

Time's a tickin'. The CBCS 2016 convention **September 16th and 17th** is only **four**—count them—**four** short months away. Time to dust off them cribbage boards, treat them to a spit polish or better yet an oil rub so they're nice and purdy for that famous CBCS contest: *The Good, The Bad, and the downright Ugly*. Put a press to them blue jeans, spruce up them cowboy boots and practice your *Howdy-do's*, 'cause you'll be venturin' into cattle country, the Mile High variety, meetin' up with folks you hain't seen in a while, least not since last year. New folks, too, rarin' to strut their cribs, 15-two's at a crack.

If'n you hain't got round to makin' them reservations, Pardner, you'd best saddle up; over half of our block of rooms are done booked. And for those speedy doggies what want to arrive early and those stragglers what want stay on a day or two or three longer, not to worry, host *Deadeye* Larry Snow (#292) has shouldered a few extra rooms on our block. But don't you be a squatin' on your hind quarters too durn long, hotels here in Denver town have a habit of fillin' up fast, and whilst there's plenty of room out on the range, the cactus tends to be a bit chewy, and the barbed wire is downright pokey.

Here's the deal, and we're not talkin' cards, not just yet, anyways:

- Hilton DoubleTree in Denver's Stapleton neighborhood
- Block rate of \$109 per night including a single breakfast buffet (additional breakfasts for the deeply discounted rate of \$10 per person).
- Complimentary scheduled shuttle service from Denver International Airport, as well as nearby Northfield Center for shopping and fine and casual dining.
- Complimentary self-parking and 24-hour business center, too.

For those of you crib-pokes still on the fence, this is one bull ride you ought not to miss. Besides that *G, B & U* contest, there'll be tournaments, show-and-tell, an auction includin' a bunk-load of Marv Maxell finds (proceeds goin' to the Bette Bemis scholarship fund), and story-tellin' about the one you landed and the one that got away. Then there's the Saturday dinner buffet, feedbag on white linen, no neckties required. Fact is, wear one of them neck-nooses and there's a good chance it'll get barbered—cut clean in two. And if'n you hain't been to Denver before, or even if'n you have, there's a whole lot to do when you ain't busy peggin'.

Those things and their links bein' as follows:

- LoDo — Denver’s historic district including the Union Station, Coors Field (home of the Colorado Rockies), boutique shopping, and fine and casual dining.
.....6 miles from DBLT hotel
www.lodo.org
- Museum of Nature and Science.....4 miles from DBLT hotel
www.dmns.org
- The Denver Zoo.....4 miles from DBLT hotel
denverzoo.org
- The DAM (Denver Art Museum)6 miles from DBLT hotel
denverartmuseum.org
- Denver Botanical Gardens.....6 miles from DBLT hotel
www.botanicgardens.org
- City Center including the gold-domed state capitol..6 miles from DBLT hotel
www.colorado.com/.../colorado-history-colorado-state-capitol-denver
- DCPA (Denver Center for the Performing Arts)6 miles from DBLT hotel
www.denvercenter.org
- Red Rocks Amphitheater.....20 miles from DBLT hotel
www.redrocksonline.com
- Historic Black Hawk and Central City.....40 miles from DBLT hotel
www.cityofblackhawk.org and www.centralcitycolorado.com

All horsin’ around aside, whether to vacation or gather with fellow crib board collector folk, please join us for this year’s round up. It promises, as always, to be a hoot and it’ll be an even bigger hoot with you and yours there!

To make *your* reservation for the **2016 CBCS convention on September 16th and 17th**

Phone: 1-800-HILTONS give reservations clerk our three letter group code CRI

Computer Link: [Cribbage Board Collectors Society Convention 2016](#)

Looking forward to hosting you in Denver, Larry Snow (#292) a.k.a.: Deadeye



Lobby of the Hilton DoubleTree Inn at Denver Stapleton North

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HOW CRIBBAGE BOARDS AIDED THE WAR EFFORT

This is a fascinating story, and some of you may not know it. I'm indebted to a 2008 National Public Radio story, the "Ex-POW Bulletin Sept/Oct 2014" and mentalfloss.com for much of this info, as well as sources cited below.

