

A STUDY OF THE TITLES AND TITLE-RELATED FACTS DURING KONBAUNG PERIOD

Wai Wai Hein¹

Abstract

From Bagan Period till Konbaung Period, the Kings awarded titles to his royal relatives, ministers and officers, as well as to those who had come to serve as a subject, the young maidens presented from a foreign chieftain, and the envoys. The paper highlights that titles were awarded to those dutiful officers, while those who angered the king were revoked from assuming the titles. Primary sources and secondary sources were referred to and the analytical method is employed.

Keywords: King, Title, Konbaung

Aim

- to know the titles traditionally bestowed on the king, queen and officers of Konbaung Period
- to know title-related facts during Konbaung Period

Introduction

The paper "A study of the Titles and Title-related Facts during Konbaung Period" presents the titles of kings and queens of Konbaung Period, choosing the title, significance of the title, the occasion when the title is bestowed, the event of promoting or giving punishment and dismissing the title. Since the title, insignia and conveyance are related though an account of the three kinds should be discussed only the titles of Konbaung Period are focused in this research paper of mini-scale reach.

Methodology and Method

The royal orders, the primary sources, as well as the secondary sources, are used in preparing this research paper. Analytical method is employed.

Research Questions

The research questions are,

1. For what performance was a particular title awarded?
2. For what crime or punishment was a particular title dismissed?

Literature Review

As far as research has been done, no M.A thesis, M.Res papers or PhD dissertations have yet dealt with this topic of titles during Konbaung Period.

¹ Dr., Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Mandalay

Findings and Discussion

The kings, queens and royal circle, outstanding servicemen of Konbaung Period were bestowed titles while even royal elephants and horses engaged in warfares were also awarded titles. This paper presents an account of only the titles bestowed to the kings of Konbaung Dynasty, royal relatives, ministers and officers, and servicemen. First, the following is the titles that the successive kings of Konbaung Period had assumed:

Sr No	Ruling King	Title Assumed (Day/Month/Year)
1	Alaungpaya (1752-1760)	Alaungpaya (17 Feb 1752)
2	Dipèyin (1760-1763)	Siripavara Maha Dhamma Raja (9 Feb 1761)
3	Myedu (1763-1776)	Siripavara Sudhamma Maha Raja Janeindadipati (3 Jan 1768)
4	Sint-Ku (1776-1782)	Maha Dhamma Rajadiraja (23 Dec 1776)
5	Phaungkasa Maung Maung (1782)	Nil
6	Badon (1782-1819)	(a) Siripavara Tiloka Pannita Maha Dhamma Raja (23 May, 1783) (b) Siripavara Vijaya Nandayasa Tribavana Ditradiapati Pannita Maha Dhamma Rajadiraja (2 June 1784)
7	Sagaing (1819-1837)	(a) Siripavara Suddhamma Maha Rajadiraza (3 Nov, 1819) (b) Siri Tribavana Ditravara Pannita Maha Dhamma Rajadiraja (15 March, 1824) (c) Siri Tripavara Ditradiapati Pavara Pannita Maha Dhamma Rajadiraja (30 June, 1825)
8	Thayawaddy (1837-1846)	Siri Tripavara Ditra Lokadipati Vizaya Maha Dhamma Rajadiraja (2 July, 1840)
9	Bagan (1846-1852)	Siri Sudhama Tiloka Pavara Maha Rajadiraja (27 Feb, 1847)
10	Mindon (1853-1878)	(a) Siri Sudhamma Pavara Maha Rajadiraja (16 June, 1854) (b) Siripavara Vijaya Nandajasa Pannita Maha Dhamma Rajadiraja (14 May, 1857) (c) Siripavara Vijaya Nandaja Pannita Tribavana Ditradiapati Maha Dhamma Rajadiraja (May 1874)
11	Thibaw (1878-1885)	(a) Siripavara Ditra Lokadipati Pannita Maha Dhamma Rajadiraja (23 May, 1880) (b) Siripavara Vijaya Nandaya Satilokadipati Pannita Maha Dhamma Rajadiraja (19 May, 1881) ¹

