**MacLennan, Hugh (1907-1990)**

Hugh MacLennan ranks among the most significant twentieth-century Canadian novelists, and was the first to be acclaimed for sustained exploration of Canadian settings and themes in fiction. Born in Nova Scotia in 1907, MacLennan survived the Halifax explosion of 1917. He attended Oxford as a Rhodes scholar and, in the 1930s, embarked on a European sojourn that provided material for two experimental novels that were influenced by Joyce and Hemingway and remain unpublished. MacLennan’s first published novels, *Barometer Rising* (1941) and *Two Solitudes* (1945)*,* represent the Canadian nation in the tradition of nineteenth-century realism. These two works remain his most widely read, and are considered by some critics to have inaugurated a period in Canadian literary history when writers were concerned prominently with exploring Canadian themes and questions of national identity. *The Precipice* (1948) and *Each Man’s Son* (1951) continued in the same vein. *The Watch That Ends the Night* (1959) was more complex and psychological than MacLennan’s earlier national-thesis novels and saw him again drawing upon his early affinities with Anglo-American modernists. In his later years, MacLennan published two more novels—*Return of the Sphinx* (1967) and *Voices in Time* (1980)—and penned numerous essays, some of them highly critical of the virtuosic experimentalism that informed his earlier writing.

**Biography:**

Cameron, Elspeth. *Hugh MacLennan: A Writer’s Life*. Toronto: U Toronto P, 1981

**Major Works:**

Novels

*So All Their Praises* (1933)

*Man Should Rejoice* (1937)

*Barometer Rising* (1941)

*Two Solitudes* (1945)

*The Precipice* (1948)

*Each Man’s Son* (1951)

*The Watch That Ends the Night* (1959)

*Return of the Sphinx* (1967)

*Voices in Time* (1980)

Essays

*Cross Country* (1949)

*Thirty and Three* (1954)

*Scotchman’s Return and Other Essays* (1960)

*The Other Side of Hugh MacLennan* (1978)

**Paratextual Material:**

<http://hpcanpub.mcmaster.ca/media/two-solitudes-hugh-maclennan-0>  (Click on the cover image for Two Solitudes, top left of the page)

<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/maclennan/biblio/collect.htm> (The photo of HM at the top of the page)