Preface

This book comes as the result of my dissertation at the University of Pennsylvania. It was started at the suggestion and under the guidance of my teacher and advisor Professor Cecil L. Striker from whose knowledge and experience I have greatly benefited. Most memorable and intellectually gratifying during my graduate studies were the congenial surroundings and the academic atmosphere at the History of Art department. For this I feel indebted to members of the faculty and in particular to Professor Renata Holod who took active interest in my work. But above all I will remember my sojourn in Philadelphia for the friendship and hospitality of Cecil and Ute Striker which made all the difference.

I am specially indebted to the Kolb Foundation for their generous financial support throughout my graduate studies and dissertation work. Most research was conducted during my tenure at the Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies in Washington, D.C. Additional research at the Art History library of the University of Belgrade, the libraries of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, of the Byzantine Institute, and of the Institute of Art History in Belgrade was made possible by a fellowship from the Center for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts, Washington D.C. and a Mellon Dissertation Fellowship from the University of Pennsylvania.

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Finally I wish to thank my parents for their forbearance and support.

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A Note on Pronunciation

In writing this book I felt that it would be best not to transliterate Serbian historical names to facilitate further reference for those readers who wish to pursue research in scholarly sources. Readers unfamiliar with the consonants typical of the Slav group of languages may refer to the following pronunciation guide:

c is pronounced as the 'ts' in cats
č is pronounced as the 'ch' in cheek
ć is a sound between the 'ch' in cheek and the 'tu' of tune
dž is pronounced as the 'j' in jar
d is a sound between the 'd' in duke and 'dg' in bridge
j is pronounced as the 'y' in yesterday
lj is pronounced as the 'll' in million
nj is pronounced as the 'n' in new
š is pronounced as the 'sh' in ship
ž is pronounced as the 's' in treasure