## ANALYTICAL STUDY ON THE OWAY MAGAZINE

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## Abstract

Nowadays the old Myanmar Magazines are very rare but those resemble Myanmar social life and custom including the situation of politics and social affairs of colonial period as well as of Independence period. This research attempts to study and focus on the Oway Magazine, a famous old Myanmar Magazine published from 1931 to 1961. It was fostered as the growth of patriotism and as leader of students' strength. This paper reveals special appearance, background history, editors and editorials of the Oway Magazine, and different kinds of literary works appeared in this Magazine. Literature survey method is applied in this research. The emphasis is put to describe the role of the Oway Magazine in Myanmar literature, to know writings of authors and how to affect its influence upon national movement, and to express it was important for nation and nationalities. So, it is useful for scholars and researchers who doing researches in several topics.

## **Introductio**n

The origin of Magazine in Myanmar came from the words, "Maggazaein (r\*¾Zdef)" and "Magazine" which issues monthly or quarterly or a normally comprising of fictions, non-fictions, articles, poems and cartoons. The first Myanmar Magazine is known as "Myanmar Maggazaein (jrefrmhr\*¾Zdef)" which was published in February 1905.<sup>1</sup>

The earliest Magazines in Myanmar were: the Kawi Tagun (uOdwHcGef), the Kawi Myetmhan (uOdrsufrSef), The Myanma Alin (jrefrmhtvif;), the Thuriya (ol&d,), the Kyeebwaye (MuD; yGm; a&;) the Toe Tat Ye (wdk; wufa&;) were

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Maung Hsu Shin and others. Cā nay] ja¤]" hūsa¤¤] (pme, fZif; [lonf) (Yangon: SarpayLawka, 1974). 42-45.

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published.<sup>2</sup> Actually there were rare history of each Magazine in Myanmar. Out of those Magazines in pre-war period, the Oway Magazine was the one. There was reflected the University education, students' efforts and their movements. This paper is an observation on a pre-war Magazine, namely "Oway Magazine".

#### Scope of the Study

The research attempts to study on the Oway Magazine published from 1931 to 1961. The total numbers of Magazines are 19 issues. In this paper, the Oway Magazine, Vol. III, No. 1 (1933-34) was omitted because of it was not found everywhere. The paper is presented 18 issues of the Oway Magazine.

## Method of the Study

The study is primarily based on the subject analysis which is a method for various aspects of the Magazine. Literature survey method is applied in the research. Required data were collected from the Universities' Central Library and the University of Yangon Library.

## **Oway Magazine (1931-1961)**

#### **Establishment of the Oway Magazine**

Yangon University Students' Union (&efukefwuúúúodkvf ausmif;om; or\*¾) was founded in 1930. The association of Yangon University Students' Union started to publish Union Magazine (or\*¾r\*¾Zif;) in the year 1931-1932. The very first editor for Union Magazine, Volume-1, No.1 was U Tun Tin, and it had been published once a year. During that time, there were two types of magazines in Yangon University: magazines published by Organ of State Power and magazines published by University Students' Union. Editor for college

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> U Tin Win.Cā nay] ja¤]"samuiï]"cā tam]myā]" dutiyatvai (pme,fZif;ordkif;pmwrf;rsm; 'kwd,wJG) (Yangon: Sarpay Beikman, 1978). 501-508.

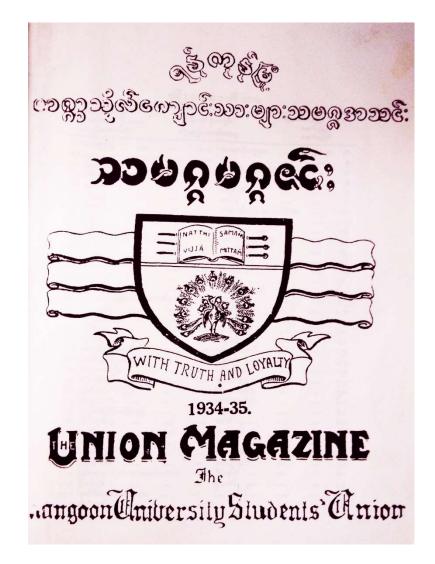
magazine was chosen and assigned by the headmaster although editor for **Union Magazine** ( $or^{*3}4r^{*3}4Zif$ ;) was employed by the students.<sup>3</sup>

