

ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF HTILOMINLO TEMPLE

PhD (DISSERTATION)

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ABSTRACT

The Htilominlo Temple is a colossal religious building constructed by King *Nātoṅmyā* (Nataungmya) in the early 13th century AD (AD 1211-1231). In addition to the title "Htilominlo", it is also called '*Trilokamaṅgalā*' meaning 'Blessing of the Three Worlds'. It stands magnificently on the side of the Bagan-Nyaung U car road. Architecturally, it is a two-storeyed temple with a voluminous solid core and entresol. It is built of both brick and stone. The brick-bond used in it is good and sandstone blocks are interspersed among the bricks. Through the study of the architecture and arts of this temple, the high architectural standard of ancient Myanmar architects and their beautifully carved stucco and stone works and paintings can be known. Besides, through the comparative study of Early, Middle and Late Bagan Period temples, evolution of Bagan architecture can be learnt. Moreover, numerous religious buildings found at Bagan exemplify the prosperity of the king and his subjects and their confidence (*Sadhā*) in the *Sāsana*, and merit-making. In this circumstance, the numerous religious building such as pagodas, stupas, temples, monasteries, can reflect the living standard of the people of Bagan and their economic, political and religious situations of that time.