

Shylock: A Legend and its Legacy

John GROSS

“The best book I read was *Shylock* by John Gross – a magisterial exercise in deep learning lightly worn.”

-- Godfrey Smith, *Sunday Times Book of the Year*

“The book reels with fascinating detail. It provides a body of historical, literary and biographical information that hugely enriches our perception of both Shylock and the play.”

-- Rebecca Abrams, *The Guardian*

“A highly intelligent commentary on a masterly work of art, which at the same time has plenty to say about quasi-Christian attitudes to Jews.”

-- Robert Nye, *The Scotsman*

“Absorbing... The joy of this *Shylock* is that it is several books in one: despite its relative brevity, it covers the ground of several types of study... lucid, elegant, witty, judicious, and informative.”

-- John Simon, *The Atlantic*

“A civilized book of criticism, such as used to be an ideal and is now, unfortunately, a rarity. One puts it down with a profound sense of gratitude.”

-- Robert M. Adams, *The American Scholar*

“Mr. Gross’s unusual inquiry combines the disciplines of cultural history and literary criticism with a gift for unblinking moral reflection. In its command of both theatrical tradition and the politics of anti-semitism, *Shylock* has much to tell us about the way Shakespeare’s mythical creation has established itself as a perennial inducement to prejudice.”

-- Hilton Kramer, *The Wall Street Journal*