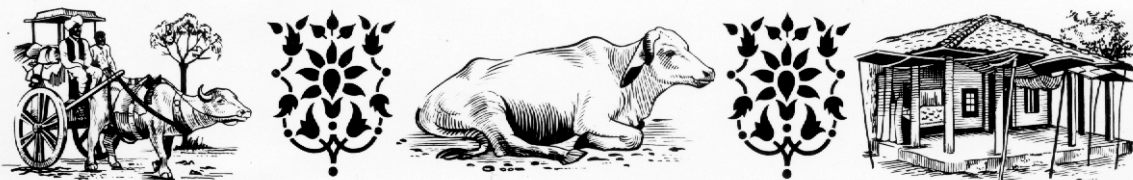


Lick Service to the Mahatma

A window into the life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi is presented through philatelic material. Your journey through this exhibit will begin with his birth in 1869, take you through significant events in his life [in 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 of this "Great Soul" [Mahatma].



Albert Einstein said: *"Generations to come would scarce believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth"*. Vague notions of Gandhi in literature paint the portrait of a man whose ideals are to be admired, while being considered wildly unrealistic in today's world.



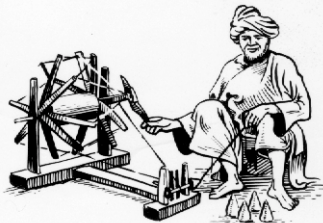
This exhibit is a small attempt to demystify the mythical Gandhi and shed light on the flesh-and-blood events that shaped his words and actions.

One common thread that will weave the material in this thematic exhibit together is glimpses into what are widely regarded as Gandhi's values: economic self-reliance; respect of basic human rights; non-violent action; political self-determination; social justice; ethnic and religious tolerance.

Such a perspective might leave one with a cynical after-taste and a singular thought, best described by quoting a famous American biographer:



"Worship is a convenient way to avoid taking something seriously. Gandhi's elevation in popular esteem kept pace with a sense of his irrelevance".



Thus the lip (or should I say lick?) service to the Mahatma!

REDUCE TO HALF SIZE. JOHN WADDINGTON LTD

Bromide. This frame, depicting scenes from daily life in India, was prepared from original artwork for the border of the 1969 Gandhi Centenary issue souvenir sheet from Mauritius. This original bromide is one of **only two believed to exist**, based on records from the Crown Agents' Archives.

Exhibit Plan

When the subject of a thematic exhibit is a personality, the natural order for an exhibit plan is expected to be straight-line chronological. The story line presented here is an attempt to explore two facets: (1) the various 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.

<u>Title, Plan, Synopsis and Bibliography</u>	4	<u>The Icons</u>	12
<u>Early Years</u>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Modest Attire• The Spinning Wheel• The Third Class Train Ticket	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Birth [1869]• Family and Early Schooling [1869-87]• Student Years in England [1888-91]		<u>No Man is an Island</u>	16
<u>Legal Professional</u>	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Those who Shaped his Thoughts<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Henry David Thoreau◦ Leo Tolstoy• Adversaries and Associates<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Mohammad Ali Jinnah◦ India’s Other Muslim Leaders◦ English Friends in India◦ Winston Churchill◦ Jawaharlal Nehru◦ Rabindranath Tagore• Friends and Admirers<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Albert Einstein◦ Charlie Chaplin• Followers and Adherents<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Albert Luthuli◦ Nelson Mandela◦ Martin Luther King◦ Desmond Tutu◦ Mother Teresa◦ Dalai Lama	
<u>Participation in Wars</u>	12		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anglo-Boer War [1899-1902]• Zulu Rebellion [1906]• First World War [1914-18]• Second World War [1939-45]			
<u>Political Organizer & Negotiator</u>	12		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natal Indian Congress [1894-14]• Indian National Congress [1897-1948]• Indian Round Table Conferences [1930-31]			
<u>Architect of Civil Disobedience</u>	24	<u>Inspiration and Legacy</u>	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Satyagraha</i> in Southern Africa [1907-14]• <i>Swadeshi</i> Movement-Boycotting Imports [1906-35]• Boycott of KGV Coronation in Durban [1911]• Untouchability- <i>Harijan Movement</i> [1916-34]• Fighting for Peasants’ Rights [1917-18]• Boycott of Prince of Wales Royal Visit [1921-22]• <i>Dandi</i> March- Against Salt Tax [1930]• Separate Electorates & Provinces [1932-42]• The Quit India Movement [1942-47]		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anti-War Movements [1940-]• Anti-Apartheid Movement in SA [1946-]• African Nationalist Movements [1950-]• Pan Arab Nationalism [1918-]• American Civil Rights’ Movement [1960-]• Human & Workers Rights in the Americas [1960-]• Anti-Communist Movements in Europe [1960-]	
<u>Social Experimenter</u>	06	<u>Lip Service or More?</u>	05
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Life in Ashrams [1904-48]• Fasting for Legal & Social Reform [1911-48]		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Religious, Racial, Ethnic and Class Harmony• Apostle of Peace and Non-Violence• Activist for Human Rights• Monuments and Titles• Conclusion	
<u>Partition of India</u>	09		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Independence [1947]• His Last Fast [1948]• The Assassin’s Bullet [1948]			
<u>The Indian Memorial Issue of 1948</u>	17	<u>Total Pages</u>	<u>160</u>
<u>India After Gandhi</u>	16		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Death Anniversary [1949]• Carrying the Torch...• Free India Stands for World Peace [1949-69]• For Mutual Annihilation [1998]• Nepal & Tibet			



