



Joseph Thomas Sheridan Le Fanu, *c.* 1843.

A Selection of Gothic Tales

from

Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu

18th July, 2022

DE BÚRCA RARE BOOKS



Cloonagashel,
27 Priory Drive,
Blackrock,
County Dublin.
01 288 2159
01 288 6960



Le Fanu List Summer 2022

PLEASE NOTE

1. Please order by item number: *Gothic* is the code word for this catalogue which means: "Please forward from *Le Fanu List: item/s ...*".
2. Payment strictly on receipt of books.
3. You may return any item found unsatisfactory, within seven days.
4. All items are in good condition, octavo, and cloth bound, unless otherwise stated.
5. Prices are net and in Euro. Other currencies are accepted.
6. Postage, insurance and packaging are extra.
7. All enquiries/orders will be answered.
8. We are open to visitors, preferably by appointment.
9. Our hours of business are: Mon. to Fri. 9 a.m.-5.30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.
10. As we are Specialists in Fine Books, Manuscripts and Maps relating to Ireland, we are always interested in acquiring same, and pay the best prices.
11. We accept: Visa, Mastercard, PayPal, Bank Transfer and Cheques.
12. All books etc. remain our property until paid for.
13. Text and images copyright © De Burca Rare Books.
14. **All correspondence to 27 Priory Drive, Blackrock, County Dublin.**

Telephone (01) 288 2159. International + 353 1 288 2159

(01) 288 6960. International + 353 1 288 6960

Fax (01) 283 4080. International + 353 1 283 4080

e-mail deburcararebooks@gmail.com

web site www.deburcararebooks.com



Le Fanu de Burca *William de Burca*

COVER ILLUSTRATIONS:

Our illustration for this List is an oval portrait Joseph Thomas Sheridan Le Fanu as a young man.

Please note our new email address: deburcararebooks@gmail.com.

Le Fanu List

1. LE FANU, J. Sheridan. *The House by the Churchyard.* A novel. With engraved frontispiece and half title. London: R. Bentley, 1866. New edition. pp. [vi], 476. Contemporary half morocco on worn marbled boards. A well read good copy, pages evenly toned. Exceedingly rare. €75
COPAC locates the TCD copy only.

First issued in London (1863) in three volumes.

Joseph Thomas Sheridan Le Fanu (1814-1873) writer of Gothic tales, mystery novels, and horror fiction. He was educated by his father, a clergyman, and at T.C.D. While an undergraduate he became a contributor to *Dublin University Magazine* and about 1837 wrote two stirring ballads, 'Paudrig Crohoore' and 'Shamus O'Brien', which won wide popularity. He was called to the bar two years later, but abandoned it to devote himself to journalism and writing. He bought three Dublin newspapers and amalgamated them as the *Evening Mail*, which flourished for over a hundred years. Outgoing, witty and gregarious, Sheridan Le Fanu withdrew from society following the death of his wife in 1858 and took to writing the novels for which he is best remembered. From 1869 to 1872 he was proprietor and editor of the *Dublin University Magazine*. He was a friend of Charles Dickens.

He was a leading ghost story writer of his time, central to the development of the genre in the Victorian era. M. R. James described Le Fanu as "absolutely in the first rank as a writer of ghost stories". Three of his best-known works are the locked-room mystery *Uncle Silas*, the vampire novella *Carmilla*, and the historical novel *The House by the Churchyard*.

Sheridan Le Fanu was born at 45 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin, into a literary family of Huguenot, Irish and English descent. He had an elder sister, Catherine Frances, and a younger brother, William Richard. His parents were Thomas Philip Le Fanu and Emma Lucretia Dobbin. Both his grandmother Alicia Sheridan Le Fanu and his great-uncle Richard Brinsley Sheridan were playwrights (his niece Rhoda Broughton would become a successful novelist), and his mother was also a writer, producing a biography of Charles Orpen. Within a year of his birth, his family moved to the Royal Hibernian Military School in the Phoenix Park, where his father, a Church of Ireland clergyman, was appointed to the chaplaincy of the establishment. The Phoenix Park and the adjacent village and parish church of Chapelizod would appear in Le Fanu's later stories.



2. LE FANU, J.S. *The House by the Churchyard.* Introduction by Elizabeth Bowen. London: Blond, 1968. Demy octavo. pp. xi, [1], 496. Publisher's pink cloth. Repaired pictorial dust jacket. Top edge pink. A very good copy. €75

The House by the Churchyard was first published in 1863 one year before Le Fanu's other great novel, "Uncle Silas". It is set in Chapelizod in 1767. In those days Chapelizod was one of the gayest and prettiest of the out post villages in which old Dublin took a complacent pride. At that time the town was the headquarters of the Royal Irish Artillery and the officers lodged on the drawingroom floors of many sedate little houses.

