E. M. THOMAS.

CARD GAME.

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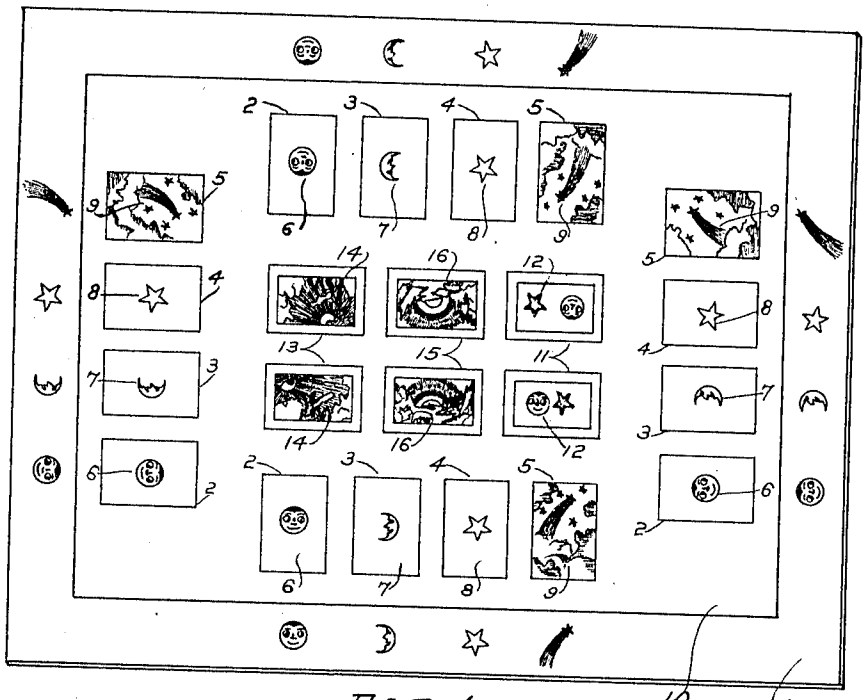


FIG. 1.

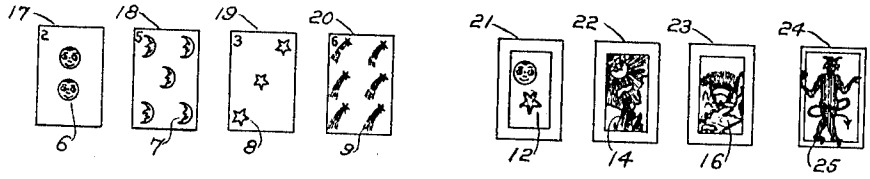


FIG. 2.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWIN M. THOMAS, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Birmingham, in the county of Jefferson and State of Alabama, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Card Games, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a novel card game intended to be played with a special board by two or more players.

The object of my invention is to present a card game comprising four sets of distinctively marked cards, the symbols on which correspond to the symbols in playing spaces provided on the board.

The interest and excitement of the game is increased by providing a joker which permits an increased scoring in the manner hereinafter described. The scoring is based upon the counting of five and multiples of five by totaling the number of similar symbols displayed on cards in similarly designated playing spaces, and also upon certain prize cards which may be played into suitably designated spaces to receive them and which have certain scoring values.

My invention may be better understood by reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 presents the playing board, and Fig. 2 illustrates the cards.

The playing board 1 is provided with a rectangular playing space having along each of its marginal edges four card spaces 2, 3, 4 and 5, respectively. Each of these spaces receives a distinctive symbol or mark and in the present case I have selected these symbols to represent heavenly bodies. In the several spaces designated 2 the symbol 6 represents a full moon; in the spaces designated 3, the symbol 7 represents a crescent moon; in the spaces designated 4, the symbol 8 represents a star; and in the spaces designated 5, the symbol 9 represents a comet. The symbols described are displayed within the card spaces and inasmuch as in the course of the game cards are played into these spaces so that the symbols therein will be covered, I provide supplemental symbols just without the playing space which is defined by the rectangular line 10 displaying each of the symbols opposite the several card receiving spaces in which similar symbols are displayed. In the center of the board I arrange six card receiving spaces, the spaces 11 bearing the symbols 12 representing the moon and star; the spaces 13 bearing symbols 14 representing the sun; and the central spaces 15 bearing symbols 16 representing the rainbow displayed above the sun and clouds. For convenience in playing the spaces 2, 3, 4 or 5 of a row are disposed opposite the corresponding space of the opposite row.

