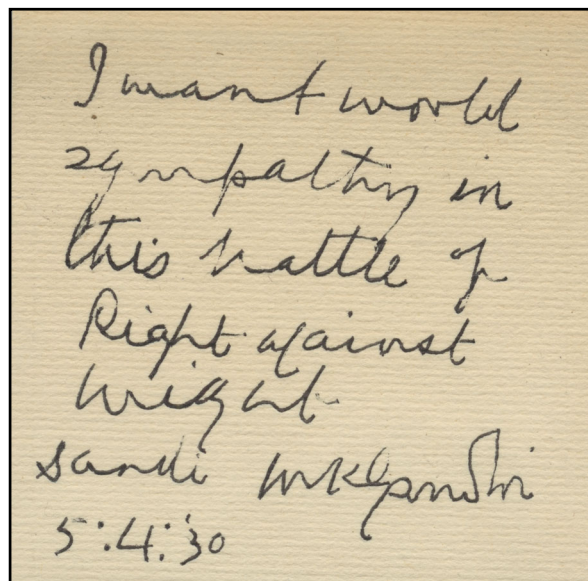


# Mahatma Gandhi: His Life and Legacy

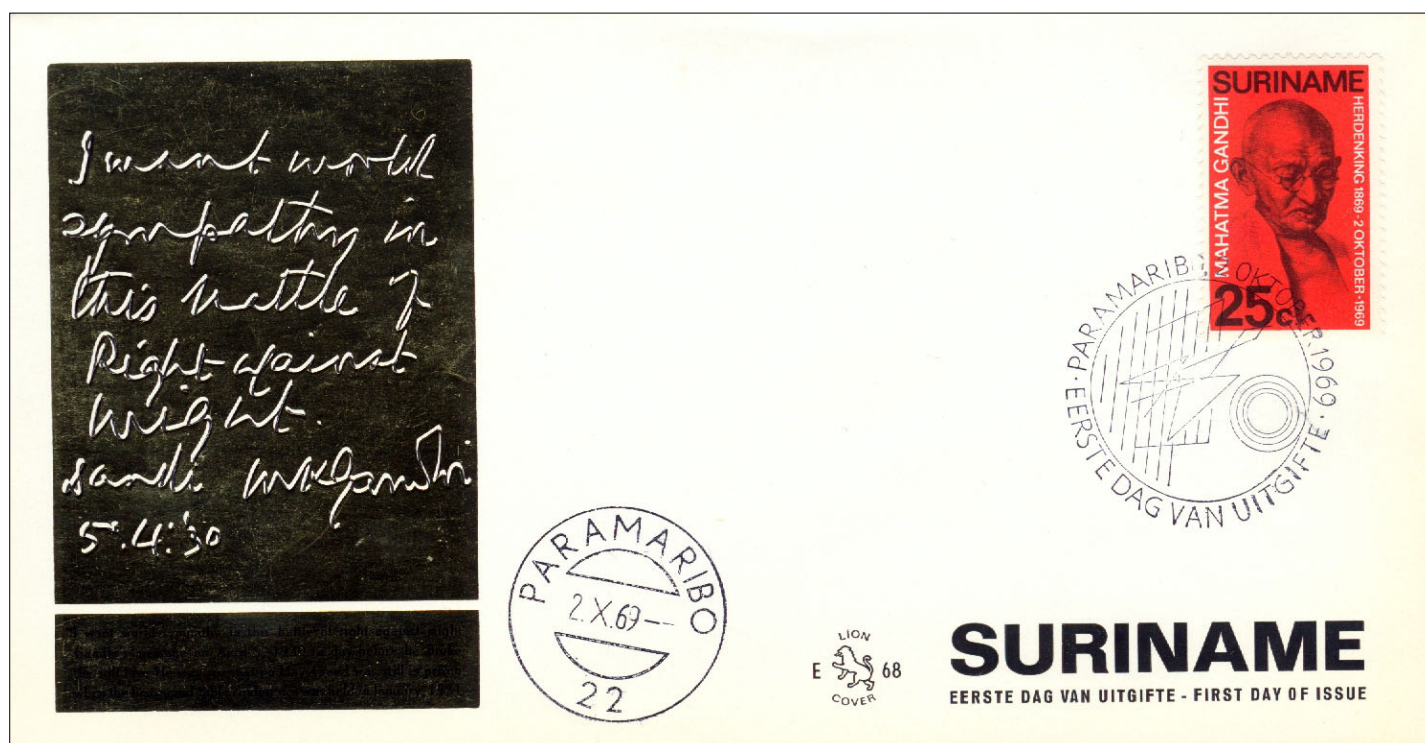
A window into the life of Mohandas K. Gandhi is presented through historic and philatelic material in this display-class presentation.

Our journey through this exhibit will begin with Gandhi's birth in 1869, take us through significant events in his life [in Southern Africa, England and India], pause for a brief moment during and after the last days of his life and end with popular retrospectives on the eventful life that transformed him into the "Great Soul" [Mahatma].



This original handwritten statement from Gandhi was given to a friend and prominent biographer as a "message to Americans", before he picked the grain of salt that many say "brought down the British Empire".

This single sentence captures the essence of the power of civil disobedience- built on faith in human conscience!



The statement was released to the Associated Press and has subsequently been touched up and used in philatelic designs, like this FDC cachet from Suriname.

# Exhibit Plan

When the subject of a thematic exhibit is a personality, the natural order for an exhibit plan is expected to be chronological. The story line presented here is an attempt to explore two facets:

(1) events that shaped Gandhi's life and ideals and (2) our historical perceptions of the same.

