

The ancient bricks inscribed in Brahmi alphabets and Pyu alphabets found in Taunggoke township

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Abstract

The ancient bricks on which Brahmi alphabets and Pyu alphabets were inscribed and were found in Taunggoke township in Rakhine state are mentioned in this paper. (1) The ancient bricks on which Brahmi alphabets “ḡ” (Hta-Win-Bee) and “ḥ” (Hta-Sin-Htoo) and Pyu alphabet “ṣ” (Oo) were inscribed, found before collapsing and after collapsing of Si-Kai-Taung Dar-Tu pagoda at Nut-Mao village in Taunggoke township. (2) The ancient finger-marked bricks and the ancient broken bricks on which Brahmi alphabet “ḥ” (Pha) “ḥ” (Hta-Sin-Htoo) and Pyu alphabet “ṣ” (which is called “ga-sha”) but its real pronunciation is “ḥ” (tha) found at the ancient pagodas in the compound of A-ba-ya-khei-mi-kar-Rone monastery in Nut-Mao village. (3) The ancient bricks on which Brahmi alphabets “ṣ” (Ba-Htet-Chaing), “ḥ” (Ka-kyi) Pyu number “ṣṣ” (Shis-see = 80) and Pyu alphabets “ṣ” (Ga-Ngee), “c” (Nga), “ṣ” (Oo), and “ṣ” (Pa-Sout) were inscribed and which were found at the ancient Maung-Htaung pagoda at Rwar-Ma village in Taunggoke township. (4) The ancient bricks on which Brahmi alphabets “ṣ” (Ba-Htet-Chaing), “ṣ” “Ra” (Ra-Kauk) and Pyu alphabet “ḥ” (Hta-Sin-Htoo) and which were found at the ancient pagodas in the compound of Rwar-Ma-Rwar monastery. (5) The ancient brick on which Brahmi alphabets “ṣ” (Ba-Htet-Chaing), “ṣ” (Ra-Kauk), “ḥ” (Ka-Kyi) and Pyu alphabet “ḥ” (Hta-Sin-Htoo) were inscribed and which were found at the ancient pagodas in the compound of Hi-ta-kar-ri monastery in La-mu-mao village in Taunggoke township. The ancient bricks on which Brahmi alphabets and Pyu alphabets were inscribed, above mentioned from No. 1 to 5, are mentioned with their locations. The found ancient brick-alphabets some of them are Brahmi alphabets and some are Pyu alphabets, they are compared with the ancient Indian Brahmi alphabets and the ancient Pyu alphabets and the original alphabets inscribed on the stone inscriptions. Besides, the ancient brick-alphabets found in RaKhine state are compared with the ancient Brahmi alphabets and Pyu alphabets inscribed on the ancient bricks which were found in the middle Myanmar, and the upper Myanmar- the main Pyu areas said by some scholars. Then, those ancient brick-alphabets of RaKhine are also compared with the ancient bricks on which Brahmi alphabets and Pyu alphabets were inscribed and found in Mon State, Kayin State and Tanintharyi Region which are located in the southern coastal region of Myanmar.

Introduction

Nowadays, according to doing researches systematically and carefully on Pyu civilization an earliest civilization in Myanmar, expressing Pyu Kingdom, the area of Pyu emperor and the width and the length of the area at which Pyu civilization spread become important. Only the upper Myanmar and the middle Myanmar at which the ancient Pyu cities are located were referred when Pyu civilization was talked about in the past. Now, according to the local contemporary records, the contemporary Chinese records, the local chronicles, and the excavating of the Myanmar Archeological Department, the width and the length of the area of Pyu civilization spread not only the upper Myanmar and the middle of Myanmar but also some areas of the neighbouring countries beyond Myanmar present borders. When the width and the length of the area of a civilization is expressed, it will be more valid and more exact according to the way of History research, if there are findings excavated by Archaeology departments or archaeologists in addition to the contemporary written records on the concerning districts or regions. Among the findings by archeologists, the evidences of the ancient alphabets and the writing which show to be able to write and read in the ancient time

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well prove more clearly and more strongly than the other cultural antiques. At the present time, since the ancient bricks inscribed with the ancient alphabets-Brahmi and Pyu-which were used at the ancient pagodas and at the ancient buildings are found at their original sites and at their original buildings, those ancient inscribed bricks have been able to be used as the strong evidences for defining the most important interpretation of History of the era, the contents and the level of the ancient civilization which are shown by the inscribed alphabets as well as the era and the architecture of the ancient buildings.