3. LE FANU, J.S. *The Fortunes of Colonel Torlogh O'Brien.* A Tale of the Wars of King James. With illustrations on steel by Hablot K. Browne [Phiz]. London: Routledge, [1880]. Medium octavo. pp. vi [2], 342, [22 (plates)]. Red cloth stamped in gilt and black. Minor wear to extremities. A very good copy. €95

Loeber 103.

Historical fiction set at the turn of the seventeenth century. Torlogh O'Brien, an officer in the Jacobite army, tries to regain possession of his estates in Tipperary, which are held by the Williamite Sir Hugh Willoughby, with whose daughter O'Brien is in love. In the course of the story, an account is given of

the causes of the Jacobite downfall, of James's court in Dublin and of the battle of Aughrim. The story closes shortly after the treaty of Limerick.

4. LE FANU, J.S. *In a Glass Darkly*. A new edition. London: Bentley, 1886. Demy octavo. pp. viii, 471, [1]. Green blind-stamped cloth, titled in gilt. Previous owner's inscription on front pastedown. Repair to small tear (p. 65/66). Minor wear to extremities. A very good copy. Extremely rare. €75

Loeber 117. COPAC locates the BL and TCD copies only of this edition.

It was not until late in life that he wrote the books for which he is remembered: and foremost among these is the collection of one vampire story and three ghost stories called 'In A Glass Darkly'. The volume includes the famous 'Green Tea', which, Mr. Pritchett claims, is "among the best half dozen ghost stories in the English language".

5. LE FANU, J.S. *Checkmate*. London: Hutchinson, n.d. (c.1890). A new edition. Crown octavo. pp. iv, 416, [12 (Publisher's List)]. Cloth, titled in gilt. Wear to extremities. A very good copy. Rare. €75

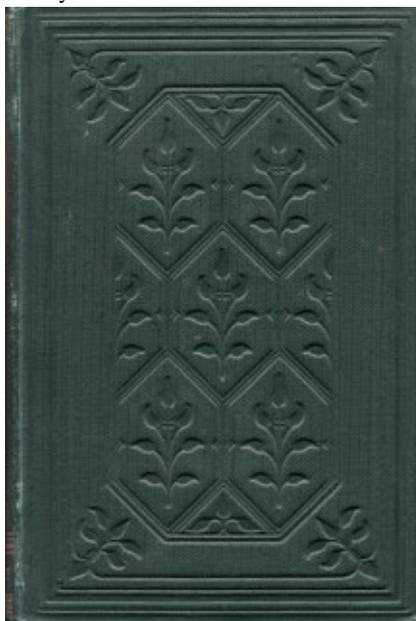
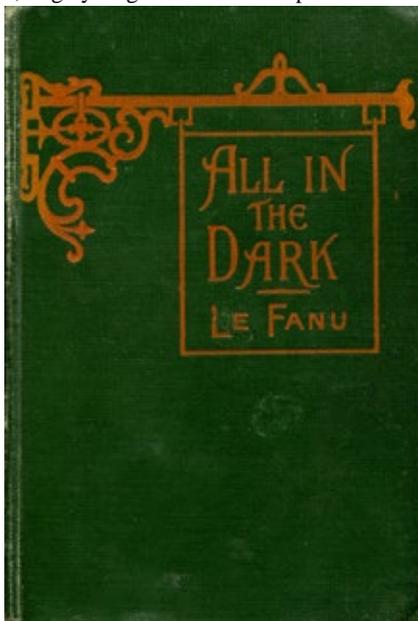
Scarce early reprint of Le Fanu's pioneering detective novel, the first to use plastic surgery and dental records in criminal identification. For first edition: Sadleir 1371; Wolff 4008

6. LE FANU, J.S. *Guy Deverell*. London: Hutchinson, n.d. (c.1890). A new edition. Crown octavo. pp. [vii], 372, [16 (Publisher's List)]. Cloth, titled in gilt. Wear to extremities. A very good copy. Rare. €75

7. LE FANU, J.S. *Willing to Die*. A novel. London: Hutchinson, n.d. (c.1890). A new edition. Crown octavo. pp. iv, 412, [16 (Publisher's List)]. Cloth, titled in gilt. Wear to extremities. A very good copy. Rare. €45

