

**The Pre-reformation English Priesthood and Contemporary
East African Quasi-traditional Healer-diviners:
An Historical Comparison with an Evolving Religious
Professionalism among the Sukuma of Tanzania**

R.E.S. Tanner

The Footprint, Padworth Common, Reading, Berks RG7 4QG, UK

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ABSTRACT The function of medieval English priest and East African healer-diviners are similar except for celibacy and teaching roles. The former have not been able to adapt with the coming of widespread literacy and institutional controls. The latter have adapted without difficulty to the tensions in their societies combining a response to popular needs with commercial and status opportunism.