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GERALD HILL

By ELIZABETH SEITZ

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Biographical Sketch

Gerald (Gerry) Hill was born in 1951 to parents Alice and Don Hill of Herbert, Saskatchewan. Don, an educator and Superintendent of Schools in Herbert, would later move his family to Regina where he worked at the University of Regina until his retirement.

Gerald Hill acquired his love of language no doubt with the aid of the contents of his father's book case: from leather-bound Dickens to Louis L'Amour. Growing up, he read books of fiction, wrote rhyming verse, liked jazz and took part in the ways of the 1970's counter-culture.

Gerald's Bachelor degree of Education was completed in 1975 at the University of Calgary. He taught junior high Language for two years at Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, and then went to Papua New Guinea as a Canadian University Services Overseas (CUSO) high school teacher in 1978. He returned to Canada in 1981 and took part in a one year Creative Writing studies program at David Thompson University Centre (DTUC) in Nelson, B.C. The influence of three writers from DTUC-- Fred Wah, Tom Wayman and Dave McFadden--remained an influence on Gerald's evolving writing style.

Hill moved back to Regina in 1982, supporting himself with teaching jobs, and joined the Saskatchewan Writers Guild. He met theatre artist Ruth Smillie at a writing retreat in Fort San. They married in 1984 and moved to Edmonton, where Ruth ran a theatre company and Hill taught adult education; they had three children before ending the marriage in 1992.

From 1988 to 1994 he earned a Master of Arts degree in English from the University of Alberta and began work on his Ph.D.. Gail Scott, Robert Kroetsch, Daniel Defoe, and Hélène Cixous were subjects of his academic articles; he also earned a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada doctoral fellowship.

Freelance writing and editing projects still supplement his income, and annual retreats, to Emma Lake and St. Peter's Abbey and other residencies, national and international, provide large amounts of writing time, his first poetry collection *Heartwood* was published in 1985 by Thistledown Press in Saskatoon, and by the 1990's his work had been published in more than two dozen literary magazines as well as several anthologies.

The Man from Saskatchewan, Hill's second collection, was published in 2001 by Coteau Books as well as a collection of mini-biographies of Saskatchewan men killed in World War II, *Their Names Live On* published by the Canadian Plains Research Centre with Doug Chisholm. Gerald Hill's third collection, *Getting To Know You*, won the Saskatchewan Book Award for Poetry in 2004, and *My Human Comedy* was published by Coteau in 2008. Hill's book *14 Tractors* was published in 2009 by NeWest Press and won the Regina Book Award in the same year. In 2012 Hill published *Hillsdale, a Map*, and in 2014 *Hillsdale Book* will be published by NeWest Press.

Gerald Hill currently teaches English and Creative Writing at Luther College, University of Regina.

Scope and Content: This collection is approximately 71 cm of paper material. It also includes 2 audio cassettes and 10 compact disks, 1 photograph.

The collection ranges in dates from 1982 to 2013, it is made up mainly of the writing of Gerald Hill and includes copies of previous publications as well as drafts of *Hillsdale Book*.

Screen shots for the compact disks have been printed and are included in the folders. The files from the compact disks were copied to the University's servers for interim preservation. This collection was donated to the archives by Gerald Hill and his original file titles have been maintained. Future accruals are expected. There are no access restrictions. The legal agreement is pending.

Box 1

- 1 Award
CBC literary Award, 2010
- 2 Calendar
Vintage Tractors, 2008
- 3 Correspondence
Miscellaneous Correspondence To and From Gerald Hill Regarding
Events, Writing and Awards

(includes Compact Disks #1, #2)
(includes Photograph #1)
- Notebooks
- 4 2006, July 19
5 2006, October 17
6 2007, July 17 – Hemingway Studio
7 2007, May – The Stegner House
8 2008 – St. Peters Abbey
9 2008, September 3 – Regina
10 2009, March 25 – Regina

