

Analytical Study on the Publications edited and published by the Burma [Myanmar] Research Society

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Abstract

The Burma Research Society (BRS) was founded on 29th. March 1910 and had a programme to Publish, in printed book-form, important texts from Myanmar palm-leaf and parabike paper manuscripts. The BRS did most valuable work in carefully editing and publishing many old manuscripts texts. The famous Myanmar scholar Dr. Pe Maung Tin served as the BRS General Editor for its Text Program from the early 1920s to about 1940 when the Society had to cease its activities due to the Second World War. After Second World War U Wun (Min Thu Wun) and U Tin E made energetic efforts for the BRS. U Wun served as the General Editor for the New Series.

This Paper describes authors, editors, editions, printing presses, publishing dates, cover style, arrangements, physical descriptions, series numbers, appendixes, indexes, footnotes, and subjects of these books. And also it identifies the performance of editors who were prominent Myanmar and Pali scholars like Saya Lin, Saya Pwa, U Po Sein, BaganWundauk U Tin, U Lu Pe Win, U Chan Mya, U Wun, U Thein Han, and others. Moreover, abilities of ancient Myanmar authors and role of old Myanmar literature are investigated and expressed in this paper.

Brief History of the Burma (Myanmar) Research Society

The Burma Research Society was founded on 29th. March 1910 at Bernard Free Library in Rangoon (Yangon) by J.S.Furnivall who was a member of the India Civil Service stationed in Myanmar together with some learned Myanmar officials like U May Oung.¹ After Opening the Rangoon (Yangon) University, the headquarter of the Society was located at the Rangoon University (Universities' Central Library), from about 1930-1980.

Its main objectives were the study and encouragement of Arts, Science, History, and Literature in relation to Burma (Myanmar) and the promotion of intercourse between members of different communities with a common interest in such objects. The main features of the Society were the publication of a learned journal, the printing of Myanmar manuscripts that have never been published before and reprints of some rare books.

The first President of the Society was Mr. Herbert Eales and the first Honorary Secretary and Editor of the Journal of the Burma Research Society was Monsieur Charles Duroiselle who was then Superintendent of the Burma (Myanmar) Archaeological Department.²

¹ U Chit Thoug, " The Inaugural Address of the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the Burma Research Society 28 XII 1959," *JBR.S.* Vol.43: No.1 (1960) : 25.

² Ibid

The Presidents of the Society were as Follows:

1. Mr. Herbert Eales	1910
2. The Honorable U May Oung	1924
3. The Honorable U Ba	1925 and 1935
4. Professor U Pe Maung Tin	1938,1939,1950 and 1960
5. Dr. Htin Aung	1954 and 1955
6. Professor G.H. Luce	1956
7. U Thein Han (Zawgyi)	1967
8. U Tin E	1975
9. U Than Htut (Taik Soe)	1977
10. U Htin Gyi (Tetkatho Htin Gyi)	1980

In the colonial period Myanmar Literature was not a favourable subject for study, not only in schools but also in the University but the Myanmar Literature was prescribed as one of the compulsory subjects in the course of study at the Rangoon (Yangon) University mainly due to the indefatigable efforts of Professor Pe Maung Tin.

On 1st. September 1924, U Pe Maung Tin was appointed as Professor of the Oriental Studies Department, thereby facilitating the publication of rare Myanmar manuscripts by the Burma [Myanmar] Research Society. It played a leading role in the publication of rare manuscripts in the fields of literature and history. Therefore, the Text Publication Sub-Committee was formed to collect and edit some works of classical Myanmar Literature which are on palm-leaf and also on parabiak manuscripts. Before the Second World War period U Pe Maung Tin actively chose and edited works of the Society. U Wun and U Tin E made energetic efforts from 1959 up to 1980 for the Text Publications New Series. Dr. U Thaw Kaung acted as the publisher of the text publication from 1970 to 1980, when the BRS was dissolved.

In 1980, under the Notification of the Ministry of Industry (2) dated 14.1.81, the Society was dissolved by the Government of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma (Myanmar).³

The Text Publication Sub-Committee

At the beginning of the Text Publication Sub-Committee U Pe Maung Tin served as the BRS General Editor for the Text Publication Programme from early 1924 to about 1940. The Text Publication Sub-Committee of the BRS was recognized in 1959. When the Sub-Committee functioned again, U Wun, Head of the Department of Translation and Publications, University of Rangoon (Yangon) became the chairman of the Sub-Committee. He also worked as the General Editor of the Text Publications. The Text Publication Sub-

³ Burma Gazettee, 10 (Mar 1981):207.

Committee Published texts the New Series. This Sub-Committee was recognized again in 1967 and 1970.⁴

The Chairmen of the Text Publication Sub-Committee were as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. U Pe Maung Tin | 1927 |
| 2. U Lu Pe Win | 1956,1957,1958 |
| 3. U Wun (Min Thu Wun) | 1959,1960,1964,1974 |
| 4. U Tin E | 1967,1968 |
| 5. U Tin Hla | 1975 |
| 6. U Htin Gyi | 1977 |
| 7. Dr. Daw Yi Yi | 1980 |

In ancient times, old Myanmar people have written texts on stine, brick plaster metal, palm-leaf or parabike before using paper most of the texts were written on palm-leaf or parabike manuscripts. Manuscripts texts were hand copied by monks and laymen scribes from generation and from place to place. In copying by hand, scribal errors often occurred, so that many of the texts contained error in spelling, copying date, words or sentences left out and not found in the original. Editors (or) scholars made careful collation, comprising copies of particular texts, manuscripts; books etc.

