

CHAPTER FOUR	25
The List of the Archaeological Findings discovered at the Ancient City of Wadee	
1. The Archaeological Findings from the First Excavations	
2. The Archaeological Findings from the Second Excavations	
<b>Conclusion</b>	35
<b>Maps</b>	37
<b>Figures</b>	41
<b>Plates</b>	74
<b>Bibliography</b>	107

CHAPTER ONE

5

The First Excavations at Wadee

1. Wadee Mound No. 1 (WD-1)
2. Wadee Mound No. 2 (WD-2)
3. Test Pit No. 1 (2008) (TP-1, 2008)

CHAPTER TWO

9

The Second Excavations at Wadee

1. Wadee Mound No. 3 (WD-3)
2. Wadee Mound No. 4 (WD-4)
3. Wadee Mound No. 5 (WD-5)
4. Excavations of the Test Pits at Wadee (2009)

CHAPTER THREE

15

Excavated Finds unearthed at the Ancient City of Wadee

1. Pottery
2. Beads
3. Objects of Sandstone
4. Metal Objects
5. Finger-marked bricks
6. Symbolical Coins

is a banked-up, long narrow lake to the north of Phayagyi Village. The northern end of the lake touches the western wall of Wadee. The palace mound which was traditionally called " Nandawkon " is the highest level inside the city.

The maximum temperature is 37.8°C in April, while the minimum temperature is 13.0°C in January at Wadee Region. There are 9.17 inches in maximum rainfall and 3.64 inches in minimum rainfall at the Ancient City of Wadee.<sup>3</sup>

According to an article written by U Yi Sein about " Pyu " outposts, the Ancient City of Wadee was one of the " Pyu " outposts during Thayekhittaya Period, 4th to 9th Centuries AD. In the History of Tang Dynasty (618 AD-907 AD), the location of what we think may be Wadee was mentioned. It was called Mi-Ni-Tao-Li.<sup>4</sup> Myanmar Chronicles did not mention about the Ancient City of Wadee although other Pyu cities like Beikthano, Halin, Maingmaw, and Thayekhittaya had some records. There were nine stone inscriptions collected from the vicinity of Wadee and kept in an inscribed house on the plinth of Shwemokehtaw Pagoda in Phayagyi Village (Plate-45). Six stone inscriptions in Bagan period, one in Pinya period, one in Inwa period and one in Colonial period were collected by the Department of Archaeology, Bagan Branch, Upper Myanmar.<sup>5</sup> Amongst them, a stone inscription written by a chief monk named U Kumara from the Ywa Oo Kyaung Monastery, Phayagyi Village during the Colonial period only mentioned about Wadee. The other stone inscriptions

did not mention about Wadee but some inscriptions mentioned Kyi kan Pahto (Kyi Kan Stupa) and kyi Kan Village which is located about 3.2 km to the east of Phayagyi Village. According to a stone inscription written in the Colonial period, translated by U Maung Maung Tin, it was mentioned that Phayagyi Myo was said to be the first Wadee Myo. After the destruction of Wadee Myo, the people from Wadee Myo were transferred to Phettaw Myo which is located to the northwest of Phayagyi Village. After the destruction of Phettaw Myo, the people from Phettaw Myo were transferred to Phayagyi Myo near Shwemokehtaw Pagoda built by Asoka. According to this stone inscription, it was known that there was an ancient city called Wadee around the vicinity of this region.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Ei Ei Swe, Daw, 2007  
<sup>4</sup> Chen Yi Sein, U, 1979  
<sup>5</sup> Myo Nyunt Aung, U, 2008

Introduction

Most of the shape of the Pyu cities may be classified into two types, quadrangular and circular type. Beikthano, and Halin are quadrangular types while Sriksheetra, Maingmaw, Wadee, and Thegon are circular types. Wadee is a rounded scar, with its longer axis in northeast-southwest direction. The northeast end is quite narrow while the southwest end is much more rounded and broader. It looks like an egg (Map-2).<sup>2</sup> There are Htan Zin Village and Nyaung Pin Sauk Village to the north of the city, Kyi kan Village, Daung Bo Village, and Na Ywe Taw Village to the northeast of city, Aung Pan kon village to the southwest of city and Hta Naung Pinle Village to the west of the city. Phayagyi Village which is located to the southwest of the city, is the nearest Village to the Ancient City of Wadee (Map-6). There

