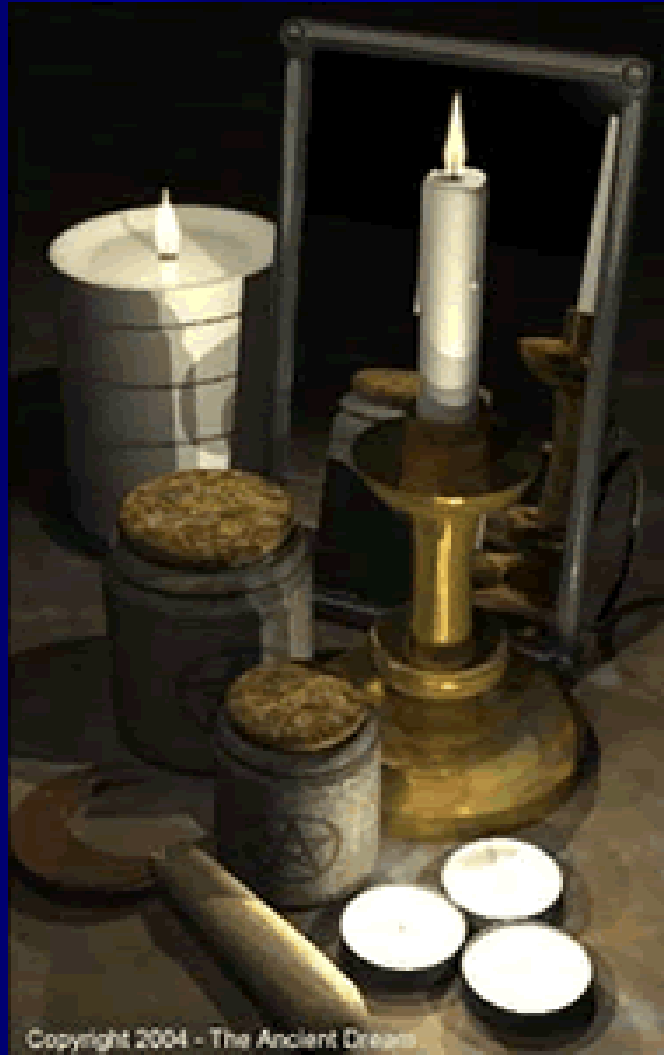


HISTORY OF PUPPETS

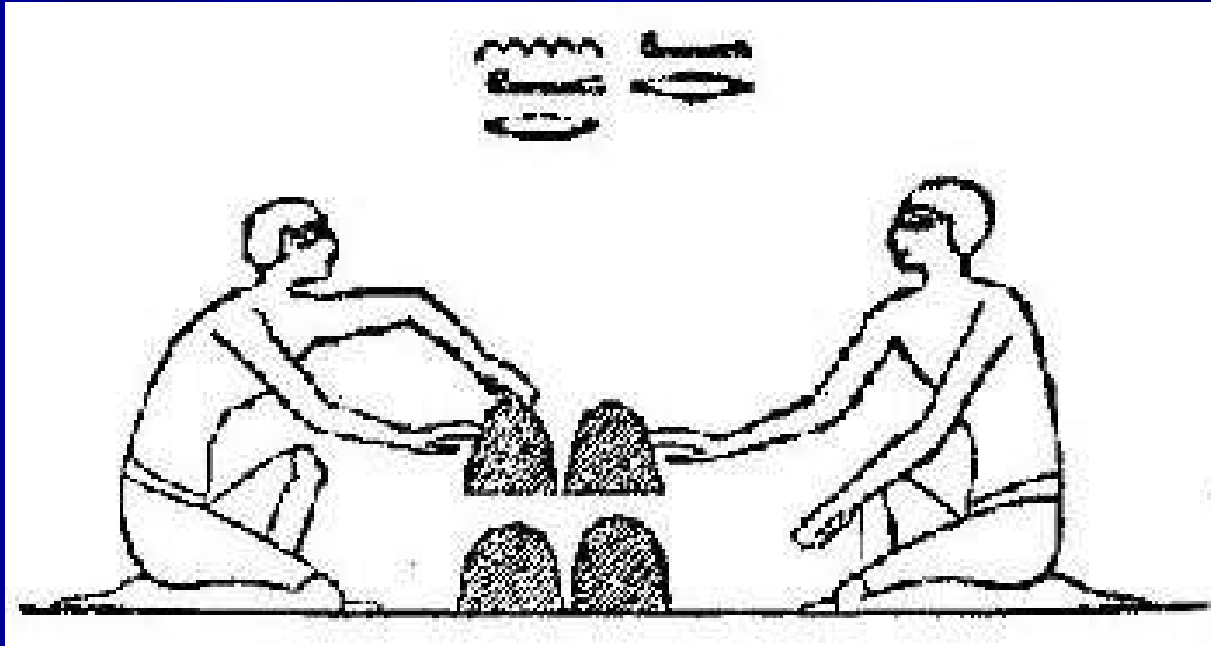
TRICKS AND MAGIC



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- **The history of puppetry is closely related to feats of magic and conjuring.**
- **They both use sleight of hand and illusion.**

EARLIEST EVIDENCES



- **The earliest evidence of magic is a painting of a conjurer performing cups and balls, in a wall painting from Beni Hasan in Egypt.**
- **It dates from about 2500 B.C.**

UNIVERSAL

- **Magic and conjuring was not just limited to Egypt.**
- **It also occurred in ancient India, China, and Babylon.**



FIRST NAMED MAGICIAN



- **The earliest conjurer for whom we have a name is Dedi from ancient Egypt.**
- **He was named in the Westcar Papyrus from 1700 B.C.**

EARLIEST CONJURERS

- **This image is of a prehistoric shaman dating from 13,000 B.C.**
- **The painting was found in a cave in southern France.**
- **These shaman probably performed tricks so that the people thought they were effective.**
- **These may have been done with dolls/puppets.**



