

FOREWORD

Konbaung Dynasty, from 1752 to 1885 A.D. lasted 133 years. During these years, there were eleven regimes and four times the Capital Cities were changed. Out of these four Capital Cities, only one -Innwa-was built long before the Konbaung Dynasty and the other three, Shwebo, Amarapura and Mandalay were newly built by the last dynasty of Myanmar monarchy. At a glance, the title of this little book seemed to focus on all monasteries of Konbaung Dynasty but in actual presentation, it gave more attention to the monasteries of Mandalay alone. Did it deviate from the title? Two points could, perhaps, justify giving the emphasis to the monasteries of Mandalay.

(i) The material evidence, though extremely limited, could be found on the monasteries of Mandalay regimes while those of the earlier regimes were almost non-existence.

(ii) The earlier regimes of this Period were preoccupied with the consolidation of newly established Dynasty and hence, the priority on the building of basic structure for the new dynasty took precedence over others.

After a century of the establishment of the Konbaung Dynasty, the physical structure of this Dynasty was well in place and the flowering of what we would call later as the Konbaung Culture took place and Mandalay was where this cultural flowering culminated. "Linear Composition of Konbaung Monasteries" was written in 1985 and it was intended to read as a paper. It was chosen to read at a research conference at an American University, but to get there in short notice was not possible and it remained unread and unpublished to this day.

Appreciation; A few words on the publication of this little book; without the efforts and encouragement of the colleagues and fellow architects, this book would not have been published. The efforts of fellow architects Ko Aung Soe Myint, Ko Myo Tun and Ko Tin Myo Aung were invaluable and so were those of Ko Myint Swe-now in Tokyo-and Ko Nay Tun, Ko Aung Lwin, Ko Linn Thant, Sithu Win Maung and Saw Myint Zaw Oo & Soe Moe who were busy as bees, yet they I could find time to give encouragement and interest to my book.

To these friends and fellow architects was this small work dedicated.