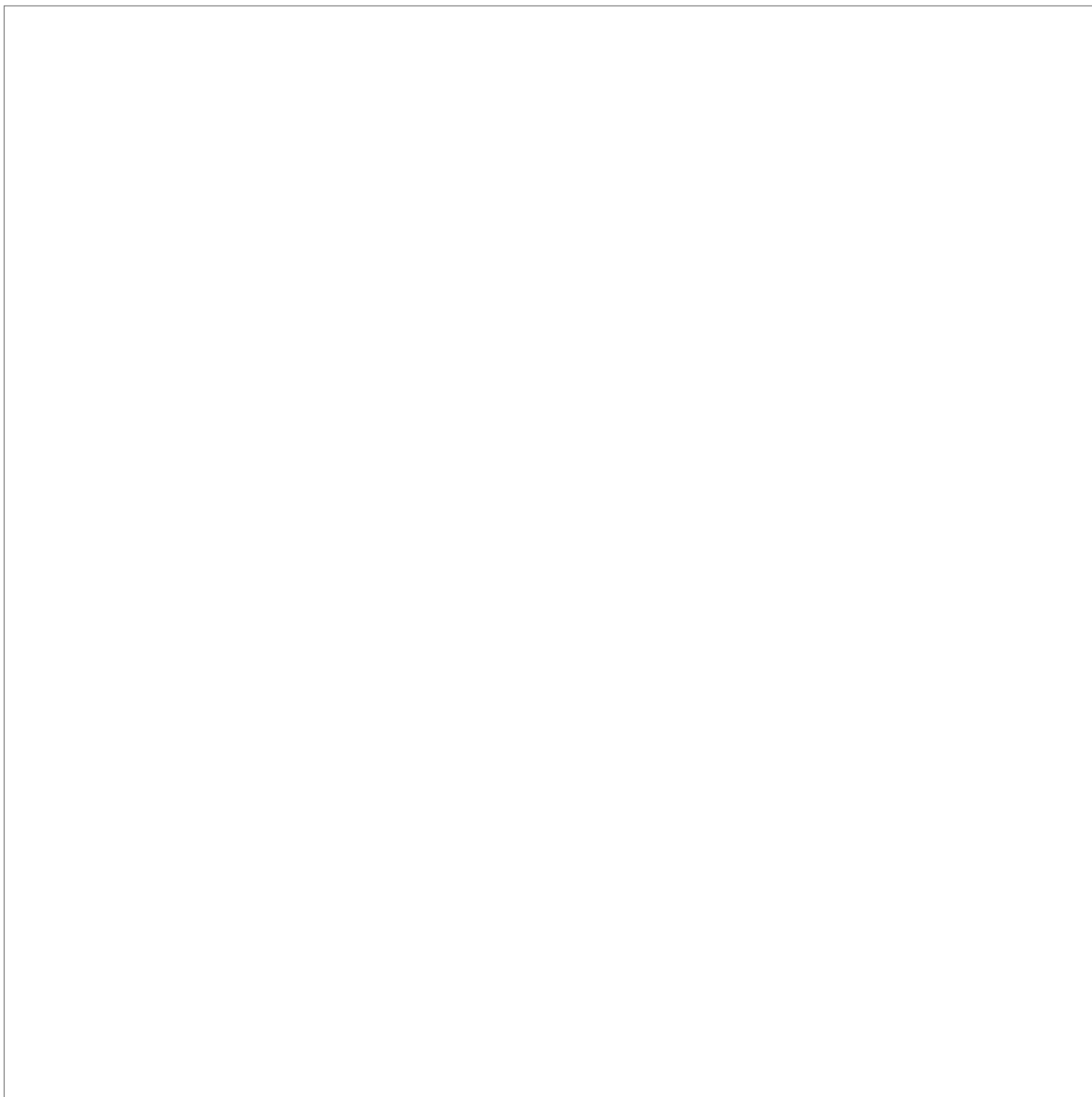


Copy of the Maurycy Gottlieb's painting “Shylock and Jessica” by Marcin Gottlieb



- Author copy — Marcin Gottlieb, original painting — Maurycy Gottlieb
- Date of production 1887
- Dimensions height: 122 cm, width: 71 cm
- ID no. MHK 519/VII
- Museum [Historical Museum of the City of Kraków](#)
- Oddział The Old Synagogue
- Subjects [multiculture](#), [theatre](#), [painted](#)
- Technique [painting](#), [oil painting](#)
- Material [canvas](#)
- Object copyright Historical Museum of the City of Kraków
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- Digitalisation RDW MIC, Małopolska's Virtual Museums project
- Tags [judaika](#), [malarstwo](#), [Żydzi](#), [2D](#), [domena publiczna](#)

The image is a copy of a picture by Maurycy Gottlieb (1856—1879), made by his younger brother Marcin Gottlieb (1867—1936) eight years after the artist's death.

The original was created in Munich in 1876, as a school work painted under the supervision of Professor Carl Piloty, who had suggested the subject to the artist. It was the first important image on the Jewish subject and an expression of the internal split of a Jewish Pole.

The composition was taken from *The Merchant of Venice*, a comedy by William Shakespeare. It depicts a scene from the second act of the play, in which a Jewish money-lender prepares himself to go to a feast of a Venetian merchant trying to get a loan. Shylock, the money-lender, a miser and a cruel man, says goodbye to Jessica, as he senses that tragic events may follow. He entrusts his daughter with keys to his house and property. After her father has left, Jessica takes his jewels and money and runs away with the Christian so as to — having been baptised — become his wife.

Gottlieb interpreted the character of Shylock unlike the author of the comedy and tradition. In the picture, he is not a cunning and greedy usurer, but a loving father who senses the future tragedy.

The original picture was lost during the World War II.

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