



Pub. Date: Spring 2023
Cover Art: Norman Keane
Retail Price: €20.00
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.

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BEALTAINE 2023

edited by **Brian J. Showers**

The centrepiece of this issue is undoubtedly Althea Gyles's "A Woman Without a Soul", which, to my knowledge, has never before seen print. This story is mentioned often in the scant scholarship on Althea Gyles (1867-1949) that exists, with most critics curiously referring to the piece as an unpublished "novel" or sometimes "novella". At just over seven thousand words, it is assuredly a short story—and an intriguing one at that. In his critical profile of Gyles in *The Green Book 20*, Simon Cooke calls the story a Faustian tale of necromancy and obsession; other scholars have likened "A Woman Without a Soul" to *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890) by Oscar Wilde, whom Gyles befriended in Paris after an introduction from publisher Leonard Smithers. Kristin Mahoney, in her excellent *Literature and the Politics of Post-Victorian Decadence*, goes so far as to write that the story "reads much like a revision of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, a feminized retelling of one of Wilde's most significant works". Suffice to say, I'm pleased to be able to present this hitherto unpublished story—after patient and careful transcription by Jim Rockhill—to *The Green Book's* readership.

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