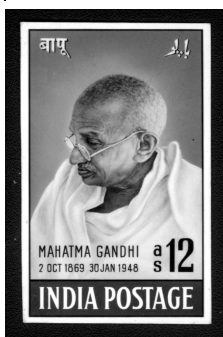
2 Oct 1969

Synopsis

Directing the Viewer's Attention to the Philatelic Significance of Material in this Exhibit

NTSS, Buffalo June 16-18, 2000

In developing the storyline for a thematic exhibit, it is imperative that the plan, critical narratives and thematic bibliography focus on the story being told. While the connection between the philatelic material and text will be apparent in individual sections, the narrative often abstains from getting into finer details of the philatelic elements. This Synopsis is an attempt to fill the obvious void for viewers.



This exhibit includes several pieces that have philatelic significance. The photographic bromides of artist's designs from the 1969 Gandhi centenary set and souvenir sheet [shown on the title page and elsewhere] include UNIQUE items. Three sets of stamp bromides are believed to exist, of which the set shown is the ONLY APPROVED SET, each with h.s. and signature. Also shown is the ONLY SS bromide [also approved] and one of two existing bromides of the SS border.

The photographic essay of the 1948 Gandhi Memorial issue from India, showing the 12 Anna value [not as issued] in the 10 Rupee design, is UNIQUE. This material surfaced in the late 1980s along with related Gandhi covers and stamps from India, including the RARE Specimen OVPT set of the 1948 issue. As late as 1980, we read this in the *AP*: "It still is rumored that the Swiss printers supplied a small number of Gandhi stamps imprinted with the word *specimen* to the Indian Legation in Berne... no specimen stamp actually was received by the P&T Department and none was printed and circulated according to records". Other specimens have since appeared. Shown here is the *L'Administrateur de Courvoisier S.A.* envelope that contained the specimens and essays, addressed to *le Directeur Général des Postes, Légation des Indes, Berne*.

Also of particular interest are the UNIQUE full color approval sheets of two designs of the 1945 Victory issue [including the UNISSUED design] from India, complete with the signatures of the head engraver and the Officiating Master of the India Security Press. Other archival material of significance include the Gandhi stamp from the UNISSUED 1979 Nicaragua Einstein issue [which was only released with overprints]; archival gutter pairs from Ireland and Antigua and some interesting progressive color proofs and trials.

Examples of EF0s include the 2c 1969 Mauritius, an inverted copy of an inland letter sheet from India [also printed on the wrong side], the "tooth flaw" from the 1969 Great Britain issue; a full sheet of the 1991 India issue with dry ink error and a pair printed on the gum side.

Special postal markings and cancellations that are RARE include cancellations from the first and second Indian Round Table Conferences in London, slogan marks placed on Calcutta-Delhi mail during Gandhi's last fast in January 1948, cancellations from the meeting of the Indian National Congress in December 1948, slogan marks on his first death anniversary, relevant APO and FPO cancels and ONE DAY ONLY commemorative cancels from Luxembourg, Prague and Rangoon in 1969.

Examples of usage on cover and on-piece are quite extensive. Early Boer War usage to New Zealand [December 1899- coinciding with dates of Gandhi's service] is RARE [most pieces are in private family heirlooms]. Unusual usage examples of the Prince of Wales Camp PO cancels are shown. The only known "uses abroad" for the 1948 Gandhi issue from India are presented- from Nepal and Tibet [Yatung and Gyantse POs]. Also shown are the uncommon Service OVPTs of the 1½ and 3½ anna 1948 Gandhi issue from India. Alas, missing is the Crown Jewel of Gandhi stamps, the 10 Rupee Service OVPT [which, selling at over US\$15,000, is beyond many a collector's reach].

From Nicaragua, a new but rare first day use is shown from the 1994 Gandhi Cinema issue [local usage rate]. Records from Managua indicate that only five such covers were processed on the day of issue [unlike several official cachet FDCs] and the fate of two are unknown. Much of Gandhi's life was spent in the age of the steamships. This exhibit would not be complete without the maritime mail shown- from the same ships that he used for important voyages and with Paquebot cancels from ports of calls significant in his voyages.

