Acknowledgments

I wrote this book in 2015 and 2016, after an involvement of almost eight years with the topic. My research was made possible through the generosity of two benefactors. One is The Icelandic Centre for Research’s (Rannís) Icelandic Research fund, which generously funded the research project Encounters with the Paranormal in Medieval Iceland for three years (2012–14), and the other is the University of Iceland’s research fund (Rannsóknasjóður), which supplemented the funding from Rannís with a smaller and yet substantial grant over five years. This book and much else would not have been possible without the assistance of these two bodies.

The book is the product of the aforementioned research project Encounters with the Paranormal, in which I collaborated with my colleagues and friends Ásdís Egilsdóttir, Torfi H. Tulinius, and Terry Gunnell at the University of Iceland, and Stephen Mitchell at Harvard University. Eight doctoral students participated in the project at some point or another: Andrew McGillivray, Christopher Crocker, Gunnvör Karlsdóttir, Miriam Mayburd, Kolfínna Jónatansdóttir, Arnlíur Vídalín, Anna Katharina Heiniger, and Marion Poilvez. Six MA-students wrote their theses within the parameters of the project: Timothy Bourns, Hildur Ýr Ísberg, Védís Ragnheiðardóttir, Ingibjörg Eyþórsdóttir, Steven Shema, and Zuzana Stankovitsová. Several other scholars and students were also involved at some stage. I
also owe particular thanks to Daniel Sävborg and Karen Bek-Pedersen for prompting me to take a closer look at Bergbúa þáttur. Thanks are due to all those mentioned above who have in some way or other provided much aid to this book although I alone am responsible for its conception and eventual appearance.

My foremost co-worker in producing the actual tome was Christopher W.E. Crocker who, indispensably, has been the yin to my yang and the yang to my yin in the making of this book; I would also like to thank ace indexer Sarah B. Eriksen and the wonderful people at punctum books, mainly Eileen A. Joy and Vincent W.J. van Gerven Oei, for their warm welcome and vital assistance in improving the book. Furthermore I received significant help from Jacob A. Malone, Miriam Mayburd, Alec Shaw, and Sean B. Lawing. They all deserve my deepest thanks for their support.