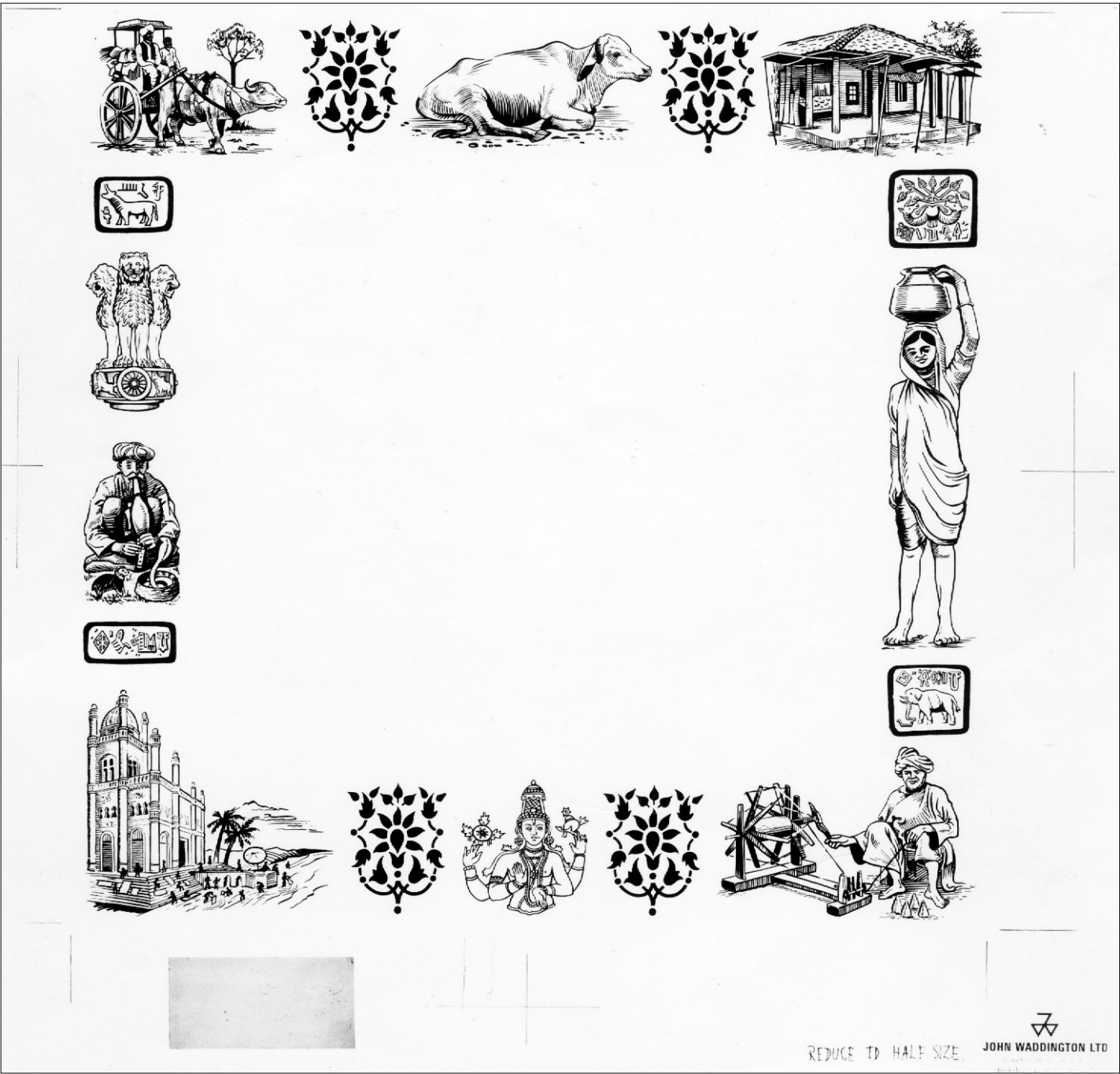
These events and perceptions are grouped into logical blocks and a semblance of chronological order has been maintained within each group, when deemed necessary to organize the story.

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|  |    |  |    |
|--|----|--|----|
| 1. <a href="#">Title, Plan</a>                                       | 2  | 8. <a href="#">The Final Days</a>                                      | 5  |
| 2. <a href="#">Early Years</a>                                       | 4  | a. <a href="#">Partition and Independence [1947]</a>                   |    |
| a. <a href="#">Birth [1869]</a>                                      |    | b. <a href="#">His Last Fast [1948]</a>                                |    |
| b. <a href="#">Family and Early Schooling [1869–87]</a>              |    | c. <a href="#">The Assassin's Bullet [1948]</a>                        |    |
| c. <a href="#">Student in England [1888–91]</a>                      |    | 9. <a href="#">The Morning After– Memorialized in India</a>            | 2  |
| 3. <a href="#">Legal Professional</a>                                | 4  | 10. <a href="#">India After Gandhi</a>                                 | 6  |
| a. <a href="#">Early Years as a Lawyer [1891–93]</a>                 |    | a. <a href="#">First Death Anniversary [1949]</a>                      |    |
| b. <a href="#">Business Lawyer in Transvaal [1893–96]</a>            |    | b. <a href="#">Carrying the Torch [1948–]</a>                          |    |
| c. <a href="#">Lawyer Turned Activist in Natal [1896–1902]</a>       |    | c. <a href="#">Free India Stands... for World Peace [1949–69]</a>      |    |
| 4. <a href="#">Participant in Wars</a>                               | 6  | d. <a href="#">.... For Mutual Annihilation [1998]</a>                 |    |
| a. <a href="#">Anglo–Boer War [1899–1902]</a>                        |    | e. <a href="#">Neighbors: Ceylon, Nepal &amp; Tibet</a>                |    |
| b. <a href="#">Natal's Zulu Rebellion [1906]</a>                     |    | 11. <a href="#">Lasting Impressions</a>                                | 5  |
| c. <a href="#">First World War [1914–18]</a>                         |    | a. <a href="#">The Modest Attire and the Spinning Wheel</a>            |    |
| d. <a href="#">Second World War [1939–45]</a>                        |    | b. <a href="#">The Flag and the Zodiac</a>                             |    |
| 5. <a href="#">Political Organizer &amp; Negotiator</a>              | 11 | c. <a href="#">Vegetarianism and Animal Rights</a>                     |    |
| a. <a href="#">Natal Indian Congress [1894–14]</a>                   |    | 12. <a href="#">No Man is an Island</a>                                | 5  |
| b. <a href="#">Indian National Congress [1897–1948]</a>              |    | a. <a href="#">Those who Shaped his Thoughts</a>                       |    |
| c. <a href="#">First Indian Round Table Conferences [1930]</a>       |    | b. <a href="#">Adversaries and Associates</a>                          |    |
| d. <a href="#">Second Indian Round Table Conferences [1931]</a>      |    | c. <a href="#">Friends and Admirers</a>                                |    |
| 6. <a href="#">Architect of Civil Disobedience</a>                   | 21 | d. <a href="#">Followers and Adherents</a>                             |    |
| a. <a href="#">Satyagraha in Southern Africa [1907–14]</a>           |    | 13. <a href="#">Inspiration and Legacy</a>                             | 10 |
| b. <a href="#">Swadeshi Movement–Boycotting Imports [1906–35]</a>    |    | a. <a href="#">Anti–War Movements [1940–]</a>                          |    |
| c. <a href="#">Boycott of KGV Coronation in Durban [1911]</a>        |    | b. <a href="#">Anti–Apartheid Movement [1946–]</a>                     |    |
| d. <a href="#">Untouchability– <i>Harijan Movement</i> [1916–34]</a> |    | c. <a href="#">African Nationalist Movements [1950–]</a>               |    |
| e. <a href="#">Fighting for Peasants' Rights [1917–18]</a>           |    | d. <a href="#">Pan Arab Nationalism [1918–]</a>                        |    |
| f. <a href="#">Boycott of Prince of Wales Royal Visit [1921–22]</a>  |    | e. <a href="#">Civil &amp; Workers' Rights in the Americas [1960–]</a> |    |
| g. <a href="#">The Simon Commission Boycott [1928]</a>               |    | f. <a href="#">Fighting Totalitarianism in Central Europe [1960–]</a>  |    |
| h. <a href="#">Dandi March– Against Salt Tax [1930]</a>              |    | g. <a href="#">The Indian Diaspora [1830–]</a>                         |    |
| i. <a href="#">Separate Electorates &amp; Provinces [1932–42]</a>    |    | 14. <a href="#">Lip Service and More</a>                               | 11 |
| j. <a href="#">The Quit India Movement [1942–47]</a>                 |    | a. <a href="#">The Centennial Rebirth [1969]</a>                       |    |
| k. <a href="#">Boycott of WWII Victory Celebrations [1945]</a>       |    | b. <a href="#">Service, Duty and Community</a>                         |    |
| 7. <a href="#">Social Experimenter</a>                               | 3  | c. <a href="#">Race, Religion and Humanity</a>                         |    |
| a. <a href="#">Life in Ashrams [1904–48]</a>                         |    | d. <a href="#">Non–Violence, Human Rights and Peace</a>                |    |
| b. <a href="#">Fasting for Legal &amp; Social Reform [1911–48]</a>   |    | e. <a href="#">Monuments, Memorials, Shows &amp; Seminars</a>          |    |
|  |    | 15. <a href="#">Conclusion</a>   | 1  |
|  |    | <a href="#">Total Number of Pages</a>                                  | 96 |

# Birth (1869)

Gandhi was born on October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1869, by the shores of the Arabian Sea in the small coastal town into a merchant family. His father had little formal education and was a poorly paid bureaucrat. His life, like most others, started as “an empty page to write on”... and what a story it turned out to be!



