

**THE ROLE OF NAGANI BOOK CLUB IN  
THE MYANMAR POLITICS  
(1935 - 1942)**

**Ph.D (DISSERTATION)**

**NYEIN NYEIN WIN**

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
UNIVERSITY OF YANGON  
MYANMAR**

**MARCH , 2007**

## Abstract

This dissertation deals with the role (1935-1942) of the Nagani Book Club played in the Myanmar political history. Between 1930 and 1942, Myanmar saw a series of political movements and events such as the movement of Doh Bamar Organization, Saya San-led peasant's uprising, Indian-Bamar'riot, 1936 Students' Boycott, and 91-Department Administration. Anti-colonialist movement and national liberation movement picked up a greater momentum as a result. Besides, there emerged a large number of books that aroused anti-colonialist sentiment. In 1938-1939, there occurred Barmar - Muslim riot, Oil-field Workers' Uprising and Workers' Uprising. Consequently, a number of books on political genre came out. And current international affairs inspired the people to write books of encouraging the people to make a demand for self-administration. So, more and more political books encouraging anti-colonialist sentiment were in circulation at that time. Between 1940 and 1942, General Aung San and Thirty Comrades were striving for regaining independence. Writers persuaded the people through literature to participate in the independence struggles, while national political leaders were trying in a political way to mobilize active participation of the entire people in the drive for regaining independence. Through various kinds of books, journals, newspapers, articles, poems and four-stanza poems, the writers uplifted the dynamism of national liberation sentiment, anti-colonialist sentiment of and inculcated modern ideas'into the people. The Nagani Book Club came into existence when the prevailing conditions called for a literary association that would arouse anti-imperialist feeling and nationalistic spirit of the people effectively and systematically instead of implementing the drive only in the publications. At that time, Myanmar was doing its utmost to regain independence. So, the club published a lot of books that were in conformity with the prevailing conditions of the nation and that would contribute towards independence struggles. In its bid to broaden the horizon and enhance reasoning power of the people, the club wrote and published publications on anti-colonialist movements, drive to regain independence, and activities to introduce socialism to the nation. In addition, it printed Nagani News Letters and Saturday Nagani Journals and composed a song titled "Nagani". The publications of various genres the club printed contributed much towards the nation's anti-colonialist activities, the drive for national liberation and the programme to introduces socialism to

the nation. The publications comprised books that featured the activities of those who had made sacrifices for the nation to regain independence earlier than expected, novels and plays that aroused the people's aspiration to independence, books on revolutions, books that states spying activities, books of biography genre that inspired the people to scale up their endeavours to regain independence, books featuring the movements the peoples of other colonies had made like Myanmar to regain their independence, books on Myanmar's current political affairs and current international political affairs, books on ideologies, books of social, medical and political genres. The books, played an important part in the drive for regaining independence.

## CONTENTS

	Page
Abstract	V
Contents	VII
List of Abbreviation	VIII-IX
Introduction	X-XI
Chapter I	National Movement and Political Literature (1935-1942) 1-44
Chapter II	The Formation of Nagani Book Club and its function (1937-1941) 45-67
Chapter III	Analytical Study of Books published by Nagani Book Club 68-96
Conclusion	97-98
Appendix I	99-100
Appendix II	101
Appendix III	102-103
Appendix IV	104
Bibliography	105-114
Illustration (I)	115
Illustration (II)	116
Illustration (III)	117
Illustration (IV)	118
Illustration (V)	119