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

The Merchant of Venice has been performed more often than any other comedy by Shakespeare. Molly Mahood pays special attention to the expectations of the play’s first audience, and to our modern experience of seeing and hearing the play.

In a substantial new addition to the Introduction, Charles Edelman focuses on the play’s sexual politics and recent scholarship devoted to the position of Jews in Shakespeare’s time. He surveys the international scope and diversity of theatrical interpretations of The Merchant in the 1980s and 1990s and their different ways of tackling the troubling figure of Shylock.
THE NEW CAMBRIDGE SHAKESPEARE

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THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Edited by

M. M. MAHOOD

Emeritus Professor of English Literature
University of Kent
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Illustrations 5, 8, 11, 12 and 13 are reproduced by courtesy of the Shakespeare Centre Library, Stratford-upon-Avon.
PREFACE

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 174 to the speedy and efficient work of Sussex University’s Photographic Unit.

M. M. M.

University of Kent

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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 (Delius³). 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ado</td>
<td>Much Ado about Nothing</td>
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<td>Ant.</td>
<td>Antony and Cleopatra</td>
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<td>AWW</td>
<td>All’s Well That Ends Well</td>
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<td>AYLIT</td>
<td>As You Like It</td>
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<td>Cor.</td>
<td>Coriolanus</td>
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<td>Cym.</td>
<td>Cymbeline</td>
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<td>Err.</td>
<td>The Comedy of Errors</td>
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<td>Ham.</td>
<td>Hamlet</td>
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<td>iH4</td>
<td>The First Part of King Henry the Fourth</td>
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<td>2H4</td>
<td>The Second Part of King Henry the Fourth</td>
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<td>H5</td>
<td>King Henry the Fifth</td>
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<td>iH6</td>
<td>The First Part of King Henry the Sixth</td>
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<tr>
<td>2H6</td>
<td>The Second Part of King Henry the Sixth</td>
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<tr>
<td>3H6</td>
<td>The Third Part of King Henry the Sixth</td>
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<td>H8</td>
<td>King Henry the Eighth</td>
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<td>JC</td>
<td>Julius Caesar</td>
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<td>John</td>
<td>King John</td>
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<td>LLL</td>
<td>Love’s Labour’s Lost</td>
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<td>Lear</td>
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<td>Macbeth</td>
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<td>MM</td>
<td>Measure for Measure</td>
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<td>MND</td>
<td>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</td>
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<td>MV</td>
<td>The Merchant of Venice</td>
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<td>Oth.</td>
<td>Othello</td>
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<td>Per.</td>
<td>Pericles</td>
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<td>R2</td>
<td>King Richard the Second</td>
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<td>R3</td>
<td>King Richard the Third</td>
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<td>Rom.</td>
<td>Romeo and Juliet</td>
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<td>Shr.</td>
<td>The Taming of the Shrew</td>
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<td>STM</td>
<td>Sir Thomas More</td>
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<td>Temp.</td>
<td>The Tempest</td>
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<td>TGV</td>
<td>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim.</td>
<td>Timon of Athens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tit.</td>
<td>Titus Andronicus</td>
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<td>TN</td>
<td>Twelfth Night</td>
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<td>x</td>
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</tbody>
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Abbreviations and conventions

TNK  The Two Noble Kinsmen
Tro.  Troilus and Cressida
Win.  The Merry Wives of Windsor
WT   The Winter’s Tale

2. Other works cited and general references

Abbott  E. A. Abbott, A Shakespearian Grammar, 1869 (references are to numbered paragraphs)
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)
Bulloch  John Bulloch, Studies on the Text of Shakespeare, 1878
Bullough  Narrative and Dramatic Sources of Shakespeare, ed. Geoffrey Bullough, 1, 1957
Capell  Mr William Shakespeare his Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies, [ed. Edward Capell,] 10 vols., 1767–8, III
conj. Capell  Edward Capell, Notes and Various Readings to Shakespeare, 1, 1783
Clarendon  The Merchant of Venice, ed. William George Clark and William Aldis Wright, 1869 (Clarendon Shakespeare)
Collier²  The Plays of Shakespeare. The text regulated by the old copies, and by the recently discovered Folio of 1632, ed. J. Payne Collier, 1853
Collier³  Shakespeare’s Comedies, Histories, Tragedies, and Poems, ed. J. Payne Collier, 6 vols., 1858, II
conj.  conjecture
Cowden Clarke  The Plays of Shakespeare, edited and annotated by Charles and Mary Cowden Clarke, 3 vols., 1864–8, 1
Delius  Complete Works of William Shakespeare, [ed. Nicolaus Delius,] 1854
Delius²  Shakespeare’s Werke, herausgegeben von Nicolaus Delius, 7 vols., 1854–65, v
Delius³  Shakspeare’s Werke, herausgegeben von Nicolaus Delius, 2 vols., 1876, 1
Eccles  The Merchant of Venice, [ed. I. A. Eccles,] 1805
ELH  ELH: A Journal of English Literary History
ELN  English Language Notes
The Merchant of Venice

