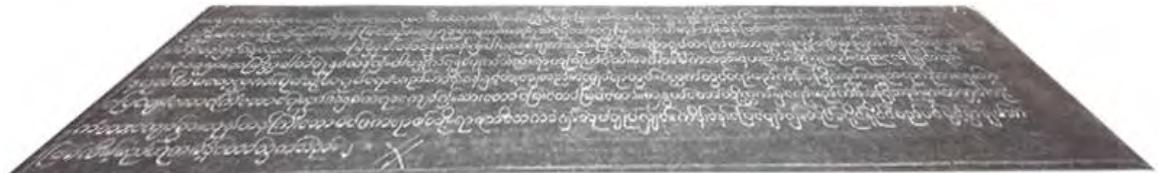


## Cataloguing of Parabaiks In the Universities' Central Library



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## ABSTRACT

UCL has an adequate collection of old Myanmar manuscripts. 15163 palm-leaf manuscripts (Pay sa) and 4037 parabaik (folding paper) have hold respectively (Dec. 2016 accessioned). It contains 26 number of white parabaiks and the rest in black. The study in this paper is excluded white parabaiks. There has in four types of catalogue for parabaiks in UCL; card form in Myanmar language, soft copy in English translation, eCatalogue form in ELIB system and book form as a research project. The first two types comprise all parabaiks of the collection and the last two types consist of some selected parabaiks. Catalogue entry formats are content with sufficient fields to give useful information for readers and researchers. In this paper all types of parabaik catalogues are organized and presented with some sample records for easy findings to specific subject field for the researchers. The most useful subjects are guided. This paper invites scholars and makes encourage for coming out more research works of valuable old manuscripts by the help of the effective catalogues from UCL.

## Cataloguing Parabaiks in the Universities' Central Library

Ancient Myanmar manuscripts are valuable national heritage and documents of historical, cultural and social life of Myanmar in the past time.

UCL has an adequate collection of old Myanmar manuscripts. Chief Librarian U Thein Han (1946-1968) started the collection of ancient Myanmar manuscripts since 1952 and his successor U Thaw Kaung, Chief Librarian (1969-1997) has collected the traditional manuscripts over three decades around the country. By the year 2000 the Resource Centre for Ancient Myanmar Manuscripts (RCAMM) was established as a branch of UCL and it was a largest depository of Myanmar traditional manuscripts. UCL Chief Librarian Daw Tin Phone Nwe followed the track of her predecessors to collect the rare manuscripts. Librarians and staffs were travelling around the country, searching manuscripts, taking inventories, cleaning and repairing and collecting which are donated and purchased. Some of rare manuscripts were microfilming and digitized. In the term of RCAMM over 3000 manuscripts (pay sar and parabaiks) had added to the UCL collection. Now the whole collection of manuscripts has placed together in UCL.

15163 palm- manuscripts (Pay sa) and 4037 parabaik manuscripts (folded paper writings) have hold respectively (update Dec. 2016). It contains 26 number of white parabaiks and the rest in black. White parabaiks in UCL are called colour parabaiks which are painted with natural colour used by vegetable oil, soot of crude oil. These valuable colour parabaiks collected in UCL are paintings on life of Buddha, royal palace, royal occasions, royal hair styles, etc. The study in this paper is excluded the white parabaiks.

The black parabaiks are like the note books describing all sorts of events and subject matters as daily life or recorded the important occasions of Myanmar history. These were commonly used by ordinary people usually kept by individuals and families. Each parabaik has at least one item and up to over one hundred items had noted. These are the valuable sources of Myanmar life and customs to study and discovering the past.

The various types of parabaiks are classified according to the number of folds (yay-zee) which range from a single fold ( *hlwa-chin* ) to 64 folds ( *hsu htat* ). UCL has collected these various sizes of parabaiks in good condition and proper storage.

The large size Parabaik which UCL had collected is Pbk 2470, consisted 42 folds and measured 52cm x 22cm. It has recorded the list of the maids of King Mindon's mother in the palace. (Myanmar title: မင်းတုန်းမင်းမယ်တော်ကြီး အပျိုတော် ကွမ်းရေတော်)

Smallest size parabaik in UCL contained 40 folds and its measurement is 6.5cm x 8cm. It is noted Myanmar history in King Thayawaddy reign. (Myanmar title: သာယာဝတီမင်းလက်ထက် မြန်မာ့သမိုင်း) There are miscellaneous writings on various subjects; astrology, architecture, administration, arithmetic, customary law, economics, history, language and

literature, medicine, etc. These are treasure of UCL and valuable source for scholar to trace the past and to understand the present in traditional texts.



**Various sizes of parabaiks from UCL**



**Parabaik storage in Manuscripts Section, UCL**

### **Parabaik catalogues in UCL**

There are four types of catalogue for parabaiks in UCL.

1. Card catalogue in Myanmar Language
2. English translation catalogue in soft copy
3. eCatalogue
4. Catalogue in book form

#### **1. Card catalogue in Myanmar Language**

All parabaiks are catalogued in Myanmar language by Manuscript Section on 5"x 3" cards; some parabaiks have attached catalogue on the cover.

Each card includes complete information of physical description of parabaik and arranged by accession number and entered by title of the text. Some titles are originally written on the parabaik and some titles are given with appropriate names by the cataloguer.

