

**Erklärung – Explanation**  
**Explication – Használati utasítás**

**Zigeuner Wahrsagekarten**  
**Gipsy fortune telling cards**  
**L'oracle tzigane**  
**Jóskártya**

**Biedermeier Aufschlagkarten**  
**Cartomancy deck**  
**Jeu de la fortune très fin**  
**Biedermeier jóskártya**

## **Preface**

Playing cards have been used for the purposes of fortune-telling since they came into existence some six centuries ago. Indeed, cartomancy is the most widespread technique of foretelling the future.

Recent years have seen a notable revival of interest in cartomancy. Two factors account for this trend:

First, mankind has always had a hankering for knowledge of what the future has in store not merely out of curiosity but often for immediate practical reasons, as a guideline in making important decisions.

Second, in the early stages of his evolution man possessed a far more highly developed intuitive sense than today. Many people are now rediscovering that faculty as they explore their own inner selves.

Fortune-telling cards with their evocative yet enigmatic images are signposts on the path to the inner self. Merely by focusing on our subjective perceptions we regain an awareness of an intuitive understanding which has long since been suppressed by the technological superficiality and the hectic pace of modern-day life.

It should be added that cartomancy also possesses a high degree of entertainment value. Yet this is not to deny the possibility that the cards may reveal a great deal of truth. It is left to the discretion of the individual to decide how much trust he or she places in what the cards have to say.

Herein lies the true fascination of cartomancy: it opens up a new approach to human understanding without prescribing literal conclusions.

## **Cartomancy over the centuries**

Little as we know about the history of playing cards, we have even less historical evidence to shed light on the origins of cartomancy. What we can say with some degree of certainty is that:

The earliest documentary reference to playing cards in Europe dates from the 1370's. The oldest playing cards that have come down to us go back to the beginning of the fifteenth century.

The first reference to fortune-telling by cards is contained in the "Mainzer Losbuch", which was printed by Johann Schöffler between 1505 and 1510.

It seems probable, then, that playing cards were used for the purposes of fortune-telling more or less from their first appearance in Europe. The earliest playing cards were associated with adages which point to a cartomantic context.

The great heyday of fortune-telling cards came in the eighteenth century and coincided with the Age of Enlightenment. It was during this period that the traditions of the magic circles and the revival of interest in alchemy emerged in the form which they have largely retained to the present day.

Several card decks have come down to us from the eighteenth century most notably from England, France and Germany. Then there were the celebrated cartomancers; first and foremost the French wigmaker Alette, who inverted his name and called himself Etteila; and the best-known of all nineteenth-century fortune-tellers, Mademoiselle Lenormand from Paris, of whom Napoleon was far from enamoured because she had been consulted by the Emperor's wife Josephine de Beauharnais.

## **The Cards**

The cards contained in Kviz series lend themselves well to use by the inexperienced cartomancer. Their meaning is relatively easily deciphered, although it is important to avoid falling into the trap of adhering too closely and literally to the meanings suggested by the pictures and captions. However, the cards are explicit enough in their connotations to make a detailed commentary unnecessary. When using this deck it is essential that you should concentrate less on the significance of the individual cards than on their relative positions and the overall meaning suggested by their arrangement on the table.

The present deck can be used for virtually any system of laying the cards. There follow descriptions of three simple and popular techniques:

Rows

The Wheel of Fortune

and

The Gipsy's Answer.

### 1. Rows

The cards are shuffled until both the inquirer and the card reader are satisfied that they are ready to be laid out. The inquirer cuts the deck.

The cards are arranged face up on the table in four rows of 9 cards each (Gipsy Cards) or 8 cards each (Cartomancy Deck).

The diagram above represents one possible starting-point. The cards adjacent to the inquirer's card (always "Merriment" shed light on it. The cards on the horizontal axis to the left and right of "Merriment" disclose information pertaining to the past (left) and the future (right). On the vertical axis, the cards above the inquirer's card reveal his or her thoughts and preoccupations (what is in his or her head), those below the inquirer's card what the inquirer is reluctant to accept (what he or she treads under foot).

The cards located diagonally to the inquirer's card have a bearing on both the horizontal and the vertical axis.

### 2. The Wheel of Fortune

The card at the centre of the Wheel of Fortune represents the problem or question about which the inquirer is seeking enlightenment. It may relate to Malady, Marriage, Death, Jealousy, Enemy, Fidelity or Desire. The appropriate card is selected by the card reader from the deck and placed in the centre. The inquirer then arranges seven cards in semicircles on either side of the problem card.

The semicircle on the left deals with events and developments leading up to the problem, that on the right presages future events.

This technique requires no great experience. It is important to remember that even apparently inappropriate cards reveal as much meaning as those that are obviously connected with the problem. The significance of each card should not be understood too literally. For instance "Officer" could also indicate an official "Loss" could also mean a business setback. The most revealing aspect of the arrangement lies in the combination of cards.

### 3. The Gipsy's Answer

This is a question-and-answer routine in which the inquirer must pose three questions.

The cards in the bottom row relate directly to the question but may also contain hints as to a possible solution. The cards on the left deal with the past, those on the right with the future. The top row has to do with the present.

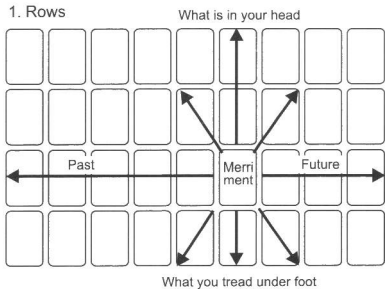
It is best to lay out all three groups of four cards at the same time instead of one by one, since the relationships between the cards across the groups are often extremely revealing.

### General Remarks

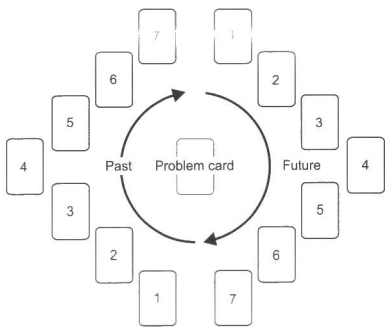
The message which the cards reveal will always relate to the broad questions and problems of a person's life and cannot deal with the specifics of when what particular event will occur. The inquirer is advised not to seek detailed answers but rather to regard the information disclosed by the cards as an incentive to reflect on his or her own life within the perspectives of the past, present and future. For the cartomancer reading the cards will prove a valuable exercise in fine-tuning his or her understanding of human nature. Above all, it will offer important insights into one's own personality.

All the above card sets come complete with a descriptive booklet.

### 1. Rows



### 2. The Wheel of Fortune



### 3. The Gipsy's Answer

