



*We will surprise you*  
August 2006

Casino Torrequibrada will present their new leisure facilities in August 2006; by this time the second phase of the redecoration works will be finished, featuring a New Slot Machine Room and a Games Room with an investment cost of 5 million euros. For this reason Casino Torrequibrada, located in Benalmádena Costa, have started a new advertising campaign to show their leisure centre in the Costa del Sol.



**CASINO**  
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*The Art of Gambling*



The Card Players, 1508  
Lucas van Leyden  
Oil on panel  
21 x 60, 95 cms

A Flemish painter who was trained by his father was Lucas van Leyden. Although he was plagued by ill health most of his life, he enjoyed great popularity and was an accomplished artist by the tender age of 9, when he issued his first successful engraving.

Van Leyden is credited with introducing significant innovations in Flemish genre painting. His use of half-length figures, as is seen in "The Card Players," increased the size and visibility of his subjects relative to the picture field. His themes rendered his scenes free of all moral connotations, which was unusual for that historical period. Van Leyden is respected as one of the most original artists in Northern Europe during his time.

Despite looking in every way like a modern-day poker game played with three cards, none of card history's likely ancestral candidates -e.g., post and pair, brag, primero-match up with Van Leyden's 500-year-old gambling scene. There are three possibilities. First, this is an unknown variation of a known game. Second, van Leyden's brush captured something that writers' pens haven't. Third and most likely, the artist ignored details that would have identified the game. Regardless of the answer, one thing is clear: The "kibitzing" among players and spectators prevalent at poker gatherings today was also a part of gambling half a millennium ago.

The painting is currently at National Gallery of Art, Washington (U.S.A)

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