

# FOREWORD

**E**VERY YEAR in June hundreds of school children return to their classrooms in the kindergartens, primary, middle and high school divisions of the Methodist English School. Each year scores of little ones make their first venture into school life in the nurseries, where the first week of loud wails in unfamiliar surroundings is soon replaced by the youngsters' happy singing and playing together.

Every year the principal and large staff of teachers are on hand to guide young feet to the new classrooms to which they have been promoted, to inspire them to study hard for good scholarship, and also to imbue them with the school spirit and an interest in the school's many activities.

Every year a friendly rivalry is engendered in the annual competition between the four houses of the school with every

pupil and teacher working hard for points to see his or her house raise its flag to first place at the end of the school year.

These and many other traditions, such as the annual Fun Fair, Graduation Ceremony, Nativity Play, concerts and sports events, are carried on from year to year in much the same manner, but the scene is always changing. The years pass quickly and soon the young ones become seniors and spend their final year pushing always toward their matriculation or G.C.E. examinations. New faces are seen in the student body, which in spite of everything, keeps expanding until it passed 2,850 this year.

The faculty too, keeps growing and changing.

Student leaders graduate and new ones grow up to take their places.

And so it is that the traditions and acti-

vities continue, but each year produces its own unique pattern woven by its own set of students, student leaders and staff. Each year is different.

Because we cherish our school-day memories and want to remember our own class and our own activities, the staff of the *Swaying Palm* has attempted the monumental task of making this annual volume a memory book, not just for the seniors or the high school, but for all of you—from the nurseries and kindergartens to the most recent graduates. They hope that it will give you pleasure for many years to come—from its opening picture of our palmed school entrance to the final pages for you to collect autographs of your teachers and classmates.

THE EDITOR

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SECTION I

CLASSSES

## GRADUATION:

# RETURN TO TRADITION

By Patricia Barnett

This year's graduation ceremony was held on Saturday, December 15, 1956, in the school hall along with the annual Nativity Play. The double event marked a return to tradition after last year's graduation was held separately in February.

The graduates formed two groups—the Burma matriculation students and those who sat for the General Certificates of Education (G.C.E.—London University) examinations held by the British Council. Both groups were awarded their graduation certificates, Bibles and prizes by Daw Hla Khin, wife of the Minister of Education.

The ceremony began at 5 P.M. and was presided over by U San Shain, chairman of the school's Board of Governors.

"Matrics" back from college



Sithu U Kaung, Burma's Director of Education, gave the address to graduates, and Dr. George W. Hollister, Principal, spoke briefly.

Monsieur Salade of the French Legation in Rangoon also attended the ceremony and, on behalf of the French Government, awarded the school's French scholars book prizes for excellent progress in French.

After the prize distribution two speeches were made by members of the graduating classes. Agnes Khin Maung spoke in Burmese on behalf of the Matriculation students, and Frances Beale spoke in English for the G.C.E. students. Each, on behalf of her class, thanked the principal and staff for all the benefits they had received as pupils of the school.

### G. C. E. Class Prizes

The school gave class prizes to G.C.E. students for proficiency in various subjects as follows:

**Myrna Rodriguez**—English, Scripture and history;

**Aloka Bose**—English and mathematics;

**Frances Beale**—French, geography and general proficiency;

**Vivyan Sharma**—general science, mathematics and geography;

**Shirley Lal**—Burmese and journalism;

**Patricia Barnett**—Scripture and journalism;

**Feiling Davis**—French; and

**Cecil Todd**—outstanding public spirit.

Certificates were awarded to Ann Gillmon and Bevin Middleton.

## Matriculation Class Prizes

The class prizes for matriculation students were as follows:

(from Mrs. Henderson's Standard IX B)  
**Albert Han**—English and history;  
**Nellie Nyunt**—mathematics and physics;  
**Tommy Htay**—Burmese and geography;  
**Mary Sein**—chemistry;  
**Alex Win**—general science.

Certificates were awarded to Jean Kin Maung, Margaret Aung, May Aung and Wilson Coe.

(from Daw Ma Ma Gyi's Standard IX C)

**Mathew Lim**—English;  
**Edward Teoh**—mathematics;  
**Doris E Maung**—Burmese;  
**Maisie Chit**—history, geography, general science;  
**Richard Chain**—physics, chemistry and mathematics;

**Ena Win**—Burmese and physics;  
**Agnes Khin Maung**—English;  
**Vivian Shane**—history;  
**Donald Tha Dok (Maung Thet Swe)**—geography;  
**Wendy Magoo**—chemistry;  
**Reginald Hone Kyan**—general proficiency, and  
**David Teoh**—outstanding public spirit.

