you've got a good pair there!"
A "BRIDGE" Span
50 Above 18 Below.
"COLONEL — ARE THESE WORTH PLAYING WITH?"
“ARE YOU ANY GOOD AT CARDS, MISS BROWN?”

“NO—I PLAY A SHOCKING GAME!”

“O.K. THEN—LET’S PLAY THAT!!”
“Don’t you think you’re carrying the demonstration a bit too far, Perkins!”
Conjuror: "IN MY NEXT TRICK, I SHALL EMPLOY THIS CHILD, WHO IS A PERFECT STRANGER TO ME. ISN'T THAT TRUE, LITTLE BOY?"

"YES, PAPA."
"THANKS PAL!"
### New Releases List - September 2017 by Andrea Whitlock

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<tr>
<th>DECK</th>
<th>PRODUCER(S)</th>
<th>PRINTER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tessellatus</td>
<td>Hunkydory Cards</td>
<td>USPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ravn Purple Haze</td>
<td>Stockholm17</td>
<td>Cartamundi</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMOJI</td>
<td>Collectable Playing Cards</td>
<td>USPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bharata</td>
<td>Sunish Chabba</td>
<td>GPCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Lions Tour Edition</td>
<td>David Blaine</td>
<td>USPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rockets</td>
<td>Ellusionist</td>
<td>USPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cherry V3 True Black</td>
<td>Pure Imagination Projects</td>
<td>USPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal Deck Blue Edition</td>
<td>Collectable Playing Cards</td>
<td>USPC</td>
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<td>Realms</td>
<td>Card Experiment</td>
<td>USPC &amp; EPCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pipmen: World</td>
<td>Elephant Playing Cards</td>
<td>LPCC</td>
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<td>Pipmen Collector's Edition</td>
<td>Elephant Playing Cards</td>
<td>LPCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honeybee Metaluxe Special Edition</td>
<td>Penguin Magic</td>
<td>USPC</td>
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<td>Gemini Casino Royal Blue</td>
<td>Gemini Decks</td>
<td>USPC</td>
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<td>Right of Kings</td>
<td>Alex Rivas &amp; Paul Lombardi</td>
<td>USPC</td>
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<td>American Pine</td>
<td>Bloc Playing Cards</td>
<td>USPC</td>
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<td>Sins</td>
<td>Thirdway Industries</td>
<td>EPCC</td>
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<td>Eva</td>
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<td>Runic Royalty</td>
<td>Keith Glover</td>
<td>USPC</td>
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<td>The Strange</td>
<td>John Daniel Taylor IV</td>
<td>Top Secret Press</td>
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<td>Glamor Nugget</td>
<td>EPCS</td>
<td>Kuo Kau Paper Products Co.</td>
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<td>Corvid Romantic</td>
<td>Megan Weber</td>
<td>PrintNinja</td>
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<td>Cardistry</td>
<td>Bocopo</td>
<td>USPC</td>
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</table>

### Recent Crowdfunding Projects - September 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>START</th>
<th>END</th>
<th>CUR.</th>
<th>GOAL</th>
<th>PROJECT CREATOR(S)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opulent Playing Cards Custom Limited USPCC</td>
<td>1-Sep</td>
<td>1-Oct</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>4,000.00</td>
<td>George Williamson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maidens Playing Cards</td>
<td>1-Sep</td>
<td>1-Oct</td>
<td>AUD $</td>
<td>14,000.00</td>
<td>Joker and the Thief</td>
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<td>Fuck You Playing Cards</td>
<td>1-Sep</td>
<td>1-Oct</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>6,000.00</td>
<td>OMB magic</td>
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<td>ARX Playing Cards, by Lucid52</td>
<td>1-Sep</td>
<td>16-Oct</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>8,500.00</td>
<td>Charles Grass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art of the Patent - Playing Cards</td>
<td>3-Sep</td>
<td>8-Oct</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>Kevin Prince</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Here at CARD CULTURE, we try to include every new release - but some releases do slip through the cracks. Did we miss your favorite new release? Are you a producer or designer with a new deck coming out soon? Don’t be shy about it - TELL US! If the deck is already in release, make a new post about it on the [2017 Release List](https://playingcardforum.com) topic at PlayingCardForum.com. If the deck is out now or coming soon and no one created a topic about it at the Playing Card Plethora on PCF, then go ahead, make a new topic and tell us all about it! We’d enjoy hearing about it from you.

