

Gipsy Cards

The Austro-Hungarian Gipsy cards are very different from all of the other classic card systems. A Gipsy card Spread is read like a soap-opera episode, with each card contributing to the narrative. Good storytellers will therefore have an advantage when reading with these cards.

Being a somewhat open system, the official decks have been expanded over the years with new cards. The standard version is a 36 card deck known as the "Zigeuner" version. This version superceded an older, short lived, 32 card deck known as the "Biedermeier" version. The four new cards added to the Zigeuner deck were: *Loss, Love, Some money, and Visit.*

In the nineteen-thirties, the Zigeuner deck was expanded to a 52 card deck called the "Art Deco" version. While not as popular as the Zigeuner deck, it none the less has quite a large following.

The Gipsy cards are unnumbered (although some decks might include a small reference number to aid lookup in the particular decks little white book), and the graphics consist of popular allegorical and evocative images. Labels on the cards are traditionally in several European languages, including English.

Gipsy cards are read as a story in relation to each other, with the cards always turned upright. The card images and keywords are only intended as mnemonic aids to assist the reader when crafting the saga.