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*The Art of Gambling* **EUROPEAN CASINOS**



The Card Players and Girl, 1892  
 Paul Cézanne (1839-1906)  
 Oil on canvas  
 52,75 " x 71,50 "

Paul Cézanne is often referred to as the "Father of Modern Painting". Though his family did not encourage his early efforts as an artist, his father, a banker, provided him with an excellent classical education and financial freedom. While attending the Atelier Suisse in Paris, Cézanne befriended many budding Impressionist painters, but his initial experiences with the Impressionist style were not successful. In fact, his close friend Emile Zola criticized Cézanne's early work in his novel *L'Oeuvre*, in which he characterized him as an unsuccessful artist. Cézanne's dissatisfaction with the Impressionists led him to explore a new painting technique, in which he reduced natural objects to geometrical patterns, and his style is generally believed to have influenced the development of the Cubist movement.

Card games survive through the ages by being passed down from generation to generation. Here a young girl learns rules and strategy by watching her elders play. The game is indeterminate. There is a specific three-player version of the French *piquet* known as *piquet normand*; however, this could be any one of many three-handed games that were played in France around the turn of the century.

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