

**MARVEL**  
**COMICS**

**THE *New!* MARVEL®-PHILE**

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AUTHORITY

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# THE **New!** MARVEL®-PHILE

♪ "Dutch Spider-Man, Dutch Spider-Man, does whatever a Dutch spider can..." ♪

The Marvel Universe is chock-full of heroes and villains of just about every nationality, but most of the ones you see are from the U.S. Heck, even characters from outer space and alternate dimensions are better represented than costumed folks from other parts of the world! So, what's a Judge with a globe-hopping campaign to do?

Not to worry, the writers at the UCP have got you covered. We've done a few previous issues of the New Marvel-Phile highlighting international heroes and villains (see issues 16, 17, 21, 40, 60, 68, & 70!). This month, we bring you another look at characters from across the pond: a bevy of heroes from the Netherlands and Belgium!

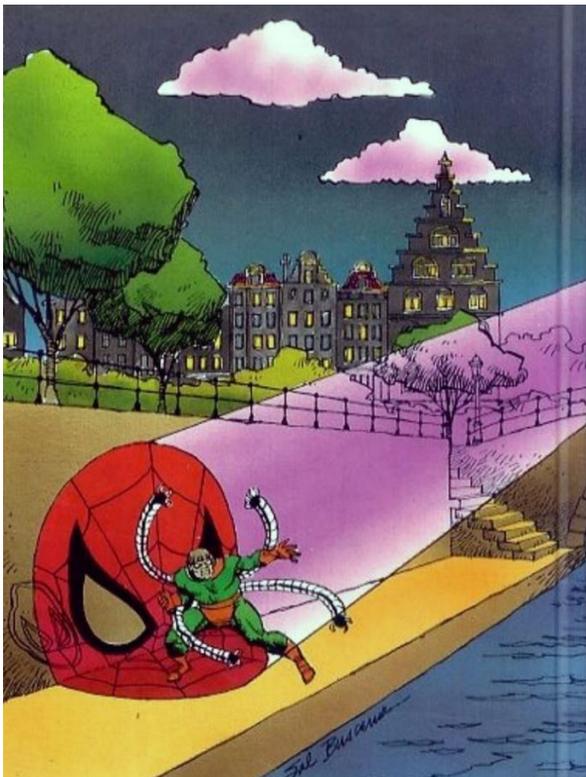
Granted, these guys and gals are pretty obscure, and culled from some of the weirder parts of the Marvel

Universe. But we promise, they are canon – if only barely!

In the past, The Marvel-Phile was one of the best resources for new and updated information pertaining to the Marvel Super Heroes Role-Playing Game. We are continuing that fine tradition with the "New Marvel-Phile". We are certain that each edition will bring something new and exciting for those that enjoy this great game.

Let us know if you like what we are doing here, or if you want to see something different. Requests are also welcome, but please bear in mind, that we cannot possibly accommodate all requests. Feel free to send requests, feedback, and submissions (especially submissions!) to [themarvelphile@gmail.com](mailto:themarvelphile@gmail.com)!

Please enjoy and feel free to give us feedback!



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## DUTCH AND BELGIAN HEROES

### “Superhelden Agenda”

From 1987 to 1991, Dutch publisher Juniorpress produced four issues of Superhelden Agenda, literally “Superhero Diary”. This was a series of day-planner calendars for high school students, which contained Marvel comic reprints and superhero sketches, and was distributed in Belgium and the Netherlands.

### Why are they canon?

Marvel comics produced outside of America are usually reprints of U.S. material, notable exceptions being Marvel U.K. and Marvel Japan. Marvel Netherlands appears to have produced two original stories, the first one featuring the Dutch Spider-Man.

Technically these appearances are canon to the 616 Universe, but just barely. Marvel Atlas Vol 1 Issue 1 unmistakably lists these characters in its Belgium and Netherlands entries, which is probably the most convincing case.

