Thomas Kinsella: The Peppercanister Poems


Abstract or Description

Reviews: ‘Derval Tubridy’s Thomas Kinsella: The Peppercanister Poems is only the fourth book to examine the body of this remarkable poet’s work, and it is by far the best. Tubridy maintains an impressive balance between scholarly analysis and intuitive appreciation.’ Floyd Skloot, Studies: An Irish Quarterly 90 (359) 2001. ‘Kinsella expects the reader to engage as fully as he or she can with his work. Derval Tubridy is that kind of reader. For anyone unsure about how to read Kinsella's poetry her book is enormously valuable.’ Maurice Harmon Irish University Review 31 (1) 2001. ‘[Derval Tubridy] is wholly appreciative of Kinsella's experiment and responds to it with fluent explicative prose, helpfully documenting the contexts from which the poems arose, and examining earlier drafts and notes to which the poet has allowed her access.’ Irish Studies Review 9 (2) 2001. ‘Tubridy's lucid book will work a treat for student and general reader alike because it gives a trusty guide to the Kinsella districts, both inner and outer.’ Gerald Dawe Irish Times April 2001. ‘[Kinsella's work] comes under the sober scrutiny of Derval Tubridy in a study without hyperbole or any grandiose characterisation of her subject.’ Books Ireland Summer 2001 ‘From the beginning of this book the control which the critic exercises over her material is clear. One of the great benefits of the variety of detail which Tubridy brings to bear on her subject is that no single influence is seen to provide a key to Kinsella's work, a reductive tendency that has beset less thoughtful critics... the affinity between critic and poet ensures a valuable addition to the study of Kinsella's work.’ Irish Literary Supplement, Spring 2002. ‘The first critical analysis to use fully the Emory archive and which, as a result, pieces together a more complete and thorough understanding of Kinsella’s later poetry than any of its predecessors.’ Nua: Studies in Contemporary Irish Writing Oct 2003.

Item Type: Book

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Free verse: Thomas Kinsella’s poem ‘Nightwalker’ evokes the spectral figure of Joyce associated with the Martello tower in Sandycove. Above, the poet with his UCD Ulysses Medal. Photograph: Brenda Fitzsimons. ‘The river poured in dirty and disturbed’: Thomas Kinsella’s writing demonstrates how art can be created out of the corruption and disappointments of modern life. Above, the poet at the announcement of Dublin’s designation as a Unesco City of Literature. The first poem published by Kinsella under his own imprint, The Peppercanister Press, was Butcher’s Dozen, which arose out of the a desire by Kinsella to respond immediately to a monumental injustice. On January 30th 1972, 13 unarmed civil-rights demonstrators were killed in Derry by British paratroopers. Thomas Kinsella (born 4 May 1928) is an Irish poet, translator, editor, and publisher. Kinsella was born in Inchicore, Dublin. He spent most of his childhood in the Kilmainham/Inchicore area of Dublin. He was educated at the Model School, Inchicore, where classes were taught in Irish Gaelic, and at the O’Connell Schools in North Richmond Street, Dublin. His father and grandfather both worked in Guinness's Brewery. He entered University College Dublin in 1946, initially to study science. After a few Another September by Thomas Kinsella. Dreams fled away, this country bedroom, raw With the touch of dawn, wrapped in a minor peace, Hears through an open window the garden draw Long pitch black breaths , lay bear its apple trees, Ripe pear trees, brambles, windfall-sweetened soil, Exhale rough sweetness against the starry slates. There are speculative narratives in local settings and family poems of close observation. There is also much public poetry, including "Butcher’s Dozen," on the Bloody Sunday shootings in Derry. His books since the 1980s continue with poems of public and literary comment, and a growing body of personal and private poetry. This offers an intriguing glimpse into the evolution of a fascinating poet. Click here for Collected Kinsella.