

Guthrie Clothing

The Poetry of Phil Hall, a Selected Collage

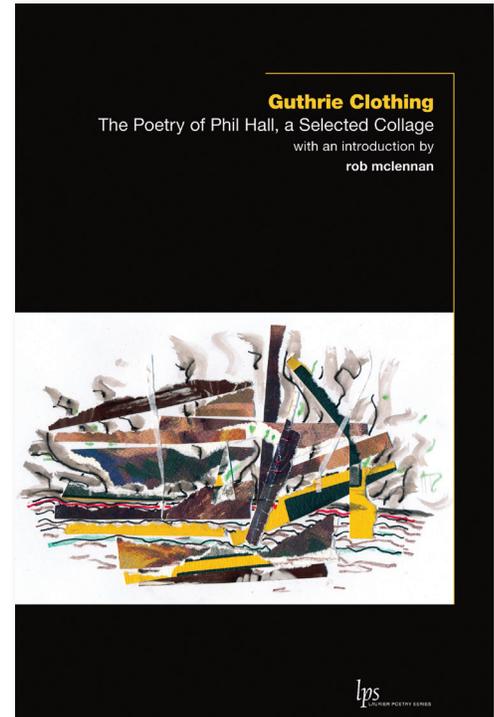
with an introduction by rob mclennan

Increasingly known as the “poet’s poet,” Governor General’s Award–winner Phil Hall has long been a constructor of intricate sequences, collecting and arranging lines and phrases, artifacts, and small revelations. He writes on influences, literary and local; he writes of rural Ontario, attempting to comprehend a deeply personal family violence; he stitches together lines and tall tales and fables from his life and the stories that float around the ethos of his variety of Ontario wilds. Hall’s isn’t a poetry carved into perfect diamond form but a poetry whittled from scores of found materials pulled apart and rearranged. This volume is not so much a “selected poems” as it is a reshuffle, a sampler from the span of Hall’s published work. *Guthrie Clothing* is a collage-selection by Hall. Lines, stanzas, and poem-fragments are reworked and patterned into a new sequence, a fresh structure.

The afterword consists of an important new essay-poem by Hall. It argues against irony from a rural perspective and amounts to Hall’s *ars poetica*. In an encompassing introduction, rob mclennan explores Hall’s four-plus decades of bricolage.

Phil Hall won the 2011 Governor General’s Literary Award for Poetry in English and the 2012 Trillium Book Award for his book of essay-poems *Killdeer*. His most recent publications are *The Small Nouns Crying Faith* (2013), *Notes from Gethsemani* (2014), and *Essay on Legend* (2014). He lives near Perth, Ontario.

rob mclennan is the author of nearly thirty books of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction, an editor, and a publisher. His most recent books include *notes and dispatches: essays* (2014), *The Uncertainty Principle: stories* (2014), and the poetry collection *If suppose we are a fragment* (2014).



Print

July 2015

88 pages

6 x 9

Laurier Poetry series

978-1-77112-191-0

paper \$18.99

ebook available

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