Juniorpress, who published Superhelden Agenda, reprinted Marvel material. They also reprinted DC and Image comics

though, so if you want to consider this to take place in its own continuity, be aware that this could open up a whole can of Worms. [Okay, Worms is actually in Germany – my pool of Dutch/Belgian puns is pretty limited, sorry.]

Anyway, Juniorpress itself wasn’t “Marvel Comics” but its reprints were licensed from them and sanctioned by Marvel, presumably including the right to produce their own Marvel material. The rights to reprint material were transferred from Juniorpress to another Dutch company, Z-Press, in 2007, and then to Panini Comics, an Italian publisher. So, while the rights to original stories and characters is best left figured out by European copyright lawyers, they at least seem to have stayed within the Marvel “family”.

Aside from Atlas listings and secondary sources like the Fandom and Appendix wikis, there is as yet nothing which confirms these stories took place on Earth-616. But the “Dutch Spider-Man” at least seems to be as official a Marvel story as any other, and we’ve certainly seen Spider-Men of other nationalities. So, the possibility exists that one day, as

happened with several Marvel U.K. characters, Hans Jansen and friends might make their way into the mainstream Marvel Universe. Frankly, it’s surprising that Hans wasn’t picked up on by writers during the Spider-Verse crossovers.



## “DUTCH SPIDERMAN”

### STATISTICS

F EX (20)  
A RM (30)  
S EX (20)  
E EX (20)  
R EX (20)  
I GD (10)  
P TY (6)

**Health:** 90

**Karma:** 36

**Resources:** TY

**Popularity:** 0/ 10 (Netherlands)

### BACKGROUND

**Real Name:** Hans Jansen

**Occupation:** Unknown

**Legal Status:** Dutch citizen with no criminal record

**Identity:** Known to authorities

**Other Known Aliases:** Nederlandse Spider-Man

**Marital Status:** Single

**Known Relatives:** None

**Base of Operations:** Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Past Group Affiliations:** None

**Present Group Affiliation:**

### KNOWN POWERS

None

### EQUIPMENT

**Web-Shooters:** Hans developed his own take on his inspiration's web-shooters. His version fired a kind of glue distilled from canal silt, and was stored in a canister on his back, similar to a diver's air tank. Less versatile than the U.S. Spidey's webbing, it was only useful for binding opponents. RM strength, range of 2 areas.

**Talents:** Languages (Dutch and English); Chemistry;

**Contacts:** Spider-Man (Parker), Amsterdam police

### ADDITIONAL NOTES

Created by Joost Timp (writer) and Chris Krone, Steven de Rie, Gerben den Heeten and Erik Olden (artists). Each artist was a winner of a competition to illustrate a genuine Spider-Man story, and drew one quarter of the total story. Steven de Rie was the only one who drew Hans in full costume.



### ROLE-PLAYING NOTES

Jansen is a well-meaning fanboy who believes that everyone has the responsibility to do good. This altruism puts him into situations where he is over his head.

### HISTORY

Hans Jansen was a huge fan of the American superhero Spider-Man. Inspired by his hero, Hans decided to follow his example and become a superhero. He designed a costume based on Spidey's, and created his own version of web-shooters. His early endeavors against petty criminals were successful, and drew press attention, becoming known as the Dutch Spiderman.

Peter Parker arrived in Amsterdam, sent by J. Jonah Jameson to investigate the story of another Spider-Man for the Daily Bugle. Peter soon witnessed his Dutch counterpart in action, and afterwards tailed Hans home. There, the American original introduced himself to his Dutch imitator. Hans was overjoyed to meet his idol, but Peter was troubled, debating whether he should try to convince Hans, who had no real powers,

to stop risking his life on a daily basis trying to copy him.

Hans' example led others in Amsterdam to become masked vigilantes, which in turn led to intense police attention. When Hans next went into battle, things went wrong, and he was captured by the criminals he had tried to stop. The American Spider-Man had to save him. The police arrived to find Hans, still in costume, tied to a chair. The officers, who now knew his identity, agreed to let him go after he promised to hang up his mask and retire from crimefighting.

