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978-1-107-14168-1 – The Merchant of Venice  
William Shakespeare, Edited by M.M. Mahood, Introduction by Tom Lockwood  
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## THE NEW CAMBRIDGE SHAKESPEARE

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From the publication of the first volumes in 1984 the General Editor of the New Cambridge Shakespeare was Philip Brockbank and the Associate General Editors were Brian Gibbons and Robin Hood. From 1990 to 1994 the General Editor was Brian Gibbons and the Associate General Editors were A. R. Braunmuller and Robin Hood.

## THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

For this updated edition of one of Shakespeare's most problematic plays, Tom Lockwood has added a new introductory section on the latest scholarly trends, performance and adaptation practices which have occurred over the last two decades. Investigating the latest critical frames through which the play has been interpreted, the updated introduction also focuses on recent international performances on stage and screen (including Al Pacino's performances on film and in Daniel Sullivan's production in New York, the Habima National Theatre's production for the Globe to Globe Festival, Jonathan Munby's touring production for the Globe performed in London, New York and Venice, and Rupert Goold's production for the Royal Shakespeare Company). Finally, new forms of adaptation are considered: a performance transposed to the different generic mode of a New York auction room, and the remaking of the play in Howard Jacobson's 2016 novel, *Shylock Is My Name*.

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*The First Quarto of Romeo and Juliet*, edited by Lukas Erne  
*The Taming of a Shrew: The 1594 Quarto*, edited by Stephen Roy Miller

# THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Third Edition

*Edited by*

M. M. MAHOOD

Revised with a new introduction by

TOM LOCKWOOD

*University of Birmingham*



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## PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

*The Merchant of Venice* is a play which calls for unobtrusive editing. Though the reader, or the actor studying his lines, is nowhere brought to a halt by a major textual or linguistic problem, there are many places where he or she may be glad of a reassuring clarification of sixteenth-century usage or ideas. One of the pleasures of preparing this edition has been that of receiving this kind of help from several of the play's early editors, who had the advantage of being closer to Elizabethan speech and Elizabethan ways of thinking than, for all our research into the period, we can be today. Among the play's recent editors, my main debt has been to John Russell Brown, whose Arden edition was the first to take full cognisance of the probability that the printers of the play's first quarto were working from Shakespeare's manuscript.

In preparing the Introduction and Appendix I have sought the advice on particular points of many correspondents, friends, and colleagues, all of whom have responded generously; among them, Daniel Cohn-Sherbok, Bernice Hamilton, Peter Laven, and Brian Simpson have cast an expert eye over portions of the typescript. The General Editor of the series has offered encouragement just at the times when it was most needed. Throughout my preparation of the edition I have had invaluable help from the Associate General Editor, Robin Hood, whose painstaking attention to textual minutiae has never obscured his enthusiastic awareness of the play as theatre. At a later stage, the sharp-eyed accuracy of Paul Chipchase as press reader has preserved me from many errors and inconsistencies.

Mary White and Sylvia Morris of the Shakespeare Centre Library have not only borne with my demands for volume after volume but helped me as well with the choice of illustrations. Moira Mosley, Giorgio Melchiori, Marilla Battilana, and Gianfranco Donella all aided me in my quest for a sixteenth-century Gobbo on the Rialto (illustration 2). I owe the photographs on pp. 46 and 186 to the speedy and efficient work of Sussex University's Photographic Unit.

M.M.M.

*University of Kent*

## ABBREVIATIONS AND CONVENTIONS

Shakespeare's plays, when cited in this edition, are abbreviated in a style modified slightly from that used in the *Harvard Concordance to Shakespeare*. Other editions of Shakespeare are abbreviated under the editor's surname (Furness, Hudson), or, in certain cases, under the series title (Cam., Clarendon). When more than one edition by the same editor is cited, later editions are discriminated with a raised figure (Delius<sup>3</sup>). All quotations from Shakespeare, except those from *The Merchant of Venice*, use the text and lineation of *The Riverside Shakespeare*, under the general editorship of G. Blakemore Evans.

