



The Bowes Museum

A series of at least seventeen packs of geographical cards was issued in France in the middle of the eighteenth century: devised and printed by Nicolas de Poilly. Many sheets of these cards were deposited at the tax office in Paris on 21st December 1763, according to John Berry: *Playing cards of the world*. 1995 (a catalogue in the London Guildhall Library). A collection of them is held by the Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham. Suits of fourteen cards are denoted by red, yellow, green or blue hand-colour to city symbols and named after a country, region or province. The cards have topographical information relating to that area. The extra card in each suit is a map of the same area, about 56 x 80 mm., of which sixty-eight, all relating to Europe, have been identified:

*Alsace; Andalusia; Angleterre; Aunis Saintonge et Limosin; Autriche; Baviere; Bearn et Basse Navarre; Berry; Boheme; Bourbonnois Auvergne et Marche; Bourgogne et Bresse; Bretagne; Castille Nouvelle; Catalogne et Aragon; Champagne; Danemarck; Dauphin; Ecosse; État de l'Eglise; Flandre; Franche Comté; Franconie; Galicia ou Asturie; Gascogne; Gesnes et Isle de Corse; Guyenne; Hongrie; Irlande; Isle de France; Languedoc; Leon et Castille Vielle; Lithuanie; Lombardie; Lorraine; Lyonnais; Naples; Navarre et Biscaye; Normandie; Norwege; Orleanois; Pays Bas; Picardie; Poitou; Grde. Pologne; Pet. Pologne; Portugal; Provence; Prusse; Cercle du Bas Rhin; Cercle du Haut Rhin; Roussillon et Comte de Foix; Russie ou Moscovie en Europe; Russie Rouge; Etats du Roi de Sardaigne; Basse Saxe; Haute Saxe; Sicile; Silesie et Moravie; Cercle de Souabe; Suède; Suisse et Grisons; Toscane; Tourraine Maine et Anjou; Transilvanie; Turquie en Europe; Valence et Murcie; Republique de Venise; Westphalie.*

packs of cards. Paris, Jean-Baptiste Mitoire, (1763).