

Interesting

# King toppled from throne by gender-neutral deck

By Esther Verkaik

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Indy Mellink designed genderless playing cards to stop inequality in Oegstgeest, Leiden

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OEGSTGEEST, Netherlands (Reuters) – Indy Mellink, a Dutch card fan, was explaining a cousins last summer when she asked herself: why should a king be worth more than

The 23-year-old forensic psychology graduate, encouraged by her father, de... it w break with the centuries-old tradition of sexual inequality in playing card decks that above women.

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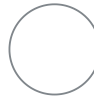


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“If we have this hierarchy that the king is worth more than the queen then this subtle influences people in their daily life because it’s just another way of saying ‘hey, you’re important,” she said in an interview. “Even subtle inequalities like this do play a big r

After a lot of trial and error, she designed a genderless deck in which the images of a and jack were replaced with gold, silver and bronze.

Friends and family snapped up the first 50 decks of GSB (Gold, Silver, Bronze) cards, v images of gold bars, silver coins and a bronze shield. Mellink had more made and be them online.

Within a few months, she had sent out around 1,500 packs, including to Belgium, Ger and the United States. Game shops have also shown interest, she said.

Mellink has been testing the cards out on players, who said they had never been con sexual inequality in decks before. Switching would take some getting used to.

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“It is good that we reflect on gender neutrality,” said Berit van Dobbenburg of Bridge Association, while playing with the new cards. It would be complicated mak switch because that would require updating the rules, she said.

“I wonder if it’s worth it. But gender neutrality, I am all for it! It’s great that someone has noticed this. It’s the new generation.”

(Reporting by Anthony Deutsch; Editing by Alexandra Hudson)



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Old fashioned cards decks are exposed at the Bridge Museum, in Leerdam



Old fashioned cards decks are seen in an album at the Bridge Museum, in Leerdam