8. LE FANU, J.S. *Tenants of Malory*. A novel. London: Hutchinson, n.d. (c.1890). New edition. Crown octavo. pp. [ii], 405, [30 (Works of Charles Lever - Reprinted from Blackwood's Magazine)]. Half calf on marbled boards, title in gilt on maroon morocco label on spine. Upper joint with amateur repair. A very good copy. €50

The story itself features the Gothic tropes and elements one would expect from the author of *Uncle Silas* (1864) and *In a Glass Darkly* (1872), a crumbling family pile, hidden romance, suspicious death, a looming inheritance and dangerous ambition. Le Fanu was one of Ireland's finest 19th century authors, largely forgotten until his reputation was revived by M.R. James.



See Items 9 & 11.

Le Fanu List

9. LE FANU, J. Sheridan. All in the Dark. Illustrated by Brinsley Le Fanu. London: Downey, [1892]. Demy octavo. First illustrated edition. pp. vi, 374, [4 (Publisher's List)]. Green cloth, title in brown on upper cover and in gilt on spine. Previous owner's signature on front pastedown and signature clipped from free endpaper. Minor wear but a very good clean copy. €95

First serialized in the Dublin University Magazine (Feb.-June 1866).

The central character is an old aunt, Miss Dinah Perfect of Gilroyd Hall, given to table rapping. Under the influence of a spiritual advisor, 'Henbane', she interferes in the lives of her niece Violet Darkwell (choosing marriage partners for her) and her orphaned nephew William (choosing a career). After various comic complications the young people marry happily.

10. LE FANU, J.S. Wylder's Hand. A novel. London: Hutchinson, n.d. (c.1890). A new edition. Crown octavo. pp. v, [1], 387, [4 (Publisher's List)]. Cloth, titled in gilt. Wear to extremities. A very good copy. Rare. €25

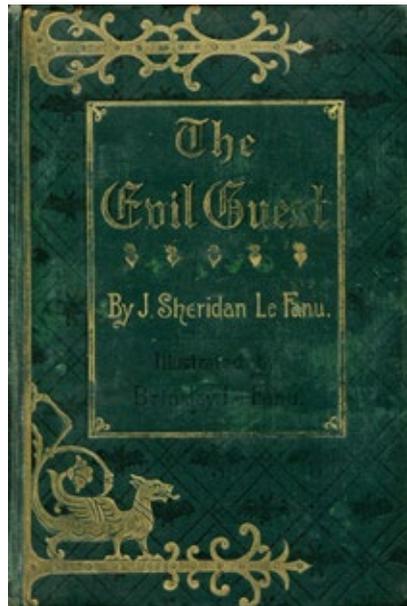
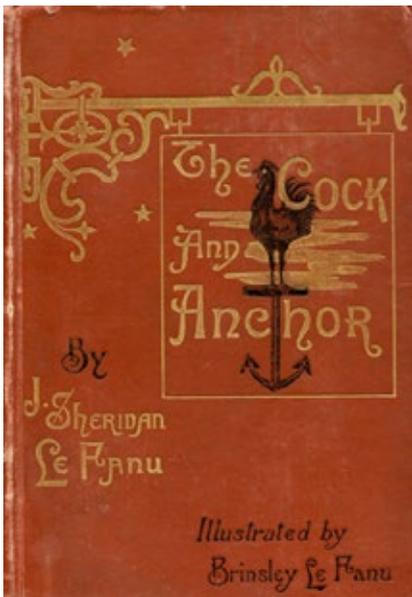
A Victorian sensation novel, sort of a prototypical crime novel.

11. LE FANU, J.S. Uncle Silas. A Tale of Bartram-Haugh. London: Richard Bentley, 1893. New edition. Demy octavo. pp. viii, 462, [2 (publisher's list)]. Green blind-stamped cloth, titled in gilt. Previous owner's signature on front free endpaper. A near fine copy. €75

12. LE FANU, J. Sheridan. The Cock and Anchor. Illustrated and with a prefatory note by Brinsley Le Fanu. London: Downey, [1895]. Demy octavo. First illustrated edition. pp. vi, 358, 2. Pictorial cloth, titled in gilt. Minor wear but a very good copy. €75

Sadleir 1373c. First published anonymously as 'Cock and Anchor, being a Chronicle of Old Dublin City.'

