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## Posts & Telecommunications Department,

OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS,  
GENERAL POST OFFICE,  
Colombo (Ceylon)

, 1966

Dear Sir,

### CEYLON STAMPS NEWS

*Issued by the Philatelic Bureau of Ceylon*

THE Postmaster-General and Director of Telecommunications, Ceylon, wishes to announce the following new issues and very recent issues of Ceylon stamps to commemorate events of special significance to Ceylon.

#### (1) Special Issue to commemorate the 1st Anniversary of the Poya Day Holidays

The Poya Day is a day of religious significance to the Buddhists, who form the majority of the population of Ceylon. This day coincides with the four phases of the moon, the New Moon, First Quarter, Full Moon and the Last Quarter. From January 1, 1966, this day has been declared a Public Holiday in Ceylon in lieu of the traditional holiday on Sunday.

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Date of issue | 2.1.67.  |
| Denominations | 5 cents, 20 cents, 35 cents and 60 cents.  |
| Designs       | 5 cents—Depicts devotees worshipping at a Buddhist Temple on Poya Day.<br><br>20 cents—Depicts Mihintale, the hill where Rev. Mahinda, the first Buddhist Missionary from India, converted Devanampiyatissa, King of Ceylon, to Buddhism over 2000 years ago. The King's conversion was commemorated by a Great Vihare (Temple) erected on the very spot, and by the construction of a large number of monastic dwellings in the rock, the remains of which are amongst the most interesting features of the place. In the solid granite were engraved instructions for the priests dealing with every detail of their life and every item of ceremonial observance. These instructions are still legible. |

## Designs

35 cents—Depicts the Sacred Bo-tree at Anuradhapura, the ancient capital of Ceylon. It is a branch of the Bo-tree at Gaya, India, under which the Buddha meditated when he attained Enlightenment. It was brought to Ceylon by the nun Sangamitta, a sister of Rev. Mahinda, and it was planted by King Devanampiyatissa. The tree is over 2000 years old and is sacred to the Buddhists.

60 cents—Depicts Adam's Peak (altitude 7,360 ft.), a lofty cone-shaped mountain in Ceylon. At the summit of the peak is a Foot Print of the Buddha who is said to have alighted on the peak on one of His three visits to Ceylon and left the impression of His Foot Print. It is popularly known as Sri Pada—"The Illustrious Foot". Thousands of Buddhists from all parts of Asia scale the steep and rocky mountain, enduring privation and hardships to pay homage to the Buddha.

It is also of religious significance to the Mohamedans who claim it as the foot print of Adam, and the Hindus who equally claim it as that of Siva.

The Buddhist flag, depicted in all four stamps, was designed by Colonel Olcott, an American, who lived in Ceylon from 1880-1960. Olcott made common cause with Buddhists in their struggle to regain the rights they had lost under three foreign Governments. The flag has been adopted by Buddhists the world over, as their flag.

Size 25 × 35 m.m.

Printing process Photogravure.

Printers The Austrian State Printers, Austria.

Sheet composition 10 × 10 = 100 stamps.

## (2) Special Issue to commemorate the Centenary of the Galle Municipal Council

Galle, an important port in the South of Ceylon, is a town steeped in history. For over 1000 years it was a famous emporium. It was probably the furthest point eastwards ever reached by the Persians, by the Greeks of the Lower Empire, by the Romans and by the Egyptian Mariners of Berenice under the Ptolemies. It is also believed to be the Tarshish of the Bible.

In modern times, Galle has been the mart, first of Portugal and afterwards of Holland. During the Dutch rule of the maritime provinces of Ceylon (1640-1795), Galle was the Chief Port and stronghold of the Dutch. The extensive fort built

by the Dutch in 1663 is one of the chief features of the place and encloses the modern town. The ramparts add greatly to the picturesque character of the landscape. The arms of Galle are "on a field argent, a cock standing on a rock, all proper".

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Date of issue</b>     | 5.1.67.   |
| <b>Denomination</b>      | 25 cents.   |
| <b>Design</b>            | Depicts the Galle Clock Tower, the rampart walls and the emblem which depicts the cock bird and the rock with the motto " <i>ad meliora tendemus</i> ". |
| <b>Size</b>              | 42 × 32 m.m.  |
| <b>Printing process</b>  | Four colour offset.   |
| <b>Printers</b>          | Messrs. Bruder Rosenbaum, Austria.  |
| <b>Sheet composition</b> | 10 × 10 = 100 stamps.   |

### RECENT ISSUES

#### (3) Special Issue to commemorate the International Rice Year—1966

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Date of issue</b>     | 25.10.66.   |
| <b>Denominations</b>     | 6 cents and 30 cents.   |
| <b>Designs</b>           | 6 cents—Depicts a sheaf of paddy placed vertically over the Island of Ceylon.<br>30 cents—Depicts a sheaf of paddy placed vertically against the Globe. |
| <b>Colours</b>           | 6 cents—Green and shades of green, yellow, brown and white.<br>30 cents—Blue and shades of blue, yellow, brown and white.                               |
| <b>Size</b>              | 26 × 36 m.m.  |
| <b>Printing process</b>  | Photogravure.   |
| <b>Printers</b>          | Courvoisier S.A., Switzerland.  |
| <b>Sheet composition</b> | 10 × 10 = 100 stamps.   |

#### (4) Special Issue to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of UNESCO

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Date of issue</b> | 3.11.66.   |
| <b>Denominations</b> | 3 cents and 50 cents.  |
| <b>Designs</b>       | 3 cents—Depicts UNESCO symbol on green coloured background.<br>50 cents—Depicts UNESCO symbol on a brownish grey background. |

Size 25 × 35 m.m.  
Printing process Offset.  
Printers The Austrian State Printers, Austria.  
Sheet composition 10 × 10 = 100 stamps.

(5) Special Issue to commemorate the International Hydrological Decade—  
1965-1974

Date of issue 1.12.66.  
Denominations 2 cents and Rs. 2/-.  
Designs 2 cents—Depicts a map of Ceylon showing rainfalls on a brown coloured back-ground.  
Rs. 2/- Depicts a map of Ceylon showing rainfalls on a green coloured back-ground.  
Size 26 × 36 m.m.  
Printing process Delacryl.  
Printers Messrs. Thomas De La Rue & Co., Ltd., U. K.  
Sheet composition 10 × 10 = 100 stamps.

A first day cover service will be provided. The price of each first day cover is 15 cents.

All orders should be accompanied by a remittance to cover the value of stamps, the return postage, and the price of first day covers, if any, and should be addressed to the Accountant, Stamps Branch, Department of Posts and Telecommunications, General Post Office, Colombo I, Ceylon.

The equivalent of Ceylon money in foreign currency is as follows :—

|                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| One Pound Sterling         | = Rupees 13.25 cents |
| One U. S. Dollar           | = Rupees 4.76 cents  |
| International Reply Coupon | = 35 cents           |
| Commonwealth Reply Coupon  | = 25 cents.          |

Yours faithfully,

A. L. PERERA,  
Postmaster-General and  
Director of Telecommunications.