The ancient bricks inscribed in Brahmi alphabets and Pyu alphabets found in Taunggoke township

Taunggoke township is located between North latitude $18^{\circ} 30''$ and $19^{\circ} 35''$ and East longitude $93^{\circ} 58''$ and $94^{\circ} 36''$ in Than-dwe district in the southern part of Ra-Khine state.¹

It is approximately about 100 miles far from an ancient Pyu city, Srikhista which is one of the main centres of Pyu civilization and which is located adjacent with Pyu city. Srikhista, the ancient Pyu city of Pyu civilization, is located in the east of Taunggoke. The bay of Bangal and the historical sea route are in the west of Taunggoke township. Than-dwe (the old Dwar-rar-watty) is 44 miles far from Taunggoke. Than-dwe is in the south of Taunggoke. Kyauk-Taw township and Myauk-Oo Township which have old Da-Nya-Watty city and the old Wei-Thar-Li city which were the old capitals of the ancient Ra-Khine Kings are over 200 miles far from Taunggoke in the the north. And Ma-Ei township is about 40 miles far from the north of Taunggoke. Ma-Ei creek, La-Mu creek, Tan-Lwe creek and Taunggoke creeks which are significant for communication on land and in the sea flow through in Taunggoke township. The society in this township and the tangible remaining of the ancient culture are much connected with those creeks. Approximately the pagodas which are located on both the banks of the water communication- the creeks mentioned above- are the pagodas which have been maintained from the ancient eras to modern time.

The paper will mention the five places or sites at which the ancient alphabet-bricks are found from near (Taunggoke) as far as.

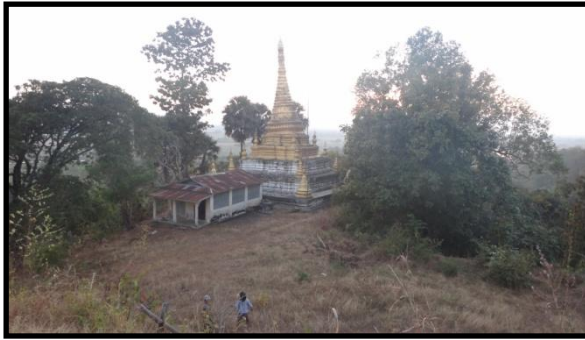
- (1) Si-Kai-Taung-Dar-Tu pagoda
- (2) The compound of A-ba-ra-khei-mi-kar-rone monastery at Nut-Mao village
- (3) Maung-Htaung pagoda at Rwar-Ma village
- (4) The compound of Rwar-Ma monastery
- (5) The compound of Hi-ta-kar-ri monastery at La-Mu-Mao village

(1) Si-Kai-Taung Dar-Tu pagoda

This pagoda is over one mile far away from Lamppost factory along the road in the east of that factory behind Taunggoke Degree Collage on the road of Am-Taunggoke from Taunggoke.²

¹ San Myint, U, Assistant Lecturer, Department of Geography, Taunggoke Degree College.

² Ye Min Tun, U, Nut-Mao Village and Si-Kai-Taung pagoda field report. (Hereafter cited as Ye Min Tun Nut-Mao)



Before collapsing of Si-Kai-Taung pagoda

After collapsing of Si-Kai-Taung pagoda

It is said that in Buddhist Sasanar year 1600, King Da-Tha-Rar-zar and his queen saw-Rammar-Dei-Wi built Si-Kai-Taung pagoda, putting the holy relies in the pagoda. King Da-Tha-Rar-zar was the son of king Kaw-li-ya and his queen Kommar-ri-Dei-Wi who founded the second Pa-Rain city.

Then, in 1238 M.E. (Myanmar Era) 1269 ME, 1298 ME, 1301 ME, 1354 ME and 1359 ME, the pagoda was (frequently) put up the new umbrellas.¹

Then, the pagoda was collapsed from the level of the bell to the bottom at 7:30 pm on 7 July, 2014. Then the ruined pagoda was rebuilt and put up the new umbrella again on 4 May, 2016.

I frequently did research before collapsing and after collapsing of the pagoda. Before collapsing of the pagoda, on 18 January, 2013, I went and did research again at the pagoda and I saw the two ancient bricks on which Pyu alphabet “∞” (Hta-Sin-Htoo) were inscribed at the old brick-wall (at the slope) in the south-east of the pagoda.

On 3 February, 2014, I went to the pagoda and did research there again. I found a broken ancient brick on which Brahmi alphabet “ḡ” (Hta-Win-Bee) among the ancient bricks which were laid at the surface of the ancient brick-wall in the north of the pagoda.

After collapsing of the pagoda, I did research at the pagoda again on 5 February, 2015. The inner pagoda was found under the collapsed pagoda when the villagers of Nut-Mao cleaned up the fallen and broken old bricks. The inner older pagoda remains between the bell shape and the 4 levels of bottom. When the villagers cleaned up the ancient broken bricks, the 3 ancient bricks each of which Pyu alphabet “∞” (Hta-Sin-Htoo) was inscribed were found.