In about 1920 the Society resolved that a Burmese (Myanmar) Text Publication Fund be started to publish rare Myanmar manuscripts. There was the issue among the scholars mainly due to the difference of opinion regarding the question of spelling. So in accordance with the meeting held on 6th November 1921, the following categories concerning orthography were recommended for adoption in text publications:

- 1) It is known that the author used the old spellings. They should be retained as part of literature. An appendix will give these spellings together with the modern spellings.
- 2) It is not known how the author wrote. But the old spelling of the time and the manuscripts are supposed to be good and carefully copied ones: Action- same as above.

If old manuscripts show many variations in spellings of time, adopt customary spelling (if this be possible) and give variations in appendix.

- 3) Works not coming into either of above categories. Modern spellings and show variations in appendix. Footnote may be used instead of appendix , if the number of words concerned is small. A fair degree of certainty should be established before printing a work in categories 1 or 2.

Although the Text Publication Sub-Committee was formed not to settle the differences of Myanmar spelling but to publish rare works of Myanmar literature.

⁴ Burma Research Society, *Thutaythana Thaming, Thutaythana Sarsinsayin, athutaythana Sardeemya*(Yangon: BRS, 1970),22-24.

The BRS Text Publications: Old Series

The Text Publications Sub-Committee of the Burma [Myanmar]Research Society, published altogether 46 texts in the Pre-War period between 1921 to 1941.

Publication Series No.1 is *Owada-Du Pyo* and Publication Series No.46 is *Se Nha Ya Thi Luda*. In 1941 the Society ceased its activities because of the Second World War.

All Publications were printed by private presses such as the Pyigyí Mandaing Pitaka Press, the Kawi Myetmhyān press, the Hanthawaddy Pitaka Press, the Aung Zeyyatu Press, etc. Among them, most of texts were printed by the Pyigyí Mandaing Pitaka Press.

The old manuscripts were written by 27 writers. These were edited by U Po Sein and other editors such as Saya Pwa and Saya Lin.

There are 36 items of literature (ie. Pyo, Yadu, Yangan, Lida, Drama, Fiction, etc.) and the rest are on biography, history and religion.

In this paper, the publications with distinguished editors' critical introduction and notes have been analyzed by the researcher.

1 *Owada-Du Pyo* (ဝဳဝါဒဳပျီ) (*Publication Series No.1*)

Aw, U, Seidakyawthu- *Owada -Du Pyo* (ဝဳဝါဒဳပျီ) , edited by U Po Sein . 5th.ed. Yangon:BRS, 1932. 40p. 21 cm. (BRS Publication Series No.1). Price annas 6.

It was printed at the Pyigyí Mandaing Pitaka Press. The first edition was published in 1921.

U Po Sein, editor of the book, was born in Rangoon (Yangon) on 16th March 1872. He was called " pha-oktot" U Po Sein.⁵ He started working as an assistant teacher in SPG English School in 1895. In 1899, he became Principal in English Middle School in Letbadang Township. Later, he became Deputy Inspector of School in 1933. He established the Toe Printing Press. He was awarded the title " Waziraboutdi (ဝဳရဳပျီ)" by Mandalay Mahathangayaza Thanarbaing in 1936. He died on 26 January 1945. His edited works for the BRS were *Owada-Du Pyo*; *Kyabin Tayaza*; *Book I, II*; *Yzawwada Kyan I*; *Matawwada Sommaza and Pyibwe-Myobwe Linga-Nyuntbaung*.⁶

Author's biography is written in the introduction. The author, U Aw was born in ME 1098 (A.D 1736) at Maungdaung, a village in ancient Alon which is now in Monwya Township. His father was U Ze Ya. Poetic Instinct ran in his mother blood. She was the elder

⁵ U Pe Maung Tin, " The Text Publication Sub-Committee of the Burma Research Society". *JBRBS*, Vol. 47: No. 2 (Dec, 1964):372.

⁶ Burma Research Society. Thutaythana Thamaing, Thutaythana Sarsinsayin, Thutaythana Sardeemya. Yangon: BRS, 1970. 87-89.

sister of Twinthin Mingyi, one of the most famous of Myanmar poets. Maung Aw received the title of " Seindakyawthu" and was made Court-poet to Prince Badon who was better known in Myanmar History as Bodawphaya. He received the title of Maha Zeya Thinhaya in ME 1145 (A.D 1783). There is not known when he was died. He chiefly earned his fame by his two works- *Kawi Letkana Thatpon and Owada-Du Pyo*.

Owada-Du Pyo was completed in ME 1122 (A.D 1760) during the time of King Naungdawgyi. It was divided by 5 chapters and composed with 40 stanzas. Its epilogue tells us that it was composed in the moments of the poet's crowd career. As the title indicates, it contains guidelines of etiquettes and ethical manners for all Myanmar people. Footnotes are very few.

2 Dewagomban Pyazat(ဒေဝဂုမ္ဘန်ပြဇာတ်) (Publication Series No.2)

Kyin,U.Dewagomban Pyazat (ဒေဝဂုမ္ဘန်ပြဇာတ်), edited by U Tin and U Pe Maung Tin. 4th. printing. Yangon; BRS, 1934. Nga, 41p. 21cm. (BRS publication Series No.2) Price Rs 1/6.

It was printed at the Aung Zeyyatu Press.

Dewagomban Pyazat(ဒေဝဂုမ္ဘန်ပြဇာတ်) was written by U Kyin U and edited by Bagan Wundauk U Tin. U Kyin U was one of the famous playwrights and poets in late Kounbaung period.

