

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

by William Shakespeare

retold by
Virginia Evans · Jenny Dooley · Bob Obee
Olga Afanasyeva · Irina Mikheeva



A reader for Spotlight **10**


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My Language Portfolio

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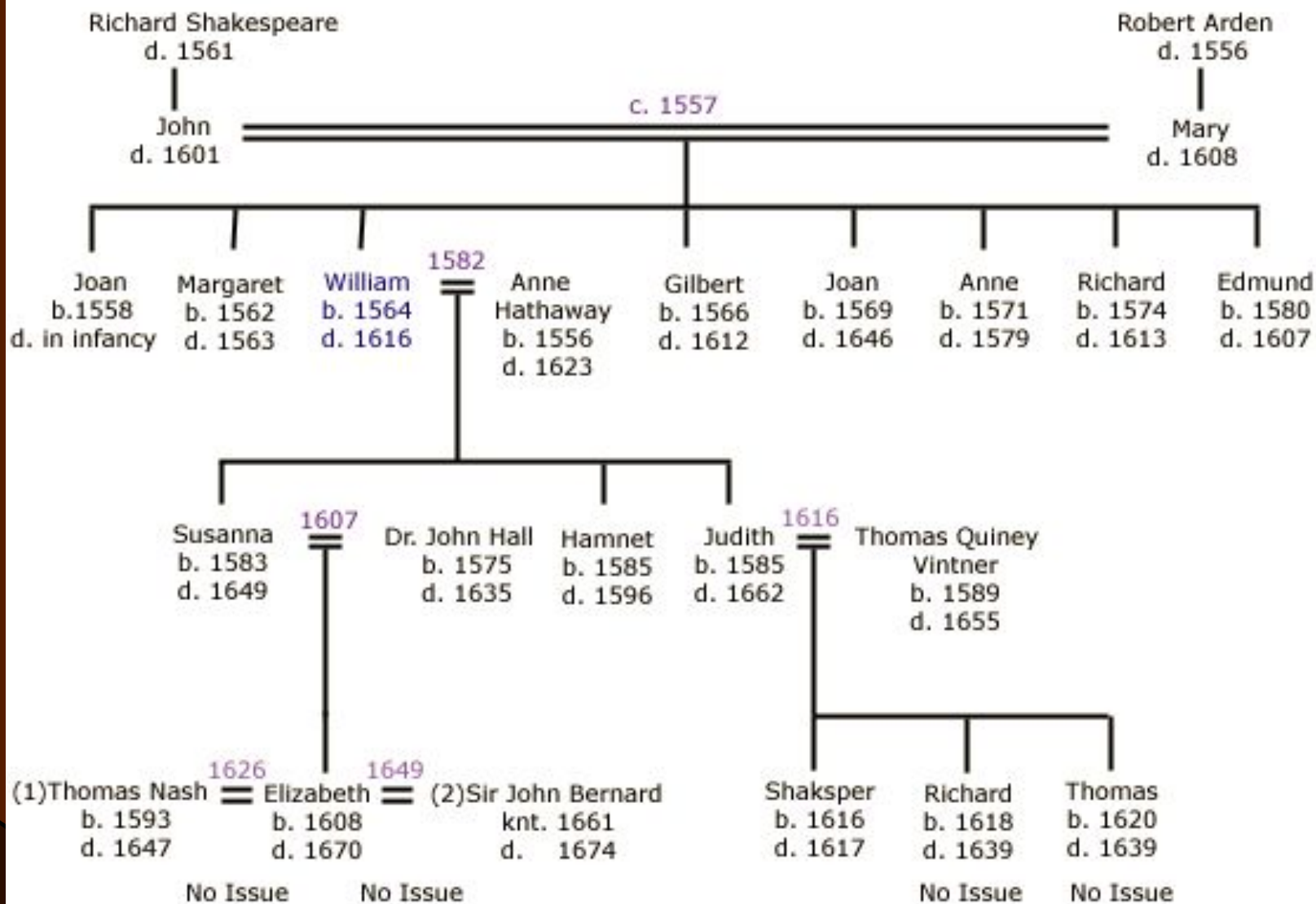
Вильям Шекспир
(1564 - 1616)



