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FOREWORD

In conformity with the popular saying, *Thazun pann-khine ta-mraing-mraing, Rakhine Phra paung*, there are a large number of Buddhist edifices and images in the last royal city of Rakhine Kingdom where Buddhism has flourished. In and around Mrauk-U, famous Buddha images, edifices, pagodas, temples, city-walls, moats, fortresses and palace sites can be seen up to this date.

Historic monuments such as Vesali Buddha Image, Phrapaw Buddha Image, Re-tan-khar Buddha Image, Ratna-mar-aung pagoda, Mangla-mar-aung pagoda, Zina-mar-aung pagoda, Ratanapon pagoda, Shaitthaung (alias) Ran-aung Zeya temple, Koethaung temple, Htukant-thein ordination hall and other famous edifices locate in the old city and its environs.

Observing the images, pagodas, temples and edifices, one can notice the artistic stone carving, bronze-casting and architecture signifying beauty, artistry and durability which are of our national heritage. We believe that each and everyone of us has the responsibility to render a helping hand to preserve and protect the national heritage.

Nowadays, foreign researchers and tourists as well as pilgrims from different parts of Myanmar visit the old city of Mrauk-U with keen interest to observe personally and it is believed that this small book will contribute to a certain degree to satisfy their thirst for knowledge in a short time as historical sketches and events related to these artefacts and monuments have been mentioned briefly.

Myar Aung