When the Dewagomban Pyazat was published as text No.2, it was acted by the students of the University. The editor Bagan Wundauk U Tin was famous author for a monumental work on the administration system of Myanmar Kings (မြန်မာမင်းအုပ်ချုပ်ပုံ စာတမ်း) .He was born in Mandalay in 1861. At the age of 15 to 23 he worked as a clerk in reign of King Mindon and King Thibaw. Then he got the position of Bagan Myo Oke in 1859. He became aSub-divisional Officer (နယ်ပိုင်ဝန်ထောက်) in 1907. His Prominent name was Bagan Wundauk U Tin because he was an authoritative officer of Bagan. He died in 1933. He edited works for BRS were *Shin Okkanthamala Myittaza; Dewagomban Pyazat and Ohnmandanti Pyo*.⁷

In the editor's introduction, it shows that no completed date of *Dewagomban Pyazat*. There are two records for popularity of an author's works. The first one record got from U Tin , K.S.M, T.M and another one got from U Ba Thein. According to these two records, in the late Konbaung Period there appeared a couple of great playwrights U Kyin U and U Ponnya. There was conflicts among the countries that which play was better between U Kyin U's " Dewagomban"and U Ponnya's " Wizaya". The King Mindon ordered to competitive recitation ceremony of plays of U Kyin U and I Ponnya. After the competition the King appreciated that U Kyin U's play should ba a model for writing Myanmar play.

⁷ Burma Research Society, *Thutaythana Thamaing, Thutaythana Sarsinsayin, Thutaythana Sardeemya*. (Yangon: BRS , 1970), 65-67.

Tere are two versions for editing:

- 1) Printed text published by the Myanmar Thandawsint Press, Yangon in ME 1235 (A.D 1873)
- 2) Printed text published by the Htidan Pitaka Press, Mandalay in ME 1264 (A.D 1902)

According to author's biography, U Kyin U was born in Sinbaungwe village, Myede district. An editor could not find about author's birth-date and death-date.⁸He was famous during the King Bagyidaw, Shwebo Min and Bagan Min. When he became old, he returned to his native Sinbaungwe and wandered around the neighbouring villages. When he came Pathein, he composed many Laysit, Thichin (songs) and poems dealing with sea animals. His principal works were Mahawthahta Pyazat; Wethandaya Pyazat; Dewagomban Pyazat; Winkanda Pyazat; Papehein Pyazat; Kalakanti Pyazat; yadu and Thichin (Songs).

Dewagomban Pyazat was intended not only to the King but also to the public with four cardinal virtue (ie. Myitta (love), Gayunar (kidness),Muditar (rejoicing) and Upyitkha (detachment). No distinctive performance of the editor is found.

3Rama Yangon I,II (ရာမရတနံ) (Publication Series 32,33)

Toe,U, Rama Yangon, Vol.I,edited by U Lu Pe Win. Yangon: BRS, 1933.197p.25cm. (Publication Series 32).

- - - - -, Vol.II,edited by U Lu Pe Win. BRS,1933. 118p. 25 cm.(Publication Series 33).

Two volumes were printed at the Pyigy Mandaing Pitaka Press.

Rama Yangon (Vol.I,II) were written by U Toe and edited by U Lu Pe Win. Editor U Lu Pe Win was born in Mawlamying on 20th. June 1900. His parents were U Yan Win and Daw Mi Mi. He Passed the matriculation exam in 1917 from Mawlamying State High School. On 1st. December 1920, he looks part in university boycott and dropped out from the University. He performed as an executive member to open the National Schools in Myanmar. He got BA degree in 1923 and was appointed as a lecturer for the Department of Oriental Studies of Mandalay College. Then he served as a Superintendent in the Department of Archaeology since 1936. He retired in 1957.⁹U Chit Thoug remarked that "U Lu Pe Win is very able and energetic and skillful scholar".¹⁰He died on 31st. May 1982.¹¹

⁸ Maung Thuta (Bohmu Ba Thaung). *Sarsodawmya Ahtopati*, edited by U Khin Aye. 5th.ed. (Yangon: Yarpay Sarpay, 2002),203. It is stated that an author's birth date and death date (ca ME 1135- ca ME 1200).

⁹ Burma Research Society, *Thutaythana Thaming, Thutaythana Sarsinsayin,athutaythana Sardeemya*(Yangon: BRS, 1970),98-99.

¹⁰ U Chit Thoug," The Inaugural Adress of the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the Burma Research Society 28 XII 1959," *JBR.S.* Vol.43: No.1 (1960) : 28.

¹¹ Kwe Lun Thu Htin Shar Pokego Myar in Myanmar Sweson Kyan Hnitchok, 1982. (Yangon: Sarpay Baikman : 1983) , 270-271.

In the editor's introduction in Volume I, various manuscripts for editing of Rama Yagan and about Thandawsint U Toe were described. The editor explained the definition of the term 'Yagan' (yagan means a kind of satirical poem) and their writers.

Different texts for editing were-

- a) Kinwun Mingyi's palm-leaf manuscript text
- b) Bernard Pitaka Taik's palm-leaf manuscript text
- c) Wunmin U Ba Tu's palm-leaf manuscript text
- d) Myanmar Thandawsint's printed book text

Author's biography and his literary skills are described thus:

U Toe was born in Saingnantha village, about 2 miles away from Shwebo, ME 1113 (A.D 1751) according to Myanmarsar Nyuntbaung Kyan (Myanmar Anthology), Vol.2 and his birthplace was Zadow village according to Kabyasariya-Kawiwuntha Sardan. He became a treasurer (Einshe-Shwe-teiksoe) in the household of the Crown Prince. He wrote many Saungbars (articles) that he won the title Saungbar-Maung Toe during the regin of King Sinphyushin and King Singu. He was well versed in Pail literature and Buddhist philosophy.

He wrote Rama Yagan by the command of the king and queen; and the king so highly appreciated it that he appointed him Treasurer (Shwetikesoe). He died at the age of 45 after his returned from Meikhtila with the king in the year ME 1158(1796 A.D). His Yagan was not completed and Monk U Gambi (real name is U Ywe)continued to compose the remaining portion of the story. U Toe wrote 34 stanzas before he died.

U Toe was knowledgeable on the nature of girls when they were gathering in their room for beautifying.

