SIR TRISTREM

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649705443

Sir Tristrem by George P. Mcneill

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

GEORGE P. MCNEILL

SIR TRISTREM

Trieste

The Scottish Text Society

.

32

SIR TRISTREM

32

SIR TRISTREM

32

Ŷ3

EDITED BY

GEORGE P. MCNEILL, LL.B.

ADVOCATE

"Over gestes it has the stoom, Over all that is or was." -Robert Mannyng of Brunne.

Printed for the Society by

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS EDINBURGH AND LONDON MDCCCLXXXVI

12

All Rights reserved

*

2 2

8* 0.1 280 9*1 28

220) 22 23 24 24 24

0.00

CONTENTS.

•

36

393

2 a

(i) (i)

NTRODU	JCTION-	-						PAGE	
	THE ST						1970	vii	
	LITERA							xiv	
111.	THE SC	OTTISH '	VERSION	N					
1. THE TEXT AND ITS SEVERAL EDITIONS,							xxviii		
	2. TH	E AUTH	ORSHIP	OF THE	POEM,	•	333	xxxii	
	3. THE FORM AND STYLE OF THE POEM,						٠	xlv	
	4. TH	E PRESE	INT ED	ITION,	245	3	S	xlvii	
IR TRI	STREM,		•		803		39 9 5	I	
totes,	1970		121		3.53		100	95	
LOSSAR	X,				165	2	•	133	

.

32 * ²⁷ ¥. 2 × *

1

INTRODUCTION.

I.

THE STORY.

AN outline of the main events and episodes of the lovestory of Tristrem and Ysonde will fitly precede what has to be said by way of introduction to the Scottish version of the tale. This is the story, rapidly sketched.

Roland of Ermonie cherished a secret love for Maiden Blanchefleur, sister to King Mark of England, and was treacherously murdered by Duke Morgan. Maiden Blanchefleur, on hearing of his death, gave birth to his son, whom she named Tristrem, and handed over to the care of Rohand, a trusty steward. Then, leaving him a ring for a sign of the boy's parentage, Maiden Blanchefleur died of a broken heart. Rohand was faithful to his trust. He passed the child off under the name of Tramtris as his own son, and educated him for fifteen years, teaching him venery and minstrelsy, and old and new laws. The boy studied assiduously, to the joy of all who knew him; but a great misfortune was at hand. The captain of a Norwegian ship, touching at Ermonie, sent out a challenge to chessplayers, which Tristrem accepted. Defeated again and again by the skilful youth, he refused to pay his stake, and

INTRODUCTION.

treacherously bearing his victor out to sea, put him ashore Tristrem wandered with a heavy in an unknown land. heart over hill and through forest, till he came upon a pathway where he met two pilgrims. As they went through the forest, telling him that he was now in England, they met a party of huntsmen breaking up the stags: and now Tristrem's training stood him in good stead; for, shocked at the rude fashion in which the huntsmen bungled their work, he was constrained to interpose. He made his quarry so deftly, that all present saw in him a youth of no common order. They took him to King Mark of England, and told of his adroitness. The king received him with royal hospitality, and soon was won by the charm of the youth's skill in sport and minstrelsy. Thus, after all his troubled wanderings, Tristrem at length became the darling of a brilliant court.

But the trusty Rohand was desolate at the loss of his master's child, and could not rest at home. He went through seven kingdoms to seek the boy. He was reduced to rags, when, by good fortune, he met the same two pilgrims who had encountered Tristrem, and was by them directed to Tristrem's presence. The youth welcomed his foster-father, and commended him to his benefactor, King Mark. Rohand, moved at the strange fate which had brought Tristrem into the care of his kinsman, told the king the true story of the boy's parentage. The ring of Maiden Blanchefleur had never left her son's finger; and seeing in it a confirmation of Rohand's tale, the king gladly acknowledged Tristrem as his nephew. But Tristrem, too, had heard the story of his birth, and was now aflame to avenge the foul murder of his father. King Mark reluctantly equipped him for his expedition against Duke Mor-