

SRI LANKA

Stamp

Bulletin No. 101

Commemorative Issue

GOLDEN JUBILEE – UNIVERSAL

FRANCHISE

1931 – 1981



1981. 07. 07

Philatelic Bureau

Department of Posts

Ceylinco House

Colombo 1

SRI LANKA

STAMP BULLETIN NO. 101

Ministry of Posts and
Telecommunications,
Lotus Road,
Colombo 1,
Sri Lanka.
07th July, 1981.

This year Sri Lanka is celebrating fifty years of Universal Adult Franchise. The first State Council meeting under the Donoughmore Constitution was held on 07th July, 1931.

In commemoration of this historic event, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications will issue today two stamps in the denominations of .50 cents and Rs. 7.00.

Sri Lanka is amongst the earliest countries in Asia to have adopted this system under a parliamentary form of government. Indeed, in this matter she preceded several Western democratic countries with longer histories of the parliamentary system of government.

After the occupation of the Island by the British, and from 1833 onwards and until 1931, Sri Lanka has had several constitutions. But these were all of the Colonial variety common to British imperial rule. In 1927 however, a Commission under the chairmanship of the Earl of Donoughmore arrived in the Island. This Commission, among other things, recommended

universal adult franchise and the replacement of the communal with the territorial principle in representation.

The first general election under what came to be called the Donoughmore Constitution (1931—47) was held in June 1931. This was followed by a second general election in 1936. A third general election was held during August—September 1947 under a new constitution which provided for full internal self-government. This was the result of yet another Royal Commission headed, on this occasion, by Lord Soulbury. This Constitution has been followed by the first Republican Constitution of 1972 and the present Executive Presidential form of Constitution of 1978.

Political awareness among the voting population has been a marked feature since the adoption of universal adult franchise. This is evident by the heavy polling on election day. At every general election from 1952, more than 70 per cent of the electorate cast its ballots. At the general election of 1965 and thereafter more than 80 per cent of the electors voted. At the most recent general election, in July 1977 there was a record turnout of 85.8 per cent of the electorate.

In the course of its fifty years of operation in Sri Lanka universal franchise has provided the

enfranchised adult population the opportunity to participate in ten general elections. In every one of these elections where changes of government were necessary these were done in a peaceful and democratic manner. This is a remarkable achievement for any country.

Philatelic Details

<i>Date of Issue</i>	: 1981.07.07
<i>Values</i>	: 50 cents and Rs. 7.00
<i>Colours</i>	: 50 cents Red, orange, yellow and green Rs. 7.00 Black, yellow, brown and green
<i>Designers</i>	: 50 cents—J. A. Vincent Rs. 7.00—R. B. Mawilmada
<i>Format</i>	: Vertical—Rs. 7.00 Horizontal—.05 cents
<i>Size</i>	: 30×42 mm.
<i>Printing Process</i>	: Offset
<i>Sheet Composition</i>	: 100 Stamps per sheet
<i>Printers</i>	: V/O Mezhdunarodnaja Kniga, Moscow, U.S.S.R.
<i>Paper</i>	: Special Stamp paper 105 GSM
<i>Gum</i>	: Synthetic Tropical
<i>Quantity Printed</i>	: 50 cents—750,000 Stamps Rs. 7.00—250,000 Stamps

Official first Day Covers

The Philatelic Bureau will provide a specially designed First Day Cover and a First Day of Issue Postmark.

Terms of Sale

Overseas orders for supply of the new stamp and First Day Covers should be addressed with full particulars to the Director, Philatelic Bureau 4th Floor, Ceylinco House, Colombo 1. Sri Lanka and should be accompanied by Mail Transfer International Money Order, British Postal Order or Bank Draft drawn on the Bank of Ceylon, Colombo, or any other Bank in Sri Lanka, payable, to the Director, Philatelic Bureau. Uncertified Personal cheques are not acceptable.

Telephones : 25588, 26163, 26177.

Special Notice

The Philatelic Bureau is the sole Agent of the United Nations Postal Administration for the sale of its stamps in Sri Lanka.

Current stamps of the U.N.P.A., including issues of New York, Geneva and Vienna are available for sale.

Sri Lanka Stamp Issues—1981

<i>No.</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Denominations</i>	<i>Date of issue</i>
1.	Animals of Sri Lanka..	Rs. 2.50, Rs. 3.00, Rs. 4.00 and Rs. 5.00	81.02.10
2.	Census of population and Housing	.. 50 cts.	.. 81.03.02
3.	C.L.I. Centenary	.. Rs. 2.00	.. 81.04.01
4.	Vesak 1981	.. 35 cts., 50 cts., Rs. 7.00	81.05.05
5.	Ter Centenary—La Sallian Brothers	.. Rs. 2.00	.. 81.05.15
6.	National Heroes	.. Three Stamps of 50 cts. value each	81.05.22
7.	Dr. T. B. Jayah	.. 50 cts.	.. 81.05.31
8.	Dr. N. M. Perera	.. 50 cts.	.. 81.05.06
9.	International Year of the Disabled	.. Rs. 2.00	.. 81.05.19
10.	Universal Franchise	.. 50 cts. and Rs. 7.00	81.07.07
11.	Silver Jubilee A.C.B.S.F.	.. Rs. 2.00	.. 81.07.19
12.	Centenary—Pali Text Society	.. 35 cts.	.. 81.08.
13.	Trees of Sri Lanka	.. 35 cts., 50 cts., Rs. 5.00	81.09.
14.	Family Planning	.. 50 cts.	.. 81.09.25
15.	Accupuncture	.. Rs. 2.00	.. 81.10.19
16.	Queen Elizabeth's Visit	50 cts. Rs. 5.00	.. 81.10.20
17.	Flowers of Sri Lanka..	35 cts., Rs. 2.00 Rs. 3.50 & Rs. 7.00	81.11.
18.	Sir James Peiris	.. 50 cts.	.. 81.12.20

*Dates and Values are subject to alteration.