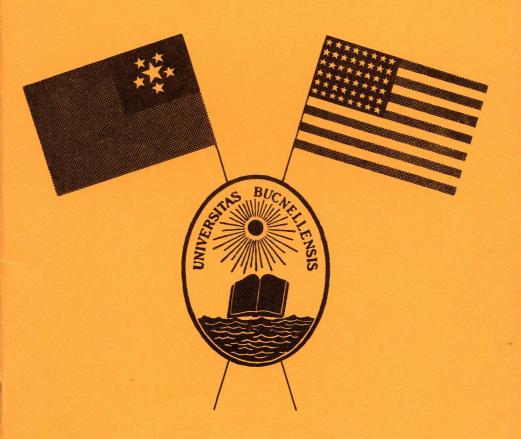
Souvenir Program

of the

TWELFTH BURMA-BUCKNELL WEEK-END



FEBRUARY 26, 27 and 28, 1960 LEWISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA



SPONSORED BY THE BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION with the support of

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY
AND

THE ASIA FOUNDATION OF SAN FRANCISCO with the cooperation of

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNION OF BURMA
THE MISSION OF BURMA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY, AND THE V.O.A.

PROGRAM

Friday, February 26

CLASS LECTURERS:
8:00 a.m. – Religion 102A (Strum) A102CH Dr. Wright Buddhist Challenge to Hebrew Christian Tradition
9:00 a.m. – Political Sci. 206 (Gwyn) A203CH Dr. Theodorson The Future of Democracy in Burma
10:00 a.m. – History 162 (Chu) A1CH Dr. Hla Bu Buddhism in Burma
1:30 p.m Sociology 203 (Rhea) B202CH Dr. Theodorson Burma's Problem of National Unity
2:00 p.m. – (Dr. Rothwell) A7CH Dr. Tun Wei International Economic Developments in Southeast Asia
2:30 p.m Political Sci. 208 (Gathings) A204CH Mr. Cross The United States Foreign Service
6:00 p.m. – 12 m.– Registration at Hunt Hall Rec. Room (earlier registration at Carnegie Building)
8:30 p.m. – AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION, Hunt Hall Living Room.
Saturday, February 27
8:00 a.m Ambassador's Breakfast - Women's College Dining Hall
CLASS LECTURERS:
9:00 a.m Philosophy 100B (Warren) B103CH Dr. Hla Bu
Schopenhauer and Buddhism
Religion 102B (Sturm) A203CH Dr. Wright
Buddhist Challenge to Hebrew Christian Tradition History 270 (Chu) A101CH
Answer to the Ugly American
10:00 a.m. – Religion 200 (Bond) B202CH Dr. Hla Bu Buddhism in the Burmese Culture
History 264 (Chu) A201CH Dr. Theodorson The Revival of Burmese Culture
10:30 a.m. — Seminars:
Structure and Dynamics of Burmese and American
Higher Education
A210CH – Miss Ruth Jones, chairman
Dean Frank C. Abbott, moderator
Dr. Leon Wright and Dr. Charles Gwyn
Community Welfare Services 424½ Market Street — Tom Mahood, chairman
Mr. Ralph Reish, Director, Public Assistant for
Union County

LUNCHEON HOSTS

Professor and Mrs. J. Ben Austin
Rev. and Mrs. Morse Bettison
Com. and Mrs. William G. Buck
Professor Jeanne M. Chew
and Miss Natalie Moffett
Dr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Chu
Captain and Mrs. Herbert F. Eckberg
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fremont
Professor and Mrs. James A. Gathings
Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Geiger
Professor and Mrs. John S. Gold
Dean and Mrs. John C. Hayward

Professor and Mrs. Charles J. Jones
Professor and Mrs. George M. Kunkel
Dean and Mrs. Charles A. Meyn
President and Mrs. Merle M. Odgers
Professor and Mrs. Walter H. Sauvain
Mr. and Mrs. Edgar H. Schnure
Professor and Mrs. Manning A. Smith
Professor and Mrs. Douglas E. Sturm
Professor and Mrs. W. Preston Warren
Professor and Mrs. W. Preston Warren
Professor and Mrs. Meldrum B. Winstead
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Zellers III
Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Ziegler

PROGRAM (cont.)

