



Artifact Showcase

Twenty One Game

Hosted by Jack Barry, *Twenty One* was a popular TV quiz program that aired on NBC from 1956 to 1958. To add to the drama the two contestants were separately housed in soundproof booths. Dramatic music played while a contestant strived to come up with the correct answer. The goal was to be the first to earn 21 points (each worth \$500).



When several quiz programs including *Twenty One* were accused of rigging the shows, it created a scandal that for a time nearly killed all TV quiz shows.

The *Twenty One* board game appeared at the program's peak of popularity. One player served as quiz master for two contestants and chose the category. Each of two contestants picked a question numbered from one (easiest) to eleven (hardest). If the question was answered correctly, that number of points was added to the score. A wrong answer subtracted that number of points. Neither contestant knew the other's score. The person with the most points when the round ended won.

In addition to *Twenty One*, the museum currently has several other TV games (e.g., *I Love Lucy*, *Charlie's Angels*, and *Tic-Tac-Dough*) prominently displayed in the TV room.

A used *Twenty One* game is a "Buy it Now" on eBay for \$15.

We appreciate your support of the museum so that historical artifacts like this one, and the stories that go with them, can be preserved for future generations. THANKS!