

Medieval York

by Vittorio Shakespeare, John Hamilton, Paschalis Beckham

- Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Today in the show we will talk about the change that occurred in York in the 13th century. For this reason, we have invited a special guest, an expert historian Vittorio Shakespeare.
- Hello from me as well.
- So, tell us, Mr. Shakespeare, what changed back then?
- Back then York, like every neighboring city, had a Sheriff, whose job was to collect all the taxes. But in the 13th century, something changed. King John changed the way York was governed because of his need for funds.
- What exactly happened?
- King John gave the citizens the chance for self-government.
- What exactly does this mean?
- As York's merchants grew richer, they resented the dominance of Yorkshire's Sheriff. Leading citizens banded together and became an influential voice in the city's affairs. They were allowed to collect taxes and pay them to the Crown. They also held their own court to appoint their mayor.
- Very interesting Mr. Shakespeare! Thank you for being with us.
- I am very pleased to have had the chance to be here. I am looking forward to seeing you again.