12:30 p.m. - Luncheons for guests and hosts

3:00 p.m. - Field Trips:

(1) United States Federal Penitentiary George Diefenbach, chairman

(2) Farms and rural areas Dorland Miller, chairman Seminar:

Local Government

A210CH — Mr. Paul Showalter, solicitor Nina Schneider, chairman

6:00 p.m. — BURMA-BUCKNELL BANQUET - Women's College Hall (reservations must be made in advance) President Merle M. Odgers, Toastmaster His Excellency, Ambassador U On Sein United States Senator Joseph S. Clark

9:00 p.m. — INTERNATIONAL PARTY - Swartz Hall Roland Htoon, Master of Ceremonies

Sunday, February 28

9:15 p.m. — Special session, Hunt Hall Rec. Room

Buddhism and Christianity in their emphasis on Meditation as a source of self-discovery and personal power

Sao Htun Hmat Win and Dr. Leon Wright

Dr. Douglas E. Sturm, moderator

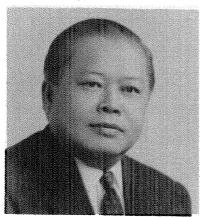
Nancy Dean, chairman

10:45 a.m. — Optional participation in the church services First Baptist Church - Dr. Hla Bu

2:00 p.m. - Departure of the guests

SPECIAL BURMESE GUESTS

*His Excellency, Ambassador U On Sein, came to Washington last July,



replacing Ambassador U Win. The Ambassodar has been to two previous week-ends, when representing the Union of Burma in the United Nations, Graduated in law at the University of Rangoon, his first public post was as Prosecutor in Myingam. 1946. He became a Member of Parliment in 1952. He has represented Burma at the U. N. during five sessions, and attended the Bandung Conference in 1955. He became Parlimentary Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in March 1955. and Ambassador to Pakistan in March 1956.

U Thant Gyi, Educational Attache of the Embassy. He now makes his last visit to Bucknell in his present post. He will be returning to Burma in a few days. No one else has been a more consistent supporter of the Burma-Bucknell program than has this former teacher and counselor of 300 Burmese students in the United States. We wish him well, and thank him for his gracious and loyal support.



Dr. Tun Wei, Chief of Statistics Division, International Monetary Fund. Graduate of Nombay University, studies at London School of Economics, M.A. and Ph.D. from Yale University. Author of "Burma's Currency and Credit". Formerly economist with the U.N. Also teaches at the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies.

Col. and Mrs. Maung Lwin, Military, Air, and Naval Attache.

U and Mrs. Tin Maung, Deputy Permanent Representative to the U.N.

*Dr. and Mrs. Tun Thin, World Bank for Reconstruction, Washington.

Sao Htun Hmat Win, Director of the Research Department in the International Institute for Advanced Buddhistis Studies in Rangoon. Chief Warden and Head of the Pali Department in Kyaukpyu Intermediate College; Lecturer and Head of Pali Department in Rangoon Adult University. A.B. and M.A. from Rangoon University; currently working on Ph.D. at Harvard University.



*Dr. and Mrs. Hia Bu, this year Henry W. Luce Visiting Lecturer in World Religions at the Union Theological Seminary in New York. Graduate of Judson College, M.A. from Calcutta University, and Ph.D. from University of London. Former Principal of Judson College; later chairman of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Rangoon. Chairman of the Burma Christian Council, and Executive Officer of the United States Educational Foundation in Burma.

SPECIAL AMERICAN GUESTS

The Hon. Joseph S. Clark, United States Senator, Pennsylvania. Gradu-



ated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard in 1923, Mr. Clark added to his laurels at the University of Pennsylvania Law School the editorship of "The Law Review". During the war he was Deputy Chief of Staff for the Eastern Air Command in the China-Burma-India theatre, with rank of colonel. For his military services, he was awarded the Bronze star, Legion of Merit, Military Order of the British Empire, and given Honorary Wings Chinese Air Force.

He has been a crusader for

better government, was elected in 1952 the first Democratic Mayor of Philadelphia in 67 years. He served in many posts in both municipal and state government, and was elected United States Senator in 1956. He and Senator Scott hold regular TV reports on government to their constituency. Among the more notable citations were the Bok Award in 1956, American Jewish Congress Humanitarian Award 1955; Afro-American Award 1952. He holds honorary degrees from Temple and Harvard, and serves on the Board of Overseers for the latter. He has also served as Director of the United Nations Council, and on the Board of Directors of the Public Charities Association for Pennsylvania. In the Senate he continues his advocacy for civil rights legislation, community redevelopment programs, federal aid to education, adequate military preparedness, and "a more enlightened foreign policy."