## OTHER DUTCH HEROES

Marvel's had a few Dutch characters over the years, but not many. The most notable of the bunch is Ulysses Klaue and his brethren (rebranded as South African in the MCU), vampire hunter Abraham Van Helsing, and Serpent Society member King Cobra. The rest are mostly a handful of World War II heroes.

In Superhelden Agenda, Hans is mentioned as having encouraged other citizens of Amsterdam to become costumed vigilantes. Of these, three are shown, but none named - one is a drunk dressed in a Wolverine suit. A Dokter Oktopus is also mentioned.

In addition to that there were 20 (or more) superhero gags by Steven de Rie in the same publication, which produced 6 Dutch (and 5 Belgian) Superheroes. These characters are only given brief descriptions, so the profiles here are mostly guesswork. Whether they were simply costumed wannabes or actual effective (if silly looking) crime fighters is up for debate, so I've chosen to make them relatively low-powered. Popularity ratings are split between general and local reaction; powers are a best guess based on theme and illustrations.



### DE MOLEN

F RM (30)  
 A GD (10)  
 S GD (10)  
 E EX (20)  
 R TY (6)  
 I TY (6)  
 P PR (4)

**Health: 70**  
**Popularity: 0/10**

**Karma: 16**  
**Resources: TY**

**Powers:**  
 Body Resistance - GD

Bladed Arms - EX attack with Edged damage

**History:** De Molen translates as "the Windmill" and seems to be an actual windmill come to life. When confronted by the American mutant hero Wolverine laughing at the notion of Dutch superheroes, De Molen threatened to punch him with the mill's blades.



### KAASKOP

F GD (10)  
 A GD (10)  
 S GD (10)  
 E EX (20)  
 R TY (6)  
 I TY (6)  
 P TY (6)

**Health: 50**  
**Popularity: 0/4**

**Karma: 18**  
**Resources: TY**

**Powers:**  
 Cheese Form - Kaaskop is made of cheese, giving his form the advantages of Poor rank Plasticity and Elongation, Feeble protection versus Blunt and Shooting damage, and Remarkable holding ability for opponents at a touch-only range.

**History:** The Kaaskop would be translated as the Cheesehead, and seems to be made out of cheese. He has a tattoo on his face which refers to how mature the cheese is. When confronted by the American mutant hero Wolverine laughing at the notion of Dutch superheroes, an annoyed Kaaskop asked to refrain from any aging jokes.



### KLOMPMAN

F RM (30)  
 A EX (20)  
 S EX (20)  
 E GD (10)  
 R PR (4)  
 I TY (6)  
 P TY (6)

Health: 80                      Karma: 16  
 Popularity: 0/6                Resources: TY

#### Powers:

Stomp Attack - Klompmán can generate a shockwave of EX intensity that can travel up to 3 areas, potentially knocking down any opponent in its path.

**History:** The Klompmán would be translated as the Clogman and wears a giant clog on his head, not unlike the American Phone Ranger. When confronted by the American mutant hero Wolverine laughing at the notion of Dutch superheroes, Klompmán threatened to stomp him with his clogs.



### DE KOEMANNEN

F EX (20)  
 A RM (30)  
 S RM (30)  
 E EX (20)  
 R TY (6)  
 I TY (6)  
 P TY (6)

Health: 100                      Karma: 18  
 Popularity: 0/10                Resources: GD

#### Powers:

Kick - De Koemannen have a hyper-kick attack at +1CS Fighting and Damage.

**History:** De Koemannen is a pun on famous Dutch soccer player Ronald Koeman, a famous soccer coach, former professional soccer player and four-time champion. Koeman's last name has the Dutch word for cow in it, thus the Koemannen are wearing cow-horns. There are shown to be at least three of them, presumably with identical stats. When confronted by the American mutant hero Wolverine laughing at the notion of Dutch superheroes, De Koemannen called Ronald (Koeman) to kick him.

