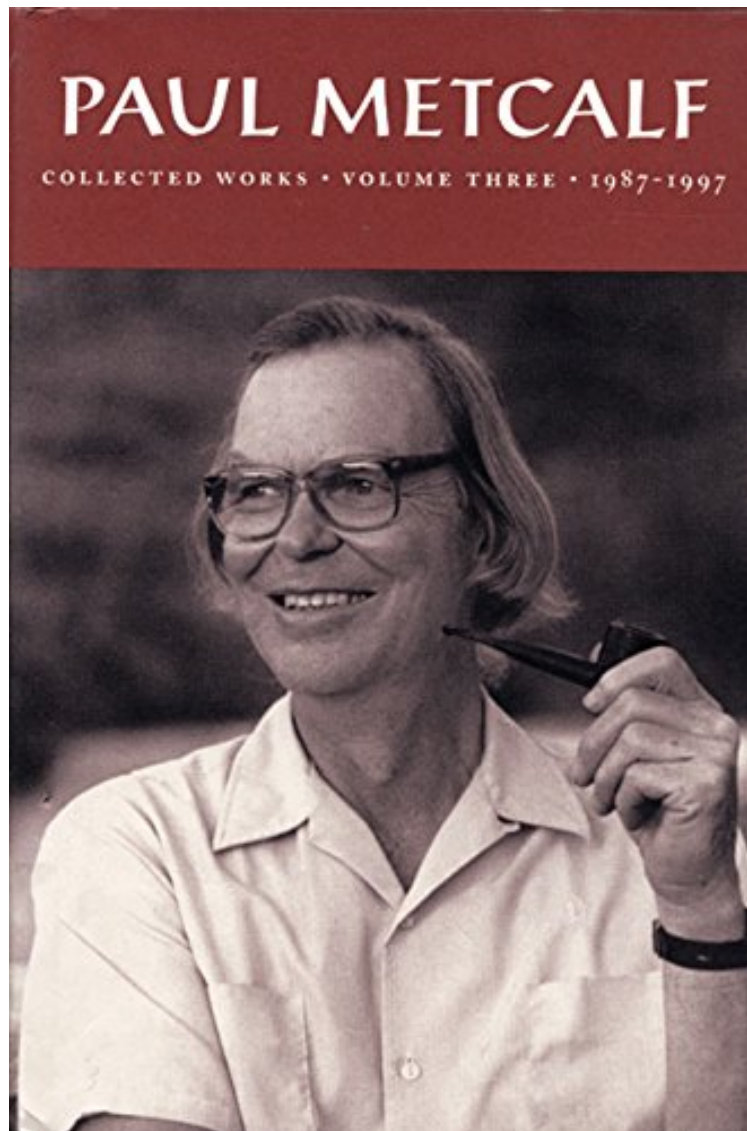


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This volume completes the collected works of an American genius that Coffee House has helped rediscover.

From Library Journal It is an interstate highway, a backbone, the dividing line between sanity and schizophrenia, a

place within which to collect endless pathologies, "not a poem, not a novel, not a history, not a journal, yet at times some or all of these." It is, in other words, the second volume of Metcalf's Collected Works (see LJ 11/15/96 for a review of the first installment), an odd, exhilarating hybrid of a text somehow "based" on Interstate 57. In his method, Metcalf reminds us that the world is endlessly interesting; whatever is gleaned, even the strange or banal, matters to a story largely taken up in the interstices. An epic may be constructed solely out of place names from the 1968 U.S. Postal Service Zip Code Directory ("Zip Odes"); 19th-century mustachioed actors and any number of other associations may connect the stories of Poe and John Wilkes Booth; volcanic eruptions, invasions, and attacks and counterattacks are fabulously juxtaposed to comprise the record of Martinique?all of it threatening to overcome any notion of a legitimate, received history. Metcalf's project has been solitary and glacial in its undertaking, but readers would be at a serious deficit without it.?Steven R. Ellis, Pennsylvania State Univ. Libs., University ParkCopyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. Huascan -- Table of Poems from Poem Finder®