In an effort to help POWs held by the Germans during WW II, the British created MI-9 (Military Intelligence, Section 9) to smuggle escape aids into the camps. One prominent "gadgeteer" was Charles Fraser-Smith, the inspiration for "Q" of James Bond fame. Among the gadgets:

- Tiny cameras secreted in cigarette lighters
- Flashlights with one working battery; the second was a dummy compartment
- Maps printed on handkerchiefs with invisible ink. Urinating on them revealed the map!
- Cigarette holder telescopes
- Silk maps and tiny compasses and saws that could be hidden in pens, buttons, etc.

Fraser-Smith also participated in the top-secret project of dropping a body dressed as an officer with false papers regarding the Allied plans off the Spanish Coast. The movie “The Man Who Never Was” was based on this project.

Game makers were used by MI-9 as well. John Waddington Ltd. (makers of cribbage boards as well) had just developed a more precise method of printing on silk and made the very thin maps secreted in some games. They also made Monopoly games. By arrangement with Waddington’s, boards were made that could secrete maps, compasses and files inside. These games hold the distinction of being the only items the Germans never detected during wartime.

When the United States entered the war, the British willingly shared with U.S. Intelligence the capture and escape information they had developed. Another British gadgeteer, Christopher Clayton Hutton, was assigned to assist. A top-secret facility known as P.O. Box 1142 and operated under the MIS-X (Military Intelligence Service-Escape and Evasion) was sited at Fort Hunt, Virginia. According to the Geneva Conventions, POWs were entitled to receive parcels

from family and relief organizations. Two fictitious organizations, the “War Prisoner’s Benefit Foundation” and the “Serviceman’s Relief” were created by MIS-X for smuggling escape materials into the camps.



from the collection of Philip E. Orbanes

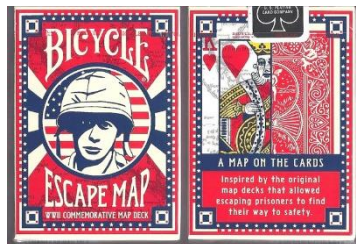
English Monopoly board, for Allied POWs, showing locations of hidden files, compass and silk map.

Unlike the British, who made most of their stuff, the Americans bought most items in stores and modified them, with the producing companies none the wiser. Parker Brothers made Monopoly in the US, and that project continued. The US Playing Card Company made cards where the paper backing could be soaked off revealing bits of silk ~~~ maps that could be

reassembled. In 2013, Bicycle issued a commemorative deck; the map images were printed over the playing card face and could be reassembles according to an enclosed map card. These are available on ebay.



Original

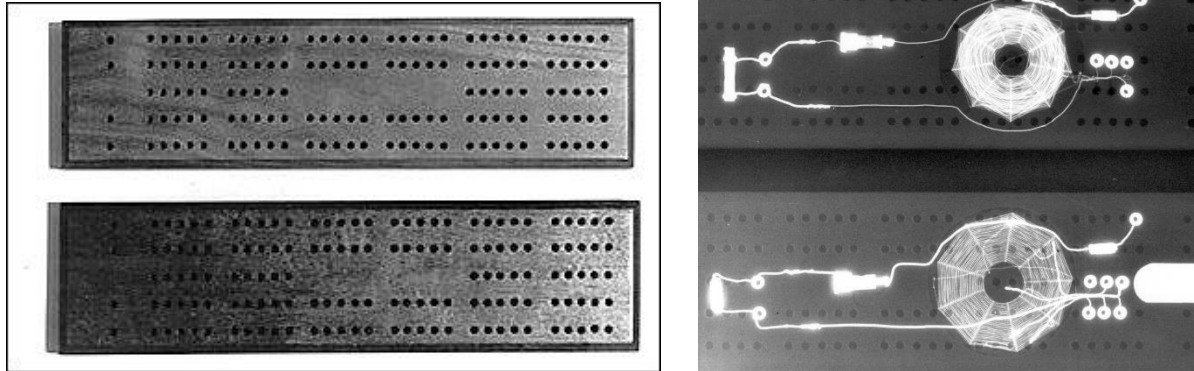


Reproduction



Reproduction reassembled

Cribbage boards were apparently used both by both the British and Americans, but the only record I've found are these photos from MIS-X. Radio receivers were hidden inside. Placing the pegs in the right holes would bring in the BBC.



