

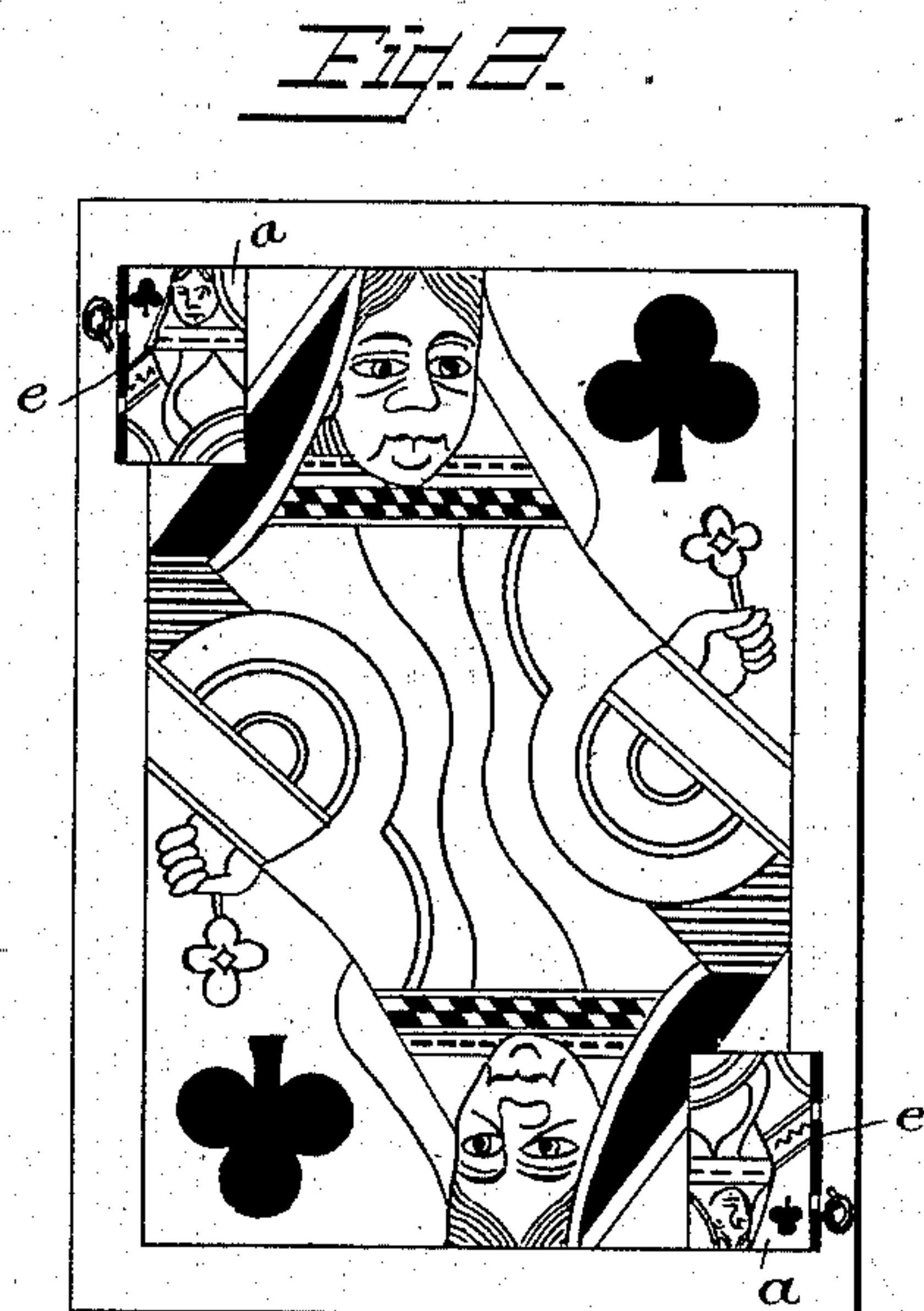
