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 Noorduyn (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.

Noorduyn (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. We 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. Botéé  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, Makkalempí. 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.
The third attempt to provide absolute dates is that by Crawfurd (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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