JUNE ROSSBACH
BINGHAM
grew up in New York, attended Vassar, and was graduated from Barnard. Her first book, written with Dr. Fritz Redlich, was *The Inside Story: Psychiatry and Everyday Life* (1953, 1960). In 1961 she published *Courage to Change: Introduction to the Life and Thought of Reinhold Niebuhr*. Her articles have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Mademoiselle*, *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, and *Vogue*, among others. When her husband, Congressman Jonathan B. Bingham, was Deputy Director of the Point Four Program, Burma was one of the Far Eastern places Mrs. Bingham visited, gaining much understanding of the less developed countries. When Mr. Bingham was American Ambassador to the United Nations, Mrs. Bingham made friends with United Nations delegates from all over the world; she could speak with many of them in their own language. When he ran for Congress, she learned a great deal about politics. During the Congressional session, the Binghams commute weekly from the Bronx to Washington. They have four children.
“Any Secretary-General of the United Nations commands attention from those who are concerned with world affairs. In the pages of June Bingham’s biography, U Thant comes to us full and alive. She planned her work to give the reader an introduction both to U Thant and his country. She has succeeded admirably.”

FRANK N. TRAGER
Professor of International Affairs
New York University

June Bingham is exceptionally well qualified to write the life of U Thant. As the wife of a former American Ambassador to the United Nations, she had a unique opportunity to watch U Thant at work and at leisure. She also traveled to his native Burma to gain an understanding of the influences that shaped him and to further her prodigious research. People who knew him helped her to vividly reconstruct his youth—as a student, teacher, and writer—and his experiences during Burma’s turbulent struggle for independence. Thus she is able to give us a rich picture of Burma in 1909, when U Thant was born, of family life and social customs and the influence of Buddhism, of student politics at Rangoon University, of life under the Japanese occupation, of Burma’s struggles as a newly independent nation, and of U Thant’s rise to high government posts.

He came to America in 1957 as Burma’s Permanent Representative to the United Na-
tions, and his diary records that at his first meeting with Dag Hammarskjöld the two discovered a profound harmony between Thant's Buddhism and the then-Secretary-General's spiritual nature. Of this sympathetic but objective biography, Porter McKeever, Executive Director of the United Nations Association, has said: "This is a most impressive achievement. A far-too-little-known shaper of human destiny is colorfully sketched against the fascinating and unfamiliar country and culture that have shaped him. Rarely are insight and information provided on such a high level of interest."

John Scott Everton, former United States Ambassador to Burma, has praised this work as "a perceptive portrait of U Thant not only as a world leader but also in human terms and in the context of Buddhist culture. I personally found it exceedingly interesting and informative."

And from Andrew W. Cordier, former Undersecretary of the United Nations and Dean of the School of International Affairs, Columbia University, comes the summation: "A warm, vivid, and informative account of the man and the office he holds. It is an intensely human portrayal which should interest a wide circle of readers."

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