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PREFACE

In studying the Myanmar ancient texts and records, correct deciphering and interpretation is an essential and noble task of scholar historians who are making an effort for a scientific study of the ancient history of Myanmar. A dictionary containing not only the correct spelling of words or pronunciations but also containing historical terms in their correct meanings will be a wonderful asset to students of history and historical scholars as well as to international intellectuals.

A careful selection of all important historical terms such as Pali words, royal usages, local sayings, terminology from religious texts, historical literature, ancient chronicles and records of the past will bring out the past history in a scientific way if interpreted correctly. Mastering the native knowledge language and interpreting historical terminology correctly should be the basic necessary task and an important one for historians and scholars. But the one great drawback for Myanmar history is the lack of an appropriate dictionary or encyclopedia which gives information on words and terminology used in ancient times. I have realized this need and therefore have made an effort to compile a dictionary of ancient Myanmar historical terms to meet the needs of the academic world.

There exists a wealth of data and materials in the following dictionaries and works already compiled by Myanmar administrators and scholars:

1. U Maung Maung Tim, *Shwenan Thone Wohara Abhidhan (A Dictionary of Royal Usages)*, Yangon, Buddha Sasana Council Press, 1975,
2. Ashin Obhasabhivamsa, *Thuteithana Thayokpya Abhidhan (A Dictionary for Researchers)*, Yangon, Pinnya Nanda Press, 1955,
3. Zeya Thinkhaya, *Shwebummidan (Introduction to the Golden Court)*, Yangon, Hanthawaddy Press, 1963,
4. U Po Latt, *Myanmar Saga Aphwan Kyam (Elucidation on Myanmar Words)*, 3 Vols., Yangon, Pyinya Nanda Press, 1962, 1963 & 1964,
5. Dr. Yi Yi, *Thuteithana Abhidhan Mhatsu (Dictionary of the Notes of Historical Terms)*, Yangon, Burma Research Society, 1974,
6. U Hoke Sein, *Pali-Myanmar Dictionary*, Yangon, 1954,

7. U Tun Myint, *Pali-Thet Wohara Abhidhan (A Dictionary of Pali Loan Words)* Yangon, 1968,
8. U Thu Kha, *Thu Kha's Mhatsu (Notes Made by Thukha)*, Yangon, 9171.

But it is still necessary to collect and explain many historical terms and words mentioned in Myanmar historical literature.

Here, in this dictionary I try to collect nearly all the important terms and words and explain them in a brief and clear way. Illustrations for some of the terms and words are also provided for getting a better idea of them.

A key to the pronunciation of the words is also given to provide a correct notion of how they should be pronounced. I take the key from a system used by the Department of the Myanmar Language Commission. This system is primarily useful in giving approximate pronunciations for non-Myanmar users. As no two languages can exactly be the same in every respect, it is more preferable to use this system than the international phonetic system. I have also given references of the terms to indicate the original sources from which they were taken and to ensure the authenticity of their meaning. No page numbers are given for reference of terms taken from inscriptions and for terms provided by such scholars as U Maung Maung Tin (*Maung*), U Aung Thwin (*Aung*), U Nyunt Maung (*Nyunt*) and U Myint Than Ngwe (*Myint*). The list of abbreviations of references is given in the preliminary pages of the Dictionary.

In compiling this work, I am indebted to Professor U Tun Aung Chain who has encouraged me to compile this work and has extended his great help by editing thoroughly and untiringly and has given the most useful advice. I wish to record my appreciation to Professor Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt, Dr. Sai Aung Tun and Dr. Thaw Kaung for their reading of the draft and making a finer volume. I am also grateful to the late Professor Dr. Than Tun who was my teacher and was always delivering historical knowledge to me. The dedication of this work is to all the learned persons who have provided me all kinds of knowledge. But if there are some mistakes in this work they bear no responsibility and I am solely responsible for them.

Thein Hlaing