Acknowledgements

Introduction: towards knowledge of old age 1
Ethnographic reflection: touching upon experience 8

PART I: REPRESENTATIONS OF AGEING:
LANGUAGES ABOUT OLD AGE
1. The social trap: the language of separation 13
2. The cultural trap: the language of images 28
3. The personal trap: the language of self-presentation 33
   Ethnographic reflection: practices of separation 37
4. The theoretical trap: the missing language 39

PART II: PRESENTATIONS OF AGEING:
LANGUAGES OF THE OLD
5. Control: the social boundaries of age 53
6. Meaning: the cultural boundaries of life 64
7. Another universe: time, space, and self 74
   Ethnographic reflection: the limbo state 87

Conclusions: the nature of knowledge about ageing 90
Ethnographic reflection: the aged as a symbolic type

Notes 103
Bibliography 107
Index 122