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978-0-521-10535-4 - Dual Classification Reconsidered: Nyamwezi Sacred Kingship and  
Other Examples

Serge Tcherkezoff

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RECONSIDERED

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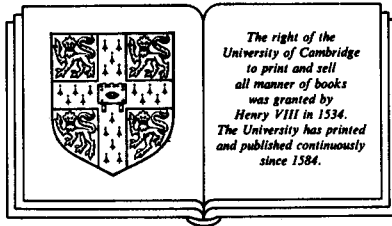
# DUAL CLASSIFICATION RECONSIDERED

*Nyamwezi sacred kingship and  
other examples*

SERGE TCHERKÉZOFF

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en Sciences Sociales, Paris*

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## *Preface*

This comparative study belongs to a collective research project directed by Louis Dumont and Daniel de Coppet and based at the RCP 436 of the *Centre national de la recherche scientifique* in Paris, which considers the relation, in a given society, between the patterns assumed by the hierarchy of values and those which feature in the circuits of ceremonial exchange. It is based upon a shorter, unpublished study (1977: *Diplôme d'études approfondies*, under the supervision of Marc Augé, at the *École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales*) of Nyamwezi classification, which had made use of the method developed by Masao Yamaguchi in his study of Jukun symbolism (see chapter 4 note 7 below). These arguments were discussed at the RCP's seminar (*Atelier d'anthropologie sociale*), and also at seminars led by Louis Dumont and by Marc Augé. I would like to thank the participants at these seminars for their suggestions, which have enabled me to broaden my discussion. I have drawn heavily upon Louis Dumont's works in my own analysis, and his comments, his encouragement, and the interest he has taken in my research have played a crucial part in stimulating me and in helping me to complete this book. My intellectual debt to Claude Lévi-Strauss is self-evident. I would never even have conceived of this book had it not been for the ever-renewed sense of discovery that my reading of *The savage mind*, and of the other pages devoted by him to the logic of classification, has aroused in me. It is Claude Lévi-Strauss's work which provides the context for the investigations into aspects of the structural method that I have sought to develop here.

I would like here to thank Cécil Barraud, Daniel de Coppet, Marie-Jo Jamous and Raymond Jamous, who have very kindly read through various drafts of this book.

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*Translator's note*

The reader should bear in mind that versions given here of passages from Émile Durkheim, Marcel Mauss and Claude Lévi-Strauss do at times differ slightly from the published translation.

M.T.