Until 1934-1935, the magazines had been published by the name of University Union Magazine (wuúúúodkvfor\*¾r\*¾Zif;) every year. During the period of 1936, Ko Aung San (Executive Editor) and Ko Nyo Mya (U Thein Tin, secretary) changed the name of the magazine "Yangon University Students' Union Magazine" into "Oway Magazine". In respect of the article called "Hell Hound at Large" (i&JacG; aqmif;yg;) which was included in Oway magazine published in February, 1936, Executive Editor Ko Aung San was expelled from school for two years. At the same time, U Nu was also expelled from school for his political speech. The students went on a demonstration from 25th February to 10th May in 1936 as they were not satisfied with that matter. However, it made the Oway Magazine a great success. The Oway Magazines published by University Students' Union had been issued eight in number from 1931 to 1941 and eleven in number from 1947 to 1961.<sup>4</sup>

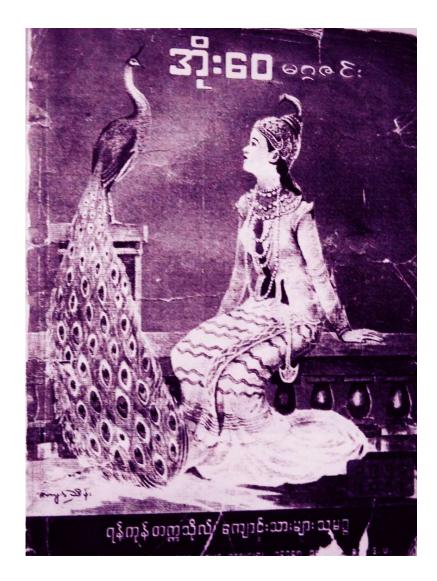
The Oway Magazine supported anti-imperialist and struggle of independence. During the time of British Government, it was struggling along for independence and it was important to propagate the Students' Union's efforts through magazine. And then, it exhorted people and students when nationalism rose to apex before independence.



Building of Yangon University Student's Union (1959-1960)



Cover of The Union Magazine



Cover of The Oway Magazine



Cover of The Oway Magazine

## **Oway Magazine (1931-1961)**

The first publication Vol. I, No. 1 had been published in 1930-1931. There were eight publications from beginning to 1941. The logo of the Association of Yangon University Students' Union is the fighting peacock and it can also be seen that the picture of peacock is used as a logo for the Union Magazine and the Oway Magazine. It can be found that the picture of a peacock is used on Magazine cover. In addition, the size of the Magazine was not the same. In the early period paper was of  $6" \times 7"$  and  $7" \times 9"$  in size with about 100 pages. Cover was different colour-paper. There were eight publications from 1931 to 1941. Although English section was not described from first to sixth publications, the last two was mentioned in the Magazine. Oway Magazine articles and poetry from Vol. I to Vol. XIII (1931-1941) mentioned in support of anti-British activities and struggle of freedom forces.

During the time of Japanese was retreat and the British victory, the old number of volumes was not continued. Only after six year, independence period, its publications reappeared Vol. 9, No. 1 in 1948. The outstanding characteristic was separated from the pre war publications. The post-war issues was of  $7\frac{1}{2}$ " ×  $9\frac{1}{2}$ " in size with over 150 pages. The cover was in colour and inside papers were white paper with black-ink printing. Printed words were of Gread Primer with a few 16 point words and the price of book was one kyat for each issue.

The magazine had been published yearly and it was printed in University Students' Union Press. Sometimes the Oway Magazine had special issues. Those issues were University Strike Special Issue, First Volume (1936) and University Strike Special Issue, Second Volume (1938). It also emerged as leader in student party which was published in Myanmar but some issues were inserted in English section. The role of Myanmar was firstly described and English was described later in the Magazine. It can be seen that page numbers for Myanmar and English sections were also set differently.

Year	Volume	Number
1931-32	Vol. I	No. 1
1932-33	Vol. II	No. 1
1933-34	Vol. III	No. 1
1934-35	Vol. IV	No. 1
1935-36	Vol. V	No. 1
1936	Vol. VI	No. 1
1938	Vol. VII	No. 1
1941	Vol. XIII	No. 1
1948	Vol. IX	No. 1
1949	Vol. IX	No. 2
1949-50	Vol. IX	No. 3
1951	Vol. IX	No. 4
1952	Vol. IX	No. 5
1953	Vol. I	No. 6
1954-55	Vol. I	No. 7
1956-57	Vol. I	No. 8
1957-58	Vol. I	No. 9
1959-60	Vol. I	No. 10
1960-61	Vol. II	No. 1
Total	19 Publications	

