

# The Dutch Puppetry Museum and Nusantara wayang collection online





Stichting Het Poppenspe(e)Imuseum (ANBI) Musée de Marionnettes et de Guignol Puppentheatermuseum Puppetry Museum Kerkweg 38 8193 KL Vorchten NL Tel./Tél.: +31(0)578 - 56 02 39 Info: +31(0)578 - 63 13 29 info@poppenspelmuseum.nl www.poppenspelmuseum.nl www.poppenspelmuseum.nl www.poppenspelmuseum.nl/onderwijs www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/Blinden www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2



# Lord, let me be a Wayang in your hands

### Wayang song

Quote by Noto Soeroto: poetry book 'Wayang Songs'. Raden Mas Noto Soeroto (1888-1951), a Javanese prince from the Yogyakarta noble house of Paku Alaman, was a poet and a writer of Dutch Indies literature, and a journalist from the Dutch East Indies (a Dutch colony that became modern Indonesia following World War II).

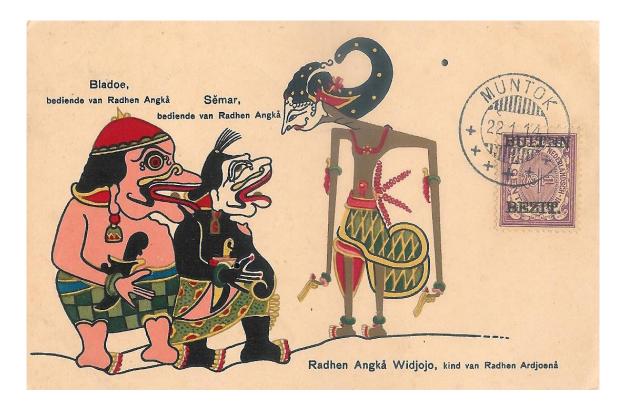
# The deaccessioning of the Nusantara collection

In 2013, Museum Nusantara in Delft closed its doors and was therefore in search of a new destination for its collection: approximately 18.000 objects that many regard as the shared heritage of Indonesia and the Netherlands.

Initially a training facility in the 19th century, Museum Nusantara started collecting from Dutch civil servants returning home with souvenirs and gifts from Indonesia. It would later become an ethnographic museum based on those objects collected during the Dutch colonial period.

Museum Prinsenhof Delft, in cooperation with the Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen (NMVW), worked together with the Dutch Rijksdienst voor Cultureel Erfgoed (RCE) to ensure that the valuation of the collection and the guidelines for deaccessioning museum objects were applied in this process.

The deaccessioning of such a large collection is unique within the cultural heritage field an can provide important learning opportunities for the museum sector. The process, which took several years, came to an end in 2018. At that time, the entire collection had been assigned to a number of new owners in the Netherlands – among which the Puppetry Museum/Poppenspe(e)Imuseum with 1.400 wayang artefacts – elsewhere in Europe and in Asia. A considerable number of objects found its way back to Indonesia, where they will be conserved at the Museum Nasional in Jakarta.



### Website Nusantara collection as a whole accessible to he public

This website is host to the entire Nusantara collection as it existed before the Nusantara Museum closed its doors. Beside the usual metadata that you may expect from a museum database, the records contain information about the valuation of the indivual objects or sets of objects, as considered for the deaccessioning of the collection. Furthermore, each artefact can be traced back to its new location.

#### Site

https://collectie-nusantara.nl/#/query/eba45f47-9e3d-4b54-a423-aeadfd28ed14 and https://collectie-nusantara.nl. See: bestemmingen/new locations.



# Puppetry Museum – Poppenspe(e)Imuseum

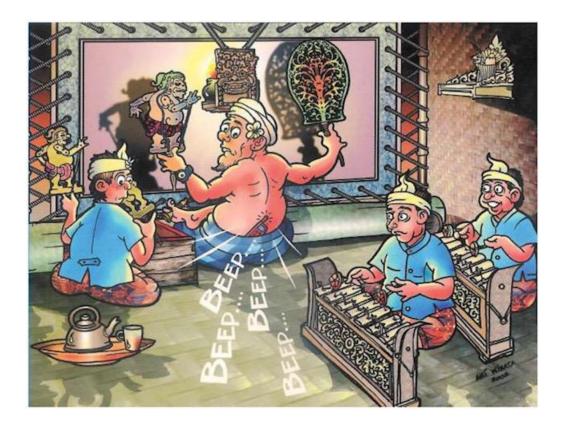
The Puppetry Museum is a Dutch cultural heritage institution for and about folk and mainstream puppet theatre, where a variety of puppetry techniques and trends are represented. A place that gives a wealth of information and a varied overview of the history of and contemporary developments in the national and international - Western and non-Western - world of puppet theatre, paper theatre, figure theatre, object theatre, expressive theatre and shadow puppetry. In this narrative museum the main focus is on the story, in which the collection plays a supporting role. The museum archives and updates the past, keeps up with the present and has an eye for cultural diversity.

#### **Puppetry Information Centre**

You can find further information about all the above in the various themed exhibitions at the Museum. Would you like to learn more about folk and mainstream puppet theatre? Then browse through the selection of nine thousand or more books in the Museum's international library. Further information about the collection and the exhibitions can also be found on our fourlanguage website, which includes a richly illustrated (but Dutch language) Puppet Theatre glossary of terms (ABC of Puppetry).

### **Opening hours museum**

The Puppetry Museum is open on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Reservation is recommended. Group visits can be arranged on other days and/or at other times.