Eleven kings rules the country during Konbaung Dynasty. During King Alaungmintaya's reign, the king assumed the title, Alaungpaya, which referred to the Boddhisatta.² Since Phaungkasa Maung Maung, one of the kings of Konbaung Dynasty, ruled the country only for

¹(a) U Maung Maug Tin, *Konbaungset Mahayazawintawgyi*(The Great Chronicles of Konbaung Dynasty), Vol.1, Yar Pye Press, 2004, pp.52, 255, 355, 371, 395, 401 (Henceforth: Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.1)

(b) U Maung Maung Tin, *Konbaungset Mahayazawintawgyi* (The Great Chronicles of Konbaung Dynasty), Vol.2, Yar Pye Press, 2004, pp.168, 258, 274, 405 (Henceforth: Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.2)

(c) U Maung Maung Tin, *Konbaungset Mahayazawintawgyi* (The Great Chronicles of Konbaung Dynasty), Vol.3, Yar Pye Press, 2004, pp.168, 258, 274, 405 (Henceforth: Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.3)

² Ledi Pannita (Saya U Maung Gyi), *Myanmar Yazawin Thankheit Kyan*, Vol.5. Yangon, Pyinnya Alin Press, 1990, p.27 (Henceforth: Ledi Pannita, 1990)

seven days, he received no title. King Badon and Thibaw Min change the title two times while Sagaing Min and Mindon Min changed their titles three times. The other kings received their title only once. Among the titles of Konbaung Dynasty, the longest title was that of King Badon, who received it for the second time on 2 June, 1784; and the title Mindon Min received for the third time on 1st June 1874: the former was Siripavara Vijaya Nandajasa Tribavana Ditradiapati Pannita Maha Dhamma Rajadiraja; the latter being Siripavara Vijaya Nandayasa Pannita Tribavana Ditra Dipati Maha Dhamma Rajadiraja. The total number of words couched in the title is 33. Its meaning goes as follows:

Siri	Glory (or) splendor
Pavara	most excellent, most noble
Vijaya	victory, conquering
Anandayasa	ing an infinitely great retinue and fame
Pannita	a wise man, a learned man
Tribavana Ditradiapati	Lord of the Lord, Descendant of the Sun, of the ancestry of Adissavamsa and Cendavamsa well known in the Three Types of the World
Maha Dhammaraja	Noble King fulfilling the Aparihaniya Law, abiding by the Old Traditions of Dhammathat, Razathat and customs through successive dynasties
Adiraza	Great King, greater than all other kings by promoting the welfare of the people and the Buddhist Sasana over the Sabbudipa Island, Island of the Islands. ¹

The title means that Badon and Mindon were qualified kings like other kings of Konbaung Dynasty, maintaining the law and order of the country by conquering all enemies and developing the economy of the country. It is assumed that in selecting a title it was considered who deserved what title.

