

SRI LANKA

Stamp

Bulletin No. 92

Definitive Issue

ANIMALS OF

SRI LANKA



*Handwritten signature or initials in brown ink, possibly reading 'G.H.' or similar, with a vertical line extending downwards.*

1981. 02. 10

Philatelic Bureau  
Department of Posts  
Ceylinco House  
Colombo 1  
SRI LANKA

## STAMP BULLETIN No. 92

Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications,  
Lotus Road,  
Colombo 1,  
Sri Lanka,  
10th February, 1981.

THE Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications will issue today a set of four new definitive stamps depicting wild life of Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka is a tropical island rich with high mountains, valleys and deep forests. Some of the most colourful birds and animals are found in these forests.

The four stamps depict four colourful animals found in these tropical forests.

**Golden Palm Cat or Ceylon Palm-civet**  
(*Paradoxurus zeylonensis*)—Rs. 3.00

This smart golden or reddish brown cousin of the common Toddy Cat or Uguduwa is a mammal found only in Sri Lanka. Although fairly widely distributed, nowhere is it common. An adult Golden Palm cat is about 3 feet in length (including the tail). It is a shy animal given more to a nocturnal habit, feeding on fruits mostly, but capable of eating flesh when the opportunity presents itself.

### **Fishing Cat (*Felis viverrina*) Rs.—2.50**

Next to the leopard the Fishing Cat is the largest and prettiest of the carnivores of Sri Lanka. Although it has a light-grey coat with dark spots and lines, it is often mistaken for the leopard and is unnecessarily destroyed. The Fishing Cat probably got its name through its habit of frequenting swamps and feeding on fresh water crabs, molluscs and even water-snakes. It also favours birds which it can capture and subdue. For an average body length of about 2' it has a comparatively short tail of about 10 inches. A strictly protected animal.

### **Mouse Deer (*Tragulus meminna*)—Rs. 4.00**

The relatively large eyes set on a small head gives this animal a mouse-like appearance, hence the name. Although called a deer it occupies a family separate from the Spotted deer and Sambhur. Mouse-deer do not possess antlers or horns but the males have "tushes" which are actually elongated canine teeth.

This delicately-built diminutive creature standing about 10" in height is quite attractive in its olive-brown coat with off-white spots. It is a harmless retiring animal coming out only at dusk or after nightfall. As it requires only a little food it is widely distributed even in small patches of scrub, where it feeds on tender shoots, leaves and fallen fruit. It is a strictly protected animal of Sri Lanka.

## **Rustty-spotted Cat (*Felis rubiginosa*)—Rs. 5.00**

This reddish-brown cat with the rust-coloured spots, is aptly named, easily the smallest of the cat-family in Sri Lanka it is not even as large as its domestic counterpart. But it is an active, agile and sprightly creature capable of hunting birds with great facility. It is quite plucky and when cornered will strike out viciously with lightning flicks of its front paws. In earlier times this exciting little cat was very widely distributed and commonly met with in the country but today with its habitat diminishing, its numbers are dwindling rapidly. It was brought under protection in 1970.

### **Technical Details**

- Date of Issue* : 1981.02.10
- Denominations* : Rs. 3.00, Rs. 2.50, Rs. 4.00  
Rs.5.00
- Colours* : Yellow, Red, Blue, Brown,  
Agate, Sepia, Chocolate  
Brown
- Designer* : L. B. Ranasinghe
- Format* : Horizontal
- Size* : 26.82 × 31.75 m.m.
- Printing Process* : Offset
- Sheet Composition* : 100 Stamps per sheet
- Printers* : John Waddington of Kirk-  
stall Ltd., United Kingdom
- Paper & Gum* : Un-water marked Stamp  
paper, 100 GSM with Matt  
Gum.

## **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 for 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. Telephone : 25588, 26163, 26177.

### **Special Notice**

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