

# Investigation of the Ceylon Counterfeit Stamps Issued during the British Colonial Period

DY Ellawela

*University of the Visual & Performing Arts*

<dulshan49@yahoo.co.uk>

**Abstract** - Forgeries and counterfeits have been with the philately industry since the start of stamp manufacturing. As a result of counterfeiting very rare Ceylon colonial stamps were distributed among the collectors just as a fraction of the genuine stamp value. It is a predominant requirement to find a tincture to preserve the Ceylon colonial stamps. The objective of the research was to evaluate and to identify the counterfeit stamps circulated in Sri Lanka, which were used to swindle the original stamp issues during the British colonial timeframe from 1857 to 1948. Methodology, based on the evaluation of the authors possessed collection of stamps including the other collected stamps images, against the counterfeited stamps published by the Department of posts (2015). Evaluation processes were conducted mathematically with the elements of the artwork of the stamps. Further, this paper evaluates the philosophical and aesthetic segments utilized for creating stamps and how those depictions were embraced and assimilated in the process of counterfeiting. Furthermore, it will identify and reveal the counterfeiting techniques used to counterfeit the Ceylon Colonial stamps. Subsequently, the forgery stamps will be identified and used to eliminate such counterfeits by deploying identification techniques. The outcome of this research will reveal the counterfeited stamps utilized during the British colonial period, take proactive measures to avoid the circulation of the aforementioned stamps and suggest the appropriate solution for encyclopaedic exploration that discloses the key areas and methods of detecting a counterfeit stamp compared to a genuine stamp.

**Keywords:** Counterfeits, Forgery stamps, Error stamps.