

Editor's Note:

This translation of Hieronimo di Santo Stefano's journey to Pegu in 1495-1496 was originally published in *India in the Fifteenth Century Being a Collection of Narratives of Voyages to India*, edited by R. H. Major, in 1857. The account was written in the form of a letter to Messer Giovan Jacobo Mainer. Only those portions related to Burma have been included in the version below.

M.W.C.

**ACCOUNT OF THE JOURNEY OF HIERONIMO DI
SANTO STEFANO, A GENOVESE (1495-1496)**

Hieronimo di Santo Stefano of Genoa
Translated by R. H. Major

We departed [from Coromandel] in another ship ... and after twenty dayes reached a great city called Pegu. This part is called Lower India. There is a great lord, who possesses more than ten thousand elephants, and every year he breeds five hundred of them. This country is distant fifteen days' journey by land from another, called Ava, in which grow rubies and many other precious stones. Our wish was to go to this place, but at that time the two princes were at war, so that no one was allowed to go from the one place to the other. Thus, we were compelled to sell the merchandise which we had in the said city of Pegu, which were of such a sort that only the lord of the city could purchase them. He is an idolater, like the before-mentioned. To him, therefore, we sold them. The price amounted to two thousand ducats, and as we wished to be paid we were compelled by reason of the troubles and intrigues occasioned by the aforesaid war, to remain there a year and a half, all which time we had daily to solicit at the house of the said lord.

While we were thus suffering from cold and from heat, with many fatigues and hardships, messer Hieronimo Adorno, who was a man of feeble constitution, and greatly reduced by these afflictions combined with an ancient malady which tried him sorely...yielded up his spirit to our Lord God. This was [on 27 December 1496]. [F]or many months I was so grieved and afflicted by his death...being consoled by some men of worth, I exerted myself to recover our property. In this, I succeeded, but with great trouble and expence, and I set sail in a ship to go to Malacca...