

"What's Trump?"

A periodical of the RCCA

Winter 2008

Volume 1, Issue 3

President's Letter

Coit R. Morrison



Hello Everyone!

I had a very enjoyable time at our annual convention in January. I reconnected with old friends and made some new ones. We discussed the new catalog system I have been working on. In doing so, I obtained some valuable feedback, and hope to have an article summarizing it in one of the next issues of "What's Trump?". Some of the other topics discussed were: how to store your sets, a history of the card face, taking pictures of your collection, and a look at old ROOK ads and game catalogs. We also spent a good amount of time playing ROOK several different ways. I encourage each member to make an effort to attend the next convention in January of 2009. We will be

sending out a survey in a month or two asking for your input as we plan the details.

I apologize for not having an issue of our newsletter ready last quarter. At present there are just a few of us writing articles, and last quarter ended up being a bigger challenge for me than expected - I regret other priorities won out. I trust this will not happen often - but would be grateful if more of our membership would be willing to write articles, thus broadening the pool and depth of resources. I would be glad to discuss it with any willing and would be more than happy to offer some suggestions.

The next big project on my agenda is starting work again on our WEB page. I hope over the next month or two to see some significant progress.

There has been a change in our Officers. Jared Bruckner will now take on the responsibility of Treasurer as well as continue in the role of Vice President. You should be receiving word from him in the near future about renewing memberships for 2008. Donna Culver will continue being Secretary and Editor of our newsletter.

In case you are not already aware - In 2007 Hasbro issued a 100th anniversary issue of ROOK.

As always - I welcome any suggestions or comments to improve the networking and enjoyment of our unique hobby.

Coit R. Morrison
RCCA President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | President's Letter: Coit Morrison |
| 2 | How I Took Pictures of My ROOK Cards:
Jared Bruckner |
| 2 | Organizing My Collection: Donna Culver |
| 3 | The ROOK Patent: Coit Morrison |
| 8 | Board Members |
| 9 | eBay Bids Realized Over \$25 |

How I Took Pictures of My ROOK Cards

Written by: Jared Bruckner

There are lots of ways to take pictures of your ROOK card collection. This article will only describe the method that I use to take pictures of my collection. I am not suggesting that my method is the best or even a good method for taking the pictures, but it works for me. Maybe at a latter time I will try to discuss the pros and cons of various other methods for taking picture of ROOK cards, most of which I have yet to try.

I estimate that my ROOK website has some 3,252 or more pictures, some of them in as many as three resolutions. The taking of the pictures represents a considerable investment in time and effort.

When I decided to start taking pictures I already had a Nikon Coolpix 5700 digital camera. It did not take me long to realize that the best pictures were made using natural sunlight. I did take some pictures with just normal house lighting, but I liked the outcome better with sunlight. Flash never worked for me.

If you would like a back issue of "What's Trump?" contact Donna @ donna_alex@yahoo.com

An old microwave oven cabinet was used as a base on top of which I place a larger porcelain top that gives room for my tripod. This arrangement is placed next to large sliding glass doors in my family room so as to get natural lighting. (See picture 1.)



Picture 1

The Nikon Coolpix 5700 has this really handy LCD screen which can be swiveled and rotated in almost any direction. So with the camera mounted on the tripod with the lens pointed down at the table top, I can easily see what I am shooting on the LCD screen. (See picture 2.)



Picture 2

Continued on page 8

Organizing My Collection

Written by: Donna Culver

"You collect **what?!?!?**", is the response I get most every time I tell someone that I collect ROOK Cards. It doesn't matter if the individuals are familiar with the game or not. They can only imagine the cards they have played with for years, not comprehending just how far back the game goes. I've never collected anything in my life, so when I stumbled upon an old deck in 2006 on eBay, I was instantly hooked.

The first thing I do when I obtain a deck of ROOK Cards is log it in my ROOK Notebook. I assign them a number (which is in the order that I bought the cards). I note the date I purchased the cards, the date on the instruction booklets, date on the ROOK Card, the condition of the cards, if any cards are missing and most importantly what the card back is. Finally, I put how much I paid for the deck (including shipping if I bought it on eBay).