CONJURERS OF TODAY

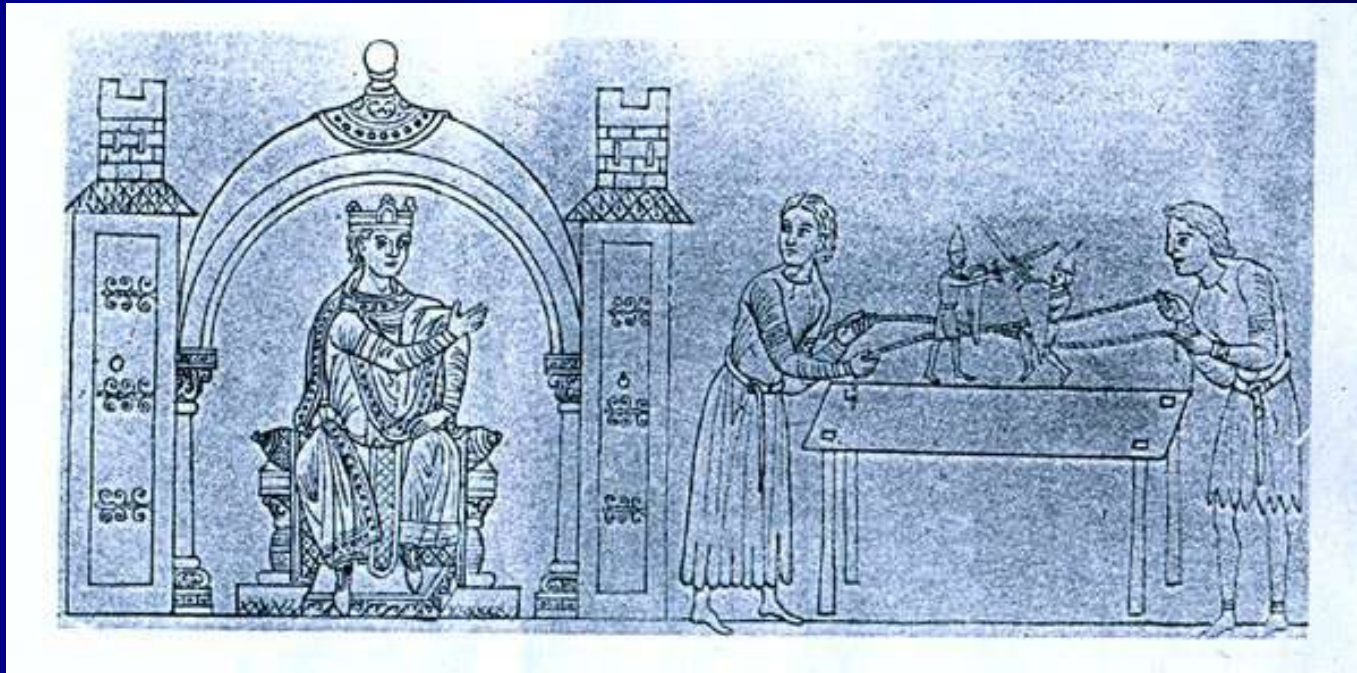


- **Today, the dalang (shadow player) functions as a kind of shaman performing magic (wayang kulit/shadow play) for the healing and exorcism of evil influences.**

- **Puppetry can be seen as a magician's trick, where the mode of the movement of the figures is hidden from the audience.**



AUTOMATA



- **Puppets may first have derived from folk artists' response to seeing spectacular public presentations of automata.**

MECHANIZED TOYS



- **Dating from about 2000 B.C., this Egyptian toy kneads bread.**
- **Its movements are hidden and controlled by strings.**

UNIVERSAL

- **These automata have been found in Egypt, China, Mesopotamia, and India.**
- **The oldest come from Egypt and India.**
- **This is an Indian version (pre-2nd or 3rd century B.C.).**
- **Notice the jointed parts.**



WHAT CAME FIRST?

- **Many historians and scientists think that toys and dolls are the ancestors of the puppet.**
- **One indicator is the origin of the word “puppet.”**
- **Many etymologists have noted similarities in the words used for dolls and puppets in several Indo-European languages.**

ARTICULATED DOLLS



- **Articulated means jointed.**
- **Articulated dolls have been found in several children's graves from ancient Greece and Rome.**
- **This one is Greek.**

LIKE PUPPETS

- **Several of these dolls had iron rods extending up from the tops of their heads.**
- **These rods were used to manipulate the dolls, just like some puppets of today. Other dolls had strings. Some had both.**



PARTS MANIPULATION



- **Many different cultures have used rods and/or strings to manipulate their puppets.**
- **This is a Balinese shadow play puppet.**

ACTUAL PUPPETRY

- **All of the previously mentioned objects were probably dolls or objects used by magicians.**
- **The first seemingly actual reference to a puppet play was by Plato in about 366 B.C.**
- **He mentions all of the essential parts of a shadow play in *Republic*, Chapter VII, “The Allegory of the Cave.”**

Egyptian Shadow Form



4 MAJOR TYPES OF PUPPETS

- **SHADOW**
- **ROD**
- **GLOVE**
- **STRING**

SHADOW PUPPETS



- **Today, shadow puppets are used mostly in India and Indonesia.**
- **In these performances, the puppeteer sits behind a screen, and light is projected from behind the screen, so that the puppets appear only as shadows.**

- **The forms and decorations are cut from leather.**
- **They are made in traditional forms so that the audience recognizes the character.**
- **Originally, these were not painted.**



