

Traditional Games



The Game of Old Maid



The Game of Old maid became popular in the Victorian era when special cards were produced. Before this, the game had also gone by the name of "Queen of Spades" and was played with an ordinary pack of playing cards. So, it made its transition from a game often played in Public Houses, with a round of drinks as the stake to a popular children game in the Nursery. In Germany it is known as

"Black Peter" and in France as "Old Boy".

An Old Maid is a traditional English term for a spinster or unmarried elderly woman.

To use the Game

You can print out this game on card or print it on paper and then glue it to a piece of card or board. If you want to save it from wear, you can protect it with a light coat of acrylic varnish. If you would like to give the board an appearance of age, you can paint it with a light wash of cold tea or coffee, to stain it before you varnish. Another method is to add a small amount of the acrylic colour "raw sienna" to the varnish itself.

Cutting out the Pieces

Please take care cutting out the pieces. For safety sake, children should only be allowed to do this under adult supervision.

The Rules

The cards are dealt out among the players who sort their cards and discard any pairs. (If a player has three of a kind, he discards two of the cards and keeps the third). The dealer then offers the cards, face down,



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to the player on his left. That player randomly takes one card from those offered. If the card matches one the player already has, the newly formed pair is put down. If not, the player adds it to his hand. Play proceeds clockwise, so the player to the left of the dealer then offers his hand, face down, to the player on his left. This cycle repeats until there are no more pairs and the only remaining card is the Old Maid. The game ends when the Old Maid is the only card in play. The person holding the Old Maid loses.

The Games

These are faithful reproductions of actual vintage games that have been scanned from the collection of the Museum of Childhood.com (<http://www.museum-of-childhood.com>)

We hope to use our website to help promote our love and interest for collecting games, toys and other collectible childhood treasures, around the world. We intend to build and make it available as a reference site for other researchers, dealers and collectors seeking accurate information on their collection. The information offered on the website is offered free of charge. If you find the information useful, then please help us by sharing the link for this website with a parent, teacher, librarian, museum curator, bookseller, or collector..... Thank You.

We hope you enjoy the game!

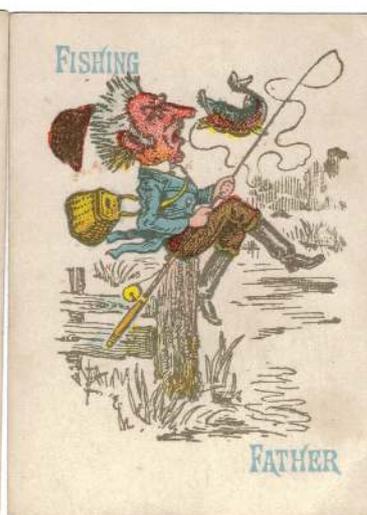
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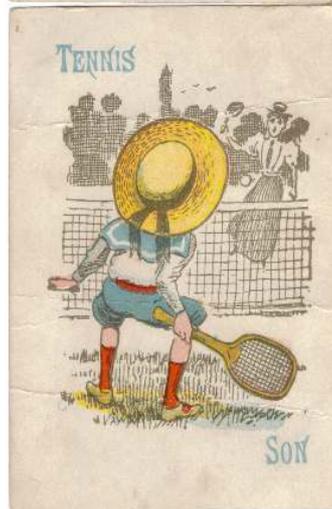
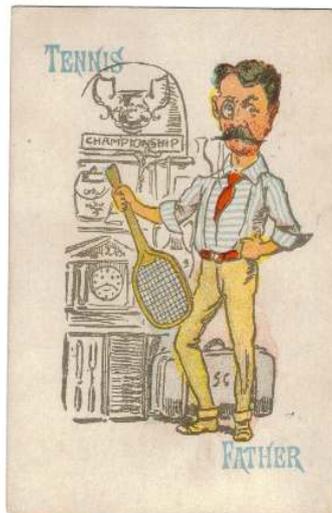
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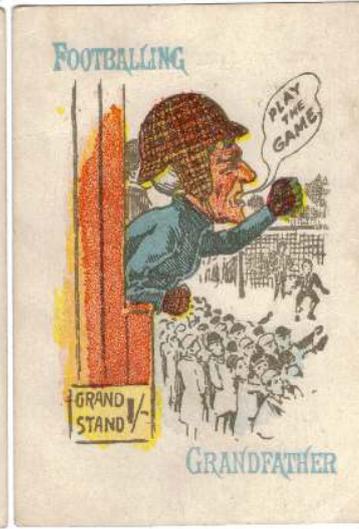
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A free traditional game - courtesy of www.museum-of-childhood.com