

# CEYLON



## 1920 - 25 CENTS - REVERSE

CEYLON, BRITISH CROWN COLONY of  
BOMBAY MINT

25 CENTS 18MM .550 FINE 2.91 GRAMS

1919	1,400,007	P-142
1920	1,600,011	P-143
1921	600,008	P-144

^OV: Head of George V, facing left GEORGE V KING AND EMPEROR OF INDIA, around / • (dot) below bust, B.M. on truncation.

^RV: CEYLON / talipot palm tree dividing denomination 25 / CENTS / • DATE • denomination in tamil (25 SATHAM = 25 cents.) left, denomination in sinhalese (SA THER VISIPAHA = cents twenty five) right.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: **B** (incised below the cross pattee of the crown) = BOMBAY

DESIGNER:(obv) B.M. = Sir Edgar Bertram MacKenna (rev) = Leonard Charles Wyon

REFERENCE: Y-22a, KM-105a

POPULATION: Ceylon - 1921 - 4,100,000



FOOTNOTE: Talipot Palm (*Corypha umbraculifera*) The great fanpalm, native of Ceylon. The cylindrical trunk reaches a height of 60, 70, or 100 feet, and is covered with a tuft of fan-like leaves, usually about 18 feet in length and 14 in breadth. The leaves are used for covering houses, for making umbrellas and fans, and as a substitute for paper. When the tree has attained its full growth, the flower spike bursts from its envelope.

FOOTNOTE: The colonial dime size coinage of Ceylon (known as Sri Lanka now) with a denomination of 25 cents of a rupee was minted by the Branch mints of the Royal Mint at Bombay and Calcutta and at the Royal Mint, London. The first issue, dated 1892 was shipped from London with Victoria wearing a diadem portrait of L.C.Wyon. Starting with the 1902 date the series of Edward VII designed by George W. DeSaulles was still minted by London. A new design bearing the head of George V by Sir Edgar MacKenna was minted by the Royal Branch mint at Calcutta starting with 1913. The silver content was reduced from .800 fine to .550 with the George V coins produced by the Bombay Branch mint dated 1919-21, with the Calcutta mint taking over the 1922 and 1925 coinage at .550 fine. The last year 1926 still .550 fine was again shipped out of London to complete the silver series of 18 millimeter coins of the British Crown Colony of Ceylon. Listings are arranged in mint order.



Elephants used for carrying passengers



### 1917 - 25 CENTS - REVERSE

CEYLON, BRITISH CROWN COLONY of  
CALCUTTA MINT

25 CENTS 18MM .800 FINE 2.91 GRAMS

1913	400,008	P-139
1914	400,008	P-140
1917	300,008	P-141

^OV: Head of George V, facing left GEORGE V KING AND EMPEROR OF INDIA, around / • (dot) below bust, B.M. on truncation.

^RV: CEYLON / talipot palm tree dividing denomination 25 / CENTS / • DATE • denomination in tamil (25 SATHAM = 25 cents.) left, denomination in sinhalese (SA THER VISIPAHA = cents twenty five) right.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = CALCUTTA

DESIGNER:(obv) B.M. = Sir Edgar Bertram MacKenna  
(rev) = Leonard Charles Wyon

REFERENCE: Y-22, KM-105

FOOTNOTE: Coins dated 1913 were struck in both London and Calcutta with no distinguishing identification.

FOOTNOTE: Ceylon is one of the most progressive and prosperous of the British Far Eastern possessions. Separated from the mainland of India by a narrow strait, it is as different from the larger country as if it belonged to another hemisphere. India is solemn, reflective, lost in its own mysteries, apparently accepting poverty with little concern. Ceylon is lighthearted, wide awake. its fields are fertile, its cattle sleek and well-fed and its people gay and animated. *World Cruise of 1928, Thos.Cook & Son, 1927.*



### 1925 - 25 CENTS - OBVERSE

CEYLON, BRITISH CROWN COLONY of  
CALCUTTA MINT

25 CENTS 18MM .550 FINE 2.91 GRAMS

1922	1,211,000	P-145
1925	1,004,000	P-146

^OV: Head of George V, facing left GEORGE V KING AND EMPEROR OF INDIA, around / • (dot) below bust, B.M. on truncation.