Mauritius (1969) Printer's Die Proof. This empty frame, depicting scenes from daily life in India, was prepared from original artwork for a souvenir sheet border. This photographic proof is one of only two believed to exist, based on records from the Crown Agents' Archives. A photographic proof of the entire souvenir sheet, with portraits of Gandhi through various stages in his life, is presented at the end of this exhibit.

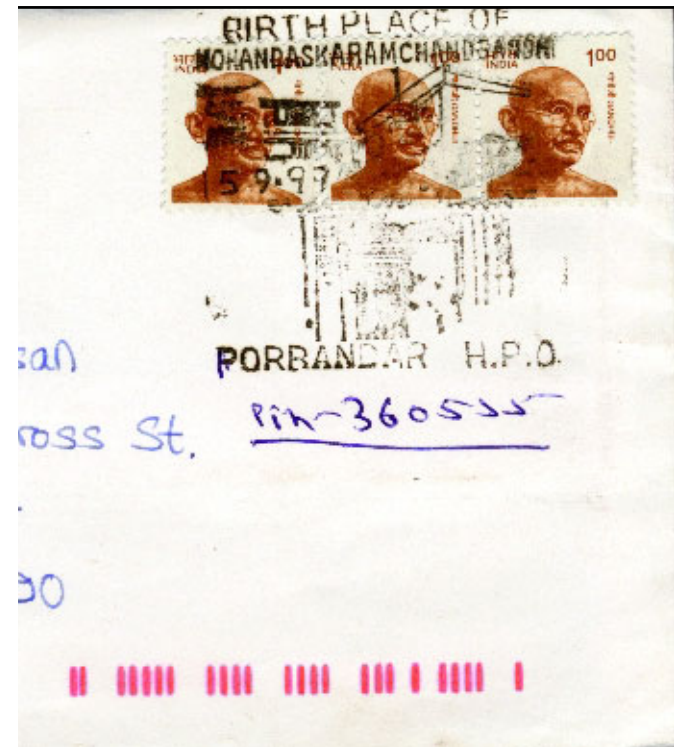
2a. Early Years- Birth (1969)

Special pictorial postmark commemorating Gandhi's birthplace in Porbandar.

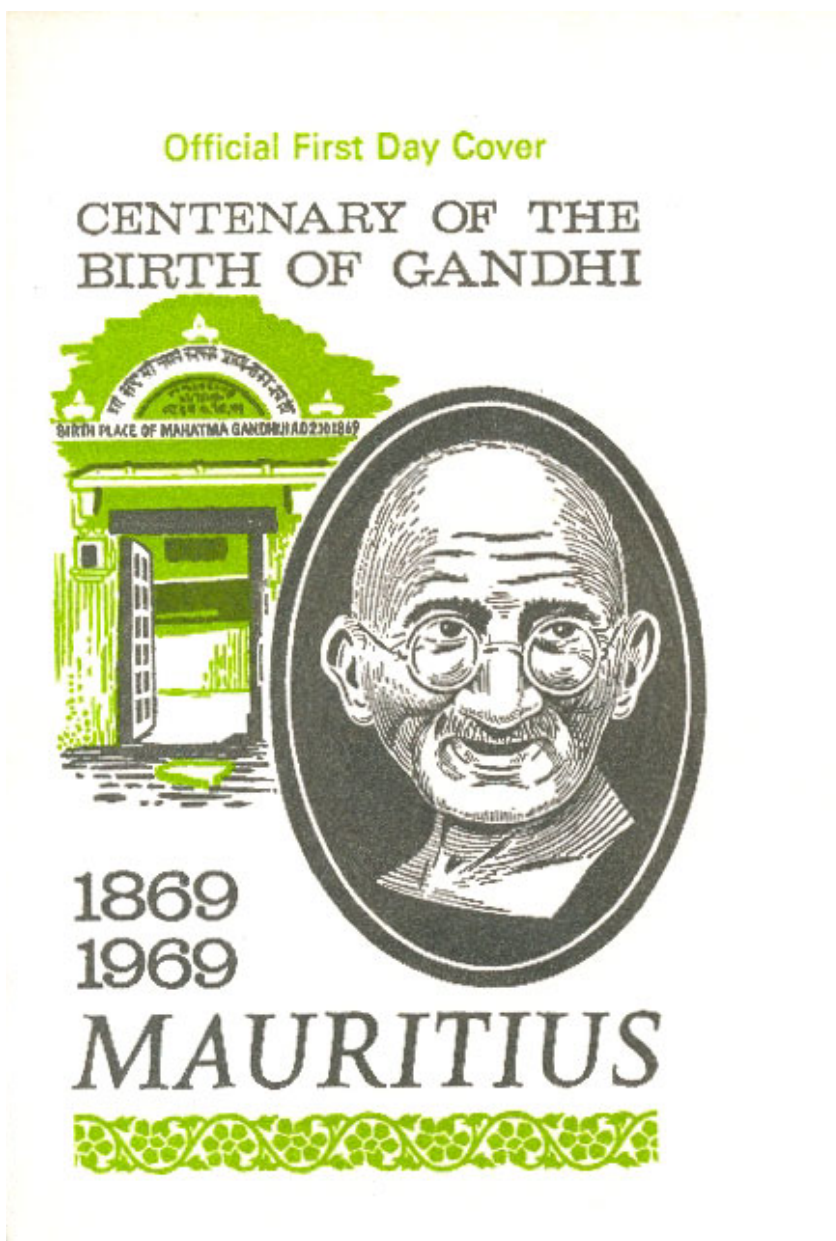
3 Rupee franking was for lowest domestic rate within India in 1997.

Baby Mohan was the youngest (fourth) child of his father's fourth wife (the other three lost by death). He had three elder sisters (two from his father's first two wives) and two elder brothers.

Mauritius (1969): Post office's Official FDC cachet showing image of the house Gandhi was born in.



When Gandhi was about seven, his father moved from *Porbandar* to *Rajkot*. Until the age of twelve, young Mohan attended the primary school in *Rajkot*.



Antigua (1998): 7-yr old Gandhi with image of his primary school in the background.

## 2b. Early Years

# Family and Early Schooling (1869-87)



In 1881 Gandhi entered High School in Rajkot [now called *Mahatma Gandhi Vidyalyaya*].

