

DOEPAK

DuPAK DoePAK POPPENSPE(ELMUSEUMKRUISELKRANTKRABEL) DoePAK DuPAK
Newsletter and Scribblings No. 149d



Best wishes: a new year

Jan Klaassen is the principal figure of Dutch folk puppet theatre and originated in the second half of the seventeenth century. He is a hunchback, has a large 'boozy nose' and wears a colourful suit. He has a pointed cap on his head with a little bell that leans forwards. Jan is an ordinary lad from Amsterdam, who has a way with words and a good sense of humour. Those who do him an injustice can count on a scornful remark or a good beating. The *club* is a favourite object in folk puppet theatre. *Hand puppets* clasp this battling implement tightly between their tiny hands. The club is sometimes used to beat a rhythm on the back of the head of one of the opponents on the stage, or to poke him or her in the stomach. The *devil* is a well-known character in traditional puppet theatre. He gives the main character a hard time, but he always manages to outsmart him. Jan Klaassen is 'sure as hell not scared'.

Would you like to learn even more about folk and mainstream puppetry figures? Then refer to the Dutch-language Poppentheater-abc (ABC of Puppetry) on one of our multi-language websites: www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl, www.poppenspelmuseum.nl, or www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2.
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Doepak presents some unusual theatre forms, far beyond the confines of our own fantasy! Doepak is a cheerful, educational and colourful Dutch-language newsletter packed with background information about folk and mainstream puppet theatre. In this newsletter and scribblings you can also read about all kinds of activities in the Puppetry Museum such as which exhibitions are on show, whether new books were issued, and how the website is developing. The Dutch verbs of 'doen' (do) and 'pakken' (take) are hidden in the name of the Doepak newsletter. This name was composed for good reason, because you are supposed to 'do' and 'take' things yourself. The name 'Doepak' is also the phonetic transcription in Dutch of the Czech word *dupák*. A *dupák* is a rod marionette and trick puppet. Where the *dupák* swings his arms wide as he twirls around, Doepak embraces the international world of puppetry and related arts with its hints and tips, questions and answers, illustrations and DIY activities. In Slovakian and Hungarian puppet theatre the *dupák* is called *Paprika Jancsi*.