

Recommended name:

Tarot de Marseille, Type II

Alternative name: Tarot of Marseille(s)

History

In *The Game of Tarot* (1980) Michael Dummett has outlined three variant traditions for Tarot in Italy, that differ in the order of the highest trumps, and in grouping the virtues together or not. He has called these three traditions A, B, and C. A is centered on Florence and Bologna, B on Ferrara, and C on Milan. It is from Milan that the so-called Tarot de Marseille stems. This standard pattern seems to have flourished in France in the 17th and 18th centuries, perhaps first in Lyon (not Marseille!), before spreading to large parts of France, Switzerland, and later to Northern Italy (Piedmont, Lombardy and Liguria).

Although Marseille is a 'late-comer' in the making of Tarot cards, it was clearly the main producer in the second half of the 18th century, and sole producer in the 19th. The name **Tarot de Marseille** was coined in the 19th century by both scholars and occultists. It has remained so until now, and S. Mann and M. Dummett have adopted it.

If 17th-century examples are extremely rare, there are many 18th-century Tarots made in Lyon, Grenoble, Dijon, as well as Marseille, and Switzerland. Thanks to this relatively large number of tarot packs, it has been remarked that there are two slightly distinct types, which Thierry Depaulis (Depaulis 2013) has called **Type I** and **Type II**. Here we present the main features of **Type II**.

Characteristic features

The **Tarot of Marseille** has Italian suits.

The name and order of the 22 trumps are the following: The Fool; 1 The Juggler; 2 The Popess; 3 The Empress; 4 The Emperor; 5 The Pope; 6 The Lovers; 7 The Charlot; 8 Justice; 9 The Hermit; 10 The Wheel of Fortune; 11 Strength; 12 The Hanged Man; 13 (Death); 14 Temperance; 15 The Devil; 16 The House of God; 17 The Star; 18 The Moon; 19 The Sun; 20 Judgement; 21 The World. Usually the trumps have Roman numbers and the titles are in French language.

According to Depaulis (2013) the distinguishing cards for the **Type II** of the **Tarot de Marseille** are: **The Fool** is called 'LE MAT', **Trump III** (Emperor) has no Arabic figure, **Trump V** (Pope) has a papal cross, **Trump VI** (Love): Cupid flies from left to right, he has open eyes, and curly hair, **Trump VII** (Chariot): the canopy is topped with a kind of stage curtain, **Trump VIII** (Justice): the wings have become the back of the throne, **Trump XV** (Devil): the Devil's belly is empty, his wings are smaller, **Trump XVI** (Tower): the flames go from the Sun to the tower, **Trump XVIII** (Moon) is seen in profile, as a crescent, **Trump XXI** (World): the central figure is a young naked dancing female, just dressed with a floating (red) scarf, her breast and hips are rounded, her left leg tucked up.

Type II Tarot de Marseille packs are all made after 1700.

Composition

78 cards. 4 suits of single-figure court (King, Queen, Cavalier, Jack) and 10 pip cards, plus 21 single-figure numbered trumps and The Fool.

Some makers (18th and 19th centuries only)

France: Jean-Fr. Tourcaty fils (1727), Francois Chosson (1736), Nicolas Conver (1760), Francois Bourlion (1760), Joseph Feautrier (1762), Amphoux & Arnoux (1802/03), Bernardin Suzanne (1839), all of Marseille; Pierre Madenié, Dijon (1709); Jean Tissot, Besançon (c.1725); Jean Baptiste Madenié, Dijon (1739); Switzerland: Franz Heri, Solothurn (1718), Rochus I. Schär, Mümliswil (1750), Claude Burdel, Fribourg (1751), Claude Rochias, St-Sulpice (NE) (1754), Jacques Burdel, Fribourg (1813), J.H. Rochias, Neuchâtel (1816); Italy: Pierre Cheminade, Seravalle, Piedmont (1742).

Some references

Dummett, Michael: *The Game of Tarot*. London, 1980; Kaplan, Stuart: *The Encyclopedia of Tarot*, Vol. II, Stamford, 1986, p. 270ff; Depaulis, Thierry: "The 'Tarot de Marseille' – Facts and Fallacies", *The Playing-Card*, Vol. 42, no. 1 and no. 2 (2 parts), 2013; Depaulis, Thierry (with John McLeod): *Le Tarot révélé: une histoire du tarot d'après les documents*, La Tour-de-Peilz, 2013.

Tarot de Marseille, Type II, trumps.



Pierre Madenié, Dijon, 1709 (Fac-simile edition by Yves Reynaud, Marseille, 2012).

Up to now the earliest Type II Tarot de Marseille.

Tarot de Marseille, Type II, trumps.



Pierre Madenié, Dijon, 1709 (Fac-simile edition by Yves Reynaud, Marseille, 2012).

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Tarot de Marseille, Type II, some court and pip cards



Pierre Madenié, Dijon, 1709 (Fac-simile edition by Yves Reynaud, Marseille, 2012).

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