Dr. George A. Theodorson, Assistant Professor, Department of Socio-



on, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Theodorson has just returned from a year as special lecturer in Sociology at the University of Rangoon, under a Fulbright appointment. He holds his A.B., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University. He also taught there and at the University of Buffalo. His scholarly interests have been in the changing patterns of life due to industrialization, group dynamics, social psychology and organization, mass communications.

*Dr. Leon Wright, Professor of Religion, Howard University. Dr. Wright



was Cultural Attache of the United States Embassy in Rangoon during 1955-1957 and very influential in his personal relations with the University groups in Burma. He holds his A.B. and M.A. from Boston University, and his S.T.D. and Ph.D. from Harvard. His special interest has been in the area of religion and the occult. He has also had a special interest in Buddhism. In addition to his post at Howard, he is teaching in the Wesley Seminary of the American University.

- Mr. Charles T. Cross, Officer in Charge, Burma Affairs, U. S. Department of State. Born in Peiping, China, of missionary parents, Mr. Cross was educated at Carleton College and Yale (M.A. in Far Eastern Studies and International Relations). During the war he served with the Marines in the Pacific. His foreign service appointments have been taipei, Djakarta, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Alexandria, Egypt.
- Mr. Glen Bowersox, Program officer for the Asia Foundation. Graduate of Gettysburg, M.S. from Northeastern, and special studies at Purdue and Chicago. Has been instructor at Muhlenberg College, and director of the European Department (Fulbright) for the Institute of International Education.
- *Dr. E. Carroll Condict '08. Dr. Condict has recently retired from his work as a missionary to the hill tribes in Burma. He was a founding member of the Rangoon Rotary Club. Three sons have graduated from Bucknell, and two grandsons are now students.
- Mr. Raymond J. Ferguson, recently returned from a five year assignment in YMCA World Service as a fraternal secretary to the Burmese Associations. Here he helped in the establishment of a camping program for Burma and Thailand. Educated at Trinity, the University of Michigan and the Hartford Theological Seminary.
- Miss Dorothy Hess, student SE Asia Studies, Yale University, under appointment to Burma and Indonesis.
- *Mr. and Mrs. Lillard Hill, Director of the Burma Desk, Voice of America, U.S.I.A., Department of State. Educated in Oklahoma, Texas Christian University and Northwestern. Served for two years as World Wide English Editor for the V.O.A.
- Mr. Harry Hochberg, engineer with the V.O.A. for past five years.
- Miss Elizabeth Jerzick, Foreign Affairs Officer, Bureau of Far Eastern Affairs, Department of State. A graduate of the University of Illinois, with her M.A. from Columbia, Miss Jorzick has served with the United States Government in such a variety of assignments as to include Cultural Affairs Officer in Peiping, information Officer for SCAP in Tokyo, as China Outpost representative for the Office of War Information, and more recently as Second Secretary to the Embassy in Rome. She has also been with the International Educational Exchange Service, Department of State.
- Miss Benice Jones, with the World Wide English Service, with two years of overseas service.
- Miss Ruth Keyser, on furlough from post as Nursing Superintendent and Treasurer of the Moulmein Christian Hospital, Moulmein, Burma. A graduate of the Temple University Hospital School of Nursing, and later Supervisor at the Hospital until 1947 when she went to Burma. Her brother, a Bucknell graduate, had been drowned while serving in Burma.
- *Miss Ruth Lewis, Far Eastern Policy Chief for the Voice. Miss Lewis began her work as a newspaper woman in Texas, and has for ten years been with the U.S.I.A. She has recently returned from Burma and Indonesia where she headed the Information services. She has been at a number of previous week-ends.
- Miss Lucille Napear, program Staff Assistant of the Asia Foundation. Graduate in Music at Oberlin, Miss Napear has been an editorial assistant for Colliers, and has traveled widely in Asia.

- Mr. and Mrs. George Sayles, Chief, Far Eastern Press Branch, USIS, US Department of State. Has been with State since 1951, serving in Bankok and Beirut with the Press and Radio. Formerly a newspaper man
- Miss Mary Thompson, Director of Program, Committee on Friendly Relations, Miss Thompson is responsible for services to overseas students who are in this country. She holds her M.A. from Columbia. She was formerly on the International House staff in New York City, and earlier Director of the International Student Center, Fisk University.

