



Naturel Mistik

A brief explanation of the images in this game

This game has 52 cards with images depicting everyday life and social concerns. One person reads (interprets) the cards for another person (the querent). The querent shuffles the cards and places them in 4 rows of 13 cards each. If the querent is a gentleman, he is represented by the King of Hearts (signifier card) ①; a woman is represented by the Queen of Hearts (signifier card) ②. The cards closest to the signifier card can lead to playful interpretations. It is up to the reader as to when and how they will reveal their wit ③ during the game. For example, if the clergyman (ecclesiastic) is close to the signifier card then a marriage is soon to follow. The judge nearby indicates a lawsuit. The great Lord will give his mercy or friendship. If the Officer is next to the Queen of Hearts, his thoughts are on her or hers are fixed on him; if the Officer stands beside the King of Hearts, he either seeks his friendship or is his rival. The cat suggests falsehood (or treachery). All other cards should be interpreted appropriately.

A few notes on the translation

This is not a literal translation. The German text seems to be a generic set of instructions, possibly pieced together from other Piatnik cartomancy decks. Piatnik does not offer a translation for these instructions (yes, I checked).

① There is no King of Hearts card in the deck.

② There is no Queen of Hearts card in the deck.

It has been suggested that a King or Queen from a regular set of playing cards be inserted into this deck before shuffling. This will result in 1 row of 14 cards and 3 rows of 13 cards. Another option is to use the 'Lover' and 'Sweetheart' cards for older querents and the 'Young Man' and 'Maid' cards for younger querents.

③ The literal translation of this section is "reveal the joke", which sounds more like an afternoon parlor game instead of an actual cartomancy session. Further research revealed that "Witz" also means 'wit', which seems more in line with the intent of 'playful interpretations'. That said, considering the era when this deck was created, it probably was intended to be a parlor game, providing a diversion from the horrors of WW2.

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