

his three writing periods: a) the 1920's and 30's when he tackled moral questions, b) the 1950's and 60's when he was a literary critic in broadcasting, and c) the last few decades of his life the 1970' and 80's when he returned to depicting the individual facing unusual moral dilemmas.

Each of the early novels contained a moral question: can an ex-convict, Kip Caley restart his life and become a go-between of law-abiding citizens and ex-fellow prisoners for the latter's benefit in *More Joy in Heaven* (1937), can a priest Father Dowling in *Such is my Beloved* (1933) change single handedly the life of two pitiful young prostitutes, can an indifferent alienated young unemployed engineer Michael Aikenhead keep silent about his own role in the drowning of his half-brother while his own father is blamed for „the crime” and see his father's reputation and life go astray in *They Shall Inherit the Earth* (1934), just to mention perhaps the best-known novels of the 1930's. These stories can also be looked upon as moral allegories of some Bible stories e.g. the good Samaritan.

The questions of crime and punishment, how far the rights and roles of social outcasts can expand among the so-called 'good people', the law-abiding citizens?! Aren't law-abiding citizens simply hypocrites? <sup>147</sup> Morley Callaghan certainly puts uneasy or at least unexpected question to the reader. These issues may seem to bother some of his critics and some of his readers. Is the customary standpoint, our socially accepted and expected behavior towards social outcasts morally all right? Aren't we responsible for each other as human beings as preached by the Bible? <sup>148</sup>

In most of Morley Callaghan's fiction – longer and shorter – action takes place in 'the city'. The city is somewhere in North America – we know from the author's biography that it must be Toronto, his beloved hometown that Callaghan left only few times in

<sup>147</sup> Hugo McPHERSON: *Introduction – Morley Callaghan: More Joy in Heaven*. NCL McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1960. vi.

<sup>97</sup> Robin MATTHEWS: *Canadian Literature – Surrender or Revolution*. Steel Rail Educational Publishing, Toronto, Canada, 1978. 96.