<sup>2</sup> Aung Myint, U, 1998 (Paper)

Myanmar scholars such as U Maung Maung Tin, Dr.Than Tun, U Win Maung (Tampawaddy), described the location and the extent of the city and the measurements of the breadth and thickness of bricks. The finger-marked bricks, black and white line-drawn beads, semi-precious stone beads, and zoomorphic beads such as elephants, dogs or guinea pigs were found by a preliminary exploration.<sup>8</sup>

Subsequently, the systematic excavation of this city was conducted by the Department of Archaeology, National Museum, and Library, the Ministry of Culture between September 26, 2008, and October 25, 2008 in which I participated as a team leader. The first excavation in 2008 exposed a gateway in the north wall (WD-1), part of the north city wall (TP-1, 2008) about 198 m on the west of the north gateway, and a religious building (WD-2) about 60 m to the east of the west city wall.<sup>9</sup> The second excavation of this city, in which I again participated as a team leader, was also conducted by the Department of Archaeology, National Museum, and Library, the Ministry of Culture between November 14, 2009 and December 20, 2009. The second excavation was made at the south gateway (WD-3), another near the elephant moat to the east of the palace mound (WD-4), a religious building near WD-2 (WD-5), and six test pits around the city wall (TP-1, 2009), (TP-2, 2009), (TP-3, 2009), (TP-4, 2009), (TP-5, 2009), and (TP-6, 2009) were sunk.<sup>10</sup>

With the guidance of the Ministry of Culture, to implement excavation at the Ancient City of Wadee, the following purposes were laid down to be carried out:

- To research the archaeological evidences of the development of this city.
- To research the excavated structures and finds unearthed from this Site and compare the finds to other contemporary sites in Myanmar, India, Yunnan, and Southeast Asian Countries.
- To reveal the dating of this city in light of archaeological and historical finds.
- To cherish and value of Myanmar cultural heritage properties found in this City.

This site was excavated with the grid system and the long trench system. Wadee region is located inside the Samon River Valley Region (Map-4). The excavated Bronze Age and Iron Age sites at the Samon River Valley are very close to the Ancient City of Wadee.

<sup>8</sup> Aung Myint, U, 1979  
<sup>9</sup> Myo Nyunt Aung, U, 2008  
<sup>10</sup> Myo Nyunt Aung, U, 2009

remain in a rather straight silted-up canal, about 15 miles long. Along this course, the river has left as shallows and lakes and, in some places, pebbles like potatoes tell of old river beds. Altogether, the Samon River is about 120 miles long.<sup>11</sup> The general topography of Myanmar is upland in the north sloping down towards the sea in the south. All Myanmar rivers such as Ayeyarwaddy, Chindwin, Mu, Sittaung, and Thanlwin flow approximately north-south. There are only two rivers flowing in the opposite direction in Myanmar. One is Myittha River, a tributary of the Chindwin River in the Sagaing Division and the other is the Samon River in the Mandalay Division. According to a Geological Survey, a million years ago there were only two rivers draining Myanmar on either side of the Middle Range. The western one was

Chindwin River rising in the northern uplands and emptying into an ancient Bay of Bengal whose coastline lay near present day Pyay. The eastern one was Ayeyarwaddy originating from the same northern uplands and emptying into an ancient Bay near present day Taungoo. So in the present day Samon and Sittaung Rivers occupy the old original bed of the Ayeyarwaddy. Following an eruption of the Mount Popa volcano, the land around Yamethin was lifted up. The lower part of the Ayeyarwaddy became the Sittaung River, which continues to flow south; its middle part became the present day Samon River whose course reversed, flowing to low ground to the north. Here it joins the Panlaung River and empties into the Ayeyarwaddy river near Sagaing.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Win Maung (Tampawaddy), U, 2002-2003  
<sup>12</sup> Nyi Nyl, Dr., 1967