

GROUP ONE

T10238 Two Packs of Cards



Two packs of cards in box one unopened made in St Albans.

The first card games appeared in the 9th century during Tang-dynasty China and were introduced to Europe via Egyptian and Moorish games. The 1430s in Italy saw the invention of the tarot deck which had 14 cards in each suit; low cards labeled 1–10, and court cards valet (jack), chevalier (cavalier/knight), dame (queen), and roi (king), plus the fool or excuse card, and 21 trump cards. Different countries had different suits- swords, clubs, cups and coins (Italian) spades, hearts, diamonds and clubs (French); leaves, hearts, bells and acorns (German)

There are hundreds of games played with the modern Anglo-American pack of cards that we are most familiar with. The backs of the cards and the picture cards (Jack, Queen, King, Ace) are decorated in a variety of ways from traditional patterns to branded images and even political or historical images.

GROUP TWO

1988.2652 Doll's House Chairs



Miniature wooden doll's house chairs, one has been painted silver and the others left with their wood finish.

Given to the museum by Miss Housden with a range of other doll's house furniture including a miniature piano, gramophone and telephone. The chairs could have been made over a very wide period of times. These may have been made by the owner.

GROUP THREE

1988.2548 Urania's Mirror cards



Astronomical pierced cards, "Urania's Mirror or a view of the heavens".

The cards were made to accompany the book "A familiar treatise on astronomy, explaining the general phenomena of the celestial bodies," by Jehoshaphat Aspin. The introductory advertisement page attributes the design of the cards to "the ingenuity of a young Lady," later identified as Reverend Richard Rouse Bloxam.

The cards include stars from the surrounding constellations, and perforated with holes for each star, sized to reflect the relative magnitude of the stars.

The cards were first produced in 1825 but this set is from 1838.

GROUP FOUR

1988.2518 Two stone market barrows in a box



These two small market barrows were given to the museum as toys in ??? but we have very little information about them.

The two model 'cars' or barrows have moving wheels, made of stone, reddish pink in colour, with floral like decoration. The record also suggests that they could be market barrows instead of cars.

The box is decorated with painted houses and trees around outside. **Sarah, 1850** is written on the base of the box in pencil. **The box is very delicate please handle with extra care.**

GROUP FIVE
T10484 Puppet



Wooden flamenco dancer puppet.

A marionette is a puppet controlled from above using wires or strings. There is evidence that they were used in Egypt as early as 2000 BC but this example is probably no older than the 1960s. Unfortunately we don't know who donated it to the museum so we don't know exactly how old it is.

GROUP SIX

2012.5064 Wooden blocks



This wooden block set is from the twentieth century but unfortunately we do not know who donated it to the museum or exactly how old it is.

GROUP SEVEN

T10242 Playing Cards



Prize medal Chas. Goodall & Son Playing cards with image on back.

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GROUP EIGHT

2012.5066 Wooden tangram set



This wooden tangram set is from the twentieth century but unfortunately we do not know who donated it to the museum or exactly how old it is.

A tangram puzzle consists of 7 geometric pieces which are normally boxed in the shape of a square. The pieces, called 'tans', are used to create different patterns including animals, people, numbers, geometric shapes and many more. This set is not a classic tangram set as it has far more than 7 pieces but it is inspired by the same idea. The first known tangram puzzles come from China about a thousand years ago.

1988.2521 Glass marbles



A collection of glass marbles.

Marbles have been a popular toy for more than 200 years- there are references to them in Roman writings. The first mass produced glass marbles appeared in the early 1900s, probably in America.

2012.5065 Wooden blocks



This wooden block set comes with cards suggesting the shapes of different characters you can make with them.

Unfortunately we do not know who donated this to the museum or how old it is.

1988.2631 Tea set



Children's tea sets can be found in a variety of materials, from wood and tin to porcelain and plastic. When porcelain became widespread in the 19th century due to technological and scientific advances, factories began producing toy tea sets and doll accessories. Tea sets became especially popular in the mid-to-late 1800s when Queen Victoria popularized "taking tea."

This tea pot with lid, pot with lid, 4 cups, 6 saucers, white with gold edges, red handles.

T10236 Canasta set



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Canasta can be played with 4-6 players. Your goal is to beat the opposing team (or opposing players) by scoring more points. You score points by melding cards and making as many canastas as possible.

T10251 bingo set with clips and numbers



This mini lotto or bingo set includes cards, tokens and a bag to draw them out of.

The first recorded signs of a lottery are keno slips from the Chinese Han Dynasty between 205 and 187 BC. These lotteries are believed to have helped to finance major government projects like the Great Wall of China. The first European lotteries took place in the Roman Empire. These larger lotteries developed into smaller games that could be played at home and the game was adapted and altered as it travelled from country to country - in France it was known as 'Le Lotto' and was a favourite of the French aristocracy.

1988.2594 Pack of cards (Crimean)



Pack of cards printed in during the Crimean war with scenes of events and portraits.

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The Crimean War (1854-56) was fought by an alliance of Britain, France, Turkey and Sardinia against Russia. It was the only major European conflict the Army engaged in between 1816 and 1914. For the British, the campaign was symbolised by military and logistical incompetence alongside the bravery and endurance of its soldiers.

1988.2595 Pack of Cards (Boer War)



Pack of cards printed during the second Boer war.

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The First Boer War (Afrikaans: Eerste Vryheidsoorlog, literally "First Freedom War"), also known as the First Anglo-Boer War, the Transvaal War or the Transvaal Rebellion, was a war fought from 16 December 1880 until 23 March 1881 between the United Kingdom and the South African Republic (also known as the Transvaal Republic; not to be confused with the modern-day Republic of South Africa). The war resulted in defeat for the British and the second independence of the South African Republic.