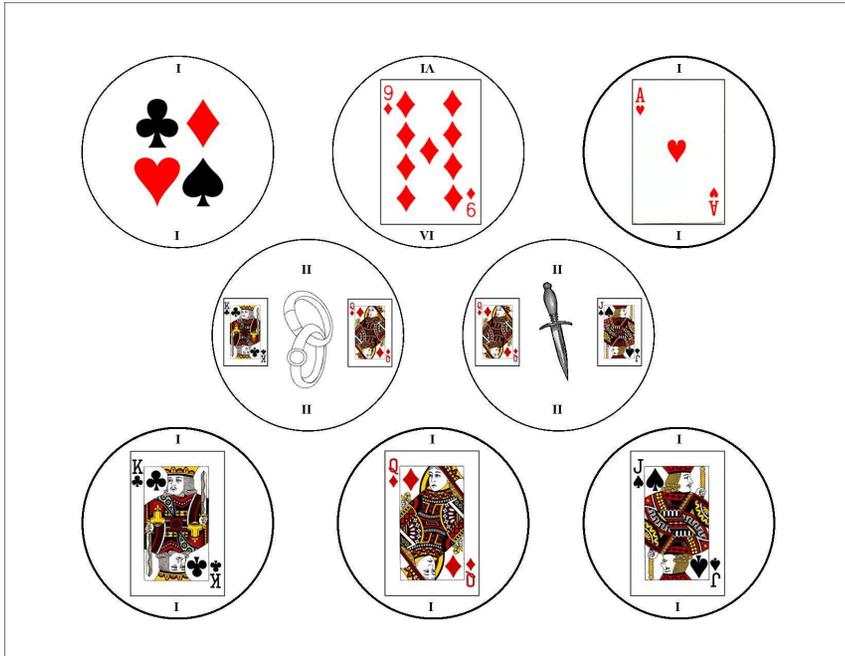


Pope Joan



Pope Joan is a card game that was popular in the Victorian era. The name is derived from the legend that Pope John VIII was actually a woman. The object of the game is to get rid of all of your cards first and to win chips by playing particular cards.

A standard deck of 52 playing cards is used, **but the 8 of Diamonds is removed from the deck for the duration of the game.**

Players should be given an equal number of chips. To start the game, players each ante in an equal number of their chips to fill the circles or “bowls” on the board. The bowls are for Jack, Queen, King, Ace of Trump, Matrimony (King and Queen of Trump), Intrigue (Queen and Jack of Trump), Pope (Nine of Diamonds), and Game (the four suits).

The Jack, Queen, King, Ace and Game bowls should get 1 chip each, the Matrimony and Intrigue bowls get 2 chips each, and the Pope bowl gets 6 chips, making a total of 15. So 4 players would ante in 4 chips each with the 1 left over chip being placed in the center and used to fill a bowl on the next hand.

The dealer deals one hand to each player and one spare hand, called the Widow, using all the cards in the deck. The players look at their cards, and the spare hand is left face down and not used in the game. If the number of cards dealt to each player is not even, the extra cards should be placed in the Widow as well, so that all players have the same number of cards.

Once the deal is finished, the Dealer turns over the top card on the Widow hand. The suit of that card is the Trump suit. If the card that is turned up is a Jack, Queen, King, or Ace or the 9 of Diamonds, the Dealer automatically receives the contents of the corresponding bowl.

The person to the left of the dealer begins by playing a card. Whoever has the next higher card of the same suit must now play it, followed by the holder of the card after that, and so on until either the King is reached or no one can play because no one holds the next higher card of the suit. If no one has the next higher card than the last person to play a card may now play a new card from his hand, and play progresses based on the new card. *Example: Another player plays the 2 of Diamonds, I play the 3 and 4 of Diamonds. No one has the 5. I play a different card from my hand.*

If a player plays the Jack, Queen, King or Ace of the Trump suit, they get the contents of the corresponding bowl. If they play both the King and Queen of Trump during the current hand they would get the Matrimony bowl as well as the King and Queen bowls. The same applies to the Queen and Jack of Trump for the Intrigue bowl. If they play the Pope card, which is always the 9 of Diamonds, they would get the Pope bowl.

The first player that plays all the cards in his hand wins the hand and receives the contents of the Game bowl.

Once the hand is finished, bowls are filled using leftover chips in the center and then the remainder needed to fill the bowls is divided evenly among the players with extras again going into the center.

Variation

Once the hand is finished, players count how many cards they have left and pay the winner of the hand the same number of chips. If the player has the Pope left in their hand un-played, they are exempt from paying any chips to the winner.