

## FOREST BOOKS

### PENELOPE OF THE TWENTIETH-CENTURY

ELISAVETA BAGRYANA was born in Sofia, the eldest of seven children, and died in 1991 at the age of 98. She lived through great periods of history and managed to maintain a skilful balance between the political protagonists; a technique which enabled her to keep on writing. She studied Slav languages and literature at Sofia University and taught in a village school for several years which greatly influenced her literary development. Her first work was published in 1927 under a male pseudonym, and immediately received high critical acclaim, but the works which followed revealed her to be a poet in constant search of new subjects and new means of expression. Elisaveta Bagryana was one of the first Bulgarian women writers to speak out naturally and openly about her emotions, and about her unquenchable thirst for travel and freedom, in an attempt to destroy philistine taboos, deep-rooted morals and spurious ethics. She was also the first Bulgarian woman ever to fly in an aeroplane. Her poetry is a combination of national and universal values which defies categorisation. Her poetry is respected worldwide and has been translated into more than twenty five languages.