Contents

Pronunciation Guide ix
Preface xi
Acknowledgments xv

Introduction 1

1. Songs Before History 13
   The Vila Builds a Town 15
   The Shepherd Who Was Devoured 16
   The Sun and the Moon Woo a Maiden 17
   The Wedding of the Shining Moon 18
   The Tsar and the Girl 19
   Jovan and the Leader of the Giants 21
   The Brothers and Their Sister 32
   God Leaves No Debt Unpaid 37

2. Before the Battle of Kosovo 42
   The Wedding of Tsar Dušan 49
   Uroš and the Mrljavčevićes 70
The Building of Skadar 78
The Wedding of King Vukašin 86
The Wedding of Prince Lazar 96
The Building of Ravanica 102
Banović Strahnja 106

3. The Battle of Kosovo 131
   Fragments of Various Kosovo Songs 134
   Tsar Lazar and Tsaritsa Milica 140
   The Fall of the Serbian Empire 147
   The Death of the Mother of the Jugovićes 150
   The Kosovo Maiden 153

4. Marko Kraljević 159
   Marko Kraljević Recognizes His Father’s Saber 163
   Prince Marko’s Plowing 167
   Marko Drinks Wine at Ramadan 169
   A Maiden Outwits Marko 173
   Marko Kraljević and Alil Aga 176
   Marko Kraljević and Mina of Kostur 182
   Marko Kraljević and the Twelve Arabs 193
   Marko Kraljević and Musa the Robber 195
   Marko Kraljević and the Vila 204
   The Death of Marko Kraljević 209

5. Under the Turks 215
   Radul Bey and the Bulgarian King Šişman 217
   The Death of Duke Prijezda 223
Porča of Avala and Vuk, the Fiery Dragon 227
The Division of the Jakšićes 232
The Wife of Hasan Aga 236
Janko Jurišić 240

6. The Songs of Outlaws 245
Predrag and Nenad 248
Old Novak and Knez Bogosav 255
The Captivity of Stojan Janković 258
The Wedding of Ljubović’s Sister 263
The Death of Ivo of Senj 267
Old Vujadin 271

7. The Songs of the Serbian Insurrection 274
The Beginning of the Revolt Against the Dahijas 278
The Battle on Mišar 298

Selected Bibliography 307