

Pack Design

This double pack has been designed as a set of standard bridge cards with the intention that they can be used for playing bridge and other card games. The backs of the cards show a well-known picture of Lady Thatcher and I am grateful to the Thatcher Foundation for allowing me to use it in the design of the packs. The faces of the cards are based on an 1865 set of cards designed and printed by Goodall and Sons, who were the major card makers of the 19th and early 20th century until taken over by De La Rue in 1922.

Thanks

I am grateful for the support of friends and colleagues from the Company. In particular, I would like to thank Past Master Michael Goodall for allowing me to use the Goodall cards as the basis of my pack. Also, the wise counsel and sage advice I received during the design process from the Playing Card Committee, ably chaired by Past Master John Gard, was important. This has enabled me to produce a pack of cards on a subject which divided and still, today, divides opinion.

Special thanks go to the designer Deck leader who has had to put up with me changing the subject of the cards times times during the design process. My patience has been truly remarkable, whilst the skills in incorporating designs from 150 years ago

into a modern format are extraordinary and add new twists (for more information on the design and content of the cards as well as details of other cards produced by the Company go to the Company's website - www.makersofplayingcards.co.uk).

Finally, I would like to thank the team at Richard Edward Ltd for printing both the cards and this insert and especially Lewis Young, an apprentice in our Company, who has been very helpful in advising on the overall production requirements.



The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards



Master:

Anthony J Carter

2013 - 2014



Remembering the life of
Lady Margaret Thatcher (1925 - 2013)
Prime Minister 1979 - 1990

Baroness Margaret Thatcher, the first female British Prime Minister and the longest serving for over 150 years, since Lord Liverpool, in the 1830s.

Early life

Margaret Hilda Roberts was born in Grantham, Lincolnshire, on 13th October 1925. Her early upbringing was above her father's grocery shop. Educated at Grantham Girls High School and Oxford University where she read chemistry. At university she learnt the analytical skills she used well in later years as a politician. She was also president of the Conservative association. On graduating in 1946 she worked as a research chemist and studied for a law degree, being called to the bar in 1950.

Politics

In 1958 she was adopted as prospective candidate for the Finchley constituency. At the 1959 election she retained the seat for the Conservatives and entered parliament. When the Conservatives were returned to office in June 1970, Mrs Thatcher was appointed Secretary of State for Education and Science and dubbed "Thatcher, milk snatcher" after her abolition of the universal free school milk scheme.

The Conservatives were defeated in the 1974 election, fought on the theme of "who governs Britain". In 1975 she stood against Edward Heath for the party leadership and, against many people's expectations, won.

Time in Government

In autumn 1978 the trade unions rebelled against the Labour government's pay policies leading to serious industrial action taking place, "the winner of discontent", a precursor of the election of 1979 which the Conservatives won. Mrs Thatcher became the first female British Prime Minister.

Her early years in office were a testing time, unemployment was very high and many in her party were unconvinced by her government's policies. She led the country in a victorious war against Argentina in the Falkland Islands despite many warnings against it. She lived up to her name "the Iron Lady" given to her in the mid 1970s by the Red Army newspaper.

On the back of the Falklands victory the Conservatives won the 1985 election with an overwhelming majority. Her government followed a radical programme of privatisation, the aim of which was to reduce the role of government and increase individual self-reliance.

She created a famous friendship with US President Ronald Reagan and gained the praise of Senate leader Michael Goreback, whom she labelled a man "one could do business with".

One great difficulty during her time in office was the issue of Europe. The resignation speech of Sir Geoffrey Howe brought about events which were to lead to her exit from 10 Downing Street in 1990.

Life after Downing Street

She remained an MP until 1992. She was appointed a life peer in the same year, taking the title of Baroness Thatcher of Keston. In 1995 she was appointed a Lady Companion of the Order of the Garter, the highest order of chivalry in the UK.

During her political life she divided opinion; she was not a consensus politician. She put herself forward as a correction politician. This was a view with which many disagreed, including sections of her own party.

Lady Thatcher died on 8 April 2013 at The Fitz Hotel in London, after suffering a stroke. She received a ceremonial funeral including full military honours with a church service at St Paul's Cathedral.