### AMSTERDAMMERTJE

Amsterdammertje was another Dutch superhero. The name comes from the typical phallic-looking, red-brown, steel traffic bollard that is used to separate the pavement from the street in Amsterdam. Amsterdammertje is Dutch for 'little one from Amsterdam'. The bollards bear the three Saint Andrew's Crosses from the coat of arms of Amsterdam. No image or description of him is available, so there's not enough information to even guess at a writeup. Possibly he is a strong man type, and/or may have metal powers appropriate to his name, similar to the X-Men's Colossus.



## BELGIAN CHARACTERS

Belgians haven't fared much better than Dutch citizens in terms of Marvel representation. Belgium does have the distinction of being the home country of Doctor Doom in the Ultimates universe (Earth-1610), and the country of origin for Omega-level mutant Absolon Mercator. Other than that, we've got Commander Courage, the Belgian Brain...and these guys.

Superhelden Agenda gives us five Belgian characters: Ma Yonaïse (the only superheroine in the set), Pa Tat (Fries, as in French Fries, which are actually Belgian), Friezjak (bag of Fries), Atomiumman (named after the symbolic building of Brussels the Atomium) and Manneke Pis. Like the Dutch one-offs, these are only given a line or two of description and a sketch at best, so the profiles are mostly guesswork – feel free to fill in the rest.

### ***What's the deal with the French Fry jokes?***

You might notice below that three out of the five Belgians from Superhelden Agenda have a French fry theme! What gives?

Fries are actually a Belgian invention (not French). They're also a national food of Belgium and something of an obsession. They are prepared and served differently from their American version, and in Belgium are served with a large variety of sauces.

Known as "frietten" in Flanders and the southern provinces of the Netherlands, or "patat" in the north and central parts of the Netherlands, fries are a substantial part of several national dishes.

In Belgium, fries are sold in shops called friteries (French), frietkot/frituur (Belgian Dutch), snackbar (Dutch in The Netherlands) or Fritüre/Frittüre (German). Traditionally they are served in a cornet de frites (French), patatzak/friezjak/fritzak (Dutch/Flemish), or Frittentüte (German), a white cardboard cone, then wrapped in paper, with a spoonful of sauce (often mayo) on top.



### **The Atomium**

The Atomium is a landmark building in Brussels, originally constructed for the 1958 Brussels World's Fair (Expo 58). It is located on the Heysel/Heizel Plateau in Laeken (northern Brussels), where the exhibition took place. It is now a museum. Although the Atomium has yet to appear in Marvel comics, it's included here because: 1) It would make a heck of a superhero headquarters, and 2) Any Marvel adventure taking place in Belgium would be remiss not to include this fantastic landmark of space-age architecture.

Designed by the engineer André Waterkeyn and architects André and Jean Polak, it stands 102 meters (335 ft) tall. Its nine 18-metre-diameter (59 ft) stainless steel-clad spheres are

connected in the shape of a unit cell that could represent an iron crystal magnified 165 billion times. Tubes connecting the spheres enclose stairs, escalators and an elevator (in the central, vertical tube) to allow access to the five habitable spheres, which contain exhibit halls and other public spaces. The top sphere includes a restaurant which has a panoramic view of Brussels. The building was completely renovated between 2004 and 2006.

### **ATOMIUMMAN**

Atomiumman was one of the Belgian superheroes noted in Superhelden Agenda and the Marvel Atlas Belgium entry. No image is available and not enough information exists for a profile; see above for a description of the building for which he is named.