GUESTS FROM BURMA

- Lt. Commander Mya Aung, Burma Navy. Student at Graduate School, Georgetown University, in the field of international relations. Rangoon University, Honors in History, Bachelor of Laws Degree. Lecturer in History and Political Science at the Defense Services Academy, Maymyo, Burma.
- Ye-Baw Mya Aung, Military Personnel stationed at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, in Engineer School.
- U Thein Han, Chancellor, Permanent Mission of Burma to the United Nations.
- Maung Sai Sam Hla, Receptionist, Office of the Military Naval, and Air Attache, Embassy of the Union of Burma; student in political science, American University.
- U Aung Khin, Chacellor, Embassy of the Union of Burma.
- Mrs. Maung Lwin, Wife, Military, Naval, and Air Attache, Embassy of the Union of Burma.
- U Kyi Maung, Chancellor, Permanent Mission of Burma to the United Nations.
- Capt. Ohn Maung, Assistant Military Attache, Embassy of the Union of Burma.
- U Khin Aung Nyunt, third Secretary of the Embassy, and chief of the chancellery.
- Sgt. Mya Oo, Military Attache's Office, Embassy of the Union of Burma.
- Mr. Philip Alexander Peters, IMF trainee, graduate student in economics, George Washington University. Rangoon University, B.A. in Management and Administration. Economist, Price Section and later Industries and Power Section; in Central Statistical and Economics Department; Economist, Ministry of Finance and Revenue; Assistant Director, Budget Division, Ministry of Finance and Revenue.
- Mrs. Aung Thant, wife U Aung Thant, Secretary of Permanent Mission of Burma to the United Nations and Vice Consul of Consulate General.
- U and Mrs. Tin Tun, Third Secretary, Embassy of the Union of Burma.
- Mr. Maurice Joseph Williams, Chancellor, Educational Attache's Office, Embassy of the Union of Burma. University of Adult Education, Rangoon.

STUDENTS

BOSTON - NEW ENGLAND AREA

- Mr. Jonathan Benson, Student at Tufts College, Medford, Massachusetts.
- Miss Louisa C. Benson, Premedical Student at Tufts College, Medford, Massachusetts. Took Science in Intermediate A in Burma.
- *Mr. Narinder Singh Saluja, Student in business administration, M.I.T. I. Sc. at Rangoon University.
- Miss Doris Saw-Han, Student in liberal arts at University of New Hampshire, Durham.

WESTERN NEW YORK AREA

- Miss Harriet Hla Bu, Student in liberal arts, Keuka College, Keuka Park. Rangoon University work in science: Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry.
- *Mr. Bimal Prasad Dey, Graduate student in air-photo interpretation Cornell University. University of Rangoon, B.Sc. with honors. Assistant Lecturer in Geology, University of Rangoon.
- Miss Marcia Beatrice Hall, Student at Keuka College, Keuka Park.
- *U Ba Lay, Graduate student in economics, Syracuse University. B. A. in Economics, B.L. Economist.
 - Maung un Lwin, Graduate student in Business Administration, Syracuse University. University of Rangoon, B. Com. Tutor, University of Rangoon.
- Maung Sein Maung, Graduate student working for MPA in Public Administration at Syracuse University. University of Rangoon, B.A., with Honours in Public Administration.
- *Ko San Myint, Student in mechanical engineering, Syracuse University. Undergraduate work in mechanical engineering at Rangoon University.
- U Than Myint, Graduate student in forestry, College of Forestry, Syracuse University. Rangoon University, B.Sc. in Forestry. Forest officer in Burma Forest Department.
- *Maung Win Myint, Student in electrical engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. I. Ss., University of Rangoon.
- Maung Win Naing, Graduate student in forestry, College of Forestry, Syracuse University. Rangoon University, B.S. Demonstrator, Department of Chemistry, Rangoon University.
- *Maung Tin Nyunt, Graduate student in mathematics, Syracuse University. Mandalay University, B.S. in Mathematics. Instructor,, Mathematics Department, Mandalay University.
 - Maung Thein Tun, Graduate student in agriculture education, Cornell University. University of Florida, Gainsville, BSA in education. Headmaster, State Agriculture High School, Kyankse District, Burma.
- Maung Taw U, Graduate student in analytical chemistry, Syracuse University. University of Mandalay, B.S. Demonstrator in Chemistry, University of Mandalay.