In this Yagan, he composed thus:

" နုသာသွေး- အမေအလောင်း။ ပန်းပေါင်းစွက် - ကရမက်ရှာသူ။ နုသာဖြူ။
ယူခဲ့သူ - ထဲသူ - ဆင်သူ - ပြင်သူ။ ဦးကားဝင်ဆီလိမ်း။ ဆံသိမ်းတုန်း။ ခေါင်းဘီးတုန်း။
ကြွက်ကြွက်ဆူအုံးတော့သည်။ ဘရုံးဘရင်းများရယ်၍။ ဘယ်သို့ဘယ်နှယ်။ ဘယ်ဝါဘယ်သူ။ ညည်းလူကောင်းပေ။
ပျောင်းလို့များပြော့ရှေ့။ တို့လူအကြောလဲ။ ဘယ်နှယ်ကလား။ . . .။ "

More over U Toe also composed Yadu with shape of Myanmar consonants.

"ခန်းဘုံဗွေမှာ ၊ သဝေထိုးကလေး ၊ ပုဇွန်တုတ်ကွေးသည့်နှယ် ၊ ခေါက်ခွေးကြီးရှိရစ်ရှာ၏။"
"ဒွေးနောက်ကွယ်က ၊ ခအောက်ချိုင့်ကဲ့နှယ်၊ ဝိုက်ဝိုက်ကသေးတေးတေး။"

He had creative talents. In the sence of Rama's exhibition of skill in archery; he composed thus:

" ထိုသည်နေ့က ၊ အလျင်စ၍ ၊ အတီးအက ကလည်းမဆိတ်ညံ ၊ တိုင်တက်ရွှမ်းထိုး ၊ ကွင်းလျှိုး တန်းလျှောက် ၊
စားမြောက်ရုပ်စုံ ၊ မြေကြီးတုန်အောင် ၊ ဒိန်းပုံဗလိမ့် ၊ ဗိတ်ပိမ့်ပေးပေါင်း . . .။ "

Many scholars included Sale U Ponnya have imitated his composing words and style.

There was a poet, U Lan who composed a Yagan against U Toe's Rama Yagan. He was known as Yagan Phyet U Lan. In Rama Yagan, U Toe composed for Thazin flower but U Lan composed for Letkok flower with bad smell.

He composed thus:

"မြအခက်မွှာ ။ ရွက်သန္တာနှင့် ။ နီလာအဆင်း ။ ပုံမယွင်းဘူး ။ ပွင့်မင်းလက်ခုပ် ။
 သူလာလျှင် ဆုတ်ကြရော့ ။ အပုပ်တကခုပေး ။ ကတိုးမှမပေးရသည် ။ မွှေးနှင့်သမျှ ။
 ရောက်ကုန်ကြသော်လည်း ။ လန်းမှန်ရာကျ ကြိုင်သာစေ "

Actually U Lan had a great sense of humour. His well-known works were Eise Yadu; Sonese Yadu; Tasaydaing Yadu and Yamaminse Yadu.¹²

The old spellings with the modern spellings are given together with page number and line number (p.1-12).for example:

Page No.	Line No.	Old spelling (Incorrect spelling)	Modern spelling (Correct Spelling)
27	10	နန်းသံပေါင်ပေါင်	နန်းသံဖောင်ဖောင်
29	9	အပျိုကြီး၊ အိုးသီးစားမည့်ကံပေကို ၊	အပျိုကြီး၊ အိုးသီးစားမည့်ကံပေကို ၊

The editor gives additional footnotes in page 13-16 for different versions. Sometimes, footnotes are half of a page or about 19 lines (p.46). In Vol.II, descriptions included in Vol.I were not expressed again.

4 *Natshinnaung Yadu* (နတ်သျှင်နောင်ဆိုရတု) (*Publication Series 43*)

Natshinnaung. *Natshinnaung Yadu*, edited by U Chan Mya. Yangon: BRS. 1939. Nya, 184p. 21cm. (Publication Series No.43).

It was printed at the Pyigyí Mandaing Pitaka Press. Price was not included. It was prescribed as the Text for BA (Honus.) in the year ME 1296 (A.D 1934).

U Chan Mya (editor) was Professor of Burmese (Myanmar), University of Mandalay. He wrote poems and articles under the pseudonym " Mya Kay Tu ", was born in Taungoo on 18th. December 1912. In 1930 he passed 10th. standard with History distinction. He passed MA exam with distinction in March 1937. He died on 24th January 1997. His edited works for the BRS were Natshinnaung Yadu and Se Nha Ya Thi Ludah.¹³

Three different texts which the editor comparatively studied were-

¹² Maung Thuta (Bohmu Ba Thaug). *Sarsodawmya Ahtopati*, edited by U Khin Aye. 5th.ed. (Yangon: Yarpyi Sarpay,2002),176.

¹³ Burma Research Society, *Thutaythana Thaming, Thutaythana Sarsinsayin, athutaythana Sardeemya*(Yangon: BRS, 1970),51-52.

- 1) Myanmar Kyatthayay Printing Press Text (printed in 1921)
- 2) Hanthawaddy Text (printed in 1928)
- 3) Hanthawaddy Pitaka Press (Mandalay) Text (printed in 1920)

Thwew aer altogether 72 Yadu including 5 Yadu are in apperendix.

A good account of an author and his literary work is given in the editor's introduction.

