

The 1960s through the 1980s saw a large number of creative and original jokers issue from China in otherwise very low budget packs of cards aimed squarely at the family market, as distinct from collectors, magicians, casinos or other professionals. These cards frequently contain subtle humour, often quite self deprecating.



101 Butterfly



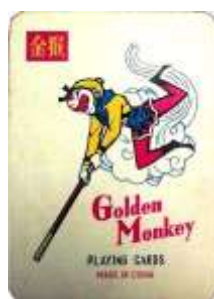
202 Butterfly



201 Swan



300 Giraffe



Golden Monkey



565 Tiger Brand



702 Squirrel



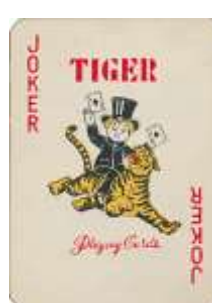
Flying Horse



1066 Whitecross (V1)



1066 Whitecross (V2)



2004 Tiger



6806 Golden Phoenix



7307 Crane



656 Deer



Elephant



Flower

Chinese Jokers – part 2



Flying Wheel



3005 Lion



3054 Lion



Little Flowers



201 Circus Poker Piper



Post



737 Tun Huang



600 Giraffe



767



929



8006

As times moves progresses we see more basic and clown-based designs coming from China. Later still, Chinese playing card manufacturers start to adopt a peculiar “R” in the joker legend with a long foot to the letter or using a peculiar interlocking letter scheme for the legend “joker”, or a highlighted, sometimes also coloured, ‘J’ while the remainder of the joker legend remains in plain print.

Frequently these clowns are quite juvenile in their appearance, contrasting with the more severe and sometime macabre designs of Western cards aimed at an older audience.

In the following selection, where possible I have included the name of the manufacturer, failing that the brand of the card. Some designs occur in a range of anonymous brands, and these are marked as ‘generic’. Designs I have found in only one unbranded or subcontracted pack with no indication of the card maker I have marked as ‘anonymous’.

Chinese Jokers – part 2



Anonymous



Unknown



Houba



Generic



Generic



Generic



Generic



555 (V1)



555 (V2)



Generic



AAA Poker



SP



Generic

Chinese Jokers – part 2



Tian Huang



Generic



939



Generic



Generic



Generic



Generic



Generic



Generic



Generic



Anonymous



Anonymous



Generic



Generic

Chinese Jokers – part 2



988



9718 Moon and Stars



Generic



Generic



M014



Unknown



Anonymous



Anonymous



Anonymous



AGC



Xiao Ling Tong