NEW YORK CITY AREA

U Toe Aung, Graduate student in library science, Columbia University. Rangoon University, B.A. in political science, philosophy, and modern history. Postal Department and The Union Bank of Burma; Assistant Director, Public Administration, Prime Minister's Office.

- Miss Joan Hla Bu, daughter of Dr. Hla Bu. Ninth grade Brearley School, New York City.
- U Thain Win, B.Sc. degree with honors in Chemistry, Rangoon Research engineer in Burma Applied Research Institute.
- U Ohn Ghine, B.S. in Engineering from University of Rangoon. Assistant engineer with National Housing Board.
- Maung Joo Ham Liu, Student in chemical engineering, Columbia University. University of Rangoon, second year student, B.Sc. in engineering.
- Dr. Thra Chit Maung, Program for Advanced Religious Studies, Union Theological Seminary. Judson College, B.A., and Rangoon University, B.L. Principal, Pegu Karen High School, Ahlone, Rangoon; President. Karen Theological Seminary, Burma Divinity School.
- Ma Khin Set Yee, Graduate student in Southeast Asia Studies Program, Yale University. Rangoon University, Masters in Philosophy. Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, Rangoon University.
- *Miss Betty in Maung, Student in political science, Hunter College.
 *Ma Aye Aye Thant, Student at Hunter College. Daughter of Am-
 - Maung Tin Maung Thant, Son of Ambassador U Thant.

bassador U Thant.

U Kyaw Yin, Student working for the Ph.D. degree in public administration and sociology, New York University. Rangoon University, B.A. and LL.B.; Columbia, M.S. in Community Organization. District Officer for the Department of Civil Supplies, Social Welfare and Public Relations in Naga Hills; District Officer for Departments of Civil Supplies and Social Welfare in Maubin District.

PHILADELPHIA AREA

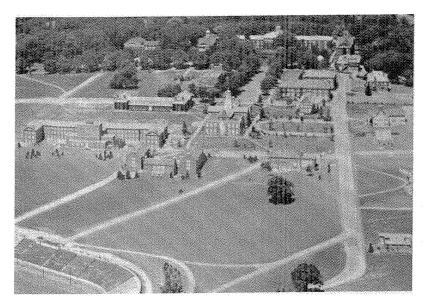
- *Mr. Robert H. G. Chan, Student in electronics, University of Pennsylvania. Rangoon University, work in electrical engineering toward B.S. degree.
- Mr. Edward Chu, Medical student, University of Pennsylvania.
- *Naw Edina Gyaw, Graduate student in religious education, Crozer Theological Seminary. Rangoon University; Burma Divinity School, RTh
- U Kanbawza Khin Hlaing, M.D., School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. Rangoon University Medical College, M.B. and B.S. in Medicine. Civil Assistant Surgeon in government hospital at Laehis.
- *Dr. Maung Htwe, M.D., Candidate for M.S. in Orthopedic Surgery, Medical School, University of Pennsylvania. Rangoon University, Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. House Surgeon at Rangoon General Hospital, Civil Assistant Surgeon in Myaungmya, Civil Assistant Surgeon at Rangoon General Hospital, Orthopedic Resident at Children's Seashore House, Atlantic City; Children's Hospital in Philadelphia, Graduate Hospital University of Pennsylvania.
- U Saw Nyun, M.D., Graduate Hospital, University of Pennsylvania.
- Dr. Kanak Prashun Sircar, M.D., Graduate student in cardiology, School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Rangoon University, M.B. and B.S. Cardiologist to Ramakrishna Mission Hospital, medical practice as consulting physician to Ideal Nursing Home, private practice
- *Mr. Gabriel Sharon, a student at Temple University, evangelist to East Pakistan.

