

Euchre Card Meanings: Piquet II

according to Felix Fontaine

The Piquet deck and the Euchre deck are one and the same deck, but there is a variance of opinion about each card's significance in a card reading. Below are Felix Fontaine's interpretations of the various cards' meanings, as outlined in his 1862 book *Felix Fontaine's Golden Wheel Fortune Teller and Dream Book* by the publishers Dick & Fitzgerald of New York.

SPADES

Ace – Disagreeable tidings. Perhaps news of a death.

Seven – Dangerous illness, or something very unpleasant.

Eight – Sorrow; vexation.

Nine – Quarrels, law-suits, angry words, blows.

Ten – Non-fulfillment of a wish; disappointment of a cherished hope; unforeseen accidents.

CLUBS

Ace – a present or gift; a testimonial of honor and distinction; possible fame.

Seven – An inheritance; a gain; a profit.

Eight – Prosperity, wealth, or success in business.

Nine – Proposals of marriage.

Ten – Good fortune in games of chance, in lottery speculations, or in finding a treasure.

DIAMONDS

Ace – A letter, a message, or news – whether good or bad is determined by the nearest cards to it.

Seven – Travels; a campaign.

Eight – A ball, a large party, company.

Nine – Illness. If a Knave (Jack) lies to the right of it, one will soon be asked to be a godparent.

Ten – A joyful meeting – a long-lost friend returned.

HEARTS

Ace – A quiet domestic life, one of happy tranquility.

Seven – Love; or the process of falling in love.

Eight – A surprise.

Nine – A betrothal.

Ten – A wedding.

THE COURT CARDS

As Fontaine considers the proper way to read the Piquet/Euchre deck is in a Grand-Tableau-like format, the Court Cards will derive their significance from the cards around them, but as with traditional Piquet, the Court Cards represent people in the inquirer's environment. The first key to these relationships is the First Card in the reading. The First Card in the reading is always about the inquirer, and those are to be interpreted as follows:

FIRST CARD PERSONALITY-TYPE INDICATORS

If the first card is:

- ❖ **A Spade** – then the inquirer is choleric, passionate and of a violent temperament.
- ❖ **A Club** – then the inquirer is of a sanguine, cheerful, mirthful, and witty temperament.
- ❖ **A Diamond** – then the inquirer is of a phlegmatic practical and unexcitable temperament.
- ❖ **A Heart** – then the inquirer is of a melancholic, sentimental, poetical, & talented nature.

- ❖ If the inquirer is Female, then the Queen of whatever suit of card she chose as the First Card in the reading is taken to represent herself. Her father or uncle will be the King of that same suit. Her beau, sweetheart, suitor, or possibly spouse will be the Jack/Knave of that same suit.

- ❖ If the inquirer is Male, then the Jack of whatever suit of card he chose as the First Card will represent himself. The King of that same suit will be his father or uncle (or possibly hers). The Queen of that same suit is taken to represent his lover or intended future spouse.

- ❖ The Court Cards of the other same-color suit are held to represent the inquirer's friends or relations.

- ❖ The Court Cards of the opposite color suits represent all others, whether co-workers, employers, neighbors, enemies or strangers.

OCCUPATIONS BY THE VARIOUS SUITS

From the cards which lie to the right of, the left of, or below a Court Card, we can surmise further general information about the person so-represented, including their occupation. To wit:

- ❖ **Spade** – a student, possibly a clergyman.
- ❖ **Club** – a lawyer, jurist, or someone who works in a legal/court setting.
- ❖ **Diamond** – A mechanic, a merchant, or a person who has chosen for himself some practical career.
- ❖ **Heart** – A capitalist, a genius who devotes him or herself to some favorite pursuit, or someone in the military.

Editorial Note: Something else you might want to keep in mind is that in medieval society, the

Spades – represented the aristocracy; those in positions of power

Hearts – represented the clergy, and by extension, all those in the ‘helping’ professions

Diamonds – represented administrators and merchants, business people and professionals

Clubs – represented the peasants, and all occupations involving the earth, hard work, or creative occupations.