ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work is a revision of my Ph.D. dissertation, which was accepted in 1975 by the University of California at Berkeley. The research and writing of the thesis were carried out under the supervision of Raymond Kent, Elizabeth Colson, and Martin Klein, whose advice and support I have appreciated for many years. The finances for my research were pieced together from a number of sources, to all of which I am grateful. The University of California at Berkeley provided me with a travel grant, and I was awarded a timely grant from the Mabelle McLeod Lewis Memorial Fund. The Veterans Administration provided benefits, and my bank lent me some money. Above all I thank the members of my extended family who dipped into their private resources to lend me money in truly African-like gestures of communal generosity: William and Rose Wayne, and Quentin Brown.

Jan Vansina, Andrew Roberts, Joseph Miller, Roy Willis, and David Patterson took the time to read my dissertation and comment upon it before it was revised for publication, and I hope that all of them realize my gratitude. I, of course, remain responsible for the contents of the book, with whatever shortcomings it may contain.

I was affiliated with the Lubumbashi campus of the National University of Zaire as a Research Associate, and its staff and student body helped me and my family in innumerable ways. I am especially appreciative of the support of Kabongo Ilunga, Valentin and Elizabeth Mudimbe, Jean-Claude Willame, Guy de Plaen, and Jean-Luc Vellut. I thank N'Dua Solol Kanampumb and Shaje’a Tshiluila for their willingness to share their information on the Lunda and Songye, respectively, as well as Walter van Dorpe for his help with some Dutch translations.

Robert Schechter, Jeffrey Hoover, John Yoder, and Pierre de
Maret all did doctoral research among near and distant neighbors of the Luba. They were kind enough to look over my dissertation and share their research results with me. I hope I have stolen none of their thunder by reporting and footnoting portions of some of their works.

John Studstill, David and Bronwen Womersley, and Everett and Vera Woodcock all helped smooth my family’s transition to life in Kamina, and my wife and I remember their many kindnesses with affection. John and David, in particular, offered invaluable advice that accelerated my field research, and I am also appreciative of Theodore Theuws’s letters containing useful tips about working at Kamina. Two former residents of the town deserve special mention: I am deeply grateful to Harold Womersley, who has shared with me both his insights from forty-seven years of mission work among the Luba, and his own books and manuscript on Luba history; and I must also thank E. d’Orjo de Marchovelette for granting me an interview and outlining his quarter-century of colonial service.

The Zairian government officials who assisted me are too numerous to mention here. However, special acknowledgment must go to those who granted me access to the archives under their control. My research brought me into contact with leaders of Luba society, and there is no way I can repay the four Luba kings whose cooperation made my fieldwork possible: Kasongo Nyembo, Kabongo, Kinkondja, and Mutombo Mukulu. There are dozens of Luba informants to whom I am grateful, and four men deserve special recognition: kyoni Ngoye, kyoni Kumwimbe, nsenga Banza, and tshikala Mwamba. If there was anyone who had his patience tested during my fieldwork, it was Mbombo Ngoye Kaluhunga, my interpreter. I owe him a personal debt, and I think of our work together as a professional collaboration in the investigation of a subject in which we had a mutual interest.

Laurie Christesen and Mandy Hollowell typed drafts and the final manuscript for this book as well as other things I have written. I appreciate their initiative and attention to detail.

Finally, I must thank my wife Pat for her active support and involvement in my research over the many years of this project, and my sons Jeremy and Christopher for their patience and good-nature throughout. Without my wife’s candor and encouragement I doubt that this book would ever have been completed.