On 10 February, 2015, I went to the pagoda again. The masons rebuilt the pagoda. One of the masons found and kept an ancient brick on which Pyu alphabet “ḡ” was inscribed. I saw that Pyu alphabet-brick.²

On 18 February, 2015, I went to the pagoda again. The ancient unbroken brick on which Brahmi alphabet “ḡ” (Hta-Win-bee) was inscribed, the ancient broken brick being inscribe Brahmi alphabet “ḡ” and the ancient broken brick being inscribed Pyu alphabet “∞” (Hta-Sin-Htoo) were found among the ancient bricks which fell down from the bottom of the bell shape in the east of the inner pagoda. When I did research the ancient bricks which fell down form the south and the west of the pagoda.³

¹ Nyi Pu Ka Lay, U Si-Kai-Taung-Dar Tu pagoda abridge History

² Ye Min Tun Nut-Mao

³ Ye Min Tun, U, Terracotta epigraphy in Southern Rakhine, Wai-thar-li Building in Yangon University, in 2015, (Hereafter cited as Ye Min Tun Southern Rakhine)



Brick with Pyu alphabet “ဆ”

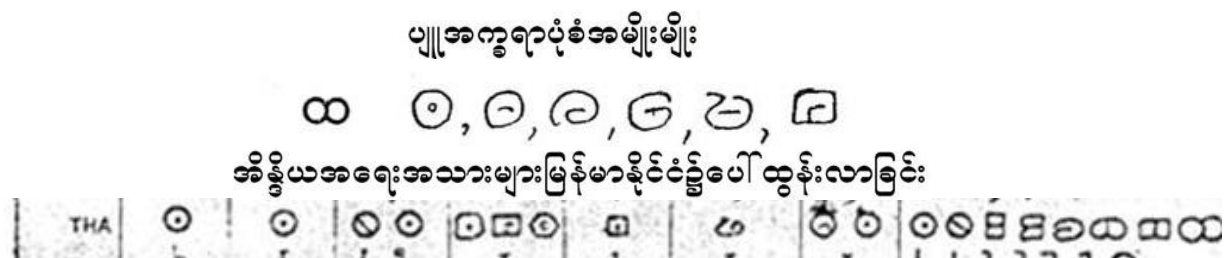


Brick with Pyu alphabet “ဥ”



Brick with Brahmi alphabet “ဋ”

The numbers of the ancient bricks being inscribed and found at Si-Kai-Taung pagoda are totally 12. The kinds of alphabets are two-Pyu and Brahmi. Besides, Pyu alphabet “ဆ” (Hta-Sin-Htoo) has the two styles or the two designs which were written. The other ancient bricks being inscribed unclearly are excluded from the list.¹



Firstly, I put up the ancient brick being inscribed Brahmi alphabet “ဋ” (Hta-Win-Bee) among the alphabet-bricks of Si-Kai-Taung-Dar-Tu pagoda at Nut Mao village. When we look at that brick, we can see the alphabet “ဋ” on the brick as a mark or a stamp which was pressed to sink in the surface of the brick (before baking). When we look at the tables of the ancient Brahmi alphabets, we can see that Brahmi alphabet “ဋ” is the design of a circle.²

○ [ဗာဟိ]	○ ကုဿန	...	○ [ဗာဟိ]
...	ဋ ဋ မောင်ကံပျူ	ဋ ဋ ခင်ဗပျူ	ဋ [မောင်ကံပျူ]
	ဋ ဋ မြန်မာကျော်စာ	ဋ မြန်မာကျော်စာ	

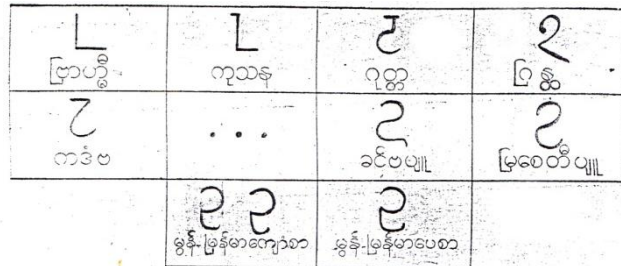
The ancient bricks being inscribed Brahmi alphabet “ဋ” and the ancient bricks being inscribed Brahmi alphabet “ဋ” with the other ancient alphabets have been found and compared with the ancient bricks being inscribed Brahmi alphabet “ဋ” which were found at Si-Kai-Taung-Dar-Tu pagoda.³

¹ Ye Min Tun Nut-Mao

² San Thar Aung, U , Alphabets used in Rakine in 6th Century AD and before, Yangon, Taut Taut Win Printing Press, 1974.

