

W. H. Whittemore review file



TITLE INFORMATION SHEET

TITLE: Jericho Mosaic

EDITOR: Tom Wallace

AUTHOR: Edward Whittemore

AGENT: Wallace & Shell  
(Lois Wallace)

ISBN #:

PRICE: \$16.95

PUB DATE: February 1987

PAGES: 352

TRIM SIZE: 6 X 9

AUTHOR'S HOME: Jerusalem, Israel ILLUSTRATIONS: None

SELLING HANDLE:

JERICHO MOSAIC is the fourth volume of a fabulous Jerusalem Quartet (Sinai Tapestry, Jerusalem Poker and Nile Shadows were published by Holt between 1977-1983) by Edward Whittemore, a novelist who has been called America's best least-known writer (PW), a one-man Left Bank, and compared more than favorably to Pynchon, Nabokov and Fuentes in The Nation.

DESCRIPTION OF BOOK (75 words or less):

In 1959 an idealistic young Syrian forsakes success in Buenos Aires to return to the ancient land of his birth and help forward the Arab revolution. The patriot Kalim becomes a forceful advocate of Palestinian rights, "the incorruptible one", the conscience of the Arab cause. This man is in fact an Iraqi Jew, a double agent of the Mossad, codename "The Runner." His long-term task is to penetrate the heart of Syria's military clique... So begins Edward Whittemore's brilliant new novel. Cairo in the 40s, Damascus in the 50s, Jerusalem for three thousand years and Jericho for ten thousand--the tale of "The Runner's" operation is reflected in many mirrors as it pieces together the secret designs and hidden colors of illusion and reality in the Middle East.

AUTHOR'S PREVIOUS BOOKS: Quin's Shanghai Circus (Holt, 1974), Sinai Tapestry (Holt, 1977), Jerusalem Poker (Holt, 1979), Nile Shadows (Holt, 1983).

AUTHOR'S AFFILIATIONS:

RIGHTS AND TERRITORY: U.S., Canada, territories and possessions, Philippine Islands, Open Market outside UK & Commonwealth

#### COMPARISONS/COMPETITION,

Although people always mention the "right names"--Vonnegut, Pynchon, Nabakov, Marquez, Fuentes, Borges, etc-- when reviewing Whittemore, he really is incomparable. His review coverage is always massive; his reviews can be collected nearly by the pound. Of Quin's Shanghai Circus Jerry Charyn said in TBR "...a profoundly nutty book, full of mysteries, truths, untruths, idiot savants, necrophiliacs, magicians, dwarfs, circus masters, secret agents and a marvelous re-casting of history in our century" and Barry Hannah, "as (con't below under additional info)

#### PROMOTION & SUB RIGHTS:

All of Whittemore's novels have been published in paperback by either Popular Library or Avon. Pat O'Connor and Bob Wyatt, two of the most astute paperback publishers in the U.S. are big fans of Whittemore.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: (i.e. T of C, Chapter Outline, etc.)

complex as Pynchon, funnier than Vonnegut." Of Sinai Tapestry Anthony Heilbut said in The Nation, "Whittemore is a deceptively lucid stylist. Were his syntax as cluttered as Pynchon's or as conspicuously grand as Nabakov's or Fuentes's, his virtually ignored recent novel might have received the attention it deserves." Of Jerusalem Poker, Jim Hougan said (in a four-page review in Harper's) "Whittemore...presents himself as one of the last, best arguments against television. He is an author of extraordinary talents... The milieu is one with which readers of espionage novels may think themselves familiar, and yet it's totally transformed--by the writer's wild humor, his mystical bent, and his bicameral perception of history and time." (1)

My own favorite response is the one contained in an unsolicited letter from a reader of Jerusalem Poker, "If the price of whiskey goes up again and the wife leaves me, I'll sit down and reread this book." Hugh Murphy, reader, County Donegal. (2)

You will all have to read this wonderful new novel, I will send around manuscripts in June.