The account of selecting the title shall be given. On 20 April, 1874, with the purpose of selecting a title for King Mindon, there gathered a full assembly: the Ven Dwe Cho *Sayadaw*, the Ven Sibani *Sayadaw*, the Ven Mekkhaya *Sayadaw*, the Ven Thit Seint *Sayadaw*, the Ven Hla Htwe *Sayadaw*, the Ven Bhamo *Sayadaw*, the Ven Vicitarama *Sayadaw*, the Ven Bagan *Sayadaw* U Nyanna of Mandala Yarma Taik, Prince Mekkhaya Su Siri Maha Mahe Dhamma Raza, Minister Khan Pat *Myosa* Thadoe Mingyi Siri Maha Uzana, Sage Kanni Interior Minister Maha Min Khaung Theinkhaya, Interior Officer Lewun Yaw *Myosa* -Mingyi Min Htin Kyaw, Interior Officer Shwe Taik *Wun Mingyi* Min Hla Sithu, Bhamo Interior Officer Min Gyi Maha Min Khaung Swa, Kinsin *Wundauk Mingyi* Min Hla Maha Kyaw Htin, Ashin Nanmataw Payawin Maikhai *Myosa* Maha Thiri Zeya Thu, *Anauk Wun Mingyi* Taraphyar, Kyi Wun Min Kyaw Si Thu, *Tayathugyi* Myo Thar Wun Mahamin Kyaw Zeya, *Tayathugyi* Maha Min Kyaw Sithu, *Thantaw Sint* Min Hla Si Thu Kyaw, Min Hla Thiri Kyaw Khaung, *Wut-mye Wun* Nemyo Thirinara, Sage Taungtwingyi Town Officer Maha Min Htin Si Thu, Brahmin Sage Naryitawhmu Siri Kaveinda Vamsa Brahma, Siri Deva Raza Brama, Siri Kanda Vamsa Brama, Maha Siri Su Brama Dhamma Raza Guru and Siri Bidrapati Raza Purawhita.² In selecting a prestigious title, besides the revered monks, ministers, interior officers and other important officers, the Brahmin sages and astrologers were consulted. As in the case of choosing a title for King Mindon, the same process may have been followed in selecting titles for the other kings of Konbaung Dynasty.

¹Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.3, 269-270

²Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.3, 264

After the title had been selected, a badge was made, as in the evidence belonging to the reign of King Thibaw. On 14 March 1881, the titles of King Thibaw and the Senior Queen were carved on the bejeweled, gold plate. On 19th May 1881, at the roof-tiered hall of the Golden Palace, under the supervision of the astrologer who identified the auspicious hour, minister, interior officer and officers, the titles were written by the *Taseit Wun* (Incharge of Badges) Nemyo Theiddi Pyinnyar Kyaw Khaung, attributed for his six talents of Likhaka.¹ The badge couched by the Taseit Wun was carved by the interior incharge of blacksmith in correct spelling.² This shows how much care had been taken for the title of the king.

After the badge had been made, an auspicious day was chosen for celebrating the opening of the throne. The rituals of the throne can be observed in the records made during the reign of King Bagan, King Mindon and King Thibaw. The title of King Bagan was placed on the *Shit-daunt Kwam Khwak*³ (စိတသောဏ်ကျမချွတ်) with emerald and ruby. The Interior officer Pauk Myaing *Myosa* Mingyi Min Hla Kyaw Htin read out the title, and Younger Royal Brother Mindon (Siri Sumaha Dhamma Raza) submitted the title to the new king.⁴ Similarly, on 1st June 1874, the gold plate bestudded with two lines of nine jewels and nine rubies, bearing the title of King Mindon was placed on *Shit-daunt Kwam Khwak* with rubies and then the Interior Officer Yaw *Myosa* Mingyi Minhla Maha Sithu read out the title three times. Thereafter, Royal Son Mekkhaya *Myosa* Mintha Thu Siri Maha Dhamma Raja bowed, reverently took it in his arms and submitted it to the king.⁵ Similarly, on 19 May 1881, King Thibaw ceremoniously received the ruby-studded gold plate bearing his title. First, the title was placed on the bejeweled betel bowl, and Tagaung *Myosa* Prince Thu Siri Maha Dhamma Raja reverently took it in his arms while the Interior Officer Pin *Myosa* Mingyi Min Khaung Maha Min Kyaw Thurein read out the title three times, and handed it to the king.⁶ To make a review of the title bestowing of the kings of Konbaung Period, there were some differences in carving the title of the king: type of jewels to be studded on the gold plate, number of jewels; the type of betel bowl on which the title gold place was placed; types of jewels bestudded on the betel bowl and number of jewels; royal son or royal younger brother to submit the title gold plate.

