



WEATHERGUARD GOLD ~ SPELL SAGA 3.0 PROTOTYPE

Dear Weatherguard, this letter is to acknowledge the debt you paid to own a piece of gaming history--The Spell Saga 3.0 Prototype from December 2010.

Here's the thing: time makes fools of us all, the more so the bigger the fool that we may be. And me? I'm the biggest. This box contains a stack of index cards that was originally labeled as the 3.0 edition. But I'm fairly certain that's not true.

This is either A) the second attempt at an index card Prototype from December 2010 OR, it is the very first attempt at a "final form", the original index cards meant to push the game into something pitchable and "Photoshoppable" for a meeting with Peter Adkison at Gen Con in August of 2011 (which could date these cards as early to mid May of 2011).

It is certainly much closer to the 4.0 version than the 2.0, which causes me to believe this to be a somewhat forgotten moment in Spell Saga's design history.

What is very interesting is this deck contains (2) different versions of the same card: our erstwhile hero: only here he's called "The Bard", and then (on the second version of the card) this is scratched out to be replaced with his final published name: The Last Minstrel. But there's also a lot that DIDN'T change between this and the final version: there's still medieval looking folk with speech bubbles, one even proclaims:

"I saw a man coming out of the forest! He dropped this before he died! Brrr you best take it."

Compare that to the same card in the published Hong Kong printed professional version:

"It was I who saw the man escaping out of the forest. I never saw anyone look so afraid...he died screaming he did! ...dropped something too, a compass--BRRR!--cold to the touch it was! As far as I can tell, the item is broken...it only ever points to The Forest. We buried the thing. Marked it with bent coins & fresh ashes!"

One trick that I still really like can be seen on the Rusted Revolver card, which contains a diagram of how to use it along with its rules. Unnecessary? Sure. But it ticks a design box in my heart.

This deck is also double-sided, something an idea which would be scratched out along with the word "bard" once my buddy Sakroka gave version 3.5 a try (the Photoshopped version off this here deck--hey I think we've solved which version this is: 3.0, the last mad-dash attempt of The Highlands before reality would start to settle in.

Inside this box are the Spell Saga 3.0 prototype index cards designed in December of 2010 in St. Charles, Missouri, USA.