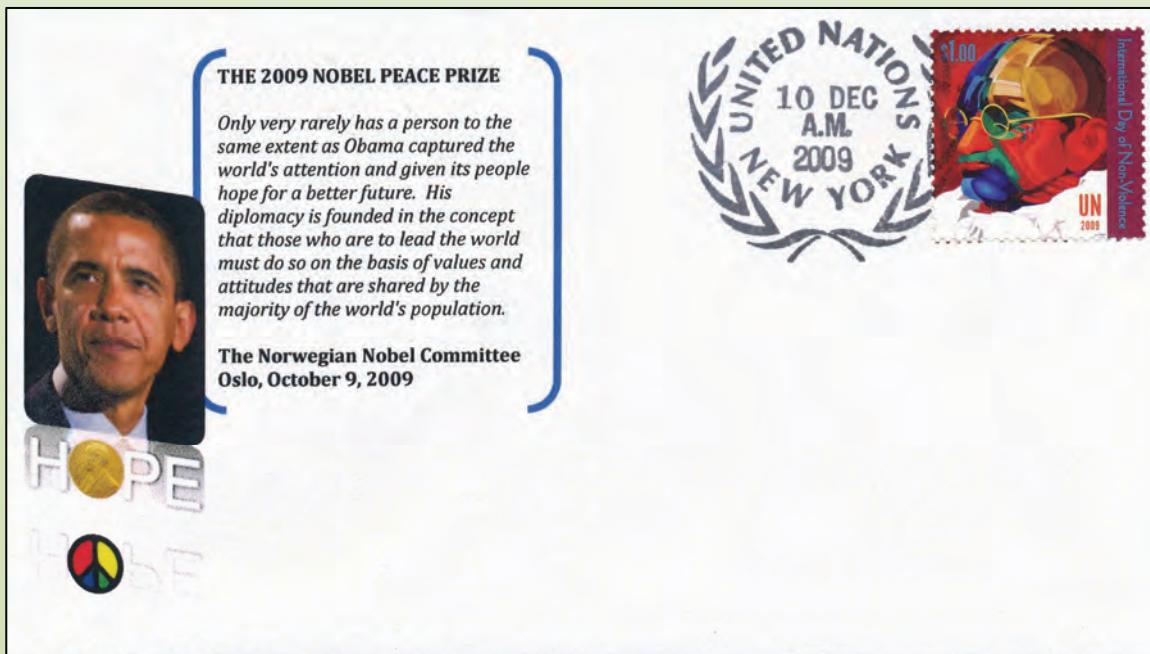
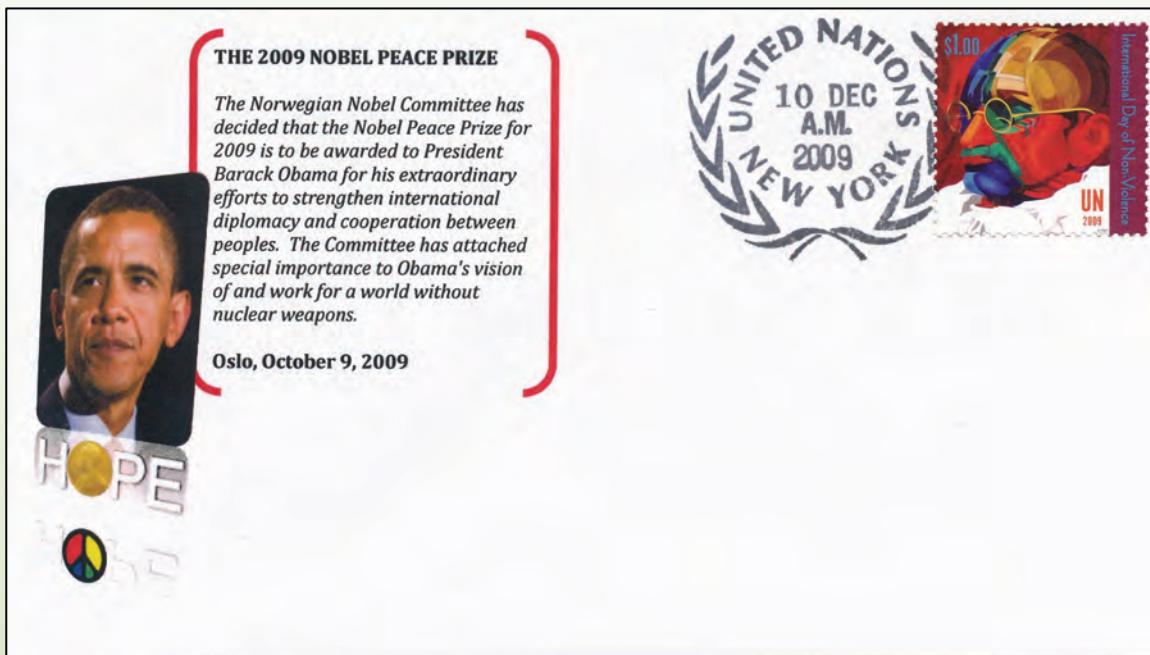