^RV: CEYLON / talipot palm tree dividing denomination 25 / CENTS / • DATE • denomination in tamil (25 SATHAM = 25 cents.) left, denomination in sinhalese (SA THER VISIPAHA = cents twenty five) right.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = CALCUTTA

DESIGNER:(obv) B.M. = Sir Edgar Bertram MacKenna  
(rev) = Leonard Charles Wyon

REFERENCE: Y-22a, KM-105a

FOOTNOTE: Ceylon is rightly called the "Garden of the World". Its yellow sands are fringed by groves of palm trees, its hills rise above fertile valleys and culminate in splendid mountains whose peaks are hidden among the clouds, a riot of color blazes forth in its flowers and brilliantly plumed birds, its fields are rich in luxuriant vegetation. The Sinhalese wear brightly colored petticoats and tortoise-shell combs; a few of the men wear European coats, but the large majority are content with the native garment, fashioned from a yard or two of cloth, and the small children wear nothing at all. *World Cruise of 1928, Thos.Cook & Son, 1927.*



**1925 - 25 CENTS - REVERSE**

FOOTNOTE: The Tamil language is spoken not only in South India and Ceylon, but by a majority of the Indian settlers in places farther East, including Pegu and Penang.

FOOTNOTE: As a result of the Napoleonic conflict Great Britain gained the colonial possession of Ceylon, off the southern coast of the Indian peninsula, recognized by the Congress of Vienna.

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CEYLON, BRITISH CROWN COLONY of LONDON MINT			
25 CENTS	18MM	.800 FINE	2.91 GRAMS

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1892	500,000	P-127
1893	1,500,000	P-128
1895	1,200,000	P-129
1899	600,000	P-130
1900	400,000	P-131

^OV: Head of VICTORIA wearing a diadem, facing left  
VICTORIA, above QUEEN, below, within fret border, left and right.

^RV: CEYLON on banner above / talipot palm tree dividing denomination 25 / CENTS / • DATE • denomination in tamil (25 SATHAM = 25 cents.) left, denomination in sinhalese (SATHER VISIPAHA = cents twenty five) right.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = Royal Mint, LONDON

DESIGNER: Leonard Charles Wyon

REFERENCE: Y-9, KM-95

FOOTNOTE: Ceylon is a land of thousands upon thousands of cocoanut-palms. They provide the people with many valuable products. The natives manufacture rope and matting; from the leaves are made baskets, hats and palm-leaf fans; while the fiber of the nut furnishes rough clothing, sails, and fish-nets. The sap yields sugar, the green fruit milk, the ripe fruit solid food; while from the kernel they obtain rich coconut-oil for their lamps and hair.



**1892 - 25 CENTS - OBVERSE**



**1892 - 25 CENTS - REVERSE**



### 1902 - 25 CENTS - OBVERSE

CEYLON, BRITISH CROWN COLONY of  
LONDON MINT

25 CENTS 18MM .800 FINE 2.91 GRAMS

1902	400,000	P-132
1903	400,000	P-133
1907	120,000	P-134
1908	400,000	P-135
1909	400,000	P-136
1910	800,000	P-137

▲OV: Head of Edward VII, facing right EDWARD VII, left KING & EMPEROR, right, DES. under bust.

