

A Playing-Card Collector Shows His Hand

Fall 2019

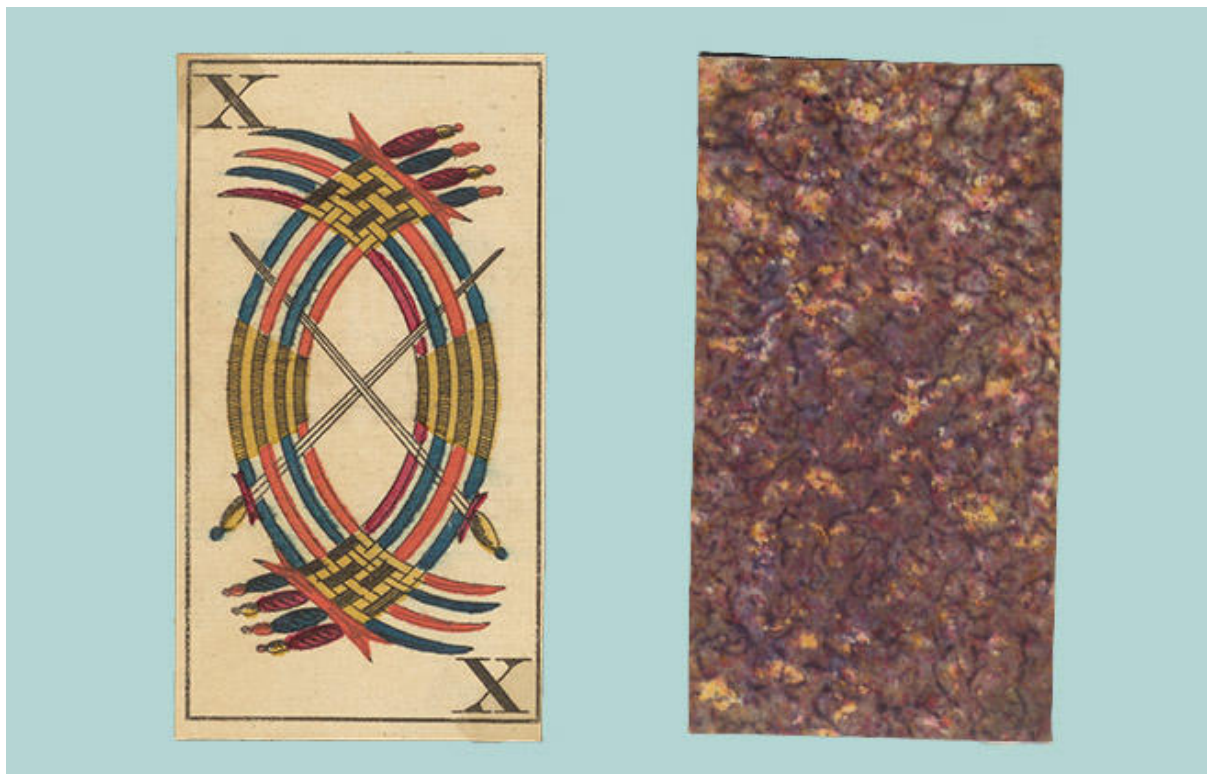
Albert Field '38CC was Salvador Dalí's personal "archivist," hired to distinguish real Dalís from thousands of fakes. He was also a playing-card collector. Field, who died in 2003, left his collection of 6,400 decks to Columbia. An exhibit of cards spanning four hundred years and four continents will be on display at the [Rare Book and Manuscript Library](#) starting September 23.

Karata Playing Cards: Colour Print Ltd. Kenya, circa 1970-1985.



Albert Field Playing Card Collection, Columbia Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Standard deck of playing cards with Italian suits. Ant. Herrl (publisher). Gratz, Austria, 1790.



Albert Field Playing Card Collection, Columbia Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Baraja Capricho, Enrique Pastor Cortina, artist. Lit. Viuda de Ismael Haase, for Fabrica de Chocolates El Barco. Valencia, Spain, 1875-88.



Albert Field Playing Card Collection, Columbia Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Artball, Don Celender (1931-2005), artist. USA, 1972.



Albert Field Playing Card Collection, Columbia Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Rock'n Bubble, for Dandy Gum. Netherlands, circa 1986.



Albert Field Playing Card Collection, Columbia Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Eroticartes, J. M. Simon. France, 1983.



Albert Field Playing Card Collection, Columbia Rare Book and Manuscript Library

New York City, Standard Playing Card Co. Chicago, 1905.



Albert Field Playing Card Collection, Columbia Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Transformation cards. Germany, 1856.



Albert Field Playing Card Collection, Columbia Rare Book and Manuscript Library

This article appears in the Fall 2019 print edition of Columbia Magazine with the title "Wild Cards."



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