WASHINGTON AREA

- Maung Tun Aung, Graduate student in agricultural engineering, University of Maryland. Agricultural Institute, Pyinmana, agriculture. Junior Executive Officer at Agricultural and Rural Development Corporation.
- U Kyaw Aye, Voice of America, USIA, Washington, D. C.
- *Maung Koko Gyi, Graduate student in electrical engineering, George Washington University. Mandalay University, B.A. Teacher.
 - Ma Oma Maw, under training at the Smithsonian Institute. Rangoon University, B.S. in Biology. Assistant Curator, National Museum, Rangoon.
- Ma Khin Mya, Doctoral student in education at University of Maryland. Rangoon University, B.A., and University of Maryland, M. Ed. Lecturer in Education, Faculty of Education at University of Rangoon.
- Daw Mya Mya, U. S. Office of Education. Lecturer, T.T.C., Meiktila, Burma.
- *Ma Myo Myint, Graduate student, University of Maryland. Rangoon University, Education, B.A. Senior assistant teacher in State High School at Rangoon.
- Miss Florence Hershell Pu, Student at Howard University Music School. Rangoon University, Bachelor of Commerce in Management.
- Maung Dev Datt Sarin, Graduate student in geology, Johns Hopkins University. M.Sc. from University of India.
- Terence On Sein, son of the Ambassador.
- Ma Ma Than, U. S. Office of Education. Rangoon University, B.A. and B. Ed. Teacher.
- Daw Khin Khin Aung Thein and daughter (eleven). Voice of America, USIA, Washington, D. C.
- *Daw Tin Tin, Graduate student in guidance and counseling, George Washington University, and Voice of America, USIA, Washington, D. C. Rangoon University, B.A. and M.A. Bucknell '59. Head Mistress of American Baptist Middle School, Pegu; Senior teacher of high school, United Christian High School, Rangoon.
- *U Ye Tut, Voice of America, USIA, Washington, D. C.

OTHER AREAS

- *Mr. Obed Brang-Seng Htingnan, Student in biology, Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania.
- *Mr. Roland Chan Htoon (Maung Ye Htut), Student in political science and history, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Son of Justice U Chan Htoon.
- *Maung Kyaw Khin, Student in mechanical engineering, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.
 - Maung Khin Maung Kyi, Graduate student in chemistry, The Pernsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania. Rangoon University, B.S. in Chemistry. Demonstrator in chemistry at the University of Mandalay.
- *Maung Thein Lwin, Student in electrical engineering, Lehigh University. Attended Rangoon University.
- *Maung Myo Myint, Student in chemical engineering, Lafayette College. Work in chemical engineering at Rangoon University.
- Than Myint, Armour Alliance Industries, Alliance, Ohio.
- * Indicates persons who have attended previous week-ends.

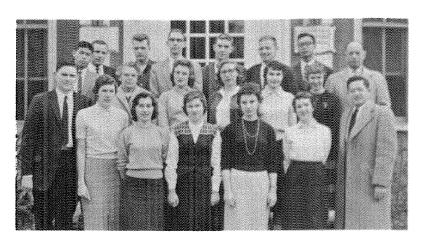


HEAD HOSTS

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Gail Hoffmann Jon Hutchinson Barbel Illies Ron Jensh Betty Anne Johnson Hamad Juraifani Fred Kaiser George Kenyon Betty Kordes Marjory Kuhn Carol Kurtz Luis Lara Eun Y Lim Tom Mahood Erik Mason Mary Ann McFate Elizabeth McLeister Kathy McVicker Marie Monsen Carolyn Mussina Marcia Myers Jan Niddrie Johanne Nielsen Giny Notari Bill Ohme Tim Parsons Susan Peltz David Paton Joan Piersol Jan Powers

Linda Pullen Isabelle Ritzinthaler Joyce Rodger Margaret Root Valerie Rudin Odile Saunier Carolyn Schaaf Floyd Schroppe Sue Seibert Carol Shute S. P. Sinha Bert Sippola David Slifer Joan Sollfrey Maria Suarez Paul Sullivan Nancy Jane Taylor Thelma Titus Pat Torgerson Gail Trullinger Tom Van Alen Gail Vanderbeek Sue Van Pelt Anne Wagner Barbara Weaver Marti Weaver Penny West Nancy White Ann Wiley Mary Jane Williams Barbara Wolford



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Kyaw Khin
Bruce Carruthers Housing
Joan Marlene Fetter Ambassador's Reception
Dorothy Fay Carrington Ambassador's Breakfast
Ruth Vickroy Jones
William Thomas Mahood, Jr.
Nina Irene Schneider Panels
Miss Natalie Moffett
Janet Mae Powers Saturday Luncheons
Bertram C. Sippola Afternoon Tours
John Robert Horter
Judith Louise Carter Banquet
Sandra Lee Rath
Roland Htoon
Alan McQueen Henderson International Party
Nancy Ross Dean Sunday Morning Panel

