

SEPTEMBER, 1968

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# Ceylon Stamp News



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FOR STAMP COLLECTORS  
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# CEYLON STAMP NEWS

Vol. 2 No. 12

Published by ORIENTAL STAMP SERVICE  
39, Chatham Street, Colombo, Ceylon.

September 1968

## Low Value Commemorative Sets of Ceylon

by *Best Red*  
**K. Pathmanathan** *insentive*  
*Wigan*

In all Ceylon has issued 8 commemorative sets, the highest denomination of which is either 25 c. or below this value.

Of these 8 low value commemorative sets, 3 were issued during the reign of late King George VI.

The first set was released on 12th May, 1937, to commemorate the coronation of late King George VI. The denominations of this set were 6 c., 9 c. and 20 c. respectively.

After a lapse of 9 years another set of 2 stamps were issued to mark peace after the end of the second world war. This set which was issued on 10th December, 1946, consisted of the value 6 c. and 15 c.

Four stamps of the denominations 6c., 10c., 15c. and 25c. came next on 25th November, 1947, for the New Constitution. The excellence of printing coupled with the simplicity of the designs attributed to the popularity of this set among stamp collectors.

To mark the first anniversary of Independence, the Government issued a set of 4 stamps. The denominations of this set were 4 c., 5 c., 15 c. and 25 c. The 4 c. and 5 c. stamps were issued on 4th February, 1949, and the 15 c. and 25 c. stamps were issued on 5th April, 1949.

Ceylon, too, joined with other countries when it issued a set of 3 stamps on 10th October, 1949, to honour the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union. This set comprised of the denominations 5 c., 15 c. and 25 c.

To mark Buddha Jayanthi, 4 stamps of the denominations 3 c., 4 c., 10 c. and 15 were issued on 10th May, 1956 and 23rd May, 1956. The

4 c. stamp carried a surcharge of 2 c. and the 10 c. stamp carried a surcharge of 5 c.

On 7th April, 1960, a set of 2 stamps were issued to mark World Refugee Year. The denominations of this set were 4 and 25 c.

Ceylon also contributed to the Freedom from Hunger campaign sponsored by the Food and Agricultural Organization by issuing a set of 2 stamps of the denominations 5 c. and 25 c. Both these stamps which bore a common design were issued on 21st March, 1963.

The popularity of all the foregoing sets were solely attributed to the low denominations of these sets and were within the reach of a stamp collector with limited means.

But, on the other hand, the issue of commemorative sets of high denominations during recent years has put the collector to untold hardship.

The opening of the Philatelic Bureau and the use of pictorial cancellations on First Day Covers have rendered assistance to the promotion of philately in Ceylon but the issue of commemorative sets of high denominations have been detrimental to it.

The Government could easily remedy this by reverting to its old policy of issuing commemorative sets the highest denominations of which should not exceed 25 c. This would bring the widest publicity to the commemoratives which Ceylon proposes to issue in the future.

### FOUR MORE PAGES!!!

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*(The Publisher).*

**Ceylon—a 25 c. stamp to mark the  
1400th anniversary of the descent of  
Al Quran to the Universe**

by

**Lloyd R. Devarajah**

Ceylon will issue a new 25 cents stamp to mark the 1400th anniversary of the revelation or descent of the Holy Quran (Koran).

The stamp which is illustrated in this issue, is being printed in the photogravure process by Messrs. Harrison and Sons Limited of England on "Sri and Lotus" watermarked paper.

The date of issue of the stamp has not been fixed at the time of this issue going to press, but it is expected to be released for public sale sometime in October, 1968.

The issue of a stamp to mark this important occasion was recommended by the "1400th Year Holy Koran Commemoration National Committee" and the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs.

The Quran (Koran) the sacred book of Islam was written in Arabic in 114 suras or sections. It is believed to be the word of God, dictated to Mohamed by Gabriel, the Angel of Revelation in both Persian and later Jewish and Christian thought.

The Quran (Koran), meaning "that which is recited" is the production of Mohamed as set down by his scribes, among them the devoted Abu Bakr, who collected "from palm-leaves, skins, blade-bones" fragments which various hearers had copied.

Although it echoes themes from the Old Testament, the Talmud and the Apocrypha, the Quran (Koran) possesses a quality peculiarly and wholly its own.

Written in the purest Arabic, the Quran (Koran) consists of 114 suras, varying in length from 4 to 285 verses and abounding in repetitions of ideas, personal experiences, dire warnings by Mohamed to his enemies and exhortations to his followers.

Its theological and legal teaching forms the basis of the religion of Islam (Moslem), whose

followers throughout the world totals 475,000,000 (475 million). More than a sacred book of religious revelation, the Quran (Koran) is a guide to a way of life. It is well-suited to recitation and its rhythmic language is regarded as a model of Arabic style and has exercised great influence in the development of Arabic language and literature.