Стратфорд-на-Эйвоне –
место рождения В. Шекспира



Генеалогическое дерево В. Шекспира



Современный театр «Глобус» Афиша театра «Глобус» давних лет



GLOBE THEATRE

Thurs. & Friday

March 23, 24

ANNOUNCING

Robert Z. Leonard
presents

**MAE
MURRAY**

In her latest
gorgeous photoplay

**PEACOCK
ALLEY**

*Peacock Alley is a lane just around
the corner from the Primrose Path*

*It leads to the crossroads
of The Straight and Narrow
and Easy Street; and there
every woman must choose
her way*

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By Edmund Goulding

Based on a story by Ouida Bergere

Directed by Robert Z. Leonard

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on our magnificent new
\$25,000*

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The finest organ in the state, outside of the
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Special Concerts By

Mr. Arnold Leverenz

of Seattle, organist for Jensen-Von Herberg at Great
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The addition of this fine instrument gives Albany
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the music.

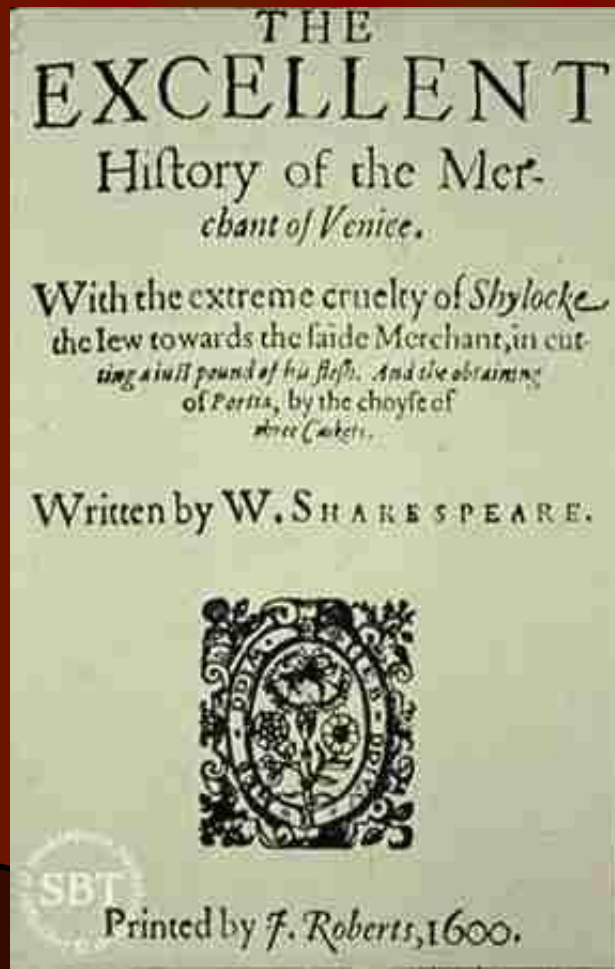
The feature picture for the opening days is in keeping
with the occasion—

Evenings: Doors open 7 p. m., Concerts 7:15-9:15

Matinee on Friday at 2 P. M., Concert, 2:15 P. M.

Prices - - - 25c and 50c

Shakespeare wrote *The Merchant of Venice* in 1596-7. When he was thirty-two years old he had already written some of his most famous plays, including *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. *The Merchant of Venice* is one of Shakespeare's best-loved plays. It has been translated into many languages and is a favourite choice of theatre companies throughout the world.



