Appendix 2: Absolute reign dates

The chronicle contains no absolute dates and we may assume that chronological comparisons with other places did not interest its author. Given the availability of some absolute dates in Makasar sources, at least for the seventeenth century, this avoidance of absolute dating in the chronicle may even be, as Noorduynd (1965: 141–2) suggests, a deliberate stylistic choice. In any event, the interests of modern historians require that some attempt be made to estimate dates, if only for successive reigns.

Noorduynd (1965: 148–52) has made a helpful start on the matter. He discusses whether the chronicle uses solar or lunar years and concludes that, in the seventeenth century, it is more likely lunar years were intended. This does not necessarily apply, however, for the period before Muslim influence, and, for Bone, that may be somewhat later than on the west coast. Another issue is whether the number of years for a reign as given in the chronicle refers to completed years or years begun—that is, does a reign of ‘10 years’ mean somewhere between 120 and 131 months or between 108 and 119 months? Another possibility, although unlikely, is that it means a reign has lasted 10 times past some particular season or point on the calendar.

These factors prevent any precise conclusions, especially for the earlier reigns, but the range of possibilities is not great. It is also easiest to use solar years and the common era in the following discussion.

The chronicle provides the length of most reigns and, if we accept these as accurate, this allows counting back from a known point. A firm base is found in the short reign of the eleventh ArumPone, La Tenrirua, in 1611.

(Dates for later rulers are given in the commentary in the Introduction to this volume.) The following discussion works backwards from 1611, using the conventional ordinal numbers for each ArumPone.

10. Wé Tenritappu 9 years 1602 to 1611

This fits with the various events of her reign.

9. La Pattawé 7 years 1595 to 1602

8. La Icca' 11 years 1584 to 1595

The first difficulty arises with the reign of Bongkangngé, for which no figure is given in the chronicle. A likely solution is given in a king list in the manuscript known as Berlin 386 (page 2), which gives reign lengths, beginning with the fifth ArumPone, Mappajungngé, and running to the fifteenth ArumPone in the eighteenth century. The fact that all other reign lengths agree with what is otherwise known gives some support for the figure of 30 years for Bongkangngé.

7. Bongkangngé 30 years 1554 to 1584

This also serves to date the Tellumpoccoé treaty to 1582 and a long reign allows for the many events recorded.

6. Boté'é 25 years before abdicating 1529 to 1554

This span comfortably covers the accession of Tunipalangga as ruler of Gowa, which Cummings (2007: 109) dates to 1546 and which occurs during this reign.

5. Mappajungngé 27 years 1502 to 1529

The chronicle does not provide a reign length for Mappajungngé's mother, Makkalempié. She was presumably adult when her elderly father died and, given she bore nine children, she probably lived into her 30s, at least. There is no way to discover, however, whether she was married and had children before or after her accession as ArumPone. Her eldest child was aged either 11 or 19 at the time of her abdication, and she then lived for a further four years. A reasonable estimate for her reign is 20 years.

In Berlin 386 (page 3), there is a note under the date 1729 that this is 226 years since the disappearance of Makkalempié—that is, she disappeared in 1503. This, in turn, dates her abdication to 1499.

4. Makkalempié	[20 years]	1482 to 1502
3. Kerrampélua'	72 years	1410 to 1482

The chronicle does not provide a reign length for La Ummasa', the uncle of Kerrampélua'. He had adult sons when Kerrampélua' was born, but they may have been born before his accession, and he lived a further 17 years after abdicating. A shorter estimate of 10 years for his actual reign seems appropriate.

2. La Ummasa'	[10 years]	1400 to 1410
1. Matasilompo'é	32 years	1368 to 1400

These dates, especially those in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, should not be taken as precisely accurate, for the reasons explained above. This uncertainty is compounded by comparison with three other attempts to provide absolute dates. While the chronicle is the best-known work dealing with the history of early Bone, it is not the only tradition found in the manuscripts, though the sources on which the two following chronologies are based are not known.

The first set of absolute dates is provided on a large hanging chart, setting out the genealogy of successive ArumPone from the first to the 33rd, who reigned from 1946 to 1951, and then various *bupati* up to A. Muh. Idris Galigo S.H., who was in office until 2013. This chart is currently in the museum in Watampone. The dates on this chart agree with those on an earlier version drawn up in 1968 by A. Pabbara. It was filmed by Macknight in 1972 and is to be found in Macknight (Reel 9, Item 6).

The second set of absolute dates is found in Palloge (2006). Endnotes indicate a range of sources, including local manuscripts, but no direct references are given for the absolute dates provided at the conclusion of the account of each reign.

There is no problem in either source with later dates, and only reigns before 1611 are listed here, in reverse order, as above.

	ArumPone	Museum genealogy	Palloge (2006)	
10.	Wé Tenritappu	1602 to 1611	1603 to 1611	p. 101
9.	La Pattawé	1595 to 1602	1596 to 1603	p. 98
8.	La Icca'	1584 to 1595	1585 to 1596	p. 97
7.	Bongkangngé	1568 to 1584	1560 to 1585	p. 93
6.	Boté'é	1543 to 1568	1535 to 1560	p. 79
5.	Mappajungngé	1516 to 1543	1509 to 1535	p. 72
4.	Makkalempié	1496 to 1516	1470 to 1509	p. 70
3.	Kerrampélua'	1424 to 1496	1398 to 1470	p. 67
2.	La Ummasa'	1358 to 1424	1370 to 1398	p. 61
1.	Matasilompo'é	1326 to 1358	c. 1330 to 1370	p. 56

The third attempt to provide absolute dates is that by Crawford (1820), mentioned in Section 9 of the Introduction.

No way of resolving the many inconsistencies in these lists currently presents itself, though some further confirmations may be found by analysing the historical traditions of other kingdoms.

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