CEYLON/SRI LANKA 1970 – 1974

This display highlights some aspects of the stamp issues of a post-colonial postal administration that struggled with a lack of resources but did not resort to producing numerous ‘philatelic’ sets for the speculative ‘topical’ market. Three aspects of stamp production are featured in this display;

1. Ceylon never printed any of its postage stamps but relied entirely on British printers. The shift to a range of foreign printers is shown, with the use of some communist government printers reflecting socialist political leanings of Sri Lankan governments,

2. Subjects of the stamps related to Sri Lankan society, not commercial marketeers’ need for saleable product, and

3. The lack of skilled and experienced personnel in stamp design and printing resulted in numerous design and printing errors, the latter particularly in the local overprints that were undertaken due to currency and rate fluctuation.

Design errors

All Ceylon Buddhist Congress
Rosenbaum Bros. Vienna
19 December 1968

Buddhist monks protested that Buddha’s footprint would be defaced so the stamp was withdrawn. Pallegama did not receive the instruction and some stamps were sold.

C.W. Thamotheram Pillai
Pakistan Security Printing Corp
1 October 1983

Wrong portrait  Correct portrait
Some rural post offices issued stamps showing the brother’s portrait.

Overprint errors

1 June 1963

National Youth Service Council
Ascher & Co, Melbourne 1978

Athletes running in wrong direction

THE THIRD FESTIVAL OF WILD LIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

DR. H.V. CORBETT
17 ELAMORA VILLA’S
BUNBURY W.A. 6230

ISSUED BY THE POSTS & TELECOM. DEPT., CEYLON

11 May 1970
Wildlife Conservation
Lithography, Rosenbaum Vienna; perf. 13½

17 June 1970
Asian Productivity Year
Lithography, Rosenbaum Vienna; perf. 13½

Mr. John Bristoe,
P.O. Box 82,
Maryborough. 4650.
Queensland,
Australia.

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14 August 1970
New U.P.U. Headquarters Building
Lithography, Rosenbaum Brothers Vienna; perf. 13½

1 September 1970
Colombo Medical School Centenary

25 September 1970
Establishment of United Front Government
Lithography, De La Rue; perf. 12½ x 13½

Air Mail

[Handwritten letter]
Mrs. Harley Brown,
4 Hansen Place,
Levin,
NEW ZEALAND.

[Stamp with images of buildings and medical symbols]

[Stamp with images of figures and medical symbols]

[Stamp with images of birds and medical symbols]

[Stamp with images of buildings and medical symbols]

[Handwritten address]
Messrs H.E. Harris & Co.,
Boston,
Mass. 02117,
U.S.A.
The Sinhalese letters ‘Jatheen’ for Nations was misspelled as ‘Jabeen’ but not corrected so all issued stamps have this error.
26 November 1970
152nd Anniversary of Death of Keppetipola Dissaawa
Lithography, Harrison; perf. 14 x 14½

21 December 1970
International Education Year
Photogravure, Pakistan Security Printing Corp.; perf. 13

Air Mail

Mrs. Harley Brown

Stamps cancelled 1000th Perpetual Help Novena 2 October 1971, Peradeniya 2 November.

Carl R. Hester
Philatelist & Ganzachen Sammler
160 Burma Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63125
United States of America
3 March 1971
135th Anniversary Birth of C.H. de Soysa
Lithography, Pakistan Security Printing Corp.; perf. 13½

8 July 1971
D.E.H. Pedris
Lithography, Harrison; perf. 14 x 14½

31 August 1971
Comrade Lenin
Lithography, Harrison; perf. 14½
20 October 1971

Ananda Rajakaruna

Arumuga Navalar

Lithography, Harrison; perf. 14 x 13½

S. Mahinda

**Please.**

Take the.

Completed.

Address.

Mrs. Hannelore Geerken

c/o AEG-Telefunken

Jakarta - Kebayoran

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POB 2280

Mr. S. Thavasadin N° 28
20 October 1971

Ananda Coomaraswamy

Lithography, Harrison; perf. 14 x 13½

Cumaratunga Munidasa

M/s H.F. Harris & Co.,
Boston, Mass. 02117,
U.S.A.
SRI LANKA

22 May 1972
Inauguration of Republic of Sri Lanka
Lithography, De La Rue; perf. 13

26 May 1972
10th Conference of World Fellowship of Buddhists
Lithography, Harrisons; perf. 14 x 13
Originally scheduled for May 1971 but, when released, had 1972 overprinted in red. Sheets are known without the overprint but their status is unknown.

8 September 1972
International Book Year
Photogravure, Pakistan Security Printing Corp.; perf. 13
12 October 1972

**Fish**

Lithography, Rosenbaum Brothers Vienna; perf. 13 x 13½

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17 May 1973

**Opening of the Bandaranaike Memorial Hall**

Lithography, De La Rue; perf. 14

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3 September 1973

**Rock and Temple Paintings**

Lithography, De La Rue; perf. 13 ½ x 14
6 September 1974
20th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference
Lithography, Harrison; perf. 14½

9 October 1974
Centenary of Universal Postal Union
Lithography, German Bank Note Printing Co. Leipzig; perf. 13½ x 13

25 September 1974
Bandaranaike
Photogravure, Harrison; perf. 14½

1 April 1975
Inter-Parliamentary Meeting
Lithography, Toppan Printing Co. Japan; perf. 13