

Recommended name:

Double headed Prussian pattern Type I - with scenic pip cards.

Alternative name: Prussian-Silesian pattern with scenic pip cards.

Opposite to the common practice the type of this pattern is differentiated according to the configuration of the pip and not of the court cards.

History

The **Prussian** pattern supposedly originated at Naumburg a.d.Saale which belonged since 1815 (congress of Vienna, where the kingdom of Saxony had to abandon a great part of its state territory to Prussia) to the Prussian province Saxony. Here the card-maker Christian Theodor Traugott Sutor printed several German suited cards with a mixture of pictures taken from decks of other manufacturers with "Biedermeier" motives like hunting scenes and professions.

About 1840 a certain combination of single headed court and pip cards hardened with the labelling "Deutsche Holzkarte" and has been printed then for the next 20 years as well as has been copied more or less unchanged by other manufactures like L.v.d. Osten at Stralsund and Lattmann at Goslar. By that way it became a sort of standard pattern for this particular region of the kingdom of Prussia.

The successor of Christian Theodor Traugott, his son Otto Theodor Sutor launched 1855/60 a double headed version of this standard pattern which in contrast to other double headed standard patterns with German suits had only the court cards doubled while the pip cards remained unchanged and showed still the familiar little scenes. After the constitution of the German Empire this standard pattern was more and more labelled as **Prussian** or Prussian-Silesian pattern. The last packs of that kind have been printed by F.X. Schmid, Munich, in the 50^s of the 20th century.

Characteristic features

Daus cards: Show antique gods/ goddesses: Acorns - Dionysos/Bakchos, Leaves - Artemis/Diana, Hearts - Athena/Minerva and Bells - Demeter/Ceres.

Kings: Each bear two suit-marks beside the head. They show frontal position, the kings of Acorns, Leaves and Hearts wear different crowns, the king of Bells wears a turban.

The suit Leaves is dedicated to hunting from Ober to 7.

Obers: Acorns show a pitman in official dress, Hearts another huntsman and Bells a noble man smoking a pipe.

Unters: Represent simple men of lower rank, Acorns - a young farmer in Sunday attire, Leaves - a hunter's helper, Hearts - a waiter and Bells - a village innkeeper.

The pip cards show scenes of everyday life in part with tongue in cheek. They vary a bit between manufacturers.

Composition

32 cards: Daus, King, Ober, Unter, X to 7 for Skat. Very seldom 6s are added.

Some makers

Beside Sutor all major playing card manufacturers in Germany offered a **Prussian pattern Type I**: Vereinigte Stralsunder Spielkartenfabriken; Altenburger Spielkartenfabrik; F.X. Schmid, Munich; Lattmann, Goslar; Ludwig & Schmidt, Halle; J.G. Schulze, Leipzig; Frommann & Bunte and Frommann & Morian, both Darmstadt; and others.

