

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0485:
"In Suit Contracts Card Distributions Are
***More Influential* Than HCPs:**
The 'Mississippi Heart Hand' "

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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The "Mississippi Heart Hand"

As many intrepid readers of the "**Esther Bridge Lessons**" may be aware, bridge evolved out of the popular card game, whist, which was played extensively in the 1700s and 1800s:

https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/br_hist.pdf

In the 1800s whist was widely played on Mississippi River riverboats and these games frequently involved gambling. Some of the whist gamblers were unscrupulous and invented a whist Board on which the cards were "stacked" and an innocent card gambler could be induced to wager substantial sums on successfully "making" a hopeless contract. One such Board was the "**Mississippi Heart Hand**" as presented in Harold Schogger's bridge website posting, "A Mississippi Heart Hand":

<https://www.haroldschogger.com/mississipp.htm>

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¹ As noted in an article in the Winter/Spring, 2024 article in The American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Journal, https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA_1_24.pdf, Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, the purported ACBL Double Triple Emerald Gold Platinum LifeMaster with 20+ million ACBL MasterPoints, in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So, this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

Dealer: **SOUTH**

Vul: **NONE**

SOUTH (29)

S: A K Q

H: A K Q J T 9

D: --

C: A K Q J

1. *Sitting SOUTH as Dealer you hold a void in Diamonds, the "top" 6 Hearts, the "top" 4 Clubs, and the "top" 3 Spades for a total of 29 HCPs. What would you bid at your 1st turn to bid within the auction?*

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0485_a1.pdf