

PUPPETRY TRADITIONS RECOGNIZED BY UNESCO & ACCU

Nancy L. Staub, August 2018

To date, thirteen traditional performance traditions that include puppetry have been supported as **representatives** of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the ICH Section of UNESCO. Information, slides, and video footage of these forms can be accessed at the UNESCO web site: www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?pg=00011 There is a filter now for puppets

Representatives of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Opera dei Pupi, Sicilian Puppet Theatre (2001) – Italy

The Oral Heritage of Gelede (2001) – Benin – Nigeria – Togo* (masking tradition)

The Wayang Puppet Theatre (2003) – Indonesia

Ningyo Johruri Bunraku Puppet Theatre (2003) – Japan

Sbek Thom, Khmer Shadow Theatre (2005) – Cambodia

Processional Giants and Dragons in Belgium & France (2009) - Belgium, France

Karagöz (2009) – Turkey

Namsadang Nori (2009) - Republic of Korea

Hitachi Furiyumono (2009) – Japan

Chinese Shadow Puppetry (2011) – China

Festivity of “la Mare de Déu de la Salut of Algemes (2011) –Spain

Coming forth of the masks and puppets in Markala’ (2014)

Czech and Slovak Puppetry 2016 – Nawrouz, Novruz, Nowrouz, Nowrouz, Nawrouz, Nauruz, Nooruz, Nowruz, Navruz, Nevruz, Nowruz, Navruz

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Turkey (New Year’s Celebrations with some puppetry) **2016**

Yama Hoko Yatsi, float festivals in Japan 2016

Register of Best Safeguarding Practices

Fujian puppetry training (2012) – China

Unsuccessful applications:

Traditional Hand Puppetry: Aragoz (2015) - Egypt not inscribed but resubmitted

I believe an application was made by UNIMA-India but not inscribed yet.

UNIMA Italy applied to the UNESCO International Memory of the World Register

I did not find it as recognized on the web page

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Note by Frank Proschan,
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For elements inscribed on our Lists, it is important to know that we are not in the business of designating heritage as ‘Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity’ (even if that is how it is often understood). The Convention designated specific elements of heritage as *representatives* of the ICH of humanity – a very different paradigm than used in the World Heritage Convention where a property, once it is inscribed, becomes ‘world heritage’. We try to insist that ICH belongs always to the communities concerned, and not to humanity as a whole. Whether or not a particular puppetry tradition is or is not inscribed on one of our lists doesn’t make any difference in the status of the element itself or in its primary ‘ownership’ by the community concerned.

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- The Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre Database of Asian Cultural Heritage includes at least 11 traditions including puppets, www.accu.or.jp/ich/en/arts/arts1.html (several more have the code P for puppet on the site that are only mask theatre as far as I know). They are recognized as Asian Cultural Heritage (ACH) by the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre (ACCU), a non-profit organization for Asia and the Pacific regional activities in line with the principles of UNESCO, working for the promotion of mutual understanding and cultural cooperation among peoples in the region. ACCU was established in April 1971 in Tokyo through joint efforts of both public and private sectors in Japan. In July 1971 the resources and activities of the Tokyo Book Development Centre (TBDC), which had since its establishment in March 1969 been engaged actively in book development in Asia, were transferred to ACCU. ACCU has since been implementing various regional cooperative programs in the fields of culture, education and personnel exchange in close collaboration with UNESCO and its Member States in Asia and the Pacific.

Quanzhou Muqu Quanzhou Marionette Show - China
Ravanachhaya Shadow of Ravana –India
Kheimh-shab-bazi Puppet Play – Iran
Sayeh Bazi (Bazi-e-khial, Khial-Bazi) Shadow play - Iran
Awaji Ningyo Joruri Awaji Puppet Theatre – Japan

Boogiin Urlag Shamanistic Arts – Mongolia

Puttli Kari (Putli Tamasha, Katth Puttli) Making of Puppets – Pakistan

Baltal Masked Puppet Show by Feet – Republic of Korea

Hun Krabok Thai Puppet Show – Thailand

Hun Lakhon Lek Drama puppetry – Thailand

Nang Talung Nang Khuan, Nang Khaek (former name) Shadow Play – Thailand

Mua Roi Nuoc Water Puppetry – Vietnam