

## Hanafuda Cards

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As mentioned in the first pages, the *hanafuda*, literally "flower cards", are a variant of a very old Portuguese game. The original game was modified by the Japanese attempting to find a loophole in the cards ban imposed by the Shogun. Although the principle remained roughly the same, the Japanese slightly changed the organisation of cards and the illustrations, in order to make them look more "local".

Composed of 48 cards distributed in 4 suits of 12 cards (representing the twelve months of the year and the four seasons), *hanafuda* is a game of chance in which one has to build the best combinations.

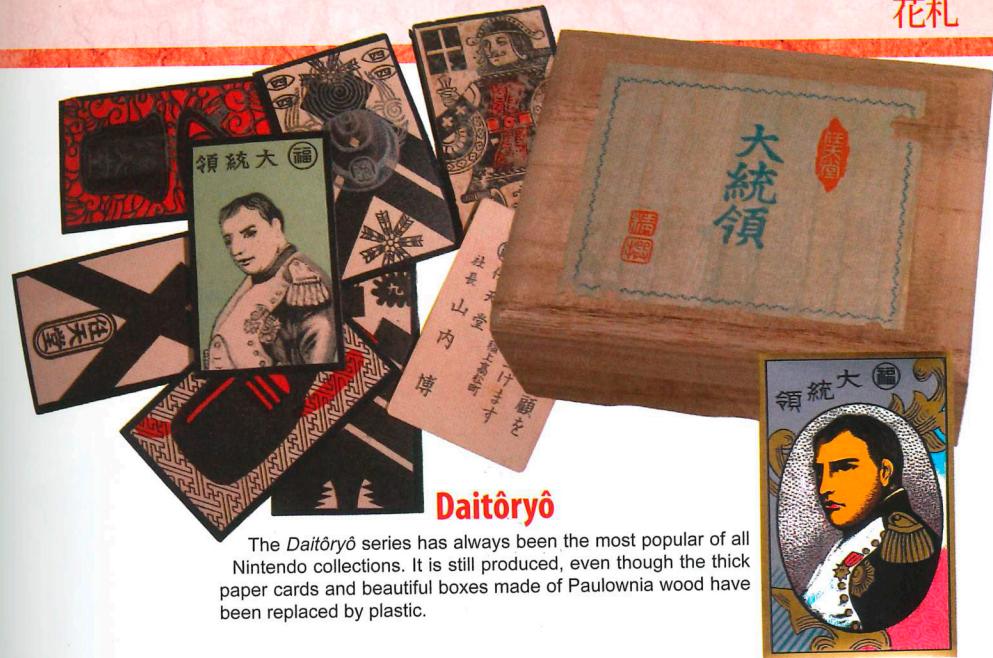
Different playing styles are possible according to the number of players.

*Koikoi* is a game with two players, whereas *Hana Awasé* is usually played by more than two.

With time and in differing local cultures, an impressive varieties of "regional" *hanafuda* (called Chihō Fuda) developed, such as *Hachi Hachi Hana*, *Echigo Hana*, *Kohana*, *Oichobaku*, etc. Among the most striking variants was the famous *Kabufuda*, mainly used in the Kyōto area, which are considered by specialists as being directly inspired from western "trumps". They were also adapted in the XVII century to avoid the ban from the Shogun.



Iron cast and wooden board used to print Nintendo hanafuda at the end of XIX century.



### Daitōryō

The *Daitōryō* series has always been the most popular of all Nintendo collections. It is still produced, even though the thick paper cards and beautiful boxes made of Paulownia wood have been replaced by plastic.



At the end of the Meiji era, gambling was taxed by the Emperor. A revenue stamp on packs proved that taxes had been paid.



### Kōsai no Tomo



Meaning literally «friend of sociability», this *Kōsai no Tomo* comes in a luxurious case in which one can find a large number of hanafuda variants and board games with counters. Usually very expensive and reserved for the wealthiest families, they were produced until the 1960's.