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Fine Arts



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COMPLETE 19TH CENTURY COLOURED DECK:

A DIVINATION PACK IN THE FORM OF QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

TO TEACH FRENCH AND ENGLISH TO GERMAN CHILDREN WHILE PLAYING

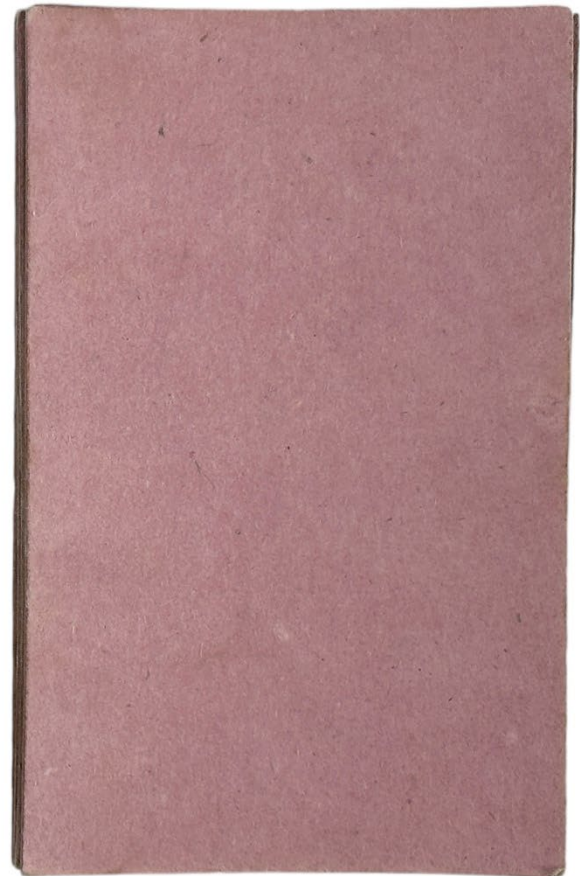
CARD DECK, *Das Spiel der Fragen und Antworten* (The Game of Questions and Answers). Germany, c. 1860.

Complete deck (106 x 67 mm), 18 cards with hand-colored and glazed lithograph of children playing or studying, pink verso, cardboard box (150 x 115 mm) divided into two compartments, each containing half of the cards. Nine cards have a caption with the questions of divination in three languages, German at top, French and English at bottom; the remaining nine contain the answers, again in the same three languages.



This deck was intended to be used to play a simple divination game with educational purposes, enriched by fine images.

By drawing a question card and then an answer card in turn, a delightful divination or prophecy game unfolds. For example, a player first turns over a question card, let's say: "Do you always tell the truth?" (read in the three languages). To see the answer, the player then draws an answer card, and the prophecy appears: "Not always, to my shame, be it said!" (again, to be read in the three languages).



To make the game even more enjoyable, the cards are embellished with lovely images of children.

Examples of this type of game include "Bilder-Lese-Fabeln" (Illustrated Reading Fables), a deck of cards that combines images of fables with texts in multiple languages to enhance children's language skills through moral stories, and "Das ABC-Spiel" (The ABC Game), a game that uses illustrated cards to teach the alphabet and basic vocabulary in German, French, and English, often accompanied by images of children in educational settings.

These games reflect the 19th century pedagogical approach that combined entertainment with education, utilizing visual and textual materials to facilitate foreign language learning among young people.

Sagst Du stets die Wahrheit?



Do you always tell the truth?
Dis-tu toujours la vérité?

Gehorchst Du jederzeit dem Vater?



Do you always obey your father?
Obéis-tu toujours à ton père?

Bist Du aufmerksam beim Unterricht?



Are you attentive when learning?
Es-tu attentif pendant les leçons?

Bist Du Deinem Lehrer immer folgsam?



Do you always obey your teacher?
Es-tu obéissant à ce que te dit ton maître?

Schreibst Du auch schön?



Do you also write nicely?
Écris-tu aussi passablement?

Machst Du im Rechnen gute Fortschritte?



Do you improve in Arithmetic?
Fais-tu des progrès en arithmétique?

Bist Du wissbegierig?



Are you inquisitive?
Es-tu curieux d'apprendre?

Ist ein Freund Dir lieb und werth?



Is there a friend very dear to you?
Un ami est-il un objet précieux pour toi?

Kannst Du ein Lied singen?



Can you sing a song?
Sais-tu chanter une chanson?

Nicht immer zu meiner Schande.



*Not always to my Shame, be it said.
Pas toujours, à ma grande honte.*

Ich muß mich immer noch bessern.



*I must still improve on this heat.
Il faut encore que je me corrige beaucoup.*

Du weißt es besser als ich.



*You know that better than I do.
Vous le savez mieux que moi.*

O ja mit Lust und Lieb!



*Oh yes, with Alacrity and Love!
Oui, avec joie et plaisir!*

Dieses Lob möchte ich verdienen.



*I should like to deserve this praise.
Je voudrais mériter cet éloge.*

*Ich bitte mir diesmal die Antwort zu er-
lassen.*



*I beg to be excused replying to this question.
Pour cette fois, tenez-moi quitte de la réponse.*

Es ist mein eifrigstes Bestreben.



*I endeavour most zealously so to do.
C'est à quoi je m'applique le plus.*

Ja, aber es kostet mir viele Mühe.



*Yes, I am at great pains to do so.
Oui, mais cela me coûte beaucoup.*

Ich darf mich nicht selbst loben.



*I must not praise myself.
Je ne puis pas me louer moi-même.*

The first divination game deck, *Par Demandes et Par Réponses*, comes from France, belongs to the revolutionary period, and is preserved in the precious collections of the Musée Carnavalet. It includes thirty-two cards, all of which offer the same layout. Each card is numbered with both Arabic and Roman numerals, each placed in a small box. It starts with the king of hearts and continues in the same series; from there they pass into the club series, always beginning with the king and ending at the last card of the spades series. On the pip cards we find easy-to-read little riddles. On the card face, which occupies about a quarter of its surface, is placed a caption presenting either a question or an answer. By turning these cards, a kind of divination appears.



CONDITIONS: Perfectly preserved.

REFERENCES: HENRY RENE D'ALLEMAGNE, *Les cartes à jouer du XIV au XX siècle*, Paris : Librairie Hachette, 1906.



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