Box 2

- 11 Professional Activities
Erratics Poetry Workshop (Instructor), 2007
12 Saskatchewan Book Award – 20th Anniversary Reading, April 27, 2013
Saskatchewan Writers Guild
13 35th Anniversary Presentation, 2005
(includes Compact Disks #3, #4, #5)
14 Panel / Reading with Barbara Klar, 2009
15 *Spring*, Volume 5, October 2007 (Edited by Hill)
16 Vertigo Reading (*Heartwood*), September 2009
- Professional Development
- 17 Creative Writing Class Sample Chapbook "*Places I Don't Want to be
Caught Dead In*", 2009 (2 copies)
18 Fiction Workshop (Dave Margoshes) 2009
19 Sage Hill Writing Experience, (Daphne Marlatt) July 2010
- Publications By or Featuring Writing by Gerald Hill
- 20 *Alice Kicks Butt as Crystal Lake*, n.d.
21 *Five Stories Eight Poems*, 1982
22 *Getting to Know You*, 2003
23 *Heading Out*, 1986
24 *Heartwood*, 1985
25 *Man from Saskatchewan*, 2001
26 *Poems for Mom*
- Writing by Gerald Hill
- 27 14 Tractors (includes Compact Disks #6, #7, #8)
28 Building Poem Building, 2003

		(online poem with links to webcam on Construction of Residence Towers at University of Regina)
		Emma Lake
	29	Emma by Rowboat, 1997 (includes Audio Cassette #1)
	30	Emma Lake 2009 (includes Compact Disk #9)
	31	Notes and Drafts, 2007
Box 3	32	Hillsdale Book Book 1 Draft 2012
	33	Draft 1 May 10
	34	Draft 1 June 10 2010
	35	Draft 2
	36	Draft 3 1/2
	37	Draft 3 2/2
	38	Draft 4 1/3
	39	Draft 4 2/3
	40	Draft 4 3/3
	41	Draft 5 1/2
Box 4	42	Draft 5 2/2
	43	Draft 6
	44	Draft 7
	45	Draft 8
	46	GH Sample 1 (notes made by Katherine Lawrence) 2011
	47	Growing Up, Growing In, Growing Over (Draft)
	48	Notes 1
	49	Slush 1
	50	Talking Hillsdale, 2009
	51	Whitmore Park 1958-1962 (includes Compact Disk #10)
	52	Hillsdale, a Map (a segment of <i>Hillsdale Book</i>)
	53	Ice Dreams (reading of Gerald Hill's writing on hockey in 3 rd section) (includes Audio Cassette #2)
Box 5	54	Learning to Draw Early Drafts (unpublished as at May 2013) 1/4
	55	Early Drafts (unpublished as at May 2013) 2/4
	56	Early Drafts (unpublished as at May 2013) 3/4
	57	Early Drafts (unpublished as at May 2013) 4/4
	58	My Human Comedy Editors Notes and Drafts, 2006
	59	Miscellaneous
	60	Natural Causes: The Poems of Stan Still Contents
	61	Correspondence
	62	Draft 8
	63	Draft 9
	64	Draft 10
	65	Edited Pages
	66	Final Edits – Banff 2009
	67	For Manuscript Evaluation Program
	68	The Goddamned Birds of Saskatchewan
	69	Music
Box 6	70	Second Last Draft
	71	Poems
	72	Re: Street Pieces Chapbook, 2012 Stan Still

73	Notes from Ibi Koslik (Writer-in-Residence, Regina Public Library) 2008
74	Stan Slush Unpublished (mostly) Poems
75	How to Make Yourself at Home 1
76	Slush 1
77	Slush 2
78	Slush 3
79	Slush 4
80	Slush 5
81	Slush 6

Audio Visual Index

Compact Disks

- #1 Author Photos by Lucy Hill Summer 2011 Box 1 File 3
- #2 February Gallery 07 "Words" Box 1 File 3
- #3 SWG photos Box 2 File 13
- #4 SWG 1 Box 2 File 13
- #5 SWG 2 Box 2 File 13
- #6 14 Tractors Presentation 02/27 Box 2 File 27
- #7 Tractor Cords Box 2 File 27
- #8 Gerry Hill's Book Launch 2009 Box 2 File 27
- #9 "Writing Brando" Gerald Hill Box 2 File 30
- #10 Whitmore Park 1958 - 1962 Box 4 File 51

Audio Cassettes

- #1 Emma by Rowboat Box 2 File 29
- #2 Ice Dreams 2001 Box 4 File 53