### Recent Crowdfunding Projects - September 2017 cont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Cur.</th>
<th>Goal</th>
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<td>WTF CARDISTRY</td>
<td>4-Sep</td>
<td>18-Sep</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
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<td>&quot;Crazy Deck&quot;</td>
<td>5-Sep</td>
<td>16-Sep</td>
<td>USD $</td>
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<td>Phonograph 5 Playing Cards</td>
<td>5-Sep</td>
<td>3-Oct</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>11,000.00</td>
<td>Landry Sanders</td>
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<td>ELEPHANT Playing Cards</td>
<td>5-Sep</td>
<td>26-Sep</td>
<td>AUD $</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
<td>Elephant Playing Cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>CARTOMANCER DECK - Archetypal Playing Cards</td>
<td>5-Sep</td>
<td>9-Oct</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
<td>Alain Benoit</td>
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<td>Piramida Luxury Playing Cards by Tricklandia</td>
<td>5-Sep</td>
<td>5-Oct</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>13,000.00</td>
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<td>LINIA: Custom Playing Cards</td>
<td>6-Sep</td>
<td>6-Oct</td>
<td>EUR €</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
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<td>Multi Playing Cards - Playing Cards 2.0</td>
<td>8-Sep</td>
<td>8-Oct</td>
<td>EUR €</td>
<td>4,000.00</td>
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<td>Bicycle Essentials By Nathan Goldberg</td>
<td>9-Sep</td>
<td>19-Oct</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>6,500.00</td>
<td>Nathan’s Pragmatic Magic</td>
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<td>The Planets: Mercury [1 of 8]</td>
<td>10-Sep</td>
<td>1-Oct</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>18,000.00</td>
<td>David Goldklang</td>
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<td>EVOLVE : Futuristic Playing Cards</td>
<td>10-Sep</td>
<td>10-Oct</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>Linh Nguyen</td>
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<td>Bicycle Frozen Cards Printed by USPCC Gift Poker</td>
<td>12-Sep</td>
<td>27-Sep</td>
<td>HKD $</td>
<td>31,200.00</td>
<td>Magic Square X BOCOPO</td>
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<td>MP UltraViolet Playing Cards</td>
<td>12-Sep</td>
<td>24-Sep</td>
<td>CAD $</td>
<td>6,300.00</td>
<td>Jesters Custom Cards</td>
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<td>OCULUS Playing Cards</td>
<td>14-Sep</td>
<td>18-Oct</td>
<td>USD $</td>
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<td>Dragonlord White Bicycle Playing Cards</td>
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<td>29-Sep</td>
<td>HKD $</td>
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<td>Arbores V.2 Playing Cards // Gold Foil</td>
<td>14-Sep</td>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>EUR €</td>
<td>3,500.00</td>
<td>Empire Arts</td>
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<td>Kameleon Playing Cards</td>
<td>15-Sep</td>
<td>15-Oct</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>6,000.00</td>
<td>Cardistry Collective</td>
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<td>Operator Deck</td>
<td>15-Sep</td>
<td>25-Oct</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>25,000.00</td>
<td>Olympus Defense Solutions</td>
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<td>Life Deck - Playing Cards</td>
<td>18-Sep</td>
<td>18-Oct</td>
<td>EUR €</td>
<td>7,000.00</td>
<td>Mossa Family &amp; Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bicycle Four Seasons Limited Edition (Autum)</td>
<td>20-Sep</td>
<td>20-Oct</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
<td>Collectable Playing Cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alice in Wonderland Luxury Cards</td>
<td>21-Sep</td>
<td>16-Oct</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>Will Roya</td>
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<td>Lunatica Playing Cards</td>
<td>22-Sep</td>
<td>22-Oct</td>
<td>EUR €</td>
<td>17,000.00</td>
<td>Thirdway Industries</td>
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<td>Forma Playing Cards By TCC</td>
<td>27-Sep</td>
<td>27-Oct</td>
<td>HKD $</td>
<td>32,000.00</td>
<td>TCC CARDISTRY</td>
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<td>DRACONIAN and KNIGHTS Playing Cards</td>
<td>28-Sep</td>
<td>1-Nov</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>12,000.00</td>
<td>Randy Butterfield</td>
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<td>Essentia Playing Cards</td>
<td>1-Oct</td>
<td>31-Oct</td>
<td>EUR €</td>
<td>6,000.00</td>
<td>Mankin Chan</td>
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<td>Bicycle Four Seasons Limited Edition (Winter)</td>
<td>2-Oct</td>
<td>1-Nov</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
<td>Collectable Playing Cards</td>
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<td>Twisted Wonderland - Manga Playing Cards</td>
<td>3-Oct</td>
<td>2-Nov</td>
<td>EUR €</td>
<td>14,000.00</td>
<td>Cards Enthusiast</td>
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<td>FANTASY Playing cards</td>
<td>4-Oct</td>
<td>5-Nov</td>
<td>USD $</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>David Rodríguez</td>
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WITH the goal of setting out to publish an all-American deck of playing cards, patriotic artist James C. Gaffney succeeded in spades (no pun intended).