Introducing the Union of Burma

Between the darkening green of the forest-clad slopes of mighty mountain ranges and the crystal clear blue of the shimmering seas is the country of the Union of Burma, fully self-governing sovereign state and a member of the United Nations. She is situated between the two large countries, China and India, thus became a meeting place of two of the world's great civilizations, both of which she inherited and fused together, developing a culture of her own, which is neither that of India nor of China, exclusively, but a blending of both, interspersed with Burmese native traits and characteristics. Burma's area is 267,789 square miles, a little larger than the State of Texas. Her population is well over twenty million. Her climate is tropical, with monsoons in July and August; cool in January and February. Her three great rivers, the Irrawaddy (navigable for 1000 miles), the Sittang, and the Salween provide navigation, irrigation, and fertile plains.

Burma is inhabited by many indigenous races of Mongoloid stock who are the descendants of the migrants who in remote times came from Tibet and the great central Asian Plateau toward the valley of the Irrawaddy. The cultures of practically all the peoples of Burma can be divided into two groups on the basis of generalized culture type. One, that of the mountain peoples, largely retains the culture which can be reconstructed as the original neolithic, food-raising, culture of much of Southeast Asia. This culture type shows some borrowings from India but is essentially of quite a different tradition from that of Southwestern Asia from which the West stems. Upon this older gardening foundation was erected the second major culture type, that of contemporary plains Buddhist peoples of Burma. In this civilization Indian and, to a lesser degree, Chinese borrowings have been heavily drawn upon without, however, completely obliterating the common Southeast Asian inheritance. To the mountain culture type belong the cultures of the Chins, Nagas, Kachins, and some Karens. The plains peoples are the Mons, Burmans, Shans, Palaungs, Kayas, and some Karens. Among some fifty-odd indigenous races, Burmans comprise about 60 per cent. Eight major languages are spoken, out of which 70 per cent of the total population speak Tibito-Burman, the official language of the Union.

The lack of communication owing to the difficult nature of the terrain had the effect of isolating the various indigenous races, bringing in its train the enhancement of regional development on individual lines, but these were on social and economic divisions rather than racial divisions. However, the presence of common foe at the gates of Burma has always seen the welding together of these races. Burma as a unified kingdom first appears in history in the 9th century A.D. In 1287 the Mongol conquerer Kublai Khan destroyed the Kingdom of Pagan established by King Anoratha (1044-1077 A.D.) in Central Burma. The last Burmese Dynasty was founded by King Alanugpaya in 1752 A.D. During the next fifty years that followed, the Burmese repelled a number of Chinese incursions, invaded Siam, annexed Arakan, and by 1821 had overrun the valley of the Bhramaputra. And so, there came about in 1824 the first military conflict between His Majesty the King of Burma and the East India Company. And total annexation of Burma resulted after the three Anglo-Burmese Wars — the War of 1824 ending with the Annexation of Arakan and Tenasserin by the British, the War of 1852 with the occupation by the British of the province of Pegu, including Rangoon, and the War of 1885 with the deportation of King Thibaw to India, where he lived till 1916. The idea of being dominated and surpassed is repulsive to Burmese as to all dominated nations, and



In honor of the tenth anniversary of the Week-End, President and Mrs. U Win Maung of Burma presented to the University in 1958 this Bowl which is kept in a case in the foyer of the Bertrand Library. It is awarded annually to the group or person who is considered to have made outstanding contributions to intercultural and international understanding. Awards have been made to the Phi Lambda Theta Fraternity, and to Dr. Cyrus H. Karraker.

from time to time attempts were made to expel the invaders until the British capitulated in 1948.

On January 4, 1948, Burma became a Republic, outside the British Commonwealth. A modern constitution, drawn under the leadership of General Aung San and U Nu, recognizes Buddhism, guarantees private property but forbids monopolies, and provides for nationalization of certain enterprises. The Union Parliament, elected for a four-year term, consists of the Chamber of Deputies (comprising about 250 members) and a Chamber of Nationalities (about 125 members). The President of the Union is elected by the Parliament for a five-year term and the Prime Minister is appointed by the Chamber of Deputies for a four-year terms. The president of the Union is U win Maung, elected in 1957 and the Prime Minister is General Ne Win, appointed in October, 1958.