An account of the titles bestowed on the queens is given below, Queen was of two types: *Nanya Mibaya* ('Queens who Possess Palaces) and *Asaungya Mibaya* (Queens who Possess Royal Apartments). Only the title, of Royal Queen of the Southern Palace (Chief Queen), Royal Queen of the Northern Palace, Royal Queen of the Central Palace and Royal Queen of the Western Palace Queen are presented. Before then, the titles of queen, princess (king's royal daughter) and *Apyotaw* (lady-in-waiting) are presented, according to high and low titles: (1) Devi (2) Waddy (3) Ruzar (4) Pabar (5) Kaytha (6) Sanda (7) Marlar and (8) Mottar.⁷

¹(1) Good memory to pick up at once (2) Quick writing (3) Good hand-writing (4) Quick wisdom (5) Quick wits (6) Good composition skills

U Thein Hlaing. *Khithaung Myanma Thamaing Thutethana Abidan*(Ancient Myanmar Historical Dictionary), Yangon Universities Press. 2002, p.162 (Henceforth: Thein Hlaing, 2002)

²Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.3, 365

³ This is octagonal in shape and varied from plain gold to those studded with glass, amber and rubies. Selected Writings of Dr Yi Yi, Part (2), The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Culture, Department of Historical Research and National Library, 2014, p.157

⁴Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.3, 56

⁵Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.3, 367

⁶ Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.3, 275

⁷Thein Hlaing, 2002, 125

Titles bestowed on the Royal Palace Queens of Konbaung Period¹

Sr No.	King	Royal Queen of the Southern Palace	Royal Queen of the Northern Palace	Royal Queen of the Central Palace	Royal Queen of the Western Palace
1	Alaungmintaya	Maha Mingala Ratanadipati Sanda Devi	-	-	-
2	Dipeyin	Maha Mingala Ratanadipati Devi	Mingala Devi	-	-
3	Myedu	Siri Atula Maha Devi Siri Atula Maha Ratana Padomma Devi	(1) Siri Mingala Sanda (2) Siri Sunanda Maha Mingala Sanda Devi	(1)Siri Sanda Ratana Devi (2) Siri Maha Sanda Devi	-
4	King Sintgu	a Ratana Sanda Devi	Siri Maha Mingala Devi	Siri Maha Nanda Devi	-
5	Phaung Kasa Maung Maung	-	-	-	-
6	King Badon	Siripavara Maha Mingala Ratana Devi Siripavara Maha Razeinda Mingala Ratana Devi	(1) Siri Maha Sanda Devi (2) Siri Maha Sanda Bi Ratana Devi	(1)Siri Maha Nanda Devi (2)Siri Maha Nanda Bi Ratana Devi	-
7	King Sagaing	Siripavara Maha Razeinda Ratana Devi Siripavara Tiloka Maha Razeinda Devi	Siri Kalyar Sanda Devi	Siri Pava Manla Devi	-
8	Thayawaddy	Siripavara Tiloka Maha Ratana Padonma Devi	Siri Maha Nanda Biratana Devi	Siri Maha Sanda Bi Ratana Devi	Siri Maha Thu Ratana Sanda Devi
9	Bagan	Siri Tiloka Maha Ratana Devi	Siri Maha Ratana Devi	Siri Tiloka Atula Ratana Devi	Siri Thu Ratana Mingala Devi
10	Mindon	Siripavara Maha Razeinda Ratana Devi Siripavara Maha Razeinda dipati Ratana Devi Siripavara Atula Tiloka Maha Razeindadipati Ratana Devi	(1)Siri Maha Ratana Mingala Devi	Siripavara Maha Ratana Devi Siripavara Tiloka Maha Razeindadipati Padonmar Ratana Devi	(1)Siri Maha Thu Sanda Devi
11	King Thibaw	Siripavara Maha Razeindabi Suddhama Ratana Sanda Devi Siripavara Tiloka Maha Razeindadipati Paduma Ratana Devi	-	-	-

¹ (a) Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.1, 214,255,264,267,309,355,371,395

(b)Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.2, 168,169,258,259,274,405,406

(c) Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.3, 56,57,142,178,306,355,366

Among the titles bestowed on the Senior Queens of Konbaung Period, the titles bestowed on 1 June, 1874 and 19 May 1881 have 24 letters, being the longest title. This paper does not present the titles of *Asaungya Mibaya* (Queens who Possess Royal Apartments) and king's concubines, and retinue in detail, which can be observed in the three volumes of *Konbaung-set* Treatise and 6 volumes of *Thu-Thawdita Maha Yazawingyi*.