Replacing the traditional cards with Ace airmen, Navy officers & Red Cross nurses, this deck was eventually granted a U.S. patent in 1918 (see paperwork below), and called the Democracy Deck.

Because Gaffney absolutely had no means of manufacturing playing cards, he allowed Russell Playing Card Company to produce the deck for him.

Gaffney’s deck was printed in various colors such as rose, blue, purple & gray. They were also advertised as coming with a heavy linen gilt-edge. God bless America!

ABOVE: Patented Ace of Spades with the patented Democracy back design by James C. Gaffney (Aug. 3rd, 1920), and produced by Russell Playing Card Co.
Playing Cards

"George Washington" Bi-Centennial Cards

"George Washington" Bi-Centennial Playing Cards. A card produced to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of "Father of Our Country." It is proving to be one of the best sellers in our line not only because of the "Washington" celebration, but also because of its good quality. This card is made up in the bridge size only. It is of a high grade stock, linen finish, with gilt edges, and has an easy slip-to-lift 52 cards and Joker to the deck. The backs are made up in two-color combinations; a Blue and White, and a Green and White. One dozen assorted to the box.

No. 34527. Per dozen .......................... 3.00
The above cards put up in neat boxes holding two decks of cards each, which make it a very appropriate bridge prize.
No. 358128. Per dozen sets .................. 6.50

No. 34811. Each deck in box. Per dozen decks 2.50
No. 34812. Two decks to a box. Per dozen sets 5.00

Fancy Back Playing Cards. High grade stock, linen finish, easy slip. 52 cards and Joker. Very attractive two-color backs in several color combinations makes this an ideal bridge card. Packed one dozen assorted to the box.
No. 34521. Per dozen 2.40

The "Bank Note" Playing Cards. Good quality enameled stock, satin finish. Regulation deck, 52 cards and Joker. Assorted red and blue backs to the dozen.
No. 34520. Per dozen 2.15

Pinochle Cards. Nine spot low, 48 cards to the deck. Good quality enameled stock, satin finish. Assorted red and blue backs to the dozen.
No. 34587. Per dozen ....................... 2.25
No. 34586. Per dozen ....................... 2.25

BICYCLE Playing Cards. Air cushion finish, comes in various artistically designed backs. Can supply standard size regulation packs, 52 cards and Joker, standard size pinochle 48 cards, 9 spot low, also in Bridge size.
No. S906. Bicycle .......................... 4.00
No. S918. Bicycle Pinochle ............... 4.00
No. S928. Bicycle Bridge .................. 4.00

"Enchanting" Playing Cards

"Enchanting" Playing Cards. Truly what the name suggests. They are put up in a beautiful case covered with silver metallic paper, sprinkled with black, creating a very beautiful color combination. The cards are made in various design backs with gold edges, linen finish, bridge size. The design of the backs of the cards are very pleasing and are sure to satisfy. A card at a price, which can well be used instead of expensive articles for bridge prizes, gifts, etc.
No. 34526. Per dozen ....................... 5.00
No. 5006. Per dozen ...................... 4.90

"Congress" Cards

"Congress," the Quality Playing Cards. Known the world over for their beautiful backs and wearing quality. Made of the finest linen stock, highly enameled finish, gold edges. An assortment of artistic backs, in rich colors and gold. Bridge size only. Each deck is put up in a neat colored velour like individual case. One-half dozen to a carton.
No. 5006. Per dozen ...................... 4.90

Back No. 67
No. 92 "Club Special"