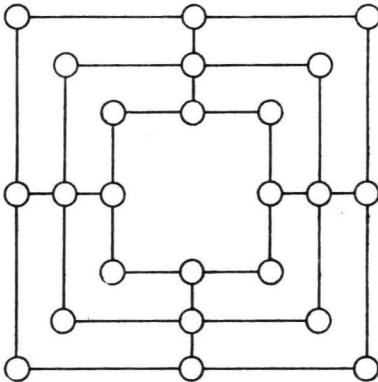




Catalog No. 6001

NINE MEN'S MORRIS



This game has been found in an old Roman tile and on a step of the Acropolis at Athens. It has been found scratched upon a stone built into a wall in England about 1200, and cut into the choir stalls in several old English cathedrals. Shakespeare mentions it in *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

It has been popular in many other countries—France, Poland, Germany, Austria, Iceland, Brazil—and is still played with gusto in this country. Sometimes it is known as the "Shepherd's Game," or "Mill."

DIRECTIONS

The game is divided into three parts, each of which calls for a different style of ingenuity: (1) Placing, (2) Moving, (3) Hopping. The game starts with the board bare and each of the two players has nine marbles of distinguishing color. (1) Placing—Players alternately place a man on one of the stations. The main object is to get three men in a line, on three adjoining vertical or horizontal stations. If either player succeeds in placing three men in a line, he has a "Mill" and may "pound" one of his adversary's men (that is, he may remove one from the board). However, a man in a mill can be pounded only if there is no other man to be pounded. Placing continues until each player has placed his nine men.

(2) Moving—The next part of the game consists in alternately moving a man from one intersection to an adjacent one that is open, but only along the lines. Selection of the strategic man to "pound" will largely determine the winning of the game. The object in removing an opponent's man is to gain advantage for subsequent moves, as well as to inconvenience the adversary. When one player has been reduced to three men, the third phase of the game is reached.

(3) Hopping—When a player is reduced to three men, he can "hop" to any open station on the board, instead of moving. When a player is reduced to two men, he has lost the game.

Optional rules (more difficult):

- A. The same man may not be moved twice in succession.
- B. The same mill of three men can be counted for pounding only the first time it is formed.

This is one of the Puzzles and Games made by Woodcraft Department.

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