

Fall '07: Cúige Uladh (3)

Cathal Ó Searcaigh: Mín 'a Léagh

I'll provide more information about Cathal Ó Searcaigh as we get farther along, but the poem below gives us a sample of his early work.

Ó Searcaigh comes from the very north of Donegal, born in the area of Cloich Cheannfhaola (Cloghaneely). He would say he was raised in Mín 'a Léagha — another one of those distinctions so fine that it is hard to find it on a map — but it is next to Gort 'a Choirce (Gortahork). As far as I can tell, he still lives there, although he spends a good deal of time in Nepal now!

This poem is from one of his earlier collections, *Súile Shuibhne*, published in 1983 by Coiscéim. It gives us a glimpse into a "Morning in Mín 'a Léagha".

Note: In general, I'll reproduce texts as they appear in original sources. In the case of this poem, that means keeping that "ghreimhridh" in the first line, although it is probably just a typo.



Maidin i Mín 'a Léagha

Corraím as mo chodladh i dtobainne
maidin chruaidh ghreimhridh
is trí fhuinneoigín na seanchistine
tchím splanc dhearg an choiligh
ag bladhmadh isteach ar mo leabaidh
ag leá as mo shúile, braoinín
ar bhraoinín, biríní seaca an tsuain
maidin i Mín 'a Léagha.

Ó bhaitheas go bonn, bogaim le teocht
is altaím le méid mo bhuíochais
an glaochsholas a leánn domhsa ar a seacht
siocfhuacht an dorchadais:
óir, asat, a mheall chírínigh a thagann
i ndúlaíocht an gheimhridh
léas tosaigh an lae
maidin i Mín 'a Léagha.

Ar leisciúlacht aigne is láimhe
fógraíonn tú críoch
le caor thine do theachtairreachta.
Sleamhnaím anois as mo tháimhe
ar nós maidhm sneachta
anuas malaidh chrochta na leapa
chuig gealadh an lae
maidin i Mín 'a Léagha.