Some references

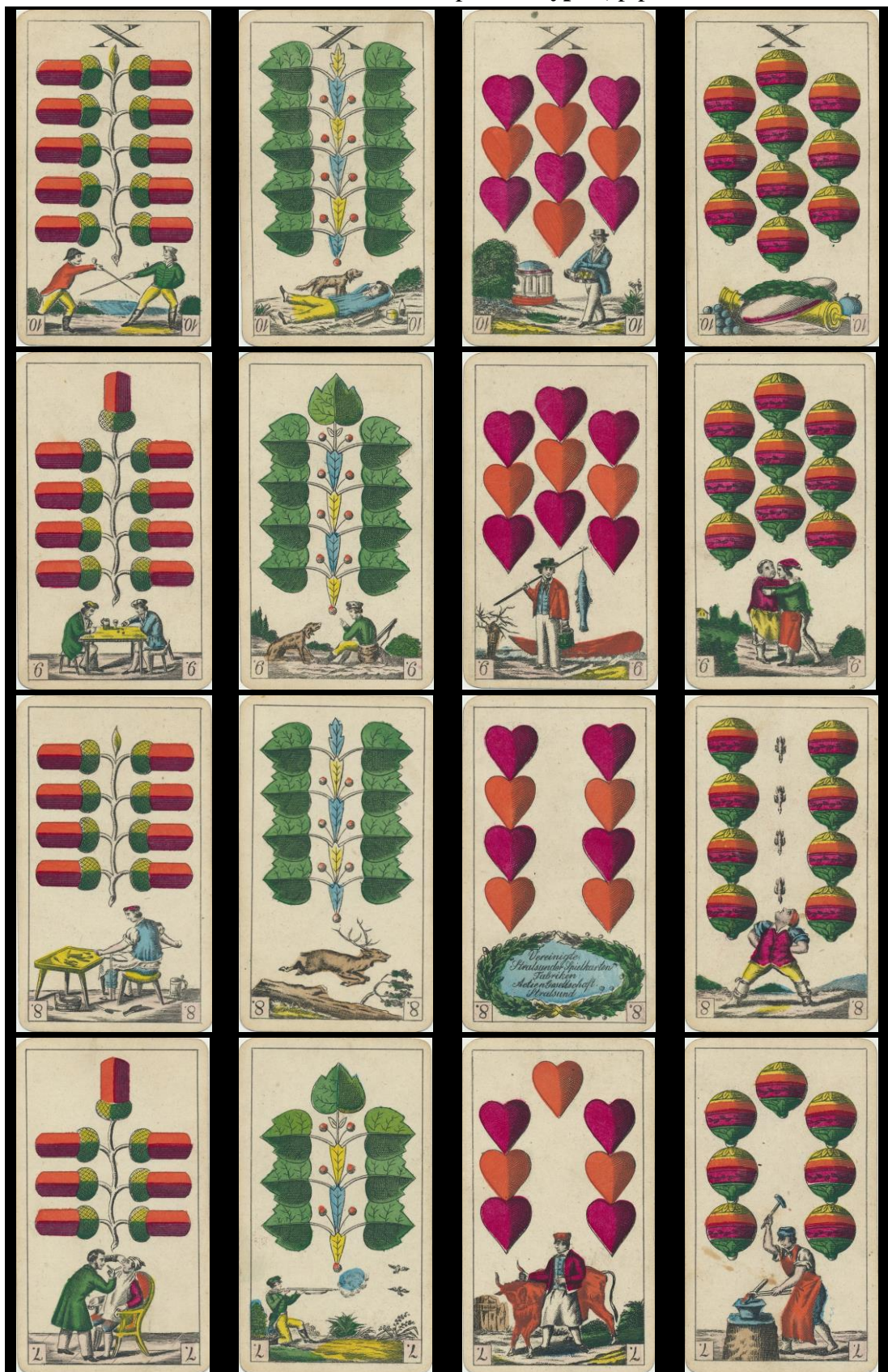
Suma, Wolfgang: The Prussian Pattern, The Journal of the PCS Vol III No.3 1975, p. 1ff; Kohlmann, Theodor and Ra-dau, Sigmar: Das Preußische Bild, Berlin 1978; Kranich Jürgen: Das Preußische Bild 2, Berlin 2007, Radau, Sigmar and Kranich, Jürgen: Die Spielkartenfabrik Sutor in Naumburg, Berlin 2008.

Double headed Prussian pattern Type I, court cards.