ORIGINS

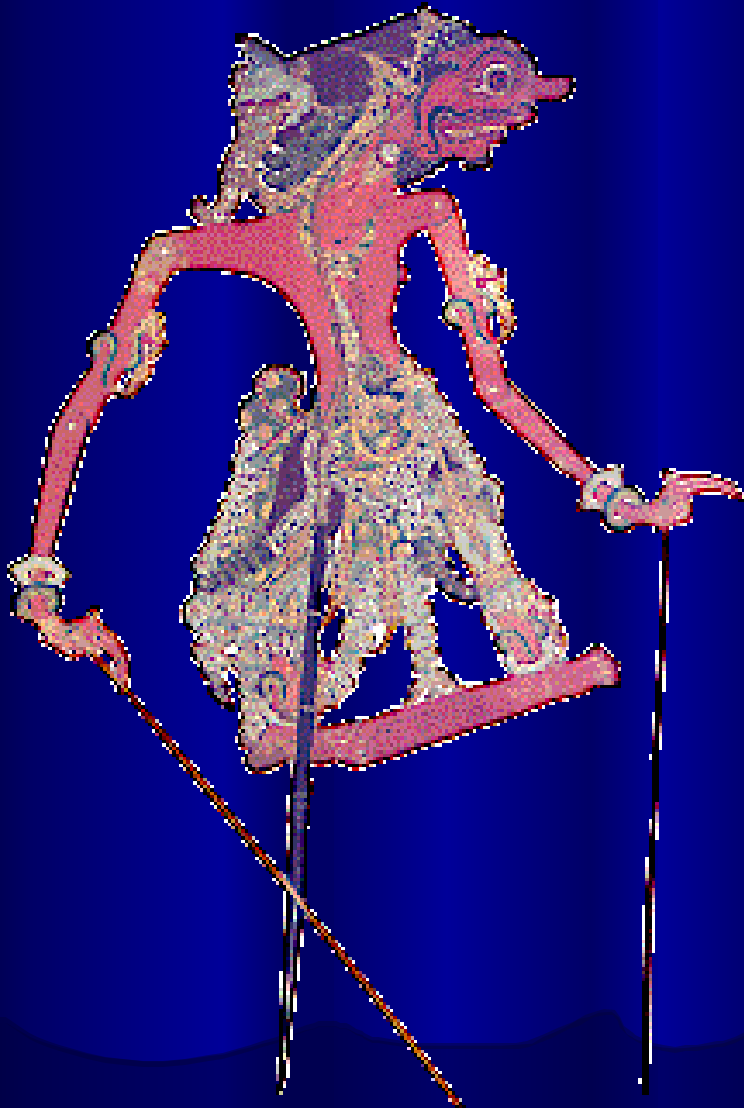
- **The shadow puppet is probably the oldest type.**
- **One can imagine a prehistoric shaman casting shadows of his human ancestors in a ritual worship in front of a campfire.**
- **It is certain that puppets started out as objects to use in religious rituals.**
- **They probably evolved in Egypt and India first.**

ORIGIN?



- **They do share characteristics across cultures.**
- **They are always in profile with one leg in front of the other.**
- **Notice the similarity between a Java puppet and an Egyptian wall painting.**

ROD PUPPETS



- **The first rod puppets were shadow puppets.**
- **India and Indonesian puppets were manipulated with rods from below, and Chinese from the side.**

- **Later puppets were not flat, but carved and painted.**
- **Notice the rods for manipulating the arms.**
- **Because of the use of rods, this type of puppet is a “rod puppet.”**



CONTEMPORARY ROD PUPPET



GLOVE PUPPETS



- **These probably developed in China.**
- **They used rod puppets with cloths to cover the rods.**
- **The puppeteer put his hand inside the clothes to move the rods.**



- **Later, the rods were eliminated.**
- **Today, glove puppets are manipulated with fingers in the arms of the puppet.**
- **Most puppets today are glove puppets.**

STRING PUPPETS

- **Historians are fairly certain that string puppets evolved out of automata.**



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Mid-Eastern Influences

- **During the Middle Ages, Persian and Arabian cultures created innovative buildings and enjoyed entertainments not known in Europe.**
- **For instance, Persians played chess and watched shadow play performances.**
- **Muslims, Greeks and Romans also had automata.**

- **It is probable that when the Moors (Muslims) conquered Spain in 711 A.D., they brought these Muslim traditions.**
- **Notice how this palace in Granada, the Alhambra, resembles buildings from Aladin.**