13. LE FANU, Joseph Sheridan. The Evil Guest. With thirty illustrations by Brinsley Le Fanu. London: Downey & Co., [1895]. First edition. Demy octavo. pp. [ii], 238, [2], 8 (publisher's list). Original publisher's bottle green cloth, upper cover elaborately decorated in black and gold. Title and author in gilt within a gilt ruled frame alongside gilt medieval door-hinges with repeated bat design in black. Top edge gilt. Cloth faded. Some rubbing along edges of cloth, light occasional foxing. A very good copy of a very rare supernatural tale. €1,250



See items 12 & 13.

Not in Loeber. COPAC locates 4 copies only.

First edition in book form, illustrated by Sheridan Le Fanu's son, Brinsley. Dated March 1895 by publisher's advert at end. The Evil Guest is an expanded version of the fourth story in Le Fanu's collection Ghost Stories and Tales of Mystery (1851-Loeber 104) and is perhaps the most gory of all his stories. "The Irish author J. Sheridan Le Fanu occupies a central position in the formative years of mystery and horror fiction. Le Fanu stands absolutely in the first rank as a writer of ghost stories.

Nobody sets the scene better than he, nobody touches in the effective detail more deftly".

14. LE FANU, J.S. *The Rose and the Key*. London: Downey, n.d. [1895]. Crown octavo. pp. viii, 432. Green cloth over boards, title in gilt on hanging sign and on spine, blind stamped the logo on the lower board. Top and foreedge deckled. Neat W.H.Smith blind-stamp on front endpaper. Minor wear to extremities. A very good copy. €175

Hardcover. Condition: Very Good. No Jacket. 1st Edition. Copyright date 1895, New Edition. New Edition Circa 1895. Undated.

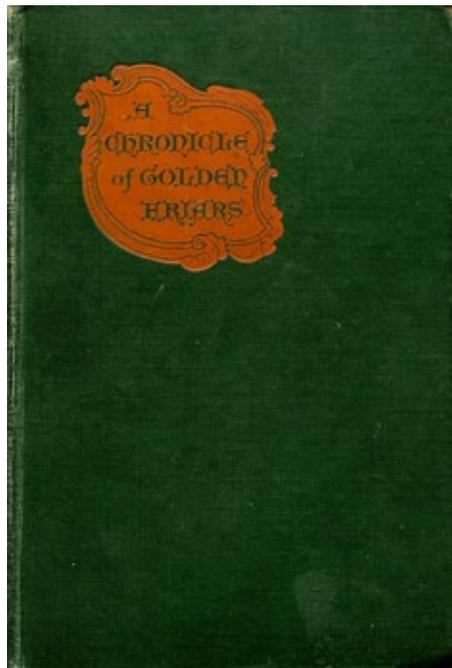
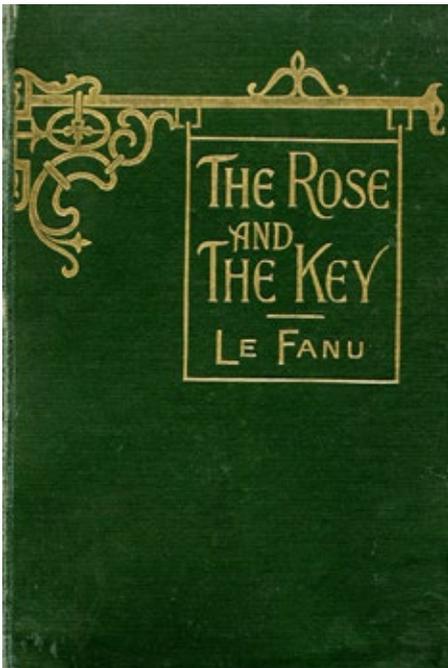
15. LE FANU, J.S. *A Chronicle of Golden Friars and Other Stories*. Illustrated by Brinsley Le Fanu and John F. O'Hea. London: Downey, 1896. First edition. Crown octavo. pp. viii, 329. Green cloth, title in green against a brown panel on upper cover and in gilt on spine. Minor wear to extremities. A very good copy of an exceedingly rare item. €175

In addition to the title story this collection included: *Jim Sullivan's Adventures in the Great Snow*; *The Last Heir of Castle Connor*; *Billy Malowney's Taste of Love and Glory*; *The Ghost and the Bone Setter*; and *The Quare Gander*.

