



From The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London
Alderman David Wootton

I am delighted that the Master of The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards has chosen Charles Dickens as the theme for his pack of cards: 2012 is the bicentenary of Charles Dickens' birth and I am Chairman of the trustees of the Charles Dickens Museum at 48 Doughty Street, London WC1, the only surviving house in London in which Charles Dickens lived.

Reflecting on the panoramic view he had witnessed from St Paul's Cathedral, Dickens wrote "Draw but a little circle and you shall

Secondly, also in office in my year as Master will be Alderman David Wootton, The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London, a man who has a great passion for Dickens' work and who is deeply involved, through various societies and through the Dickens Museum, in preserving Dickens' name, memorabilia and his work for us and for those who follow. I am deeply grateful for the Lord Mayor's gracious agreement to write the foreword for this pack.

Last, but by no means least, I have had the good fortune to work with Brad Baker, who designed this pack. From day one, Brad's ability to understand the essence of how the cards should look, and then to translate that concept into the cards you have before you, has been a great testament to his patience and to his remarkable artistic skills.

Behind all of this good fortune, I have had the continued support of my friends and colleagues within the Company whose sagacity, counsel, advice and energy in helping me to get this pack produced have been utterly invaluable and for which I am truly thankful.

One of the enclosed packs has a reproduction of a "Tax Band" around it. Tax Bands first appeared in June/July 1711, following

London's Columbia Square (Blount 341).

I hope you will enjoy looking at and playing with these cards as a reminder of one of the world's greatest authors.

David Wootton

Best wishes,
David Wootton



have within its space everything with its opposite extreme and contradiction close beside." For Dickens, the City encompassed all the contradictions of Victorian London, a home to wealth, power and the law sitting cheek by jowl with poverty, crime, the abandoned and neglected child, and the prison.

The theme of poverty arises frequently in Dickens' novels but as his career progressed, the prominence of these themes and implied criticism by the author became stronger. In the new preface to Martin Chuzzlewit of November 1849, Dickens wrote: "In all my writings, I hope I have taken every available opportunity to showing the want of sanitary improvements in the neglected dwellings of the poor". In Bleak House, the theme of sanitation, or the lack thereof, surfaces prominently in Dickens' treatment of the brick maker's house and Tom-all-Alone's.

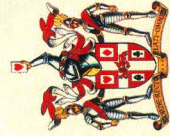
In editions of Household Words during 1850 Dickens published several articles on the subject, such as "Health by Act of Parliament, "A Home Question," and "Commission and Omission". That same year he made a speech to The Metropolitan Sanitary Association condemning slum landlords and local politicians and, in 1852, he advised philanthropist Angela Burdett-Coutts on the model flats she was financing for

an Act of Parliament the same year when a Tax of 6d (12 times the cost of the pack) was levied. The band used is one dating from the early life of Charles Dickens (circa 1825) and is reproduced with the kind permission of Past Master Michael Goodall, whose family were producers of playing cards at that time.

Thanks, too, to the folk at Richard Edward Ltd who printed both the cards and this insert.

Lance Whitehouse

Lance Whitehouse



Lance Whitehouse
Master: 2011-2012

For the beginning of my year as Master of the 'Makers of Playing Cards' I have enjoyed 3 remarkable strokes of good fortune.

First, within my year falls the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of one of our country's great literary giants, Charles Dickens. Those of us who have had the privilege of reading his work will fully appreciate the skill with which he was able to portray the hardships, suffering and, sometimes, unfairness of the era in which he lived.

The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards



The 200th Anniversary of the birth of
Charles John Huffam Dickens

Master:
Lance E. Whitehouse
2011 - 2012



Charles Dickens