On October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009, two years after the United Nations declared Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary as the International Day of Non-Violence, the UN Postal Agency in New York issued a postage stamp featuring a painting of Gandhi's portrait. On October 8<sup>th</sup> 2009, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced that the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize would be awarded to Barack Obama, President of the United States of America.

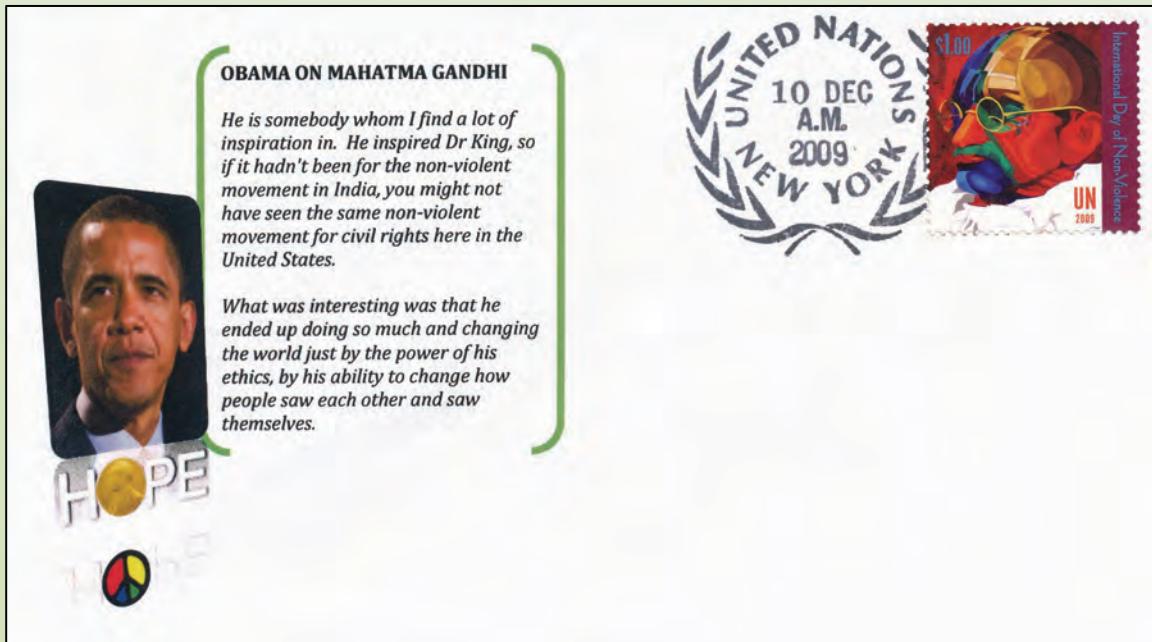
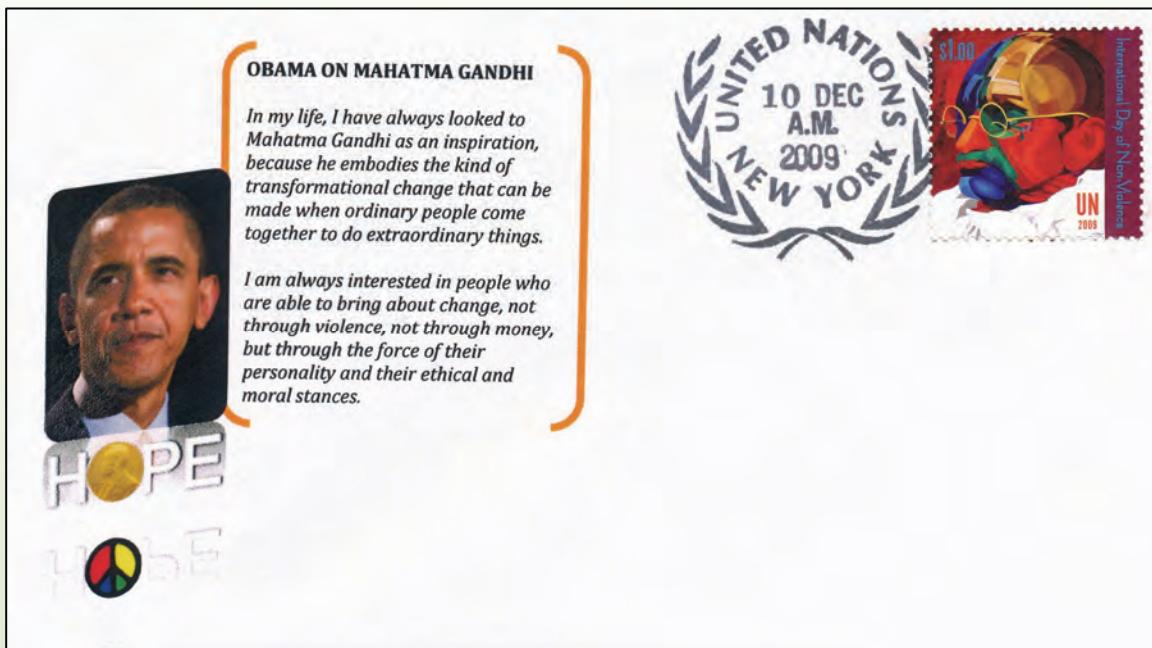
This set of four covers commemorates the nexus of the two historic events mentioned above. The covers are franked with the \$1 stamp, cancelled with a United Nations New York date stamp on December 10<sup>th</sup> 2009 [date of the Peace Prize award ceremony in Oslo, Norway]. The cachet illustrates the following: the world's *spotlight shining* on Mr. Obama, as this Nobel Peace Prize *reflects a hope* that he'll achieve his diplomatic aspirations in search of lasting *global peace*. Texts from the Nobel Committee's announcements are presented on two covers and texts of President Obama's recent comments on Mahatma Gandhi are presented on the other two. To capture the conflicting voices that have been raised in public dialogue since the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize was announced, the graphics associated with the cachet on each cover carries a different perspective.





