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## The History Of Caribbean Stud Poker

By Adel Awwad

Caribbean Stud Poker is a variant of poker, a card game with a long and mysterious history. The

word `poker' has a tangled history all of its own; it comes from the French word `poque', which itself is a variant on the German word `pochen', which simply means "to knock".

Nobody really knows how or where poker began; some say that its origins lie in a 16th century Persian card game, whilst others believe that it originated in Europe at the turn of the 19th century. One thing we can be sure of is that poker was brought to North America by French explorers, and that it was originally played in Louisiana. Many accounts name New Orleans of 1830 as the place and time where modern-day poker was first played. After being initially established, the game quickly spread from Louisiana and soon became a favorite in the West.

While we don't know who specifically invented Caribbean Stud Poker, the tropical version of the game, we do know that it originated on the island of Aruba. This popular tourist destination is just off the coast of Venezuela, and boasts a population of only 100,000. Caribbean Stud Poker is based on the rules of five-card stud poker, with the major difference being that players bet against the house, rather than other players.

Caribbean Stud Poker was initially played in the Holiday Inn Hotel & Casino in 1988, where the turquoise ocean and beaches of white sand provided a fitting motive for its exotic name. Now known as the Excelsior Casino, this location is still widely popular with tourists and forms the basis of a thriving community. It has recently been the focus of attention once more, with the World Poker Tour being held there in September 2005. In the late 1980s, Caribbean Stud Poker spread throughout the islands of the Caribbean, and it was also offered in casinos on cruise ships in the area. Over the next few years it received an ever-growing reputation until, inevitably, it arrived in Las Vegas in 1992.

The gambling gurus in Nevada realized that the game wasn't quite rewarding enough to the player, so they added a progressive jackpot as a sweetener. Their plan worked, and the popularity of the game skyrocketed throughout North America and Europe. Nowadays, it's hard to find a casino in the world that doesn't offer Caribbean Stud Poker, and with the arrival of Internet gambling, everybody has a chance to play.

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### **The History Of Seven Card Stud Poker**

**By Adel Awwad**

As it is with most popular card games, the origins of Poker and the history of 7 Card Stud Poker are shrouded in mystery. No one is entirely sure how or where the game began. Further, when considering the history of 7 Card Stud Poker, you should first know how Poker is thought to have come about.

There are many theories about the history of Poker and the history of 7 Card Stud Poker. The most commonly held belief is the name Poker came from the French card game Poque (from the German word pochen, which means "to knock"). However, the game itself more closely resembles a Persian game called Nas, which was played with a five-suit deck. Likely the game of Poker as we know it resulted from some combination of Poque and as Nas. The concept of bluffing in Poker came from still another source: the English game brag (first spelled Bragg), which is very similar to Poker but played using only three cards.

The first recorded instance of Poker in the United States was an 1829 game in New Orleans, played with a 20-card deck consisting of all cards with values of 10 and higher (four tens, four jacks, four queens, four kings and four aces). The game was not named, but the object was to bet on whose five-card hand contained the highest cards. This game soon spread to Mississippi riverboats, where con artists used a 52-card variant to bilk unwary travelers and claim their "pokes," or gambling money stashes. Author Jonathan H. Green described this "cheating card game" in one of his books, and some give Green credit for coining the final term of "Poker."

Stud Poker emerged during the American Civil War. Some attribute the invention of stud, or stud-horse as it was sometimes called, to cowboys around Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. 5 Card Stud was the first version played, appearing in The American Hoyle as an "official" Poker variant in 1864. Still, draw Poker was the favored variation until someone—no one is certain exactly whom—introduced 7 Card Stud in the early 20th century. The game remained the most popular form of professional and casino Poker until the 1980's, when a slight twist on 7 Card Stud called Texas Hold `Em overtook the traditional version to become the favorite among gamblers and casual players alike.

The majority of Poker tournaments are based on core games of 7 Card Stud or variations of it. Binions Casino, the founder of the largest professional Poker tournament in existence—the World Series of Poker—began a Poker Hall of Fame to commemorate the greatest Poker players in history. Among them are "Wild Bill" Hickock, who was shot and killed during a Poker game holding a two-pair hand of

## The History Of Caribbean Stud Poker

aces over eights (which is still known as a "dead man's hand" among gamblers); and "Red" Hodges, considered the greatest 7 Card Stud Poker player to have ever lived. 7 Card Stud is still an immensely popular game in Vegas, home games and Internet casinos.

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