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5. *The History of the Indian Tour of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales 1921-22* by L. F. Rushbrook Williams, Govt. Printing Office, Calcutta, 1922.
6. *With the Prince in the East, a Record of the Royal Visit to India and Japan* by Sir Herbert Russell, Methuen, London, 1922.
7. *Gandhi the Apostle- His Trial and His Message* by Hari das Muzumdar, Universal Publishing Co., Chicago, 1923.
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9. *Mahatma Gandhi - The Man who Became one with the Universal Being* by Romain Rolland, The Century Co., London, 1924.
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12. *Mahatma Gandhi - His Own Story*, Edited by C. F. Andrews, The Macmillan Co., New York, 1930.
13. *Mahatma Gandhi's Ideas* by C. F. Andrews, The Macmillan Co., New York, 1930.
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25. *Luthuli, Speeches by Chief Albert John Luthuli 1869-1967*, Compiled by E. S. Reddy, Madi ba Publishers, Durban, 1991.
26. *A Study in British Imperialism 1872-1969* by John W. Cell, Sections on William Hailey, Governor of the United Provinces and Advisor to five Indian Viceroy, Cambridge Univ. Press, London, 1992.
27. *Gandhiji and South Africa 1914-1948*, Edited by E. S. Reddy and Gopal Krishna Gandhi, Navajivan Press, Ahmedabad, 1993.
28. *Detailed Chronology of Gandhi's Life* by Peter Ruhe, presented at www.gandhi-serve.com, 1998-99.



2 Oct 1969

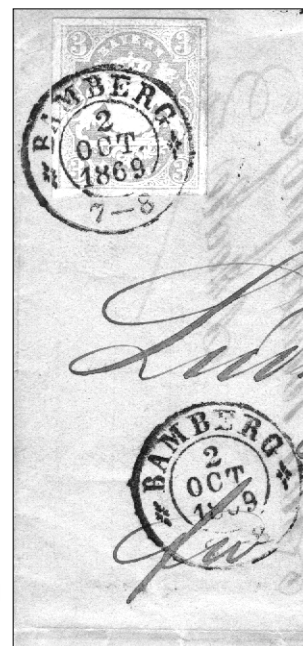
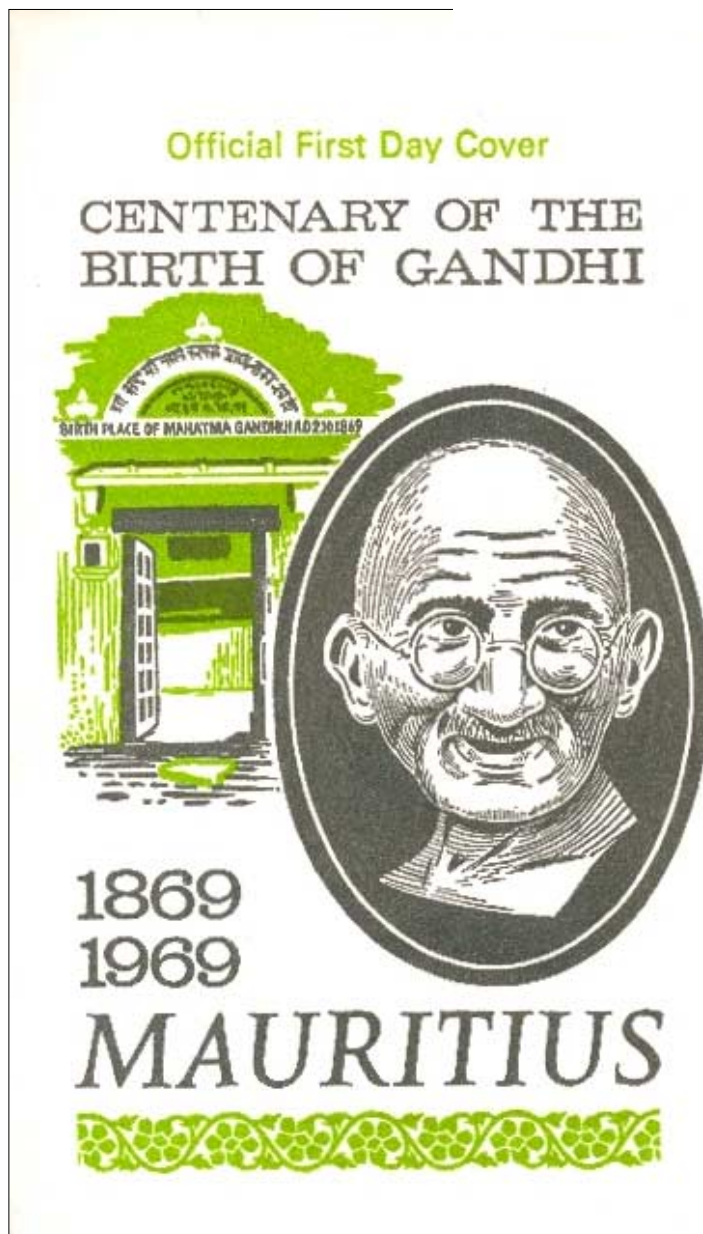
Early Years

