The Course of a Craze

The Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler invented Latin squares, the basis of sudoku, in 1783. Nearly 200 years later, events quickened:

1979 The first "Number Place" puzzle appears in Dell Pencil Puzzles and Word Games magazine.

1984 A Japanese publisher adapts the puzzle for its magazines and changes its name to sudoku. It becomes a craze in Japan.

1997 A retired New Zealand judge, Wayne Gould, inspired by the Japanese magazine, creates his own sudoku.

2004 Mr. Gould persuades The Times of London to run sudoku puzzles. By early 2005, it is a craze in Britain.