

SRI LANKA
Stamp
Bulletin No. 60

Special Issue

ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE
BY THE FIRST ELECTED
PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA



1978. 02. 04

Philatelic Bureau,
Posts & Telecommunications Department,
SRI LANKA (CEYLON)

STAMP BULLETIN No. 60

**Ministry of Posts and
Telecommunications,
Duke Street
Colombo 1**

February 4th, 1978.

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications will issue a special stamp today to mark the assumption of office of the first elected President of the Republic of Sri Lanka, Hon. J. R. Jayewardene, under the amendments to the Constitution passed by Parliament recently.

At the General Election held on 21st July, 1977, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, as the leader of the United National Party, asked the voters to give him a two-thirds majority to amend the constitution. Soon after the Election, at which his party won an unprecedented landslide victory, giving him 139 seats out of a total of 168 seats in the National State Assembly, Mr. Jayewardene brought up in

Parliament a Bill (which was passed by an overwhelming majority) to give effect to the proposed amendments to the Constitution. One of the principal amendments is to provide for a President elected by universal franchise subject to the condition that the present Prime Minister shall automatically become the President of the Republic on a determined date.

It is significant that 4th February, 1978 has been selected as the day for the inauguration of the new President. The declaration of Independence, ending a period of 133 years of the British Raj, was made on this day in 1948 at a historic ceremony at the Independence Hall in Colombo. At that ceremony Mr. J. R. Jayewardene as Minister of Finance stood beside his leader, the Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake, the country's First Prime Minister and the architect of her independence, as one who had made a significant contribution to his leader's efforts to obtain independence for the country. The inauguration of the new President is made against that colourful and historic background.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

<i>Date of Issue</i>	...	1978.02.04
<i>Denomination</i>	...	15 cents
<i>Designer</i>	...	R. B. Mawilmada
<i>Colours</i>	...	Green and Gold
<i>Format</i>	...	Vertical
<i>Size</i>	...	31.6×37 mm.
<i>Printing Process</i>	...	Photogravure
<i>Printers</i>	...	Joh Enschede en Zonen Holland
<i>Sheet Composition</i>	...	100 stamps per sheet
<i>Paper</i>	...	Special gravure coated stamp paper of +96 gsm.
<i>Gum</i>	...	Blueish P. V. A.

Official First Day Covers

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

Terms of Sale

Overseas orders for the 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 (Ceylon), and should be accompanied by Mail Transfer, International Money Order or Bank Draft payable to the Director, Philatelic Bureau.