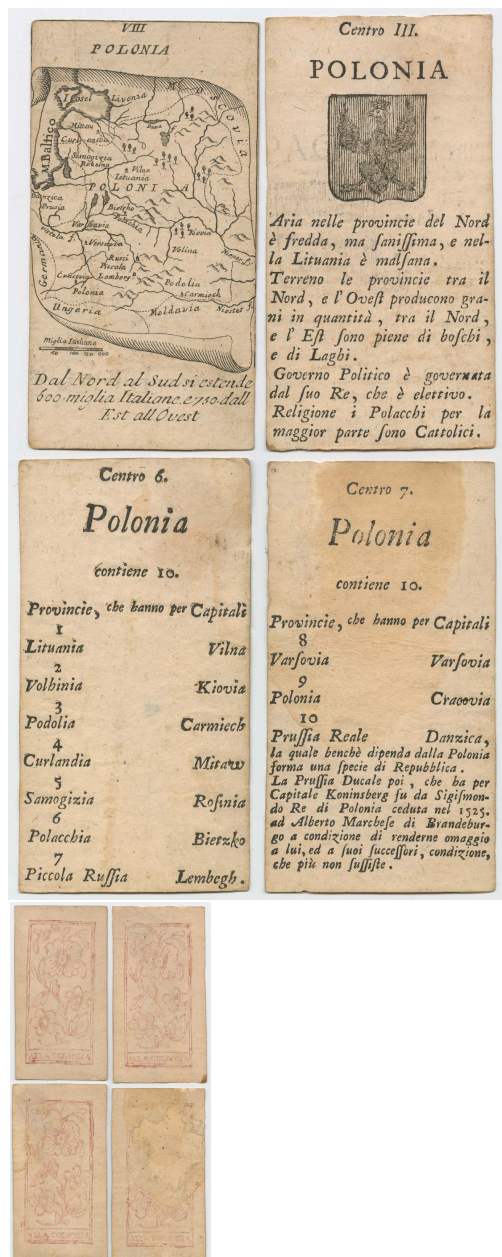




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FOUR SCARCE ITALIAN PLAYING CARDS DEPICTING POLAND

£850.00

VIII Polonia. [&] Centro III. Polonia. [&] Centro 6. Polonia. [&] Centro 7. Polonia contiene 10.

Cartographer Anonymous.

Date 1790

Stock #: 24241

Publication: Bologna: Tipografia de' Franceschi alla Colomba?, c.1790. Four playing cards, one engraved, one woodcut and letterpress and two letterpress, each sheet 115 x 60mm, with red woodcut design on reverse.

Condition: Slightly trimmed, as issued; 'Centro 7' with stain and damage to woodcut reverse.

DESCRIPTION:

Three playing cards representing Poland, including a miniature map of the country on a tromp l'oeil scroll, a description with a woodblock armorial and two with lists of regional capital cities.

They are from a 78-card geographical game pack which was played with the same rules as tarocchi (tarot). The map is one of the 21 map trump cards; the three others are from the suit 'Central' (the other suits being 'North' & 'South' Europe & 'Islands'), the card with the armorial being a court card.



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The woodcut pattern on the back of the card is a red flower design with the address 'Alla Colomba' (At the Dove). This was the address of Tipografia de' Franceschi in Bologna from the 1790s until at least 1860.