



CEYLON COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

SPECIAL ISSUE TO MARK THE
CEREMONIAL OPENING OF THE
COLOMBO INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT, KATUNAYAKE

5. 8. 1968

POSTS & TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
CEYLON

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CEYLON STAMP BULLETIN No. 7

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

20th July, 1968.

THE Posts and Telecommunications Department of Ceylon will issue a stamp on 5.8.68 to commemorate the opening of a new International Airport for Colombo.

The convenient location of Colombo in East-West International Air Routes and the recent rapid technological advances in aviation necessitated the development of an airport to meet the highest international standards in civilian traffic. The need for an airport capable of meeting the requirements of modern jet passenger aircraft was most keenly felt when international air lines operating through Ceylon bypassed the country as the runway facilities at the principal airport at Ratmalana were inadequate.

The development of the new airport was facilitated by the very generous aid offered by the Government of Canada under the Colombo Plan Technical Assistance Scheme in the form of financial benefits, expert advice and training of local staff.

The main features of the Project are—

- (i) A runway extension and overlay of 150 ft. wide and 11,050 ft. in length plus 200 ft. paved overshoots, complete with 25 ft. wide paved shoulders ;
- (ii) A taxiway providing a single runway turn-off and access from the runway to a new terminal apron ;
- (iii) A new terminal apron 700 ft. \times 400 ft. ;
- (iv) High intensity runway lighting, taxiway lighting, apron lighting and associated distribution systems from adjacent primary power to the above installations and to the terminal building ;
- (v) A terminal building designed to handle 300 peak hour passengers and based upon a total area of about 80,000 sq. ft. sufficient to provide the necessary facilities for airline, passenger and inspection services.

The construction of the airport runway, taxi strips, parking apron and the installation of airfield lighting were completed in August, 1965. Work on the construction of the terminal building commenced in June, 1966, and was completed in May, 1968. Ceylon can now claim to have one of the best equipped international airports in South-East Asia. B.O.A.C., Air Ceylon, Air India, Quantas, U.T.A., Aeroflot and T.W.A. regularly fly to Colombo. With the opening of the terminal building it is expected that many more international airlines will make use of this airport.

Technical Details

<i>Date of Issue</i>	5th August, 1968
<i>Denomination</i>	60 cents
<i>Design</i>	Flight of an aeroplane over the Katunayake Airport
<i>Colours</i>	Light Blue, Dark Blue, Brown, Red and Yellow
<i>Sheet Composition</i>	100 stamps per sheet
<i>Format</i>	Horizontal
<i>Duration of sale</i>	6 months from 5.8.68
<i>Printers</i>	Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd.
<i>Size</i>	37.4 × 26.0 mm.
<i>Printing process</i>	Lithographic
<i>Water mark</i>	Lotus and Sri

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 or International Money Order or Bank Draft payable to the Director, Philatelic Bureau.

G. E. De S. ELLAWELA,
Acting Postmaster-General and
Director of Telecommunications.

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