Birth [1869]

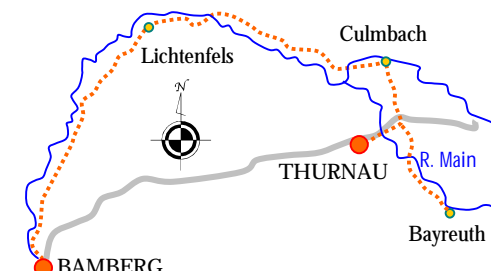
2nd October. By the shores of the Arabian Sea in the small coastal town of *Sudamapuri* [now *Porbandar*] in the princely state of *Khatiawar*, the sixth child of *Karamchand Uttamchand* was born. The father "*Kaba*" *Gandhi*, descendant in a chaste *Vaishya* [merchant] family of grocers, had little formal education and was *Diwan* [Prime Minister, a grand title for a poorly paid bureaucrat].



Special Pictorial Postmark- Porbandar HPO. 3 Rupee franking. Domestic Rate



Date of Birth CDS. Half way across the world, this folded letter was mailed on the day of Gandhi's birth, bearing two distinct date stamps from *Bamberg* in the Kingdom of Bavaria.



Next Day Service. Backstamps indicate that it was received in *Thurnau* the next day. Transit markings: through *Lichtenfels* and *Kulmbach*. Today, a major highway connects *Bamberg* to *Thurnau*, but mail takes more than a day!



Special Mauritius 1969 FDC
Cachet: House Gandhi was born in.

Note CDS: "Quatre Bornes" - where Gandhi visited and now the site of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute.

Family and Early Schooling [1869-87]

1869. Baby Mohan was the youngest [fourth] of his father's fourth wife [the other three lost by death] and was named *Mohandas* [devotee of *Mohan*, another name for the Hindu God *Krishna*]. *Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi* had three elder sisters [two from his father's first two wives] and two elder brothers.



18 Nov 1998

1876-1880. When Gandhi was about seven, his father moved from *Porbandar* to *Rajkot*, a neighboring princely state, to join the *Rajasthanik* Court.

Until the age of twelve, Mohan attended the primary school in Rajkot.

← Only stamp to picture 7 year old Gandhi .

1881-1887. In 1881 Gandhi entered High School in Rajkot [then called Alfred High School, now called Mahatma Gandhi Vi dyalaya]. At age thirteen, he married Kasturba Gandhi. He was earlier betrothed to two other girls [the first at age 6], both of whom had died subsequently.

Gandhi in Alfred High School, Rajkot.

← Gandhi and Kasturba were married 63 years!



18 Nov 1998



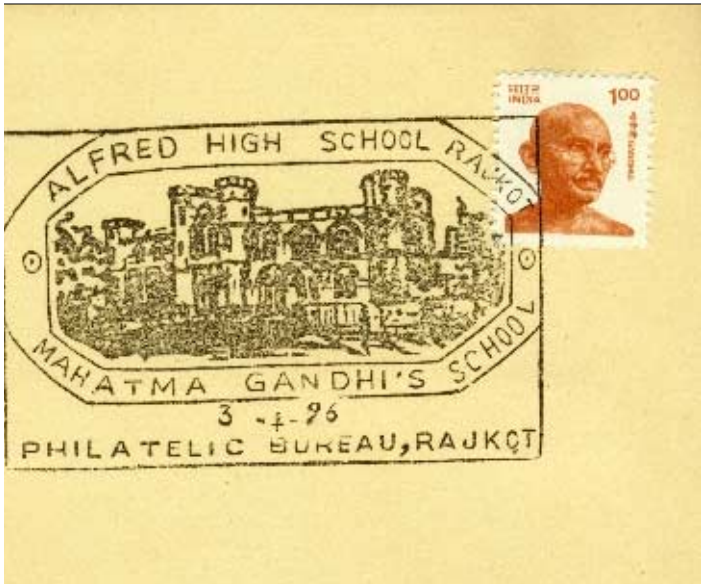
2 Oct 1969

1887-1888. At age 17, Gandhi passed his high school matriculation exam and graduated. He joined Salmadas College in Bhavnagar, in another neighboring princely state.

Gandhi after graduating from High School



24 Dec 1998



Pictorial Cancel showing Gandhi's high school .

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 *Hari shchandra*, 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.

Stamp Commemorating 75th anniversary of Indian Cinema. Still from 1913 silent film of the play *Hari shchandra* that influenced Gandhi as a child.

