

Newsletter XXXIIa (2023)



New on the Puppetry Museum website

Have a look on <http://www.poppenspelmuseum.nl/> and play a Dutch-Indonesian quiz. View and explore a wide variety of films and documents relating to international folk and mainstream puppet theatre and associated arts via the new bilingual (Dutch and English) QR-DIY puppet theatre project. Have fun. Applause!

Please refer to: [Nederlands-Indisch/Dutch-Indonesian quiz](https://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/Nederlands-Indisch/Dutch-Indonesian%20quiz.pdf) and <https://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/QR-DIY-projectcodeNLEN.pdf>.

Image: QR code, Puppetry Museum website with the old-Dutch Jan Klaassen character and his wife Katrijn.



A devout Javanese prince

New: Dutch-Indonesian 'Diponegoro' exhibition presenting wayang kulit figures created by 'dalang' (puppeteer) Ledjar Soebroto (1938-2017). The exhibition, which includes a film, is about the deeply religious Islamic Prince Diponegoro involved in a struggle for power with the Dutch oppressors in Indonesia during what is known as the Java War or Diponegoro War, which was fought in central Java from 1825 to 1830. In the wayang performance, the warriors on both sides of the conflict are symbolised by two animals: the buffalo represents the Javanese army, and a tiger the Dutch opposite party.

See among others: <https://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/BufferandTigerwayang.pdf>.

Image: Prince Diponegoro, Wayang Kulit figure. Material: buffalo hide. Producer: Ledjar Soebroto (ca. 2000).
Collection: Dutch Puppetry Museum.

A QR-DIY project in two languages

The Dutch-English QR-DIY puppet theatre project comprises about twenty topics, which include: *A silenced buffoon* - a figure by Dutch photographer Erwin Olaf (1959-2023); *Wayang kulit and gamelan from Indonesia*; *The Neapolitan clown Pulcinella*; *Guignol and his friend Gnafron the cobbler* - hand puppets from Lyon; *European rod marionette theatre*; *Karagöz and Hacivat* - Turkish shadow figures; and *Puppet theatre and eroticism*. The presentation includes hand puppets and rod marionettes, wayang figures, prints, theatre props, films, music, touchable - tactile - images, and texts in combined script (braille in combination with synchronously running text in printed letter).



For more information, please refer to: <https://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/QR-DIY-projectcodeNLEN.pdf>.

Image: QR code of the bilingual QR-DIY project; a top hat with the traditional Dutch Jan Klaassen's wooden head - a hand puppet. Collection: Dutch Puppetry Museum.



Dutch-Indonesian offline quiz

An offline, multiple-choice computer game in two languages. Join Kancil, the little mouse-deer, and learn more about Dutch-Indonesian expressions, names and persons, and explore various forms of Indonesian wayang by means of about 20 questions. Listen to several sound clips, and meet comical, unusual kulit clowns and other characters. And, as a bonus, a moving Kancil figure, a video clip, a 'talking pen' with text, music and sound.

For more information, please refer to: https://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/Video/quiz_eng_online_answers.

Image: offline 'Dutch-Indonesian question and answer game' - in Dutch and English. Concept: Otto van der Mieden. Digitalisation: Thomas de Graaf.



Eroticism in puppet theatre

Puppet theatre and eroticism. Can you relate this to the old-Dutch Jan Klaassen character and the club he is holding? Note how Jan squeezes this prop between his little hands; upright like a phallus. 'No', some will say, 'it's just the puppeteer's hand operating it. After all, the puppeteer puts his hand through the puppet's cloth body, firmly holding the club to deal some hefty blows. That is why it may look suggestive. Jan's club is a weapon and it would be exaggerated to regard it as something sexually explicit.' But is it? Take a peek at some 'naughty' artefacts, and view a subtle show.

Please refer to: <https://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/EroticismEN.pdf>.

Image: Jan Klaassen and Katrijn (in English Punch and Judy) kissing. From 'De poppenkast, beweegbaar prentenboek'. Part three: 'De vrouw van Jan Klaassen en de keukenmeid' (Jan Klaassen's wife and the kitchen maid). Illustration: Carl Reinhardt (ca. 1900).

Théâtre musical en métal

New acquisition: 'castelet Guignolet', a colourful, tin music box with traditional, puppet theatre figures from Lyon that are moving clockwise. The rotating Guignol - wielding a club, his wife Madelon with a wicker basket, cobbler Gnafron with a bottle of wine, the wizard with a magic wand, and the moustached constable with his sword are presenting themselves.

See among others: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/n70jtsG5rJ4>.

Image: a tin theatre. Tin music box with rotating, cardboard puppet theatre figures. The background - with a fantasy landscape - turns anti-clockwise. Melody: 'La vie en rose' by Edith Piaf. Collection: Dutch Puppetry Museum.