To the believer, the sacred book is a miraculous work containing the utterances of God. The orthodox think that it should never be translated into another language. One may not touch the Quran (Koran) without previous bodily purification and it is forbidden to hold it below the waist. Many buildings and decorative objects, especially those belonging to the Moslem faith, are blazoned with quotations from the suras.

In the 17th century, this text was revised and standardized by order of the Caliph Othman and all variant texts were destroyed. The great Arab conquests of the 7th and 8th centuries carried the religion of the Quran (Koran) as far as Spain westwards and India eastwards.

Two dominant ideas stand out in the sacred book: the certainty of a Day of Judgment, when good and bad will be separated; and the unity and majesty of one God. The holy book prescribes the forms of prayer, five times a day; the month of fasting; the pilgrimage to Mecca and almsgiving; all of which have given the Moslems—widespread as they are among many races and in many lands—a sense of community and a civil and moral code permeating their entire society. Disjointed, crude as the sacred book may sound to the modern ear, it is, nonetheless, the only one of the great religious scriptures to be the creation of one man, given to his followers within the brief period of twenty years.

The Quran (Koran) is the source of truth and wisdom for the followers of the Islamic (Moslem) faith and proclaims the equality and brotherhood of man.

Mohamed who wrote the holy scriptures around 660 A.D. was afflicted with epilepsy, which was regarded until modern times as supernatural evidence of sanctity or demon possession. Today, it claims at least 475,000,000 adherents throughout the world.

## CEYLON FIRST DAY COVERS

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1954 Q. E. II Royal Visit	1 "	1.00
1955 Royal Agri. Exhib.	1 "	1.00
1956 National Service	1 "	—
1957 Buddha Jayanthi	4 "	—
" Cent. Cey Post. Stamp.	4 "	—
1958 Human Rights	2 "	—
1959 Pirivena University	1 "	—
1960 Refugee Year	2 "	—
1961 Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike	1 "	2.00
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" W. H. O.	1 "	1.00
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" Freedom from Hunger	2 "	2.00
" Co-operative Movement	1 "	2.00
" Prime Minister		
Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike	1 "	—
" National Conservation	1 "	—
1964 Industrial Exhibition	2 "	.50
" Railway Centenary	1 "	3.00
" Cnty. of Anagarika		
Dharmapala	1 "	1.50
" Cnty. of C. M. C.	1 "	1.00
1965 I. T. U. Centenary	2 "	1.00
" Inter. Co-op. Year	2 "	1.00
1966 Prime Minister		
D. S. Senanayake	1 "	.25
" Birds	4 "	3.00
" Centy. of K. M. C.	1 "	1.00
" Ext. of Inland Air Mail Service		2.00
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" Inter: Rice Year	2 "	1.00
" UNESCO	2 "	1.00
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" Hydrological Decade	2 "	—
" I. P. I. Conference Kandy	1 "	2.00
" Centy. of Tea Industry	4 "	3.00
" Girl Guides	2 "	.75
" Tourist Year	1 "	1.00
" Col. H. S. Olcott	1 "	.50
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" 20th Anniversary W. H. O.	1 "	1.00
" Colombo Inter. Air Port	1 "	1.30

## Ceylon Commemorative Issues

1937 to 1968

MINT USED

1937 K. G. VI Coronation	3 vals.	1.00	1.00	
1940 Surcharge	2 "	.40	.40	
1946 Victory	2 "	.40	.40	
1937 New Constitution	4 "	1.00	1.00	
1949 First Anniv. Indep.	4 "	1.00	1.00	
1949 U. P. U.	3 "	1.00	1.00	
1952 Colombo Plan Exhi.	2 "	1.00	1.00	
1953 Q. E. II Coronation	1 "	.25	.10	
1954 Q. E. Royal Visit	1 "	.25	.10	
1955 Royal Agriculture Exhi.	1 "	.25	.10	
" National Service	1 "	.25	.10	
do with white stroke	1 "	—	5.00	
" Buddha Jayanthi	4 "	1.00	1.00	
1957 Ceylon Stamp Centy.	4 "	3.00	—	
1958 10th Anniv. H. Rights	2 "	2.25	2.25	
1959 Pirivena University	1 "	.25	.10	
1960 World Refugee Year	2 "	.50	.50	
1961 P. M.		.50	.25	
Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike	1 "	—	—	
" Ceylon Boy Scouts	1 "	.50	.25	
1962 Malaria Eradication	1 "	.50	.25	
1963 Silver Jubilee Air Mail	1 "	1.00	.25	
" Freedom from Hunger	2 "	.75	.25	
" Ceylon Co.op. Movement	1 "	1.00	.25	
" National Conservation	1 "	.25	.10	
1964 Anagarika Dharmapala	1 "	.50	.15	
" Industrial Exhibition	2 "	.25	.25	
" Centy. of Railway pair	2 "	2.00	.25	
1965 I. T. U.	2 "	.75	.25	
" Co-operative Year	2 "	1.00	.25	
" Centy. of C. M. C.	1 "	.50	.25	
do Varieties	2 "	—	—	
" Centy. of K. M. C.	1 "	.50	.15	
1966 W. H. O.	2 "	—	.50	
" UNESCO	2 "	1.00	.25	
" Rice Year	2 "	.75	.25	
1967 1st Anniv. Poya Holidays	4 "	2.00	.50	
" Centy. of G. M. C.	1 "	.50	.15	
" Tea Centenary	4 "	—	.75	
" Intr. Tourist Year	1 "	—	.25	
" Girl Guides	2 "	—	.25	
" Col. H. S. Olcott	1 "	—	.10	
1968 20th Anniv. Indep.	2 "	—	—	
Sir Baron Jayatillaka		—	—	
" 20th Anniversary W. H. O.		—	—	
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## Errors and Varieties for You

