

DOEPAK



DuP_{AK} DoeP_{AK} POPPENSPE(E)MUSEUMKRUISELKRANTKRABBEL DoeP_{AK} DuP_{AK}
Newsletter and Scribblings No. 133d



A (Christmas) booth with Kasper: a tree full of little lights

Another lovely print from the *Puppetry Museum* collection. This *paper-theatre sheet* has pieces that can be assembled for a scene in a living room or shop. The *Christmas tree* has burning candles. The right booth displays *masks* and *Kasper(l) figures*. This jolly German cousin of the traditional Dutch *Jan Klaassen (Mr Punch)* can be seen sitting under the two masks. Both Kasper and Jan are hunchbacks. They have pot bellies, large hooked noses and pointed chins. They wear colourful costumes and have pointed caps on their heads with a little bell, and white collars around their necks. They enjoy tasty food and drink, are uncomplicated characters and are real jokers.

In the nineteenth century, in particular, paper theatres were really popular. Generally, they were used in family circles to perform short versions of fairy tales, stage plays, operas and even battles. The 'actors' can be moved or slid about on the miniature stage either from above or from the side. The paper theatre is made from an *assembly sheet of cardboard*, which includes prints of a variety of *human figures, animals, props and stage wings*. After cutting, folding and gluing the pieces, the performance can start. Because of the variety of scenery provided, the stories can take place anywhere: in the woods, on the water, in a town or village, in a little shack, a house, a palace or a castle, at annual fairs and during different seasons or annual celebrations.

We wish you a year full of pleasant adventures!

Would you like to learn even more about the paper theatre and about *folk and mainstream puppet theatre*? Make a journey through the wondrous world of puppet theatre on our Dutch-language website www.poppenspelmuseum.nl/onderwijs and you may win a jolly puppetry comic. You will find information about the museum, theme-based exhibitions, our educational publications and the entire collection in several languages on www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl, www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2 and www.poppenspelmuseum.nl. The Dutch-language *ABC of Puppetry* gives explanations for a wide range of puppetry and theatre techniques, characters, and people. Picture: paper theatre print, litho no. 47, 41 x 53 cm. Publisher: J.F. Schreiber, Eßlingen, Germany (1904). Stock no.: 00586. Concept and text: Otto van der Mieden © (2008).

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 Janesi.