### 1. Shakespeare's plays

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <i>Ado</i>  | <i>Much Ado about Nothing</i>                   |
| <i>Ant.</i> | <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>                     |
| <i>AWW</i>  | <i>All's Well That Ends Well</i>                |
| <i>AYLI</i> | <i>As You Like It</i>                           |
| <i>Cor.</i> | <i>Coriolanus</i>                               |
| <i>Cym.</i> | <i>Cymbeline</i>                                |
| <i>Err.</i> | <i>The Comedy of Errors</i>                     |
| <i>Ham.</i> | <i>Hamlet</i>                                   |
| <i>1H4</i>  | <i>The First Part of King Henry the Fourth</i>  |
| <i>2H4</i>  | <i>The Second Part of King Henry the Fourth</i> |
| <i>H5</i>   | <i>King Henry the Fifth</i>                     |
| <i>1H6</i>  | <i>The First Part of King Henry the Sixth</i>   |
| <i>2H6</i>  | <i>The Second Part of King Henry the Sixth</i>  |
| <i>3H6</i>  | <i>The Third Part of King Henry the Sixth</i>   |
| <i>H8</i>   | <i>King Henry the Eighth</i>                    |
| <i>JC</i>   | <i>Julius Caesar</i>                            |
| <i>John</i> | <i>King John</i>                                |
| <i>LLL</i>  | <i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>                     |
| <i>Lear</i> | <i>King Lear</i>                                |
| <i>Mac.</i> | <i>Macbeth</i>                                  |
| <i>MM</i>   | <i>Measure for Measure</i>                      |
| <i>MND</i>  | <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>                |
| <i>MV</i>   | <i>The Merchant of Venice</i>                   |
| <i>Oth.</i> | <i>Othello</i>                                  |
| <i>Per.</i> | <i>Pericles</i>                                 |
| <i>R2</i>   | <i>King Richard the Second</i>                  |
| <i>R3</i>   | <i>King Richard the Third</i>                   |
| <i>Rom.</i> | <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>                         |
| <i>Shr.</i> | <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>                  |
| <i>STM</i>  | <i>Sir Thomas More</i>                          |

|              |                                    |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Temp.</i> | <i>The Tempest</i>                 |
| <i>TGV</i>   | <i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> |
| <i>Tim.</i>  | <i>Timon of Athens</i>             |
| <i>Tit.</i>  | <i>Titus Andronicus</i>            |
| <i>TN</i>    | <i>Twelfth Night</i>               |
| <i>TNK</i>   | <i>The Two Noble Kinsmen</i>       |
| <i>Tro.</i>  | <i>Troilus and Cressida</i>        |
| <i>Wiv.</i>  | <i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>  |
| <i>WT</i>    | <i>The Winter's Tale</i>           |

## 2. Other works cited and general references

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Abbott               | E. A. Abbott, <i>A Shakespearian Grammar</i> , 1869 (references are to numbered paragraphs)  |
| Alexander            | <i>William Shakespeare, The Complete Works</i> , ed. Peter Alexander, 1951   |
| AV                   | The Authorised Version of the Bible, 1611 (also known as the King James Bible)   |
| BB                   | The 'Bishops' Bible', 1568 (a revision of the Great Bible of 1539)   |
| Boswell              | <i>The Plays and Poems of William Shakspeare</i> , [ed. James Boswell,] 21 vols., 1821, V  |
| Brown                | <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , ed. John Russell Brown, 1955; reprinted with corrections and additions, 1961 (Arden)                             |
| Bulloch              | John Bulloch, <i>Studies on the Text of Shakespeare</i> , 1878   |
| Bullough             | <i>Narrative and Dramatic Sources of Shakespeare</i> , ed. Geoffrey Bullough, 1, 1957  |
| Cam.                 | <i>The Works of William Shakespeare</i> , ed. William George Clark, John Glover and William Aldis Wright, 9 vols., 1863–6, II                    |
| Capell               | <i>Mr William Shakespeare his Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies</i> , [ed. Edward Capell,] 10 vols., 1767–8, III                                |
| conj. Capell         | Edward Capell, <i>Notes and Various Readings to Shakespeare</i> , 1, 1783  |
| Chew                 | S. C. Chew, <i>The Crescent and the Rose</i> , 1937  |
| Clarendon            | <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , ed. William George Clark and William Aldis Wright, 1869 (Clarendon Shakespeare)                                  |
| Collier              | <i>The Works of William Shakespeare</i> , ed. J. Payne Collier, 8 vols., 1842–4, II  |
| Collier <sup>2</sup> | <i>The Plays of Shakespeare. The text regulated by the old copies, and by the recently discovered Folio of 1632</i> , ed. J. Payne Collier, 1853 |
| Collier <sup>3</sup> | <i>Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories, Tragedies, and Poems</i> , ed. J. Payne Collier, 6 vols., 1858, II   |
| conj.                | conjecture   |
| Cowden Clarke        | <i>The Plays of Shakespeare</i> , edited and annotated by Charles and Mary Cowden Clarke, 3 vols., 1864–8, I                                     |
| Delius               | <i>Complete Works of William Shakespeare</i> , [ed. Nicolaus Delius,] 1854   |
| Delius <sup>2</sup>  | <i>Shakespere's Werke</i> , herausgegeben von Nicolaus Delius, 7 vols., 1854–65, V   |
| Delius <sup>3</sup>  | <i>Shakespere's Werke</i> , herausgegeben von Nicolaus Delius, 2 vols., 1876, I  |
| Dyce                 | <i>The Works of William Shakespeare</i> , ed. Alexander Dyce, 6 vols., 1857, II  |
| Dyce <sup>2</sup>    | <i>The Works of William Shakespeare</i> , ed. Alexander Dyce, 9 vols., 1864–7, II  |
| Eccles               | <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , [ed. I. A. Eccles,] 1805   |
| ELH                  | <i>ELH: A Journal of English Literary History</i>  |