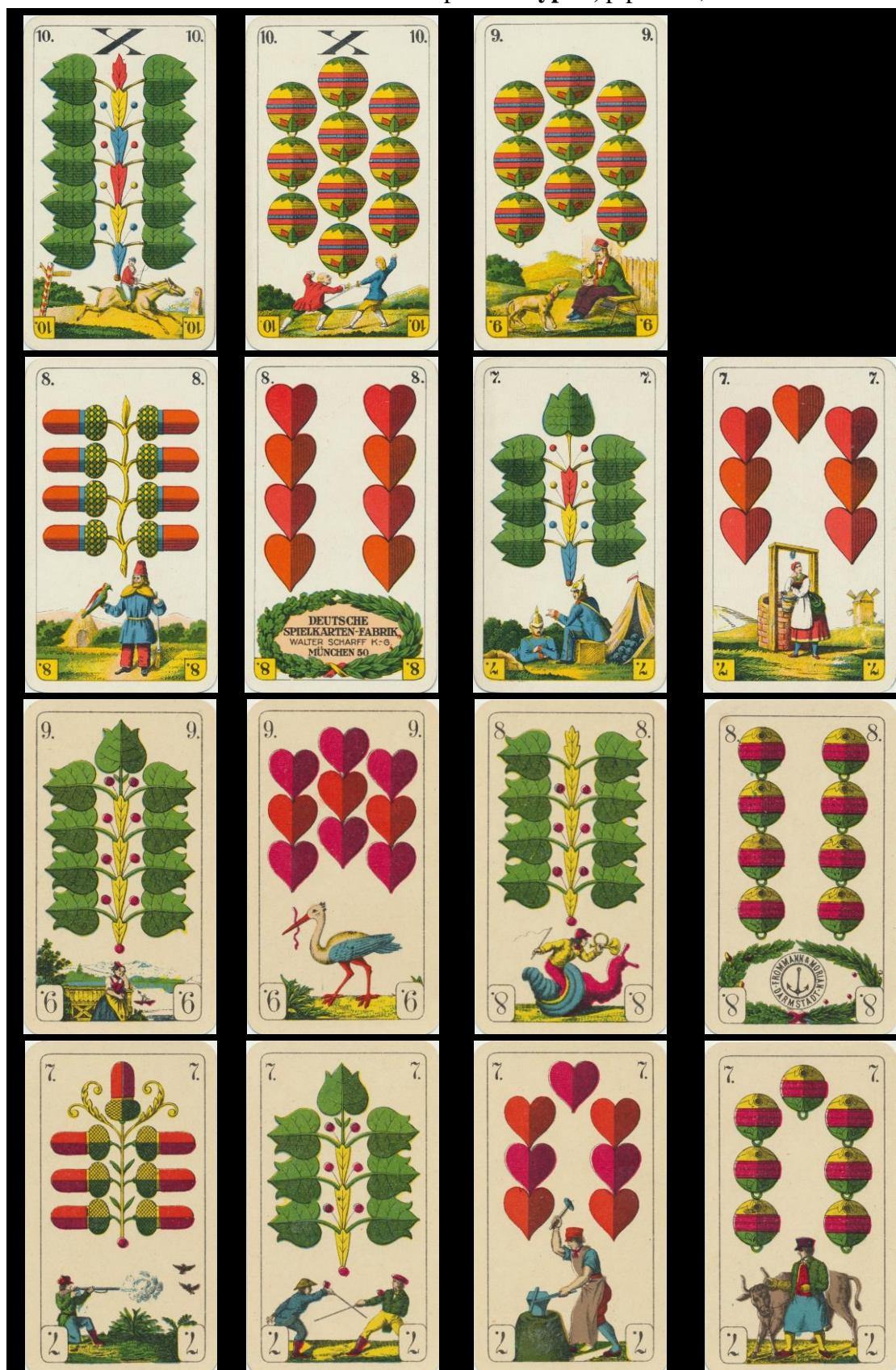
Vereinigte Stralsunder Spielkartenfabriken AG, Stralsund, c. 1880.

Double headed Prussian pattern Type I, pip cards.



Vereinigte Stralsunder Spielkartenfabriken AG, Stralsund, c. 1880.

Double headed Prussian pattern Type I, pip cards, variations.



Row 1, 2: Walter Scharff, Munich; 3, 4: Frommann & Morian, Darmstadt, both c. 1930.