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change on Tanna and Erromango 1839-1920 / / James L. Flexner

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Sommario/riassunto Religious change is at its core a material as much as a spiritual process.

Beliefs related to intangible spirits, ghosts, or gods were enacted through material relationships between people, places, and objects. The archaeology of mission sites from Tanna and Erromango islands, southern Vanuatu (formerly the New Hebrides), offer an informative case study for understanding the material dimensions of religious change. One of the primary ways that cultural difference was thrown into relief in the Presbyterian New Hebrides missions was in the realm of objects. Christian Protestant missionaries believed that religious conversion had to be accompanied by changes in the material conditions of everyday life. Results of field archaeology and museum research on Tanna and Erromango, southern Vanuatu, show that the process of material transformation was not unidirectional. Just as Melanesian people changed religious beliefs and integrated some imported objects into everyday life, missionaries integrated local elements into their daily lives. Attempts to produce 'civilised Christian natives', or to change some elements of native life relating purely to

'religion' but not others, resulted instead in a proliferation of 'hybrid' forms. This is visible in the continuity of a variety of traditional practices subsumed under the umbrella term 'kastom' through to the present alongside Christianity. Melanesians didn't become Christian, Christianity became Melanesian. The material basis of religious change was integral to this process.

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Sommario/riassunto Hydrogels are a class of soft materials with crosslinked network

structures. They show good biocompatibility, biodegradability, hydrophilicity, and mechanical properties similar to those of tissue, so they have a wide range of applications. In recent years, a variety of multifunctional hydrogels with excellent performance have been developed, greatly expanding the depth and breadth of their applications. This book is the reprint of the Special Issue "Advances in Hydrogels", which focused on the recent advances regarding hydrogels, aiming to provide reference for researchers in related fields. This book included one editorial, thirteen original research articles, and three valuable reviews from thirteen different countries including Canada, China, Thailand, Mexico, India, Saudi Arabia, Chile, Germany, the Czech

Republic, Colombia, Romania, Israel, and the USA.