*Abbreviations and Conventions*

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|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>ELN</i>              | <i>English Language Notes</i>  |
| <i>ETJ</i>              | <i>Educational Theatre Journal</i>   |
| F                       | <i>Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, &amp; Tragedies</i> , 1623  |
| F2                      | <i>Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies</i> , 1632  |
| F3                      | <i>Mr. William Shakespear's Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies</i> , 1664  |
| F4                      | <i>Mr. William Shakespear's Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies</i> , 1685  |
| Fletcher                | <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , ed. R. F. W. Fletcher, 1938 (New Clarendon)  |
| Furness                 | <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , ed. H. H. Furness, 1888 (Variorum)   |
| GB                      | The Geneva translation of the Bible, 1560  |
| Golding                 | <i>Shakespeare's Ovid: being Arthur Golding's Translation of the Metamorphoses</i> , ed. W. H. D. Rouse, 1961  |
| Hanmer                  | <i>The Works of Mr. William Shakespear</i> , [ed. Thomas Hanmer,] 6 vols., 1743–4, II  |
| Hanmer <sup>2</sup>     | <i>The Works of Mr. William Shakespear</i> , [ed. Thomas Hanmer,] 6 vols., 1770–1, II  |
| conj. Hawkins           | see Reed   |
| Hudson                  | <i>The Complete Works of William Shakespeare</i> , ed. H. N. Hudson, 20 vols., 1881, III   |
| Johnson                 | <i>The Plays of William Shakspeare</i> , ed. Samuel Johnson, 8 vols., 1765, I  |
| Keightley               | <i>The Plays of William Shakspeare</i> , ed. Thomas Keightley, 6 vols., 1864, I  |
| Kellner                 | Leon Kellner, <i>Restoring Shakespeare</i> , 1925  |
| Knight                  | <i>The Pictorial Edition of the Works of Shakspeare</i> , ed. Charles Knight, 8 vols., 1838–43, <i>Comedies</i> , I  |
| conj. Lawrence          | see NS   |
| conj. Lettsom           | see Cam.   |
| Ludowyk                 | <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , ed. E. F. C. Ludowyk, 1964   |
| Malone                  | <i>The Plays and Poems of William Shakespeare</i> , ed. Edmond Malone, 10 vols., 1790, III   |
| Merchant                | <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , ed. W. Moelwyn Merchant, 1967 (Penguin)  |
| <i>MLQ</i>              | <i>Modern Language Quarterly</i>   |
| <i>MLR</i>              | <i>Modern Language Review</i>  |
| Myrick                  | <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , ed. Kenneth Myrick, 1965 (Signet)  |
| n.d.                    | no date  |
| Neilson and Hill        | <i>The Complete Plays and Poems of William Shakespeare</i> , ed. William Allan Neilson and Charles Jarvis Hill, 1942   |
| Noble                   | Richmond Noble, <i>Shakespeare's Biblical Knowledge</i> , 1935   |
| <i>NQ</i>               | <i>Notes and Queries</i>   |
| NS                      | <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , ed. Arthur Quiller-Couch and John Dover Wilson, 1926, revised 1953 (New Shakespeare)   |
| ns                      | new series   |
| <i>OED</i>              | <i>The Oxford English Dictionary</i> , ed. Sir A. A. H. Murray, W. A. Craigie and C. T. Onions, 13 vols., 1933   |
| Onions                  | C. T. Onions, <i>A Shakespeare Glossary</i> , 2nd edn, 1919  |
| Plutarch's <i>Lives</i> | <i>The Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romans, compared together by ... Plutarke ... translated ... into French by Sir James Amyot, and ... into English by Sir Thomas North</i> (1579). 8 vols., 1928 |
| <i>PMLA</i>             | <i>Publications of the Modern Language Association of America</i>  |
| Pooler                  | <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , ed. Charles Knox Pooler, 1905 (Arden)  |

