



## STAMP BULLETIN No. 147

Ministry of Posts and  
Telecommunications,  
Lotus Road,  
Colombo 1,  
Sri Lanka.  
01st Oct. 1983.

THE Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications will issue to-day a commemorative stamp in the denomination of 50 Cents in honour of the Late Mr. C. W. Thamotheram Pillai.

**CHARLES WINSLOW THAMOTHERAM PILLAI** is undoubtedly one of the most outstanding Tamil scholars of the 19th century, who together with Arumuga Navalar became the vanguard of the Tamil literary and cultural renaissance.

His father Vyramuttu was one of the first students of the Batticota Seminary which was founded in 1824, and which Sir Emerson Tennant the former Colonial Secretary, described as a "Collegiate Institution entitled to rank with many European Universities". It was no wonder that two of the products of the Batticota seminary—C. W. Thamotheram Pillai and Carroll Visuvanatha pillai—passed the first Bachelor of Arts examination of the University of Madras in 1857 without further preparation. C. W. Thamotheram Pillai was placed in the 1st class. Thamotheram Pillai later secured a first class degree in the

Bachelor of Laws examination. He had a varied and lucrative professional practice in Madras and became the Chief Justice of Pudukkottai.

It was, however, as a literary critic, historian of Tamil literature and publisher that Thamotheram Pillai received recognition as the most eminent Tamil scholar in the last quarter of the 19th century. The late A. V. Subramaniam Ayyar (1900-1976) remarked that as a scholar he as "next in importance only to Arumuga Navalar". The scientific temperament, the intellectual quest and methodological rigour of Thamotheram Pillai are reflected in his periodization of literary history and textual criticism. The critical editions of the ancient Tamil classics originally in ancient palm-leaf manuscripts brought out by Thamotheram Pillai, include Virasoliyam (1887), Kalitokai (1887), and Cholla-tikaram, the second book of Tolkappiyam (1868) and Choolamani (1889).

Thamotheram Pillai became the Chairman of the Board of Tamil Studies at the Madras University, Examiner to the University and a Member of the University Council. Thamotheram Pillai has been described as the best example of the "modern" intellectual in the Tamil literary scene.

### Philatelic Details

<i>Date of Issue</i>	:	1983.10.01
<i>Value</i>	:	50 cents
<i>Colour</i>	:	Brown
<i>Printers</i>	:	The Pakistan Security Printing Corporation Ltd.
<i>Format</i>	:	Vertical
<i>Size</i>	:	44.50 × 32.50 mm.
<i>Printing Process</i>	:	Offset Litho Single Colour
<i>Sheet Composition</i>	:	50 Stamps per sheet
<i>Paper</i>	:	Dual purpose gummed paper of 105 G.S.M.
<i>Gum</i>	:	Tropical Gum
<i>Quantity Printed</i>	:	500,000 Stamps

### Official First Day Covers

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## **Terms of Sale**

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