Ten sets of these commemorative covers were prepared by philatelist Raj V. Rajan of Victor, NY and processed at the United Nations Post Office in New York, NY. As with the Nobel centennial covers prepared at Chicagopex 2001, these 2009 commemorative covers will be shared with a select group of organizations and individuals.

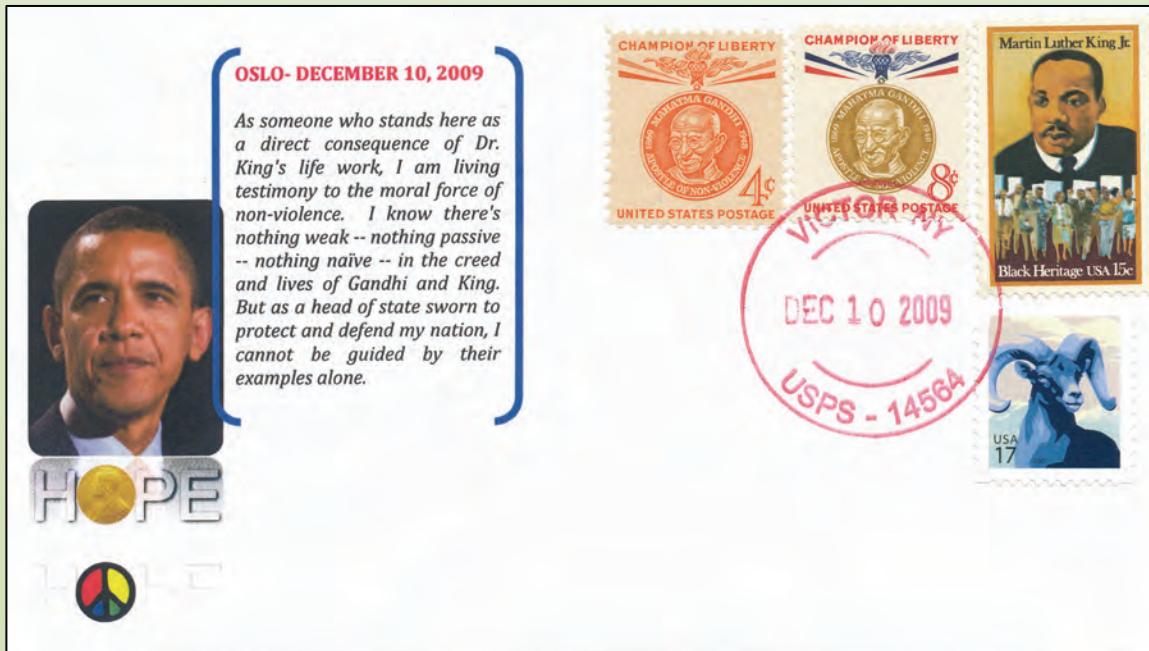
Information on the design and preparation of the 2001 Nobel Centennial commemorative covers can be found at [http://gandhi.topicalphilately.com/Gandhi and the Nobel Peace Prize.pdf](http://gandhi.topicalphilately.com/Gandhi%20and%20the%20Nobel%20Peace%20Prize.pdf). Five sets of the 2001 covers were prepared and were shared with (1) The Nobel Museum, Stockholm, Sweden, (2) Gandhi Memorial Museum, New Delhi, India, and (3) The M.K. Gandhi Institute for Non-Violence [then at Memphis TN, USA and now in Rochester NY, USA]. The 2009 commemorative covers will also be shared with the same organizations.





Two other related commemorative covers were prepared on December 10, 2009 [ten each]. One was a cover with the UN Gandhi stamp commemorating African and African American Nobel Peace Prize Laureates to date: Albert Luthuli, South Africa [1960], Martin Luther King Jr., United States [1964], Desmond Tutu, South Africa [1984], Nelson Mandela, South Africa [1993], Wangari Maathai, Kenya [2004], and Barack Obama [2009]. Kofi Anan of Ghana [2001] was inadvertently left out, due to an incorrect assumption that he accepted the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the United Nations. In fact, the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to both the United Nations and Kofi Anan "for their work for a better organized and more peaceful world".

The other commemorative cover carries a cachet with an excerpt from Barack Obama's December 10, 2009 Nobel Lecture in Oslo, Norway. In this speech, President Obama references both Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi, while distancing his actions from their ideals. These covers carry the US 4c and 8c commemorative stamps of Mahatma Gandhi [1961], the US 15c commemorative stamp of Martin Luther King [1979], and a US 17c definitive stamp of Bighorn Sheep [2007] to make up the remainder of current first class postage rate [44c]. The stamps are tied to the covers with a red Victor, NY circular date stamp.