³ Ibid

Secondary, I put up the ancient brick being inscribed Pyu alphabet “ဥ” (Oo). The writing design of Pyu alphabet “ဥ” can be seen clearly in the text of the history of Mon Myanmar alphabets by U Than Myat, the scholar of alphabets.¹ He puts up how to change the modern design of alphabet “ဥ” from the ancient design of “ဥ”.



It can be seen that the design of Pyu alphabet “ဥ” of Si-Kai-Taung-Dar-Tu pagoda is similar to the design of Pyu alphabet “ဥ” of being inscribed at Mya-Zei-Ti Pyu inscription.² The ancient Pyu alphabet “ဥ” which are similar to Si-Kai-Taung-Dar-Tu pagoda “ဥ” are found in Old Ta-gaung city, old Hamlin city and present day Mon state.³ Thirdly, the ancient brick Pyu alphabet “ဝ” (Hta-Sin-Htoo) of Si-Kai-Taung-Dar-Tu pagoda is one of the various designs of Pyu alphabet “ဝ” of Pyu era.⁴ The brick-Pyu alphabet “ဥ” which is similar to Pyu alphabet “ဥ” on the brick of Si-Kai-Taung-Dar-Tu pagoda in the design are found in the various regions of Myanmar.⁵

(2) The compound of A-ba-ya-khei-mi-kar-rone monastery at Nut Mao village

Nut-Mao village is located in the north of Chaung-Kauk quarter of Taunggoke town, parting with Taunggoke creek. A-ba-ya-khei-mi-kar-rone monastery which is called Nut Mao – Kyaung-Gyi in which 15 ancient ruined pagodas, an ancient Theim (holy building) and the other old brick-walls are located is situated beside the creek in the south-west of Nut-Mao village.



The ruined pagodas in the A-ba-ya-khei-mi-kar-rone Monastery compound at Nut-Mao village

¹ Thar Myat, U, History of Mon-Myanmar Alphabets, 1955-1956. (Hereafter cited as U Thar Myat Mon-Myanmar)

² Ibid.

³ Ye Min Tun, U, Upper Myanmar Field Report in 2015. (Hereafter cited as Ye Min Tun Upper Myanmar)

⁴ Thar Myat, U, Pyu Reader, in 1964.

⁵ Ye Min Tun Southern Rakhine

The 15 ancient pagodas are parallaly located being adjacent with Taunggoke creek in the south of the compound of A-ba-ya-khei-mi-kar-rone monastery.

Firstly, the group of the ancient 8 pagodas, parting with the ancient brick-wall will be put up. The row of the ancient pagodas was built parallaly with the other row of the other ancient pagodas. Counting in the west, the two pagodas of the second row were built with and stones which were ancient pagodas. Counting in the west, the two pagodas of the second row were built with and stones which were cut as they were needed to build. Those 2 pagodas remain from the top part which is called Hnget-pyaw-phu to the bottom in original building well.¹

The remaining 6 pagodas were built with bricks. They collapsed and remained from the bell shape (under the Nget-pyaw-phu) to the bottom. Each remains 10 feet high. The ancient bricks become smaller and smaller from the bottom to the top. The fences of the 8 pagodas were made with the ancient brick-walls. The lengths of the brick walls from the east to the west are 77 feet 4 inches long and the lengths of the brick-walls from the south to the north are 45 feet long. The brick-walls are about 2 feet high. Those brick-walls remain 9 layers on the ground. Each brick of the brick-wall is 13½ inches long and 8 inches wide and 2 inches high. The finger marked brick was found among the bricks of the wall in the south-east.

Outside of the west brick-wall, there are 2 ancient ruined pagodas. The southern pagoda of the 2 remains from the bell shape part to the bottom and is about 8 feet high. The northern pagoda of the 2 remains from the half of the bell shape part to the ground and is about 7 feet high. The 2 sizes of those 2 ruined pagodas are similar to the sizes of the ancient bricks of the ancient brick-wall.

