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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.

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BEALTAINE 2017

edited by **Brian J. Showers**

Twenty-five years after Lady Cynthia Asquith edited her classic anthology *The Ghost Book* (1926), she followed it up with *The Second Ghost Book*, a decidedly more modern grouping of uncanny tales written by some of the most eminent authors of the era: Walter de la Mare, V. S. Pritchett, and Rose Macaulay among others. For this second anthology Asquith also approached her close friend and one-time London neighbour Elizabeth Bowen, not just for a story—the now much-anthologised "Hand in Glove"—but Asquith also requested that she write the introduction as well. Bowen obliged.

By the time *The Second Ghost Book* was published in 1952, Bowen was already an established novelist, lauded for titles such as *The Last September* (1929) and *The Heat of the Day* (1948); both books being weighty explorations of relationships set against the background of war and conflict. Nonetheless, Bowen's decision to make a contribution to and pen the introduction for a popular ghost story anthology is unsurprising. Her earliest collections are littered with treatments of the uncanny, perhaps culminating with the superb collection, *The Demon Lover and Other Stories* (1945). And so this issue opens with Bowen's still insightful introduction to *The Second Ghost Book*—a treatise on a literary form that she no doubt took as seriously as any other.

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