Antigua (1998): 12-yr old Gandhi in front of Alfred High School.



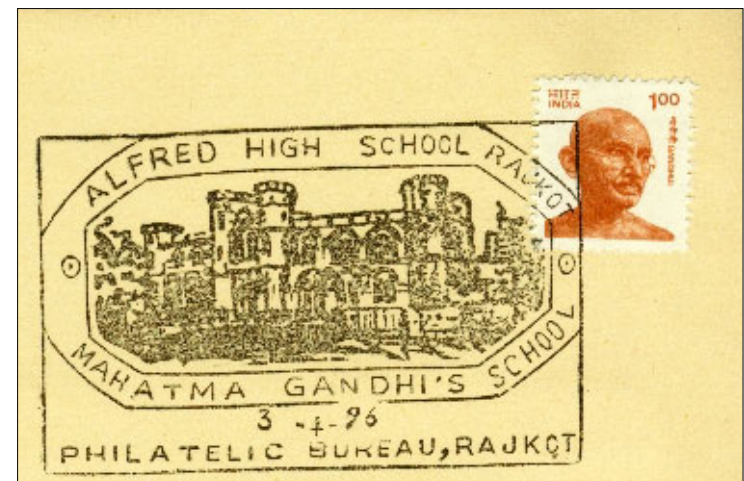
In 1887, Gandhi graduated from High School and joined *Salmadas* College in *Bhavnagar*.

Ghana (1998): 17-yr old Gandhi's High School graduation picture.

In 1883, he married 13-yr old Kasturba. He was earlier betrothed to two other girls [the first at age 6], both of whom had died subsequently.



India (1969): Ba & Bapu, shown here in their later years, were married sixty three years!



India (1996): Special pictorial cancel showing the High School Gandhi attended.

Childhood Memories. Perhaps the most intense early memory of an “external influence” that Gandhi recollects in his biography was from watching a play while he was in primary school.

The play was about *Harishchandra*, a legendary king in Indian mythology who went through several ordeals with the ideal of strict adherence to absolute truth. Young Gandhi wondered why everyone could not be truthful like the legendary figure, a thought he acted on throughout his life.

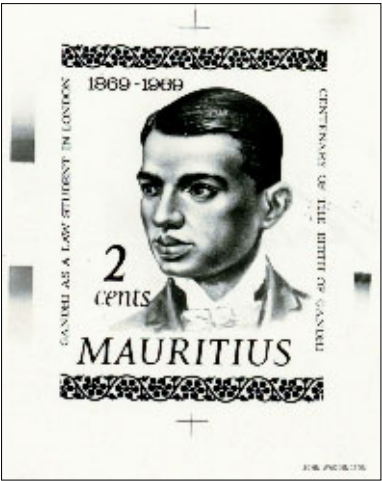


India (1989): Still from 1913 silent film of the play *Harishchandra*, commemorating 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Indian Cinema.

2c. Early Years

Student in England (1888-91)

“At sea” in college, Gandhi had a very difficult time keeping up with his studies. When a friend of the family suggested that he go to England and “come back to a good life as a Barrister”, he could not resist the idea.



Mauritius (1969): Printer's Die proof.  
Gandhi as a Student in London.  
(approved w/ signature and stamp of engraver on back).

STUDENT



Full sheet of 2c stamp with an error in one stamp on sheet.  
Magnified image of a full black circle located within the letter N in the word STUDENT shown.

This previously unreported error has been detected in two full sheets in the same location. This raises the possibility that it could be a plate error. Plate positions on the 2 sheets are to be verified.

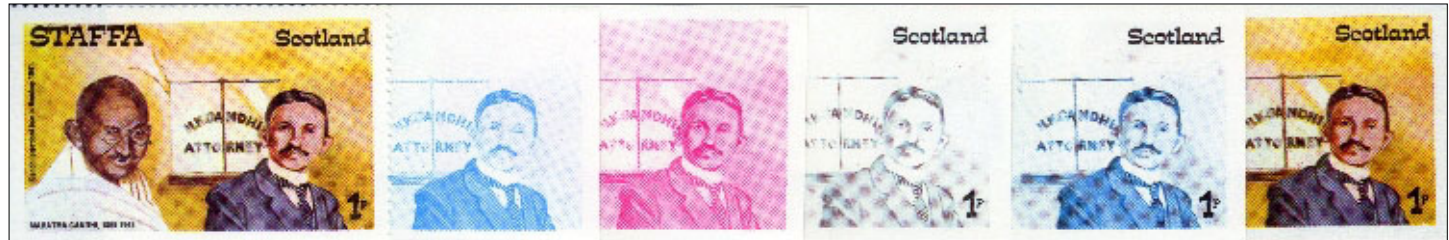
To make up for the social disadvantages of his vegetarian lifestyle, he took to pastimes of “proper English gentlemen”, including lessons in elocution, French, dancing, western music and fine tailored western clothing. His urge to return home was obvious when, upon completing his legal studies, he was “called to the Bar” in London on June 10<sup>th</sup>, enrolled in the High Court on the 11<sup>th</sup> and set sail for India on June 12<sup>th</sup> 1891!



Zambia (1998): Domestic rate large envelope usage of a pair of stamps showing Gandhi dressed in western clothing, while in London in 1888.

## Early Years as a Lawyer (1891-93)

European in dress and manner, Gandhi also knew nothing of the laws of his own country. At the High Court in Bombay, he could not gather the courage to cross-examine a witness in his first case. He never again appeared in court on behalf of a client in India!



Scottish “Local” (1979): Archival Progressive Proofs. Incorrectly identifying the image as Gandhi practicing Law in Bombay in 1891. Both the portrait and the law office window in the background are from his Johannesburg practice (1896).

In early 1893, Gandhi sailed for Durban, retained by a Moslem merchant. He left his wife behind, intending to return in a year.

Two days after arriving, Gandhi was chastised in a Durban Court for his refusal to remove his “turban” and had to leave. He wrote to the press and while labeled “an unwelcome visitor”, got noticed.



South Africa (1993): Special cancellation commemorating the centenary of Gandhi's arrival in South Africa.

June 1893. On his way to Pretoria from Johannesburg, he was forcibly removed from a first-class coach for being a colored passenger. When he objected, he was thrown out of the train in Pietermaritzburg.

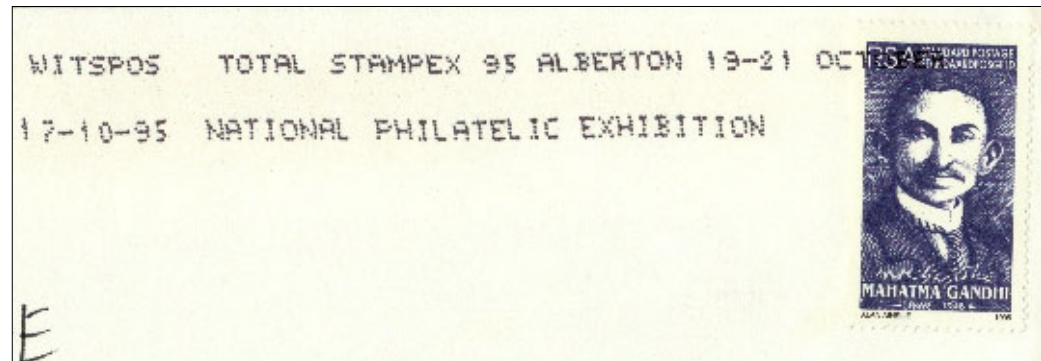
Incensed by his treatment on the train to Pretoria, Gandhi called a meeting of the Indian community and gave the first public speech of his life. Thus began a political career that lasted 55 years!



