TRISTRAM THE JESTER

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Tristram the Jester by Ernest Hardt & John Heard

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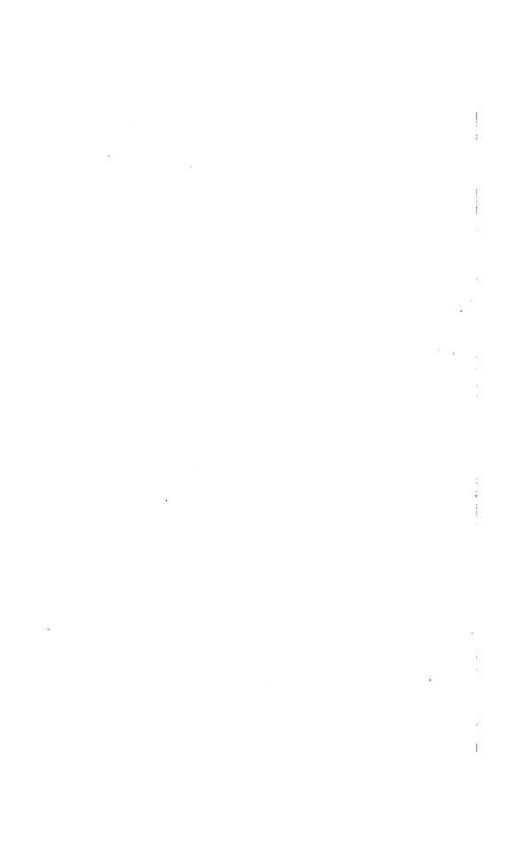
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ERNEST HARDT & JOHN HEARD

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Translated by

JOHN HEARD, JR.

from the German of ERNST HARDT



RICHARD G. BADGER THE GORHAM PRESS BOSTON

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To
THE MEMORY OF MY FATHER
THIS MY FIRST ATTEMPT
IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED

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TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

Through "Tantris der Narr" Ernst Hardt has won for himself a place in the front rank of contemporaneous German dramatists and poets. The play has been produced with great success on many of the National German stages, and has also been awarded the Kaiser Preis and, what is a still greater acknowledgment of its merit, the Volks-Schiller Preis. This latter is a prize bestowed once every three years on the best play produced during that period, by a committee which acts subject to the Emperor's approval. Although as a drama it is not well adapted to the American stage, yet the great beauty and the compelling power with which Herr Hardt has handled the familiar theme of the Tristram and Iseult legend, but along a new line, can hardly fail of recognition. For this reason I have attempted to render this brilliant drama into English.

For my short-comings I can only plead the almost insurmountable difficulty connected with any verse translation, and my inexperience. I, therefore, beg that this, my first attempt, be received leniently by

those into whose hands the book may fall.

John Heard, Jr.

Boston, 1913.