There are 2 brick-mounds which are thought the ruined pagodas beside the northern brick-wall. The ancient brick being inscribed Pyu alphabet “ဂှ် = ဓ” (ga-sha) and the other ancient brick being inscribed Brahmi alphabet “ဗ” (Pha) were found in the eastern mound of the 2. There is no unbroken brick in that eastern mound at which the brick-alphabets were found. That mound may be the ruined ancient temple on which a pagoda was built because Thut-Oats (triangle shaped bricks) were found and the brick-frame which was built as arc was found at about 2½ feet high from the bottom.²



Brick with Brahmi alphabet “ဗ”



Brick with Pyu alphabet “ဂှ် = ဓ”



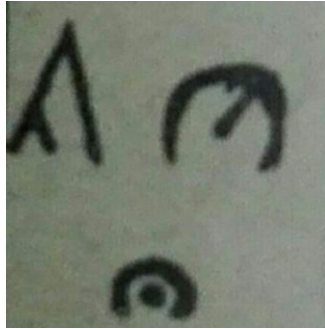
Brick with finger marks

It is seen that the ancient brick with Pyu alphabet “ဂှ်” (ga-sha) changed from red-brown colour to black colour. The Pyu “ဂှ်” being stamped or written on the brick is a little broken and the similar Pyu “ဂှ်” alphabet on the bricks are seen in the other regions of Myanmar much.

¹ Ye Min Tun Nut Mao

² Ibid.

It is easily seen that the design of Pyu “ဂရှ” (ga-sha) of Nut Mao looks like Indian Western Kshatrapa alphabet “ဂရှ” (ga-sha) design from BC 1C to AD 3C.¹



The style of Pyu alphabet “ဂရှ = ဓ”

The second brick with alphabet is the brick being inscribed Brahmi alphabet “ဖ” (Pha). When the writing design and style of that alphabet “ဖ” is checked, it looks like Brahmi alphabet “ဖ” of Daili-inscription in BC 300-250 in India.²

It is remarkable that an ancient finger marked brick was found with the bricks being inscribed in the A-ba-ya-khei-mi-kar-rone monastery compound at Nut Mao village.

(3) Maung-Htaungt pagoda, Rwar-Ma village

The signboard of “To Rwar-Ma village” is located at the left-side of the road of Ann-Taunggoke. It is about 8 miles far from Taunggoke. The road which is shown with that sign board runs to Rwar-Ma village which is about 6 miles far from the signboard. Tan-Lwee creek is at the entrance of the village. Maung-Htaungt hill is beside Tan-Lwee creek. The pagoda of the arm relic is on the Maung-Htaungt hill.³



The records of the photos of the excavated Maung-Htaungt pagoda

¹ Higher Education Directorate, Department of Translation and Publication, Bagan, Inwa and Kong Baung, the style of stone inscription, University Lecture No. 19, Yangon, 1979.

² Ibid.

³ Ye Min Tun, U, Maung-Htaungt pagoda and Ywar-Ma Village Field Report (Hereafter cited as Ye Min Tun Ywar-Ma)

The records of the donator who rebuilt Maung-Htaung pagoda mentions the history of rebuilding the pagoda. It is recorded that U Pho Gyi and Daw Sai Oo, his wife, rebuilt Maung-Htaung pagoda in 1275 ME and that they rebuilt 36 feet high of the pagoda and the bottom stage which is called "Pan-Tin-Khon" in Myanmar in 10 square feet.¹

Then, on full-moon day of Thi-Tin-Kyaut month (October) in 1367 ME, Bud-dan-ta U Kaw-Wi-Da, the head monk, rebuilt Maung-Htaung pagoda which collapsed and remained the half of the bell shape building.

On 2 days after full-moon day of Tan-Saung-Mone, the site of the collapsed pagoda was cleaned up by the people. On 11th day after full-moon day, 5 relics of Lord Buddha were found in silver container in stone-box. On 13th day after full-moon day, 7 ancient bronze statues of Buddha and a stone statue of sitting Buddha which was 6 feet 3 inches high and weight about 3 tans was found in the square stone wall which was 15 feet and 6 inches wide. The stone statue of setting Buddha is the very ancient work.



Brick with Brahmi alphabet "ဓ"



Brick with Pyu number "၈၀"

It is known that there were over 200 stone-plates at the "Gan-da-ku-Ri-taik" (the religious room or the worshipping room). Those stone- plates are sandstones. One or two or three ancient alphabets were inscribed on those stone plates.² When I went there on 12 February 2014, to do research, the two broken bricks on which Pyu number 80 were inscribed were found among the ancient bricks which were laid in front of a religious building being called "Za Rut." The 3 ancient broken bricks on which ancient Brahmi alphabet "ဓ" (Ba-Htet-Chaing) were inscribed were found among the ancient bricks which were laid on the ground in the east of the pagoda. On 3rd January, 2014, I did research again at the pagoda and found the two broken bricks on which Brahmi alphabet "ဓ" among the ancient bricks at the bottom of the southern brick wall of the pagoda.³



Stone-plate with Pyu
"c" (Nga)



Stone-plate with
Pyu "ch" (Oo)



Stone-plate with Pyu
"n" (ga)

¹ Record of repairing the pagoda on Maung-Htaung Hill, Ywar-Ma village, Taunggoke Township.