On the card catalogue the following fields are comprised-

- (a) Accession (b) Title-Myan. (c) Kind of pbk (d) Number of Lines (e) Number of Folds (f) Size (g) Page number (h) Language (i) Literary form (j) note

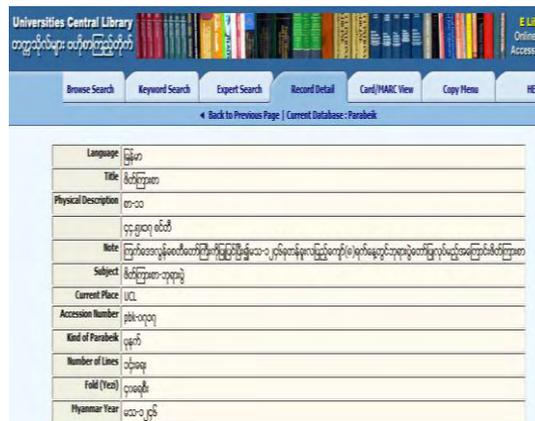


- [ပုဆိုးချုပ်ကျမ်း]  
[*Treatise on sewing Paso*] (*nether garment for male*)  
*Myanmar, Prose* Sewing nether garments for male (Paso) on the first day of Myanmar month will bring prosperity and comely; if done on the second day he will live long; if done on the third day would not get what he wants; if done on the fourth day he would get what he wishes.  
1. CUSTOM
- Pbk 0994 (3) [Amve khvai ca khyup] Black, 9 li, 23 fo, 39 x 13.5 cm., p. 8, 10, 13, 36  
[*Inheritance apportion Bond*]  
[အမွေခွဲစာချုပ်]  
*Myanmar, Prose* Notes made for the agreement reached between Ma Nyin (daughter of the deceased) and Ko Pan Tu (son-in-law of the deceased) to apportion the yields from the paddy land (of the deceased mother Mi Kho) in equal share in 1260 BE. (1898 AD.).  
1. SOCIOLOGY – Inheritance apportion record
- Pbk 0934 (5) [*Lyhok'ca 1219-1253*] Black, 12 li, 23 fo, 38 x 13 cm., p. 24-39  
[*Supplication*]  
[လျှောက်စာ ၁၂၁၉-၁၂၅၃]  
*Myanmar, Prose* Supplication forwarded by Mein Khaine interior minister Mingyee Maha Thiri Zeyathu from Mandalay Ratanapon city to the senior lecturer monk (Cakhya Sayadaw) U Pandicca, of Caku Myo to observe the precepts and to study thoroughly all the Tipitakas.  
1. SUPPLICATION
- Pbk 1010 (3) [kyon "' pe kyon "' yu mhat ' ca] Black, 14 li, 19 fo, 42 x 16 cm., p. 13-14  
[*Note on making over and taking over monastery*]  
[*ausmif;ay;ausmif;,lrSwfpm*]  
*Myanmar, Prose* Letter of handing over the monastery and all belongings by the venerable Shwe Gyin

Sayadaw (84 years old and 64 vasa) head of the two sangha associations of Mye Du and Khaw Sanbi, to his disciples and pupils in 1284 BE. (1922 AD.) 1.RELIGIOUS – Letter for hand over the monastery

### 3. eCatalogue

Some of these 300 numbers of parabaiks are entry in ELIB web-based library automation system which was implemented in UCL for 17 years long ago. Records contain the complete information with fields and users can search with author, title, subject and any keywords. It provides reports in which form of the staff need.



Patabaik catalogue entry on ELIB System

### 4. Catalogue in book form

In 2009 we had done a research project under the "Index of the letters on the Parabaiks from the Universities Central Library". It consists of 316 parabaiks and cover all kinds of letters on various subject matters.

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရ  
တက္ကသိုလ်များစတိုးဆောင်ရွက်ထားသည့်  
အထွေထွေဝိဇ္ဇာဌာန (အောက်မြန်မာပြည်)  
တက္ကသိုလ်များစတိုးဆောင်ရွက်ထားသည့်

တက္ကသိုလ်များစတိုးဆောင်ရွက်ထားသည့်  
ဝေခံစာများအညွှန်း  
Index of the Letters on the Parabeiks from  
the Universities' Central Library Collection

စီမံခန့်ခွဲသူ  
ဒေါ်ထင်စင်ရည်  
တက္ကသိုလ်များ

မြန်မာအစိုးရ  
ပြည်ထောင်စုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပြည်ထောင်စုဝန်ကြီးရုံး၊ ဝေခံစာဌာန၊  
အောက်မြန်မာပြည်၊ တက္ကသိုလ်များစတိုးဆောင်ရွက်ထားသည့်

Printed book of Parabaik Index

## Conclusion

I would like to express my gratitudes to the organizers of this Symposium; Ide Laboratory, Kyoto Uni and Yangon Universit Library especially to the Chief Librarian Dr Hlaing Hlaing Gyi for her effective hard work. It is hoped that these annotated catalogues are useful for students and scholars for their studies and research works on traditional text. Also this paper would give information and link to ancient manuscripts to study on Myanmar history, culture, social life and customary rulings, etc.

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