

# Drueke Company

Revised

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Research notes:      Ludington Daily News  
                              Grand Rapids Press  
                              Government Records  
                              The 5 digit zip code began 7-1-1963  
                              Company archives (production numbers & years)

## DRUEKE Company 1914

<http://www.drueke.com/history.asp>

In the early 20th century, all chess sets sold in the United States were manufactured in Europe. With the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the supply of chess sets to the U.S. ceased.

Drueke is now known as the quality game manufacturer in the United States using nothing but the finest walnut, maple and aspen for its products. Our chess board is our oldest product now being manufactured with the cribbage board a close second. In addition, we are the only manufacturer today of a complete line of round wooden poker chip racks ranging from the 200 - 500 chip capacity. We have the most complete line of cribbage boards in the United States and possibly the world. Our line also includes action games, backgammon, dominos, checkers, game boxes, chess tables and wooden accessories.

1914 (c) - William F. Drueke (founder of The Drueke Company) started supplying Marshall Fields' store in Chicago with wooden chess sets and chess pieces. At that time, Grand Rapids was famous worldwide for its skilled wood turners, hand carvers and craftsman wood workers.

1941 - The Drueke Company settled at 601 Third Street, Grand Rapids, MI after moving its chess-producing factory three times.

1941 - Travel games such as chess sets and cribbage boards were shipped overseas to the servicemen in the armed forces during World War II.

Pre 1954 - The first plastic molds were made and our game parts were contracted out.

1954 - The Drueke Company purchased the first of three plastic injection-molding machines to manufacture plastic game parts. The plastic game parts we now offer such as our interlocking poker chips, chess sets and cribbage pegs are considered the standard by which all other plastic pieces are judged.

1990 - Drueke was purchased by The Carrom Company of Ludington, MI and all Drueke game manufacturing was moved to the Carrom production facility from Grand Rapids, MI.

### **Article Library - Article #3 by Bette L. Bemis**

“According to Joseph Petrus Wergin, who was one of the Founders of the ACC and its President for many years, the Tournament Long Board was developed by officials of the Masters Cribbage Classic for use in major tournaments. The original boards were stamped "Copyright 1979 by Joseph Petrus Wergin Inc." Eventually, Drueke and Sons took over the manufacture of these boards, and they continue to be manufactured to this day by the purchaser of the Drueke Co., which is the Carrom Company.”

**Cribbage Boards 1863-1998 Bette L Bemis Page 58**

**Wm. F. Drueke and Sons: Grand Rapids, Michigan: 1914-present**

William F Drueke established the Drueke Company in 1914, and it passed thru three generations before being sold to the Carron Company in 1992. Drueke manufactured a diversified product line of games and game pieces, and the first games ever manufactured by them were chess sets. During World War II, Drueke manufactured over one million cribbage boards for the men in service. After Carron purchased the company, the corporate offices were moved from Grand Rapids to Ludington, Michigan, but the well-known Drueke line of products are still sold under the name of Drueke. The model numbers for the cribbage boards that are still manufactured have been changed, however the name Drueke and the model number are no longer imprinted on the boards.

The Drueke trademark was a knight chess piece and could be found imprinted on there cribbage boxes. The oldest board boxes are black, while the newest ones are dark green. The older boards were usually made of solid walnut and were imprinted with the company name and model number of the board. In later years, a black and gold sticker with the knight chess piece trademark, the company name and the model number was placed on the boards for identification. Some board models, old and new, have the name Drueke as well as the model number incorporated into the design on the face of the board. Most of the boards manufactured today have no identifying marks on them.

Although there are some variations, the boards described below represent the most common characteristics of each model number identified. Boards that are still available are valued as current market pricing (cmp).

