

TELLING THE BEES

By
JOHN ENNIS

TELLING THE BEES contains three award-winning long poems by John Ennis from Listowel Writers' Week open poetry competition: each poem makes use of the persona, a device John Ennis has often employed in his poetry.

The speaker in *Letter to Connla* (1987) is an anonymous medieval young midland lay-monk from the slave class (circa 9th century): a secret scribe and poet writing, or thinking of writing, to his illuminator and twin brother, Connla, travelling across the continent. Transgressing the strict laws of Filidh, Legal System and the Church in his planned composition, he is eventually discovered through stolen vellum, and is tracked down;

In *This Other Umbria* (1992) the persona, in a series of loose curtal sonnets, is the old, stroke-disabled, speechless Bianconi on his death-bed seeing his life flash by in an inkling and a vision of horses: Bianconi who opened up communications with his coaches between Emmet and Parnell in the 19th century; Bianconi, obsessed to the end with his adopted country and his first love for 'Vanna;

In *Telling the Bees* (1994), in Kavanagh-esque "Almost Everything", the speaker's persona drifts in and out of multiple personae on a private road from genesis to nirvana.

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 DEDALUS





Hives in Summer



Hives in Winter

Keep them where they were.

A petition against the setting of hives in the hens area. The names & ducks area fully opposed to Mr. John Ennis's bees. + the hives.

Out of 7 people.

12/7/91

- Theresa Ennis
- Emmet Ennis
- Fiona Ennis
- Ann Ennis
- Ann Marie Ennis
- Jonathan Ennis

Re: Telling the bees