According to *History of Myanmar Literature* by U Pe Maung Tin, the ediror U Chan Mya wrote author's literary works and poetical skills. The author , Natshinnaung ME 940-974 (A.D 1578-1612) was the son of Shwenantimin, King of Taungoo Sinphyushin. He afterwards ascended the throne of Taungoo, assuming the title Mahadamaraza. natshinnaung was an intimate friend of Ngazinga. He was also called and crucified. They were pinned to the cross with pointed spikes. He was killed by King Damayazadipadi in ME 974 (A.D 1612).¹⁴

The editor's introduction deals with poetical skills of Natshinnaung as follows:

Natshinnaung, the poet-prince of Taungoo had vivid imagination. His poems display a nice sense of word value. His great love caused him to compose moving poems. He used to write Yadu (poems) with synonyms. He composed thus:

e.g; "လှလေးငြိမ့် ၊ ယဉ်နွဲ့နှောင်း ၊ လှခေါင်နေ ၊ ပြစ်မျိုးကင်း ၊ ဝင်းမွတ်ညို" (used different words composing for girls' beauty)

In the cadence (the ending of a poem) of some Mingala Paiksone or complete Yadu (three atanza Yadu), he composed creatively . e.g.,

"အကာတသွန်ချီ"မိုးဃးဖွဲ့,ရတုစာကိုယ်၏ အဖျားချတွင် -

"ရွာဘိသည်လည်း ဟန်သာမိုး"

"မရွင်သည်လည်း ရှည့်တံဖြိုး"

He was very careful for spellings. The poet put orthographic works in his Yadu.

For sample:

"မှာခဲ့ရက်လျှင်" ချီရတုတွင် - "ခြောက်ယောက်နတ်နှောင်း ၊ ပြာနွဲ့နှောင်းသည်။"

"ဆက်ဒန်အိုက်သော" ချီတွင် - "မိုးခြည်တိမ်ခြေ ၊ ပြန်နှင့်ချေလော့။"

Beside, his literary writing was deeply influenced by Nawadagyi. He imitated the writing style of Nawadaygyi, but he was probably better than the former. He fell head over heels in love with a princess Yazadatu-kalaya ME 921-964 (A.D 1559-1602), and of distant

¹⁴ Maung Thuta (Bohmu Ba Thaug). *Sarsodawmya Ahtopati*, edited by U Khin Aye. 5th.ed. (Yangon: Yarpyi Sarpay,2002),111.It was ststed that Natshinnaung's death was ME 975.

aunt. She was the daughter of King Bayinnaung of Hanthawaddy. She was ninety years senior to him. That is why, his using words were very flowery because of this impassioned love.

He also wrote diverse subjects such as love, war, guli game (polo game), tatooe, the beauty of the lady of his heart, poetic expression and rhythm and rhyming in all aspects, Narshinnaung's Radu surpassed further than all other Radu. He was acclaimed king of Radu composer.

Natshinnaung contacted to Ngazinga to get his throne, some said that Natshinnaung was disloyal and cunning person.¹⁵ According to Yazawingyi and Pawtugi Yazawin (History of Portuguese), the editor wrote that Natshinnaung was a loyal person. In "Myanmarsarpay Thamaingthit (New History of Myanmar Literature)" by Maymyo Moe Kyi, it was stated that Natshinnaung was good minded. He was faithful and simple person.

Additional editor's notes are described in (p. Za-Nya). For example:

Page No.	Subject
14	In footnotes, it may be indicate Chaungwa Pagoda at Chaungwa village in Taungoo. It is an opinion, but not accurate.

Old spellins and modern spellings are given in page (Sa-Nya). Footnotes are given at the bottom of the every page. These are explanation of different spellings in different versions.

Shwe Pyizo Wuttu (*Shwe Pyizo Novel*) (ရွှေပြည်နိးဝတ္ထု) (Series No 13) and *Sabebin Wuttu* (Series No.18) was written by U Lat and edited by Saya Wa. These two books were published in 1928 and 1929 respectively.

Shwe Pyizo Wuttu was included in the series for its merits as a modern Myanmar novel. U Lat seemed not like western culture. The novel plot was set in 19th Century Myanmar. The background setting of this novel comprises both the British rule in lower Myanmar Region and upper Myanmar which at the time as still an independent Kingdom. In the novel, it can be seen two contrasting pictures: the picture of colonia Yangon with a cosmopolitan population and the mordernized activities of the rising landowning and merchant classes, and the other is picture of the monarchical Mandalay where the traditional way of life and the courtly of the monarchical Mandalay where the traditional way of life and the courtly manners of nobility prevailed. It gives the political theme that it was essential to maintain the dignity and integrity of Myanmar Buddhist culture against the advance of Western education and technology. In this novel main characters are U Yar Kyaw, his son Mg Thaug Pe (Barrister-at-law) and Mg Kate Ti (Lawyer). Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin reviewed that:

¹⁵ Maung Thuta (Bohmu Ba Thaug). *Sarsodawmya Ahtopati*, edited by U Khin Aye. 5th.ed. (Yangon: Yarpay Sarpay,2002),111-112.

"This is a book to be spoken of in superlatives. It is superior in coherence and interest but is especially distinguished by a vividness of expression."

Later publication by U Lat was Sabebin Wuttu. Its main plot is fundamentally the same with Shwe Pyizo Wuttu. It is based on Magyidon village. The main plot is about love, separation and unification of lovers. It is a romantic novel with true historical events.

Series No.10 is Pyinsa-Papi Yagan (ပုပ္ပါယိကန်). It was written by U Shwe Ni and edited by Saya Yeik. The editor's introduction has only two pages. Author's biography did not include in the introduction. It is about Pyinsa-Papi (a lady with the five defects-from Ayhiti Nipat, Maha Kunala Jataka- imaginative legends concerning the 550 births of Buddha and his early sensation of touch. Then she became a Queen.

