

**HISTORY OF MYANMAR LITERATURE  
IN EARLY KONBAUNG PERIOD  
( 1752 – 1782 )**

**Ph.D (DISSERTATION)**

**MAR MAR LWIN**

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
UNIVERSITY OF YANGON  
MYANMAR**

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## Abstract

This dissertation deals with history of literature in early Konbaung period. Myanmar was at the height of its military and political power during the time beginning with Alaungmintaya's ascension to the throne and ending with the dethronement of Singu Min. Alaungmintaya reorganized the country lying in disintegration and established Konbaung Myanmar Empire. His successor, Naungdawgyi Min's reign was too short to contribute to any significant happening. Myedu Min, second son to Alaungmintaya, was an able king who was clever at civil administration, politics, and especially at military affairs. He won victories over Thailand, Chiang Mai and Linzin and repulsed all the four successive attacks of Chinese. Any era exerts an influence on the literature of the times, so the politics, social and military victories of early Konbaung Period were reflected in its literature. Out of various kinds of literature, *Royal Orders*, *Ayaydawbons* and *Mawguns* appeared together with political victory *Ye`dins*, *Loo-tas* and glorifying *Yadus* served the causes of organizing the country, and *Dhammathats* and Judicial rulings played a big role in maintaining law and order in the country. Alaungmintaya, a descendant of the town chief of Moksobo, was unfamiliar with the court affairs upon assuming kingship. As U Aung Zeya was "Ngatapar Min," (king not royal blood) he needed a set of royal proceedings in establishing a new royal court. And his wish was soon accomplished. Question and Answer texts appearing in early Kongbaung period were a symbol of literary level of the times, with the aim of satisfying

the thirst for knowledge and expanding the horizons of it. Subjects are numerous in such books relating to political and socio-economic literature, the fine arts, culture and religious affairs. Because of stability in country and royal patronage the scriptural literature bloomed, especially *Nissayas* (word for word translation from Pāli into Myanmar). Moreover, there was plenty of prose, concerned with Buddha birth stories or religious affairs. Again *Pyos* of counsel for royalty and other kinds of poetry such as *Laysit*, *Taydat* and *Yagan* are discussed. Moreover, syntax and grammar treatises, originating in the Nyaungyan period, flourished all the more in this period. And, *Egyins* under discussion here are summarized histories as if making for enhancement of patriotism.

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