

A World Without Stone, March '98

There are no hills and the only rock
of substance – a sixty ton granite
colossus – has been discovered
deep under the earth by a great digger
boring back under the Elbe.
It was transported here by moving ice
during an ice age, the newspaper says
and it will be put on show for one and all.

This absence of rock has troubled me
through the years. I'd love to find
worry-stones in different shapes,
or even a handful of pebbles, but
sand is soft here. I've had to accept
this, as I've had to accept that stones
in shop windows are proper stones.
Not that I've wanted to. But people
talk of size, shape and healing power
and I feel I should too – perhaps!

I have known the need for death
and depend on solace and hard colours
for comfort and some foothold.

Terry McDonagh
A World Without Stone
New And Selected Poems

Source:

irishliteraryrevival.com/writers/terrymcdonagh/aworldwithoutstone.odt

Terry McDonagh is a poet and dramatist from Cill Aodain, Co. Mayo.

“Cill Aodáin & Nowhere Else”

Today we journey along a new and technologically washed terrain. Holding what we have made and not losing what we have been offered by our past is difficult in slippery seasons. The poet or the painter is always transformed by making art, but not simply so; the words and the images become in turn agents of transformation, changing the air we breathe and the hills we walk. But things unveiled for us through art can open our brave new world, can reveal that place our bodies come from, where our souls are shaped. We can chant its past, we can seed its future, we can be, here in our own places.

Some seek elsewhere. For others, and for this poet, elsewhere becomes at the end of the day 'nowhere else' but where it all began. The sense of place, and its possibilities for the imagination, especially places we have flown from only to return again and again - 'these are the tufts of delight in the dark muddle of November.' Here we may live our lives of 'sin and wrinkles' and walk to 'benediction'.

Echoes offer tribute to the great Anthony Raftery of his home place, and also to a poet of our own time, Austin Clarke for whom men "Drank deep and were silent....". McDonagh is not

silent; and he promises to finish his poem, one way or another, in this life or the next. Cill Aodain is why. - *Seamus Cashman*

A Celebration of Raftery in His Own Place

Kevin Rohan and Terry McDonagh

Sun 12th 2008

Raftery's Rest

12.30pm - 3.00pm

Raftery's life and works are being celebrated in Clarinbridge and Craughwell and – in between – in the poets' graveyard in Killeeneen, where he is buried. It is only fitting that he should be remembered in ways that are in keeping with his bardic lifestyle. The celebration will be conducted by poet, **Terry McDonagh**, who has recently launched his unique illustrated publication, '*Cill Aodáin & Nowhere Else*'. The celebration will be complimented by the wonderful fiddle playing of **Kevin Rohan**, well known musician and broadcaster.

<http://www.terry-mcdonagh.com/cill-aodain-nowhere-else/>

Readings, music, refreshments.

12.30pm: Meet at Raftery's Rest, Kilcolgan

1.00pm: Visit to Raftery's grave, Killeeneen

2.00pm: Return to Raftery's Rest - Music, readings.

Refreshments courtesy of Raftery's Rest

This event is financially supported by Poetry Ireland.

Organised in association with Féile Raifteirí

Clarinbridge Arts Festival

Friday, 3rd October - Sunday, 12th October, 2008

Our theme for Clarinbridge Arts Festival 2008 is "*A Sense of Place*". This will be interpreted in diverse ways – from the poetry of Raftery to the food and music of Italy, from the music of '*Maigh Seola*' to the exploration of local flora and fauna, from exhibitions of local art and crafts to the best of traditional Irish music and films of local interest.

We are bound to a place by emotion and experience, by music and memory. This year's festival will explore those threads that bind us to a particular place through the media of poetry, music, art, food and flora.

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<http://www.clarinbridgeartsfestival.ie/index.html>