In Pyinsapapi Yagan, U Shwe Ni described how Pyinsapapi is ugly thus:

ကေသာအစ ခံသအဋ္ဌိ၊ ဆဝိဝယာ၊ သည်ငါးညဖြာတွင်၊ ကေသာလိပ်ခွေ၊ ကျွဲရေအသား၊

အရိုးများမှာလည်း၊ ရှေ့သွားထွက်ဝင်၊ သည့်ပြင်ဆစ်မြစ်၊ ခြေလက်ဖုတို၊ ညိုညိုညစ်ညစ်၊

အရွယ်ကိုစစ်လိုက်က ဆဲရှစ်နှစ်သာ၊ ရွယ်ကုမ္မာကို၊ လူတကာမြင်ရလျှင်၊ စိတ်ထင်ခြောက်ဆယ်ခန့်ဆိုတော့။ (p.3)

The editor's note is short.

Series No.38 is Kinwun Mingyi Thamaing (ကင်းဝန်မင်းကြီးသမိုင်း = The life of Kinwun Mingyi) by U Maung Maung Tin. It was not edited from the manuscripts. It was a specimen of biography written on modern line. It is remarkable one that Gadaw (ကတော် = Lady) is different from Maya (မယား = wife) (p.61). Although a lady is a wife of a high official, she can not be called under the title Gadaw. The title " Gadaw" was conferred by the King. It gives knowledge for people in modern age.

Other publications were written by prominent ancient Myanmar writers and edited by outstanding Myanmar scholars.

Dr. J.A Stewart who was a member of the Indian Civil Service and very able scholar who made the following remarks:¹⁶

"Mahathilawa Pyo edited by Saya Lin and U Ba Maung and Kyigaanshingyi Myittaza edited by Saya Pwa (N0s. 20,22 of the Series), " These books like their predecessors in the same series are clearly printed on good paper and are in every way a great improvement on the editors of Burmese books which used to issue from private presses. They are based on collation of different MSS. and all variants of any importance appear to be given dealt with are good pioneer work, but a still higher standard of attainment should be aimed at".

¹⁶ U Pe Maung Tin, " The Text Publication Sub-Committee of the Burma Research Society". *JBRS*, Vol. 47: No. 2 (Dec, 1964):373.

Migalathot Pyo edited by Saya Pwa (No.23)" . The editor has performed his task judiciously. He has not attempted to modernize the spelling but some interesting noted in which questions of orthography are discussed".

Kyabin Yayaza I,II edited by U Po Sein: (NO.24,25)" Most of the sermons have previously been printed but the present critical edition by a competent editor is very welcome.

Ashin Okkanthamala Myittaza, edited by Bagan Wundauk U Tin (No.28)" U Tin's introduction and notes, in which he gives generously of his varied stored of learning. The allusions in the Text have been traced to their sources. The notes deals, besides, with a great variety of points of Burmese linguistic scholarship and call attention to material peculiarities".

Between 1957-58, three Mon Texts were published. These publications were one on history, one on prose and one on verse. They are Monbathar Pakainnaka Kyan, Vol.; Mon Ahun Sarpay Nyunthbaung and Yazadirit Ayeaydawbon.

The BRS Text Publications: New Series

The Text Publications of the BRS started to function again after the Second World War. Most of the publications were printed at the Government presses such as the Sarpay Beikman Press, the Yangon University Press and the Universities' Press. Some were printed private presses such as the Myitta Moe Press, the Loke Ah Press and so on.

There were 13 authors and 17 editors (including one woman compiler Dr. Yi Yi and one woman editor Daw Khin Khin Su).

In the new series, the society published the publications not only on literature but also published on other subjects such as handicraft, dictionary and historical geography.

1 *Taugoo*so *Yadu Aphay* (တောင်ငူဆိုရတုအဖြေ = *Commentary on the poems of Taungoo Min*)

Okkanthamalar,Shin. *Taugoo*so *Yadu Aphay* (တောင်ငူဆိုရတုအဖြေ= *Commentary on the poems of Taungoo Min*),edited by U Wun (Min Thu Wun).2nd.printing. Yangon: BRS,1975.66p. 22cm. (Publication Series No.1) . Price Ks. 2.50

It was printed at the Myittar Moe Press. It was first published in 1959.

Editor U Wun (Min Thu Wun) (1909-2004)¹⁷ was a national poet. His edited works for the BRS were *Gamani Sanda Pyo*, *Taugoo so Yadu Aphay*, *Ohnmadanti Pyo* and *Shinmaha Rahtasara* ie *Pakainnaka Sarsu* (joint with U Ohn Shwe).

U Pe Maung Tin remarked on it:

¹⁷ U Kyi Htun. "Min Thu Wun" in Myanmar Swesonkyan Hnitchok, 2004. (Yangon: Saroay Beikman , 2005),225.

"We have in the poet yhe most famous writer of love poems in Burmese literature, an acknowledged Yadu from of poetry embodying subtle thoughtout and profound meaning. And the commentator is none other the monk Okkanthamala well-known for this learning in Pail and Burmese. The poet was born in A.D.1578 and died at the age of 15. The commentary was written 100 years after his death, being one of the earliest specimens of commentarial literature in Burmese."

In the editor's introduction, it gives list of works written by Natshinnaung,56 works for references, differences texts for editing and acknowledgement. Index is also given at the end of book. Different texts for editing are-

- a) Kingwun Mingyi's palm-leaf text
- b) Myanma Kyattharay Press's printed text

Two versions are almost the same but there is not found Pyasanmasin Chi Radu Paiksone (ပြဆန်းမဆင်ချီရတုပိုဒ်စုံ) in Myanma Kyattharay's text.

2 *Sabudipa Usaung Kyan* (စမ္ဘူဒီပဥဆောင်းကျမ်း = *The Myanmar Geopoliticis*)

Sabudipa Usaung Kyan (စမ္ဘူဒီပဥဆောင်းကျမ်း= The Myanmar Geopolitics), edited by Thado Thitithudhama J.S. Furnivall and Dr. Pe Maung Tin. Yangon: BRS, 1960. Ku-Gu, 128p.: ill.; 25cm. (New Publication Series No.2). Price Ks 3.