The cards, which are illustrated in Fig. 2, comprise ten playing cards, such as 17, on which the symbol 6 is displayed, each card of the series successively displaying an increasing number of the symbols beginning with 1 and ending with 10. In like manner I provide three other series of cards 18, 19 and 20 which respectively display the symbols 7, 8 and 9. There are two cards 21 which display the moon and star symbol 12, two cards 22 which display the sun symbol 14, two cards 23 which display the rainbow symbol 16, and one card 24 which is the joker and which displays a symbol 25 representative of Mephisto. Each of the cards 17 to 20, inclusive, has at its upper left hand corner a numeral designating the number of symbols displayed thereon. There may be a greater or less number of the prize cards 11, 13 and 15, and there may be two or more joker cards 24, though one is preferred. The number of cards 17 to 20, inclusive, may go above ten or stop short of that, but ten is preferable.

The manner of playing the game is as follows: A number of the cards are first dealt, for instance five, and the first player will seek to play either one of the prize cards into a correspondingly designated central space 11, 13, or 15, which will score for him the value of the prize card played or he will seek to play down in one of the playing spaces 2 to 5 opposite him a card having symbols thereon totaling five or a multiple of five, as for instance the card 17 bearing the five moon symbols in the sun space 2, such a card being played face up and scoring five for the player. His opponent may similarly play a five or ten spot card on his playing spaces 3, 4 or 5 and score with it, or he may play a moon card 17 in his playing space 2 and if the number of moon symbols on the card so played, when added to the number of moon symbols on the card played by the first player in his space 2, will total five or a multiple thereof, the second player scores

such total and plays his card face up. For instance, if the second player lays a ten spot moon card on his space 2 he will score fifteen because the first player played the five spot moon card face up in his card receiving space 2. If on the other hand the moon card which the second player seeks to play in the space 2 will not, when added to his opponent's card, make a total of five or a multiple thereof, then he plays such card face down. If the first player, upon resuming play, wishes to again play a moon card he will turn it face up on his first moon card and call on his opponent to turn over the moon card which he last played face down, and if the spots on the two cards 17 will total five or a multiple thereof, the first player scores. When any player has a joker dealt to him, he must immediately lay it on the board and thereupon his opponent is entitled to a play which will give him the advantage of scoring in the manner already described, and in addition thereto of adding the totals of the spots on the top cards displayed in his own playing spaces if they amount to five or a multiple thereof. The joker must be returned to the pack after the hand is played and, after the pack is shuffled, the remaining cards are again dealt; this shuffling taking place after each hand in which the joker appears and not at other times. After all the cards have been played they are taken up from the card receiving spaces in which they remain as played and after being shuffled are dealt again.

There may be various modifications of the game as for instance two packs may be used where four players are playing and various rules may be adopted with reference to scoring when there are three or four players. I have, however, described sufficiently the principles upon which the game is based and do not desire to limit myself to any special number of cards or design of symbols. If desired the special prize cards and their respective spaces may be dispensed with.

What I desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. A card game comprising a playing board having for each player a series of card receiving spaces, each space in a series having different designating symbols and each series having similarly designated spaces, and playing cards displaying designating symbols corresponding to those in the card receiving spaces, there being a series of such cards for each of said symbols and there being a different number of said symbols displayed on different cards of a series, substantially as described.

2. A card game comprising a playing board having for each player a series of card receiving spaces, each space in a series having different designating symbols and each series having similarly designated spaces, playing cards displaying designating symbols corresponding to those in the card receiving spaces, there being a series of such cards for each of said symbols and there being a different number of said symbols displayed on different cards of a series, and a joker, substantially as described.

3. The combination with a playing board having for each player a series of card receiving spaces, each space in a series having different designating symbols and each series having similarly designated spaces, and prize card receiving spaces in the center of the board having distinguishing symbols, of playing cards displaying varying numbers of said symbols, there being a series of such cards for each of said symbols, a joker, and prize cards bearing symbols corresponding to the symbols on the prize card spaces, substantially as described.

4. The combination with a playing board having for each player a series of card receiving spaces, each space in a series having different designating symbols and each series having similarly designated spaces, and prize card receiving spaces in the center of the board having distinguishing symbols, of playing cards displaying said symbols, there being a series of ten cards for each of said different symbols of the card receiving spaces, the cards of a series displaying successively an increasing number of its respective symbol beginning with one, prize cards bearing symbols corresponding to the symbols on the prize card spaces, and a joker, substantially as described.

5. The combination with a playing board having for each player four card receiving spaces, the spaces for each player being each designated by a different symbol and each player having similarly designated spaces which are oppositely disposed across the board and having also prize card receiving spaces in the center of the board bearing distinguishing symbols, of four sets of cards one for each different symbol of the playing spaces, and in each set a series of cards which respectively display an increasing number of such symbols from 1 to 10, and cards displaying the symbol in each prize card playing space, and a joker, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

EDWIN M. THOMAS.

Witnesses:
NOMIE WELSH,
JNO. L. DAVIS.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."