India (1995): The Pietermaritzburg station, where Gandhi was thrown out, featured on a special cancellation.

## Business Lawyer in Transvaal (1893-96)

Not happy with the untruths it took to pursue a business case, Gandhi settled his client's case and returned to Durban, prepared to return to India. At his farewell party in April 1894, he read about a new law depriving Asians of representation in the legislature. He asked the Indians to fight this law, they asked him to extend his stay!



South Africa (1995): Image of Gandhi from photograph taken while he was a lawyer in Durban. Early use, with special rolling cancel.



Guyana (1998): Gandhi as the Johannesburg Lawyer.

Gandhi continued to practice law in Pretoria and Durban and continued to experience racial indignities. In late 1893, he was kicked off the sidewalk near ZAR President Kruger's house in Pretoria [coloreds could not use sidewalks]. Even when pressed by white sympathizers to press charges, he refused. He did not believe in litigation for personal grievances and never pursued the same.

In September 1894, realizing that he was not returning to India soon, Gandhi applied for admission to practice in the Natal Supreme Court. The Natal Law Society objected on the basis of race and color, but the Chief Justice accepted him. Two weeks later, he successfully argued and won what was probably his first court case!

Johannesburg Law Practice. Long-lasting friendships were formed between Gandhi and his office staff in Johannesburg. H.S.L. Polak, Gandhi's legal assistant, published a photograph of the entire legal team in a Gandhi biography. In the front row, left to right: Polak, Gandhi and Sonja Schlesin, his Russian secretary.



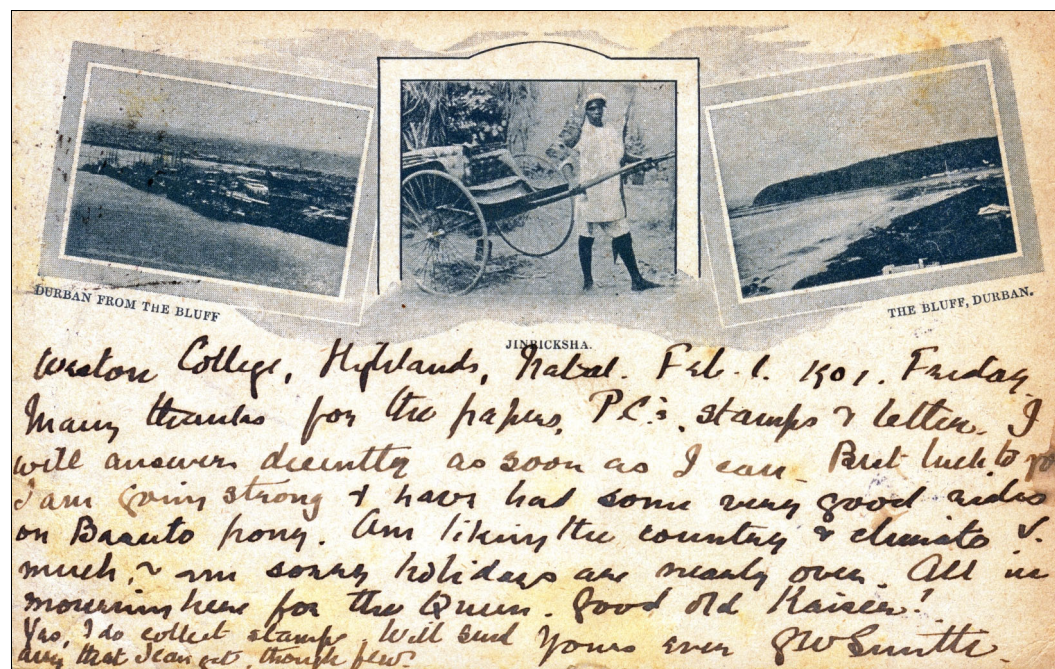
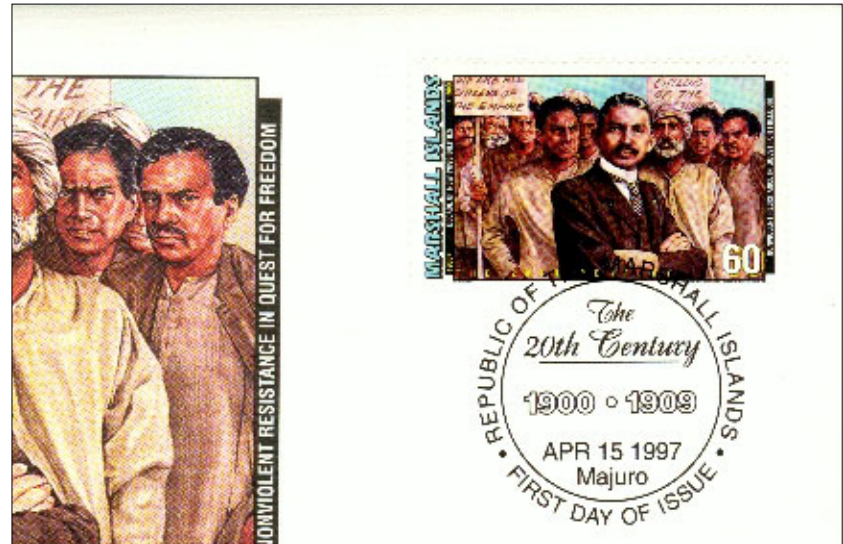
Uganda (1998): Image on stamp shows Gandhi and his staff in the Johannesburg Law Office, based on the historic photograph. The 2500 UgSh stamp was intended for registered airmail, but rapid inflation and late usage required additional postage. The cover was erroneously machine cancelled on the back [5APR2000], as shown in the facsimile image to the left.

## Lawyer turns Activist in Natal (1896-1902)

Indians in Transvaal could not own property and those in Natal were losing their right to vote. Gandhi took his grievances to Lord Ripon, Secretary of State for Colonies. Over 10,000 signatures were collected in a petition drive organized by Gandhi in a fortnight!

In June 1895, Gandhi defended and secured the release of a prominent indentured laborer who was a victim of these laws. This case brought into contact with labor rights and immigration issues of indentured workers. As his organizing skills matured, Gandhi organized these workers in mines on walkouts and strikes.

Marshall Islands (1997): Official FDC of stamp depicting Gandhi as the labor rights' lawyer, leading Indian indentured laborers in a strike.



Another law Gandhi took issue with was one prohibiting the carrying of colored passengers by Indian ricksha haulers in rickshas marked "For Europeans Only". While Gandhi himself objected to using rickshas pulled by the Durban natives, he protested this by-law with the Durban Town Clerk and petitioned the Natal Governor on the subject in 1900.