According to the royal customs and traditions, the king usually bestowed titles to the queens, princes, royal sons and daughters, royal grandchildren and servicemen either in the throne-opening ceremony or the ear-poring and hair-knotting ceremonies. Moreover, the titles were awarded:

- (1) if a subject had performed the assigned duties outstandingly and successfully
- (2) if another chieftain or lord subjected himself for his service to the king
- (3) if the duty for going into war was assigned
- (4) if the conquest was made
- (5) if a young daughter from another chieftain or lord was presented
- (6) if a subject had served the duty honestly
- (7) to an envoy coming from China every ten years
- (8) to the skilled horseman

However, not every subject fitting into these criteria may not have been awarded the titles; but according to the king's will. The titles were awarded in the following occasions: at the right moment, or at the opportune time or during the coronation ceremony (Buddha Biseka) and the Throne. Launching ceremony, or during the obeisance – receiving ceremony in the post-lent season, or the ceremony of hair-knotting and ear-poring ceremony.

During King Alaungmintaya's reign, the Mon army marched close to the environs of Moke-Soe Pho Village. Madaya - Mon Nga Thai Sat was ordered to go and set fire to the straw cart of the Mons. Accordingly, Nga Thai Sat set it afire, and King Alaungpaya clearly saw the movements of the enemies, and could defeat the intruders. So, Madaya-Mon Nga Thai Sat was awarded the title, Thamein Baran.¹ Moreover, 68 skilled horsemen were organized for organizing the country and crushing the destructive elements in the time of the nation-building. Of 68, 54 horsemen dutifully served the service, and were awarded titles.² The comrade who fought bravely in battles during King Alaungmintaya's reign won victory, and accordingly, were awarded new titles, so they renounced the new titles.³

King Alaungmintayagyi awarded the title Banyar Dala to the Mon General Daw Zwe Razet, who took refuge under him. The Mon general was famous as the hero of Bago. But whenever he encountered the Myanmar army, he always faced the defeat, and feeling that the future encounter would mean another defeat, presented himself and took refuge under Alaungmintaya. Similarly, Razadarit took refuge with war-elephant 60, horse 500, 5000 men, and artillery. Therefore, Alaungmintaya bestowed on him the title, Min Hla Yaza.⁴

In the case of awarding titles before going to war, on 27 February, 1837, during Sagaing Min, the Royal Treasurer Shwe Taw Pyan Chi was awarded the title Maha Min Hla Min Khaung;

¹ Nyo Mya, 2003, 62

² Naga Bo Hteik Tin Htwe, *Ratana Theinkha Konbaung Maha Yazawin A-kyin* (Abridged Chronicle of Ratana Theinkha Konbaung), Yangon, Yah Pye Bookhouse, 2013, p. 47 (Henceforth: Hteik Tin Htway, 2013)

³ Nyo Mya, 2003, 67

⁴ Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.1, 92

Paukkan Bo Nga Shwe Oo, the title of Maha Min Hla Min Khaung Kyaw. They were armed with many weapons, and were positioned in such a way as blocked and defended the Kinwun Army marching from Ratanapura Inwa City.¹

In the case of awarding titles over the conquest of the enemies, during Alaungmintaya's reign, because of the victory over Inwa, the royal family members, *Bohmu* and *Tat-hmus* were bestowed upon with due titles according to their performance.² The King was much impressed with the weapons and captives won at *Kywa-sin Taik* by Sipottara Bo and Intai Bo; Sipottara Bo Nga Yauk Gyi was awarded the title, Min Htin Min Khaung; Indai Bo Nga Shwe Maung, the title Min Htin Tazaung.³ Again, on 25 April, 1757, a Mon army of 500 horsemen and over 3000 gunmen headed by Thamein Lut made an attack on the Teinkya Tanat Army marching from Myanmar. Since the Myanmar army fiercely fought back, many Mons were killed. Many retreated into the city. On the battle, there took place the confrontation between Thamein Lut, the leader of the Mons, and Nga Chit Pu, the Myanmar royal gunman, and Thamein-Lut jabbed at Nga Chit Pu, who fell and pretended to be dead. When Thamein Lut made an approach, Nga Chit Pu fired his gun and killed the Mon leader. Then he cut the enemy's head, and submitted it to Alaungmintaya. He was awarded the Theinkha Pyan Chi.⁴

