



## Press Release

Date: January 20, 2014

### **19<sup>th</sup> Century Photographs of Myanmar to be displayed first time**

YANGON: The Embassy of Italy and the Yangon Heritage Trust have organized the first public event to exhibit a collection of 19<sup>th</sup> century photographs of Myanmar from January 21 to February 28, 2014 at the YHT lobby, ideally located in the old center of the city, in the lower block of Pansodan Street in Yangon.

"YHT is delighted to be able to organize this very special exhibition. The photographs are a window into our past that will help us to understand our present, and perhaps even tell us something about our future. They include many beautiful portraits and show Myanmar in all its wonderful diversity," said Dr Thant Myint-U, founder and chairman of Yangon Heritage Trust.

The exhibition will display nearly 50 photos from the vast collection of Mr Gilles de Flogny, a passionate French collector. The photographs illustrate the rich retrospective of Myanmar culture and showcase architectural gems, modes of dress and daily life from a variety of social classes and ethnic communities in 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

"The Italian Ambassador is pleased to bring to the attention of the Myanmar authorities and of the Myanmar people the valuable contribution of the well-known Italian photographer Felice Beato to the promotion of this wonderful country abroad already at an early stage. His innovative photos are a clear evidence of the strong and positive relations that have existed between Myanmar and Italy for a very long time," said Italian Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr Paolo Andrea Bartorelli.

Many of the photos were taken by the Italian-British Photographer **Felice Beato** (1832-1909) who owned a photo studio in Mandalay in 1887. **Beato** chronicled the rich cultural and architectural heritage of the country and captured a wide selection of portraits of the people from that era.

The rest of the photos were taken by **J. Jackson** who owned the "Jackson & Bentley" studio in Yangon, from 1865 to 1915, and **Philip Klier**, who spent decades in Myanmar operating studios in Mawlamyaing and Yangon at the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Yangon Heritage Trust**

The Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT) is a local NGO founded in January 2012 by a group of historians, architects, and business people and dedicated to the revitalization of Yangon by preserving and protecting the city's unique heritage. Its mission is to protect and promote Yangon's rich urban heritage within a cohesive urban plan by advocating for heritage protection and revitalization of the historic city, advising the government and developers on heritage law and public policy and undertaking research and public outreach on preservation projects, studies, conferences, and training.

\*\*\*\*

Contact for more information on Yangon Heritage Trust:

Shwe Yinn Mar Oo, Senior Communications Officer,

Tel: 951 240544

Mobile: 959 73055187

Email: [info@yangonheritagetrust.org](mailto:info@yangonheritagetrust.org)

[www.yangonheritagetrust.org](http://www.yangonheritagetrust.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/theyangonheritagetrust>

\*\*\*\*