

## Foreword

In 1973 Professor Vasa D. Mihailovich issued together with Professors Dragan Milivojević and Branko Mikasinovich their useful and timely *Introduction to Yugoslav Literature: An Anthology of Fiction and Poetry* (New York: Twayne Publishers, Inc.) The volume was well received and it eventually sold out. Then, in the midst of the epochal changes that first shook and then shattered Yugoslavia, Professor Mihailovich proposed to me—the exact date was 17 April 1990—the possibility of reissuing the anthology, with some revisions and one major modification, a renaming, which would also entail an expansion. Thus the idea for an *Anthology of South Slavic Literatures* was conceived, whose contents would include not only Croatian, Macedonian, Serbian and Slovene literary excerpts, but also, for the first time, Bulgarian. For much of a decade we considered all the ramifications of this project. We looked for, and in most cases found, editors for each national literature, and we pondered the boundaries of each section, especially how far back to go and how far forward to come. When most if not all was said and done, when the texts had been scanned or keyboarded, and a majority of the revised introductions had been penned, we came up with a volume of well over one thousand pages. When I suggested that we consider making the anthology dual-language as well, with original language texts on the left and the translations we had assembled, or in some cases prepared ourselves, on the right, we both realized that a new approach to the anthology was needed if readers were going to be able to lift it, let alone use it. It was then that we decided on publication in fascicles, one for each of the literatures we wanted to include. This approach has a number of advantages: some of our sections, namely the Serbian and the Slovene, have been in final form for quite a while; others, especially the Bulgarian and Macedonian, are at present undergoing final editing; one other, the Croatian, is not yet complete. It seemed to us inappropriate to delay the issuance of some parts until all parts were done. Publication by fascicle allows us to move ahead, here with Slovene, soon with Serbian, which we trust will give impetus to the rest of the collection and allow us to bring each part to publication in the not too distant future. It has also been easier to find publishers for the more appropriately sized individual fascicles. At this point I would like in particular to thank Professor Timothy



Pogacar, the editor of *Slovene Studies: Journal of the Society for Slovene Studies*, for his willingness to publish the Slovene fascicle in a dual-language format. And as one final benefit of our publication plans, we believe that issuance in fascicles will make distribution of the texts easier, in that not everyone will be interested in all the South Slavic literatures together.

Therefore Professor Mihailovich and I take great pleasure in presenting in this volume the first fascicle of what will eventually be, we hope, a five-volume collection (at least: other fascicles may some day follow). We would like to note here at the outset that the new technologies, especially scanning, which make a project like this one a good deal less onerous than it once was, nonetheless carry with them their own set of new problems. We have tried as hard as possible to eliminate the kinds of typographical errors, for example, that scanning and keyboarding often entail, but we have undoubtedly missed some of these, for which we ask the indulgence of our readers. At the same time we should note that the original texts from which we worked were not without errors of their own: here too we have striven to correct the problems when we detected them, but it was not always possible to do so. We would like to register our particular gratitude to the compilers of the *Zbirka slovenskih leposlovnih besedil*, especially its editor, Professor Miran Hladnik: this collection of Slovene literary texts in electronic format greatly simplified and speeded our work. To repay our extensive debt to it, we have offered back to it those texts we have scanned and keyboarded which have not to date been included in it. Readers wishing electronic versions of the Slovene texts here included (within the limits of copyright and fair-use laws, of course) should go to: <http://www.matkurja.com/slo/resources/arts/literature/> for them. And finally, a note on the translations: they range from very strict to very free, as those who can compare them with the original texts on the left-hand page will detect immediately. We have by and large let the translations stand as they are: short of retranslating everything in this volume—a task no computer assistance could make easier—we believe this approach allows our readers the greatest opportunity both to form their own opinions on the art and craft of translation, and to evaluate the success of those whose work we include here.

We wish to express our most profound thanks to all those who have helped and advised in any way in putting together this present volume. In addition to Professors Hladnik and Pogacar these include: Professors Stephen Dickey, George Fowler, Helga Glušič, and Tom Ložar, as well as Ms. Alenka Žbogar, Ms. Andrea McDowell, and Ms. Lina Khawaldah. We acknowledge as well the generous support of both the Russian and East European Institute and the Honors College of Indiana University for providing much needed funding at various stages of this project. We thank



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Slavica Publishers, also of Indiana University, for their expertise in producing and distributing this volume; and the Society for Slovene Studies, for graciously opening the pages of their journal to us. And finally, a word of thanks to my students over the past decade who have read, corrected and critiqued the selections in this anthology. It is to them that I dedicate our work because it is for them that it was confected.

*Henry R. Cooper, Jr.  
Bloomington, Indiana  
8 February 2001*