

Quotes on Satire

courtesy of Prof. R.W.F. Kroll

1. "Where praise is undeserv'd, 'tis Satyr." (Dryden)
2. "Satire comes both from *satyr* and *satura*: a dish of mixed foods served by a rough-speaking goat. Satirical works are always *satiricus*, often *satyricus*." (Alan Roper)
3. "Satire consists of an attack by means of a manifest fiction upon discernable historical particulars." (Edward R. Rosenheim, Jr.)
4. "Discernable satire is therefore topical, often ephemeral." (Alan Roper, glossing Rosenheim)
5. "The satiric muse is strictly urban. You can satirize urban attitudes toward the country, but not the country itself." (Alan Roper)
6. "Good satire is always in bad taste." (Kenneth Tynan)
7. "For satire to exist at all, it must move from clearly-discernible moral premises; but at the same time it always involves an attack on vices or flaws that the satirist can never entirely escape. Consequently, the author must at once persuade his reader of his identification with humanity, and clarify the particular moral ground from which he proceeds." (Criticus obscurus)
8. "Satire is thus identifiable, if not identified with the wider literary problem of how an author establishes his peculiar form of superior or special knowledge, and how he is to present or dramatize it." (Gloss on Criticus obscurus)