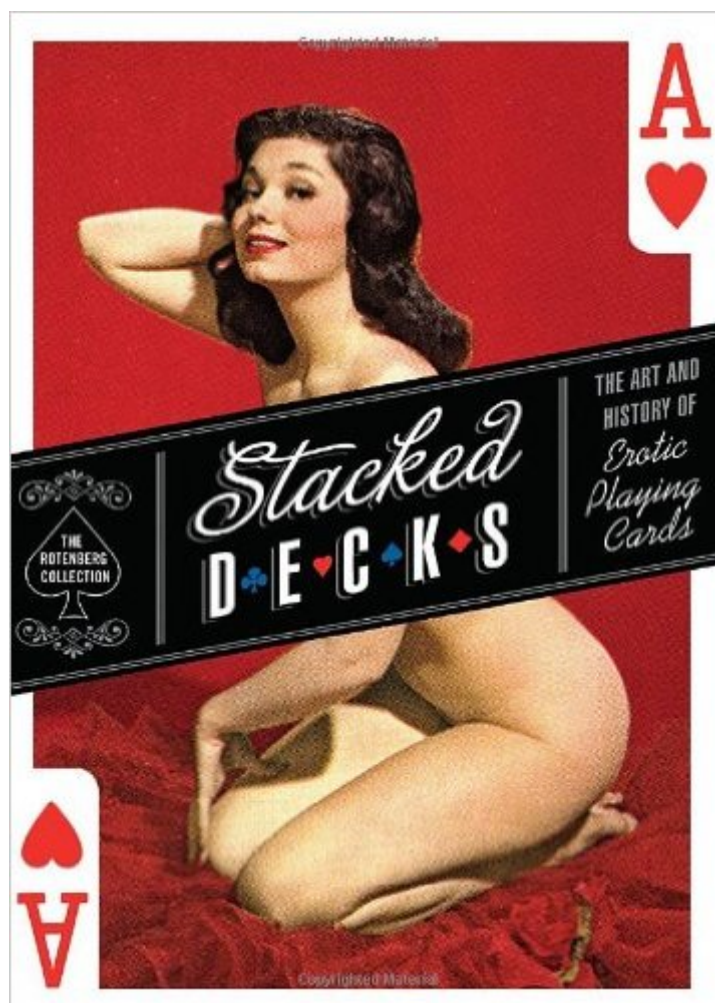


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# Stacked Decks: The Art And History Of Erotic Playing Cards



## Synopsis

The Rotenberg Collection is one of the world's largest archives of vintage erotica, with more than 20,000 erotic playing cards in its holdings and Stacked Decks highlights the best of the best. Within these pages, readers will discover illustrated cards dating back to 1835, dazzling pin-up portraits from renowned artists such as Gil Elvgren, cards with instructions for promoting a healthy marriage, oversized cards, miniature cards, round cards, square cards, and comic cards. There are cards from Sweden, France, and the United Kingdom; cards from Africa to Asia and beyond. And of course, there are women. There are models, flappers, and strippers; there are blondes, brunettes, and redheads. There are women holding guns. Women in sports cars. Women wearing sombreros and pith helmets. Women encountering large exotic animals. Women reclining on shag carpets. Women dressed like Eskimos. Women posing in ways that defy description "you simply have to see for yourself. So what are you waiting for? Ante up and turn the page!

## Book Information

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Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,002,770 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Paper Ephemera & Cards > Non-Sports Cards #233

in Books > Arts & Photography > Painting > Portraits #441 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Card Games

## Customer Reviews

Mark Rotenberg is the obvious choice to do a book on pin-up playing cards, the intro says the contents are from his 450 decks (the world's biggest collection? Probably!). There isn't too much to say about a product that has very few clues about the models, photographers and printers yet over the years the numbers manufactured must run into the millions of packs. Of the 452 cards in the book the majority show anonymous females in predictably unimaginative stock glamour poses that card printers could buy for next to nothing. I thought the illustrative cards much more interesting.

There are a few showing the paintings of Heinz Villiger, Joyce Ballantyne, Al Moore and Gil Elvgren. Strangely no Petty or Vargas decks, maybe the reproduction rights too expensive? The best cards in the book are surely the two decks put out in 1955 by Parisian manufacturer Editions Philibert who commissioned artist Paul-Emile Becat to paint a series of miniatures showing erotic Florentine life during the Renaissance and another set about Casanova. When compared to these two decks the book's photo glamour material come across as the tacky cards they really are. It is unfortunate that the book's production is very dull. The cards are presented full on, with none angled or overlapping each other. The addition of a drop shadow would have given them a lift. As most of the cards are visually unimaginative perhaps a few still-life photos throughout the book would provide some interest: a poker hand on a card table with some chips, a scattered deck of cards as a background with four or five prominent. I thought it was particularly annoying that so many cards are shown larger than the originals (and some really are too big) which only emphasizes their cheap subject matter and poor printing.

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