During Badon's reign, on 4th October, 1782, a group of 200 rebels led by Nga Shun (Nga Phone), of Mai-Khaing Town, Shan State, invaded the royal palace. Nga Lwan Pye of the Natshin Cavalry Group, who could capture the enemy, was awarded the title Ye Htut Kyaw Htin. Again, he was awarded Nemyo Nanda Thu. The courtier Ratana Mahe of North Gilded Hall, who first gave the information to the rebels' invasion into the royal palace, was promoted to the title Ratana Devi.⁵

During King Thayawaddy's reign, in 1840, attack were made on the rebels, who had invaded Madaya Town, and the rebels, led by Prince Shwe Htah, fled, and as Koe-Htaung Officer and *Myo-sayay* of Thibaw discovered, were them making a hideout in the forests at the edge of Thibaw. So led by Koe-Htaung Officer of Thibaw, 500 local servicemen made a chase, and captured the rebels. On 1st waxing of *Kason*, 1840, the rebels were handed over to the king, and title was awarded to Koe-Htaung Officer of Thibaw Nga Poe (No name of the title was discovered). The 43 servicemen involved in capturing the rebels were awarded titles.⁶

During King Thayawaddy's reign, on 12th waning of *Pyatho*, 1840, Sandanikara Kut Gawrane, a merchant of France, presented plenty of gifts to the king requesting permission for trading in Myanmar. King Thayawaddy granted permission for trading, and awarded him the title, Siri Bawgaraja Dhammarat.⁷ During King Sagaing's reign, the Kasai Officer Nga Phyu, who was a royal subject of Manipur in the service of the king, was awarded Zayavattana Kyaw Htin.⁸

Concerning the awarding of titles to the young maidens presented as a gift, during King Sinphyushin's reign, on 26 August, 1769, a daughter presented from Linzin was awarded the title

¹ Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.2, 343

² Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.1, 89

³ Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.2, 346

⁴ Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.1, 206

⁵ (a) U Teikha Dhamma Linkara & Dr Than Tun, *Myanma Yetswe Thamaing*(Chronological History of Myanmar (Konbaung Dynasty),2012,p.85 (Henceforth: U Teikha Dhamma Linkara & Than Tun, 2012)

(b) *Thuthawdita Maha Yarzawingyi*(The Great Chronicles of *Thuthawdita*) , Vol.V&VI,,Yangon, Yar Pyae Book House, 2015, p.23 (Henceforth: *Thuthawdita*,2015)

⁶ *Thuthawdita*, 2015, 287

⁷ *Thuthawdita*, 2015, 290

⁸ Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.1, 206

Pabarwadi.¹ On 20th October, 1790, during Badon's reign, the three daughters presented from U-ti Min, a chieftain of China, were awarded the titles: Takunyin was awarded the title Siri Maha Sandra Devi; Ekunyin, the title Siri Maha Pyinsala Devi; Sakunyin, the title, Siri Maha Gandar Sandra Devi.²

On 11th June, 1823, the Chinese envoy from U-ti Min was received by King Sagaing. The Myanmar King accepted the gifts from the Chinese envoy, and gave away gifts in return. Each member of the envoy was awarded respective title: Yantalao –the title Raja Kyaw Htin, Ran Sin Ye- the title Raja Kyaw Swa, Sao Lao Zhou- the title Raja Theinkha, Ton Lao Zhou- the title Raja Thura and La Sin Ye-the title Raja Kyaw Thu. Again, Sone Tu Hwe Ta Ye of Mai-Si was awarded the title Maha Raza Thura; Moe Huta Lao Ye, the title Nawrahta Kyaw Thu; Bohmu Ahta Lao Ye of Moe-Myin; the title Nawrahta Kyaw Swa, etc.³

