

Ford B. Parkes, "Irony in *Waltharius*," *MLN* 89 (1974): 459-65

"*Waltharius* reflects, primarily by the device of irony, the friction which existed between the declining Germanic heroic or warrior-ethos and the relatively new and upcoming Christian-Latin culture." (459)

[the poet] "makes sport of his warrior-contemporaries by portraying the non-Germanic Attila as the most mannerly of warriors in the epic" (460)

(re: flight of Walter & Hildegund): "such details as shoes and fish-hooks in the above context are utterly foreign to heroic literature...Walter's presence becomes known because of some fish." (460)

(re: Gunther and Walter) "The poet has a low opinion of the religiosity of the Germanic warrior" (461)

"the increasingly brutal fashion in which his foes die...is a criticism of the warrior-ethos" (462)

Intertextual irony: echo of *Aeneid* in ll. 44-5 and 54 contrasts the Aeneas/Pallas/Tarchon alliance with the absence of alliance between Burgundians/Franks/Aquitanians, who think only of surrender (464)

"The poet has a great propensity to ironize and satirize. In this regard no single character escapes his eye." (464)