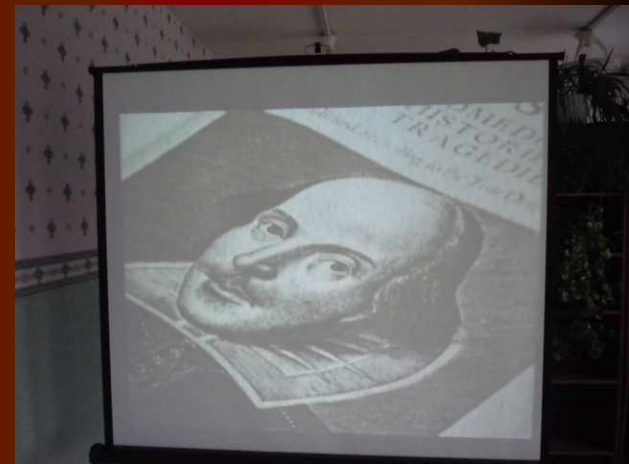
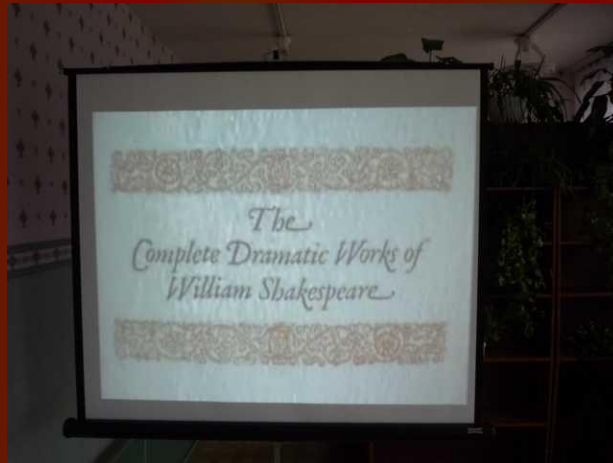
In Shakespeare's time, Venice was a very wealthy sea port. There were many merchants like Antonio, who made their money by sending ships all over the world. The ships carried goods that were bought and sold in different countries. The sea was a dangerous place, and ships were often wrecked or attacked by pirates. Merchants, and other people, often needed to borrow money from moneylenders like Shylock. Moneylenders had to make a living, so they charged people interest.



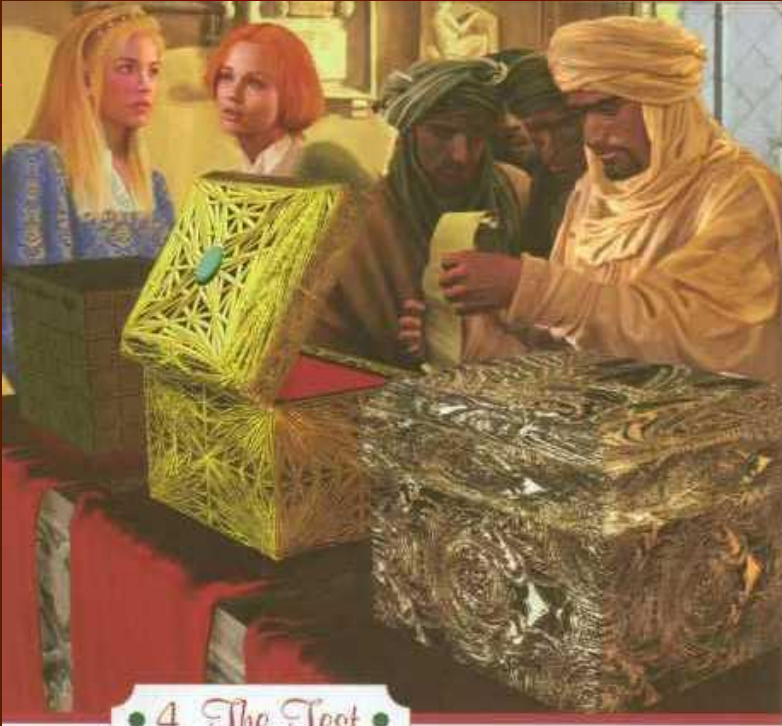
The city of Venice was on the north-east coast of Italy. There was no other city like it in the world. It was built on hundreds of small islands which were joined by bridges over the canals. Because of this, the main method of transport was by boat. People could walk along the narrow streets, and on the paths along the canals, but for a longer journey, they had to travel by boat.



There have been many film versions of this play, including an Indian version (1941), a French version (1953) and a Maori (New Zealand) version (2002). The most recent English-language film version was made in 2004, starring Al Pacino as Shylock. This film is much older...



The Merchant of Venice tells a number of stories which are all connected.



4. The Test

Portia's father had known that many men would want to marry her because she was both beautiful and rich. Before he died, he designed a test that only the perfect husband could pass. There were three boxes. The first box was gold, the second was silver and the third was lead. The right box had a picture of Portia inside.

Portia was sitting with Nerissa:

"Oh, Nerissa," she said. "I wish I could find the right man to marry."

