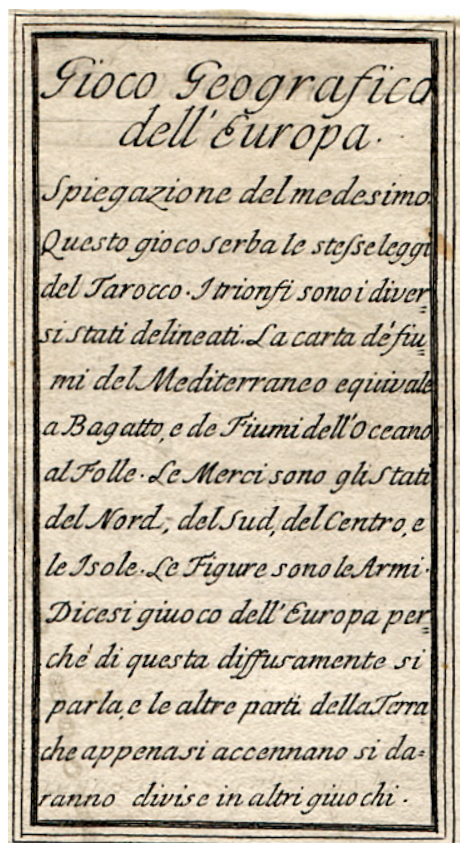


An anonymous Tarocchi pack of cards featuring maps appeared in Italy in the second half of the eighteenth century. This 'geographical game of Europe' is thought to have been engraved on three large plates and issued in Naples about 1770-1780, but the title-card has no author's name or publisher's imprint (see below). The set consists of seventy-eight cards of dimensions somewhat larger than the pasted on prints themselves, which measure 60 x 112 mm.

The four suits are *Nord*, *Sud*, *Centro* and *Isole*, with the cards in each suit numbered 1-10 and the four court cards I-IV. All of them feature topographical notes but the court cards also have heraldry. Two of the twenty-two atouti, or trump cards, have allegorical figures of European rivers. However, the remaining twenty are numbered II-XXI and have attractive little maps on scrolls, with the Low Countries and Switzerland together on II (see below). Although there is no map of the world, they constitute a typical world atlas of its time, with fifteen maps of European countries and five of the continents:

*Paesi Bassi / Eluezia; Portogallo; Italia; Turchia Europea; Spagna; Francia; Polonia; Germania; Irlanda; Scozia; Inghilterra; Noruegia; Danimarca; Svezia; Moscovia; America Meridionale; America Settentrionale; Africa; Asia; Europa.*





Some time later, a fairly close copy of the pack was published in Bologna. There are differences in the detail of the map cards but they are easy to distinguish, because the titles of the European countries on these new plates lack the cartouches of the earlier ones. The maps of the continents also lack the illustrations at the top of the cards.

A complete example of the Naples pack made £11,875 at Sotheby's London rooms in November 2013. A facsimile edition of two thousand packs was issued in Milan by Il Meneghello in 1985.

Several other sets of cards featuring maps appeared in Italy towards the end of the eighteenth century (see also 1779, 1790 & 1794a).

*Gioco geografico dell'Europa.* (Naples, 1770).

*Gioco geografico.* Bologna, Tipografia de' Franceschi alla Colomba, (1790).