### FRIETJE PIET

F GD (10)  
 A EX (20)  
 S TY (6)  
 E RM (30)  
 R RM (30)  
 I GD (10)  
 P GD (10)

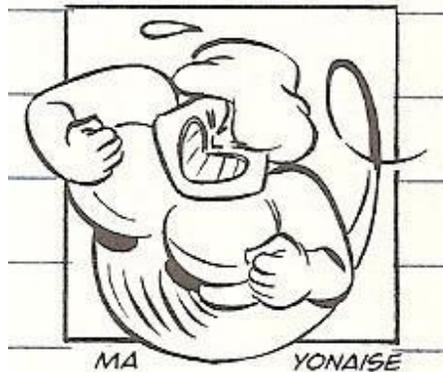
Health: 66  
 Popularity: 0/4

Karma: 50  
 Resources: PR

#### Powers:

Hyper-Running - EX ability

**History:** Frietje Piet's history is unrevealed. He appears to be a sentient French fry, and since he's running he might have some speed powers. He works with Zak Patat. His name translates to "Fries Peter"; in addition to being a given name, "Piet" has a number of meanings, the most applicable being loosely, a skilled person or expert. It is also possible that his name is wordplay on a Dutch fast food restaurant. It is possible that Frietje Piet has some sort of connection to Ma Yonaise and Zak Patat.



### MA YONAISE

F GD (10)  
 A GD (10)  
 S GD (10)  
 E EX (20)  
 R GD (10)  
 I GD (10)  
 P TY (6)

Health: 50  
 Popularity: 0/4

Karma: 26  
 Resources: GD

#### Powers:

Liquid Form - Ma Yonaise is made of mayonnaise, giving her a viscous liquid form, as per the Body Transformation power, at RM ability. This power is permanently on.

**History:** Ma Yonaise's history is unrevealed. The image suggests that she has a semi-liquid form, similar to Hydro-Man, but likely of mayonnaise rather than water. It is possible that Ma Yonaise has some sort of connection to Frietje Piet and Zak Patat.



### MANNEKE PIS

F GD (10)  
 A GD (10)  
 S RM (30)  
 E EX (20)  
 R GD (10)  
 I EX (20)  
 P GD (10)

Health: 70  
 Popularity: 0/30

Karma: 40  
 Resources: PR

#### Powers:

Water Generation - Manneke Pis can generate a jet of water at RM ability. It is especially effective at extinguishing fires, at AM ability when used for this purpose.

If Manneke Pis is in fact an animated version of the statue, he may also have Body Transformation - Stone as an additional power, either permanent or temporary, at the GM's discretion.

**History:** Manneke Pis may be associated with Ma Yonaise, as his accompanying text says "and to clean up Ma's mess." His name literally translates to "Little Peeing Man" and seems to have liquid-based powers.

This seems pretty weird, but it actually makes sense: "Manneke Pis" is the iconic statue of a urinating boy, commonly seen as a motif in garden sculptures. The original sculpture, in Brussels, is an iconic Belgian work of art that is said to embody both the Belgian sense of humour and independence of mind. There are several legends behind the statue. One states that it commemorates two-year-old Duke Godfrey III of Leuven, who was hidden



from foreign invaders in 1142; revealing his position from his hiding space, the young duke urinated on the enemy soldiers, who lost the battle. Another popular legend tells of a young boy who saved his kingdom by extinguishing a fire by urinating on it, either an explosive fuse lit by foreign invaders or an accidental fire started in the king's castle. Yet another story depicts the boy as the victim of a witch's spell, frozen in time as punishment for peeing on her door.



## ZAK PATAT

F EX (20)  
A TY (6)  
S IN (40)  
E EX (20)  
R TY (6)  
I TY (6)  
P TY (6)

Health: 86  
Popularity: 0/ 4

Karma: 18  
Resources: TY

**Powers:** None, other than his super-strength reflected in his primary statistics. Well, that and being an animated bag of fries, which is unusual in itself.

**History:** Zak Patat's history is unrevealed. He appears to be a sentient pack of French fries (served in a paper cone as is common in Belgium), and since he's flexing his biceps he might have some level of enhanced or superhuman strength. It is possible that Zak Patat has some sort of connection to Ma Yonaise and Frietje Piet. His name literally means "Bag of Fries." It is also possible that "Patat" is meant to sound like "Pa Tat", as an echo to Ma Yonaise, i.e. Ma and Pa, indicating a family of French fries -- possibly Frietje Piet is their son.



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