

# DOEPAK

Du **P**AK Do **e** **P**AK POPPENSPE(E)LMUSEUMKRUMELKRANTKRABEL Do **e** **P**AK Du **P**AK  
Newsletter and Scribblings No. 203d



## Polichinelle and Pierrot: commedia dell'arte clowns

An exciting meeting between two commedia dell'arte buffoons: Polichinelle and Pierrot. The white costume of the lying Pierrot has three red pom-poms and he is wearing a small black cap. Polichinelle is wearing an elegant, multi-coloured costume and a tricorn hat. He has a pointed chin, a hooked nose, a high hump and a huge pot belly. He is holding a bat in his left hand. This character resembles the traditional Dutch Jan Klaassen and the English Mr Punch. Both clowns have white frilly collars around their necks. Polichinelle was not only a comical character on stage – usually accompanied by Pierrot – but also the main character of French puppet theatre. During the nineteenth century he was pushed aside by the much more plain Guignol. Polichinelle made his comeback in Parisian folk puppet theatre during the last decade of the twentieth century.

Would you like to learn even more about international folk and mainstream puppet theatre? You will find information about the museum, exhibitions, and collections of puppets, prints and books on [www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl](http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl), [www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2](http://www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2) and [www.poppenspelmuseum.nl](http://www.poppenspelmuseum.nl).

For more English information, please refer to 'Small ABC of Puppetry': <http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/Pamflet117d.pdf>. Hyperlinks: click on the *green italicised* and **bold-printed** words. This document is available on the internet, see: <http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/Doepak203d.pdf>.

Illustration from the children's book 'Théâtre de Polichinelle'. Imprint: Paris - Delarue, Libraire-Éditeur. Litho: Emrik & Binger (Haarlem, The Netherlands, around 1920). Accessions register no.: 76.025. Realisation, concept and text: *Otto van der Mieden* © (2013). Have fun. **Applause!**

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.