16. LE FANU, J.S. *The Wyvern Mystery*. Illustrated by Reginald Savage. London: Newnes, n.d. Large post octavo. pp. 212 (double column). Publisher's green pebbled cloth. In very good condition. Rare. €175

In addition to *The Wyvern Mystery* there are two other works bound in this volume: *The Mark of Cain* by Andrew Land and *Great Porter Square, A Mystery* by B.L. Farjeon.

17. [LE FANU, J.S.] *Wilkie Collins, Le Fanu and Others*. By S.M. Ellis. Illustrated. London: Constable, 1931. Demy octavo. pp. [x], 342, [22 (plates)]. Blue cloth, titled in gilt. A very good copy in frayed pictorial dust jacket. €65



See items 14 & 15.

18. LE FANU, J.S. *In a Glass Darkly*. With an introduction by V.S. Pritchett. Numerous illustrations by Edward Ardizzone. London: Lehmann, 1957. Crown octavo. pp. 288, [1]. Blue cloth, titled in gilt. Previous owner's signature on front endpaper. A very good copy in frayed dust jacket. Extremely rare. €125

This book contains some of Sheridan Le Fanu's finest tales including the famous *Green Tea*, which, Mr. Pritchett claims, is "among the best half dozen ghost stories in the English language." Dust jacket illustration by Leonard Bosoman.

Le Fanu List

19. LE FANU, J.S. In a Glass Darkly. With numerous illustrations by Edward Ardizzone. London: Davies, 1929. First Ardizzone illustrated edition. Demy octavo. pp. vii, 382, [1]. Black cloth, titled in gilt. A near fine copy. Extremely rare. **€375**

This book contains some of Sheridan Le Fanu's finest tales and is illustrated with numerous line drawings (including a frontispiece plate) by Edward Ardizzone as befits his first formal book illustrations. Ardizzone considered these illustrations to be some of his best work.

20. LE FANU, J.S. Borrhoemo the Astrologer. A Monkish Tale. Introduction by W.J. McCormack. Edinburgh: The Tragara Press, 1985. Super royal octavo. pp. 35, [3]. Cream wrappers in blue textured dust jacket, title on printed label on upper cover. Limited edition, number 57 of 150 copies. A fine copy. **€225**

First time published since its anonymous appearance in the 'The Dublin University Magazine' in January, 1862. The story has never been reprinted in any form since then.

21. [LE FANU, J.S.] Wilkie Collins, Le Fanu and Others. By S.M. Ellis. Illustrated. London: Constable, 1931. Demy octavo. pp. [x], 342, [22 (plates)]. Blue cloth, titled in gilt. A very good copy in frayed pictorial dust jacket. **€65**

22. [LE FANU, J.S.] Sheridan Le Fanu and Victorian Ireland. By W.J. McCormack. Illustrated. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1980. Demy octavo. pp. xii, 310, [6 (plates)]. Fine in fine illustrated d.j. **€50**

THE EARL OF BELMORE'S COPY

23. LE FANU, W. R. Seventy Years of Irish Life. Being anecdotes and reminiscences. Portrait frontispiece. London: Edward Arnold, 1893. Demy octavo. First edition. pp. xii, 306, 16 (Arnold's List). Later green pebbled cloth, titled in gilt. A fine copy. **€165**

William Richard Le Fanu was born in Dublin in February 1816. His father Reverend Thomas P. Le Fanu was Chaplain to the Royal Hibernian Military School. His older brother was Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, the well-known novelist.

William was educated at Trinity College, Dublin where he received a B.A. degree in 1839. He became an apprentice to John Benjamin McNeill, the great railway engineer and was employed on railway work including the construction of the Great Southern and Western Railway. Le Fanu and another engineer called Matthew Blakiston were principal assistants to McNeill. He was responsible for the design of the Bagenalstown and Ballywilliam line, including the Borris viaduct around 1860.

In 1863, he was appointed Deputy Chairman of the Board of Public Works. Le Fanu relates that he was "much pressed to do so by (his) friends in the Irish Government".

In his memoirs "Seventy Years of Irish Life" published in 1893 Le Fanu wanted to "jot down some recollections of my earlier days, and to publish some of the Irish stories which from time to time, in my long life, I have heard." Le Fanu covers a wide range of topics, from the more serious; political problems, the Tithe War, anecdotes and reminiscences from his life as an engineer on the railway, to the lighter topics of Irish life, shooting & fishing, illicit poteen, fairies and the Blarney Stone. He also mentions two of his friends pioneers of transport in the first half of the nineteenth century William Dargan and Charles Bianconi, who predeceased him. He died at home in Summerhill, Enniskerry, County Wicklow on September 8th, 1894.