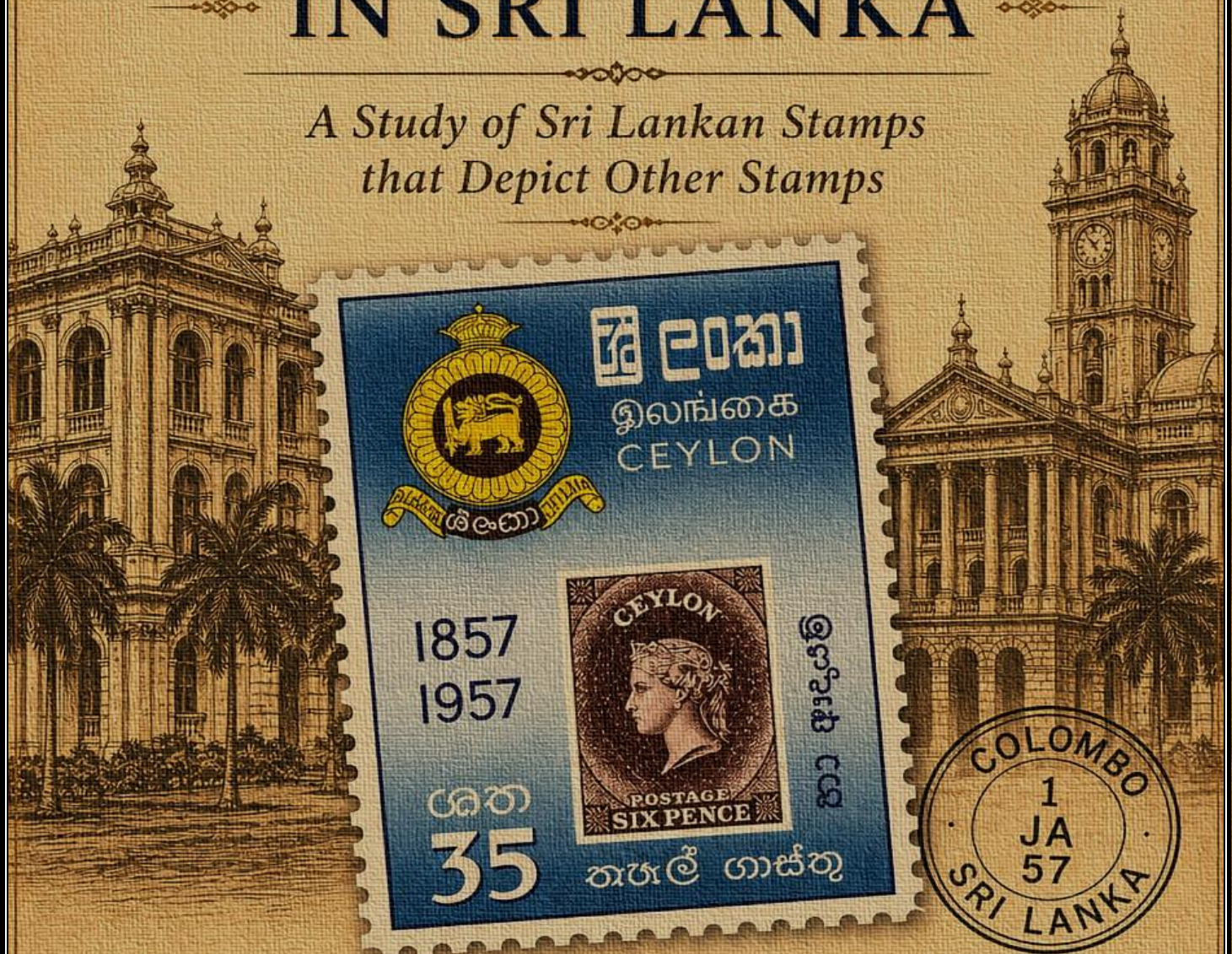


# STAMP ON STAMP IN SRI LANKA

*A Study of Sri Lankan Stamps  
that Depict Other Stamps*



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Version 1.0



PRESERVING HISTORY • CELEBRATING PHILATELY • INSPIRING GENERATIONS

## Preface

Postage stamps are often described as miniature works of art that record the history, culture, and achievements of a nation. Among the many thematic areas in philately, **"stamp on stamp"** occupies a distinctive place. This term refers to postage stamps that reproduce, either wholly or partially, the design of an earlier postage stamp. Such issues are commonly released to commemorate anniversaries of postal administrations, celebrate significant philatelic events, honor classic stamp designs, or mark international milestones such as those of the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

For collectors, stamp-on-stamp issues are especially appealing because they connect different periods of postal history within a single design. They not only celebrate the artistic heritage of stamp production but also preserve the legacy of earlier issues for future generations. These stamps provide valuable insights into changing printing techniques, design styles, and the historical significance of the original stamps they depict.

Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon, has a rich postal history dating back to the nineteenth century. Since the country's first postage stamps were issued in 1857, numerous commemorative stamps have been released reflecting their history, culture, biodiversity, and national achievements. Among these are a select group of stamp-on-stamp issues that reproduce earlier Ceylon or Sri Lankan stamps, as well as notable international stamp designs. Although these issues represent an important thematic field, they have received relatively little dedicated study.

This article aims to document and examine the known stamp-on-stamp issues released by Sri Lanka, placing each within its historical and philatelic context. By identifying the original stamps represented, explaining the reasons for their inclusion, and discussing their significance, the article seeks to provide collectors and researchers with a comprehensive reference to this fascinating area of Sri Lankan philately.



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## Special Thanks.....

- **Mr. Nandaka Wickramasinghe**, who has given suggestions, pointed out mistakes and encouraged me to finish this document
  
- **Mrs. Yamuna Gunasekara**, for her support to create this document.

## In this article the terms have been used as follows.

Original/ Depicted Stamp : the earlier postage stamp reproduced in the design

Reproducing Stamp : the later stamp that depicts the original as part of a stamp-on-stamp issue

## Summary of Stamp on Stamp

| #  | Theme                                                                 | Issued Year | No. of stamps |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1  | Centenary of Ceylon Stamp                                             | 1957        | 2             |
| 2  | Death Centenary of Sir Rowland Hill                                   | 1979        | 1             |
| 3  | The-125 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary-of-the-First Postage-Stamp          | 1982        | 2             |
| 4  | 50 Years of Independence                                              | 1998        | 1             |
| 5  | 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Europa stamp                | 2006        | 1             |
| 6  | 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Postage Stamp of Sri Lanka | 2007        | 4             |
| 7  | National Postal Museum and Philatelic Exhibition Centre               | 2010        | 1             |
| 8  | World Post Day 2015                                                   | 2015        | 1             |
| 9  | 160 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Postage Stamp of Sri Lanka | 2017        | 4             |
| 10 | Republic of Sri Lanka, 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary                   | 2022        | 1             |

## 1. Centenary of Ceylon Stamp

### Details of Reproducing Stamps

|                                   |   |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date of Issue                     | : | 01.04.1957                                                                                                                                                      |
| Printer                           | : | Courvoisier (Helio Courvoisier) S. A. Switzerland                                                                                                               |
| SG No.                            | : | 35c 444<br>85c 445                                                                                                                                              |
| Designer                          | : | Courvoisier working in collaboration with the Postal Administration of Ceylon                                                                                   |
| Series Description                | : | Centenary of Ceylon Stamp                                                                                                                                       |
| Connection between original stamp | : | depicted stamp was the 1st stamp issued in Ceylon on 01.04.1857 and these stamps were issued to mark the 100th anniversary of the first stamp issued in Ceylon. |

### Images



### Original Stamp Details

|               |   |            |
|---------------|---|------------|
| Date of Issue | : | 01.04.1857 |
| SG No.        | : | 01         |



## 2. Death Centenary of Sir Rowland Hill

### Details of Reproducing Stamps

Date of Issue : 27.08.1979  
 Printer : Toppan  
 SG No. : 676  
 Designer : A. Dharmasiri  
 Series Description : Death Centenary of Sir Rowland Hill

### Connection between Original Stamps

: Sir Rowland Hill is usually credited with originating the basic concept of the modern postal services, including the invention of the postage stamp.

### Images



### Original Stamp Details

Date of Issue : 01.04.1857  
 SG No. : 01



### 3. The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Postage Stamp

#### Details of Reproducing Stamps

Date of Issue : 02.12.1982

Printer : Security Printers (Malaysia Ltd).

SG No. : 784 50c  
785 Rs 2.50

Designer : D. C. Karunaratna

Series Description : First Postage Stamp - 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Connection between Original Stamps

#### Images



#### Original Stamp Details

| Image         |  |  |  |  |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date of Issue | 23.04.1859                                                                          | 05.04.1949                                                                          | 23.04.1859                                                                           | 06.06.1981                                                                            |
| SG No.        | 04                                                                                  | 408                                                                                 | 11                                                                                   | 680a                                                                                  |
| Face Value    | 4 Pence                                                                             | 15 Cents                                                                            | 1 Shilling & 9 Pence                                                                 | 50 Cents                                                                              |

**Miniature Sheet**

SG No. : MS 2439



## 4. 50 Years of Independence

### Details of Reproducing Stamps

Date of Issue : 04.02.1998  
 Printer : Pakistan Security Printing Corp.  
 SG No. : 1386  
 Designer : Palitha Gunasinghe  
 Series Description : 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence

### Connection between Original Stamps

: Original stamp was issued on the same day (Independence Day) in 1949

### Image



### Original Stamp Details

Date of Issue : 04.02.1949  
 SG No. : 406



## 5. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Europa stamp

### Details of Reproducing Stamps

Date of Issue : 02.02.2006

Printer : Joh. Enschede en Zonen, Netherlands.