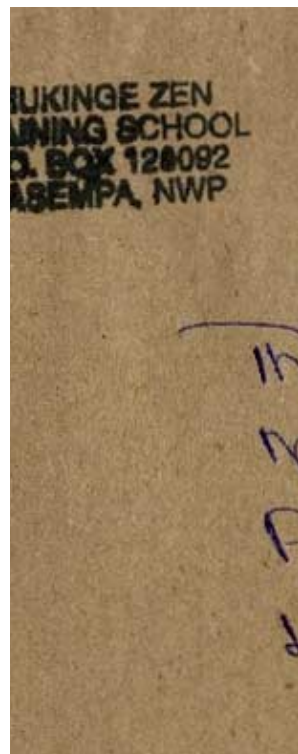


30 May 1989

It is one thing to admire truthfulness, another to practice it as a child. Young Mohan was no different from other children his age. At 15, he tried meat eating, but gave up feeling guilty. Later, he took up smoking and even made a feeble attempt at suicide “in sheer disgust” at his behavior. The same year, he even stole a piece of gold from his brother’s armband, to pay off some of his brother’s debts. Finally, he confessed to all of this to his father. At 16, his sick father died while he was “in bed” with his wife.

Student Years in England [1888-91]

1888. “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. After promising his mother that he would abstain from “wine, women and meat”, he set sail for England on September 4, 1888 [over the objection of family elders].



1 Jul 1969

Approved Bromide of 1969 Mauritius stamp showing Gandhi as a Student in London.

30 Jan 1998



To make up for the social disadvantages of his vegetarian lifestyle, he took to several pastimes of “proper English gentlemen”. These included lessons in elocution and French, dancing, western music and fine tailored western clothing.

Local commercial cover with a pair of Zambia stamps, showing Gandhi upon arrival in London in 1888.

1891. Besides joining the London Theosophical Society and the Federal Union of Vegetarian Societies, Gandhi did complete his legal studies. He was "called to the Bar" in London on June 10th, enrolled in the High Court on the 11th and set sail for India on the 12th.

Full sheet of Mauritius 2c stamp with an error in one stamp on the sheet.

The error is a black full circle, about half the size of the 13½ perforation. A magnified image of this black circle and its location within the letter N in the word STUDENT is 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 for these two sheets are yet to be verified.



Legal Professional

Early Years as a Lawyer [1891-93]

1 Apr 1979



Scottish "Local". Archival Progressive Proofs. Shown with Cinderella as issued. Incorrectly identifying the image as Gandhi practicing Law in Bombay in 1991. Both the portrait and the law office window are from Johannesburg from much later.

July 1891. Gandhi arrived in India after completing his legal studies in England and learnt that his mother had died. Despite his studies, he did not feel qualified to "practice" the law. European in dress and manner, Gandhi also knew nothing of the laws of his own country. He had no idea of Hindu or Mohammedan legal procedures.

After a brief stay in Rajkot, he enrolled in the High Court in Bombay. Not gathering the courage to cross-examine a witness in his first case, he never again appeared in court on behalf of a client in India! After a brief stint back home drawing up petitions and memorials, he was pleased to accept an offer to be retained by an Indian merchant from the Zuid African Republic [Transvaal].

2 Oct 1995

April-May 1893. He sailed for Durban, to represent a Moslem merchant's firm, Dada Abdulla & Co. He left his wife behind, intending to return in a year. He arrived in Port Natal in late May, amidst a sea of indentured labor from India.

Two days later, 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.



June 1893. The experience that galvanized his resolve to fight for racial justice came a week later. On his way to Pretoria from Johannesburg, he was forcibly removed from a first-class coach just for being a colored passenger.

The Pietermaritzburg station where he was thrown out, is the subject of the special cancel from India.



The station is also shown in the 1995 picture postcard from the South African P.O.

Business Lawyer in Transvaal [1893-96]

Pretoria 1893. 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!

While opening the eyes of the Indians to their pathetic social status in Transvaal, he also chastised them for deceitful business and poor sanitary practices and the lack of a "civic sense". In effect, he was holding the community responsible for some of the bias against them.

Stamp from post-apartheid South Africa showing an image of Gandhi from a photograph taken while he was an active lawyer.



2 Oct 1995

1894: Held back in Durban. Not happy with the untruths it took to pursue a business case in court, he settled his client's case. He returned to Durban to prepare to go home.

At his farewell party in April 1894, he read the headlines in the *Natal Mercury* about a new law - Asians were to be deprived of representation in the legislature.