² Ba Khin Gyi, U, Pagoda Trustee, Maung-Htaung pagoda.

³ Ye Min Tun Ywar-Ma

The stone-plates with writing of Maung-Htaungt pagoda are the stone-plates on which inscribed one to three of the ancient alphabets." The stone plants being inscribed brahmi alphabet "က" (Ka-gyi), Pyu alphabet "ဂ" (ga), Pyu alphabet "င" (Nga), Pyu alphabet "ဥ" (Oo) and Pyu alphabet "ပ" (Pa). are clear and can be taken photographs.¹

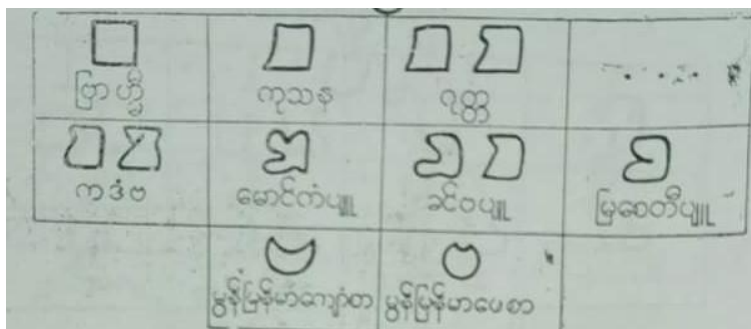


Stone-plate with Pyu
"ပ" (Pa)

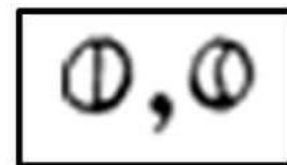


Stone-plate with Brahmi "က" (Ka-gyi)

The Brahmi alphabet "ဗ" (Ba-Htet-Chaing) which was stamped to sink on the surface of the ancient brick is found. One may see the tables of Brahmi alphabets to know the design and shape of Brahmi "ဗ". It is seen at the tables of Brahmi alphabets that the original design of Brahmi alphabet "ဗ" is the square pattern which has 4 lines which are equal length.²



(ပျူဂဏန်း: "၈၀")



Pyu number "၈၀" (Shi-see = 80) being inscribed on an ancient brick of the pagoda is also found. That Pyu number "၈၀" can be seen in the text of Pyu reader by U Thar Myat.³

(4) The compound of Rwar-Ma monastery, Rwar-Ma Village

The compound of Rwar-Ma monastery is located beside the south of Tan-Lwee creek in the eastern part of Rwar-Ma village which is about one mile far from Maung-Htaungt pagoda. There are 6 pagodas in the compound of the monastery. There are 2 stone-stupas adjacent to the north-eastern brick wall, not inside, but outside. There is a pagoda which was rebuilt in modern design out of the south-eastern brick wall. The most northern pagoda of the row of 3 pagodas adjacent with Tan-Lwee creek in the eastern part of the compound of monastery is a ruined pagoda which remains about 80 feet high bell shape part. The ancient Brahmi alphabet

¹ Ye Min Tun Ywar-Ma

² San Tar Aung 6th Century AD

³ Thar Myat Mon-Myanmar

“ဗ” written on an ancient brick was found among the ancient bricks being laid on the ground in the east of the pagoda.¹



One of the ruined pagoda in
Ywar-Ma monastery



Brick with Brahmi alphabet
“ဗ” (Ba-Htet-Chaing)



Brick with Pyu alphabet
“၈၈” (2 Hta-Sin-htoos)



Brick with Brahmi alphabet
“ရ” (Ra-Kauk)

The middle pagoda of the row of 3 pagodas was built on the square brick-stage and has the cane. It is a ruined pagoda which remains 20 feet high bell-shape part. A broken brick on which 2 “ဗ” of Brahmi alphabet were written, A broken brick on which 2 “၈” (Hta-Sin-Htoo) of Pyu alphabet were written, and a broken brick on which 1 “ဗ” of Brahmi alphabet was written were found among the ancient bricks being used around the base of bell-shape part.

There is a pagoda which has been rebuilt in modern style adjacent to the western brick wall in the compound. Some ancient bricks which appeared in rebuilding the pagoda scatter around the pagoda. An ancient broken brick on which Brahmi alphabet “ရ” (Ra-Kauk) was found among those bricks.²



Style of the various alphabet “ရ” (Ra-Kauk)

An ancient brick on which an alphabet was written but ruined and could not read was found at the brick-row/frame which remains in original pattern the worshipping building in the north of the pagoda.

The two broken bricks on which Brahmi alphabet “ဗ” was inscribed, a broken brick on which Brahmi alphabet “ဗ ဗ” were inscribed, a broken brick on which Pyu alphabet “၈၈” (2

¹ Ye Min Tun Ywar-Ma

² Ibid.