This commemorative cover project started with the idea that the interesting but controversial *Hope Poster* from Barack Obama's election campaign would be used in graphics of the cachet design. Due to the pending copyright litigation between the Associated Press and the artist Shepard Fairey who designed this poster, Raj V. Rajan solicited permission from AP photographer Mannie Garcia and artist Shepard Fairey. While there was no response from the artist Mr. Fairey, AP photographer Mr. Garcia declined permission for the image's use in this philatelic project [see image of draft design and email from Mr. Garcia below].



Re: Permission

Reply Reply all Forward Add to calendar Delete Junk Print Previous Next

Mannie Garcia  
To: Raj V. Rajan;

10/20/2009 1:48 PM

**Re: Permission**

Dear Dr. Rajan,

Thank you for your consideration and your project is very interesting, however, because of the current litigation on copyright, it will not be possible at this time to grant permission for the image's use.

Respectfully,

Mannie Garcia

-- On Mon, 10/19/09, Raj V. Rajan <[rajan\\_rv@hotmail.com](mailto:rajan_rv@hotmail.com)> wrote:

From: Raj V. Rajan <[rajan\\_rv@hotmail.com](mailto:rajan_rv@hotmail.com)>  
Subject: Permission  
To: mannie@manniegarcia.com  
Date: Monday, October 19, 2009, 8:50 AM

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Philately is my hobby and I occasionally design commemorative covers associated with specific subjects. I had designed a set of covers to commemorate the Nobel Centennial in 2001 (see <http://gandhi.topicalphilately.com/Gandhi%20and%20the%20Nobel%20Peace%20Prize.pdf>). Of the 5 sets I prepared, one is at the Nobel Museum in Stockholm, one at the Gandhi Museum in New Delhi, one at the Gandhi Institute for Non-Violence in Rochester NY and two in personal collections.

