

**THE EVOLUTION OF
TECHNIC IN
ELIZABETHAN TRAGEDY**

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The Evolution of Technic in Elizabethan Tragedy by Harriott Ely Fansler

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given

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BY
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TO MARY
ANDRONIA

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To

*My most helpful critic and
friend*

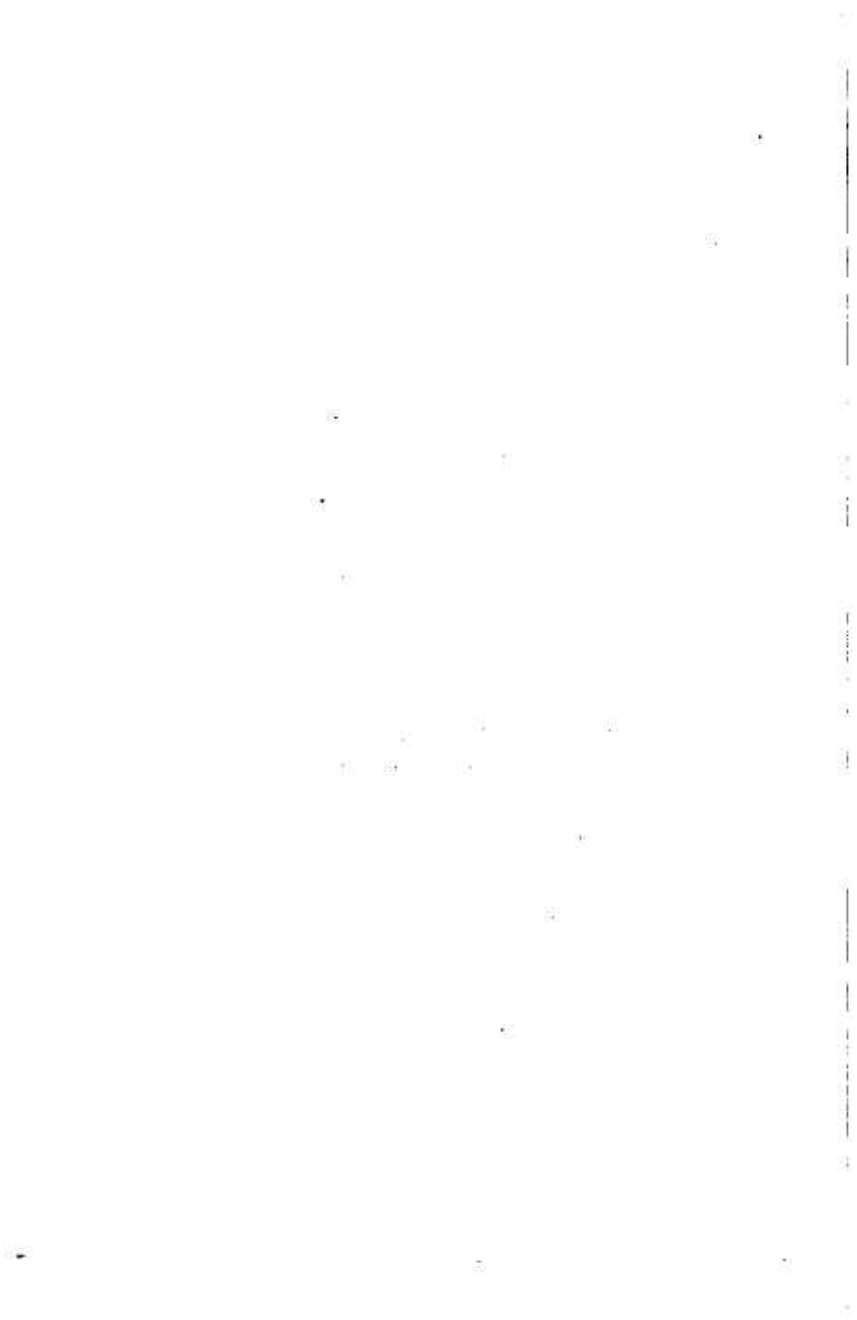
ASHLEY HORACE THORNDIKE, Ph.D., L.H.D.

*An inspirer of students
A leader among scholars*

A GENTLEMAN

*Of broad judgment
Of high and exacting ideals
Of unfailing patience with
All who aim at honest work*

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Prefatory Note

I wish to recognize my debt to members of the Faculty of the Department of English and Comparative Literature of Columbia University for suggestions on the manuscript of this thesis; to Professor George Philip Krapp and Professor Harry Morgan Ayers, who read the earlier chapters, and to Dr. Earnest Hunter Wright, who read the proof of all but the last, making comments here and there, especially on the phraseology. I have tried to express what I owe to Professor Ashley Horace Thorndike by dedicating the book to him, under whose inspiration and stimulating criticism it was written.

The bibliographical list appended is of necessity brief, and of necessity consists only of names of texts and of general books of reference, since the direction of the investigation is new. I have attempted to deal with phenomena at first hand. There is one treatise, however, that could not but have had influence on my deductions, since it has long been a standard and is practically the only exhaustive study of the general subject of dramatic structure, namely, Freytag's *Die Technik des Dramas*. Though I differ materially from it in the analysis of Shakespeare's plays, I gladly admit whatever obligation there may be.

—Harriott Ely Fansler.