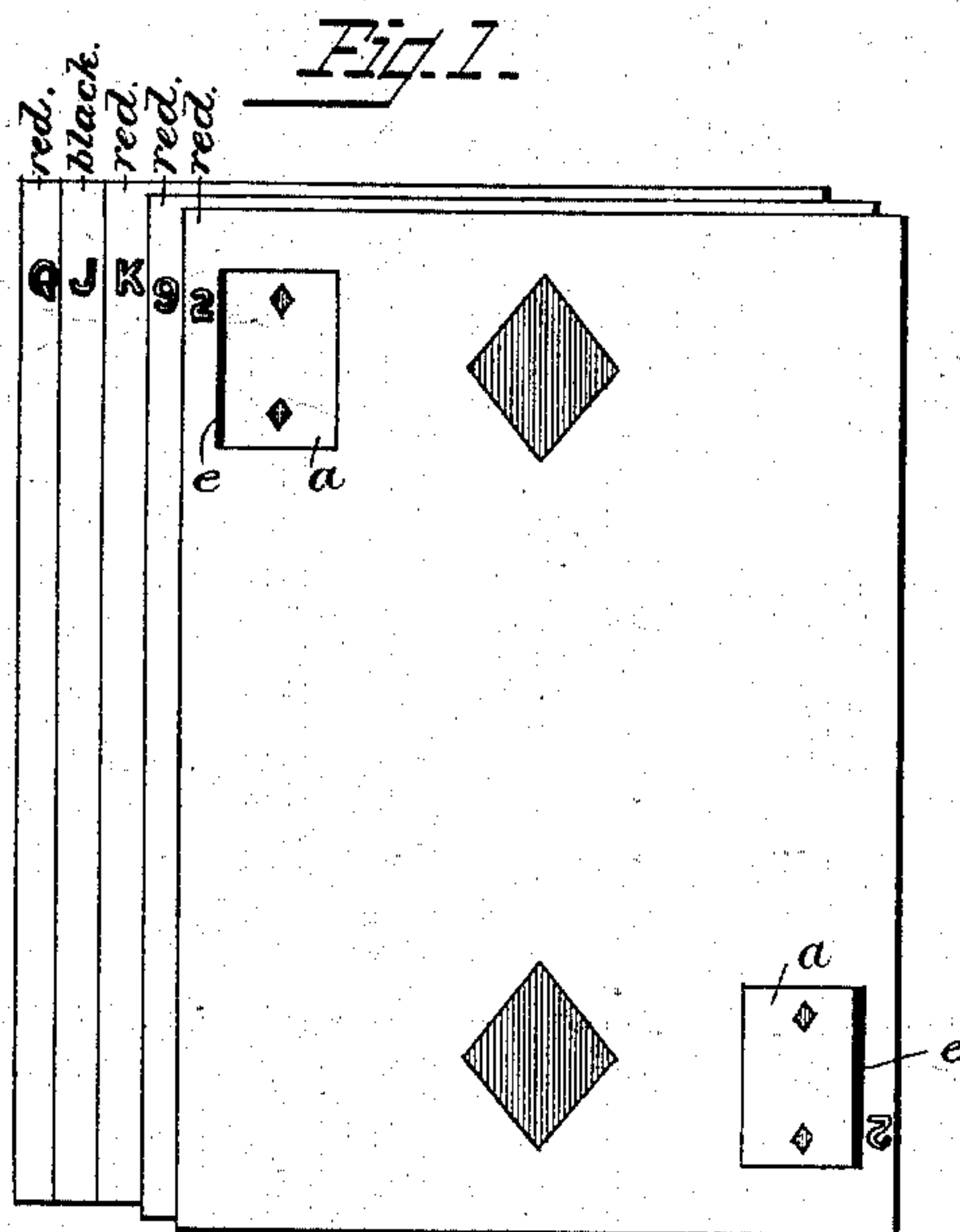
(No Model.)