Table 1: Year – Wise Distribution of Items

Source: Union Magazine and Oway Magazine, Universities' Central Library

## **Editors and Editorials of the Oway Magazine**

Any influential Magazine needs to comment on current internal and external politics, social and economy. Actually executive editor is a responsible person for a Magazine. The Oway Magazine editor advised on how to solve the insurgency problem. While it consoled the insurgents to have right thought, it advised the government how to handle the political problems. The editorial had great influence on the students. Editorials might provide though, stood on the side of the public and students, and energized to University students. So, the editor continuously urged to change over the university education, student and politic, the university administrative. It also gave political passage to politicians educating the students. Items that should be included in the Magazines were stated University Students' Union, university education, student and politics, freedom of university education, and honour of ones. Its editorial exposed their view with the title of "our view", "our belief" and "our aim".

Year	<b>Executive Editor</b>	Editor in Myanmar	Editor in English
1931-32	Maung Tun Tin	Maung Kyaw Din	-
1932-33	Maung Thet Tin	-	-
1933-34	-	-	-
1934-35	Maung Nan Nwe	Maung Than Be	-
1935-36	Ko Aung San	-	-
1936	Ko Nyo Mya	-	-
1938	Ko Nyo Mya	Maung Hla Myint	Maung Su Myine
1941	Maung Mya Sein	Maung Htay Myine	Maung Tin Aung
1948	Ko Maung Maung	-	-
1949	Ko Maung Maung Than	Ko Tin Ohm	Ko Win Pe
1949-50	Ko Ko Gyi	Ko Maung Maung	Ko Win Pe
		Khin	
1951	Maung Tin Tun	Maung Maung Khin	Maung Set Maung
1952	M. KhaingMye Po Chein	Maung Maung Lin	Ko Tin Latt
1953	Ko Ba Kaung	-	-
1954-55	Khin Maung Ohm	-	-
1956-57	Ko Aung Than	-	-
1957-58	Ko Nyan Yin	-	-
1959-60	Ko Aung Thein Naing	-	-
1960-61	Ko Hla Shwe	-	-
Total	18 	8	6

 Table 2: List of Editors (Year-Wise)

Source: Union Magazine and Oway Magazine, Universities' Central Library



## Bogyoke Aung Sun

# (President of The University Students' Union and Executive Editor of The Oway Magazine)

In studying the above table, it can be observed that some of the editors; Ko Aung San (Bogyoke Aung San), KoNyo Mya (Author, Nyo Mya), Maung Htay Myine (Author, Dagon Tar Yar), and Ko Win Pe (Author, Win Pe) were well-known in politic and literature.

## **Covers of the Oway Magazine**

Cover-artists illustrated editors' thought and article-writers' views. Artist reporter exposed his view and outlook clearly on Magazine cover. It can be found that peacock is used on the Magazine cover. Artists of the Oway Magazine cover now because famous artists: U Ba Yin Galay, Kyaw Thein, Pe Thein and Ba Gyan.

#### Advertisement of the Oway Magazine

Having advertisements in the Magazines meant a sort of financial aid. Oway Magazine, on the other hand, stayed away from organ of power politics and holds its own Magazine stand by the students' Union. So, it stood without depending on advertisements.

Most of the advertisements in the Oway Magazine were: book distribution, paraphernalia of family life, cosmetic, tailors, sports shop, textile, and manufacturing.

## Cartoon and Photograph of the Oway Magazine

By observing the cartoons of the Oway Magazine, cartoonists illustrated as satire on politics, colonial education, student movement, the jobless, religion, and disagree between each student parties, medical profession, convocation hall and lady student. It was stated memorial photographes. The Oway Magazine was illustrated by the cartoon artist vividly. Most of the cartoons were drawn by cartoonist, Pe Thein and Ba Kyi (Painter).

## The Presentation of Subject Matter

There are different parts such as poem, ornate writing, article, fiction, drama, astrology, remark, speech, note, story, record of regret, formal massage, report, editorial, letters to the editor, pass list of examination, cartoon and photographs that the different writers wrote it started publishing from 1931 to 1961. Some publications described with Myanmar section and English section.

