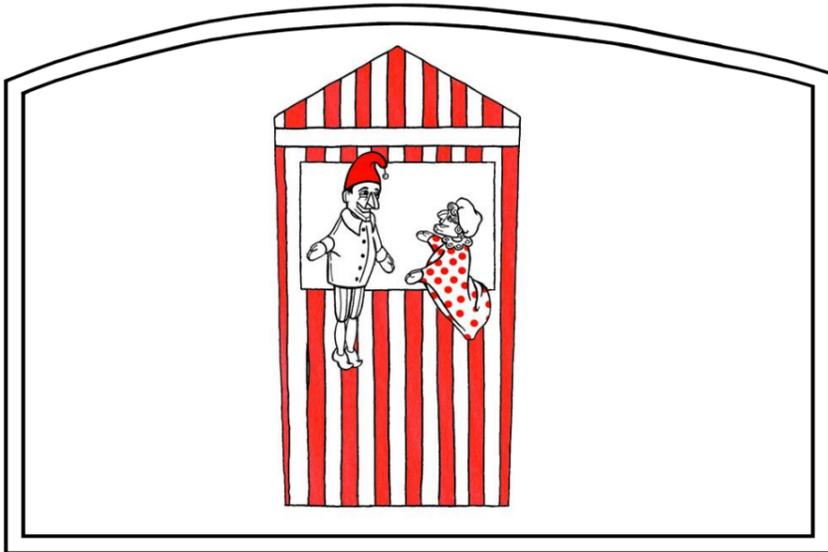


## Old-Dutch puppet theatre



Jan Klaassen is well-known in the Netherlands as the roguish 'principal man' in traditional Dutch puppet theatre. Generally speaking, Jan Klaassen is a hand puppet, just like Mr Punch in English puppet theatre. During the eighteenth, nineteenth and early decades of the twentieth century, however, Jan Klaassen puppet plays were also performed with marionettes. Puppet theatre was for the poor, while marionette theatre was for the rich. Because they hang on strings, marionettes move much more slowly than hand puppets. They are also unable to land a hefty punch. But they do have other possibilities: they can fly through the air, for instance, and some marionettes are specially made to enable them to perform spectacular tricks.

### Jan Klaassen and Katrijn

Jan Klaassen is depicted with a big potbelly and a hunchback. He wears a colourful costume and a tricorne hat. In this way, he really resembles the French Polichinelle and Mr Punch. His wife Katrijn wears a mob cap.

Picture: puppet booth with Jan Klaassen and his wife Katrijn. Hand puppets.