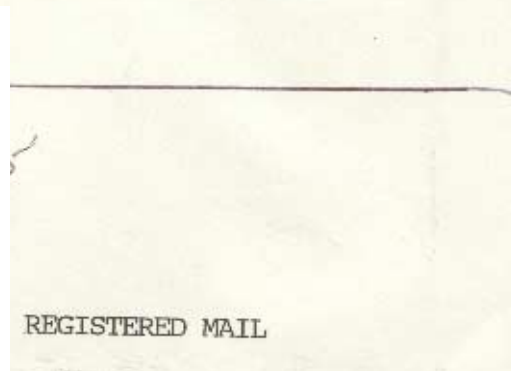
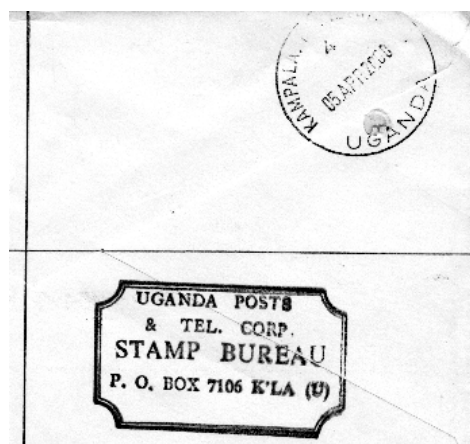
He asked the Indians to fight this law, they asked him to extend his stay by a month... and the rest is the history of an activist lawyer!

28 Dec 1998



Late use of a 2500 UgSh stamp [intended for registered airmail] with additional postage, in a commercial cover from the Uganda Stamp Bureau to the USA.

Note that the cover was erroneously machine cancelled on the back [5APR2000], as shown in the facsimile image below.



Johannesburg Law Practice. The image on the stamp shows Gandhi and his staff in Johannesburg. In the front row, left to right: H. S. L. Polak [legal assistant], M. K. Gandhi and Sonja Schlesin [his Russian secretary]. The original photograph was published in Polak's 1949 Gandhi biography.

Pair of 600 UgSh Gandhi stamps on large commercial cover from the High Commissioner of India. Stamp portrays the lawyer image.

*B. S. PRAKASH
High Commissioner of India
Kampala (UGANDA)*

Stamp on cover indicating that it was mailed from the Indian High Commission in Kampala.



Uganda, unfortunately, reflects South Africa's past in its continuing present. Over 95,000 native born Indians were kicked out of Uganda in 1972 in Idi Amin's "Africa for Africans" drive. The same has started happening again in early 2000, just after this cover was mailed to the USA in Nov. 1999!

Another stamp from Uganda showing an older Gandhi - on commercial cover. 700 UgSh- lowest rate airmail use to Scranton, PA, USA.

5 Oct 1997

The English speaking countries of southern and eastern Africa have all shared the common history of Indian indentured labor. Most laborers in the mines and plantations were from South India and Bengal. Merchants and Lawyers were often from Bombay and Gujarat western India [like Gandhi himself].

The British government was approached by early white settlers of Southern Africa to provide "reliable labor" from India.

Indentured labor from India dates back to the official consent of the Government of British India in 1860.

Like many of the 177,000 Indians in Kenya, Ugandan Indians have suffered more discrimination in the hands of the native Africans than in the watch of the white colonial masters.



Souvenir sheet from Uganda of the stamps shown in the cover above. Note the stylishly posing Gandhi in the margin illustrations!

28 Dec 1998

Racial relations between the Afro-American [30%] and Indian [50%] population of Guyana were at their best in the 1950s.

Through 1960-85, they were polarized between the predominantly socialist politics of the Indians and the Africanization of Guyana's security forces.



29 Oct 1998

Another image of the Johannesburg and Durban Lawyer in this stamp from Guyana.

Guyana, while the only British colony in mainland South America, preceded South Africa's Indian immigration history with indentured labor.

This began in 1838, shortly after the abolition of slavery. Over 239,000 Indians came between 1838 and 1917. Their treatment was so bad that the British colonial government in India refused to send them from 1840 to 1844!

2 Oct 1995

1893-96. 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.



First day cover of a miniature sheet from South Africa showing "Gandhi the Lawyer" in the margin illustration and the older Gandhi in the stamp. Official Post Office cachet.

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

Commercial use examples of the stamp from South Africa.

Early use. Rolling Cancel from the National Philatelic Exhibition on cover 2 weeks after issue.

South Africa has as much claim to the legacy of Gandhi as India [if not more]. This page is dedicated legitimate postal use of the first Gandhi stamps from South Africa.

The stamp was issued for the lowest standard domestic rate.

Pair used with additional postage for domestic airmail during the same time.



Late use of multiple copies of both stamps from the issue. On commercial airmail cover to the USA.

Postage indicates mailing of a heavy envelope.

Note interesting USPS marking regarding delayed delivery "due to incorrect Zip Code".

