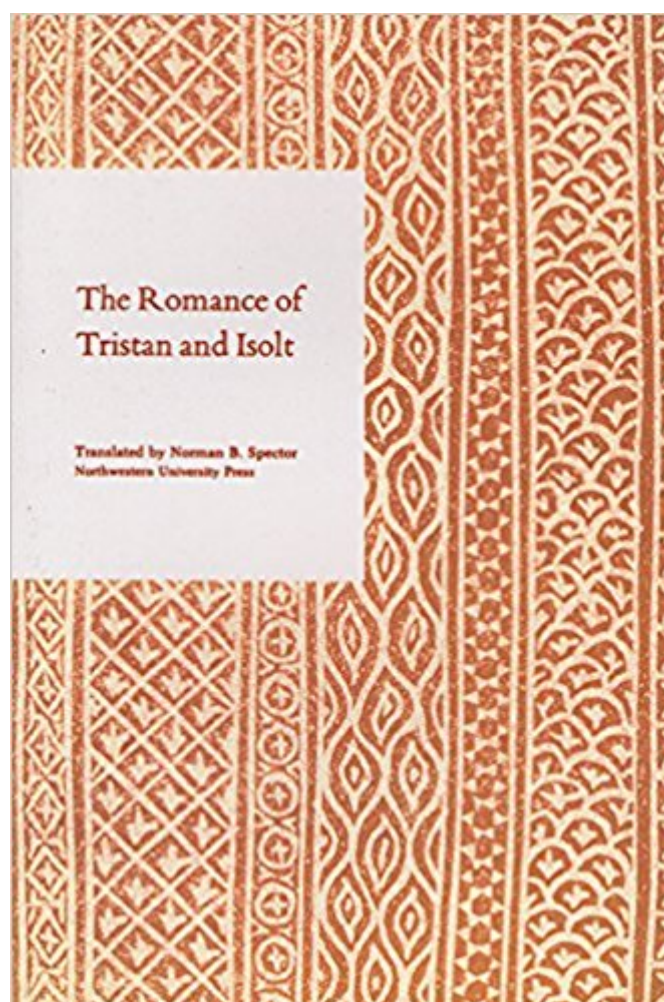


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The Romance Of Tristan And Isolt



Synopsis

Book by Spector, Norman B.

Book Information

Paperback: 91 pages

Publisher: Northwestern University Press; 1 edition (December 1, 1985)

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Customer Reviews

Before Beroul and before Thomas there was already a story of Tristan. It appears to have been first written in the 12th century but may well have originated from a tradition of oral poetry. Students of French Medieval literature know there is also a prose Tristan, the most often cited version being the 15th century manuscript known as MS. 103. Quoting from Eugene Vinaver's Foreword, "In 1905 Joseph Bedier published in the Appendix to his edition of Thomas what he called the parties anciennes of MS. 103, and this carefully transcribed fifteenth-century text is still, apart from the early editions, the only reasonably complete record we have of the genuine medieval French Tristan romance." It is the parties anciennes that Norman Spector has translated here. Not reading French well, let alone medieval French, I would not presume to speak to the accuracy of the translation. But for the same reasons I would like to thank Norman Spector for providing this slim book which gives me the opportunity to identify those parts of the Tristan tales that come from an original source. Knowing where and by whom the story has been embellished enhances my appreciation of later Tristan works. I recommend this little book (91 pages) to students and scholars and all who consider themselves well-educated. This is a foundational piece for a library of medieval literature. If, however, you are looking for an entertaining and romantic telling of Tristan and Isolt, pass this one by.

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