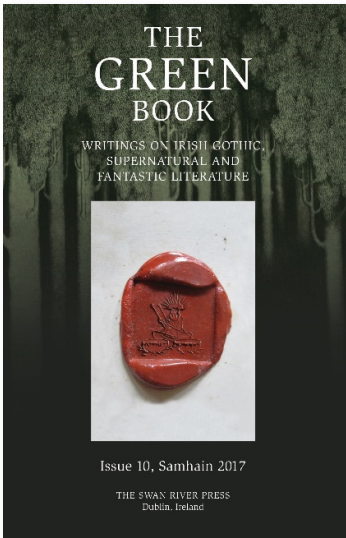


THE GREEN BOOK 10

SAMHAIN 2017

edited by Brian J. Showers



Pub. Date: Autumn 2017

Cover Art: Jason Zerrillo

Retail Price: €15.00

ISSN: 2009-6089 (pbk)

108 pages, 129mm x 198mm



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.

Without question, Lord Dunsany (1878-1957) was one of the leading fantasists of the twentieth-century, fitting in somewhere between William Morris and J. R. R. Tolkien. As a writer he emerged fully formed, with an incomparable prose style and literary sensibilities that can only be described as *sui generis*. Dunsany's writing is widely acknowledged as an influence on H. P. Lovecraft and Neil Gaiman, while his stories, novels, and plays are admired by luminaries such as Aleister Crowley, Arthur C. Clarke, Jorge Luis Borges, and Ursula Le Guin. And though Dunsany's writing is held in high regard among readers of fantastic literature, his work is curiously not as widely read as it should be. Stranger still, despite Ireland's obsession with claiming, reclaiming, and rediscovering its literary heritage, Lord Dunsany remains virtually absent from the Irish literary canon, dismissed by certain disengaged academics as "second-rate", almost unavailable in bookshops, and often reduced to a walk-on part in the biographies of better known writers and artists.

This issue of *The Green Book* is an attempt to place Dunsany again among his Irish peers. I've gathered for these pages reviews of Dunsany's work written by A.E., Elizabeth Bowen, Forrest Reid, and Austin Clarke; introductions by W. B. Yeats and Padraic Colum; reminiscences of the author by Katharine Tynan, Oliver St. John Gogarty, and Seán O Faoláin—this is Dunsany through the eyes of his Irish contemporaries.

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