

Continentalism and Nationhood: Morley Callaghan and Hugh MacLennan

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The often quoted Northrop Frye question definition „Where is here?“ is not a problem for either Callaghan or MacLennan, but it is an affirmation in the oeuvre of both writers, however, in a different way.

Hugh MacLennan turned towards his homecountry for inspiration at the suggestion of his American wife, Dorothy Duncan, a writer herself, and became a classical writer advocating nationhood in Canada. Morley Callaghan turned outside Canada first to Paris then later to New York literary and artistic centres for inspiration and became a Continentalist writer of North America, and a Canadian classic in his lifetime.

So as the two writers' example indicates whether they advocate Canadian nationhood or Continentalism in their artistic approach is of secondary importance from the point of view of their artistic merit.

The determining factor is the personality of the writer, his way of looking at life which make them sense and look at the world in order to portray it by their imagination. In the case of both Morley Callaghan and Hugh MacLennan, prominent writers of Canada in the mid-20th century the impact of the American writers Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway had been decisive on their work. Hemingway