48910-8396
USA



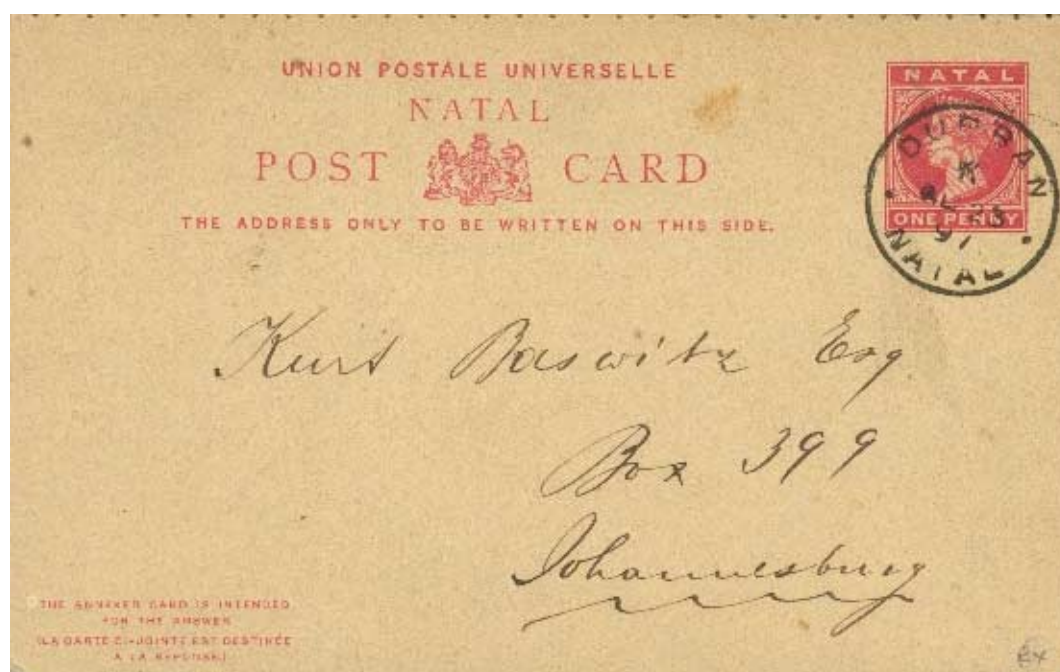
Lawyer turns Activist in Natal [1896-1902]



Postcard mailed from Durban to Johannesburg in August 1897.

This is an much like a card Gandhi would have used at the same time, in his daily correspondence.

Records indicate that postal cards had already become his preferred mode of correspondence. Note that this card was delivered the next day!

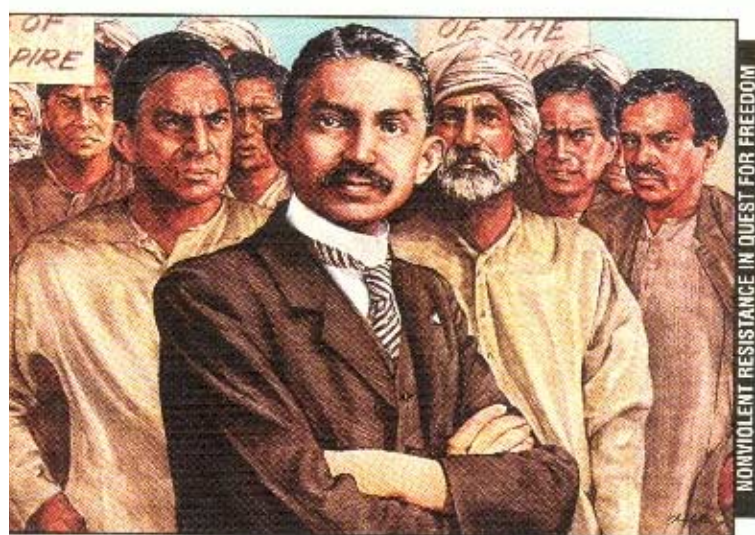


FDC of stamp depicting Gandhi as the labor rights' lawyer. Leading Indian indentured laborers in a strike against their treatment by the Natal government.

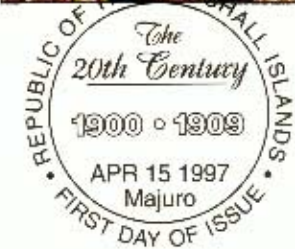
1894-96. Indians in Transvaal [then the South African Republic] could not own property and those in Natal were losing their right to vote [through the Franchise bill]. Gandhi took his grievances to Lord Ripon, Secretary of State for Colonies. Over 10,000 signatures were collected in a petition drive in a fortnight and submitted on July 17, 1894!

As his organizing skills matured, Gandhi organized workers in mines on walkouts and strikes.

15 Apr 1997



E 20TH CENTURY
OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVER





1 Jul 1969

Gandhi shown as in a photograph during his 1901 visit to Mauritius.

On his way home to India from Natal, Gandhi arrived on 30 October 1901 in Port Louis, Mauritius.

His reputation preceded him from Durban and he helped organize indentured workers in Mauritius sugar plantations.

The short celebrated trip ended when he sailed for Bombay on November 19th.

Approved Bromide of the same stamp from the Mauritius set.



1896-1902. The metamorphosis from lawyer to social activist happened in this period. Gandhi, now active in the Natal Indian Congress, returned to India in June 1896 to bring back his family. He sailed from Durban to Calcutta and traveled by rail to Bombay and Rajkot.