Horse brasses

New in the collection: a horse brass with an image of the English Mr Punch, his wife Judy, and their baby. Traditionally, these decorative brass plaques were used to decorate horses' leather harness gear. Brasses can now be seen in the Museum's recently developed exhibition on folk puppet theatre.

Images: 'horse brasses' with Mr Punch, Judy and Marmaduke the baby (ca. 1950). Collection: Dutch Puppetry Museum.

Pitiful cowards



During the mid-19th century, people could buy 'De poppenkast, beweegbaar prentenboek' (H. Nijgh - Rotterdam, The Netherlands, ca. 1800) and 'Dean's moveable book of the Royal Punch & Judy as played before the Queen at Windsor Castle & The Crystal Palace' (Dean - London, ca. 1800) for just a few pennies. The little books told the stories about the Dutch Jan Klaassen and the English Mr Punch. They are not afraid of anybody or anything, except their wives Katrijn and Judy. At some point, they are told to keep an eye on their babies. They get fed up with the little screamers and throw them out of the window. Next they beat their wives to death. The constable throws them in jail, putting an end to their violent actions.

See among others: https://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/Jan_klaassen and <https://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/PosterIVh.pdf>.

Images: a pair of socks and a tie with puppet theatre scenes. Screenprint of a traditional puppet theatre show with the English Mr Punch, his wife Judy, and their baby. Collection: Dutch Puppetry Museum.



Dutch-Indonesian online question and answer game

An online, multiple-choice game in two languages. Learn more about Dutch-Indonesian expressions, names and persons. 'Tableau de la troupe': Monkey; Dalang; Diponegoro; Gadogado; Gamelan; Gong; Gunungan; Jan Klaassen; Java; Javanese moustache; Kancil; Comical characters; Prawn crackers (*Kroepoek*); Krontjong music; Lapis legit (a layered cake); Max Havelaar; the Dutch East Indies; Petruk; Police actions; Rupiah; Semar; Sukarno; Theatre with live actors; *VOC (Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie)* - the Dutch East India Company, a seventeenth-century company trading in Asian products; Wayang kulit; Wayang revolusi, and Dutch Prince William of Orange - Willem van Oranje.

For more information, please refer to: <https://quizwayang.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/>.

Image: screenprint of the Dutch online quiz. Map of the Indonesian island of Java, the mouse-deer Kantjil, and a small theatre with wayang figures. The kulit figures are operated by a 'dalang' - a puppeteer - seated in a cross-legged position. Illustration of the cardboard theatre: Hetty Paërl. Concept: Otto van der Mieden. Technology: Thomas de Graaf.

Welcome!

Please book your upcoming visit online via info@poppenspelmuseum.nl. Please prepay the admission ticket after you receive a confirmation of booking from us. Next, you will be sent the ticket by email.

Please, also refer to: [https://www.poppenspe\(e\)museum.nl/pdf/reserverenreservation.pdf](https://www.poppenspe(e)museum.nl/pdf/reserverenreservation.pdf).

Image: screenprint of the [www.poppenspe\(e\)museum.nl](http://www.poppenspe(e)museum.nl) website. Logo: the old-Dutch Jan Klaassen character holding a club in his right hand. His wife Katrijn is swinging a carpet beater. With a string attached to her right foot, she kicks the additional *E* from the word *Poppenspe(e)museum*. Illustration: Ad Swier and others.





Head on a stick – Mr Punch

Mr Punch - the main character from English puppet theatre - likes to deal hefty blows with his favourite bludgeon weapon, a club. His wife Judy always bears the brunt. This clown figure originated during the 17th century and bears some resemblance to the French Polichinelle, to the German Kasperl, to the Czech Kašpárek, to the Slovakian Gašparko, and to Vitéz László from Hungary. The old-Dutch Jan Klaassen character is his cousin. The forefather of all these incorrigible buffoons is the Italian Pulcinella.

Image: a wooden walking stick with a silver puppet head as a handle (ca. 1955). Punch can easily be recognised by his funny face. He has a hooked nose and a pointed chin, big eyes, and a very broad, grinning mouth. He has a tilting pointed hat with a little bell on his head.

New Year's greetings

We would like to wish you a Happy New Year on behalf of the Hungarian Vitéz László and his counterparts.

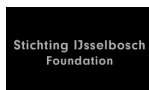
Please refer to: <https://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/Doepak307e.pdf>.

Image: baubles, a puppet theatre bell, and Vitéz László wearing a pointed hat. His little legs are dangling over the edge of the puppet theatre stage. He attacks the devil with a frying pan. The prince of darkness symbolises the old year and is depicted with the bespectacled face of Puppetry Museum director and curator Otto van der Mieden. Illustration: Elsje Zwart (2023).

Hyperlinks: click on the pictures and the green words. Applause!
Dutch version, see: <https://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/NieuwsbriefXXXIIa.pdf>.



With thanks to ...



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