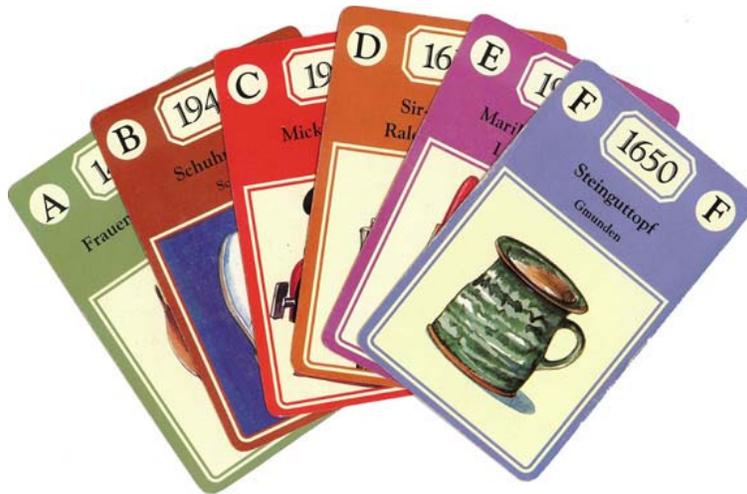


John Pack

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John Pack, Art Collector Extraordinaire:

As Phil would say, "Today is Tomorrow."

The semi-finals of the 2018 Adel Verpflichtet/Hoity Toity PBEM tournament are in the final leg! One has finished. You can see all the results and games at: http://www.gameaholics.com/adv_tournament.htm. Kevin won early recognition by having all four of this thieves in jail before either of his semis had reach the first corner. Jacob Griffith finds himself in the same situation in the final stretch.

Here's the final report on the Preliminaries (which was delayed because I wanted to include the fun banter):

The preliminaries were hotly contested. 18 points was not a guarantee to

advance when, typically, one or two players with 17 have made it to the semi-finals every year. Some special accomplishments: 1) Sharee Pack won a game with zero cards left in her hand. Thomas Browne, Kevin Wojtaszczyk, Martin Burgdorf, Aurora Pack, and Sharee Pack also won games with no set (but a few cards) remaining. 2) No one made it to the final space, but Allan Jiang made it to the 12th space (of 13). Allan also got more spaces past the finish line than anyone one else with 24 and accumulated final sets totaling 54 cards (all of which were connected). Allan held the A-1468 in three of those games and the D-1616 and A-1775 in the other two. 3) On the other hand, 7 players who didn't make the semi-finals finished with more spaces than John Pack (just 8). John also qualified with the smallest sets (18 total cards in five games out of 23 cards held) and never even got a whiff of the A-1468. Only two players had smaller total sets (Aurora Pack with 8 cards and Sharee Pack with 7 cards in five sets). Guess we know which family likes to sprint!

The average player finished with 1.6 spaces per game -- but over 50% finished each game with zero dining table spaces. The average player finished with a set of 6.5 cards but 7.2 cards in hand. Over five games, the average player had sets with 32.3 cards. The mean oldest card was D-1748, but over all five games the majority managed to hold the D-1616 or A-1468 at least once.

Fun game banter --

Chris: "Could be a long game." (After everyone opened in the castle.)

John: "Or really short if we have five sprinters..."

Pete: "Well, it doesn't look like a group of sprinters from the first turn."

Chris: "That IS my sprint."

Chris: "Several of you keep advancing your pieces around the track. Is that important?"

Sean: "It's overrated."

John: "Ka-ching. The bandits score a major haul!"

Chris: "6 items stolen on one turn - the maximum possible! I don't remember seeing that before." (Game #4-4)

Chris: "Second game this round I've played with 6 items stolen in one round."

(Game #1-5)

Greg: "Turns out that, even if there had been two more thieves, Haimke still would have had the best exhibit! Congrats and well-played."

Chris: "Ken - given your spectacularly incompetent thieves, I don't know if that makes me feel better or worse that you used to be the BPA Treasurer. :)"

Andrew: "Fun?!?!?!?!? No one told me this was about fun! (disassembles the Pete and Greg voodoo dolls he spent hours creating)" (At game-start)

Greg: "Ah ha! Last August I told you I felt a sharp pain on my scalp. You said it was probably nothing!"

John: "Greg, is that pain in your scalp back? Andrew's been playing with his dolls again. :-)" (At game-end)

Greg: "If Andrew had shown a collection without a 'D', I would have been in like fourth place. I was so lucky!"

Steve: "I have never seen 4 thieves and an exhibit before."

Sharee: "I know -- crazy!"

Pete: "My motto is 'I want to be alone.'"

Tim: "Even the blind squirrel finds a nut every now and again . . ." (Alone in the castle)

John: "Come down and test drive the 2019 Iron Moss today -- it goes from smallest set to tied with the largest in four seconds! Lease one today for just \$699/month!"

Greg: "I was wearing the shoes, hat and glasses! The only thing missing was the loincloth!"

Pete: "That was a good haul. I don't even mind getting caught."

Greg: "The Lippenstift: she is mine! It's really my color, don't you think?"

John: "Very nice color on you! I won't let my wife see what you paid though, or she'll ask for a bigger cosmetics budget!"

Greg: "Holy crap, John, I thought I got mine for a steal!"

John: "I upgraded to Steal 2.0."

Kevin 1.0: 'Must be free-giveaway night! Ouch'

Kevin 2.0: "No thieves would want the garage sale items I peddle! LOL"

With only 2 D's in the game (both in Kevin's hand) until the last three turns, thieves and the conversation went nuts in [Game #3-5](#). Too many good comments to list them all here!

I hope to see many of you at the WBC in two weeks. If you're there, may your check be large, your art collections be inspiring, your thieves light-fingered (except you, Kevin and Jacob), and your detectives supplied with donuts!

Thank you for playing, John!

John



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