It was printed at the Sarpay Beikman Press.

J.S Furnivall¹⁸, son of doctor, was born on 14th. February 1878. He got BA degree from University of Cambridge. In 1924, he published Gandalawka Magazine (The world of book). In 1928, he founded the From the Myanmar Education Exention Association (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံပညာပြန့်ပွားရေးအသင်း). 1936 to 1942, he worked as a lecturer of Myanmar, Department in Cambridge University. For his meritorious service to Burma (Myanmar), the Government of Union of Burma conferred the title of Thado Maha Thirithudahama on him in 1950 and University of (Yangon) also honoured him with the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature in 1957. J.S. Furnivall retired from service in 1923. He returned to England in March 1958 and died on 7th. July 1960. His edited work for BRS was only one book.

Joint editor of this publication was U Pe Maung Tin. He was born on 24th. April 1888 in Pauktaw quarter, Insein Township. His parents were U Pe and Daw Myaing. His father was a Superintendent of Insein veterinary Department. His childhood name was Mg Ba Tin. He got the scholarship for 7th. standard and in 9th. standard he got first prize for " Renoun Prize". In 1906, he got the first prize of English Essay Writing competition held from SPCA

¹⁸ Burma Research Society, *Thutaythana Thaming, Thutaythana Sarsinsayin, athutaythana Sardeemya*(Yangon: BRS, 1970),81-83.

(Society for the Prevention of Cruetly to Animals). He got BA (Pali Honours) degree in 1909. In 1911,he got MA degree specialized in Pail. In 1912,he became Pail Professor in Rangoon (Yangon) College. From 1920-22, he went to Oxford University for further study of the Bachelor of Literature and then he got " B.Litt" degree. He was the first Myanmar Professor, who was appointed in Rangoon College. At the same time he became Librarian in " Bernard Free Library". He worked as an editor in JBRS. In 1930, he became Vice President in the BRS. Soon after the War he retired at the age of 58. The revieved Rangoon (Yangon) University, however, re-employed him as a part-time reader in Pail Department in the beginning and later on as Professor Emeritus and finally conferred on him, the doctorate degree of honouris causa, D.Litt. He died on 22nd. March 1973. His edited works for BRS were Yazawin Kyaw, Pedatha Thachinmya, Dewagomban Pyazat (joint with Bagan Wunhtauk U Tin) and Sabudipa Usaung Kyan (*joint with J.S Furnivall*).¹⁹

The editors' introduction is very comprehensive for the scholars. There are 23 pages of introduction. It includes different versions of editions, contents, chronology, political geography, administration system, government servants, high officials, revenue, judicial administration and general administration and others with detailed criticisms. This book is an account of geopolitics of Myanmar 17 th. Century AD.

3 Shayhaung LathmyuPyinnya Baung Chok Kyan (ရှေးဟောင်းလက်မှုပညာ ပေါင်းချုပ်ကျမ်း

=A Handbook of Ancient Handicrafts)

Shayhaung Lathmyu Pyinnya Baung Chok Kyan (ရှေးဟောင်းလက်မှုပညာ ပေါင်းချုပ်ကျမ်း

= *A Handbook of Ancient Handicrafts*), edited by U Tin Hla. Yangon: BRS, 1960. 44p. 23cm. (New Series No.3).

It was printed at the Sarpay Beikman Press.

The editor, U Tin Hla was born in 1917²⁰ at Okkan village in Hanthawaddy District (Now Yangon division). When he was young, he attended U Ba Khin's Primary School. Later, he continued to study in Thonggwa and Thanlyin. In 1942, he passed B.A (Hons.) in Myanmar. He gained master degree in 1953. His edited books for BRS were Shayhaung Lathmyu Pyinnya Baung Chok Kyan, U Toe ei Sut Pyantphweaung Yadaupyay hnin U Shun ei Taungoo so Yadauyay and Myanmar Thanyawga Depan Kyan.²¹

This book with a supplement based on Dewai Yazawin (A History of Kings of Dewai), was reprinted. It was a departure from the other publications in the old series and new

¹⁹ Burma Research Society, *Thutaythana Thaming, Thutaythana Sarsinsayin, athutaythana Sardeemya* (Yangon: BRS, 1970), 84-86.

²⁰ " KweJ Lun Thu Htinshar Pokego Myar" in Myanmar Swesinkyan Hnitchok, 2004. (Yangon: Sarpay Beikman, 167-168.

²¹ Burma Research Society, *Thutaythana Thaming, Thutaythana Sarsinsayin, athutaythana Sardeemya* (Yangon: BRS, 1970), 68-69.

series. The editor's introduction describes that art and crafts have accordingly appeared in Myanmar since ancient times and this book was compiled from palm leaves manuscripts. It includes Notes for Carpenters and Text for painting. The carentry hand book was based on a collation of notes gathered from various people who survived in the great fire of Amarapura just over a hundred years ago. The second part was called a handbook for painting gives prescriptions for mixing dyes to obtain various colors and describes the ingredients for fireworks, asafetida and plaster etc.

Subject index was given at the end of the book (page 41-44).

4 Aseindeya Wuttu

Taunfhopilah Sayadaw, Dutaya- (Ashin Gunayathar Lingaya). *Aseindeya Wuttu* edited by Dagon U Htun Myint. Yangon: BRS, 1980. 241p. 23cm. (New Series No.17). 1000 copies. Ks. 18.

It was printed at the Loke Ah Press.