When there are stamps with colours completely missing or with major colour shifts, the variety caused is a very desirable collector's item. We should warn collectors that minor colour shifts, especially in stamps produced in vast quantities and at great speed in the modern printing presses by photogravure are NOT important. We commented on this fact as far back as February, 1967, page 11 of Ceylon Stamp News. We repeat the warning again.

But if the shift is a major one and so causes a difference in the design of the normal stamp then it is a variety worth acquiring; major varieties of this nature get eventual catalogue status.

The varieties mentioned in the previous month's issue is clear enough to see without the aid of a glass; it alters the well-known design of two leaves and a bud to three leaves and a bud. Just as the 60 c. bird with a double breast or with no legs or even four legs is a most uncommon fowl! The 60 c. Railway Centenary with a train running off the track is another variety. In real life this would have meant a disaster of some magnitude.

We do have quite a choice of collectable varieties and will be glad to show them to you, if you are interested. Please phone and call by appointment and so avoid disappointment—Thank You.

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## First Day Cover Collecting

by  
O. S. S.

The Oriental Stamp Service has pioneered in the philatelic field of First Day Cover Collecting in Ceylon. The trend was started as far back as 1947 with the pre-independence issue of four stamps to commemorate the New Constitution. These covers are now treasured items in collectors' albums and collections.

First Day Covers and Special Cancellations tell the story of the development of postal facilities and commemorative trends; they form important links in the chain of postal history in recent times, especially in the post independence era of Ceylon. The postal authorities co-operated by a first Day Of Issue cancellation in 1957 for the Centenary of the First adhesive Postage Stamp issued in Ceylon.

A further development occurred when the Post Office issued a special commemorative cancellation or post-mark for the extension of the Internal Air Mail services to Trincomalee via Amparai and the I. P. I. conference in Kandy. But there were no special stamps issued for these two important events in the postal history of Ceylon. The cancellations provide an interesting souvenir and a very useful record of the events and the postal facilities provided for these two occasions.

The early covers and cancellations are now scarce and valuable philatelic items. The quantities available and issued were small and perhaps counted only in hundreds. To-day even the postal authorities issue their own covers; these covers are produced, processed and sold by the Philatelic Bureau. The issue of special covers is being counted in thousands and they are being snapped up by collectors. Perhaps in a few years the issue of the souvenir covers may exceed the hundred thousand and as the hobby of philately expands may even reach the million mark.

A stone was thrown into the calm waters of philately and the ripples are spreading wider and wider.

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" W. H. O.	2	"	2 50
" Poya Holiday	4	"	2 50
1967. Tea Centenary	4	"	4 00
" Tourist Year	1	"	1 00
" Girl Guide	2	"	1 00
1968. Col. H. S. Olcott	1	"	- 50
" Sir Baron Jayatillaka	1	"	1 00
1968 20th Anni. W.H.O.	"	"	1 00
1968, Colombo International Air Port		"	1 00

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# LANKA JUNIOR STAMP CLUB

By **ESME**

Beautiful Sea Shells featured on a set of four stamps marked the International Tourist Year in the Island of Seychelles. The name of this island sounds just like the sea shells. These four stamps are valued at 15c. and 40c., Re. 1 and Rs. 2-25.

Sea-Shells on Stamps were not only issued in Seychelles, but in several other countries too. Islands, especially with beautiful beaches around, are full of these corals and sea shells.

Papua and New Guinea quite recently issued a set of gorgeous sea-shell stamps—one of which is reproduced in this column. They are 5c., 20c. and 25c.

Netherlands issued in April last year a set of five Summer Stamps with surcharges.



The Stamps feature specimens of the sea-fauna found on their beaches. The value are as follows:—  
12c 8, 15c—10,  
15c—10 and 45c.—  
20.

Last year in May the island of Bahamas released a definitive issue—one of which was a 2 dollar stamp illustrating a Conch Shell.

Pakistan for the first time issued last year a 15 paise stamp with a Crab pierced through a sword.

Some new stamps will be issued by the Postmaster General of Australia commencing from the month of August—a series of fifteen,

all pertaining to the Territory Sea Shells. These 15 stamps will be issued in three groups of five each.

