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SUBJECT: Practicum

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THE PENANG BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION: AN OUTLINE

1925 - 1960

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PREFACE

A personal interest in religion, directed choice of a topic for the Practicum in a related field. Serious thoughts of conducting academic inquiry into the origins and practise of Buddhism in Penang, were somewhat modified upon realization that in the short period of one academic year, - it would hardly be doing any justice to Buddhism, if such an undertaking were made. Perhaps the point would become clearer, if one were to note that there are more than one hundred Buddhist Temples in Penang itself. Tracing and correlating their individual histories, would therefore prove to be quite an academic task. Grandiose schemes, had therefore, for practical reasons to be narrowed down. My choice rested on a specific Buddhist institution for two main reasons:-

- a) it was felt that a Buddhist institution, such as that chosen, would have ample sources of material to suit purposes of this exercise.
- b) the task at hand was to construct a history rather than engage in metaphysical discussions of religion and its practice.

Accordingly therefore, the Penang Buddhist Association was selected. Much as its name may tend to lead one into thinking that it was an organisation representative of all Buddhists in Penang, I hasten to add that on the contrary it was not. There are several other associations catering for Buddhists too, among whom the Penang Buddhist Association is one of the more prominent.