It is found that there are (268) poems written by 162 poets in Myanmar section and generally, those poems were composed on nationalism, antiexpansionist, university education, and University Students' Union before independence. After independence period, it presented on peace, result of the war and civil war. Moreover, there are also about seasonal festival, student life, love and others. Most of the poets were Min Thu Wun, Shanpyay Maung Lin Yon, Min Yu Wai, Mya Kay Tu, Win Pa and Shwetaing Than Nwe. Their poems mainly indicated that to get freedom, encourage the students and Students' Union, change the university education and aim for nationalism. In English section, there are 28 items and are described on freedom, the Buddha, Youth and Leadership written by Min Yu Wai, Min Thu Wun, U Saung, M. Po Choe, Min Thant, and others. Most of poets were written by Win Pe.

The Oway Magazine articles included 298 items in Myanmar and 156 items in English. Those articles are also translated items. Most of Myanmar articles related to students, war and peace, Students' Union, politic, education, nationalism, Myanmar literature and biography.

Most of Myanmar literature articles were written by Thakhin Ko Daw Hmine, Zawgyi, P. Moe Nin, Min Yu Wai, and Maung Htin. Andthen, the authors; Thakhin Ko Daw Hmine, Dagon Tar yar, Ko Aung San, Thakhin Ba Thang, Thakhin Than Tun and Thein Pe Myint were well-known in student and politic. By observing the Oway magazine, it is found that the brief biographies on a National Leader, Bogyoke Aung San, P.Moe Nin, Thakhin Po Hla Gyi, Yegaw Ba Hein (Ko Ba Hein), Yathe (Hermit San Thein), and U Kan Thein (care-kaker of the University Students' Union.)

Most of the dramas were presented about peace, politic, university student life, Myanmar culture, and administrative system. Remarks on thanks and request are described in a separate and Reports of the magazine committee were also stated that is how it was important in Myanmar politic and freedom and procedures of the Students' Union.

It is found that short stories are described in Myanmar and English sections. Most of the Myanmar stories focus on politic, education, the University Strike, nature of the University hostel student, anti-British, leadership, and love. In English stories, the authors wrote related to politic, philosophy, Myanmar custom, donation and love.

There are four speeches of Ko Nu (President of the University Students' Union), U Thwin (President of the National University Administrative Committee), U Yu Khin (Rangoon University Student), and SoeThein (visiting educational expert, Rangoon University). Moreover, it is found that satisfied and encouraged formal massages were written by Thakhin Ko Daw Hmine. Dr. Htin Aung, and U Kyaw Khin. The magazine expressed the record of regert on an executive member of library committee of the University Students' Union.

Sr. No.	<b>Types of Subject</b>	No. of Items
1	Articles	298
2	Astrology	1
3	Cartoon	33
4	Drama	12
5	Editorial	18
6	Fiction	2
7	Formal massage	5
8	Letters to the editor	2
9	Note	10
10	Ornate writing	38
11	Pass list of examination	1
12	Photograph	93
13	Poetry	268
14	Record of regret	1
15	Remark	10
16	Report	18
17	Speech	2
18	Story	146
	Total	958

**Table. 3:** Categories of Myanmar Section in the Oway Magazine (1931-1961)

Source: Union Magazine and Oway Magazine, Universities' Central Library

Sr. No	o. Types of Subject	No. of Items
1	Articles	156
2	Cartoon	9
3	Editorial	8
4	Letters to the editor	3
5	Note	3
6	Photograph	12
7	Poetry	28
8	Short Story	18
9	Speech	2
	Total	339
ource:	Union Magazine and Oway Ma	gazine, Universitie

**Table.4:** Categories of English Section in the Oway Magazine (1931-1961)

Source: Union Magazine and Oway Magazine, Universities' Central Library

## Conclusion

The present study intends to identify the characteristics of literature used by the Oway Magazine.

The Oway Magazine was one of the outstanding Magazines which had been published in Myanmar. It had been mentioned 19 publications between 1931 and 1961. The first publication Vol. I, No. 1 had been published in 1931 and the second time publications dated Vol. IX, No. I in 1948 (post-war period). Only after six years, its publication reappeared. At first, the sizes of the Magazines were  $6" \times 9"$  and  $7" \times 9"$ , it became  $7\frac{1}{2}" \times 9\frac{1}{2}"$  size in the late 1948. It can be seen that page numbers for Myanmar and English sections were also set differently. In a word, the first time publication of the Oway Magazine flavored political objectives and colonial education while the second time publication favoured peace, literature, religion, and students' movement. The Oway Magazine included various literary forms. Its editors were now became famous politicians in Myanmar. Editorials were mainly stated students and politics and university education. It also highlighted advertisements and cartoons. It is to conclude that in the field of politics, education, economy, and national freedom.

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