

Hugh John MacLennan (1907-1990)

Hugh MacLennan, who died recently, had a long association with Dalhousie University, and with Halifax where he grew up. He was a student at Dalhousie from 1924 to 1928, and returned as a writer in residence with the English Department in 1988.

When he graduated from Dalhousie University in 1928, MacLennan won the Governor General's Gold Medal, having taken his degree with what was then called "High Honours" in Classics, as well as winning the Rhodes Scholarship. He was also the class valedictorian. The valedictory address did not then form part of Convocation, but was given as part of the Class Day Exercises which were held on the day before the convocation itself. In 1928, the Class Day Exercises were held on the afternoon of Monday, May 14.

MacLennan's valedictory looked forward to a future somewhat different from what he was actually to encounter. When he recalled these years much later, in a 1982 lecture, he said: "I had gone through Dalhousie and Oxford, at the end of which—the year was 1932—only about 8% of returning Rhodes Scholars got jobs of any kind. I had gone to the Princeton Graduate School, obtained a Ph.D. there in Classical Scholarship and had again come home jobless to Halifax and my father's house."¹

The *Dalhousie Review* is pleased to have the opportunity of printing Hugh MacLennan's valedictory address, as our valediction to him. We would like to thank Alan Ruffman for drawing it to our attention.

A.A.

¹ MacLennan, Hugh, *On Being a Maritime Writer* (Sackville, N.B., 1984), 15.