

# MAH JONGG

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By G. M. LE HAIN  
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(This is the first of a series of articles on this very popular game. The Whig strongly suggests that interested readers clip and keep each article as it appears. It will be impossible to supply either single article or complete sets after publication.)

1. "Mah Jongg" is not difficult to learn. The one thing to avoid at the outset is confusion of ideas. Let us be reasonable. Suppose you took a pack of cards and threw them higgly-piggly all over a table—and attempted by the aid of a score-pad to explain to a Chinese how to play "Bridge"!

2. "Mah Jongg" set when tumbled out of your table is an appalling mix-up, and if you only have some fearsome looking dragon-bedecked instructions, your troubles start forthwith. We will avoid confusion. We will go right through the rules of the game, mastering each step, as we go along.

For convenience we will divide up the instructions into sections:

Section No. 1.—The principles of the game—the general scheme of what it is all about. What you have to do.

No. 2.—The procedure in playing the hand.

No. 3.—The score.

No. 4.—Fairs.

No. 5.—Penalties.

No. 6.—Limit hands.

No. 7.—General observation on the playing of the game.

3.—First of all, spread out on the table all the contents of your "Mah Jongg" set, and arrange the "tiles" just as you see them in the illustration. Keep this illustration as your key to the game, it might be well to have an extra copy pasted on cardboard for reference during learning.

4.—Now that you have the tiles in order—consider them well. You must get so familiar with them—that at once you know where each tile fits into the game.

5.—Note: You will learn all the fundamentals of the game with the tiles face up in front of you. Do not turn the tiles over at all until you have gone right through this first section.

6.—You see that you have—

One set of four tiles: Flowers.

One set of four tiles: Seasons.

One set of four tiles: East Winds.

One set of four tiles: South Winds.

One set of four tiles: North Winds.

One set of four tiles: West Winds.

One set of four tiles: Red Honors.

One set of four tiles: White Honors.

One set of four tiles: Green Honors.

One set of four tiles: Winds.

One set of four tiles: Flowers.

One set of four tiles: Seasons.

One set of four tiles: East Winds.

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One set of four tiles: White Honors.

One set of four tiles: Green Honors.

One set of four tiles: Winds.

and places the completed "three" on his right, face up. He then discards. 23.—"Mah Jongg". Any player can claim any last discarded tile to complete his hand, whether to fill his necessary pair, or to complete a "Pung" or a "Chow." He calls "Mah Jongg!"—and that hand is finished.

24.—"Calling": When a player is waiting for a tile to complete his hand, he is said to be "calling." (There is only one exception to this rule, and in due course it will be shown. It is a sort of thousand-to-one chance which probably never happens, but still the rules do cover that one chance. You will find this point covered when you come to it.)

25.—Note: In claiming a discard: "Mah Jongg" has precedence over "Pung" or "Chow," but "Pung" has precedence over "Chow." Example:—Suppose East has a "four" and "six" circles, South has a pair of "five" circles, West has his hand complete except one "five" circle, North discards a "five" circle; East calls "Chow," South would have preference with the call of "Mah Jongg" and wins the hand.

26.—It happens sometimes that two players can call "Mah Jongg" on the same tile, in which case the player nearest to the discarder (counting counter-clockwise), has preference. It is not a question of who calls "Mah Jongg" first. It is not a question of whether one player calls "Mah Jongg" by filling a "Pung," or whether by filling a "Chow," or a pair—the scoring value of the play has no bearing on the matter at all. The position of the players around the table decides this point.

East and South each have one "five circle" to match up to call "Mah Jongg," and North discards a five circle, both call "Mah Jongg" but East gets the tile and wins the hand.

If three players call "Mah Jongg" on the same tile when discarded by the fourth player—the game is a draw. Nobody scores and the Bank passes to the next player. This is hardly ever likely to happen—still this rule covers the play.