A word about Barbados-Sea-horses—The design of Barbados's definitive stamps for a century was the Sovereign in a chariot drawn by Sea-horses. Subsequent issues show Neptune instead of the Sovereign, mounted on a triumphal car drawn by Sea-horses. The chariot is a shell fitted with paddles.

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A	85	Russia	10 "	1 00
A	86	Poland Birds	6 "	1 00
A	87	Germany	10 "	1 00
A	88	Germany	10 "	1 00
A	89	Canada	7 "	1 00
A	90	Jugoslavia	8 "	1 00
A	92	Cameroon	4 "	—
A	94	Cameroon	4 "	—
A	95	Mongolia	3 "	—
A	96	Hungary Birds	3 "	40
A	97	China	4 "	—
A	98	Mozambique Triangulars	4 "	—
A	103	Mauritius Birds	5 "	1 50
A	104	Hungary Transport	5 "	—
A	105	Hungary Horse	3 "	50
A	107	Hungary Rocket	5 "	—
A	109	China	3 "	—
B	110	South Africa Royal Visit	3 pairs	1 00
B	111	Bulgaria Olympic Games	3 "	—
B	112	Rumania Fish	4 vals	75
B	113	Chile Air Mail	6 "	1 00
B	114	Hungary Flowers	3 "	50
B	115	China Industrial	7 "	1 50
B	116	Mongolia Rocket	3 "	—
B	119	Poland Cats	3 "	—
B	120	China Emblem	3 "	50
B	121	" Planes	3 "	—
B	122	" Peace	3 "	50
C	25	Hungary Fairy Tales	3 "	50
C	27	" Flowers	3 "	—
C	28	" Lace	3 "	70
C	30	Ruanda Flower	3 "	—
C	31	Czechoslovakia	7 "	—
C	32	Hungary Arts	3 "	1 00
C	33	Poland Rockets	3 "	—
C	34	Costa Rica	" "	—
C	35	China Swan	4 "	50
C	36	Poland Navigation	" "	—
C	37	Hungary Flower	" "	55
C	38	Portuguese	5 "	1 00
C	39	Jugoslavia Sport	3 "	50
C	40	Maldive Minerat	4 "	1 00
C	41	Ecuador Pope Visit	3 "	50
C	42	Rumania Birds	5 "	1 25
C	43	Hungary Birds	3 "	75
C	44	Hungary Rocket	3 "	75
C	45	Russia Sports	3 "	70
C	46	Czechoslovakia Butterflies	3 "	50
C	47	Spain Animals	" "	50
C	48	Czechoslovakia Rocket	2 "	40
C	49	Quaiti State Sports	5 "	2 00
C	50	Rumania Vegetables	2 "	40
C	51	Rumania Horse	2 "	40
C	55	" Bees	3 "	50
C	53	" Space	2 "	40
C	54	Mongolia children's day	5 "	1 50
C	55	Hungary Flowers	5 "	1 50
C	56	Montserat	3 "	50
C	57	East Germany	3 "	1 00
C	58	Poland ancient Animals	5 "	2 50
C	59	Rumania Birds	5 "	2 50



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# SHAPES IN STAMPS

by

T. THANGARAJAH

When the Postage Stamp was first released in Great Britain it was rectangular in shape. Whether it was intentional or simply accidental that determined the shape is purely a conjecture.

Nevertheless, the penny block proved itself to be so convenient as regards to the dimensions and shape that with very little or even no adjustments it has come to stay as the most popular shape for most of the stamps of the world. As far as the greater part of the Postal Administration is concerned this shape and size appears to be quite convenient.

During the end of every school term the students who are collectors of stamps meet me with their collections. In order to keep up their interests in philately and also to aid them much in their education I have directed them to collect thematic stamps. Curiously enough a girl who was advised to collect stamps of historical interest had of her own started collecting stamps which are triangular and other odd shapes; and I have chosen this topic to write on for this issue of our magazine.

The now famous Cape of Good Hope series of 1853 were the first triangulars ever released as postage stamps. It is told that the shape was deliberately chosen to contrast with that of Great Britain. As time went by, other countries began to issue triangulars. Colombia did so in 1865 so that they could be readily sorted out. Newfoundland issued a 3d triangular in 1857. It issued that way to provide a simple means of distinguishing the denominations.

In the middle and the attendant part of this 20th century triangulars have begun to appear in large numbers, and they still do. It is quite clear that these are issued with the collector in mind, perhaps to give a little headache also to the collector. Anyone who has had the pleasure, rather the agony of attempting to separate one triangular from the other in a sheet without tearing a part of the corner, will know how

careful he or she ought to be in handling such a shape. Of course in the imperforate days it should have been considered best as only three snips with a pair of scissors was necessary instead of four. I think it is the above problem that made the 1926 issue of South Africa to be released imperforate at a time when perforations had become the vogue. They were deliberately issued imperforate because of this known difficulty.

