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The Birth And Rising Popularity Of Trading Card Games

By Joe Goertz

Just about fifteen years ago trading card games hit the world and ever since it has remained on top

with many of the younger generation people in this world. Since their invention, trading card games have swept across the world, creating fans at every turn. The diversity of the games is the biggest draw, bringing in throngs of people to their ranks every year. Clubs and tournaments have sprung up and draw thousands through the doors with the promise of a long and grueling match.

The forerunner of this phenomenon is the ever popular Magic the Gathering. Based largely on the Dungeons and Dragons role playing game, Magic was a sure fire hit for the young people of the world. Combing all they loved about D and D, but in a much easier to use and play format, Magic worked its magic with the masses and became an overnight success. People flocked to the stores to pick up the cards as they were brought out. Gaggles of teens grouped together to play the game and stores that dealt with nothing more than Magic cards started to open to hungry consumers. The cards themselves are sold like baseball cards, in small packs or huge sets. Everyone is interested in building their deck to the maximum power.

Trading card games are still very popular to this day. Magic still remains a force in the market and enjoys the run of the land. They come out with a new set of cards each year that continue to go up in price over time. Huge collections have been amassed, some of which have values that exceed any other card game currently known.

The basic premise of a trading card game is simple. The cards are made up of character cards, objects and powers. Each person selects the deck they will play with and the cards are shuffled at random before play begins. The rest of the game is played similar to may other card games, where cards are laid out and the winner is stronger. The rounds continue until one or the other has been defeated. The strategy is based solely on the cards that each player has in a deck. For the most part the players depend on the strength of individual cards in the deck to become the winner, but in the end there is a lot of luck that comes into play. Because the cards are drawn at random no player knows what will come next to keep it all very fair.

Since the beginning which is commonly attributed to Magic, more and more companies have joined the ranks. The ever popular Pokemon was instantly famous with the even younger groups. Less violent than Magic, Pokemon seemed to appeal to the more family friendly crowd. Some of the cards became very rare in the early goings but can now be had for a few dollars or less. This is the case with a lot of the different trading card games as well. Many of them started out with a lot of popularity and because of some clever manufacturing, a lot of rare cards. This causes the price for the whole game to go up and therefore allows the game to enjoy a thriving secondary market as a whole.

Read more from Joe Goertz at:

<http://www.games-articles.com>

The History Of Pai Gow

By Adel Awwad

Tracing its roots to ancient Chinese gaming, Pai Gow is literally translated as "make nine". Pai Gow is a Chinese game, believed to be thousands of years old, and played with Chinese domino tile sets. The beauty of Pai Gow has attracted the curiosity of gaming audiences in cities such as Nevada and California.

In ancient Chinese, the translation of p'ai is a term designated both for cards and dominoes. The reason for the use on both objects is that there is no main difference between dominoes and cards in China. During the early Chinese dynasties, dominoes are precisely used as cards. Dominoes are packed and treated the same way as cards.

Prior to the birth of Pai Gow, there were already two old Chinese gambling games that may have been the reason for the development of Pai Gow. They are yu-p'u and yeh-tza. Some players consider the two games as card games. There are others, however, who consider that the game of yu-p'u to be similar to a modern poker dice or something similar to it. Only the game of yeh-tza might be considered as a card game since it literally means leaves. Many authors believe that the possibility of using leaves as cards is very apparent.

The movement of time and the availability of new materials paved the way for the formation Ku P'ai, which curiously resembles a game using dominoes. It is further believed that yu-p'u, the ancient form of gambling considered as poker dice game, is the root of Chinese domino games. A domino, after all, is nothing but a pair of dice placed side by side. Chinese dominoes, which could be traced from the writings during Song Dynasty (1120 AD), have developed since then. They are used in several tile-based games, namely, Pai Gow, Tien Gow, Gwat Pai, Che Deng, Tiu U, Kap Tai Shap.

Pai Gow today is played very similar to many existing card games. The only main difference is that domino tiles are used instead of cards. The similarities to card games such as poker could make Pai Gow something to be enjoyed as a recreational card game. There is no doubt about it; those who begin to learn Pai Gow often end up becoming more than enthusiastic about the game. After all, it only takes a very short time to realize the beauty and ease in playing this popular Chinese game.

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The popularity of Pai Gow has ushered into the development of Pai Gow Poker, an American version of the popular Chinese Pai Gow. It is a game played using cards, instead of the traditional dominoes, and is growing in popularity in various casinos as a source of amusement and fun.

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