

C.C. Macknight, " The Emergence of Civilization in South Celebes and elsewhere in Island Southeast Asia "

p.4. " While, on this evidence, I would hesitate to describe South Celebes in the seventeenth century as an urban society, it can fairly be characterized as civilized. What we now have to examine is how that " civilization " arose in the years before 1600.

At the outset, it is worth reminding ourselves that this happened before significant Muslim or European influence. Neither is there any but the merest trace of that enriching Indian tradition, so familiar elsewhere in Southeast Asia. South Celebes has some claim to be regarded as a test case of the vitality of indigenous Southeast Asian cultures. "

p.5. " The view of Southeast Asia as a fringe area, developing late as a result of slow diffusion from other centres, is now sufficiently discredited;"

N J. Noorduyrn, " Origins of South Celebes Historical Writing " in Soedjatmoko et. al. ed., 3 An Introduction to Indonesian Historiography, pp. 137 - 155.

p. 142 - re the origins of the south Celebes chronicles - v. dry, factual (and non-poetical) works compared to Jav. historiography.- Their sources seem to have been the historical diaries of the area. They royal diaries contain info. not only about births, marriages, deaths and other happenings in the royal family and about state affairs, war expeditions, pacts and visits but also about such extraordinary natural phenomena as eclipses, earthquakes, and comets or such occurrences as the arrival of an elephant presented to the k. by a Port. merchant.....

This habit of keeping diaries (= also private ones, and some in Malay from the Malay colony) seems to have been confined to South Celebes and the peoples that underwent cultural influence from there. Not found in Jav. or Malay lit. In South Celebes there seems to have been a real urge for recording all sorts of facts, esp. perhaps in the heyday of Makassarese and Buginese cultural expansion. Data concerning v. practical and material

things such as weapons, fishing implements, houses, ships, financial matters and inventories, laws, and customs have been recorded on pages of diaries left open for the purpose, as well as in separate notebooks. There exist translations of Spanish works on artillery and the making of gunpowder. Buginese maps of the sea with precise geographical annotations have been found.

Writing seems to have begun in this area at a comparatively late period - 16th or perhaps 15th century. Both the Christian and the Muslim calendars seem to have been known before the conversion to Islam, and the Christian one seems to have been used by preference.