# Special wayang exhibition

Wayang Revolusi. Art in the service of freedom 1948-1949: an exhibition, an educational multimedia presentation, and a series of publications with regard to the project 'Wayang Revolusi. Art in the service of freedom'. By means of the exhibition and the multimedia presentation, we will be showing examples of how a country's cultural identity – and that of Indonesia in particular – is designed and disseminated through the wayang-kulit-revolusi form of theatre, so that other cultures can recognise and respect it. This form of education in the field of the arts and cultural heritage could contribute towards cultural competence and, more specifically, also towards social cohesion.

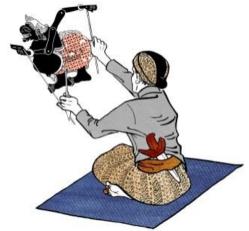
#### Wayang kulit figures

Various wayang kulit figures will be exhibited, as well as wayang paraphernalia, ordinary and animation films, and bilingual (Dutch and English), richly illustrated publications. Besides printed publications, a digital version in PDF format is also be available on the Puppetry Museum site, as well as films on YouTube and Vimeo. Major components of the exhibition include the encyclopaedic function with regard to the Indonesian fight for independence against the Dutch and information about the various types of wayang. The project also includes an extensive educational programme for children, young people (primary and secondary education level), and adults.

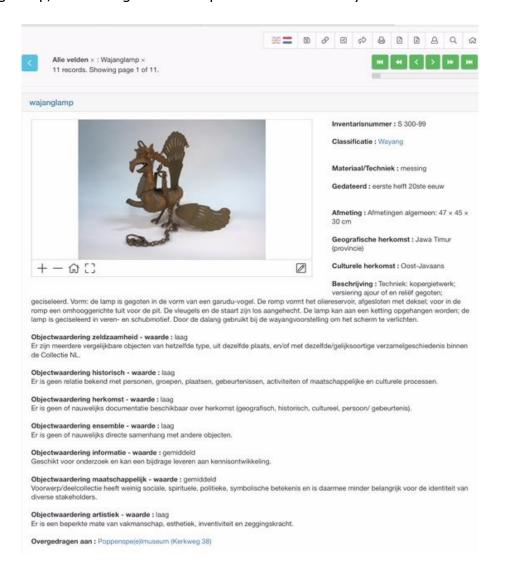
Refer to 'Information on the subject of wayang from Indonesia' via http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/Wayang.aspx.

#### Wayang

Wayang is a generic term for puppet theatre (golek/rod puppet), shadow puppet theatre (kulit/rod puppet), masks (topeng) and dance (wong) from Indonesia. Wayang kulit is a unique form of theatre that makes use of light and shadow. The performing dalang is a puppeteer who also directs the gamelan orchestra. He presents the great Hindu Indian epics Mahabharata and Ramayana on his screen. During the wayang kulit performance, he is seated cross-legged behind a large white cotton screen (kelir), facing the audience and with his back towards the musicians.



**One of the treasures from Nusantara: collection Puppetry Museum** Wayang lamp/Blenchong in the shape of a Garuda – mythical bird.



# Pictures

- 1. A special wayang prop. Wayang kulit. Dalang with Kancil, the clever little mouse-deer. Artist: Ki Ledjar Soebroto (2010).
- 2. Bladoe and Semar, servants of Raden Angka and Raden Angka Widjojo, child of Raden Ardjoena wayang kulit. Postcard. Imprint: J.M.Chs. Nijland (Soerabaja, ca. 1913).
- 3. Old-Dutch Jan Klaassen wayang kulit. Artist: Ki Ledjar Soebroto (2010).
- 4. Cartoon. Artist: Ari Winata, BOG-BOG Bali Cartoon Magazine (Denpasar, 2003).
- 5. Dalang/puppeteer with the clown Semar wayang kulit. Illustration: Elsje Zwart.
- 6. Exhibition Wayang revolusi. Puppets wayang kulit Ki Ledjar Soebroto (2010). Photo: Haye Bijlstra.
- Dalang Ledjar Soebroto (1938-2017) with Jan Pieterszoon Coen, General of the Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie/Dutch East India Company (1687-1629) – Wayang VOC – wayang kulit.



#### **Museum logo**

On the left-hand side of the museum's logo Jan Klaassen – Mr Punch's Dutch cousin – can be seen wielding a club. On the right of this jolly descendant of the Italian Pulcinella, Semar – the cheerful jester of Indonesian wayang theatre – is depicted. With a string attached to his hand, he is playfully tugging at the letter 'E' in the museum's name, pretending to be the puppeteer who is 'pulling the strings'. This extra letter 'E' is based on Dutch wordplay. The noun play (spel) is combined with the verb playing (speel), which means that this is not only a museum where you can look around, but, in particular, a place where visitors are often asked: 'Would you like to try it yourself?' (DIY). The Jan Klaassen figure in the logo also refers to various other, distinctive leading characters from tragicomic, nineteenth-century folk and mainstream puppet theatre, including the German Kasperl, the French Polichinelle and, of course, the British Mr Punch. These comic archetypes, with their oh-so-recognisable domestic ups and downs, in reality turn a mirror onto their esteemed audience

#### **Hyperlinks and Mail Form**

Hyperlinks: click on the green words. For extra information, see: http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/MailForm.html. Have fun. 'Sampai jumpa lagi' (goodbye). Applause! Concept and text: Otto van der Mieden (2018).





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