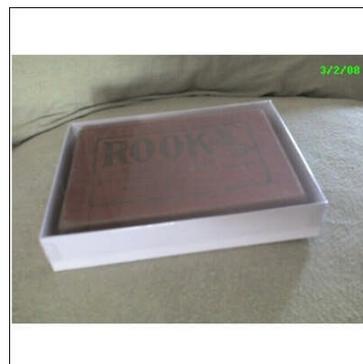
Then I have another folder that has my decks grouped together by Card Backs. So, I can flip instantly to a particular card back to see if I have that deck. Keeping together the number I assigned in the first folder, so I always have a reference point.

Finally, I put in a little slip of paper in the box with the assigned number.

I quickly grew tired of digging out my collection every time someone wanted to see my ROOK Cards. Also, I did not want everyone touching the cards, and felt I was slowly ruining the boxes by getting in and out of them each and every time. So, I bought a picture album, along with baseball card holders. Replacing the picture inserts in the album with the baseball card inserts. The ROOK Cards fit perfectly in the slots. The top row consists of: the assigned number of the ROOK Deck in the upper left hand corner, then the ROOK Card in the middle and then the Black 9. The second row from left to right has the Black 1, Black 2 (turned backwards to see the back of the card), and the Black 14. The bottom row has anything from a sample of the second deck or unusual cards that were included in the box.

So, now when someone wants to see my collection I just bring out the photo album and let them flip through that.

Also, I recently bought the boxes that Coit and Jared put their ROOK Card Boxes in. That has been a nice addition to help me organize my collection. I put the assigned number on the outside of the box, so I no longer have to get inside the box to find the number. That makes it a lot easier when I am looking for a particular box.



The ROOK Patent

Written by: Coit R. Morrision ©2008

To a ROOK Card collector, the number 952,939 should be quite familiar, as should the date March 22, 1910. For the first two decades following Parker Brother's patent of the game of ROOK, the afore mentioned number and date were prominently printed on each game. The patent was applied for on April, 7 1909, three years after ROOK was first published, and on March 22, 1910, the patent was granted. What follows is a summary of the patent specifications - most are familiar, some are surprising. Each section starts with a quote from the patent (in italics and in the typical archaic jargon of the time) and ends with a commentary on the subject.

Name of Game:

- *"Game-Cards My invention relates to games, being more particularly concerned with the provision of a pack of cards suitable for the purposes of instruction and amusement and embodying the features of both colors and numerals"*
- The patent is presented in a four page document - one page of illustrations, and three pages of text. Nowhere in the document is the name "ROOK" mentioned. The name listed on the patent is just "Game-Cards". Evidently, the patent was intended to be generic enough to allow other games to use the patent. I have come across two other Parker Brothers Games using Patent number 952,939 - The card games: Plaza and Rummy. Both games comprising of different colored suits of numbered cards. Neither Plaza nor Rummy became popular.

Different color suits:

- *"Any desired number of colors may be employed, but herein I have shown several cards displaying one red, another blue, another green, and another yellow. If desired, for the purposes of color combinations, additional colors may be added..... although the four colors referred to will ordinarily be sufficient for amusement purposes."*
- It is interesting to note the four colors mentioned in the patent (red, blue, green, and yellow) compared to the colors of the first ROOK set issued (red, blue, black, and green) and to what became the current standard for ROOK cards (red, black, green, and yellow). The color Blue was short lived. The colors used for Plaza were red, black, green, yellow, and brown.

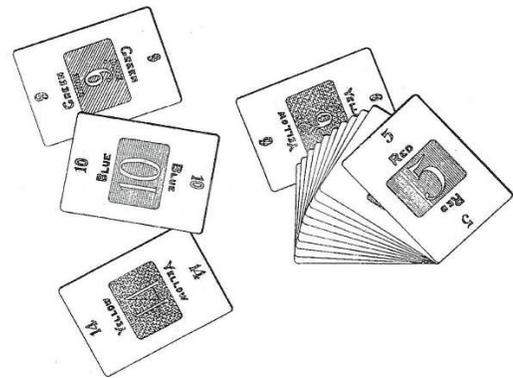


Illustration in Patent Document

Central colored panel:

- *"Herein each card is provided with a central color panel covering sufficient area of the card to be unmistakable and command attention."*
- Until recently, I have never observed this feature in any sets of ROOK Cards. I am now aware of one set of pre-patent ROOK Cards having a central colored panel on each card. This set has a blue suit and may be the original set of ROOK Cards. More will be written on this set at a later date.

