



Exhibition of Playing Cards from the Real Fábrica

Today, at 5.30 p.m., the exhibition entitled Cartas da Real Fábrica (Playing Cards from the Real Fábrica) was inaugurated in the atrium of the Casa da Moeda (Portuguese Mint) building. On public display are replicas of the five most famous decks of cards printed at the Real Fábrica de Cartas de Jogar (Royal Factory of Playing Cards), alongside documents from the INCM's historical archive and the original decks of cards on loan from two private collectors.

The exhibition is based on research conducted by the academic Fernanda Frazão into documents and articles from the Imprensa Régia e Real Fábrica (The Regal Press and Royal Factory), the predecessors of the INCM. This research lasted for 12 years and rekindled interest in the artistic and gaming value of the playing cards.

In addition to the replicas of the five decks, which were republished by the INCM using the original designs, also on display at the exhibition are some of the physical elements that were used for their original production, such as the xylographic block, the chalcographic plates and their respective stamp test sheets, as well as two original decks: a Spanish style deck by Lourenço Solésio, manufactured at the end of the 18th century, and a deck of cards for magic tricks manufactured during the first quarter of the 19th century, both produced at the Real Fábrica in Lisbon.

In order to put the production activity of playing cards into context, a model of the old Imprensa Régia (Regal Press) building, created in 1768 by the Marquis of Pombal, is also on display. The Real Fábrica de Cartas de Jogar was annexed to this building by a Charter on the 31st of July, 1769.

The exhibition may be visited until the end of the year on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

15th of November 2011