This is the last publication of the BRS.U Htun Myint, the editor was born on 27th June 1908 at Me Thi Hla Kan village, Kawa Township in Bago District. His parents were U Maung Pe and Daw Hnin Yee. At the age of 20, he went into monk and lesarnt Pail Pitaka Literature. After Second World War, he changed returned back to layman. He served as an executive editor of the Dagon magazine in 1948. He wrote poems and articles in the Dagon Magazine with his pen name " Dagon U Htun Myint". He died on 8th. October 1972.²²His edited works for the BRS were Thattu Rupaka Wilarthini Kyan and *Aseindeya Wuttu*.²³

The editor's notes are about the text, monk-writer, quality of "Kyan" and two palm-leaves for editing are included. *Aseideya Wuttu* was written by Dutaya Taunghpilar Sayadaw Ashin Gunayathar Lingaya who lived in Winbe Inn in ME 1046 (AD. 1684) during the regin of Winbe Inn San Min. There are two different versions: *Aseideya Wuttu and Laybar Nanda Aseindeya Ahtutpati*.

Two texts on palm-leaves were used for editing: one was donated by Maung Swan Yi through Saya Min Thu Wun to the Universities' Central Library and the other one was got from Asin Withutarbi Wuntha (Dhama Siriya).

The Title *Aseindeya* means " Unthinkable; something beyond the reach of thought or reason." There are four eternal things in the world. They are known as the four *Aseindeya*: the domain of a Buddha, the aphere of the trance, the consequences of volitional cation and brooding over the world.

²² Thwe Thwe Khine," Dagon U Htun Myint Sarsusayin, U Shwe Aung Sarsayin. "(Yangon University: Dept. of Library and Information Studies, 1977), perlimanaries.

²³ Burma Research Society, *Thutaythana Thaming, Thutaythana Sarsinsayin, athutaythana Sardeemya*(Yangon: BRS, 1970),74-75.

List of reference books which are used by author and editor are listed. Sample table of references list are as follow:

Reference Books

Sr.	Abbre.	Title	Author's Name and Completed date of works	Printing Press and Publication date
၈၅	ဟံ ၁	ပါရမီတော်ခန်းပျို့(ဟံသာဝတီမူ)	ရှင်မဟာသီလဝံသ	ဟံသာဝတီသတင်းစာတိုက် ၊ ၁၉၁၁
၈၆	ဟံ ၂	ပါရမီတော်ခန်းပျို့(ဟံသာဝတီမူ)	ရှင်မဟာသီလဝံသ	ဟံသာဝတီ ၊ ရန်ကုန် ၊ ၁၉၅၃

Subject index is given at the end of the book . This book was not a novel. It is only religious literature.

Series No.4 is Thattu Rupaka Wilarthini Kyan (သတ္တုရူပကဝိလာသိနိကျမ်း) written by U Shan Phyu and edited by Dagon U Htun Myint. This book is guide to the making of Buddha statue, the building of Pagodas, the arrangements of Relics Vaults. It can be studied not only for religion but also for culture.

Series No.6 is Wunna Bawdanathut Ain (ဝဏ္ဏဗောဓနသတ်အင်း) weitten by Shin Okkanthamala and Series No.7 is Myanmar Thanyawaga Depani Kyan (မြန်မာသံယောဂဒီပနိကျမ်း) written by Min Letwe Nawahta. These books are about orthography (spellings).

Series No.8 is Ohmadanti Pyo (ဥမ္မာဒန္တိပျို့). It was written by U Shun and edited by U Tin and U Bo Phyu. This pyo is about the story of Ohnmadanti from the Buddhist Jataka stories. She was very bewitchingly beautiful princess. It was published two times once in old series and the other in new series. U Thein Han's preface and U Wun's commentary are found in new series. Illustrations, index and references are also included.

Series No.14 is Ta-nan-pyaw Yin-thway-daw Wuttu (တနန်းပျော်ရင်သွေးတော်ဝတ္ထု) , written by U Lat and edited by U Thein Han (Saya Zawgyi). It is the third book of U Lat's novels that was published by the BRS publication series. It was an unfinished novel. In editor's opinion, the author stopped writing six single-volumes. Among them, the BRS published three books in the old and the new series. The author's biography become more comprehensive than in previous two novels.

Conclusion

There are altogether 63 books (excluding Mon Series) which were edited and published by the BRS from 1921 to 1980 in the whole publication programme series(old and new).

The Yext Publications Sub-Committee for the Burma Research Society, published many authoritative editions, edited by learned professors (U Pe Maung Tin, U E Maung, U Chan Mya, U Wun and U Sein Win) and well-known scholars (Saya Pwa, Saya Lin, U Po Sein and U Sein Tin (Theikpan Maung Wa), etc.)

The most published works by the authors were Monywa Sayadaw, U Kyin U, Nawade II, Hismekhona Ywaza U Shun and U Lat. Most of the authors and their works are from the late Kinbaung period. Other prominent authors and their works may be remained to publish. The BRS should edit and publish more than 63 books during about 40 years. Other rare manuscripts are needed to edit and publish for preservation as the national heritage.

The publications edited and published by the BRS were very valuable and reliable for all scholars who study the Myanmar language and literature. It can be seen that most of the editors have edited carefully the original texts.

Some weakness can be found in the Old Series such as inconsistent languages usages and spellings on covers and title pages. (i.e. sometimes used Myanmar Thutethana Athin, sometimes Myanmarnainggan Thutethana Athin, Burmese Text Series / Publication Series). Some published books do not include publication date on recto or verso of the title pages. However some dates of publications can be seen at the end of the editor's introduction.

In the New Publication Series, cover design and colour, paper quality and arrangements (references and indexes are given) are different from the Old Series. At the beginning of the new series, the design of Kampalway (-bamboo-ribbed roll of cloth for wrapping up palm-leaf manuscripts) was used for book cover in different colours. Later, cover design's have been changed dealing with contents of the text. These are better than the Old Series.

In conclusion, these publications (Old and New) are reliable evidences for effective approval of the efforts aonducted by the Myanmar authors and Myanmar scholars for the improvement of Myanmar language and literature.

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