You will grasp the idea at once, how a hand is completed, if you look at the key of the game. For instance in the "suits," take four sets of three tiles, from any one of the three suits, in any direction, and any pair, and you have a completed hand. Examples:

1.—You have three "suits" which are "Circles," "Bamboos" and "Characters." These are numbered from one to nine, and there are four of each number in each suit.

2.—The "ones" and the "nines" are called "terminating." They have the same face-value as the Honors and the Winds. Now let us consider—The whole game is before us.

3.—There is a "Wind-Box" and an indicator for each of the four winds.

4.—Dice, and Counters (Chips). We will deal with the Wind box of the chips when we come to use them. The dice of course, you understand.

5.—"Mah Jongg" is a game of chance and skill combined.

6.—It is played by four players, each one of whom represents one of the Winds.

7.—You do not play "partners"—each player plays for himself.

8.—Each player has a hand of thirteen tiles. These tiles of course will be of various suits and numbers. The object of the game is to get the hand complete into four sets of "Threes," and to match up the remaining tile with a similar one to make a pair. (These would be the ordinary hands in which no extra tiles have been drawn.)

9.—The "threes" must be either: three of the same number of any one suit. (Ex: three "five circles") or sequences of three consecutive numbers of the same suit. (Ex: "four-five-six bamboos")

10.—A sequence must not be more than three tiles.

11.—In order to go "game"—(call "Mah Jongg"!)—You must have a pair in your hand.

12.—The hand is completed by the players, in turn, each drawing a tile from the wall, or claiming a discarded tile. If the drawn tile fits into his hand, it is retained, and a useless tile discarded. If the tile does not fit in, it may be discarded, or not, as the player sees fit.

13.—Claiming Discards. 20.—A player can claim another player's discard under certain conditions, but it must be claimed immediately it is discarded. Only the last tile discarded may be claimed, and if not claimed at once it becomes dead for that hand.

21.—"Chow": A player can claim a tile to complete a sequence, but only if the tile is discarded by the player on his left. In this case the player calls "Chow" and places the three tiles on his right, face up. He then discards.

22.—"Pung": Any player can claim any last discarded tile, to make up 3 of a kind, but must have a pair already in hand. The player claiming under these conditions calls "Pung," takes the tile

four) of the same Honor or Wind. Your one necessary pair may be a pair of any Honor or Wind.