To commemorate the UN's issue of a stamp featuring Mahatma Gandhi (see [http://unstamps.un.org/UNPACCommerce/en/display\\_category.jsp?id=cat1580003](http://unstamps.un.org/UNPACCommerce/en/display_category.jsp?id=cat1580003)) and the award of the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize to President Obama, I have designed a set of 4 commemorative covers, again to be prepared in very limited quantities for sharing with fellow collectors and interested parties (including the ones listed above). I have attached a draft mock-up of these in PDF format. Please treat this information as confidential.

The reason I picked the controversial HOPE poster as part of the design is because the award represents a HOPE that President Obama will achieve his aspirations (and not a recognition of his past achievements). I believe that I cannot achieve this objective and provide the strong visual context with another artwork or text. I have no idea about copyright law and don't know if this constitutes "fair use".

My intent is to prepare these covers and then have them serviced by the UN Postal Agency in New York on the day the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded this year. I understand that there is pending copyright litigation between the AP and the artist Shepard Fairey who designed this poster. I request permission from you to use this image in my commemorative covers and will ask Mr. Fairey for the same permission. Appreciate your consideration.

Regards,  
Raj

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R. V. (Raj) Rajan, PhD, PE  
**6709 St. Johns Parkway, Victor, NY 14564**  
<http://Gandhi.topicalphilately.com>

Member: Northeast Sustainable Energy Association, American Solar Energy Society, International Solar Energy Society, Engineers Without Borders, Engineers for a Sustainable World.

"We used to own our slaves but now we just rent them," Edward R. Murrow, in television documentary *Harvest of Shame* [November 24, 1960]. Where are we 47 years later? We should think about it when we look at our grocery bills and wonder why we pay less for food than any other nation in the world.



A copy of the letter of acceptance of the offer to provide the 2001 Nobel centennial commemorative covers, from the Senior Curator of the Nobel Museum to Raj V. Rajan, is shown below.



February 12, 2002

Mr. R.V. Rajan  
765 Howard Street  
Chelsea, MI 48118-1015  
USA

Dear Mr. Rajan,

Thank you very much for your letter of December 20, 2001, concerning Chicagopex 2001 and the specially prepared set of covers relating to Mahatma Gandhi.

The Nobel Museum is, of course, interested in obtaining a set of the covers. At the moment the museum is in temporary locations and have no space for exhibiting special requirements like the Gandhi covers. This will certainly change in the long run and might possibly occur quite soon.

Yours sincerely

Anders Bárány  
Senior Curator

Address:  
Anders Bárány  
The Nobel Museum  
P.O. Box 2245  
SE-103 16 Stockholm  
Sweden

Tel: +46-8-519 542 83  
Fax: +46-8-519 542 90  
E-mail:  
[anders.barany@nobel.se](mailto:anders.barany@nobel.se)



A copy of the letter acknowledging the receipt of the 2001 Nobel centennial commemorative covers, from the Senior Curator of the Nobel Museum to Raj V. Rajan, is shown below.



N O B E L M U S E E T  
The Nobel Museum

October 25, 2002

Mr. R.V. Rajan  
765 Howard Street  
Chelsea, MI 48118-1015  
USA

Dear Mr. Rajan,

Thank you very much for your letter of October 12, 2002, which accompanied the four mounted sets of covers relating to Mahatma Gandhi.

The Nobel Museum thanks you for the donation of the covers. The museum is now in semipermanent locations that will expand in the near future and might actually find a space for exhibiting special acquisitions like the Gandhi covers. If and when this happens I will certainly let you know.

Again, many thanks for the nice gift!

Yours sincerely

Anders Bárány  
Senior Curator

Address:

Anders Bárány  
The Nobel Museum  
P.O. Box 2245  
SE-103 16 Stockholm  
Sweden

Tel: +46-8-519 542 83  
Fax: +46-8-519 542 90  
E-mail:  
[anders.barany@nobel.se](mailto:anders.barany@nobel.se)