Photos from the collection of Silvio Bedini, MIS-X

Wouldn't you love to have one of these in your collection? Unfortunately, the Germans caught on eventually (using x-rays) and the boards were destroyed. When the war ended, P.O. Box 1142 and all its records and artifacts were destroyed within 36 hours. These photos are all that remain.

This program helped 737 POWs to escape. Information about P.O. Box 1142 was declassified in 2007 (the British had declassified in the 1990's), and several books have been written since then:

The Secret War of Charles Fraser-Smith and Secret Warriors, both by Mr. Fraser-Smith

The Escape Factory: The Story of MIS-X by Lloyd R. Shoemaker

Official Secret: The Remarkable Story of Escape Aids, Their Invention, Production and the Sequel by Christopher Clayton Hutton

The Man Who Was "Q" by David Porter

Fort Hunt in WWII: MIS-X by Stauffenberg and Anderson

Between Silk and Cyanide by Leon Marks

Terry Coons (#187)

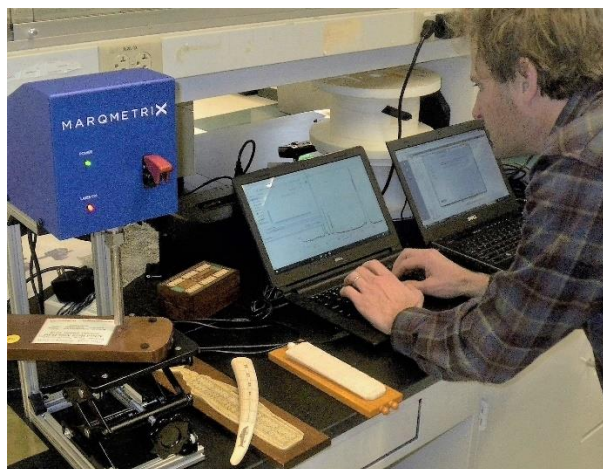
CBOM 4-2016 – (Jay Fulwider wrote this article for the April ACC newsletter)

I wrote last month about the fun of collecting cribbage boards, or of collecting anything. This month my article is about a fun adventure I had because of my board collection.

A few months ago I read an article in the Seattle Times newspaper about a local company, MarqMetrix, that is in the process of developing a small BallProbe® that can touch a sample and measure its chemical composition. Their goal is to have a probe that can eventually be used through a phone app. That should interest about every collector out there.

My first thought was; are my cribbage boards really ivory? With that in mind, I emailed the company with a few questions. To my surprise, they wrote back and asked me to bring a few boards in for analysis.

On arrival, I was welcomed by two of the company's founders, Brian Marquardt and Scott Van Vuren. They were both excited to see my elephant and walrus ivory boards. Brian told me that he was from Wisconsin and how much he had enjoyed playing cribbage while ice fishing.



They then took me into the lab where the tests began on two of their machines. The tests were conducted by Giora Proskurowski (see photo) who is the MarqMetrix Raman Manager. Testing is done with a laser probe. The older equipment that did these tests in the past was very expensive and required some scientific background to interpret results. Now the newer and less expensive devices, developed by MarqMetrix, are hooked to a computer and have a large data base to compare results. The

computer will provide a graph profile of the sample and comparison materials.

The results from testing three ivory boards were surprising. When the computer overlaid the graphs, they were essentially identical. That indicates that the chemical composition of walrus and elephant ivory are pretty much the same. In addition to adding to their data base, we all learned something new.

I look forward to when a personal testing probe will be a reality. And thanks to MarqMetrix and their team for the experience and also for inviting me to return with more boards.