"But my lady," Nerissa said. "There are many men who want to marry you."

"I don't love any of these men," Portia said sadly. "I want to be able to choose my own husband, but I cannot because of my father's test."

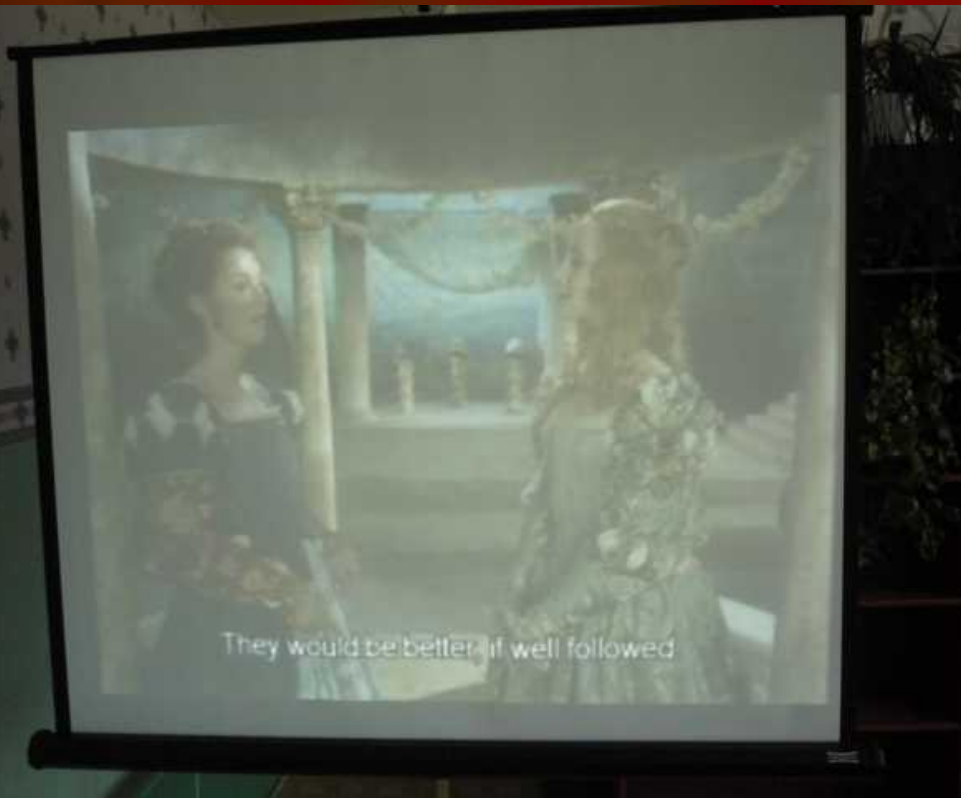
"You know you must do what your father asked," said Nerissa. "He was a very wise and loving man. Only the man who loves you will pass the test, and this man will be the man you love."

"But I already know the man I love," said Portia. "You know him, too. His name is Bassanio. And, you know, I think he loves me, too."

"Then, if he tries, he will pass the test," said Nerissa calmly.

"But first, the Prince of Morocco wants to try," said Portia. "And after him, the Prince of Arragon." "The Prince of Morocco arrived with his friends and servants. Portia brought him into the room with the three boxes.

There is the love story of Bassanio and Portia: Bassanio loves Portia, but he needs to borrow money so that he can travel to Belmont and ask her to marry him.



Bassanio and Gratiano got ready as quickly as they could, and set sail for Venice. As soon as they had left, Portia sat down and wrote a letter to her cousin, Doctor Bellario, who was a doctor of law. She told him about Antonio and Shylock's agreement, and asked him for advice. She then called one of her servants and asked him to deliver the letter as quickly as possible.

"Doctor Bellario will give you books, papers and clothes," Portia told her servant. "You must bring all these to me in Venice."

"I will do exactly as you tell me," the servant said, and hurried away.

"Come, Nerissa. We have work to do," Portia said to her maid. "We will see our husbands very soon."

"Really, my lady! And will they see us?" Nerissa asked.

"They will see us, but they will not know us," Portia said with a smile. "Because we will be disguised as young men."

"Young men, my lady! I do not understand," Nerissa said.