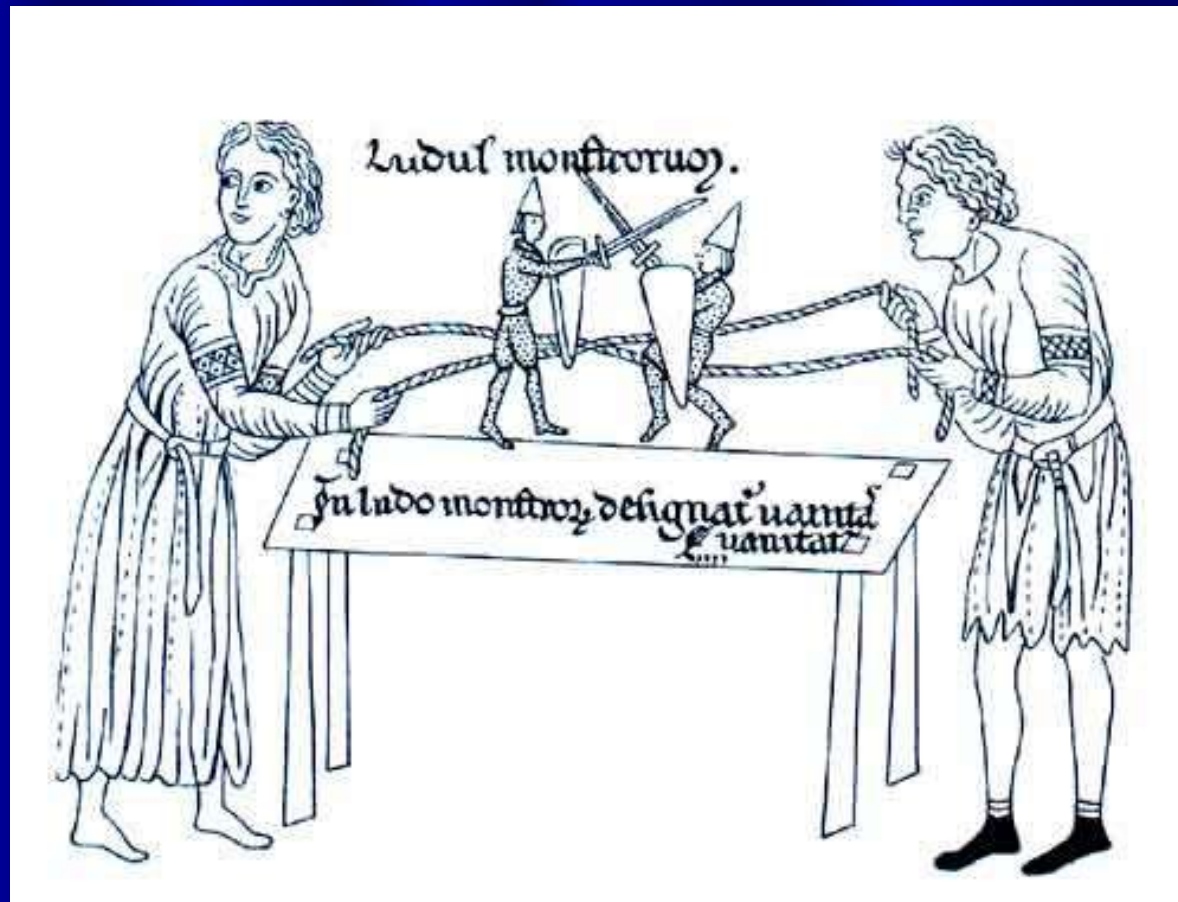


Ancient Persian Chessmen



Egyptian shadow puppets of the Middle Ages

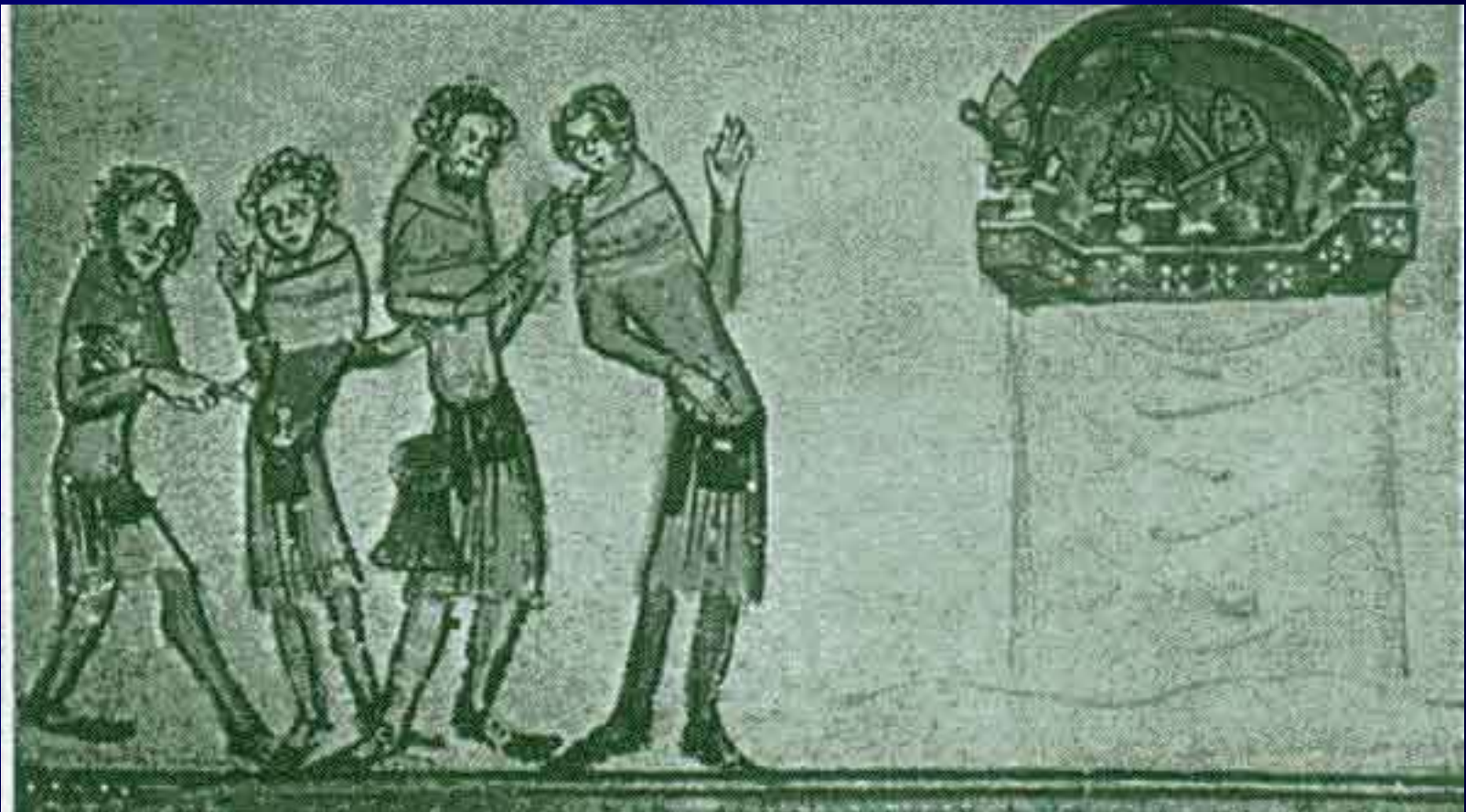




- **In this image made in 1170 A.D., two children are playing with an automata toy.**

- **There is documentation that string automata were used in weddings and churches in the Medieval period.**
- **At weddings, small figures of the bride and groom would dance. (Bishop of Alexandria wrote in the sixth century.)**

- **During the early Middle Ages, churches would use automata and shadow plays to attract attention and draw people into the church.**