From “Saves Argument” to “Rotoscore”

Everyone’s heard of the Saves Argument board, right? But have you ever seen a Rotoscore? Probably not. Well, this article explores the interesting relationship and eventual merging of these two boards.



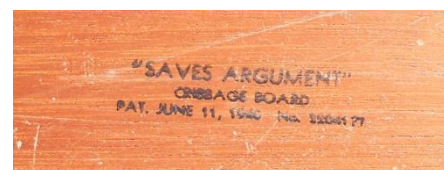
The original version of cribbage was played on a 61 pt board with five cards dealt to the players. Two were discarded, leaving three in the playing hand. These are the signs that the above board was used in the 1800s for such games.

At some point, someone decided you could make the game last longer by playing to 121 pts by just going up and down the board twice. This introduced the squabble of “are we going around the first time or the second?” Beginning decades of trying to fix the squabble.

“Saves Argument” was one of the earliest 120-hole once-around cribbage board patented in the United States (BB, p. 69), 1940 by S. C. Eddy of Kalamazoo, Michigan (Patent No. 2204177). Although my nominee for the earliest is the Zig Zag board, patented issued in 1939, but that’s a story for another day...(or see the May, 2009 newsletter; I’m working on posting more issues)



Mailer sleeve. 6¢ postage!



Saves argument uses rotating wood blocks forming the streets. When 30 points are reached, the block is turned showing the points from 31 through 60 and so on. You’ll notice this requires “carrying over” points if you have to turn in the middle of a count. Since there is no peg storage, there are rarely any pegs. The ones I’ve seen are straight-sided plastic, but I don’t know if they’re original.

In 2007, a website popped up by a couple who advertised a couple of times in the ACC Cribbage World newsletter. They were reviving the Saves Argument board and offered for sale: Aluminum boards, black aluminum, the original wooden design, their version of pegs

(aluminum with black and red tops), shadow box framed boards and even original mailer sleeves (\$4.95). I have a screen shot of their catalog (let me know if you want more info), but the site is no longer active. I have not seen any of their wooden reproductions or sleeves (which would be pristine) on the 2nd hand market. All I've seen are the aluminum manufacturing "2nds" (my collection):



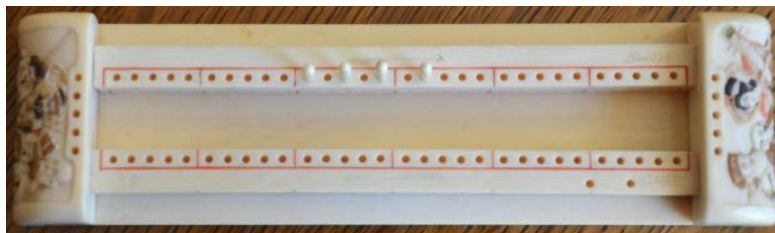
What has intrigued me in my quest is how many craftsmen (craftpersons?) have been inspired by Saves Argument. The one on the left,,below, uses one - four colored inlaid dots to indicate the street, rather than numbers. The one on the right is crafted for three players.



This one is made in the Indian style: Wooden and mother-of-pearl inlays (Joe Wheeler, #291)



From the remarkable collection of Frank Wurman (#22) comes this carved ivory version, with original pegs, no less.



ROTOSCORE: Along comes Robert C. Shipley, also of Kalamazoo MI, filing a patent for a very similar board in 1945 (Patent 2404320, granted 7/16/1946). I think of the left-hand board, below as the first generation. The pegging streets are static; pressing the side buttons rotates

Official Registration

Complete and send your Convention Registration form below to

Jim Herzog, Treasurer, 20068 Herzog Drive, Rockwood, MI 48173.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Convention Member Fee \$100.00 _____

Convention Associate Fee 50.00 _____

(Spouse or regular member living at same address)

2016 Convention Board Only \$100.00 _____

Membership Dues (Due May 1) \$10.00/year _____

Associate member Dues \$5.00/year _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____