"We will leave for Venice very soon," Portia said. "There, we'll put on my cousin Bellario's clothes. We'll be disguised as young lawyers. I must try to save Bassanio's friend."

There is the story of the friendship between Antonio and Bassanio:
Antonio wants to help Bassanio find the money he needs, but the cost
is very high



writing to pay interest, is that right?"

"Yes, I will pay you interest if you want," said Antonio.

Shylock thought carefully. He remembered all the times Antonio had insulted him and laughed at him. Now, for the first time, Antonio wanted something from him. Antonio was in his power. He realized that this was his chance to get his own back. He looked at Antonio for a long time.

"No, I do not want interest from you," he said slowly. "But let us agree to a little joke: if you do not repay me what you owe, I can take a pound of your flesh from whatever part of your body that I want."

"Why, yes of course, I will agree to that," said Antonio.

Bassanio gasped. "No, Antonio, don't do that for me," he cried.

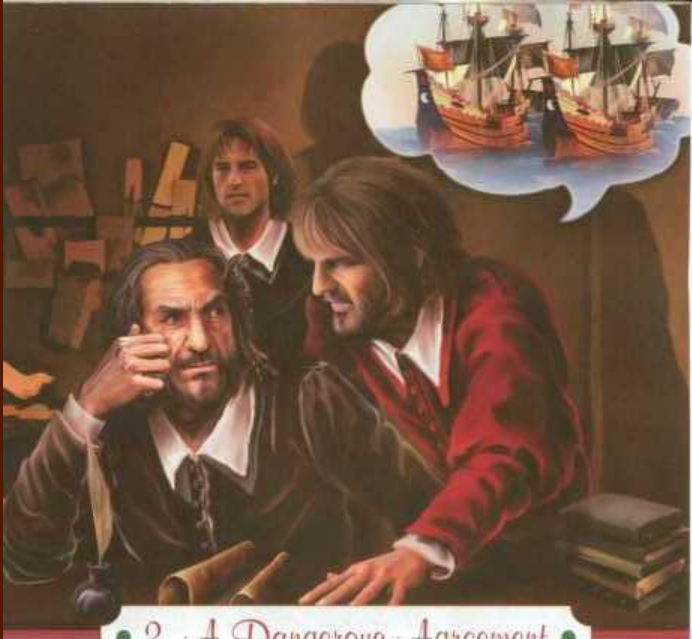
"Don't worry, my dear friend Bassanio. My ships will return very, very soon, and then I will have three times what we have borrowed. Let Shylock have his little joke."

"So, Antonio, will you sign this agreement?" asked Shylock. "I will lend Bassanio three thousand ducats. You will pay me back within three months. If your ships do not come back to port, and if you cannot pay me back the money, I can take a pound of flesh from you."

He put the agreement on the table and handed Antonio a pen.

"I will gladly sign it, for my friend," said Antonio. He stopped the pen in the ink and signed his name.

Then there is the story of two old enemies, Shylock and Antonio: Antonio decides to ask Shylock for help, but Shylock sees his chance to take a terrible revenge.



2. A Dangerous Agreement

Antonio and Bassanio went to see Shylock.

"So, you want to borrow three thousand ducats!" said Shylock.

"That's right, and we want it for three months," said Bassanio. "My friend, Antonio, will help me pay it back."

"But why does Antonio not give you the money now?" asked Shylock.

"All my money depends on my ships at sea," explained Antonio. "I will have money as soon as they return."

"But that means your money is not safe," cried Shylock. "Storms might destroy your ships, or they might sink. They might be attacked by pirates who will steal everything."

"Don't worry. You can trust my friend," said Bassanio. "Will you come and eat with us tonight? That way, you can get to know him better."

"I already know Antonio," said Shylock. "I will do business with him, but I will not eat with him."

Antonio and Bassanio looked at each other, but they did not say anything.


"So, Shylock, can you lend us what we want?" asked Antonio. "I do not usually lend or borrow with interest. But this time is different. I will borrow for my friend Bassanio."

"Yes, you want to borrow from me now," said Shylock, looking straight at Antonio. "You are even

Roman figures – Latin letters:

I	V	X	L	C	D	M
1	5	10	50	100	500	1000

Write down the year of the film foundation



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