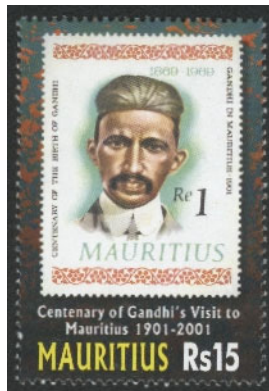
Natal (1901): Postal stationery with preprinted image showing a ricksha. Letter mentions *mourning here for the Queen*. Coincidentally, it was mailed from Durban the day Gandhi laid a wreath at the Queen's statue and paid tribute to her at a memorial service in Durban. Reduced image of address side shown to the right indicates that the One-penny letter card took 24 days to reach Hamburg.



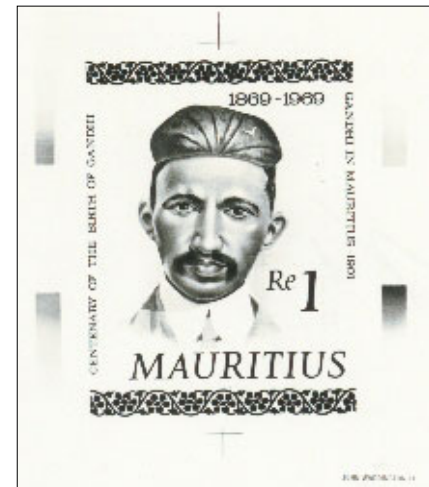
3c. Legal Professional- Lawyer turns Activist in Natal [1896-1902]

Gandhi returned to India in June 1896 to bring back his family. Based on his interviews and speeches in India, he was almost lynched by Durban Europeans, upon return on January 14<sup>th</sup> 1897. Based in Durban, Gandhi was active in organizing against a new threat in 1899- the removal of Asiatic Indians in Transvaal to special “locations”, when the Anglo-Boer War intervened.

On his way back to India from Natal in 1901, Gandhi arrived in Port Louis, Mauritius on October 30<sup>th</sup>. His reputation preceded him from Durban and he helped organize indentured workers in Mauritius sugar plantations.



Mauritius (2001): Stamp commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gandhi's historic visit to the island nation.

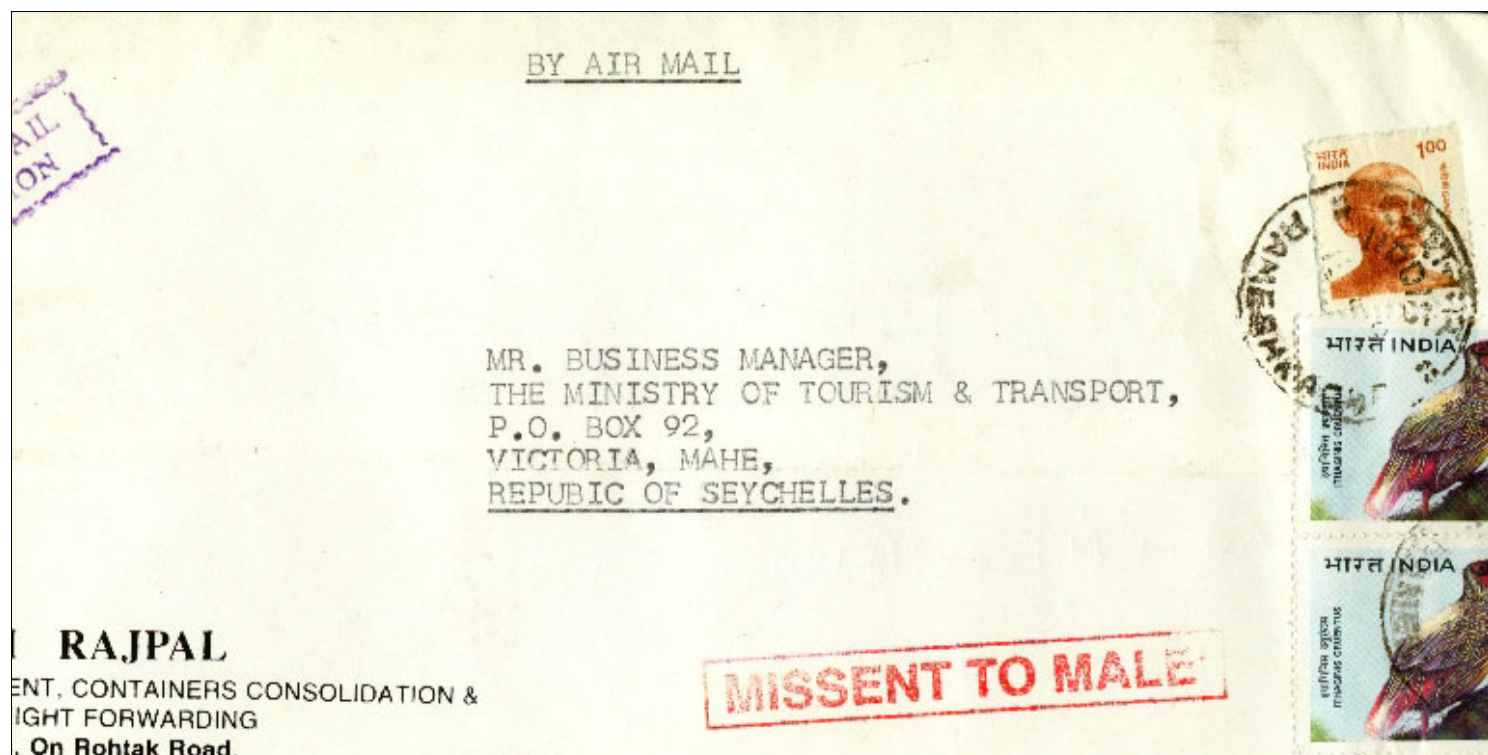


Mauritius (1969): Printer's Die Proof showing Gandhi as he arrived in Mauritius in 1901.

Between 1893 and 1914, Gandhi sailed by sea several times between India and Africa, as Arab and Indian merchants did for centuries.

*Ports of call* during these sailings across the Arabian Sea included *Malé* (Maldives), *Victoria* (Seychelles), *St. Denis* (Reunion), *Port Louis* (Mauritius) and *Colombo* (Ceylon).

India (1996): A fine illustration of modern day geographic ignorance. Airmail was clearly addressed to Victoria [Capital on the Island of Mahe], Seychelles. Cover went to Malé, capital of Maldives. A mistake that would not have been expected or common in the days of steamship mail boats!



4a. Participant in Wars

Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902)

Wonder why a story on the “Apostle of Peace and Non-Violence”, the most celebrated “pacifist” of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, has a section on participation in war? It all began in the last year of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in Southern Africa. Gandhi, as a proud sincere “Citizen of the Empire”, fulfilled what he perceived was his “moral duty”. In recognition of his service to the Crown during the Anglo-Boer war, Gandhi was awarded the British Empire War Medal (Queen’s South Africa Medal).

