



***Real Fábrica* Playing Cards reprinted by INCM**

The INCM has republished playing cards by the *Real Fábrica de Cartas de Jogar*, predecessor to the Portuguese Official Printing Office. The INCM is paying homage to its past by producing replicas of five of the most famous decks of playing cards, using the original designs.

Under the guidance of history researcher Fernanda Frazão, replicas were made of the "Portuguese Cards" (1770), the "Constitutional Cards" (1821-1836), the "Cards from the Four Corners of the World" (1822), the "Two Headed Constitutional Cards" (1836) and the "German Type Cards" (19th Century).

The history of playing cards in Portugal dates back to the end of the 15th Century, from when the first records are found. The decks of cards from this period were "exported" all over the world in our caravels, and they were produced by the Japanese, Indonesians and Indians in the 16th century, who adapted them to their cultures.

Two editions of the five recovered decks were printed; one normal edition, with 1000 copies and another edition with a special finish, of which 100 copies were made. All of the decks are sold along with a numbered guarantee certificate and are packaged in card boxes with a period design. They can be purchased at INCM shops and from the online store at www.incm.pt.

As evidence of the opportunities offered by this INCM initiative, it is worth remembering that importance is starting to be placed on studies of playing cards, as seen by the International Playing Card Convention held last October at the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences at the *Universidade Nova* in Lisbon, and the exhibition that is being hosted at the National Library of Portugal until the 31st of December, entitled "Playing Cards: from the factory to the table".

23rd of November, 2010