

BURMA'S CONSTITUTION (Second Edition) by Maung Maung, B.A., B.L., LL.B.
[The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff. 1961. xviii 340 pp. incl. index. 23.50
guilders.]

In the opening paragraph of the preface of this second edition of Dr. Maung Maung's work, the author indicates that developments in Burma from the time of the first edition of *Burma's Constitution* apparently called for a thorough revision and several additions to that book. This new edition, however, does not lend much support to that statement. One brief new chapter of some six pages entitled "End of an Era" now closes the book. There has been some rewriting, particularly of the chapter on international relations; and sections which named particular office holders, for example that of the Attorney-General, have been brought up to date with information concerning recent incumbents. The constitutional amendments since the original edition are included in the new work; but by far the bulk of the book appears to have been printed from the type set for the first edition. This is, of course, not to say that the new work is not useful, although a brief supplement to the first edition might have been a more economical way of treating the rather negligible new material. Students of international law may find considerable interest in the text of the Boundary Treaty between Burma and China executed in 1960.

The real tragedy of this work, of course, is the fact that it had scarcely come out when Burma's constitution was abrogated by the present military government. Burma had appeared to be making not inconsiderable progress in the direction of constitutional government as it is understood and applied in the West. One may be permitted to hope that the present period will be only a temporary hiatus in constitutional government in Burma and that the system of constitutional law, and the courts to uphold it, which had permitted, for example, such independent and praiseworthy holdings as those of *Tinsa Naw Naing v. Commissioner of Police*, limiting the executive's arbitrary power in matters of detention without trial, will be restored in this nation of South East Asia.