On 1yth March, 1843, the Chinese envoy from U-ti Min was received by Thayawaddy Min. Each member of the envoy was awarded respective title: the senior Ambassador Rita Lao Ye was awarded the title, Raja Zeya Kyaw; Ran Sin Ye, the title Raja Theinkha Kyaw; Wunt Sin Ye, the title Raja Thura Kyaw; the ambassador of middle rank, Ton Lao Zhou, the title Raja Pyanchi Kyaw; Tin Lao Zhou, the title Raja Thiha Kyaw, and Lao Ye, the title Raja Nanda Kyaw. Again, Sone Tu Hwe Ta Ye of Mai-Sè was awarded the title Maha Raza Thura; Bohmu Hatar Ye of Moe-yee, the title Thiha Nawrahta and Myowun U-tar Lao Ye; the title Thiri Nawrahta etc.⁴

During King Mindon's reign, his nephew Hteik Tin Toke was awarded the title Minye Siri Raza Kyaw for having horseman skills. Before he was awarded the title, Hteik Tin Toke was appointed Prince in Charge of Cavalry ("Myinmu Minthah) in 1860. Three years later, he was awarded that title.⁵

During King Mindon's reign, in the month of Thadingyut, 1854, the French General Dao Gawrani was awarded the title Siri Zeya Nawrahta.⁶ The French general made his personal visit to pay obeisance to the king with gifts as an act of post-Lent obeisance-paying.

Promoting the awards

The existing titles were promoted on the following conditions:

- (1) Conquering the enemy
- (2) Serving honestly and dedicatedly

During Alaungmintaya's reign, on 13 June, 1756, Maha Thenapati was assigned a mission to occupy Syrian (Thanlyin), but he was shot on the battlefield. He was sent to Yangon for treatment, but soon died. The late Maha Thenapati was awarded the title Agga Maha Thenapati⁷ by Alaungmintaya, as well as the insignia of the white umbrella in the burial service.⁸ Thus, the

¹ Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.1, 358

² (a) Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.1, 64

(b) *Thuthawdita*, 2015, 63

³ Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.2, 251

⁴ Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.3, 41

⁵ Nyo Mya, *Konbaung Sharpontaw* (In search of Myanmar History in Konbaung Period), Yangon, Yar Pye Bookhouse, 2003, p. 342 (Henceforth: Nyo Mya, 2003)

⁶ Maung Maung Tin, 2004, Vol.3, 199

⁷ A title bestowed on a noble official
Thein Hlaing, 2002, 227

⁸ (a) *Myanmarminmyar Ayayawpon Chauk-saung-twe* (The Achievements of Myanmar Kings in Six Volumes), Yangon, Yar Pyae Book House, 2005, p.581

(b) U Teikha Dhamma Linkara & Than Tun, 2012, 29

general who died in harness was awarded a title of higher rank. Therefore, due awards were given away depending on one's performance.

During King Alaungmintaya's reign, Thanat *Wun* (Gunmen Incharge Officer) Min Hla Min Khaung Kyaw was sent on duty all over the Shan State; and was awarded the title Maha Thenapati.¹ He was successful in moving all the *Sawbwas* (Lords) and *Myosa* all over the Shan State the loyal subjects to the king, and made a report on the successful mission. The king was much impressed with his performance that the title was awarded. So it is noted that awarding a title was made on accomplishing the duty strikingly successfully.²

We shall study how the title Min Khaung Nawrahta was awarded in promotion during King Alaungmintaya's reign. The hero's childhood name was Bo Nga Ton of Moke-Soe-Chon. His first title was Siri Shwe Taung; then another title was awarded Min Hla Shwe Taung, then another title Min Hla Min Khaung and then Min Khaung Nawrahta.³ The title Min Khaung Nawrahta was ranked at the top titles attributed with physical process.