SG No. : 1768

Designer : Studio Labranda

Series Description : 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Europa stamp

Connection between Original Stamps : The stamp issued to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> stamp by Ceylon is depicted in this Rs. 100.00 stamp

### Images



### Original Stamp Details

Date of Issue : 01.04.1957

SG No. : 444



**Miniature Sheet**

SG No. : MS 2439



## 6. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Postage Stamp of Sri Lanka

### Details of Reproducing Stamps

Date of Issue : 01.04.2007

Printer :

SG No. : 1866 Rs.5  
: 1867 Rs.10  
: 1868 Rs.20  
: 1869 Rs.45

Designer :

Series Description : 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Postage Stamp of Sri Lanka

Connection between Original Stamps

: Meticulously integrated historical initial stamps ever issued into the four-stamp collection

Images



**Original Stamp Details**

| On Rs. 5 Stamp  |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date of Issue   | 01.04.1857      |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| SG No.          | 1 (6 Pence)     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| On Rs. 10 Stamp |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Date of Issue   | 02.07.1857      |    |
| SG No.          | 10 (1 Shilling) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                 | 5 (5 Pence)     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                 | 9 (10 Pence)    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| On Rs. 20 Stamp |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Date of Issue   | 24.08.1857      |                                                                                      |
| SG No.          | 2 (1 Pence)     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                 | 3 (2 Pence)     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| On Rs. 45 Stamp |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Date of Issue   | 01.10.1857      |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| SG No.          | 16 (1½ penny)   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

**Miniature Sheet**

SG No. : MS 2439



## 7. National Postal Museum and Philatelic Exhibition Centre

### Details of Reproducing Stamps

Date of Issue : 06.07.2010

Printer : Department of Government Printing, Sri Lanka

SG No. : 2038

Designer : Pulasthi Ediriweera

Series Description : Inauguration of national Postal Museum and Philatelic Exhibition Center

Connection between Original Stamps

: -

Images



### Original Stamp Details

|               |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Image         |  |  |
| Date of Issue | 01.04.1857                                                                          | 23.04.1859                                                                           |
| SG No.        | 01                                                                                  | 04                                                                                   |
| Face Value    | 6 Pence                                                                             | 4 Pence                                                                              |

**Miniature Sheet**

SG No. : MS 2439



## 8. World Post Day 2015

### Details of Reproducing Stamps

Date of Issue : 09.10.2015  
 Printer : Department of Government Printing, Sri Lanka  
 SG No. : 2326  
 Designer : Sanath Rohana Wickramasinghe  
 Series Description : World Post Day 2015

### Connection between Original Stamps

: Issued on World Post Day 2015 (October 9, 2015) to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Penny Black. The Penny Black was the world's very first adhesive postage stamp, originally released in Britain in 1840.

### Images



### On Stamp Details

Date of Issue : 01.05.1840  
 SG No. : 01



## 9. 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Postage Stamp of Sri Lanka

### Details of Reproducing Stamps

Date of Issue : 01.04.2017

Printer : Department of Government Printing, Sri Lanka

SG No. : 2435 Depicted 6 pence Stamp  
2436 Depicted 4 pence Stamp  
2437 Depicted 8 pence Stamp  
2438 Depicted 9 pence Stamp

Designer : P. Isuru Chathuranga

Series Description : 160th Anniversary of the First Postage Stamp of Sri Lanka

Connection between Stamps

### Images



### Original Stamp Details

| Image         |            |            |            |            |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Date of Issue | 01.04.1857 | 23.04.1859 | 23.04.1859 | 23.04.1859 |
| SG No.        | 01         | 04         | 07         | 08         |
| Face Value    | 6 Pence    | 4 Cents    | 8 Cents    | 9 Cents    |

**Miniature Sheet**

SG No. : MS 2439



## 10. Republic of Sri Lanka, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Details of Reproducing Stamps

Date of Issue : 07.10.2022

Printer : Department of Government Printing, Sri Lanka

SG No. : 2760

Designer :

Series Description : 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary- Republic of Sri Lanka

Connection between Original Stamps

: Depicted stamp was issued 50 years ago when the country officially changed its name from Ceylon to the Republic of Sri Lanka.

Images



### Original Stamp Details

Date of Issue : 22.05.1972

SG No. : 591



## References

- ❖ Postage Stamps of Sri Lanka – Volume 1, Philatelic Bureau.
- ❖ Postage Stamps of Sri Lanka – Volume 3, Philatelic Bureau.
- ❖ Postage Stamps of Sri Lanka – 1948 - 2005, Philatelic Bureau.
- ❖ <https://colnect.com>

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