The following were awarded certificates: Maymie Pyo Nyein, Olive Saw Lwin, Penelope Po Saw, Daphne Tha Dok, Winnie Pe Than, Ben Aye Maung, Ronald Bo (Khin Maung Bo), Maung Ngwe Soe, Wesley Lim, Frederick Teoh, Richard E Maung (Maung Pyi Soe), Wilson Hla, Ronald Lim, Albert Cho and Peter Aung.

Book tokens worth K25/-, K20/-, and K15/- were awarded to matriculation candidates who won Government scholarships, distinctions and obtained positions in the first division of their examinations. In order of merit they were:



Happy G.C.E. grads wearing traditional white, gather for a class photo on front lawn before ceremony

**Mathew Lim**, who won a scholarship, first division, and distinctions in mathematics and physics;

**Ena Win**, who won a scholarship, first division, and distinctions in mathematics and physics;

**Richard Chain**, first division and distinctions in mathematics and chemistry;

**Ronald Bo (Khin Maung Bo)**, first division and distinction in chemistry;

**Wesley Lim**, first division;

**Edward Teoh**, first division and distinction in physics;

**Reginald Hone Kyan**, first division and distinction in physics;

**Agnes Khin Maung**, first division and distinction in mathematics;

**Olive Saw Lwin**, first division;

**Maymie Pyo Nyein**, distinction in mathematics;

**Maung Ngwe Soe**, distinction in history;

**Ben Aye Maung**, distinction in physics, and

**David Teoh**, distinction in physics.

The annual Nativity Play was presented in colourful pageantry to conclude the programme. Traditional Christmas music was sung by school choirs under the direction of Miss Jeanne Wintringham.



Frances Beate



Miss Rosair,  
Std. X teacher



Shirley Lal



Vivyan Sharma



Cecil Todd



Myrna Rodriguez



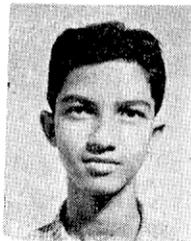
Aloka Bose



Patricia Barnett



Ann Gillmon



Bevin Middleton



Feiling Davis



Francis Mathur

# THE ROAD TO GRADUATION

By Vivyan Sharma

**June, 1956**, was a happy start of a new term for everybody—except the tenth standard. We were well aware that the G.C.E. exams were coming—some in June and more in November, so fervent study began in earnest. Nevertheless we—the boys, at least—took part in sports such as football tennis, etc., which did not distract too much from study.

**Thadingyut** "Lighting Festival" holidays in October were all confined to study for us.

**Then in mid-November** came the exams. With mixed feelings, we began shakily, but as they continued, they became more or less like ordinary school exams, except that much more importance was attached.

**November 30th** and we trod the steps to the British Council examination room in Rangoon for the last time. Then came that hard-earned rest, no more regular classes (except journalism), and the welcome Christmas holidays to look forward to. The boys of the Xth could be seen around their beloved school during those pre-holidays, up to their old pranks, recollecting past events of

their early school life, and indulging in all manner of amusement.

**December 15th** came Graduation Day! It was undoubtedly a "Red Letter Day" for all of us. A touching ceremony, deserving prizes, and, to put the finishing touch, a very enjoyable party given at her home by Pat Barnett.

**The last day** of term before Christmas vacation, we had a class party in our classroom for students and teachers alike—more or less a farewell party.

**January, 1957**, and the New Year, which sees our classmates gradually begin to scatter far and wide across the globe.

Feiling Davis, our well-known class literary figure and elocution prize winner, left for Afghanistan on January 2, where she is to study architecture at a leading college.

Aloka Bose, Feiling's close friend, is leaving for Calcutta, from where she will leave for London in June. She will study economics at a London college.

Frances Beale, one of the "brains" of the class, who will also leave for the U.K. in July, is studying shorthand and typing in the meantime. Doing likewise are Myrna, Pat, Shirley and Ann, who intend to take jobs in Rangoon. But first

Myrna is trying her hand at teaching in our morning school nursery, and Pat and Shirley are still hard at work to get this second volume of the *Swaying Palm* out on time with some extra help from the boys.

Cecil and Bevin are still taking classes for two more G.C.E. subjects they will sit for next June, and Shirley continues her English study. Cecil intends to go to the U.K. for civil aviation study, but Bevin is still undecided about his future.

Vivyan—that's me—will either go to the U.K. in mid-1957 or take up a career in the merchant navy as an engineer to fulfil an ambition of seeing the world.

We have not forgotten our classmate, Francis Mathur, who neither has forgotten us, according to his latest letter from London, where he went in October. He tells us that he also has completed his G.C.E. exams there and is likewise awaiting the results. He plans to study mechanical engineering at a Glasgow college.

Most of us will be bidding our Alma Mater and our beloved friends "goodbye," but wherever we are or whatever we do, we shall never forget them.

## MATRICULATION CLASS:

# DETERMINATION WINS THROUGH

By Agnes (McIntosh) Khin Maung

Remember, remember, the fifteenth of December?