▲RV: CEYLON / talipot palm tree dividing denomination 25 / CENTS / • DATE • denomination in tamil (25 SATHAM = 25 cents.) left, denomination in sinhalese (SA THER VISIPAHA = cents twenty five) right.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = Royal Mint, LONDON

DESIGNER: (obv) B.M.= Sir Edgar Bertram MacKenna  
(rev) = Leonard Charles Wyon

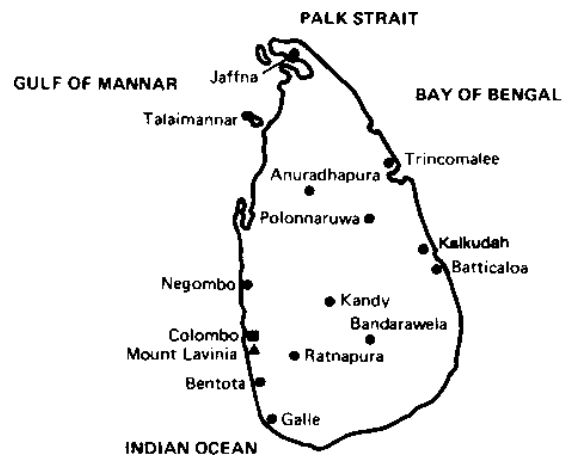
REFERENCE: Y-16, KM-98

FOOTNOTE: The currency of Ceylon is based on the rupee equal to 100 cents which was equal to 33.44 Cents U.S. (1910).

FOOTNOTE: In 1507 the Portuguese landed in Ceylon and formed settlements along the coast; but about 150 years later they were dispossessed by the Dutch. In 1796 the British took possession of the Dutch settlements on the island, and annexed them to the Presidency of Madras (India); but five years after, in 1801, Ceylon was erected into a separate Crown Colony. In 1815 the King of Kandy was deposed and banished; and his dominions, which had up to that time maintained their independence of European rule, were annexed to the British Crown. *Whitaker's Almanack, 1914.*



### 1902 - 25 CENTS - REVERSE



### Sri Lanka (Ceylon) Today





### 1911 - 25 CENTS - REVERSE

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CEYLON, BRITISH CROWN COLONY of LONDON MINT			
25 CENTS	18MM	.800 FINE	2.91 GRAMS

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1911	400,008	P-138
1913	400,008	P-139

▲OV: Head of George V, facing left GEORGE V KING AND EMPEROR OF INDIA, around / • (dot) below bust, B.M. on truncation.

▲RV: CEYLON / talipot palm tree dividing denomination 25 / CENTS / • DATE • denomination in tamil (25 SATHAM = 25 cents.) left, denomination in sinhalese (SA THER VISIPAHA = cents twenty five) right.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = Royal Mint, LONDON

DESIGNER: (obv) B.M. = Sir Edgar Bertram MacKenna  
(rev) = Leonard Charles Wyon

REFERENCE: Y-22, KM-105

FOOTNOTE: The 25 cent Ceylon coins dated 1911 can be identified as London, however the 1913 date issue came from both London and Calcutta with no distinguishing identification.

FOOTNOTE: The most industrious inhabitants of Ceylon seem to be the "elephant people"; no task is either too difficult or delicate for their highly efficient trunks. After watching them engage in bridge-building, landscape-gardening, lumber-piling and a hundred other useful pursuits, one is inclined to believe they could carry on the industry of this prosperous country unassisted by their human compatriots. *World Cruise of 1928, Thos. Cook & Son, 1927.*



### 1926 - 25 CENTS - REVERSE

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CEYLON, BRITISH CROWN COLONY of LONDON MINT			
25 CENTS	18MM	.550 FINE	2.91 GRAMS

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1926	1,000,008
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▲OV: Head of George V, facing left GEORGE V KING AND EMPEROR OF INDIA, around / • (dot) below bust, B.M. on truncation.

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EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = Royal Mint, LONDON

DESIGNER: (obv) B.M. = Sir Edgar Bertram MacKenna  
(rev) = Leonard Charles Wyon

REFERENCE: Y-22a, P-147, KM-105a

*The Coins of the British Commonwealth of Nations - Part 2, Asian Territories by Major F. Pridmore, London. 1965.*

POPULATION: Ceylon - 1930 - 5,422,000 with more than half Sinhalese. Europeans number about 7,300

