

About This Book

From 17th January 2001 to 14th February 2001, I gave twenty lectures on Myanmar Buddhist Art and Architecture at the University Research Centre, Amara Hall, Yangon University estate and friends came to me and said that they wanted the lecture published. I have a shorter version of the lectures and my suggestion is to publish it first, because I wanted to prepare a much more fuller account of this subject and it would take some times to have it ready for publication. For the time being, I believe, my friends would be satisfied with this little work. Although short, Chapter One deals with the Buddhist literature that eventually reached Myanmar through Pyus and Mons. Chapter Two is on iconography and I tried to trace the change in type and style of the Buddha images from early Mon, Pyu, Myanmar of Bagan, Awa, Amarapura and Mandalay. Chapter Three is on paintings. The readers shall have to excuse me as I include in my lectures late Palaeolithic rockcut (20,000 years BP) at Badalin, which was in fact nothing near Buddhism. I treated, however, the Bagan paintings in detail so that from Badalin to Bagan the history of paintings in Myanmar would be complete. Chapter four deals with architecture with special reference to Bagan. Here again many of Myanmar cetiyas have their origin in India, as well as in S'riksetra. But no two stupas in Bagan look alike.