A student of Mathematics ought to know that there are three kinds of triangles—the equilateral (all three sides equal); the isosceles (Two sides only are equal) and the scalene (all sides unequal). Stamps have been issued in all the three forms of triangles. The Malayan Federation issued the equilateral in 1962, the Maldives issued the isosceles in 1963 and it is to the credit of Colombia that it issued the scalene ones very early. These are just passing references made to illustrate this article. It is now up to philatelist to find out scores of other countries that have issued the various triangulars.

The rectangular form has produced all sorts of variations in size—small and large, thin, long and massive unwieldy and so on. Some rectangles have been turned to become diamonds. Of late, other four-sided shapes have caught up the fancy of the stamp-issuing countries. Malaysia's rhombus and trapeziums and Malta's trapeziums are worth special mentioning. By the way it should also be noted that in 1898 the Turkish Thessaly had issued a set of octagonally shaped stamps and perforated on all the eight sides. What wonderful stamps these are!

The first circular stamp is known to have been issued in Russia long long ago; but they have come back in the coin issues of Tonga and Sierra Leone. The coin issues are said to be not quite suitable as postage stamps as they are weighty and also difficult to be cancelled. But Tonga and Sierra Leone have gone much further by issuing stamps of the shape of their lands. These are free form stamps—that is the circular stamps and stamps of the shape of the countries. Perhaps we have now what may be called as the ultimates in stamps of shapes; unless an ingenious designer of stamps appears on a future date and revolutionises the stamps existence. To hazard a prediction somebody might issue a stamp with a neat hole in the centre.

# ලංකා තැපෑල මුද්දර

(දහසයවෙනි කොටස)

ලංකා මුද්දර ආරම්භයේ පටන්, වික්ටෝරියා, හත්වන එඩ්වඩ්, පස්වන ජෝර්ජ් රජවරුන්ගේ කාලයේදී නිකුත්කළ මුද්දර සම්බන්ධ තොරතුරු රැසක් ඇතුළත් ලිපි පහළොහක් මිට ප්‍රථම මේ සගයාවෙන් ප්‍රසිද්ධිපත් පත්කර ඇත.

මේ ලිපියේ පවත් හයවෙනි ජෝර්ජ් රජතුමාගේ කාලයට අයත්වන මුද්දරවල විස්තර පලකරනු ලැබේ.

වම් 1937 මැයි මස 12 වෙනිදා හයවෙනි ජෝර්ජ් රජු සහ එම දේවියගේ රුව යෙදූ මුද්දර තුනක් මොලී මංගලා නිමිත්තෙන් විශේෂයෙන් නිකුත්කර තිබේ. ඊට ගත 6, 9, 20 ඇතුළත්වේ. මේ මුද්දර කාණ්ඩය මාස හයක් පමණ කාලයක් භාවිතාකර තිබේ.

ඉන්පසු වම් 1938 දී එම රජුගේ රුව ඇතුළත් මුද්දර කාණ්ඩයෙන් ගත 2 කේ පටන් රු: 10 දක්වා විවිධ මිල ගණන් වලින් සාමාන්‍ය තැපෑල සඳහා නිකුත් කරන ලදී.

ගත 2	රබර් කිරි කැපීම	මුද්දර 5
„ 3	සමනලකඤ්ඤ	„ 6
„ 5	මුහුදු වෙරළාසන්න පෝලවත්තක්	„ 2
„ 6	කොළඹ වරාය	„ 1
„ 10	සිහිරි පච්ඡාය	„ 2
„ 15	මහවැලි ගඟ දැකීම	„ 2
„ 20	තේ දළු නෙලීම	„ 1
„ 25	දළු මැදුර	„ 2
„ 30	පැරණි වැවක්	„ 2
„ 50	වල් අලි දිය කෙලිතා දැකීම	„ 6
රු: 1/-	ත්‍රිකුණාමලය වරාය	„ 2
„ 2/-	පැරණි මුරගලක්	„ 2
„ 5/-	6වෙනි ජෝර්ජ් රජතුමාගේ රූපය	„ 3
„ 10/-	6වෙනි ජෝර්ජ් රජතුමාගේ රූපය	„ 1

ගත 2, 3, 50 යන මේවායේ දැක්වෙන්නේ එකම රූපයි. මේවායේ ඇති විවිධ දැති නිසා 17 වර්ගයකට බෙදිය හැකියි. කොටස්වලට වෙන් කිරීමේදී

1. ගත 2 වර්ග පහ:- දැති ප්‍රමාණයන්  $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ ,  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ ,  $13\frac{1}{2} \times$ ,  $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ , 12 වේ.
2. ගත 3 වර්ග පහ:- දැති ප්‍රමාණයන්  $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ ,  $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $13\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ , 12 වේ.

3. ගත 50 වර්ග පහ:- දැති ප්‍රමාණයන්  $13 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $13\frac{1}{2}$ , 14,  $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ , 12 වේ.

මෙහි සඳහන් වර්ගවලින් දැති  $13\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ , 12 මුද්දර අගනාකමින් එතරම් මිල නොවේ.

දැති  $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ ,  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$  සහ 14 වලට අයත් මුද්දර අගනාකමින් අධිකය.

