

# DOEPAK



Du PAK Doe PAK POPPENSPE(E)LMUSEUMKRUIJELKRANTKRABBEL Doe PAK Du PAK  
Newsletter and Scribblings No. 106d



## Christmas print: a child in the tree

Another lovely print from the *Puppetry Museum* collection. The comical character from German folk puppet theatre is called *Kasperl*. His looks and character resemble those of *Jan Klaassen* (the Dutch Mr Punch). He has a hooked nose that almost touches his pointed chin. He wears a pointed cap with a little bell. *Kasperl* originated from the Italian *Pulcinella*, as did his cousins the Dutch *Jan Klaassen*, the English *Mr Punch* and the French *Polichinelle*. *Kasperl* is one of the main characters from folk puppetry (with *hand puppets*). In *marionette theatre* he usually plays the role of servant. He likes eating and drinking, is uncomplicated, always jolly and full of jokes. His wife *Gretl* resembles the Dutch *Katrijn* (Judy) in character and looks. In traditional Dutch *puppetry theatre*, *Jan Klaassen* and *Katrijn* only have one baby. In *marionette theatre*, however, *Jan* is the father of five children. Mother *Gigogne* - *Polichinelle's* wife - has as many as 177 'little ties'. *Polichinelle* uses a few of his 'sprigs' to pay the butcher.

Would you like to learn more about *puppet theatre figures* and *techniques*? Then refer to the Dutch-language *ABC of Puppetry* on our websites: [www.poppenspel.info](http://www.poppenspel.info), [www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2](http://www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2) or [www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl](http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl). Picture: *Kasperl*, *Gretl* and their *Christmas child*. Illustration: Martha Griebler † ©, Stockerau/Austria (2003). Text and realisation: Otto van der Mieden © (2007). 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.