Continued on page 5

Color identification:

- *"Herein, for the purpose of color comparison, as well as to permit the ready identification of the color card under all conditions as, for example, under artificial light, or in the case of color blindness, on each color card there is prominently displayed the name of the color printed in its own color. For example, each card of the red color has the color designation 'Red' displayed in red upon its face."*
- This feature is common to both ROOK and Plaza. It is displayed with the numeral in the upper left and lower right corner of each card. The upper left being right side up and the lower right being upside down.

Colors have unique first initials:

- *"The colors and color names are chosen with a view to presenting a different initial letter, the initial letters herein being R, G, B, and Y."*
- It is interesting to note the original set of ROOK cards had the suit colors of red, blue, black, and green. The Blue and the Black both starting with the letter "B". This is why I believe subsequent issues were produced with the familiar colors of red, black, green, and yellow - each initial letter being unique (R, G, B, and Y - as mentioned in the above quote). It should also be noted that the Game of Plaza has five color suits: red, black, green, yellow, and brown. The Black and Brown suits having the same initial letter. The way the game instructions get around this are by referring to Black as "BL" and the Brown as "BR".

Different numerals in each suit - displayed in center and at top and bottom:

- *"The different cards of the same color are distinguished by the display of different identifying symbols which preferably, as herein, consist of different numerals representing different values. Such numerals, which may or may not follow in sequence or order, may be displayed in any suitable way, being herein prominently imprinted or presented upon the color panel at the center of the card, and also above and below such panel."*
- Each ROOK suit has always had the numbers from 1 to 14 being displayed in the upper left and lower right corner of each card. The upper left being right side up and the lower right being upside down. It also had the central number displayed either upside down or right side up - depending on how the card was held. It is interesting to note that the numbers on the top and bottom of the cards in the patent illustration show them in the center and not off to one side as published. The game of Plaza is similar to the game of ROOK, with two exceptions.
 - I. Each suit contains numbers from 1 to 12.
 - II. The central number is printed twice, once right side up and once upside down.

Continued on page 6

If you are interested in the Storage Boxes mentioned in Donna's article on page 3;

They can be purchased online at:

http://www.usbox.com/Box/vutop_display_boxes.html

Item number: PJ900
\$46.00 for a carton of 100
(plus S&H)

The sixes and nines:

- *"The cards bearing the numerals 6 and 9, if such numerals are used, have preferably displayed upon their faces, as upon the panel, also the words 'six' and 'nine' respectively, and, if desired, other characteristic markings may be added, such as a period located after each numeral, so that it cannot be mistaken by reading the card upside down."*
- The numerals 6 and 9 in ROOK have the words "six" and "nine" added respectively. In the game of Plaza only the numeral 9 has a "nine" printed on the card, not the 6 ("six"). In ROOK the numeral 6 and 9 at times has a period following the number, at other times the number is underlined. In the game of plaza only the Numeral 6 has a period following the number.

Different cards per color suit repeated with each different suit:

- *"While the numerals shown by the cards of the same color are preferably, though not necessarily, different, the same numeral is preferably (though also not necessarily) repeated in each of the several colors employed, so that there are as many cards with the value six as there are colors employed."*
- All ROOK sets have 4 colored suits, each containing the numerals 1-14, for a total of 14 cards per suit. In the game of Plaza there are 5 colored suits, each containing the numerals 1-12, for a total of 12 cards per suit

Count cards - 5, 10 14:

- *"Any desired number of cards may be provided of each color, the particular numeral displayed by each one being immaterial. However, for the purpose of emphasizing certain color cards above others, I preferably provide in each color the numerical cards 5, 10 and 14 to serve as 'count cards' to which an especial value is attached. Such count cards may be specially designated as such or may be arbitrarily agreed upon to serve as such"*
- The game of ROOK lists the 5, 10, and 14 as count cards. Some people also use the 1 as a count card. The game of Plaza makes no use of any number being a count card.