මේ සියල්ලෙන්ම ගත 3 ට අයත්වූ  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ , නොද තත්වයේ දැති ඇති අළුත් මුද්දරයක් පවුම් 16 ක් පමණ මිල වේ.

ගත 10, 15, 25, 30 සහ රු: 1/- මුද්දර වර්ග පහද එකම චිත්‍ර සටහන් වලින් යුක්තයි. එහෙත් ඒවා එක් වර්ගයෙන් දෙකක් බැගින් දක්වා තිබෙන්නේ, දෙයාකාරයක දිය සලකුණින් සටහන්වී ඇති නිසයි.

මේ දිය සලකුණ පළමු වර්ග දිග පැත්තට පිහිටා තිබේ. ඒවායේ කඩදැසින් තුනිවට තිබේ. දෙවෙනි මුද්දර සහ කඩදැසියේ මුද්දරයයි.

ගත 5 දැති දෙවර්ගයකි. එකක්  $13\frac{1}{2}$  සහ දෙවැන්න දැති 12 කි. චිත්‍ර සටහන් එකම වර්ගයකට අයත්වේ.

රු: 5/- වර්ග තුනකින් පෙන්වාදී ඇත්තේ තුන් ආකාර වර්ගයන්ට බෙදිය හැකි නිසයි.

එකක් ලා පාටට හුරු කොළ සහ දම් පාටින්ද දෙවැන්න සාමාන්‍ය කොළ පාට සහ දුඹුරු පාටින්ද, තුන්වැන්න තද කොළ පාට සහ දුඹුරු පාටින්ද යුක්තවේ.

රු: 10/- සාමාන්‍ය තැපෑලට ඇද ගන්නේ එය මුද්දරයෙන් අවුරුදු කීපයක් ගතවීමෙන් පසුවයි. පළමුව මේ මුද්දරය ආදායම් බදු සඳහා භාවිතා කරන ලදී. එහි මුද්දරය කර ඇත්තේද ආදායම් බදු තේරුම. එහේ වුවත් වම් 1952 දෙසැම්බර් මස පළමුවෙනිදා පටන් අවුරුද්දකුත් මාස 10 ක් මේ මුද්දරය තැපෑල ගාස්තු සඳහා භාවිතාකර තිබේ. ඒ නිසා මේ වර්ගයේ සිල්වලින් අවලංගු වූ මුද්දරයක් රු: 25/- ක් පමණ වටිනා අතර එම අළුත් පිට රු: 35/- ක් පමණ අග නේය. වර්ගය ලා කොළ පාට හා රත්වත් පාටින් යුක්තය. හයවෙනි ජෝර්ජ් මහ රජතුමාගේ රුව මෙහි පිළිබිඹුවේ. ප්‍රමාණය උස මිලි මීටර් 33 සහ පළල 20 කි.

අමරසේන  
(උපුටා ගැනීම තහනම්)

# இலங்கை தபால் தலைகள்

( 16 ம் பகுதி )

இலங்கைத் தபால் தலைகள் சஞ்சிகைகளில் கடந்த 15 பகுதிகளிலும் விக்டோரியா மகாராணி, ஏழாவது எட்வேட் மன்னர், ஐந்தாவது ஜோர்ச் மன்னர் காலங்களில் வெளிவந்துள்ள ஏனைய தபால் தலைகளின் விபரங்களைப் பற்றிப் பிரசுரித்துள்ளோம்.

இப்பகுதியிலுந்து ஆறாவது ஜோர்ச் மன்னர் காலத்தில வெளிவந்துள்ள முத்திரைகளைப் பற்றி வெளியிட என்னியிருக்கிறோம்.

ஆறாவது ஜோர்ச் மன்னர் காலத்தில் வெளிவந்துள்ளவற்றில் முடிசூட்டு விழாவைக் கொண்டாடுவதற்காக வெளிவந்தவைதான் முதலாவது. இத்தபால் தலைகளின் கட்டணம் 6 சதம், 9 சதம், 20 சதம். இவை 6 மாத காலத்திற்குத்தான் விற்கப்பட்டது. இத்தபால் தலைகளில் ஆறாவது ஜோர்ச் மன்னரின் படமும் ராணியின் படமும் பொறிக்கப்பட்டது. இத்தபால் தலைகள் 12. 5. 1937ல் வெளியிடப்பட்டது.

இதையடுத்து 1938ல் மன்னரின் படம் பொறிக்கப்பட்ட முத்திரைகள் வெளியிடப்பட்டது. இவைகளின் கட்டணங்கள் ரூ. 10/- வரையிலுள்ளன.

இவற்றின் விபரம் பின்வருமாறு:-

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12

பல்லுங்கள் வித்தியாசப்பட்டதால் 2 சதம், 3 சதம், 50 சத முத்திரைகளின் பலகிதங்கள் காணப்படுகின்றன.

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11½x13, 13½x13, 13½, 11x11½, 12.

மூன்று சதத்தில் 6 வகைகளின் விபரம் பின்வருமாறு:-

13x11½, 13x13½, 13½, 14, 11½x11, 12.

50 சத முத்திரையின் 6 வகைகள் பின்வருமாறு:-

13x11½, 13x13½, 13½, 14, 11½x11, 12.

10 சதம், 15 சதம், 25 சதம், 30 சதம்,

ரூ. 1/- முத்திரைகள் இரண்டு வகைகளின் காரணங்கள் இவை அச்சிடப்பட்ட காசிடங்களின் பொறிக்கப்பட்ட கிரீடமும் 'C. A.' என்ற ஆங்கில எழுத்துக்களின் அமைப்பே ஆகும். ஒரு வகை நிமிர்ந்த அமைப்பு, மற்றது சரிவான அமைப்பு.

ஐந்து சதத்தில் இரு வகைகள் உள்ளன. முதல் வகை - 13½. இரண்டாவது வகை - 12.

இரண்டு ரூபாயில் இரு வகைகள் உள்ளது. ஒரு வகை - கறுப்பும் சிவப்பும், மற்றது கறுப்பும் கத்தரிப்பூ நிறமும்.

ஐந்து ரூபாய் முத்திரைகளில் 3 வகைகள் உள்ளது. முதலாவது - பச்சையும் கத்தரிப்பூ நிறமும். இரண்டாவது - மங்கல் பச்சையும் மங்கல் கத்தரிப்பூ நிறமும். மூன்றாவது - கரும் பச்சையும் கரும் கத்தரிப்பூ நிறமும்.

பத்து ரூபாய் முத்திரை வெளியிடப்பட்ட போது இறைவரிக்காகவே வெளியிடப்பட்டது ஆனால் 1-12-1952 தொடக்கம் 14-3-1954 வரைக்கும் தபால் கட்டணத்துக்காகப் பாளிக்கப்பட்டது. ஆனபடியால் இம்முத்திரையைத் தபால் தலையென்று கொள்ளலாம்.

அமரத்தின,  
(உரிமை ஆசிரியருக்கே)

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Papua & New Guinea August 28th, 1968, defini-  
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 Service between Sydney and  
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## UNITED STATES CHRISTMAS 6c



A detail from Jan van  
 Eyck's painting, "The  
 Annunciation," forms  
 this year's U. S. Christ-  
 mas stamp series.

This year's Christmas stamp depicts a portion of "The Annunciation," a painting by Jan van Eyck, the great 15th century Flemish artist. A richly-robed Angel Gabriel, with wings of peacock feathers is the detail of the painting for the 6-cent stamp. Van Eyck produced this master-work in about 1425-30, when he was a court painter to Philip the Good of Burgundy.

A Brussels resident had sold the van Eyck painting to William II of the Netherlands in 1819. Czar Nicholas of Russia acquired it in 1850, and in 1937 the USSR sold it to Andrew Mellon of Pittsburgh, as part of a \$6.5 million purchase. Now in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, "The Annunciation" was painted on wood and measures 36½ inches tall and 14-3/8 inches wide. It has now been transferred to canvas.

Date of Issue 1-11-1968.

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## THE STAMPS OF BOTSWANA

Botswana—the land of the Tswana—is one of the land-locked countries of the African continent, bounded on the west by South West Africa, on the south and east by South Africa, and on the north-east by Rhodesia. Botswana has a population of 576,000 (1966 estimate) in an area of 222,000 square miles. Much of this area is barely habitable, consisting of the Kalahari Desert to the west and the marshlands of the Okavango and the great Chobe Swamp in the north. The bulk of the population is concentrated in the south-east of Botswana. The capital, Gaborone, is a relatively new town of some 12,000 inhabitants situated on the banks of the Notwani, a tributary of the Limpopo, 200 miles to the north, however, lies Serowe, headquarters of the Bamangwato, the chief tribe of Botswana, with a population of almost 35,000.

Botswana has a mean elevation of over 3,000 feet. The greater part of the country is gently undulating, but in the east, towards the Transvaal border, are several remarkable groups of hills of the "inselberg" variety, their lofty shapes carved by centuries of erosion. The winter climate (May to August) is delightful, but the summers are intensely hot. The annual rainfall averages about 20 inches, most of which falls between December and April in heavy short showers.

The natural vegetation of Botswana consists of rolling savannah; even the Kalahari Desert is largely covered by bush. Undoubtedly poor husbandry in the past and indiscriminate grazing did much to denude the land, but soil conservation projects are now repairing centuries of damage. The country is particularly rich in wildlife which includes lions, elephants, hippopotami, rhinoceros, giraffes, leopards and buffaloes. The economy of Botswana is predominantly pastoral. Although rinderpest destroyed 90% of the cattle in 1896 the herds recovered in a remarkably short time and cattle represents the principal means of livelihood today.

Little is known of the early history of Botswana. Its peoples, of Bantu stock, have dwelt there since time immemorial. The first Europeans to visit the country were the naturalists M. H. K. Lichtenstein and W. J. Burchell and the Rev. John Campbell, one of the founders of the Bible Society, who travelled across Botswana in the last years of the eighteenth century. In 1818 the London Missionary Society founded a station at Kuruman where, three years later, the famous Scottish missionary Robert Moffat came to live and work among the Tswana. He spent fifty years in the country and by his teachings and example helped to weld the Tswana out of a group of tribes into a nation.

A loose form of jurisdiction was maintained as early as 1836 by the Cape government over the Bechuana tribes but, by the terms of the Sand River Convention of 1852, Britain agreed not to extend her dominions north of Cape Colony and more or less gave the Boers of the Transvaal a free hand in the area. Boer encroachments on the territory of the Tswana alarmed Moffat's son-in-law, David Livingstone, who urged the home government to intervene on behalf of the indigenous population. Repeated incursions by the Boers against the Barolong and the Bamangwato in the 1870's led to Montsoia, paramount chief of the Barolong, asking for British protection in 1874, while Khama, the great architect of the Bamangwato tribe, did likewise two years later.

These petitions, backed by Cape politicians, decided Britain to intervene in what was then termed Bechuanaland. In 1878 Colonel (later General Sir Charles) Warren led a small expedition from the Cape to Bechuanaland, the southern districts of which were occupied by police detachments till 1881. The first Anglo-Boer War, however, led to the withdrawal of British troops from this area and for a time Boer freebooters roamed the countryside. They even set up the ephemeral republics of Goshen and Stellaland (the latter producing several



stamps). Matters came to a head in September 1884 when the Boers proclaimed the annexation of Bechuanaland to the Transvaal. The British government despatched General Warren with 4,000 troops and, though confronted by Paul Kruger at the Modder River in January 1885, they succeeded in driving the Boers out of Bechuanaland without firing a shot. The ephemeral republics of Stellaland and Goshen were dissolved and on the 30th September 1885, Bechuanaland formally came under British protection.

The district south of the Molopo River was designated British Bechuanaland and established as a crown colony, whereas the remainder of the country became the Bechuanaland Protectorate and continued to be ruled by tribal chiefs, with British advisers. In 1895 British Bechuanaland was incorporated with the Cape Colony and now forms part of the Republic of South Africa. An anomalous situation arose in which the administrative capital of the protectorate was at Mafeking, a town actually outside its boundaries. This curious situation continued until 1965 when Gaborone became the capital of Botswana.

The Bechuanaland Protectorate managed to retain its independence in spite of considerable pressure from the south. A proposal of 1895 for its incorporation in the territories of the British South Africa Company (Rhodesia) was frustrated by the opposition of Khama. When the Union of South Africa was formed in 1910, Bechuanaland became one of the so-called High Commission Territories remaining under direct imperial rule. After 81 years of association with Britain the Bechuanaland Protectorate became the republic of Botswana on the 30th September, 1966, the eleventh African territory to achieve independence as a member of the British Commonwealth.

The earliest stamps in the geographical area known as Bechuanaland were the 1d, 3d, 4d, 6d and 1/- printed at Capetown and issued at Vryburg, the capital of Stellaland on the 1st February 1884 (although the earliest recorded

date in use was the 4th April). These stamps were suppressed by Sir Charles Warren and withdrawn from sale on the 2nd December, 1885. The first stamps used by the British expeditionary force consisted of the De La Rue unappropriated dies over-printed "Military Telegraphs". These stamps could only be used on telegrams and were later superseded by contemporary stamps of Cape of Good Hope similarly overprinted.

Postage stamps were introduced at the end of 1885 and consisted of the ½d, 3d, and 4d watermarked Crown CC or CA "Cape Rectangulars" overprinted "British Bechuanaland" by W. A. Richards & Sons of Capetown. Subsequently the same series on Foul Anchor watermark was circulated, the denominations being ½d, 1d, 2d, 6d and 1/-. In November 1887 the contemporary British ½d "Jubilee" was overprinted "British Bechuanaland" and the following January the unappropriated fiscal series was introduced suitably inscribed "British Bechuanaland Postage and Revenue" and ranging in value from 1d to £5. Because the value on these stamps was inscribed in words the appropriate figures of value were surcharged by P. Townshend of Vryburg on the 7th August, 1888. A shortage of ½d stamps in December 1888 led to the provisional surcharge of the 3d stamp "One Half-Penny" in three lines. Between 1889 and 1895 various stamps of the Cape and Great Britain were put on sale overprinted British Bechuanaland in a variety of types, either horizontally or reading vertically upwards or downwards.

A separate issue of stamps for the Protectorate appeared in 1888 when the stamps of British Bechuanaland were additionally overprinted "Protectorate". The overprinting was carried out by P. Townshend of Vryburg as before. There are numerous varieties and misspellings in the overprint settings, but few errors such as double or inverted overprints. In 1889 the Cape ½d stamp was overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate" by W. A. Richards of Capetown and simultaneously Townshend overprinted the ½d Jubilee with the additional surcharge of "Fourpence".

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