There also existed cases in which promoting a new title was made for serving honestly and in dedication. On 30 April, 1837, Shwe Lan Bo Maha Min Khaung Kyaw Swa was awarded Mingyi Maha Min Khaung Kyaw Swa for his dedicated loyalty.⁴

Dismissing the title

The title may be dismissed on the following conditions:

- (1) Those unable to present themselves on the New Year. New Harvest feast on certain circumstances
- (2) Those accused of theft
- (3) Those not eligible for presenting to the king
- (4) Those who had failed to serve the duties and caused losses of benefits.⁵

Instances shall be cited. In the first condition, in which a title holder was absent at the feast, those appointed as subjects in the king's service in far-flung areas failed to join the least, and were revoked from their titles.⁶

In the case of those guilty of theft, during Badon's reign, on 19 October, 1810, Nga Kan was found guilty for keeping for his illegal possession of teak in 119 (ton or number of log, submitted from the Chieftain of Moe-Meik, and 10 logs purchased from Tagaung Town.⁷ The former title of Nga Kan has not yet been discovered. According to the royal order, he was revoked from his present title.

In the case of dismissing titles from those not eligible for presenting in the presence of the king, during Badon's reign, on 14 June, 1806, Kyaukpadaung *Myosa* Min Hla Kyaw Thu, Sone *Myosa* Minyo Nawrahta Kyaw Htin, *Lamaing Wun* Maha Thiri Uzana, officers who had no

¹ (a) Maung Maung Tin, 2014, Vol.1, 139

(b) Nyo Mya, 2003, 74

² Maung Maung Tin, 2014, Vol.1, 158-159

³ Nyo Mya, 2003, 80

⁴ Maung Maung Tin, 2014, Vol.2, 369

⁵ *The Royal Orders of Burma*, A.D. 1598-1885, Part.VII (1811-1819), edited, compiled, translated and annotated by Dr. Than Tun, The Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, 1988

⁶ *The Royal Orders of Burma*, A.D. 1598-1885, Part.VI (1807-1810), edited, compiled, translated and annotated by Dr. Than Tun, The Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, 1987 (Henceforth: ROB, V, 1986)

⁷ ROB, V, 1987, 780

foresightedness in dealing with the state affairs, were dismissed from respective titles.¹ Instances shall be cited, in which titles were revoked for failing to serve the duties.

During King Bagan's reign, in August 1851, Thonese *Myosa* Minister Thadoe Mingyi Min Hla Min Khaung Raja was appointed as the leader, and was sent with over 20000 armed forces to crush the foreigner rebels. Though the rebels came by waterway and inland routes, yet Thadoe Mingyi Min Hla Maha Min Khaung Raza's forces did not fight, but made camps of Akauk Mountain, Pan Taung Township and then retreated to Thayawaddy Region. On heaving this, the King dismissed the title of Thone-se *Myosa* Wungyi.²

There were reasons for promoting the title, and dismissing the titles, but sometimes, on reason's are discovered. Generally, the titles were dismissed for the reason of "angering the king".

Conclusion

The study of the titles of Kings and queens of Konabung Period shows the following: the literal meaning of the titles, the selection done by the reversed *Sayadawgyis* and officers detailed account of the rituals, high and low levels in awarding titles to the members of the royal relatives and servicemen, awarding titles for good performances, or promoting the titles, and dismissing the titles over the failure of the mission. Titles were also awarded to the foreign queens presented, as well as local queens, primes and officers. The Chinese envoy that made a visit every ten year after the defeat in Sino-Myanmar War and signing the peace treaty were also awarded titles; those generals and officers remaining in China were also awarded titles respectively.

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¹ *The Royal Orders of Burma, A.D. 1598-1885, Part.V (1788-1806)*, edited, compiled, translated and annotated by Dr. Than Tun, The Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, 1986

² Thuthawdita, 2015, 333,334

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