

Glove puppets have had a fabric body and the head and possibly the hands were probably wooden. They fashioned heads to resemble certain characters or people and then sewed or glued the head to the body. Popular figures have been the devil, and toward the end of period, Punch. He was earlier known as Vice in the morality plays. The puppets were controlled by sticking a hand in the puppet and moving the head and arms with the thumb and fingers. In some traditions rods are used, instead of a hand, inside the puppet and on one or both of the arms (Joseph).

Turkey 17th century (Jurkowski)

## When were puppets?

- China 8th century
- Egypt 10th century
- Germany 11th century
- England 14th century
- Italy 15th century
- France 15th century
- Spain 17th century

## Where were puppets?

Puppets were known to act out Bible stories as well as any popular play or satire of their day. They were used for teaching inside the **church** until they became too bawdy and were kicked out. They would often borrow from the live theater any script no longer in use. The live theater had to work diligently to keep the puppeteers from stealing their material, which was protected by guilds. Puppets were popular and they played to their audiences, whether at a **fair**, in a **theater** or at a **private estate** of a wealthy landowner. (Joseph)

## Looking at puppets

Shadow puppets are used by projecting the light source onto a screen. Earliest shadow puppets may have been shapes cut from felt used by nomads on the steppes. Of the shadow puppets that have survived to today, the earliest shadow puppets are made from rawhide.

Other puppet traditions have pierced metal. Some types of shadow puppets are held onto the screen from below the screen and others are manipulated perpendicular to the screen.

(Necipoglu)

## Other words for puppet

Puppets in the Middle Ages were performers. They are sometimes called *motions* in England, *fantocini* in Italy, *Puppen* in Germany, and *titeres* in Spain. (McIsaac 20)

A puppet is defined as an inanimate figure that is made to move by human effort before an audience.

Three main types of puppets are found in use in the Middle Ages: **shadow puppets, glove puppets, and marionettes**. Sometimes these words are used interchangeably so when the word marionette is used it is often the word that means puppet, not specifically a string puppet.

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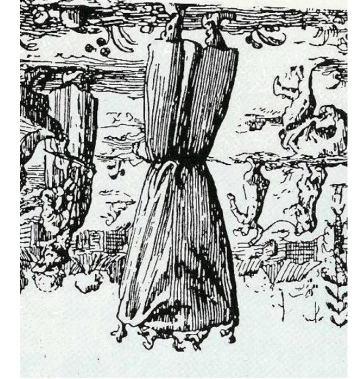
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## Puppet Facts



Fast Facts about Puppets  
in the Middle Ages  
by

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