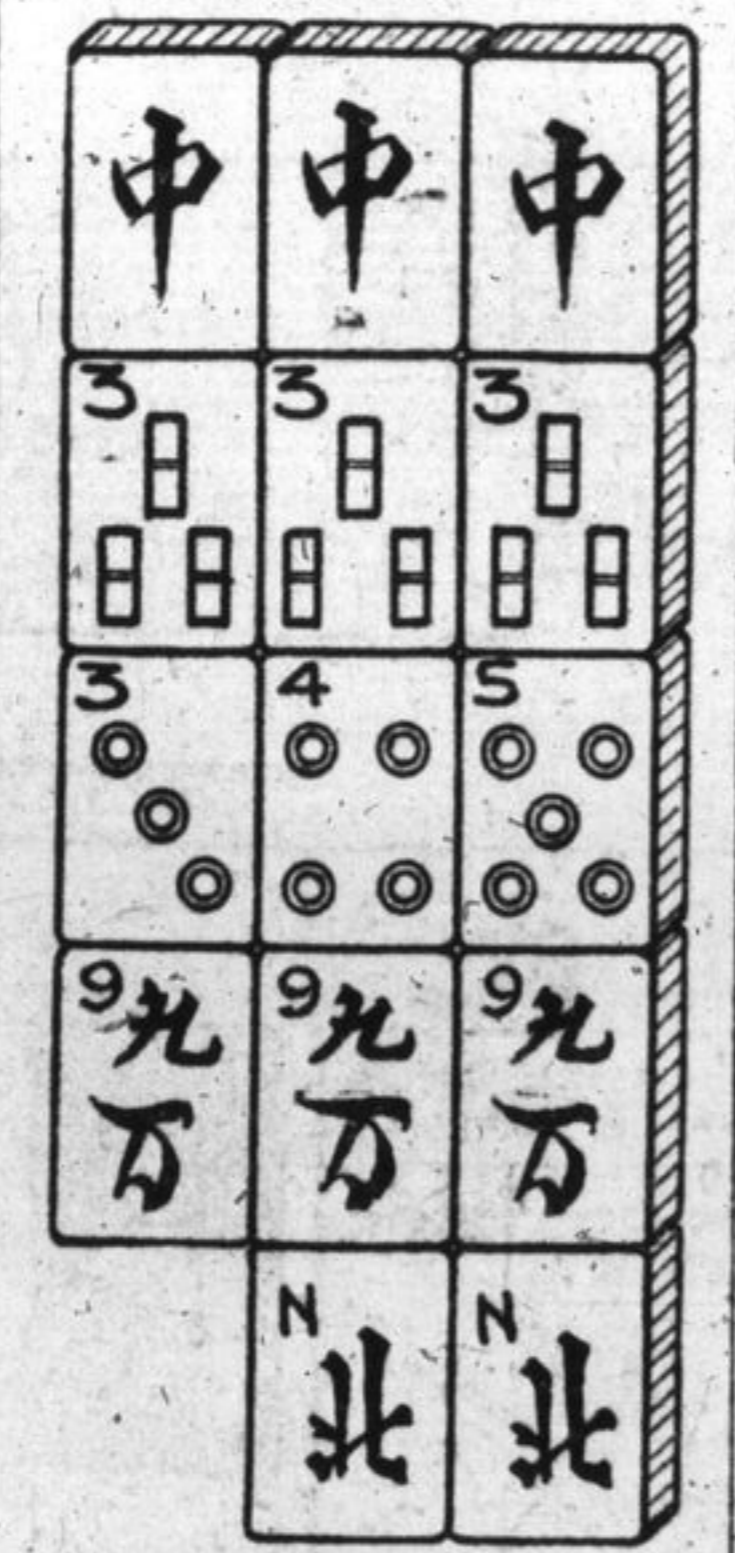


Figure 3.

In learning the game you had better start using the correct word for each play. (Avoid confusion.) A "Chow" is the word used in declaring sequence of three tiles (consecutive numbers of the same suit) completed by a tile discarded by the player on his left.

A "Pung" is the word used to declare "three of a kind" when completed by a tile discarded by another player.

"Mah Jongg" is the call declaring the player's hand is complete. (To Be Continued)

Flowers, Character Suit, Bamboo Suit, Circle Suit

Seasons, Red Honors, White Honors, Green Honors, Winds

East, South, West, North

Wind Indicators

### GLORIOUS HISTORY OF OLD REGIMENT.

Written in Silver in the Marvellous Collections of the Old 100th Prince of Wales Royal Canadian Regiment Which is Now at Royal Military College.

Some time during the months of April and May in the year 1858 there was raised at Quebec, as an expression of loyalty on the part of certain officers of the Canadian Militia, a battalion for service in India during the Indian Mutiny. The first commanding officer was Baron de Rottemburg, at that time Adjutant-General of the Canadian Militia, and he had for his second in command Major Dunn, of Toronto, who had won the Victoria Cross at Balaklava. The unit was known as the 100th Prince of Wales Royal Canadian Regiment.

The 100th Foot, as it was then known, proceeded to Shorncliffe where King Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, presented it with colors bearing the honor "Niagara" in commemoration of the deeds done by a previous regiment of the same number, the 100th (H.R.H. Prince Regent's) County of Dublin Regiment, which was disbanded in 1818.

This regiment, although raised in Ireland, had spent most of its time in Canada where it built up a great record. The honor of bearing the title of the Prince of Wales having been conferred on the newly formed regiment it took his title and was clothed as a royal regiment, namely, scarlet with blue facings, and bore the crest of the Prince of Wales as a badge.

