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Foreword

Historical Research Papers by Dr. Yi Yi, Senior Research Officer (SRO) of Myanmar Historical Commission are to be published in book form titled "Selected Writings of Dr. Yi Yi". A copy of hand written order of the Director General of the Commission dated 14-10-2012 to Yangon branch office was received requesting Secretary of the Commission Dr. Kyaw Win and part-time member of the Commission Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt to write "Foreword" to the book.

A total of Thirteen Research Papers were received- five papers in Myanmar and eight in English, with maps, photographic and pictorial illustrations, diagrams, charts and appendixes. The longest research paper has over hundred and fifty pages in print and the shortest has ten pages.

Though these papers are said to cover Konbaung Period of Myanmar history, they dealt with sundry themes and topics such as (1)Myanmar a hundred years ago (2)Administration of Konbaung period (3)Administration of Bagan township in Konbaung Period (4)Myanmar Historical Resources (5)Diary of a British Ambassador to the capital Shwebo (6)A Note on King Mindon's Administration (7)Additional Burmese Historical Source 1752-76 (8)Life at the Burmese Court under the Konbaung Kings (9)A Bibliographical Essay on the Burmese Sources for the History of the Konbaung period (10)The Judicial System of King Mindon (11)Kwam:Khwak-Betel Receptacles (Royal Betel Box) (12)A rare and little known work on Burma and (13)The Thrones of the Burmese Kings

Thirteen research papers of such variety of themes and topics running into over 500 printed pages of Myanmar and English languages, longer than a volume of Encyclopaedia is indeed beyond easy reach of a buyer and reader. A book of such dimension will cost much in publication and also in sale price. Besides, if all papers are compiled in

one book, readers might be hesitant to buy it, since there are Myanmar and English readers.

Therefore, at least two books should be published – one comprising only Myanmar language papers arranged in the order of their common or associated themes and topics and the other comprising only eight English language papers. When this suggestion was presented at the monthly meetings of the Commission, it was unanimously agreed to publish the papers in two separate books.

The writer of Foreword knew Dr. Yi Yi since 1952, while he and she were tutors and later assistant lecturers in the Department of Modern History and Political Science, University of Yangon She was senior in age, service and degree. While the writer was a Government State scholar working for a Ph.D degree in International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science, She was nearly finishing her Ph.D in history of the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. When the writer returned home and rejoined the mother department, Dr. Yi Yi was serving in Myanmar Historical Commission. From the year 1963, the writer underwent a chequered career-Departmental head, professor at Mawlamyine College, Worker's College, Yangon Institute of Education, Mandalay University, Director General of Performing Arts Department, Myanmar Historical Research Department and Archaeology Department of the Ministry of Culture in the period 1976-1989. As Director General of Historical Research Department and Commission the writer had to hold and chair research paper readings. Research papers in the two volumes were read at the Department and some were presented at international fora and some were read while the writer was in other departments. For various reasons, these papers remained unpublished.

Dr. Yi Yi passed away in 15<sup>th</sup> November 1984, and only (29) years after her demise, these papers are published thanks to the Department and the Commission. The writer wishes the readers to bear in mind the following points (1)research papers in two books are very

academic (2)they were compiled on the line of historical research methodology and so, not easy to understand immediately (3)Dr. Yi Yi was a very meticulous and thorough researcher sparing no detail, data and fact, (4)the style of research paper writing in the days of Dr. Yi Y was typical of the past 20<sup>th</sup> century, quite different from that of the present 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the Age of Globalization of the current century, research methodology, style of writing and presentation have undergone changes. Therefore the readers' indulgence is kindly requested to try to get essence and meanings of these papers.

Due to the superhigh way of 21<sup>st</sup> century's information and communication technology every thing turns "instant", instant food instant coffee, instant tea, instant travel, instant knowledge etc. But in research especially historical research there is no instant standard yet. The range and depth of the theme, the field, and the topic, academic qualification and field experience of the researcher his or her academic contact with international researchers of his or her subject and field speak volumes for high standard of the research papers.

The writer of Foreword would like to say that research papers of late Dr. Yi Yi though compiled in the past 20<sup>th</sup> century are still relevant in many ways and aspects not only in the current century but also in many centuries to come.

*Khin Maung Nyunt*

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja,  
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt