

## Introduction

*"All casino games by their nature should have a positive expectation for the house ..."*

(US Patent 5,673,917; Olaf Vancura <sup>®</sup> *Blackjack (engl.)*)

The purpose of this bibliography is to present the worldwide printed literature on the games of **Poker, Blackjack** and **Faro (Pharo)**, as well as related aspects of gambling card games frequently played in a casino. In that it supplements the 2007 bibliography "*Roulette, Baccarat, Trente-et-Quarante.*"<sup>26</sup> No limits with regards to publication language or date were applied. With regards to poker, no distinction is made regarding variants. Basic outlines of the games covered are given below.

Bibliographies and library catalogues are book directories. They differ with regards to the materials listed. Bibliographies only maintain that the included titles have sometime, somewhere been published, whereas catalogues proof the existence of a certain item in a certain location. This bibliography attempts to join both aspects. The main sources for this compilation were book trade catalogues, national bibliographies and library catalogues, thus it can be assumed that almost all titles included actually exist in at least one physical copy somewhere.

Any such cataloging of course must remain incomplete. Particularly in relation to the subject, still being considered immoral by certain sections<sup>27</sup> of society. Frequently relevant titles are being published privately and not distributed through regular channels. Therefore they are not found in the usual book trade catalogues or (national) bibliographies.

### Topical Coverage

The titles listed in this compilation were collected using the following guidelines: Anything concerning the games of Poker, Blackjack and Faro. With regards to the latter the spelling "Pharo" usually refers to the older European version of this game.

A selection of titles, covering:

- Calculus of probabilities for these games, mostly probabilities of poker hands
- Gambling related laws and regulations as well as fiscal aspects thereof. In most countries the law does not distinguish between casino gambling games, like roulette, and

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26) *Roulette, Bacarat, Trente-et-Quarante*, Norderstedt, Germany (BoD), ISBN 978-3-833-49211-2; € 39.80

27) Usually of the bible-bashing variety. Often the same "pillars of society" who shout: Amen to that!, every time a kindergarten in some far away country gets "collaterally damaged" by "surgical precision" bombing.

card games. Most pertinent titles have therefore been already been covered in the *Juridica* section of volume one.<sup>28</sup> Legal materials specifically concerning the games covered here are included in the relevant sections, annotated [**Jur.**],

- Historical aspects of the games and their precursors in general. Annotated: [**Hist.**],
- Novels only when their contents is almost purely casino gambling related. Annotated [**Roman**]. (Most novels on the “Old West” include some references on Poker or Faro),
- Descriptions and expostulations of precursors like “*Lansquetenet*,” “*Stuß*” or “*Bassette*,”
- “Gambling Studies” and casino management, frequently in the form of *Proceedings* ... of gambling related congresses. Where a detailed *Table of Contents* [**ToC**] is given, only those papers concerning Poker or Blackjack are listed.

Furthermore selected titles on gambling related aspects:

- Sociology and “public policy,” unless hostile to gambling. Annotated: [**Soz.**],
- Psychology [**Psy.**] and behavioural aspects of gambling (risk aversion, gambler’s decision making etc.) in poker this includes bluffing and “tells.”

Some titles about:

- Works pretending to aid the gambler through interpretation of dreams, parapsychic effort etc. Annotated [**Okkult**].

If in doubt the rarer, older or more exotic was given preference. Excluded was anti-gambling propaganda, be it of the moralizing, or puritan<sup>29</sup> religious nature. This also applies to literature on lotteries. Furthermore works on “pathological gambling”<sup>30</sup> are usually excluded, as these will be found easily in medical bibliographies (like the *Science Citation Index*) or online at *pubmed*. The rapidly growing field of internet gambling was also (mostly) excluded, as few materials, have been published (The understanding of internet

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28) p. 211-33 in the 2007 bibliography on Roulette (Fn. 26)

29) A Puritan is someone who is deadly afraid that someone, somewhere, is having fun.

30) It should be noted, that the dominant Western school of thought on compulsive gambling originated in North American psychiatry and clinical psychology and has shaped the thinking about gambling behaviour and problem gambling. “Pathological gambling” as a mental disorder branding gamblers as “reckless” and “deviants” was created in 1980 by the classification of the American Psychiatric Association. In every later issue of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual the, nowadays ten, criteria for qualifying (five of which must be met) as an “addict” or “at-risk gambler” have been changed and widened. They do suggest scientific precision (on the part of the diagnosing psychiatrist) but on close inspection are neither precise nor scientific.

Research into gambling tends to be characterized by homogenizing theories and individualistic assumptions based on American cultural values, which unfortunately are disseminated and unquestioningly accepted through more cultured parts of the world. Published research is mostly limited to English speaking countries with their lingering puritan sentiment. (Brenner, 2008)

gambling in general is still limited). The author is of the opinion that internet<sup>31</sup> gambling should be avoided, as programming a “poker bot” simply leaves too many opportunities for fraudulently drawing cards and other manipulations.

Playing cards, which for the games are the “tools of trade” are better covered by existing bibliographies, which are included in the chapter ☞ *Bibliographies*.

