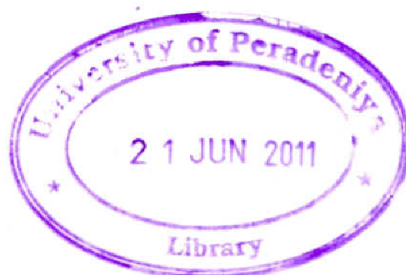


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**The Influence of Buddhist Doctrines on Tai-Shan People to Develop
their Socio-Religious Background in Burma
(between 13th-16th A.D)**

**By
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**Thesis Submitted for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
Department of Pāli and Buddhist Studies
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April, 2010**

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Abstract

There are many Tai groups in Asia such as the Tai-Assam of India, the Tai-Dam in northern Vietnam, the Tai-Sipsongpanna, in Yunnan province, southern China, the Tai-Shan in the Union of Burma and the Tai-Thai in northern Thailand. The aim of this research is to give attention to the influence of Buddhist doctrines on Tai-Shan people to develop their religious background in Burma (between 13th-16th A.D) an area of study which has so far remained untouched. The histories of Buddhism of the Tai-Shan people in Burma are unknown to Buddhist scholar as few people have done research. This research is based on primary and second sources.

Furthermore, this dissertation covers not only the belief system of the Tai-Shan from the early period, it also touches upon some of the latest historical developments in the Tai-Shan socio-politics namely about the Tai-Shan princes who were forced to resign from their hereditary power in the late 1950s.

This research contains seven chapters. The first three chapters discuss the historical background particularly about the Tai-Shan people, Tai-Shan kingdoms and the Tai-Shan dominions in Burma which were in different periods. The next three chapters explore the Tai-Shan belief systems and Tai-Shan Buddhism: the embrace of Buddhism by the Tai-Shan people and how Buddhist ideas have influenced the Tai-Shan people in their day to day lives. The last chapter offers some conclusion of our investigation.