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Preface

book titling "The Yazawin-Kyaw" is compiled by rable Mahā Sīlavamsa and translated and edited by U Myint Aung. It was compiled by Mahā Sīlavamsa in 5th century. Myanmar Historiography is one of the rite subjects taught in universities of Myanmar. riography means history of history. History in Myanmar age is 'yazawin'. It is an adaption from Pāļi 'rājavamsa' means 'lineage of the kings'. It is also known as

The chronicles deal mainly with the king, emphasizing ch events as the king's birth, princehood, and accession e throne, his queens and children, his works of merit is loss of power on his death. The chronicles over four r periods namely Bagan Period (1044-1364), including the two periods of Sagaing and Pinya, Inwa Period -1555), Taungoo Period (1555-1752) and Konboung d (1752-1886).

The chronicles were first written in the fifteenth ry which was a golden age in Myanmar. Of the icles within between the fifteen century and the end seventeenth century, very few survive today. The t chronicle extant is the Mahā Sammata-Vamsa, alias win-Kyaw (The Celebrated Chronicle). Many scholars that it was based on the Mahāvamsa and it deals mainly the Buddhist kings of India.

The Yazawin-Kyaw was written in 1520 by a monk l Thila-wuntha (Sīlavamsa), a great Myanmar poet and ed Pali scholar of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. s based on the Mahāvamsa and it deals mainly with the lhist kings of India and Ceylon. Information about

Myanmar is limited as it includes only a list of kings of Bagan, Pinya and Sagaing. It occupies only one fifth of the book. As a historical document, it is disappointing for the historians. However, the significance of the work lies in the fact that for the first time the Myanmar kings were limited up with those of India and Ceylon. Thus the author could establish a tradition of historical writing which was to be developed further by late chronicles.

It is learnt that the book has been published for four times. It was first published by the Burma Research Society. The editor was U Pe Maung Tin using the palm-leaf manuscripts of Kinwun Mingyi and Saya Pwar. The Celebrated Chronicle translated into English version is very rare. The foreign scholars have difficulties to study the earliest history book of Myanmar. It is also learnt that the aim and purpose of the translation of the Yazawin-Kyaw is to introduce the earliest Myanmar history book to both local and foreign readers to acquaint them with Myanmar literature which thrived in Myanmar. To translate and edit this book. U Tun Myint Aung has been recently awarded the Manuscript Litrary Prize (English) of the Tun Foundation Bank Literary Committee for 2019. So far he has established many articles. poems and written books in English.

This is the right time to publish this book "The Yazawin-Kyaw" translated and edited by U Tun Myint Aung and the publication of such a book is a welcome event.

> Dr. Kyaw Win Professor and Head (Retired) Department of History Yangon University 5-3-2020 (Thursday)