

Banned, marginalised, tolerated or neglected, puppets were a major form of entertainment of the subordinate classes in the nineteenth century. Showmen travelled from one end of Europe to the other bringing everything from biblical plays to melodramas and variety to audiences who experienced them as their only form of dramatic entertainment. Little theatres sprang up everywhere. Showmen ensured the oral transmission of popular literature while street puppeteers spiced their shows with topical commentary that drew down the wrath of the authorities.

John McCormick and Bennie Pratasik offer the first comparative study in English of this major cultural phenomenon of the nineteenth century. The authors cover all aspects of puppet theatre during this lively and turbulent period, and include discussions of the stages, mechanical workings of the puppets, and the repertoire, covering a full range of countries and cultures. The book contains valuable and rare illustrations of puppets and theatres as well as informative diagrams.

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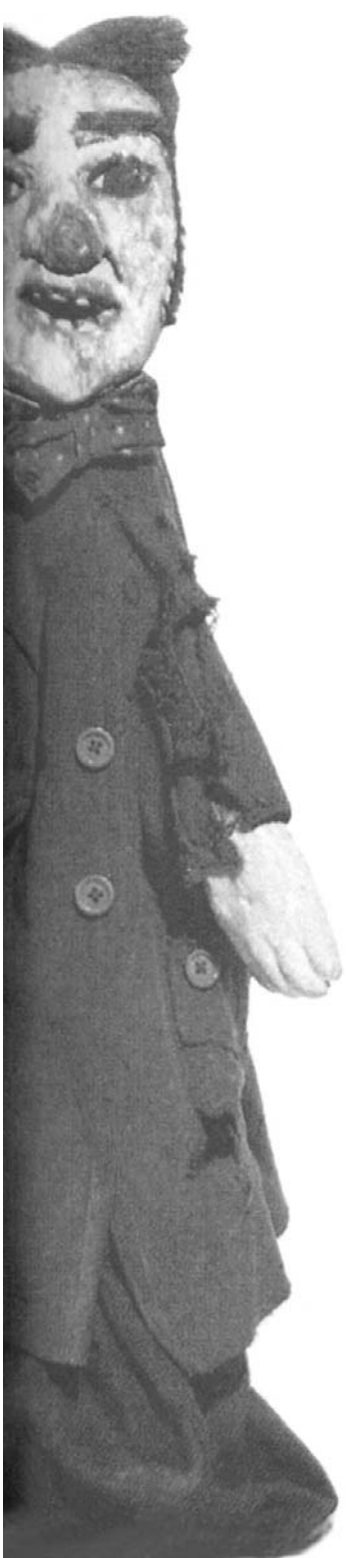
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John McCormick / Bennie Pratasik



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