

*Apollonia Negyeten
mercatoris a Nurn ce*

A Timeline of the Jew in Medieval England (1066-1655)

1066 Jews enter England

1144 - First ritual murder charge, or case of "blood libel" involving William of Norwich

The Jews were supposed to have purchased and tortured an innocent Christian child just for the Jewish celebration of Pesach (Passover), which commemorates the flight of the Jews, under the direction of Moses, from Egyptian persecution and slavery. As a result of these allegations of "blood libel" Jewish settlements were attacked. Even though Pope Innocent IV protested the absurdity and falsity of the blood libel charge, an image of a murderous Jew who was bent upon spoiling Christian innocence began to develop a firm footing in the social consciousness of the general public.

1189 The Third Crusade

1217 - English Jews made to wear yellow badges

It is perhaps inevitable that this yellow badge, which functions as an obvious marker of the status of the Jew as an alien within English society, will bring to mind the yellow stars that Jews of Europe were forced to wear during Nazi occupation in World War II. The fact that Jews were set apart from the rest of English society with this visible marker sets the stage for their increasing segregation and persecution.

1255 Blood libel case: Hugh of Lincoln

1269 Jews Rights Are Gradually Restricted

The Crown no longer allowed Jews to hold land, nor were Jews allowed to bequeath money to an heir: Jewish children could no longer inherit the money of their parents.

1290 Jews expelled from England

1589 Marlowe's *Jew of Malta* performed

1597 Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*

Shylock, the Jewish loaner, is depicted as a selfish, greedy, and cold man. He demands a pound of flesh from a honest Christian man who is unable to pay off his loans.