In the recent national elections, U Nu's party won on overwhelming victory, and he will return to the Premiership in April.

Despite the fact that in 1948 the country had suddenly to accept the responsibility for governing a country just released from a destructive war, its youthful leaders accepted the challenge. Its first Cabinet, whose Prime Minister was General Aung San, was assassinated by extremists. U Nu then became the Premier until 1958. Under his leadership the government had made great progress in putting down insurrections caused by the Communists and other groups since 1949, unifying the country, and planning a course of neutrality and independence without outside aid. The Union of Burma today is not only an important member of the United Nations Organizations, but is also a member of the Trusteeship Council.

Burma has earned the rightful reputation of being the "land of pagodas," for throughout the length and breadth of the country, the dominant feature of any landscape is a pagoda, towering over the crest of a hill, or nestling in a valley beside the brink of a river. About 90 per cent of the Burmese are Buddhists and are devoted to their religion. To them, to be a Burmese means to be a Buddhist, altho the constitution guarantees religious freedom.

Burmese are the best-fed people in Asia; famine and hunger are rare. With a rice area of 15,000 square miles, Burma exports rice. She has abundant supplies of teakwood and lumber; her principal metals include silver, lead, zinc, tin, iron, and gold; her principal agricultural products besides rice are cotton, wheat, and tobacco; rubies, sapphires, jade, moonstones, and opals found in Northern Burma are unsurpassed in quantity and quality. Many resources have not been developed to their fullest capacities, such as coal, oil, and electric power, whose possibilities are limitless. The government initiated the eight-year economic development plan for 1953-1960 which was to cost over two billion

dollars and is expected to double the national output at the end of the current year. Large expeditures are being made for agriculture, water resources, mining, power, transportation, and communication.

Burma, with the literacy figure in 1956 of 72 per cent for men, 36.8 per cent for women, and averaging 60.5 per cent for the whole country, is justifiably proud of her education. The reason for this high standard of literacy is to be found in her splendid monastery system of education. There is a Buddhist monastery in every village of importance, and all the Burmese boys attend these monastic schools. In the monasteries are inculcated not only the three R's but also Pali and Burmese literary expression as well as the deeper significance of life and their relation to Buddhism. The standard of education in the initial stages of a pupil's career may not be high, when judged by modern world standards, but it is useful and serves the need of the Burman for all practical purposes. The Western system of education as introduced by the British was wholly against Burmese traditions, but was accepted by the sake of securing a position in a British firm or a post and a pension under the British administration of those days. In fact, the Burmese students' revolt in 1920 against that system of education stimulated the Burmese nationalist movement which ultimately won Burma her freedom.

Primary and secondary education for children six to eleven years and eleven to seventeen years, respectively, is provided free in State Schools found all over the country. In a few urban areas, however, there are private schools run by private bodies and in which tuition fees are charged. Facilities for learning the three R's are still provided at the Buddhist monasteries which exist in almost every village. At the end of the secondary level a student may take the School-leaving Certificate Examination or the Matriculation Examination to enable him to continue his studies either in the technical schools or at the universities.

The University of Rangoon, before the war, was of the "federal" type with the University College, Judson College, Medical College, Agriculture College, Intermediate College, and Teachers Training College as constituent colleges. At Mandalay there was also an Intermediate College, and Agriculture College, and a Teachers Training College. After the war the University became "unitary." All the constituent colleges were abolished and instead "faculties" were instituted. There are now the following faculties: Art, Science, Engineering, Law, Education, Agriculture, and Medicine. In addition to the two universities and various other technical schools, Mass Education Centers are also found in all major cities, undertaking the program of free education. The adult universities also provide facilities for those who wish to further their education.

Like any young nation, Burma also has to contend with some very serious problems. Recovery from the war devastation is not altogether complete and will take many more years. There are continuing pressures for her outside assistance. Neutrality has pitfalls as does alignment with power groups; Burma seeks to be a part of the third force in international affairs, and her success so far has been considered a miracle in modern history. Her internal tranquility is increasing but not altogether complete. It will take patience and understanding to maintain freedom and develop the far-reaching plans on the boards. While maintaining her neutrality, the Union of Burma hopes to achieve her economic aims with continuing internal security and national solidarity.