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Pope                  | <i>The Works of Mr William Shakespear</i> , ed. Alexander Pope, 6 vols., 1723–5, II  |
| <i>PQ</i>             | <i>Philological Quarterly</i>  |
| Q1                    | <i>The most excellent Historie of the Merchant of Venice ...</i> by William Shakespeare ... Printed by I. R. for Thomas Heyes, 1600                          |
| Q2                    | <i>The excellent History of the Merchant of Venice ...</i> by W. Shakespeare. Printed by J. Roberts, 1600 [for 1619]   |
| Q3                    | <i>The most excellent History of the Merchant of Venice ...</i> by William Shakespeare ... Printed by M. P. for Laurence Hayes, 1637                         |
| Rann                  | <i>The Dramatic Works of Shakespeare</i> , ed. Joseph Rann, 6 vols., 1786–94, II   |
| Reed                  | <i>The Plays of William Shakspeare</i> , [ed. Isaac Reed,] 10 vols., 1785, III   |
| Reed <sup>2</sup>     | <i>The Plays of William Shakspeare</i> , ed. Isaac Reed, 21 vols. 1803, VII  |
| <i>RES</i>            | <i>Review of English Studies</i>   |
| Ritson                | Joseph Ritson, <i>Remarks, Critical and Illustrative, on the Text and Notes of the Last Edition of Shakespeare</i> , 1783                                    |
| Riverside             | <i>The Riverside Shakespeare</i> , ed. G. Blakemore Evans, 1974  |
| Rosser                | <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , ed. G. C. Rosser, 1964   |
| Rowe                  | <i>The Works of Mr. William Shakespear</i> , ed. Nicholas Rowe, 6 vols., 1709, II  |
| Rowe <sup>2</sup>     | <i>The Works of Mr. William Shakespear</i> , ed. Nicholas Rowe, 8 vols., 1714, II  |
| <i>SAB</i>            | <i>Shakespeare Association Bulletin</i>  |
| <i>SB</i>             | <i>Studies in Bibliography</i>   |
| SD                    | Stage direction  |
| <i>SEL</i>            | <i>Studies in English Literature</i>   |
| SH                    | Speech heading   |
| Sisson                | <i>William Shakespear: The Complete Works</i> , ed. Charles Jasper Sisson, 1954  |
| <i>SQ</i>             | <i>Shakespeare Quarterly</i>   |
| <i>S.St.</i>          | <i>Shakespeare Studies</i>   |
| <i>S.Sur</i>          | <i>Shakespeare Survey</i>  |
| Staunton              | <i>The Plays of Shakespeare</i> , ed. Howard Staunton, 3 vols., 1858–60, I   |
| Steevens              | <i>The Plays of William Shakspeare ...</i> notes by Samuel Johnson and George Steevens, 10 vols., 1773, III  |
| Steevens <sup>2</sup> | <i>The Plays of William Shakspeare</i> , 10 vols., 1778, III   |
| Steevens <sup>3</sup> | <i>The Plays of William Shakspeare</i> , 15 vols., 1793, V   |
| subst.                | substantively  |
| Theobald              | <i>The Works of Shakespeare</i> , ed. Lewis Theobald, 7 vols., 1733, II  |
| Theobald <sup>2</sup> | <i>The Works of Shakespeare</i> , 8 vols., 1740, II  |
| conj. Thirlby         | Christopher Spencer and John Velz, ‘Styan Thirlby: a forgotten “editor” of Shakespeare’, <i>S.St.</i> 6 (1970), 327–33                                       |
| Tilley                | Morris Palmer Tilley, <i>A Dictionary of the Proverbs in England in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries</i> , 1950 (references are to numbered proverbs) |
| Tilley / Dent         | R. W. Dent, <i>Shakespeare’s Proverbial Language: An Index</i> , 1981 (references are to numbered proverbs)  |
| <i>TLS</i>            | <i>Times Literary Supplement</i>   |
| Warburton             | <i>The Works of Shakespear</i> , ed. William Warburton, 8 vols., 1747, II  |
| White                 | <i>Mr. William Shakespeare’s Comedies, Histories, Tragedies, and Poems</i> , ed. Richard Grant White, 3 vols., 1883, I                                       |

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