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THE GREEN BOOK is aimed at a general readership and published twice-yearly. It features commentaries, articles, and reviews on Irish Gothic, Supernatural and Fantastic literature.

Certainly favourites such as Bram Stoker, Dorothy Macardle, and John Connolly will come to mind, but hopefully *The Green Book* also will serve as a pathway to Ireland's other notable fantasists, such as Fitz-James O'Brien, Lafcadio Hearn, William Allingham, Cheiro, Lord Dunsany, Elizabeth Bowen, C. S. Lewis, Mervyn Wall, Conor McPherson . . . and this list is by no means exhaustive.

It should be noted that the word "Irish" in the journal's title should be understood as inclusive rather than exclusive. *The Green Book* will also feature essays on Irish themes—even if by non-Irish authors. We hope that you will find something of interest here, for there is much to explore.

THE GREEN BOOK 8

SAMHAIN 2016

edited by **Brian J. Showers**

Looking at this issue's eclectic contents, I am struck by the richness of Ireland's varied contributions to genre literature. Though a small island nation, we don't exist in a hermetically sealed literary bubble. It's an obvious thing to say, really, but Irish literature has such a strong sense of itself that I sometimes have to remind myself of its kinship with the rest of the literary world.

During one of my expeditions to the National Library, I happened upon a contemporary review of E. R. Eddison's novel *The Worm Ouroboros* (1922) written by James Stephens, author of the classic fantasy novel *The Crock of Gold*. I was thrilled at the idea—though maybe I should not have been surprised—that Stephens was reading other genre writers of the era. We also know he was an admirer of Arthur Machen, but what else had he read? So for this issue I decided to include Stephens's review of *Ouroboros* as a reminder of the interconnections between genre fictions (and their writers).

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