ETJ Educational Theatre Journal
F Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies, 1623
F2 Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies, 1622
F3 Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies, 1664
F4 Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies, 1685
Fletcher The Merchant of Venice, ed. R. F. W. Fletcher, 1938 (New Clarendon)
Furness The Merchant of Venice, ed. H. H. Furness, 1888 (Variorum)
G8 The Geneva translation of the Bible, 1560
Golding Shakespeare’s Ovid: being Arthur Golding’s Translation of the Metamorphoses, ed. W. H. D. Rouse, 1961
Hanmer The Works of Mr. William Shakespear, [ed. Thomas Hanmer], 6 vols, 1743–4, II
Hanmer² The Works of Mr. William Shakespear, [ed. Thomas Hanmer], 6 vols., 1770–1, II
conj. Hawkins see Reed
Johnston The Plays of William Shakespeare, ed. Samuel Johnston, 8 vols., 1765, I
Keightley The Plays of William Shakespeare, ed. Thomas Keightley, 6 vols., 1864, I
Kellner Leon Kellner, Restoring Shakespeare, 1925
Knight The Pictorial Edition of the Works of Shakspere, ed. Charles Knight, 8 vols., 1838–43, Comedies, I
conj. Lawrence see NS
conj. Lettsom see Cam.
Ludowyk The Merchant of Venice, ed. E. F. C. Ludowyk, 1964
Malone The Plays and Poems of William Shakespeare, ed. Edmond Malone, 10 vols., 1790, III
Merchant The Merchant of Venice, ed. W. Moelwyn Merchant, 1967 (Penguin)
MLQ Modern Language Quarterly
MLR Modern Language Review
Myrick The Merchant of Venice, ed. Kenneth Myrick, 1965 (Signet)
n.d. no date
Noble Richmond Noble, Shakespeare's Biblical Knowledge, 1935
NQ Notes and Queries
NS The Merchant of Venice, ed. Arthur Quiller-Couch and John Dover Wilson, 1926, revised 1953 (New Shakespeare)
ns new series
Onions C. T. Onions, A Shakespeare Glossary, 2nd edn, 1919
Plutarch’s Lives The Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romans, compared together by… Plutarch…translated…into French by Sir James Amyot, and…into English by Sir Thomas North (1579). 8 vols., 1928
PMLA Publications of the Modern Language Association of America
Pooler The Merchant of Venice, ed. Charles Knox Pooler, 1905 (Arden)
Pope The Works of Mr William Shakespear, ed. Alexander Pope, 6 vols., 1723–5, II
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Abbreviations and conventions

PQ  Philological Quarterly
Q1  The most excellent Historie of the Merchant of Venice...by William Shakespeare...Printed by I.R. for Thomas Heyes, 1600
Q2  The excellent History of the Merchant of Venice...by W. Shakespeare. Printed by J. Roberts, 1600 [for 1619]
Q3  The most excellent History of the Merchant of Venice...by William Shakespeare...Printed by M.P. for Laurence Hayes, 1637
Rann  The Dramatic Works of Shakespeare, ed. Joseph Rann, 6 vols., 1786–94, II
Reed  The Plays of William Shakespeare, [ed. Isaac Reed,] 10 vols., 1785, III
Reed²  The Plays of William Shakespeare, ed. Isaac Reed, 21 vols., 1803, VII
RES  Review of English Studies
Ritson  Joseph Ritson, Remarks, Critical and Illustrative, on the Text and Notes of the Last Edition of Shakespeare, 1783
Riverside  The Riverside Shakespeare, ed. G. Blakemore Evans, 1974
Rosser  The Merchant of Venice, ed. G. C. Rosser, 1964
Rowe  The Works of Mr. William Shakespeare, ed. Nicholas Rowe, 6 vols., 1709, II
Rowe²  The Works of Mr. William Shakespeare, ed. Nicholas Rowe, 8 vols., 1714, II
SAB  Shakespeare Association Bulletin
SB  Studies in Bibliography
sd  Stage direction
SEL  Studies in English Literature
sh  Speech heading
SQ  Shakespeare Quarterly
S.St.  Shakespeare Studies
S.Sur  Shakespeare Survey
Staunton  The Plays of Shakespeare, ed. Howard Staunton, 3 vols., 1858–60, I
Steevens  The Plays of William Shakespeare...notes by Samuel Johnson and George Steevens, 10 vols., 1773, III
Steevens²  The Plays of William Shakespeare, 10 vols., 1778, III
Steevens³  The Plays of William Shakespeare, 15 vols., 1793, V
subst.  substantively
Theobald  The Works of Shakespeare, ed. Lewis Theobald, 7 vols., 1733, II
Theobald²  The Works of Shakespeare, 8 vols., 1740, II
conj. Thirlby  Christopher Spencer and John Vezl, 'Styan Thirlby: a forgotten "editor" of Shakespeare', S.St. 6 (1970), 327–33
Tilley  Morris Palmer Tilley, A Dictionary of the Proverbs in England in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries, 1950 (references are to numbered proverbs)
Tilley / Dent  R. W. Dent, Shakespeare's Proverbial Language: An Index, 1981 (references are to numbered proverbs)
TLS  Times Literary Supplement
Warburton  The Works of Shakespeare, ed. William Warburton, 8 vols., 1747, II
White  Mr. William Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories, Tragedies, and Poems, ed. Richard Grant White, 3 vols., 1883, I