

Contents

PART I: THE BACKGROUND

1. The Germanic Heroic Lay	3
2. From Lay to Epic	17
3. The Rise of German Epic	30
4. The Rise of German Romance	56

PART II: THE 'NIBELUNGENLIED'

5. The Literary Context	81
6. The Sources	105
7. Originality	118
8. Interpretations	144

X SOURCES AND ANALOGUES

X The Story of Sigurd in <i>Þiðreks saga</i>	169
The Fall of the Burgundians in <i>Þiðreks saga</i>	186
X Reconstructions of the "Brünhildenlied" and the "Ältere Not"	209
The Bridal-Quest Stories in <i>Þiðreks saga</i>	214
1. <i>Samson and Hildisvid</i>	214
2. <i>Osatrix and Oda</i>	216
3. <i>Attila and Erka</i>	225
4. <i>Herburt and Hild</i>	241
5. <i>Apollonius and Herborg</i>	245
6. <i>Iron and Bolfriana</i>	249
X Saxo Grammaticus' "Lay of Grimhild's Perfidy"	252
Summary of the <i>Klage</i>	256

Abbreviations	263	Notes	265
Works Cited	281	Index	299