Great Finds!

Sometimes a collector finds something, and seeing it, he cannot believe it still exists!

Article and game photos by Fred Horn

That was just what happened when a friend of mine offered me a few games he had found as extras in a box of books (his passion) he had bought at a house clearance sale in June 2017.

Although the games were old, they weren’t overly interesting until he picked up two small envelopes. They had the same picture in front showing a horse race in progress.

“There isn’t a game in them, only a couple of leaflets with the same picture as shown on the envelope. Oh, and a piece of cardboard and a little rope.” He continued, “and you get them for free when you buy the other things.”

Who was I not to help a friend out, especially when something was offered so cheap?

Back at home the envelopes proved to be the intriguing part of the purchase. Looking closer I saw some instructions on what to do. They were printed on the envelope as well. Although my French is not the best, I could decipher the idea of the game.

**LA COURSE DANS LE PORTEFEUILLE**

*(THE RACE IN THE WALLET)*

New

Game of Pleasantry and Bet for the Young and Old

The Grand Prix
*(All sports in a pocket)*

1. Form a square with the cardboard band
2. Place a sheet upon the square
3. Set the small cord on fire
4. Bring the fire to the central point where the lines separate
5. Wait for the ignition of the (end) fuse to announce the winner to the players.

The game is played by setting the starting line on fire. When you look at the leaflet’s reverse side you’ll notice four ‘tracks’ which lead the fire along to an end spot where the fire is finally put out.

So the ‘horses’ don’t really run—you can bet on a ‘running’ fire! But it only works one time, because the ‘race’ ends not only with a win but also with a burned leaflet!

Really amazing that such a game has survived through all these years!