

**A STUDY OF CAVE SITES IN KAYIN STATE,  
PARTICULARLY IN HPA-AN, HLAINGBWE AND  
KAWKAREIK**

**PhD (DISSERTATION)**

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## ABSTRACT

In the favour of environmental setting, some cave sites and rock-shelters had been occupied by the hunter-gatherers in their nomadic lives in prehistoric times. The excavation of Badalin Cave in Shan state in 1960's yielded a number of stone tools and prehistoric rock art. In 2000, the excavation of Waiponla Cave in Kayin state provided some more evidences for Stone Age dwellers. Regarding the cave sites in Southeast Asia, the predominant culture known as Hoabinhian Culture would have extended its influences to Myanmar. Many interesting Cave sites in the karst areas of lower Thanlwin are required to detect the influences of such significant culture in some degree. In post stone age, especially when a large habitation nearby the individual cave developed into civilization, the purpose of the use of caves has been changed. Caves became to be used as the religious ceremonial centres and sacred places. Based on the material culture of the caves, it can be assessed the prosperity, living standard and religious status of certain community settlements near the individual caves, and the interrelationship among them. The study focuses on the cave sites in Kayin state in archaeological approach. The archaeological excavations, however, have not been conducted yet, the initial researches on the cave sites with systematic observation and data collection will assist for further researches to fulfill and reconstruct the whole regional cave culture of Southeast Asia.