

<http://trionfi.com/0/c/>

At another place we argue, that the Trionfi deck after 1440 had a 5x14-structure (or perhaps a 5x16-structure), before they arrived near to the later form with 4x14 number and court cards and 22 special cards (21 trumps and a Fool).

The riddle is, what was before 1440? And with that problem we've to find an answer to the question: What are Imperatori cards? Did they have a relation to the game of Karnöffel? Were they a special type of Trionfi deck? Did they've special motifs like Trionfi cards? And if - which were these special motifs? And last not least: Were there a similarity of the Imperatori decks to the game of chess?

Of course all our suggestions to this theme "Imperatori" are highly speculative. There is simply the problem, that there are not much documents.

Konzil von Konstanz 5. Nov. 1414 - 22. April 1418

Before 1420: The council of Constance might have refreshed the Italian interest in playing cards.

1420 - 1429: Moderate playing card laws by Filippo Maria Visconti in the region of Milan. Less moderate prohibitions in and around Florence.

1422: First note of playing cards at the court in Ferrara, which later becomes the major source for Trionfi documents.

1423: San Bernardino preaches against card playing. From this source we know, that the 4x14-deck structure exists.

1423: Parisina imports 8 Imperatori cards from Florence.

1424/1425 (?): Latest date for the Michelino deck.

1425: Parisina is beheaded. Playing card notes in Ferrara take a pause.

1425: Trionfo in Milano for Filippo Maria Visconti.

1426: The game Karnöffel is mentioned in Nördlingen, southern Germany.

1427 - 1431: The oldest still existing German luxury cards.

1439: It seems, that in the year of the Council of Florence the Italian interests in Trionfo festivities is raised.

Still existing decks, which are suspected to be produced before 1440 (none of these datings are secure, more or less a production before 1440 is in each case unlikely):