Hta-Sin-htoos), a brick which is not broken and on which Brahmi alphabet “ရ” was inscribed and a brick on which unread able alphabet was inscribed were found in the compound of Rwar-Ma monastery of Rwar-Ma village.

(5) The compound of Hi-ta-kar-ri monastery, La-mu- mao village

La-mu-mao village is about 30 miles far from the north of Taunggoke. One can go to the village along Ann-Taunggoke highway road. La-mu-mao village is located beside the south warols of La-Mu-mao. The compound of Hi-ta-kar-ri monastery is beside La-mu-creek in the east of La-mu-mao village.

There are 9 ancient pagoda in the compound of Hi-ta-kar-ri. There are 3 groups of the pagodas according to their location. The first group is the group of 5 pagodas in the north of he main building of 5 pagodas, the 4 pagodas were built with bricks and the other pagoda was built with stones.

The southern most pagoda of the first group is a ruined mound which remains 10 feet high from the ground base to the top of bell-shape part. The 5 broken bricks on each of which Brahmi “ဓ” was inscribed were found among the ancient bricks which fell from the pagoda.

Another ruined pagoda which collapse to the bell-shape part and is 15 feet high is located in about 11 feet distance in the south of the above pagoda. The 7 ancient broken bricks on which Brahmi “ဓ” were inscribed were found at the second ruined pagoda.



One of the ruined pagodas in Hi-ta-kar-ri monastery

The most found brick-alphabet of those 2 ruined pagodas were Brahmi “ဓ” alphabets which were made to sink on the surfaces of the bricks.¹

The second group of the 2 pagodas is located in the east of the main building. The northern pagoda of the 2 remains original and the southern pagoda have been rebuilt in modern style. The northern pagoda is 14 feet high from the base to the top of the bell-part is 11 feet and the width is 9 feet. It has arc-cave.

¹ Ye Min Tun, U, La-Mu-Mao Village Field Report (Hereafter cited as Ye Min Tun La-Mu)

The two broken bricks on each of which Brahmi alphabet “ဓ” was inscribed were found among the old bricks at the base of bell-shape part in the west. A broken brick on which Brahmi “ဓ” was inscribed was found among the ancient bricks which fell down from the pagoda to the ground in the west.

A broken brick on which Brahmi alphabet “ရ” was inscribed was found among the brick-layers of the pagoda in the north. Similarly, the 4 broken bricks on each of which Brahmi alphabet “ရ” was inscribed were found at the pile of the ancient bricks which fell down in the east of the pagoda.



Brick with Brahmi alphabet
“ဓ”



Brick with Brahmi alphabet
“ရ”

A brick on which Brahmi alphabet “က” (Ka-gyi) was inscribed was found in the broken part of the bell-shape part. The eastern part of the pagoda collapsed and the broken bell-shaped remains.

The two bricks on each of which Pyu alphabet “က” was inscribed and brick on which the broken was inscribed but could not read were found among the ancient bricks which fell down on the ground.

The bricks being inscribed alphabets which are most found are the ancient bricks on which Brahmi alphabets “ဓ” in the compound of Hi-ta-Kar-ri monastery of La-mu-mao village.¹

Although the sizes and the designs of those brick-Brahmi alphabets “ဓ” which were made a rectangular mark sinking in the surfaces of the bricks are a little different from each other, the style of the basic design is similar.² Those brick-Brahmi alphabets “ဓ” are similar to the brick-Brahmi alphabet “ဓ” which were found in the various townships of Myanmar.³

The other brick-Brahmi alphabets which were found in the compound of Hi-ta-kar-ri are the brick-Brahmi alphabets “ရ” is similar to a straight stick.⁴ The ones who are not familiar with the ancient Brahmi alphabets and the ancient brick-alphabets may be suspected whether the ancient brick which had such a mark of stick is really the brick on which Brahmi alphabet “ရ” was inscribed.

One will have to see and study the design of Brahmi “ရ” at the tables of Brahmi alphabets so that one will if reject his or her suspicion on Brahmi alphabets “ရ”.

¹ Ye Min Tun La-Mu

² San Tar Aung 16th Century AD. (See Brahmi Alphabets Table)

³ Ye Min Tun Southern Rakine

⁴ San Tar Aung 16th Century AD. (See Brahmi Alphabets Table)

It is difficult to accept that the stick-mark on the brick is Brahmi alphabet “ရ” if one finds only one brick with a stick-mark. But, finding 10 ancient bricks on each of which Brahmi “ရ” was inscribed at the ancient pagodas in the compound of Hi-ta-kar-ri¹ and comparing the ancient bricks being inscribed Brahmi “ရ” (in Hi-ta-kar-ri monastery) with the other ancient bricks being inscribed Brahmi “ရ” which were found in the various districts of Myanmar will make one understand the brick-Brahmi alphabet “ရ”.

