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Preface

Under the guidance of Senior General Than Shwe Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, the Department of Archeology, Ministry of Culture Published the present volume entitled "Inventory of Ancient Monuments in Bagan". The volume is a record of ancient monuments which lie in the archaeological zone of Bagan, with outline of history and architecture, photographs, ground plans, elevations, sectional drawings and conjectural sketches of their original designs.

In the archaeological zone of Bagan are found four sites of city and palace, which indicate that the Capital of Bagan had shifted four times. The first Capital named Paukkan was founded in A.D. 108 at Yone Hlut Kyun by King Thamudarit. The second Capital Thiri Pyitsaya was founded by the seventh in the dynasty King Thiligyaung in A.D. 344. In A.D. 516 King Thaik Taing the 12th in the line founded the third Capital Tampawaddy or Pwa Saw. Bagan or Arimaddana the fourth Capital was founded in A.D. 874, by King Pyinbya the 34th king in the line. Starting with the first king Thamudarit and ending with the last Saw Mun Hnit, there were 55 kings who ruled Bagan. As they were all devout Buddhists, they patronized and promoted Theravada Buddhism, building religious monuments of diverse size and designs. Buddha Sasana flourished. The traditional figure of the total number of ancient Bagan monuments, 4446, is composed like a rhymed triplet for memorisation. It runs:

Hle Win Yoe Than The sounds of cart axes
Ta Nyan Nyan Are indeed creaking noises
Bagan Phaya Baung That's the total Bagan edifices

For several years the Bagan monuments have been subjected to the ravages of time, onslaught of elements and human vandalism. They are in different stages of deterioration. Many have been reduced to utter ruin. The Inventory compiled in the reign of King Mo Hnyin Mintaya shows that over 4000 survived. By the year 1968 when the Department of Archaeology compiled the list of Bagan monuments it was found that the total figure had been reduced to 2230. If no timely measure is taken to arrest the deterioration, the old edifices will become mounds of ruin in the coming decades.

Hence in the time of the State Peace and Development Council with the advice of guru monks, preservation, restoration and renovation of ancient monuments in various degrees of decay are being carried out, at the expense of generous public donation. In the meanwhile there arose a special need to compile a record of the historical, architectural and engineering data of the monuments so as to enable the future restorer to maintain their original styles. Moreover, such a record can serve as a reference for researchers.

Therefore the present volume will remain as a valuable source material in the research field.

U Win Sein
Minister
Ministry of Culture

Foreword

Ministry of Culture formed a committee for the publication of **Inventory of Ancient Monuments in Bagan** chaired by His Excellency U Soe Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Culture. The committee undertook the responsibility of edition the text, selecting the photographs, and design and display of the book.

Ancient monuments in Bagan area have been systematically inventoried by the Department of Archaeology. Mounments Nos.1 to 150 are enlisted in the present book, volume 1. U Aung Kyaing the Director of Bagan Archaeology Office compiled the facts about the monuments. Photographs used in the book were provided by U Zaw Myint of Nagoya Color Photo and the drawings of ground plans, sections, elevations and conjectural drawings were contributed by U Mya Maung and U Khin Maung Aye of Bagan.

Ancient Monuments Nos.1 to 150 are located in and around Nyaung U Town. Many ancient monuments in Bagan area bear no title. However there are monuments with titles which were given by their donors at the time of their construction, and monuments with names given by the elderly people at a later date. In the present volume, monuments of the former type are mentioned with their original titles and inventory numbers wheres monuments of the latter type are mentioned with their inventory numbers only.

The Department of Archaeology express profound gratitude to U Aung Kyaing for the compilation of facts, to the committee members for their cooperation, to Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt for the translation of the text into English, to Major (Retired) Khin Maung Kyi and Daw Umma Thein for their assistance in creating computer design and display of the book. Lastly the Department is very grateful to U Kyi Nyunt of Pyi U Pe Offset for his keen interest and great effort in the publication of this book-volume 1.

Department of Archaeology