A. DOUGHERTY.

PLAYING CARD.

No. 278,412.

Patented May 29, 1883.



WITNESSES.

*William Barton*  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANDREW DOUGHERTY, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

## PLAYING-CARD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 278,412, dated May 29, 1883.

Application filed April 23, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ANDREW DOUGHERTY, of the city of Brooklyn, county of Kings, State of New York, have invented certain Improvements in Playing-Cards, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to that class of playing-cards in which marginal emblems or figures are used to indicate the characters and values of the cards; and my invention consists in providing the cards with certain indicating devices, as fully described hereinafter, whereby to enable the player to determine more readily and with less liability of mistake than heretofore the character of each card without exposing the face.

In the drawings, Figure 1 represents a "poker-hand" of cards, illustrating my invention. Fig. 2 is a face view of a court-card.

Heretofore it has been common to place upon the margin of each card of a pack a miniature spot or emblem indicating by its form and color the suit to which the card belongs, and also a numeral or letter indicating the value of the card, initial letters being employed for court-cards and figures for the others. It thus becomes necessary to examine two devices to ascertain the character of the card; and as such devices are necessarily of small size the player is often confused, and is led to make mistakes in confounding the figure with the emblem. This is partly remedied by the use of miniature representations of the entire card at the corners, as shown in Fig. 2; and such cards have proved to be of great utility, especially for some games, as euchre, but they are not so serviceable for playing poker, where it is desirable to avoid spreading the hand and to cover the cards to as great an extent as possible. To avoid these objections I provide each card with the miniature representations *a* in the diagonally-opposite corners, as shown in the drawings, and in addition I place upon the margin, at each corner, a single letter or numeral, which indicates by its form the value or quality of the card, and is colored to indicate the color of the emblems upon the card. This single device, therefore, serves to show to the player whether the card belongs to a red or black suit, and also the number of its emblems or its character as a court-card. This is sufficient for poker playing, in which the

color and values of the cards only are generally of importance. It will be seen that as there is but one device at each corner there is little opportunity for mistake, as the player is able at a glance to ascertain the character of the card, and cannot be misled by confusing the indicators.

In some instances in poker, and also where the cards are to be used for playing different games, it is necessary to provide means for indicating the suits yet without the use of a second device likely to be mistaken for that above described. For this purpose I place upon each card a line, *e*, arranged parallel to the edge so far inside of the device above described that ordinarily the line may be covered in poker playing, but can be readily exposed, when necessary, by displaying a wider margin of the card. This line may be continuous to indicate diamonds, broken at two places to indicate spades, at one place to indicate hearts, and at three points to indicate clubs, as fully described in the Letters Patent granted to me July 18, 1876. In connection with the emblem or letter this will not only fully disclose the character of the card, but will further serve as a means whereby two persons, one familiar only with the English cards and the other with only the Spanish, can play together. The lines may be colored and divided differently. For instance, a break in one red line will indicate diamonds; a continuous line, hearts; a continuous black line, clubs, and a broken black line spades. The lines *e* may be placed outside of the margin of the card or they may form part of the margin, or they may form the margin-lines of the miniature representations *a*, as shown in the drawings. In such case it is well to place the said representations a little outside the main margin-line, thereby giving prominence to the lines *e*. By this combination of the single indicating devices, lines *e*, and miniature representations, I provide a card adapted for playing various games, with marginal indications of such a character as will enable the face to be almost wholly concealed, and yet indicating readily and in a manner not to be misunderstood the character of the card.

I am aware that it has been proposed to make packs of cards in which four colors are used to indicate the four different suits, and with marginal figures, the color of which indi-



cates the suit; but this defeats the purpose of my invention, which is to preserve to the greatest possible degree the conventional character of the card. Such a card, instead of being available for ordinary use, requires the players to become familiar with a new device. Moreover, in such cards the court-cards require two indicating devices, whereas I indicate both court and spot cards each with a single character.

I claim—

1. A pack of playing-cards in which each card is provided at the margin with a single colored letter or numeral, indicating by its form the value and by its color the color of the card, substantially as set forth.

2. A playing-card having the conventional emblems and colors, and having the conventional face, miniature representations of the face at the corners, and a colored marginal letter or numeral, as set forth.

3. A playing-card provided with a colored

letter or numeral indicating the value and color of the card, and with a line, *e*, indicating the suit, substantially as set forth.

4. A pack of playing-cards in which the cards have miniature representations in the corners, the marginal lines whereof indicate the suits, and with colored letters and numerals indicating the values, substantially as set forth.

5. Playing-cards provided with colored indicating letters or numerals, with miniature representations at the corners set to a slight extent outside the main margins, and with indicating marginal lines *e*, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

A. DOUGHERTY.

Witnesses:

H. A. HALL,

CHARLES E. FOSTER.