Compilation was completed in October 2009. Slightly more than 800 poker related works originally published in English and their translations are listed ☞ *Poker (engl.)*. 300 additional titles were published in other languages ☞ *Poker (other)*. Blackjack is covered in 200+ works originally in English ☞ *Blackjack (engl.)* and ca. 60 in other languages ☞ *Blackjack (other)*. The section on Pharo/Faro (☞ *Faro*) and cheating lists approx. 100 items. There are roughly 75 dedicated poker magazines worldwide (a number that rapidly increased with the poker boom of recent years). 210 magazine articles and scientific papers, some of a highly specialized or technical nature, are listed in the final section. *In toto* about 1560 publications are listed. The supplement to *Roulette, Baccarat, Trente-et-Quarante* (2007) gives an additional 500 new or updated titles on all aspects of casino gambling.

### **Time frame and geographical areas of coverage**

Worldwide coverage of works on Poker, Blackjack and Faro was only attempted for the sections *Monographs* and *Periodicals*.

The first printed books purely on poker and faro appeared after 1840, those covering blackjack not before 1960. Calculations of poker probabilities developed from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. While compiling this bibliography it became apparent that works on gambling related sociology, public policy and psychology had to be considered as well. Early poker literature tried to establish firm rules for the game. Until 1850, there were no printed rules for poker. Unlike other card games in being a uniquely dynamic game (a competitive money-management game rather than a routine card game), poker could never be bound in rigid rules. Continuously changing within a loose framework of traditions, poker remained a versatile, living game always subject to modifications and variations (over 150 varieties of poker are described in the literature).

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31) As of October 2006, 465 companies operated nearly 1100 online-casinos through approx. 2500 sites. These were based mainly in jurisdiction with lax licensing conditions, most of them in the Caribbean (viz. Costa Rica, Belize, Antigua, Dutch Antilles, but also Gibraltar, Malta and by Indian tribes in Canada amongst others). It has been guesstimated that a total of 14-23m gamblers - of which 4m were Americans, 7m from the Asia-Pacific region - wagered around \$12b in online casinos, which would account for a 4-6% share of total gambling worldwide (<http://www.online.casinocity.com>). US Congress in Oct. 2006 passed a law (easily circumventable) banning credit card companies from processing transactions with online casino operators.

Earliest Mentions of Poker (1800-1839)<sup>32</sup>

1829: *Diary of 20-30 Years Spent in America as an Actor*, by Cowells, Joe

1834: *An Exposure of the Art and Miseries of Gambling*, by Green, Jonathan H.<sup>33</sup> (Note: Mentions poker as a cheating game, written in 1834 not pub till 1843)

1836: *Dragoon Campaigns to the Rocky Mountains*, by Hildreth

Available sources permitted the coverage of the following periods, and of countries (historical borders):

Fully from the beginning of letterpress printing:

- Germany,
- France,
- USA<sup>34</sup> (1650 onwards),
- British Empire.

Almost completely from 1800:

- Spain (and parts of Latin America),
- Switzerland, Austria,
- The Low Countries (Holland, Belgium),
- Scandinavia (excepting Finland),
- Portugal,
- Italy,
- Canada
- Australia (from ca. 1850),
- New Zealand (to 1900 partially, completely since 1960),
- Japan fully from the beginning of the *Shōwa*-Era (1926), earlier works in part,
- Some Thai, Hebrew and Chinese language materials.

Few sources were available for:

- India (English titles after independence) and native languages

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32) source: <http://www.holdemsecrets.com/books.htm> (06.12.2007); Contact: rich@holdemsecrets

33) Published several titles of the "reformed gambler" type from ca. 1850 onwards. Later in the position as General Executive Agent of the *New York Association for the Suppression of Gambling*, where he was a rabid anti-gambling propagandist.

34) "Where gambling, even in it's more harmless forms, like church-yard raffles, still carries the stigma of social unacceptability. No US state authorises a lottery or casinos simply for people to enjoy. Americans carry too much Puritanism in their psyches to allow them to do that." (Brenner, 2008) Unfortunately this shows in most "public policy" materials published in the US. (Of course other idiocies are also disseminated. Mainly by way of "political correctness" [read: thought control] through certain three-letter government agencies and US controlled media conglomerates. Prime example: the harassment of smokers, regardless of the leaf used.)

- Greece and Turkey

Little exist for Africa south of the Sahara (excepting RSA), the existing bibliographies contained little of relevance, which may be due to the fact that many of the negroes cannot read.

For lack of language skills sources in Arabic, Cyrillic, Korean script, also catalogues from the Balkans, Indochina and India (native languages) could not be checked. Where transliterated sources gave pertaining material it is included.

Furthermore, few sources for the Caribbean and Pacific Island countries were available. These promise to be of interest, even if there are few local publishing houses, as some of these territories have become gambler's destinations.

Above list of areas not, or only partially, covered areas may seem quite long. However, when considering that normally in territories where gambling is banned no pertinent literature will be published, this appears less of a problem.

Archival sources and other non-print material are not included. Differing from most other bibliographies published academic exercises and theses are to a large extent included. These are annotated [**Dipl.-Arb.**] for any degree up to Master's level, [**Diss.**] for doctoral theses.

For ideological reasons<sup>35</sup> sources from the Soviet Union (1917-90; official gambling ban 1928) or her Eastern European sphere of influence (1945-90), Mongolia and Tannu-Tuwa needed not be checked. This also applies to the Muslim world, Islam being a religion that is opposed to just about any type of entertainment. This is equally true of the classical Jewish attitude towards gambling.

It should be noted, that sources consulted covered almost all countries and periods where casino gambling was legal. Thus most relevant literature will have found its way into this bibliography.

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35) This is not to imply that the author considers shareholder-value capitalism a superior form of societal organization.