Response to Mollie Vandersol's “Cathleen Commentary”

I agree with Mollie’s assessment that Cathleen Ni Houlihan is an embodiment of pure Ireland. To think that she is a manifestation of the island itself I believe is a very plausible reading. However, I think to move her idea along step further we could ask this: Is one Cathleen “more Irish” than the other? Since Cathleen Ni Houlihan can be viewed as Ireland, she is very much Irish. She is the epitome of Ireland. Does this mean then, that Countess Cathleen is not as much a part of Ireland? If Cathleen Ni Houlihan is the earth, the rock, the actual island, then maybe the countess is a representation of the people. Without the Irish people, what would Ireland be? I think a fair answer is that it would be little more than a rock. This is something that could definitely be examined, especially since in class we discussed how interrelated the two Cathleens are in the way that Yeats writes them. Could they be that different? Could they be that alike?