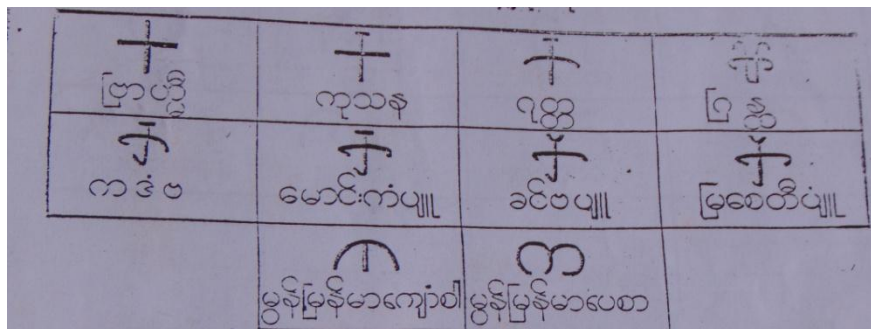


Brick with Pyu alphabet “ဝ”



Brick with Brahmi alphabet
“က” (Ka-gyi)

Then, I put up the ancient brick on which Brahmi alphabet “က” (Ka-gyi) being found in the compound of Hi-ta-kar-ri of La-mu-mao village. We have to be and study the tables of Brahmi alphabet in order to know² and understand the original design of Brahmi alphabet “က”.



The original design of ancient Brahmi alphabet “က” is the sign of “+”. Which is mentioned on the tables of Brahmi alphabets when the original Brahmi alphabet “က” is was inscribed on the ancient bricks, not only the Brahmi “က” was inscribed as its original upright design but also the Brahmi “က” was inscribed like the sign of “x”.³ The similar bricks on which Brahmi alphabet “က” was inscribed were found in the other districts of Myanmar.⁴

¹ Ye Min Tun La-Mu

² San Tar Aung 16th Century AD. (See Brahmi Alphabets Table)

³ Naing Win, U, Yar Mar Pu Ra (Mawlamyine) Myo-Haung and bricks on which Pyu and Brahmi alphabets Sar Dan, in 2012, Mawlamyine University.

⁴ Ye Min Tun Southern Rakhine

Discussion and Conclusion

The bricks sealed with Brahmi and Pyu alphabets, the stone slabs inscribed with Pyu and Brahmi alphabets and the finger-marked bricks found in Tanggoke Township indicate the fact that it is the place where Srikhista Culture had influenced and which had been one of the Pyu Empires.

To confirm these facts, in this paper, there are

- (1) Physical feature and location,
- (2) Pyu writings formally found there,
- (3) The same bricks with Pyu Alphabet found in the Pyu centre, and
- (4) The width of the area of the Pyus possession found in contemporary records

By looking at the location of Taunggoke, firstly the area is one hundred miles away from the strategic area of the Pyus, Srikhista. There is no doubt that the Civilization of Srikhista had influenced the area which is about one hundred miles away from Srikhista and in the west there is an opening to the sea.

The second point is that there had been Pyu writing system according to the evidences found in Thandwe Pyu inscriptions.

The third point is that the evidence of bricks found in Taunggoke is the same as the bricks, alphabets and the way of writing found in other places in Myanmar and the strategic areas of Pyu.

The final point is that Taunggoke Township of today was included in the area of Pyu Empire according to three Chinese Contemporary records.

According to the evident records “Htan Dynasty Old History AD 946, The Governing Record of Htan Dynasty AD 961, and The New History of Htan Dynasty AD 1060”, it is shown that the present¹ Srikhista culture had influenced and which had been a part of the Pyu Empires.

¹ Yi Sein, U, Foreign Relation of Myanmar during the Pyu Era, Naing-gan Tha-Maing Research Journal IV, Yangon, Sar-Pay-Beik-Man Printing Press, in 1979.

APPENDIX I

သရ

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မျက်

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ဦးစံသာအောင်၊ အေဒီခြောက်ရာစုနှစ်ယင်းမတိုင်မီ ရခိုင်ပြည်သုံးအက္ခရာ၊ ရန်ကုန်၊ တောက်တောက်ဝင်း
ပုံနှိပ်တိုက်၊ ၁၉၇၄ စာ-၄၃

APPENDIX II

ပျူအက္ခရာပုံစံအမျိုးမျိုး*

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*ဦးသာမြတ်၊ ပျူဖတ်စာ၊ စာ-၁၀။

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