( ) 1	7.5" x 2.12"	\$15	
( ) 2	7.9" x 2.4"	\$15	
( ) 4	10" x 2.5"	\$25	
(1) 5	11" x 2.75"	\$25	Grooved or plain top.
(1) 6	7.5" x 2"	\$15	Folding.
( ) 6B	7.5" x 2"	\$15	Boxed with card storage.
(1) 7		\$30	Folding with spring hinges, black leather case, snap closure, and gold stenciling.
( ) 8 old	7.12" x 1.6"	\$30	Folding with leather back and flap closure.
( ) 8 new	7.12" x 1.6"	cmp	Plain center and stored in leather pouch .
(2) 9	11" x 2.75	\$20	Various center inlays.
(5) 10	11 x 2.75	\$20	Black stenciling.
( ) 10 SP	11" x 2.75	\$25	Like # 10 but with advertising down the center.
(1) 11	7.5" x 2.12"	cmp	Travel cribbage.
( ) 11X	15" x 2"	\$25	Continuous, original tournament board.
( ) 12	11.12" x 2.75"	\$30	Blackened hardwood.
(4) 14	9.5" x 2.25"	\$20-35	Plain or Drueke advertising box.
( ) 15-2	18.75" x 2.75"	cmp	Continuous, official tournament long board.
( ) 18	11" x 2.75"	\$20	Stenciled cross dividers.
( ) 23	11.25" x 3"	\$35	Yellow & black stenciled center design.
( ) 26	11.75" x 3.25"	\$35	Stenciled or inlayed.
( ) 27	12" x 3.75"	\$15	Grooved.
(1) 28	12" x 3.35"	\$25	Stenciled with black, blue, yellow, or green.
( ) 31	11.75" x 3.25"	\$25	3 player.

( ) 38	12.25"	\$50	Triangle.
( ) 39	12.6" x 1.25"	\$50	Stenciled triangle.
( ) 042	11.12" x 3.12"	\$40	Game box with card storage.
( ) 42	11.12" x 3.12"	\$40	Has card storage.
( ) 43-3	9.35" x 3.35"	\$35	Folding with clasp closure & card storage, 3 player.
( ) 43-2	11.75 x 3"	\$35	Side card storage.
( ) 44	9.75 x 3.35	\$35	Folding with card storage & snap closure, 3 player.
( ) 45	10" x 3.5"	\$50	Folding, 3 player.
( ) 46	10" x 3.5"	\$50	Folding, 3 player.
(1) 47	15.5" x 4.6"	cmp	Two inch pegs.
( ) 48	15.75" x 4.5"	\$35	Inlaid.
( ) 49	4.8" x 2"	\$25	Flat leather.
( ) 050	11.85" x 2.75"	\$40	Continuous with side card storage. (205?)
( ) 99X	11.25" x 2.75"	\$20	Center inlay.
( ) 105	11" x 2.5"	\$25	Stenciled.
( ) 105+	7.25" x 1.85"	\$35	Folding, cloth back, box of games.
(4) 114	9.35" x 2.25"	\$35	Black stenciling.
(1) 205	3.25" x 1.65"	cmp	Game box.
( ) 405	7.25" x 1.85"	\$30	Like # 105+ but box is leather.
( ) 515	15.5" x 4.6"	\$25	Like # 47 but made of walnut.
( ) 770	18" x 14"	\$175	Table with 3" pegs. 37" tall.
( ) 888		\$40	Four player cherry box with Side card storage.
( ) 957	15.75" x 4.75"	\$20	Continuous M-track and has two inch pegs.
( ) 957W	15.75" x 4.75"	cmp	Like # 957 but stenciled white.
( ) 1010	31" x 8"	cmp	Three inch pegs. Intended to hang on a wall.
( ) 1150	13.25" x 5.5"	cmp	Continuous Scoremaster.
( ) 1949	10.5" x 3.75"	\$30	Race Track Cribbage.
(2) 1950	14.5" x 6.5"	cmp	Continuous Cribbagemaster.
(1) 1951	7" x 4.25"	\$25	Coronet.
( ) 1957	16.75" x 4.5"	\$25	Continuous Clubmaster.
( ) 1962	15.5" x 7.12"	cmp	Continuous Four Track Cribbage, 4 player.
( ) 1977	17.5" x 8"	cmp	Continuous Club Cribbagemaster, 3 player
( ) 1988	19" x 9.25"	\$30	Continuous Club Cribbagemaster, 4 player.
( ) 2029	9.5" x 7"	\$25	Continuous "29" shaped, 3 player.
(5) 2050	12" x 3.25"	cmp	Continuous M-track.
( ) 4444		\$30	Continuous Four Square Cribbage, 4 player.
( ) 5005	9.25" x 1.75"	\$50	Game kit.