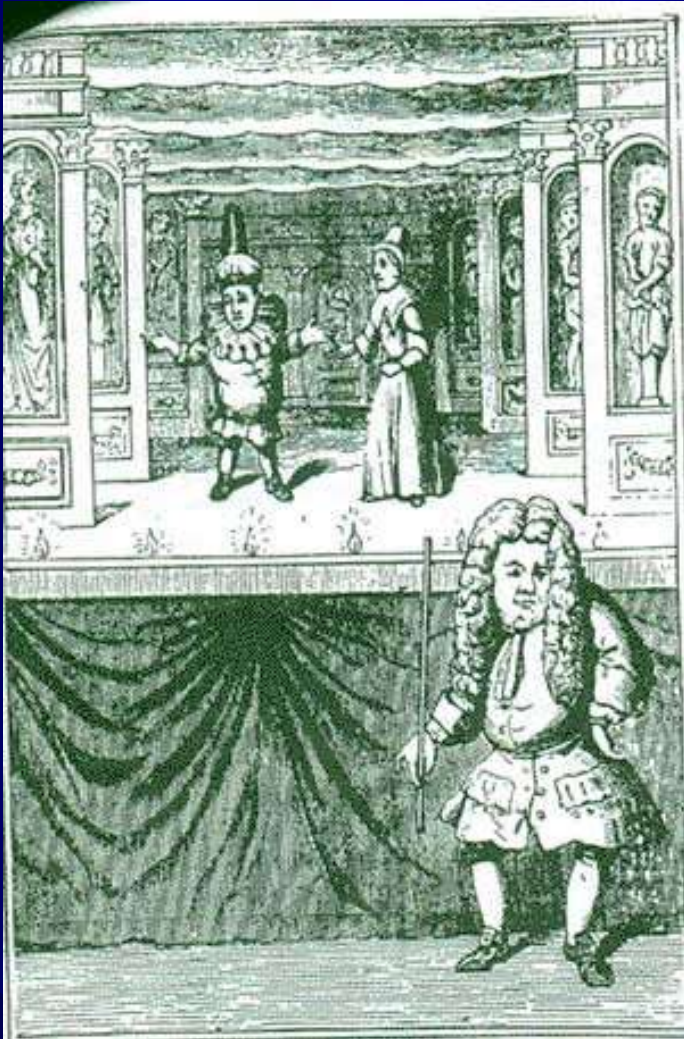


MARIONETTES

- **Marionette is the term for string operated puppets.**
- **They originated in France during the Middle Ages.**



ENTERTAINMENT



- **By the Renaissance, puppet shows were put on for entertainment, and not for religious or ritual purposes.**



- **Pinocchio is the most famous marionette.**



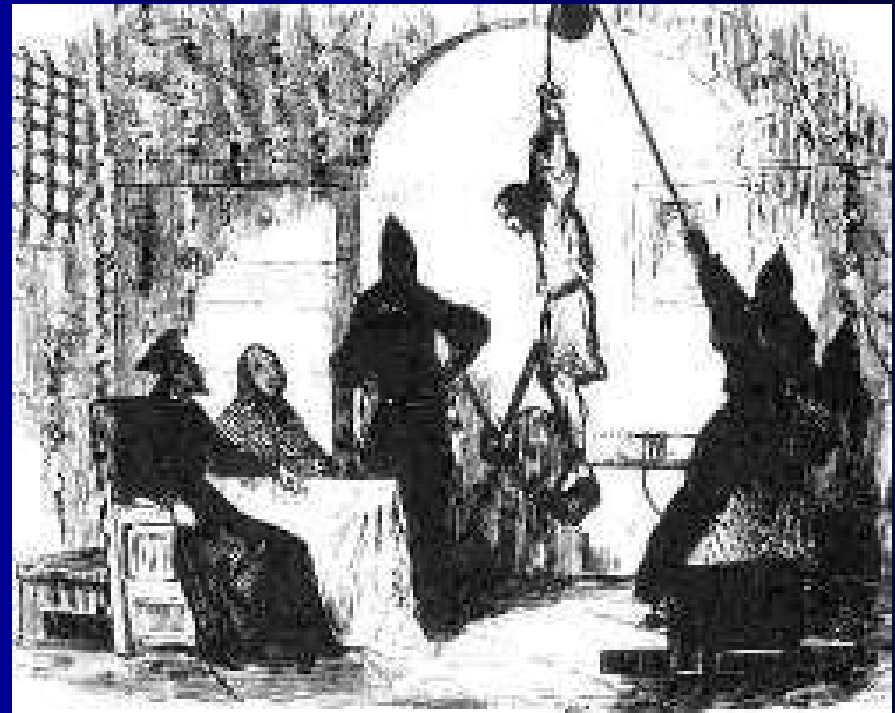
- **During the 1800's a famous set of puppets were Punch and Judy.**
- **They made fun of society and its foibles.**

Dummies and Ventriloquists



- **Ventriloquism is documented as far back as ancient Greece.**
- **The term is Latin for “belly speaker.” They communed with the dead.**
- **Louis Brabant was the ventriloquist for King Francis I of France.**

- **Due to its early use by charlatans to claim the ability to speak with the dead, which was considered to be a heresy by the early church, it was banned.**





- **It did not really become just a form of entertainment until the late 18th century.**
- **In the late 19th century, Fred Russell introduced the use of the dummy.**
- **They were popular vaudeville acts.**

- **The dummies are hand puppets with mechanisms for moving the head, mouth, and eyes.**
- **Edgar Bergen became internationally famous with Charlie McCarthy in 1938. (Candice Bergen's dad.)**



