

'Powell's Naturalism is not Zola's or Dreiser's or even Hemingway's. It is connected, rather, to his great ability to see both social history and individual destinies, as mythical, that is, as part of the recurring patterns that help us to explain human history . . . Nicholas Jenkins – the conductor of Powell's orchestral selections – is not Camus's embattled warrior, nor even one of Beckett's dying gladiators; he is a cool cat, a hip operator, a young man who knows all the byroads past condemned property . . . he would break the code that keeps him cool were he to reveal his goal to others . . . Powell's mind is a ferocious synthesising force . . . In its combinations of the particular with the general, of the rapier thrust with the solid backgrounding, Powell's series recalls the great fiction created in the first quarter of the twentieth century, that of Proust, Mann, Gide, Conrad. Vastly different as Powell is from all of these, as is each from the other, he has like them conveyed the substance of a society that has a function of its own.' Frederic R. Karl in *Mosaic* (University of Manitoba Press).

'A pervading comic sense that can approach the brink of farce and veer suddenly aside into the darker and more painful emotions, what can only be called a witty seriousness, and above all a sense of poise, an ease of manner – in cruder terms a "readability" – that is never anything but the result of conscientious craftsmanship.' Kingsley Amis in *Europa*.

'In his ability to capture and control the imagination of his readers through his characters, Mr. Powell is the most subtle writer now performing in English . . . As the Pattern develops and is revealed in its complexity, it is clearer than ever that a literary mansion is being constructed before our eyes.' William Trevor in the *Guardian*.

'When the time comes for the historian to get the sense of what life was like for the British between and during the two big wars . . . he can wrap up the whole era with Anthony Powell's incalculably brilliant series, *A Dance to the Music of Time!*' *Time*.

'I think it is now becoming clear that *A Dance to the Music of Time* is going to be the greatest modern novel in English since *Ulysses*.' Clive James in *Kaleidoscope* BBC.

'The fineness of Mr. Powell's art, the near genius in his sense of design consists in his ability to perceive and render believable in "fiction" the sheer multifariousness of real human experience in his age.' *Times Literary Supplement*.