Yes, friends, I ask you that because the fifteenth of December is an unforgettable day for me and my fellow graduates of the school. It is the day of our graduation, the proudest day of our lives.

On this day, as we slowly made our

way up the aisle to the soft strain of the Graduation March, our thoughts flew back to the happy times we had throughout our school days; the different activities of the school, the many pranks played by the mischievous boys and girls, the class parties and oh—almost everything we do in school. We shall miss all

the fun we had together, either in our class or with the whole school.

When we had passed our pre-matriculation examination and were promoted to the matriculation class, how excited we all were, and how important we all felt to know that we were in our final year. Knowing that it was the beginning

Mrs. Henderson,  
IXB teacher



Albert Han



Margaret Aung



Alex Win



Nellie Nyunt



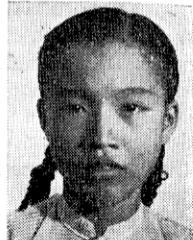
Jean Kin Maung



Tommy Htay



Mary Sein



Wilson Coe



May Aung





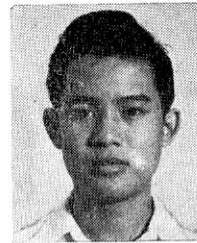
Daw Ma Ma Gyi,  
IX C teacher



Maung Ngwe Soe



Agnes McIntosh  
(Agnes Khin Maung)



Richard Chain



Winnie Pe Than



Donald Tha Dok  
(Maung Thet Swe)

of the end, we each set our hearts upon repaying the teachers, who had so patiently taught us, by making the ending a successful one—one that would make our dear teachers feel proud of us. Thus determined, we each set ourselves to our work.

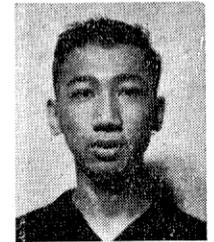
Day after day passed with very few holidays for us, instead of which we had extra morning classes during October and December. Anyway, these classes were jolly and interesting ones, and we all enjoyed the lessons immensely. After this, we started counting the days before our final examination in March. As the number of days became less, and the

exams drew nearer, we became more and more nervous and excited, especially with the teachers giving us their final warning that this was our last chance to make good. A fortnight before the first of March, we were granted our time for private study.

Finally, the big day dawned upon us, and with firm determination to keep ourselves calm, we faced the first of our Government exams. This nightmare of ours was soon over and with anticipation we waited for the results which came out on the morning of June 1. With bated breath, we searched for our names among

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Edward Teoh



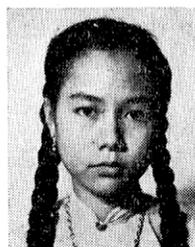
Olive Saw Lwin



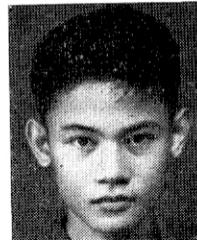
Wesley Lim



Ena Win



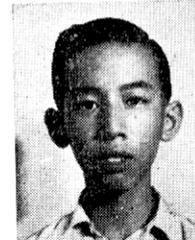
Peter Aung



Doris E Maung



Reginald Hone Kyan



Maisie Chit





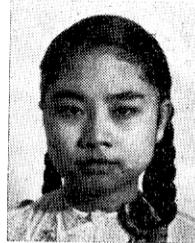
David Teoh



Daphne Tha Dok



Wilson Hla



Maymie Pyo Nyein



Ronald Lim



Penny Po Saw



Ben Aye Maung



Mathew Lim

*(Continued from page 13)*

the list of the successful candidates, and you could just imagine our relief and joy at finding our names on the list. Congratulations were poured upon us. The fruits of our hard work had been revealed, and we each had gotten what we deserved.

A week later, we threw a party in honour of the Principal and teachers of the school, to show our gratefulness for their hard work and their continuous efforts to make us do our best.

Now all are attending college, with the exception of me. Most of them are taking biology as a third optional besides

physics and chemistry, and others are taking pure science. I am sure that the Methodist School will be proud of these future engineers, doctors biologists, botanists, etc. Well, anyway, Olive, for one, is going to specialise in plastic surgery and hopes to become the world's most brilliant surgeon.

As for myself, I have been a pupil in this school since the time it reopened in 1947, and I am not quite ready to leave it yet, so you will see me cooped up in the school library helping our librarian. And I like it too.

Albert Cho



Ronald Bo  
(Khin Maung Bo)



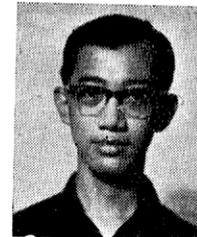
Vivien Shane



Werdy Magoo



Frederick Teoh



Richard E Maung  
(Maung Pyi Soe)