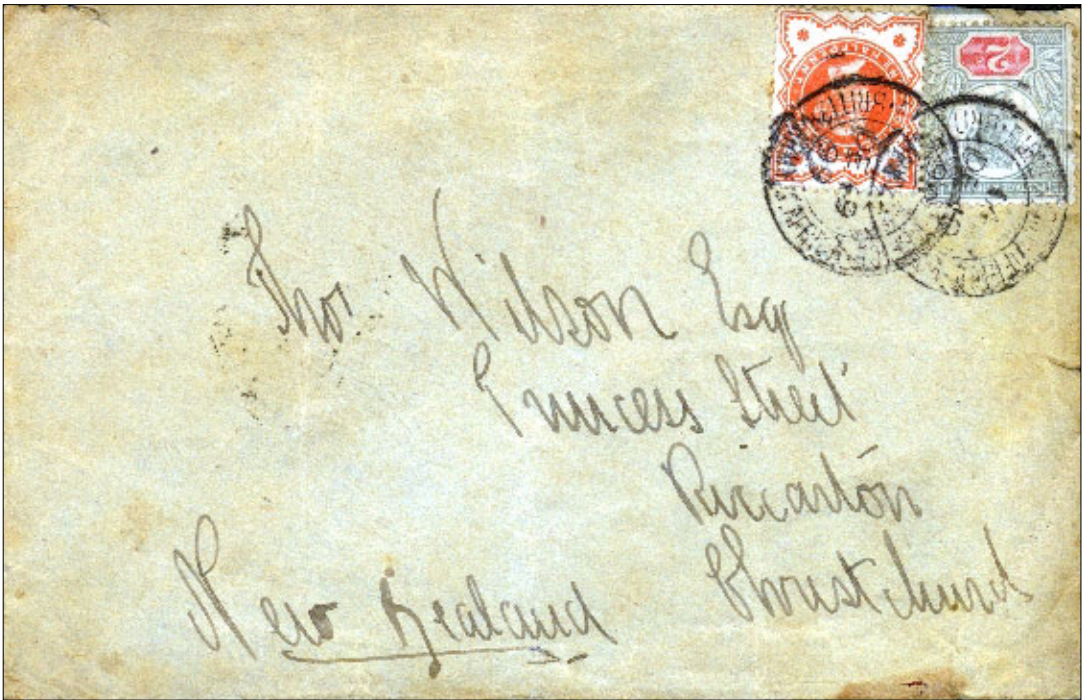
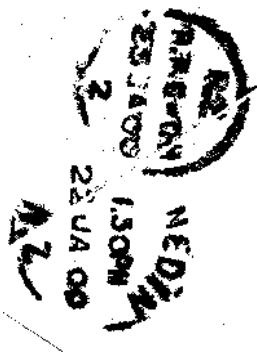


Genuine QSA Boer War Medal (1899) identical to the one awarded to Gandhi. Reverse side, showing Britannia with a wreath in outstretched hands.



Central African Republic (2000): Features image of the Medal awarded to Gandhi for service in the Anglo-Boer War.

Gandhi offered the services of the Indians on October 27<sup>th</sup> and left for the front with the Ambulance Corps on December 14<sup>th</sup> 1899. He served in Estcourt on December 19<sup>th</sup>, when the corps was temporarily disbanded after the “Colenso Reverse”.



19 Dec. 1899: The day Gandhi served in Estcourt. Early covers with British Army cancels [FPO 14] on UK stamps to New Zealand destinations are rare. This was mailed four days into the Battle of Colenso and was received in New Zealand on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1900 (see scan of receiving markings).

4a. Participant in Wars- Anglo-Boer War [1899-1902]

When the war began, Gandhi's personal sympathies were with the Boer, but he felt he had no right to consider his "individual convictions" before duty to the nation! The choice of volunteering for the medical service was simple- Indians in Natal were neither trained nor were allowed to enter combat. The Indian Ambulance Corps was disbanded on January 28<sup>th</sup> 1900, after the British Red Cross arrived.



While Gandhi kept away from later action in the war, he did specifically make public comments on the brutal treatment of Boer civilians by British authorities.

His impressions on the goodness of "The Empire" was already beginning to wear off, with the reports that were coming out of POW camps.

In Sep 1900, Winburg was the location of the infamous POW camp for Boer families.

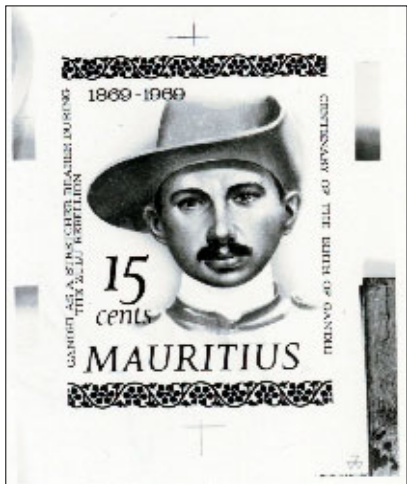
4 Sep 1900: Registered mail from Winburg in Orange Free State to England, with 4½ p postage paid with Boer-war provisionals from the now British province. Transit markings: Bloemfontein, Cape Town, London.



Original Artist's Essay of Scottish Local depicting the QSA Boer War Medal awarded to Gandhi.

# Natal's Zulu Rebellion (1906)

Gandhi was living in Johannesburg when news of the Zulu rebellion reached him. He still believed in the good of the British Empire and his sense of loyalty to the Crown was unshaken. Natal had a Volunteer Defense Force to quell the rebellion and Gandhi offered to form an Ambulance Corps. The offer was accepted and Gandhi enlisted 24 Indian men from Durban to serve with him.



Gandhi was awarded the Natal War Medal for organizing the Ambulance Corps under the rank of a Sergeant Major.

Genuine Natal Medal with 1906 Zulu Rebellion Clasp, identical to the one awarded to Gandhi.

Mauritius (1969): Printer's Die Proof showing Gandhi when he served as a Stretcher Bearer in the Zulu Rebellion.



Gandhi's own recollection was that he *"bore no grudge against the Zulus, who had harmed no Indians"*. He recorded doubts about the existence of the "rebellion", but indicated that the *"rightness or otherwise of the rebellion was not likely to affect"* his decision. Gandhi's *"heart was with the Zulus"* and he was elated to learn that he would basically *"nurse wounded Zulus"*. Which is why his offer for the ambulance corps was accepted so quickly- White Red Cross volunteers did not want to nurse the Zulus wounded by British vigilante forces.



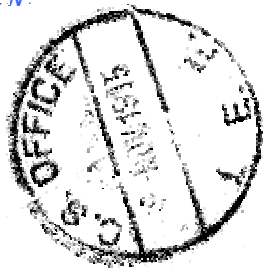
Original Artist's Essay of Scottish Local depicting the KSA Zulu Medal awarded to Gandhi.

# First World War (1914-18)

Gandhi was in England when WWI broke out. He gathered Indians in England and Ireland, many his colleagues from South Africa. He insisted on Indians in England “*doing their bit*” for the war, an idea objected to by many other Indian nationalists. Gandhi assembled a class of 80 volunteers who trained for first aid, who went on to serve British and Indian soldiers wounded in battles on the Western front.

Besides the 70,000 Indians in the Western Front in Europe, Indians served in Egypt, Mesopotamia, Palestine and East Africa.

