



c. 1400

### Book Description

5–2. Playing cards, part of an uncut sheet of woodblock prints, c. 1400. The flat, stylized design conventions of playing cards have changed little in over five hundred years. Visual signs to designate the suits began as the four classes of medieval society. Hearts signified the clergy; spades (derived from the Italian spada [sword]) stood for the nobility; the leaflike club represented the peasantry; and diamonds denoted the burghers.

### My Description

I picked the picture of old playing cards because it interests me how it was made with woodblocks. I could tell immediately from looking at it what it was. The picture is pretty with lots of details. It shows that people have always liked playing cards, and not much has changed since then. It's like a reminder that some things stay the same, even as time goes by.