Continued on page 7

Don't Miss Out on
Our 3rd Annual
ROOK Card Collectors Assn
Convention

Mark your calendars!!
January 17-18 2009

in

Chattanooga, TN

More information to come.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about the upcoming convention, please contact Coit at coit@rookcards.com

If you would like
a copy of the Treasurer Report
contact Jared @
bruckner@southern.edu

Example game:

- "With the various groups of color cards referred to and distinguishable from each other, as described, a variety of entertaining games may be played. These may be for purposes of amusement only, or profitable instruction in color discrimination may be given. To illustrate the use of the cards above described the following is one of the games which I have devised for which these cards are used"
...(description of game)... "While I have herein described, for purposes of illustration, one specific card pack and one particular game, it is to be understood that this is illustrative only and that the invention is not limited to the details of the form and arrangement of cards or to the uses made thereof, but that departures therefrom may be made without deviating from the spirit of my invention"
- Through the years there have been dozens of games listed in the ROOK instruction manuals. The example listed in the patent is not a version of game most people play today, but is the game of Tuxedo. Plaza only has one game listed in it's instructions - a game similar to Rummy.

Do you have a special deck of
ROOK Cards you would like to
"Show & Tell"?

If so, contact Donna @
donna_alex@yahoo.com



Original ROOK Set (with Blue suit)



The Parker Brothers Game of Plaza
(same Patent number as ROOK)

A small scrap of black felt is used to give the black background and allow the object to be moved around easily into position as I watch on the LCD screen. (See picture 3.)



Picture 3

I try my best to adjust the object so the edge of the object is parallel to an edge of the picture. But, getting it aligned perfectly is not easy and most of the time I still have to adjust the picture after shooting it. I use Microsoft Photo Editor to adjust the alignment and crop the pictures.

CLUB RENEWALS

**It is that time of year.
Renewals are \$15.00 for 2008**

**Please submit your check to
RCCA
c/o Coit R. Morrison
P.O. Box 818
Rock Hill, SC 29731**

Would you like to contribute to the Newsletter?

How do you keep up with your collection?
How did you start collecting ROOK Cards?
What's your favorite part about collecting?
Where do you store your collection?

If so, contact Donna at donna_alex@yahoo.com.

RCCA

Board Members

President:

Coit Morrison – coit@rookcards.com

Vice President:

Jared Bruckner – bruckner@southern.edu

Treasurer:

Jared Bruckner – bruckner@southern.edu

Secretary:

Donna Culver – donna_alex@yahoo.com

Other Positions:

Newsletter:

Donna Culver – donna_alex@yahoo.com

WebPage:

Coit Morrison – coit@rookcards.com

For Club or Membership Information please contact Coit Morrison at RCCA, P.O. Box 818, Rock Hill, SC 29731 or via e-mail at coit@rookcards.com.

RCCA Official Website: <http://ROOKcca.org>

Auctions Realized Over \$25 on eBay

Submitted by: Jared Bruckner

Picture	Winning Bidder	Date	High Bid
	grumpyshan3	Sep-17-07	\$33.50
	detweiler2005	Sep-19-07	\$27.00
	snookmaster	Sep-23-07	\$41.00
	ironhead87	Sep-23-07	\$26.01
	jaredbruckner	Sep-25-07	\$45.15
	bglazener	Sep-26-07	\$36.01
	bglazener	Oct-07-07	\$118.06

	bglazener	Oct-07-07	\$125.95
	sweeney537	Oct-18-07	\$29.09
	wzucker3040	Oct-20-07	\$76.00
	ironhead87	Oct-25-07	\$31.01
	sweeney537	Oct-28-07	\$63.00
	sweeney537	Oct-30-07	\$65.71
	mgunzfrench	Nov-02-07	\$25.01
	sherronswapp	Nov-06-07	\$28.99