

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM: FERNANDO ALEGRÍA, 1918-2005

Fernando Alegría, who wrote the pioneering study of Whitman's influence in Latin American cultures, died on October 29, 2005, at his home in Walnut Creek, California. He was 87. Alegría's *Walt Whitman en Hispanoamerica* was published in Mexico in 1954 and has for half a century been the most complete study of Hispanic America's varied response to Whitman. He also wrote and edited the "Whitman in Spain and Latin America" section of *Walt Whitman and the World*, edited by Gay Wilson Allen and Ed Folsom (1995). He was a participant in the "Whitman in Translation" symposium held in 1992 at the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies at The University of Iowa, the proceedings of which were published in the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* in 1995. His essay on Borges's translation of "Song of Myself" appears in the *Cambridge Companion to Walt Whitman*, edited by Ezra Greenspan (1995).

Born in Santiago, Chile, Alegría was a well-known novelist and long-time professor at Stanford University, where he held the Sadie Dernham Patek chair in the Humanities. He was a friend of Chilean President Salvador Allende, and he served as Chile's cultural attaché in Washington, D.C., in the early 1970s. His novel based on Allende's life, *Allende, mi vecino, el presidente*, was published in the United States in 1993 as *Allende: A Novel*. Banned from Chile after Allende's assassination and the military coup there, Alegría returned regularly to his native country after 1987, when he was allowed back in.

After doing his undergraduate work at the University of Chile, Alegría completed his M.A. at Bowling Green State University and his Ph.D. at the University of California at Berkeley, where he served on the faculty from 1947 until 1967, when he moved to Stanford, where he retired in 1988.