

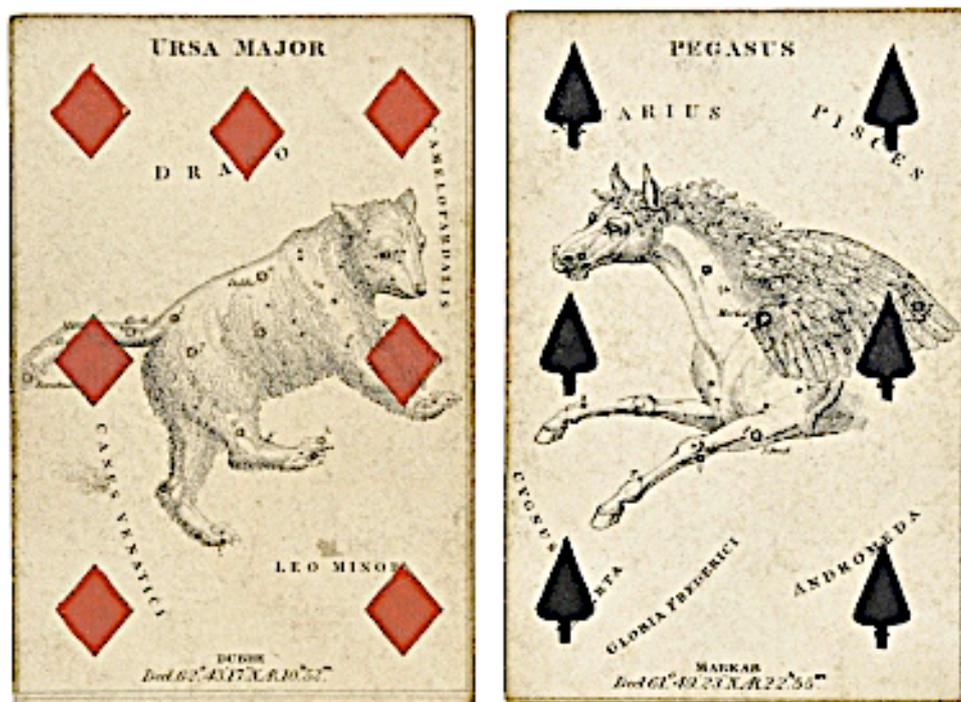
By 1828 Charles Hodges had published two sets of astronomical cards, 64 x 97 mm. They were similar to his geographical ones (see 1827), but with steel engravings of charts of constellations and signs of the zodiac (8/10). One was a celestial atlas of forty cards with a booklet: *A Brief explanation of the constellations represented by the New astronomical cards*. This was a companion set to his world atlas, with a similar stylish slip-case and these cards are the most desirable ones for the atlas/map collector:

*Autumnus**; *Lyra*; *Aquila*; *Antinous**; *Indus**; *Argo Navis*; *Hercules*; *Sagittarius*; *Scorpio*; *Libra*. (Clubs/Autumn, 1/10).

*Aestas**; *Lepus**; *Canis Major*; *Centaurus*; *Orion*; *Boötes*; *Ursa Major*; *Cancer*; *Leo*; *Virgo*. (Diamonds/Summer, 1/10).

*Ver**; *Lynx**; *Camelopardalis**; *Monoceros*; *Auriga*; *Cassiopeia*; *Perseus*; *Gemini*; *Taurus*; *Aries*. (Hearts/Spring, 1/10).

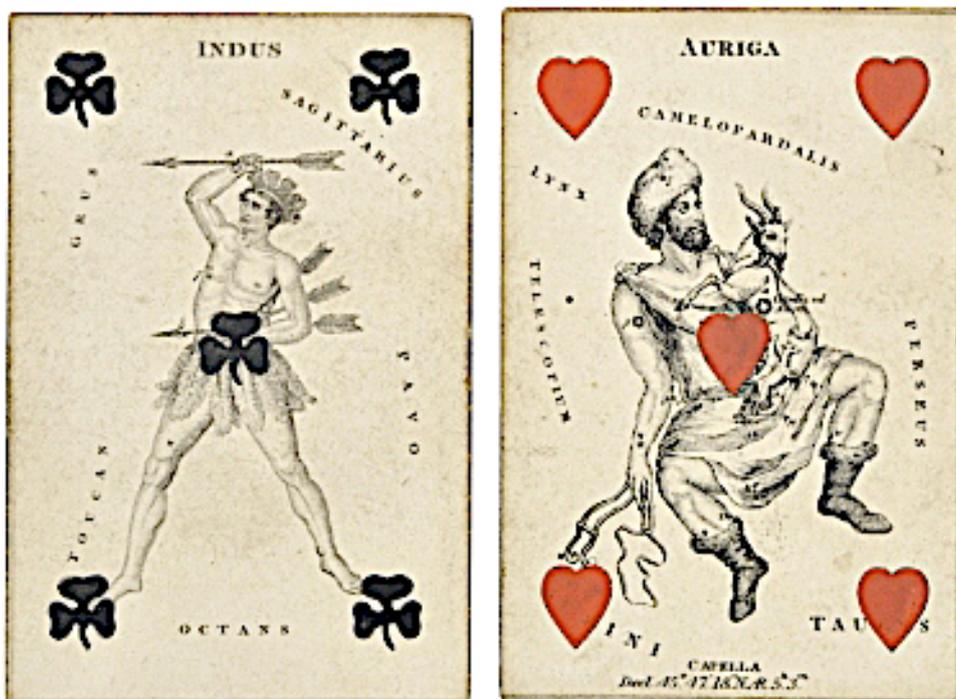
*Hiems**; *Vulpecola et Anser**; *Cygnus*; *Andromeda*; *Cepheus*; *Pegasus*; *Cetus*; *Aquarius*; *Pisces*; *Capricornus*. (Spades/Winter, 1/10).



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The other was a deck of fifty-two playing cards with stencilled suit marks, court cards featuring classical deities and a duty ace of spades with the imprint of the printer, Stopforth & Son. Whereas the maps of the geographical series usually have outline hand-colour, these astronomical charts are found both uncoloured and in full hand-colour. A modern reproduction pack in full colour has been issued by Piatnik of Vienna.

Thirty of these cards subsequently had their declinations added at the foot for their inclusion in a completely different set, which was a game Hodges called *Astrophilogeon* (see 1827). The ten of them* which were not included in this game lack the declinations at the foot, in the later Rock Brothers' issue (see 5 of clubs below).



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William Frederick Rock (1802-1890) and his brother Henry started their firm in 1833 at 8 Queen Street and about 1838 they moved to 11 Walbrook. They were later joined by their younger brother Richard, then becoming Rock and Co. It is likely that the brothers acquired Hodges' stock of cards and printed sheets, and then reissued them, because some of their maps are known printed on paper with a J. Whatman 1827 watermark and no latitude/longitude at the foot (see 1827). However, Stopforth & Son ceased trading at their premises at 24 Little Newport Street by 1837 and it may well be that the Rock Brothers acquired the plates and reprinted them.

New astronomical cards. London, Charles Hodges, 1828.

New astronomical cards. London, Charles Hodges, 1828.

Astrophilogeon: a game of science and amusement. London, Charles Hodges, 1828.

Court game of astronomy. London, William F. & Henry Rock, (1839).

Court game of astrophilogeon. London, William F. & Henry Rock, (1839).