9 Nov 1915: Early usage from Indian Forces in Egypt. Unlike common IEF overprinted Indian stamps, this was “Official Mail” on stampless cover. Note “CS Office” backstamp shown below.



Over 1.3 million Indians served in WWI and about 72,000 were killed. For his recruitment efforts, Gandhi was awarded the Kaisar-i-Hind medal for Public Service.

Gandhi participated in the Imperial War Conference [invited by the Viceroy] in 1918. He left Delhi and initiated a call for volunteers.

This was different from all else; Gandhi was recruiting combatants for battle, not an Ambulance Corps. The moral dilemma was probably taxing- Gandhi got very sick towards the end of this drive, as he did while he was recruiting in London in 1914.

Genuine Kaisar-i-Hind Medal for Public Service in India. Gandhi was awarded a similar Medal in 1918 and he renounced it in 1920.

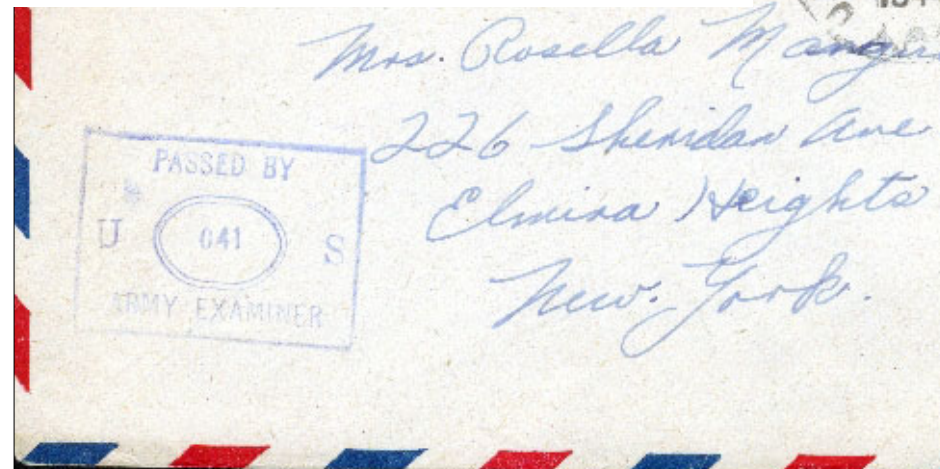


Scottish “local” (1979): Progressive Color Proofs depicting Gandhi’s efforts at recruiting soldiers for WWI.

#### 4d. Participation in Wars

## Second World War (1939-45)

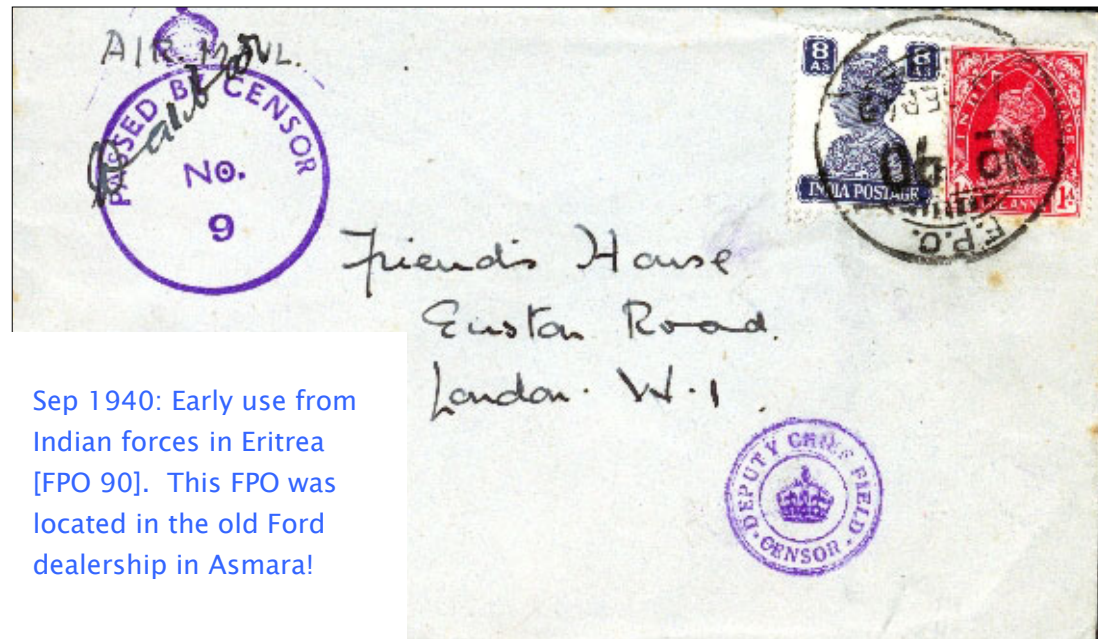
All had changed in WWII for Gandhi. Tired of British intransigence on self-rule for India, he decided not to cooperate with “their war”. Gandhi particularly opposed the presence of foreign allied troops in Indian soil, American, Canadian, Australian, Chinese and others.



31 Aug 1944: US  
Army Postal Service  
from Calcutta, India  
[APO 465].

In contrast to his recruiting Indians for active service in WWI, Gandhi opposed their involvement in WWII. This did not stop millions of recession starved Indians. The Indian Army swelled to over 2.6 million in 1945. Indian soldiers are famous for successfully engaging Germans and Italians in the western desert of Eritrea.

In the domestic front, Gandhi was fighting another political battle. He vehemently opposed Subhas Chandra Bose, who founded the rebel *Indian National Army* to join the Japanese in attacking British India.



Sep 1940: Early use from  
Indian forces in Eritrea  
[FPO 90]. This FPO was  
located in the old Ford  
dealership in Asmara!



India (1968): Bose shown  
proclaiming the  
*Free India Government* in  
Singapore in July 1943.



India (1964): Bose portrait  
with INA insignia and  
“rallying the troops”. He  
escaped house arrest in  
1941 in Calcutta and fled to  
Nazi Germany.

4d. Participant in Wars: Second World War (1939-1945]

Bose left Berlin for Singapore, to join the Japanese in their drive towards India and Burma.

His declaration of *Azad Hind* (Free India) was meant as a direct rebuff to Gandhi's "passive" non-cooperation with the British during WWII.



Azad Hind (1943): The Germans in Vienna prepared a set of "Free India" stamps with patriotic themes, meant for use when the Japanese conquered British India. Most, particularly the high value issues shown above, were destroyed after Allied Capture of Austria. Color trials of the banner and soldiers of the multi-ethnic INA.



Patriotic cover from India with cachet reflecting anti-axis slogan– mailed by lowest rate (9 pies) to Australia.

Gandhi, who was in jail under the Defense of India Act for speaking out against cooperating in the war effort, was encouraged to speak out against the INA and the Japanese.

The same British government that strongly cracked down on the use of nationalistic cinderellas and labels (Boycott British Goods, *Swadeshi*, Buy Indian Goods) in the 1930s, encouraged the use of patriotic war labels during WWII.



India (1944): Cover with a patriotic "Save for India's Defence" war label that actually went through the mail, in the sensitive area of northeast India [near the Burmese border]. Tied to 1½ as local rate stamp with CDS.