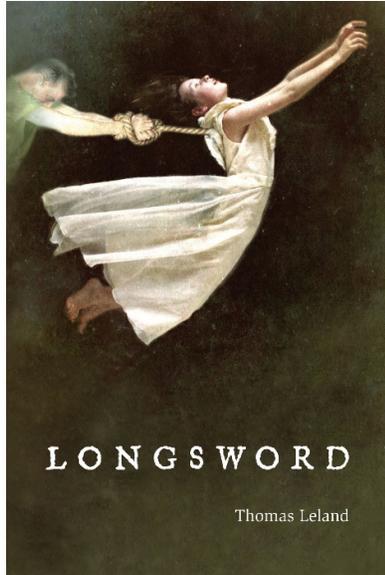


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THOMAS LELAND (1722-1785) was born in Dublin. Ordained to ministry in the Church of Ireland, his works include *History of Philip, King of Macedon* (1758), *History of Ireland* (1773), and a posthumous collection of sermons (1788). His only work of fiction, *Longsword, Earl of Salisbury*, was published in 1762. It was adapted for stage in 1765 as *The Countess of Salisbury* by fellow Dubliner Hall Hartson. The play remained popular into the early nineteenth century.

LONGSWORD

Thomas Leland

*"Death's but a Path that must be trod,
If Man wou'd ever pass to God"*

– Thomas Parnell

Longsword, Earl of Salisbury, by eighteenth century Dublin-born clergyman Thomas Leland, is a fast-paced historical romance of medieval menace and high excitement. Set in the early years of the thirteenth century, it features a blend of real and created characters in a mêlée of intrigue, corruption, lust, and revenge. In part a metaphor for the tug-of-war between the sexes, *Longsword* is the definitive precursor to the Gothic novel; both in trappings and in style, it provides vital elements of prototype for Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto* and Lewis's *The Monk*. Through *Longsword*, Leland emerges as a forerunner of fellow Dublin clergyman Charles Robert Maturin, author of *Melmoth the Wanderer*. This 250th anniversary edition is edited and introduced by Albert Power.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

Albert Power is an established commentator on Irish writers of the macabre from the early 1700s to the mid-nineteenth century. He has written several articles on these writers for *The Green Book*, as well as commemorative essays on J. S. Le Fanu, and, in 2015, he edited and introduced a new edition of Le Fanu's 1848 novella, *Marston of Dunoran*. Albert's own Augustan-Gothic fiction, *Slaver Heap: A Gothic Novel* and *Georgian Gothic: A Novella Quartet*, appeared in 2013 (revised 2016) and 2014 respectively. His novella collection *Azerbaijan Tales* was published by Egaeus Press in 2021.

REVIEWS

"In [Montague] Summers's opinion [Longsword] is the first Gothic Historical novel . . . This puts Leland, a church of Ireland Minister, in the company of Le Fanu, Maturin, and Bram Stoker as one of the great Irish heroes of the genre."

– Wormwood

"Swan River Press's Longsword represents an important step forward in a necessary literary renegotiation process. Combined with new and emerging scholarship, this new edition, it is hoped, will see Leland's novel re-invested with the literary significance it has long been denied."

– Eighteenth Century Ireland

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