



## *Acknowledgments*

**T**his book wraps up an investigation that began over thirty years ago, when I first naively became aware there were historical and folkloric antecedents to the vampires I had previously known only from literature and the movies. Only when my interests in both Slavic languages and vampires found their common justification in Jan Perkowski's works on Slavic vampirism did I realize that I should be looking not in Transylvania or Romania for the answers to my questions about this myth but, rather, in the Balkans. So it is first to "Mr. Perkowski" that I owe my gratitude, since without his insights, I could never have known what I did not know. It was at the University of Virginia that I met other Slavic scholars whose breadth and seriousness I would need to emulate, especially Natalie Kononenko and David Herman.

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