MODERN PUPPETRY

- **Due to the invention of new technologies, new forms of puppetry have developed since WWII.**
- **These new forms include:**
 - Supermarionation**
 - Muppets**
 - Stop-Action Animation**
 - Animatronics**

Supermarionation

- **In the 1960's, Gerry Anderson and his colleagues pioneered supermarionation.**
- **This combines marionettes with electronic components, typically to control facial features.**



MUPPETS



- **Jim Henson invented the first Muppets in 1955.**
- **He coined the term, Muppets, because his puppets were half hand puppet and half marionette.**



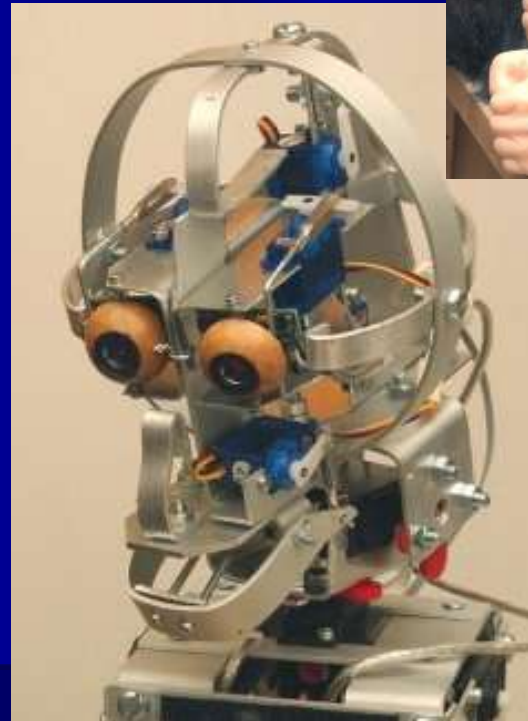
Stop-Action Animation



- **Tim Burton is famous for a new type of puppetry, stop-action animation.**
- **In this animation technique, puppets with moveable joints are slightly changed in poses for each photograph.**

ANIMATRONICS

- **Animatronics is a direct derivative of automata.**
- **Animatronics use robotics technology and computers to create lifelike, moving creatures.**



True Theater



- **The first true puppet plays were most likely derived from shadow plays.**
- **Originally, in Indian and Indonesian shadow plays, there was a narrator and the puppets only pantomimed the action. Characters never spoke.**
- **This tradition was also practiced in Europe.**

- **Eventually, puppeteers began actually having the puppet characters speak for themselves.**
- **When the characters began to speak, they became true plays.**



SUMMARY

- **Puppetry was originally closely related to magic and conjuring.**
- **The first people to use puppet-like forms were prehistoric shaman.**



- **The earliest puppets evolved from automata toys and dolls.**
- **These evolved first in Egypt and India.**





- **Shadow plays were the first type of puppetry.**
- **Shadow plays evolved in all four of the earliest civilizations: Egypt, India, Mesopotamia, and China.**

TYPES OF PUPPETRY

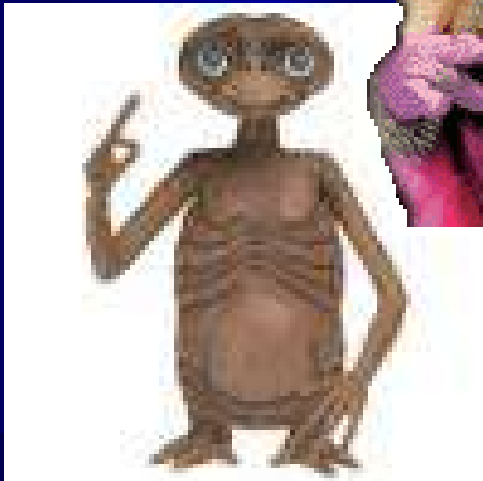
- **Traditional forms:**
 - shadow puppets**
 - rod puppets**
 - glove puppets**
 - string puppets (marionettes)**



NEW FORMS OF PUPPETS



- **Supermarionation**
- **Muppets**
- **Stop-action animation**
- **Animatronics**





PURPOSE

- **The most important change in purpose over the centuries has been the move to puppetry for a purely entertainment function.**