Based on his interviews and speeches in India, he was almost lynched by Durban Europeans, upon return on January 14, 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.

Official cachet from the South African FDC showing the same image of Gandhi from 1901. This was the second of the two FDCs issued. Note the pictorial Gandhi cancel.

2 Oct 1995



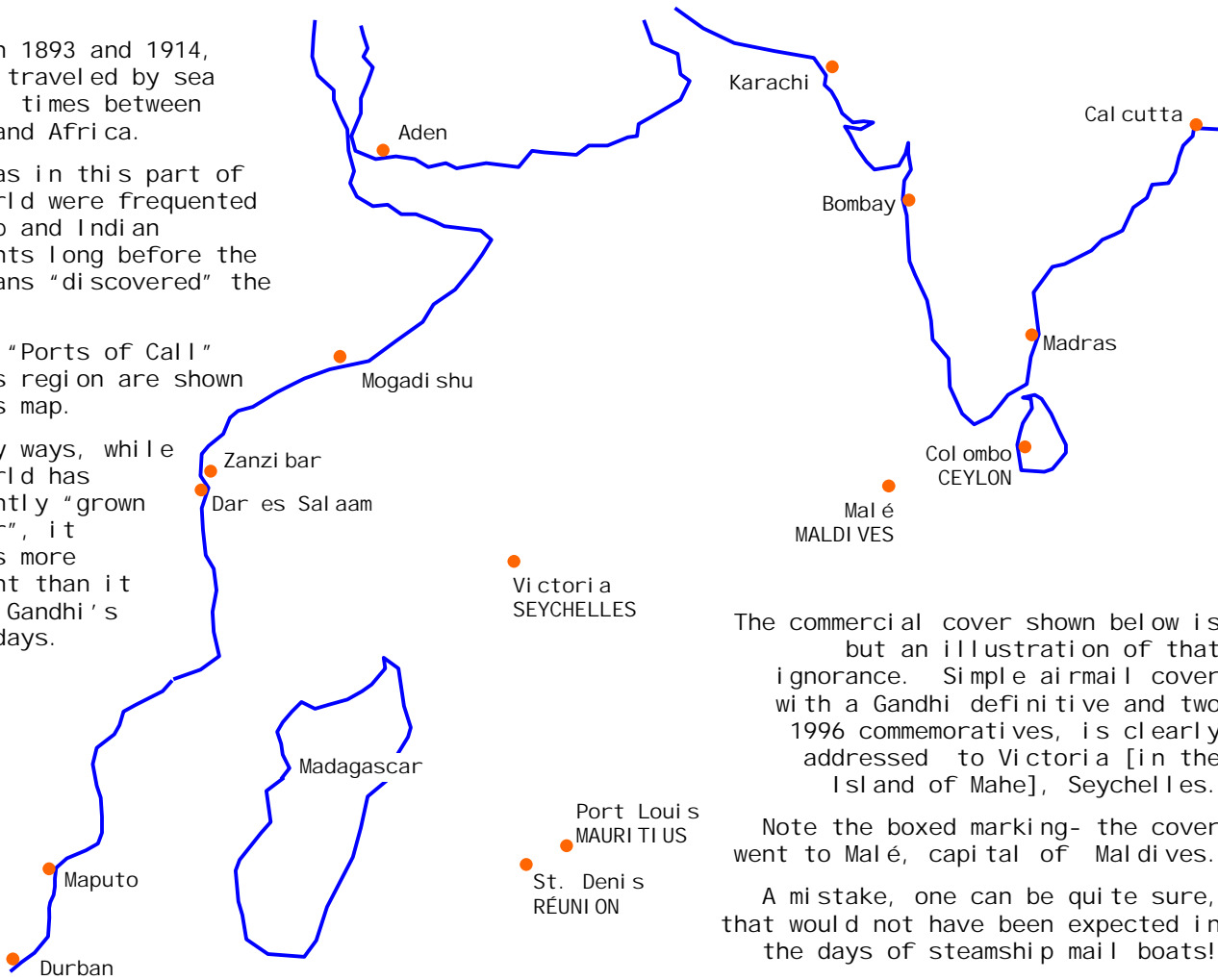
Sea to Shining Sea: India-Africa

Between 1893 and 1914, Gandhi traveled by sea several times between India and Africa.

The seas in this part of the world were frequented by Arab and Indian merchants long before the Europeans “discovered” the east.

Famous “Ports of Call” in this region are shown in this map.

In many ways, while the world has apparently “grown smaller”, it appears more ignorant than it was in Gandhi’s early days.



The commercial cover shown below is but an illustration of that ignorance. Simple airmail cover with a Gandhi definitive and two 1996 commemoratives, is clearly addressed to Victoria [in the Island of Mahe], Seychelles.

Note the boxed marking- the cover went to Malé, capital of Maldives.

A mistake, one can be quite sure, that would not have been expected in the days of steamship mail boats!

