Mary Douglas

A Very Personal Method
Anthropological Writings Drawn from Life

Edited by Richard Fardon



Contents

	bout the Author cknowledgements	
	oduction: Drawn from life: Mary Douglas's sonal method - Richard Fardon	1
PAF	PART 1 FAMILIAR FEELINGS	
1	A feeling for hierarchy	15
2	Hooked on fishing – Gilbert Tew, 1884–1951	37
3	The gender of the trout	42
4	My circus fieldwork	60
PART 2 THINKING ABOUT CATHOLICISM IN LELE RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE		63
5	The Lele of the Congo	65
6	The problem of evil among the Lele: sorcery, witch-hunt and Christian teaching in Africa	79
7	The devil vanishes	95
8	Other beings, post-colonially correct	100
9	The cloud god and the shadow self	120
PART 3 TABOO AND RITUAL		135
10	Taboo	137
11	The contempt of ritual	144
12	The contempt of ritual [again]	148

vi Contents

PART 4 CONTEMPORARIES		163
13	On Franz Steiner: a memoir	165
14	On E.E. Evans-Pritchard: from The Tablet Notebook	177
15	On Lévi-Strauss: Wild pansies: speaking tenderly of its layered puff pastry effect	180
16	Smothering the differences – in a savage mind about Lévi-Strauss	192
17	On Clifford Geertz: the self-completing animal	198
PAF	RT 5 INCLUSION AS CONCLUSION	209
18	Knowing the code	211
19	A course off the menu	216
20	To honour the dead	221
21	The oracles of love – a play for AKT	228
22	Sacraments and society: an anthropologist asks what women could be doing in the Church	251
23	Can a scientist be objective about her faith? In conversation with Deborah Jones	263
EPILOGUE		269
24	Original minds: Mary Douglas in conversation with Eleanor Wachtel	271
25	Granny	298
Endpiece: The Golden Fish (The Brothers Grimm)		304
Index		309