

About the Master

Mark Jonathan Napier Winston became an Apprentice of the Company in 1984, having been introduced by his father and Apprentice Master Malcolm John Winston. Following the seven-year apprenticeship, he was clothed in Livery in 1991. Mark served as a Steward to the Company for two years in the late 1990's and was elected to the Court of Assistants in 2013. Mark has spent 35 years working at Lloyds of London as an Insurance Broker specialising in Financial and Commercial lines.

About the Cards

While the cards commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first manned Moon landing, they are intended to be seen as a celebration of mankind's development and sacrifice to expand horizons beyond our own planet. The court cards depict astronauts from around the world, some of whom have paid the ultimate price in their pursuit of a better understanding of space and the challenges we face for future space exploration.

These cards are dedicated to what nations can do, when coming together collectively and working towards a common purpose.

About the Company

The Mistery of Makers of Playing Cards of the City of London was first made a Corporation by Royal Charter in the reign of King James I so that the art and trade of making of playing cards within the City of London and the Parishes nearby could be protected from continual importing of great quantities of cheap foreign playing cards.

King Charles I issued the current Royal Charter on 22nd October 1628 which also levied a tax of two shillings per gross of cards manufactured by the Company and banned all foreign imports. Each pack was required to be stamped to evidence payment of tax and bear the registered private mark of the Maker. The exclusive right of Freeman of the Company to make and sell Playing Cards extended throughout the City of London and all places within the distance of ten miles from the City.

On 27th November 1792, in the reign of King George III, the honourable Court of Aldermen of the City of London granted the Company Livery status. The Company ranks 75th amongst the Liveries of the City of London. Since 1882 the Company has issued an annual limited edition double pack of cards to celebrate the election and installation of the Master and Wardens on St. Andrew's Day.

The theme for the Plaving Cards is the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the first successful Moon landings and a celebration of mankind in space.

About the First Apollo Moon Landing

Apollo 11 was the first successful manned mission to land on the Moon on the 20th July 1969. In total, there were six manned U.S. Moon landings between 1969 and 1972 and the USA remains the only country to have successfully conducted manned missions to the Moon. During this three-year period, the USA put twelve Americans on the Moon. The last three missions included the use of a Rover that allowed increased mobility and this was featured on the Master's pack of playing cards in 1971-1972.

Plans for a manned Moon exploration originated during President Eisenhower's administration with the establishment of NASA in 1958. The Soviets had stolen a lead on the USA at the height of the Cold War and were the first to land a human made object, Luna 2, on the Moon surface on 13th September 1959. Again, just two years later in 1961, they were the first to put a human, Yuri Gagarin, into space. The John F. Kennedy administration, that followed Eisenhower, was determined that the USA should not be left behind, in what was fast becoming a propaganda war in the "race for space"

Kennedy looked for a project that would capture the public imagination and determined that putting an American on the Moon before the end of the decade would achieve this and neutralise any early gains in the race that the Soviets had achieved. Both countries had been using their respective space programmes as a front to justify testing new rockets to advance their own nuclear capabilities in the arms race. The USA had developed lighter rockets at the time compared to their Soviet rivals and these heavier rockets were more suited to carrying heavier payloads into space.

The Kennedy administration poured money into NASA to design and develop a rocket themselves that would be fit for purpose. What resulted was the development of the Saturn V, which achieved a perfect record of zero catastrophic failures in thirteen launches.

The chief architect behind the development of the Saturn V was German scientist, Wernher von Braun. After the Second World War, where he had been one of the key scientists behind the development and design of the V2 rocket, he and 1,600 German scientists were secretly moved to the United States and given US citizenship.

In 1958, he was assimilated into NASA where he became regarded as "the father of rocket technology and space science in the United States".

The Apollo 11 crew included Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins. The mission launched on the 16th July 1969 from the Kennedy Space Centre, named after the former assassinated President, whose vision it had been to send man to the Moon. After travelling for three days, Apollo 11 reached the Luna orbit. Armstrong and Aldrin landed their Lunar Module in the Sea of Tranquility on the 20th July 1969. They were only on the surface for twenty-one and a half hours. The landing was broadcast to a live audience around the world. In the early hours of the morning of the 21st July 1969, Neil Armstrong stepped out of the Lunar Module and set foot on the moon, uttering those now famous words "one step for a man, one giant leap for mankind".

The return home from the Moon took three days and they successfully landed in the Pacific Ocean on 24th July 1969.



Kings

♦ King of Diamonds ♦

Tim Peake (United Kingdom) is the first British European Space Agency astronaut, the second to bear a flag of the United Kingdom patch and sixth person born in the UK to go on board the International Space Station. Tim spent six months on board the ISS returning to Earth on 18th June 2016. He made the first spacewalk by a UK astronaut. He looks forward to a return to the ISS in the not too distant future.

