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Foreword

The articles contained in this beautifully illustrated book entitled "*Myanmar Gems*" were written in local printed media, dailies and monthlies at the time of Myanmar Jade and Gem Emporium held annually at first and half-yearly and quarterly later, in Yangon. Fascinated by accounts of Myanmar's mineral treasures by foreign and local gemmonologists and jewellers found in reports and travel-ogues of past and present, and captivated by the aesthetic beauty of Myanmar precious and semiprecious stones--rubies, sapphire, jade, garnet, spinel, pedidot, amber, etc etc displayed for auction or bargain sale at such emporia, the writer was seized by an irresistible temptation to write about them and to hail and honour these emporia.

Today Magazine has been kind enough to offer the writer this chance of compiling and publishing these articles in a book form with photographic illustrations, at its own expense and under its own management.

The writer harbours a high intention of a detail research on Myanmar historic gems, crown jewels and jewellery enshrined in pagodas and monuments, given away as gifts, or stolen, robbed and taken out of the country. But until such work is realised, the present book is to be taken as a modest pioneer which, it is hoped, may appeal to the interest of the readers in general and that of gem enthusiasts in particular.

Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt