

Commemorating  
THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF CEYLON'S  
INDEPENDENCE (1948-1968)  
Issued by the Posts & Telecom. Dept.  
CEYLON

## CEYLON COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

### 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF CEYLON'S INDEPENDENCE

2.2.68

### SIR D. B. JAYATILLEKE CENTENARY

14.2.68

**POSTS & TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT  
CEYLON**

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PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS, CEYLON

## CEYLON STAMP BULLETIN No. 5

OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL AND DIRECTOR  
OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, POSTS AND  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS HEADQUARTERS,  
Duke Street, Colombo 1. (Ceylon)

17th January, 1968.

THE Posts & Telecommunications Department of Ceylon will issue two stamps on 2.2.1968 to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Ceylon's Independence and one stamp on 14.2.1968 in honour of a national hero, Sir D. B. Jayatilleke.

### **1. Special Stamps to Commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Ceylon's Independence**

Ceylon is an Island situated off the south of India separated by a narrow strait. Its area is about 25,000 square miles and it has a population of about 11½ million. Ceylon was ruled entirely by local kings up to 1505. In that year the Portuguese occupied the maritime provinces and continued till 1658, when they were supplanted by the Dutch. The British in turn displaced the Dutch and occupied these provinces in 1796. The hill country had, despite these invasions, continued to be ruled by the King of Kandy. In 1815, however, he was deposed by the British and Ceylon, as a whole, became a Colony under the British Crown.

From 1815 to 1948 the country was governed as a Crown Colony with a British Governor. On the recommendations of the Colebrook Commission of 1829 an Executive Council and a Legislative Council were established in the country. In 1931, as a result of the Donoughmore Commission, adult franchise and an elected legislature were granted. Full responsible government was, however, granted only after a further Royal Commission under Lord Soulbury in 1947. In November, 1947 the British Parliament passed

the Ceylon Independence Act which came into force from 4.2.1948, and on this day Ceylon became a Dominion of the British Commonwealth. It is to mark the 20th Anniversary of this day that a set of stamps is being issued.

### Technical Details

<i>Denominations</i>	05 cents and Re. 1.
<i>Designs</i>	05 cents—Depicts the Independence Hall. Re. 1—Depicts the Lion Flag and the Sceptre.
<i>Printers</i>	Harrison & Sons, U.K.
<i>Printing Process</i>	Photogravure
<i>Size</i>	1.045" × 1.43"
<i>Date of Issue</i>	2.2.1968
<i>Duration of Sale</i>	6 months from 2.2.1968
<i>Sheet Composition</i>	100 per sheet.

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## 2. Special Stamp to Commemorate Sir D. B. Jayatilleke Centenary

By the issue of this stamp Ceylon honours one of its most illustrious sons, Sir D. B. Jayatilleke, scholar, statesman, Buddhist leader, educationalist and patriot. Sir Baron Jayatilleke was born on 13.2.1868 at Kelaniya, a village a few miles from Colombo. He had his early education at Vidyalandara Pirivena, Kelaniya, a famous Seat of Buddhist Learning, where he excelled in Sinhalese, Sanskrit and Pali, and later studied at Wesley College, Colombo. He then joined Jesus College, Oxford where he passed the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1913 and was later admitted to the degree of Master of Arts. He was called to the Bar in 1916 and was admitted as a Barrister-at-law.

He played a vital role in the Buddhist revival initiated by Col. Olcott, Megettuwatte Gunananda Thero and others, and made a significant contribution to the establishment of Buddhist

Schools in Ceylon. He first accepted appointment as the Principal of Dharmarajah College, Kandy in 1890, and later became the Principal of Ananda College, the leading Buddhist School in Ceylon. He was appointed General Manager of Buddhist Schools run by the Buddhist Theosophical Society of Ceylon, and in this capacity was largely responsible for the rapid extension and development of Buddhist Schools in all parts of Ceylon.

As a leading Buddhist, his name was associated with every form of Buddhist activity in Ceylon. He founded the Y.M.B.A., Colombo in 1898 in order to provide a forum for young Buddhists to meet and work for the welfare of the country. He held the post of President of the Y.M.B.A. almost from its inception till his death in 1944. Through the Y.M.B.A. he established a number of Dhamma Schools in which religious examinations for Buddhist children were conducted throughout the country annually.

As a leading Sinhalese scholar he made a significant contribution to Sinhalese literature by critically revising the texts of several famous classical Sinhalese literary works. The Sinhalese dictionary compiled by Sir Baron may be considered his greatest achievement, and the work of editing it is still being done by the Ceylon University.

He played a leading role in social and political reforms in Ceylon and took an active part in the Ceylon Temperance Movement. During the riots of 1914 he was arrested along with other prominent Sinhalese leaders of the Temperance Movement but was released after 46 days as there was not an iota of evidence against him. He took an active part in the struggle for National Liberation and was one of the founder members of the National Congress of which he later became President. He was the Secretary of three deputations from Ceylon to the British Government, advocating constitutional reforms, which led to

the appointment of a Special Reforms Commission under Lord Donoughmore. He was elected to the State Council under the new Donoughmore Constitution in 1931, and again in 1936 and he served as the Minister for Home Affairs from 1931 to 1942. In 1942 he left for New Delhi as Ceylon's First Representative in India and did much to promote better understanding between Ceylon and India. He died at the age of 76 in May, 1944.

### Technical Details

<i>Denomination</i>	25 cents
<i>Design</i>	A portrait of Sir Baron Jayatilleke
<i>Printers</i>	Thomas De La Rue, U.K.
<i>Printing Process</i>	Delacryl
<i>Colour</i>	Sepia Brown
<i>Size</i>	24 × 29 m.m. (Approx.)
<i>Date of Issue</i>	14.2.1968
<i>Duration of Sale</i>	6 months from 14.2.1968
<i>Sheet Composition</i>	100 per sheet

### First-Day Cover Service

Official First-Day Covers will be available for sale in two sizes. The price of a large cover is 20 cents and a small cover 15 cents.

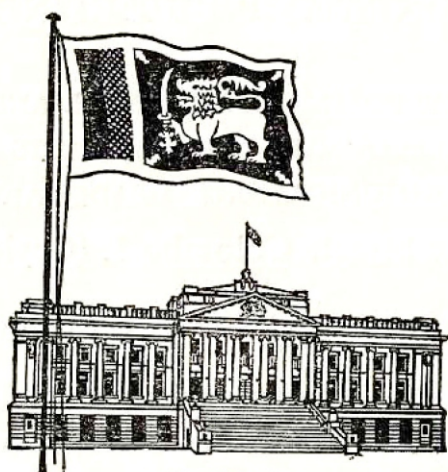
### Terms of Sale

Overseas orders for the supply of the new stamps and First Day Covers should be addressed with full particulars to the Director, Philatelic Bureau, 5th floor, E. 9 & 10, Ceylinco House, Colombo 1, (Ceylon), and should be accompanied by Mail Transfer, International Money Order or Bank Draft payable to the Director, Philatelic Bureau.

**A. L. PERERA,**  
Postmaster-General and  
Director of Telecommunications.



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