

LAND OF IRON

The historical archaeology of Luwu and the Cenrana valley

Results of the Origin of Complex Society
in South Sulawesi Project (OXIS)

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Preface

This monograph is the first published joint report by the co-directors of the Origin of Complex Society in South Sulawesi Project (OXIS). It does not amount to a final report, but reflects our joint investigation at an advanced stage of progress. We feel that it is important to make public as soon as possible the basic findings and preliminary interpretations of the OXIS project and to show how these transform our understanding of South Sulawesi from the late thirteenth to the early seventeenth century. While some of the details may change, we do not anticipate any substantial amendments to our major arguments.

It is no empty boast to say that the findings and interpretations presented here are revolutionary (*sensu* Kuhn 1962). They overturn culturally important interpretations of the Bugis past, many of which have been held for hundreds of years, and which find expression in European language sources dating from 1670 to 1996. We feel that it is important to publish the data upon which these new understandings are based so that historians can examine the bedrock of our interpretations.

Local communities in South Sulawesi have their own histories, which have evolved over the centuries to satisfy their needs for an understood past. We are writing for a different audience (*sensu* Feyerabend 1975). What we offer is a history which takes into account the production and weighing of evidence, the possibility of alternative explanations, and the development of chronologies based on the evidence of ceramic sherdage and on radiocarbon dating. We hope that this monograph will contribute in a modest way to future editions of the national history of Indonesia (Kartodirdjo *et al.* 1975) as well as to English language histories of Southeast Asia (e.g. Hall 1981).

The present work is divided into three sections. Section One introduces the area of study and its importance within the overall history of South Sulawesi. Section Two describes the places at which the OXIS team worked, lists the major finds from the fieldwork, and sets out our interpretation of the archaeological record. Section Three addresses a number of important questions which have to be answered before a comprehensive, integrated history of South Sulawesi can be written. As most of our potential readers are Indonesian, we have tried to set out the data and interpretations in straightforward, paratactic, style, keeping technical language to a minimum, and making little attempt at literary elegance. Place names are spelt using standard Indonesian spellings (e.g. Luwu, Ussu) and italicised words are Indonesian unless indicated. We would like to thank Emeritus Professor Campbell Macknight and Drs Sirtjo Koolhof for identifying numerous errors and making valuable suggestions for improvements to the text, and a number of other colleagues for reading through the final draft.

We take especial pleasure in recording that the OXIS project was a genuine collaborative exercise between Australian, Indonesian and British scholars, and that the data and interpretations offered here represent *dengan maksud yang benar* the contributions of the entire OXIS team. Responsibility for the accuracy of the data presented here, and for their interpretation, is ours alone.

The authors

Hull and Canberra
5th December 2000

GLOSSARY of foreign words and technical terms

AD / BC	radiocarbon dates calibrated to two sigma
c.1300, 1300, etc	Common Era dates
B.	Bugis
L.	Lemolang
M.	Makasar
Mal.	Malay
Mo.	Mori
W.	Wotu
abu-abu	ash
allangkangnge	palace complex
attoriolong	Bugis historical text
balubu	large jar
batu besi	iron stone, ore
benteng	fortified settlement
besi	iron
bissu	transvestite ritual specialist
camat	sub-district officer
candi	Javanese temple
desa	village; an administrative unit comprising several <i>kampung</i>
duni	boat-shaped wooden coffin
empang	fish pond
gharu wood	eaglewood
granodiorite	coarse-grained acidic igneous rock differing from granite by a lower proportion of quartz
gusi	egg shaped martavan
indurated	cemented or baked into the state of a hard rock
istana	palace
kabupaten	county; an administrative unit
kacau balau	chaotic, disorganized, in total confusion
kampung	settlement
kecamatan	district; an administrative unit
kecapi	a plucked stringed instrument
keramat	sacred, possessing supernatural qualities
keramik	high fired stoneware or ceramic
kraakporselein	type of Jingdezhen porcelain
kris	dagger with a straight or wavy blade

GLOSSARY of foreign words and technical terms

ladang	non-irrigated field
ma'banua	to found a settlement
macang	a board game played with counters
Macassar	historical kingdom of the Makasars, including its capital port-city
Makasar	ethnic group living in southwest South Sulawesi; their language
Makassar	modern city of Macassar
makolle	ruler
manuport	natural object brought to a site through human agency
martavan	large jar
Ming	Chinese dynasty 1368-1644
monadnock	isolated hill that stands on a plain
nisan	stone grave marker
pamor	<i>damascene</i> -style inlay of a kris
parallelepiped	all faces parallel to their opposite face, not necessarily at right angles
parang	bush knife
pelabuhan	port, harbour
pesan-pesan	wise advice
prahu	small boat
prill	piece of iron in an unrefined state
puncak	summit
Quing	Chinese dynasty 1644-1911
sempe	sherdage
swidden	shifting, 'slash and burn' agriculture
terak besi	iron slag
tomanurung	one who descends to start a royal line
Wanli	Chinese ruler 1573-1620
Yuan	Chinese dynasty 1279-1368
zaman	age

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Entia non sunt multiplicanda praeter necessitatem.

William of Ockham c. 1285-c. 1349