King of Hearts

Yang Liwei (China) became the first Chinese astronaut into Space in 2003. The mission, Shenzhou 5, made China the third country to send humans independently into space.

King of Spades

Yuri Gagarin (Soviet Union/Russia) became the first human to journey into space when his Vostok spacecraft completed an orbit of the Earth on 12th April 1961. It was his only mission into space but later he became deputy training director of the Cosmonaut Training Centre. He died in a tragic accident in 1968 when his MiG-15 jet crashed

King of Clubs

Alexander Gerst (Germany) is a European Space Agency astronaut and geophysicist, selected for space training in 2009. He spent six months on the ISS in 2014. On the 8th June 2018, he became the second European Space Agency astronaut to command the ISS after Belgian Frank De Winne. He is due to return to Earth around 6th December this year - just as we are dining at Mansion House!

Queens

♦ Queen of Diamonds

Kalpana Chawla (India) was the first woman of Indian origin in space. She flew on the Space Shuttle Columbia in 1997 as a mission specialist. In 2003 she was given a second mission on the Space Shuttle Columbia but tragically lost her life along with six other crew members when Columbia disintegrated during re-entry to Earth.

Queen of Hearts

Christa McAuliffe (USA) was an experienced science teacher who had planned to do some lessons in space while experimenting with fluids and demonstrating Newton's laws of motion for school children. McAuliffe and the crew of six were all killed during lift-off of the Space Shuttle Challenger in 1986.

Queen of Spades

Samantha Cristoforetti (Italy) is an Italian European Space Agency astronaut. She holds the record for the longest uninterrupted space flight of a European astronaut and until June 2017 held the record for the longest single space flight by a woman.

Queen of Clubs

Claude Haigneré (France) visited the Mir Space Station in 1996 as part of a joint French/Russian mission. She became the first European woman to visit the ISS in 2001. She retired in 2002 and entered politics.

Jacks

♦ Jack of Diamonds

Dirk Frimout (Belgium) became the first Belgian astronaut into space in 1992 on board the Space Shuttle Atlantis. Along with six other astronauts, he participated in a mission to improve our understanding of our climate and the Earth's atmosphere. He circumnavigated the earth 143 times over the course of a nine-day mission. He is currently working with the European Space Agency.

Iack of Hearts

Andrew Thomas (Australia) moved to the USA in 1986 from his place of birth. He has undertaken four Space Shuttle missions visiting both the Mir and International Space Stations. He flew on the Space Shuttle Discovery in 2005, the first Space Shuttle flight following the Columbia disaster in 2003.

▲ Jack of Spades ▲

Chris Hadfield (Canada) was the first Canadian to walk in space in 2001. He flew two Space Shuttle missions, firstly on the Atlantis and secondly on the Endeavour. His third and final mission was on board a Soyuz expedition in 2012, where he served as commander of the International Space Station. He retired in 2013. In 2017, he hosted the BBC show "Astronauts: do you have what it takes?". Twelve contestants competed for the right to become an astronaut

• Iack of Clubs

Franz Viehböck (Austria) was the first Austrian into Space in 1991. He spent seven days on the Mir Space Station, working alongside two Russian cosmonauts. They conducted experiments in the fields of space medicine, physics and space technology.

The Jokers

The International Space Station (ISS)

The ISS is in low orbit and is a habitable artificial satellite The first component was launched in 1998. International co-operation from countries around the world has led to the ISS growing in size over the years. Components have been launched into space by Russian Proton and Soyuz rockets and the American Space Shuttle. The station is manned and used extensively to conduct numerous scientific experiments.

This includes understanding better how the body reacts to extensive time spent in space and the testing of systems and equipment. The knowledge gained will be invaluable for any future trips to the Moon and Mars. The ISS is expected to be operational until 2028.

Luna Module

This was the landing part on all Luna expeditions. was designed to carry two astronauts to the surface of the Moon. Twelve astronauts were successfully transported to and from the surface of the Moon on six missions.

Space Shuttle.

This was a partially reusable low Earth orbital

spacecraft. There were five shuttles built.

They undertook 135 missions between 1981

and 2011. The shuttles were taken out of service in 2011

Two of the shuttles, Columbia and Challenger

were tragically lost. The Atlantis now resides

at the Cape Kennedy Space Centre.

Mars Rover

This is an automated motor vehicle that propels itself across the surface of Mars, sending back information to scientists across the world. The information brought back to Earth will be vital for a manned mission to Mars in the future

The court card astronaut portraits were digitally painted to celebrate this anniversary of human accomplishment. More of Stacey's work can be found at www.squiddleink.com





Acknowledgements

This pack of Master's cards was designed by Stacey kelly,

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