In the reorganization of the army in 1881, when infantry battalions of the British Army were allotted to definite territorial areas, the Prince of Wales 100th Foot in view of the place of origin of the 100th H.R.H. Prince Regent's County of Dublin Regiment, was assigned to Leinster under the new name of the 1st Battalion, Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment, (Royal Canadians) and was linked with the 109th (Bombay Infantry) Regiment which became the second Battalion.

After service in India and elsewhere, where it won distinction the 1st Battalion Leinster Regiment, as it was then commonly called, came to Canada and was stationed at Halifax until the South African War, when it was relieved by the Royal Canadian Regiment. This was the last occasion on which the old 100th Royal Canadian Regiment were on the soil of the country of their birth.

During the Great War the Leinster was distinguished as fighters in the manner of all Irish soldiers. In 1922, on Southern Ireland becoming a dominion of the British Empire, responsible for its own defense, to the great regret of King George V the disbandment of the Leinster Regiment had to be ordered.

Trophies to Canada. In 1923 the beautiful collection of silver from the Officers' Mess of the 1st Battalion was offered to the Canadian government in token of esteem for the country of its origin.

### for the benefit of the 1st Battalion, Leinster Regiment, and is to be inscribed each year with the name of the company which, in the opinion of the officer commanding, has done most for the credit of the battalion during the year.

Large Candelabra—with nine candle burners and pink shades; height is three feet six inches and whole design is of ornate silver; three regimental crests are engraved on the base; another beautiful piece. Silver Mounted Horse-hoof Snuff Box—one of the most interesting of a collection fairly teeming with stories of great deeds; made from the hoof of "Chatsworth"; silver medal of horse jumping is engraved on the lid; it is inscribed "In memory of Chatsworth, winner of Grand National, Calcutta, 1886; Hastings Plate, Calcutta, 1887; and many other races in Australia and India."

Pair of Elephant Tusks—inscribed "These tusks were given to Capt. Shakespear by the Luker chiefs as a token of submission. The Bengal government allowed Capt. Shakespear to retain them in recognition of his services as Assistant Political Officer, South Lushai Hills." The tusks are supported by silver shields and across each shield a pair of spears are done with silver tassels hanging therefrom. The inscription is on two p. its on the ebony base.

Comma Ser-in-chief's Bowl in India—a fine piece of three or four most aw. ging pieces of work; it is of beaten, nitian silver; no handles; Burma work is done on the plinth; inscribed on the cup may be found "Com. Ser-in-chief's Prize, 1888." On a plinth is inscribed "Presented by His Excellency Sir Frederick Roberts, V.C., G.C.B., G.C.I.E., Commander-in-chief in India, for competition in India by the British regiments of all India and won by the 1st Battalion Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) under the command of Lt.-Col. D. W. McKinnon."

Wooden Silver Mounted Glass Case—containing sash and drum stick. The inscription reveals the story: "Sash worn by Sgt.-Major Dempsey, 100th Royal Canadian, during the 1812 campaign including the storming of Niagara. Drum stick used in the same campaign."

Box Containing Two Swords and Scabbards—these swords fit into a glass case; one is inscribed "Presented as a mark of respect to Capt. Otiawa, April 5.—The index number of wholesale prices compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and weighed according to the commercial importance of the 238 commodities included, shows a drop of 2.5 points, being 154.4 in March, as compared with 158.6 in February.

Monsignor Murray Sick, Brockville, April 5.—Right Rev. Monsignor Charles B. Murray, parish priest of Brockville, underwent a serious operation at a local hospital Thursday afternoon. His condition is reported favorable.

Sir Henry Drayton proposes to move in the house for the appointment of a select standing committee on National Railways and Shipping.

G. F. Radley is to be at the head of the Alexandria Bay, N.Y., high school for the next year. He is a native of Cape Vincent, N.Y.

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