

FOREWORD

The Ministry of Information presents to the public in print fifty selected radio talks on Myanmar Culture by Professor Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt which have been broadcast in Saturday evening programme of English section, Myanmar Radio. They deal with both tangible and intangible aspects of Myanmar culture touching on a variety of subjects such as environment archaeology, pre-history, history, Buddhism, tradition and custom, visual and performing arts, tales and literature, life style as well as current topical themes pertaining to Myanmar culture. Hence the publication is fittingly entitled. A Pot-pourri of Myanmar culture.

The Union of Myanmar is not only endowed with a wide range of biodiversity created by her bountiful nature but also is enriched with cultural heritage which her people have preserved throughout her long history. These two assets are indeed the main sources of national strength and pride, which the Government and the people are making relentless effort to preserve and protect for Myanmar generations and it is through these two assets that the true perspective of Myanmar and her people can be gained.

Of the twelve objectives laid down by the Government, four each in political, economic and social fields, "Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character" is the second in the four social objectives. It is in line with this objective that Myanmar Radio is broadcasting Talks on Myanmar Culture not only for Myanmar people but also for foreign listeners who sincerely desire to understand Myanmar and cherish keen interest in things Myanmar.

Radio talks on Myanmar Culture selected and compiled in this publication are classified under separate subjects and the titles of the talks under each subject are apt and catchy to attract the attention and to arouse the interest of the listeners and readers. There are topics that run into more than one talk. They are

academic presentations meant especially for researchers. But on the whole, these talks provide facts and figures and general information about Myanmar culture in true perspective. It is hoped that this compilation in a way would provide some kind of assistance to Myanmar and foreigners who are in need of instant reference on Myanmar culture.

Ministry of Information
The Union of Myanmar



Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Born (1929), B.A (1952), B.A [Hons] (1954), M.A (1955)
Ph.D London (1960)

Professor, History and International Relations,
Yangon (1952-55) and Mandalay (1960-75) Universities,
Education Institute (1983-87), International Theravada
Buddhist Missionary University (1988-present)

Director-General, Fine Arts Department (1975-83),
Historical Research Department (1987-89),
Archaeology Department (1989-93), Chairman,
Historical Commission (present)

Participated in conferences and seminars, Geneva, Berlin,
Rome, Paris, Beijing, Moscow, New Delhi, Tokyo, Seoul,
Manila, Bangkok, Lahore Bahu, Singapore, Jakarta and Bali.

Writes text books, Guide books, research papers and articles.
Broadcasts talks on Myanmar culture English Programme,
Myanmar Radio.

Awarded medals for Excellent Performance in Social Field 1992,
Administrative Field 2001 and Arts 2003.

Maha Saddamma Jotika dhaja, religious title in 2006.