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FOREWORD

It is a long felt need to bring out a book on the history of the development of Myanmar literature in multifarious aspects since its formative stage. A monumental treatise by the late Professor Pe Maung Tin is the one we usually seek for reference in that regard. Other scholars attempted to write short articles about individual writers of the past or specified period of the flourishing of Myanmar literature depending on their special aptitudes and inclinations.

During that time we saw literary surveys made by learned scholars in some foreign academic journals and they are more or less scattered about at present. So the need is also felt to bring about such a book so as to make foreign readers acquainted with background of our literary world. This book, in fact is a partial fulfilment of such a need and introducing Myanmar literature to the world.

The author, an established historian is a cultural enthusiast. He is now a freelancer and a broadcaster.

He also happens to be a member of the Executive Committee of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association. This happy coincidence demanded him of attempting to embark upon this project. I am the one who gave him the push to write the book for the benefit of the younger and the unfamiliar readers on this broad subject.

Though the book by no means can be claimed as a comprehensive one it will definitely introduce us to the world of Myanmar writings. We also have to commend the author for having the boldness to compile the book in spite of his tight schedule and his different academic pursuits.

We are glad to know that the author is planning to introduce us to modern trends on the same subject in subsequent volumes in the near future. Again, we should wish him all success in his forthcoming endeavour.

The Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, together with the author, express our deep appreciation to the Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information for bringing out this book on time, for their Second Conference.

MYO THANT
Chairman

Myanmar Writers & Journalists Association

7th June 1998