

India's Gandhi Memorial Stamps of 1948



Lower three values of the set in single color



Plate Block of four stamps of the high value in two colors

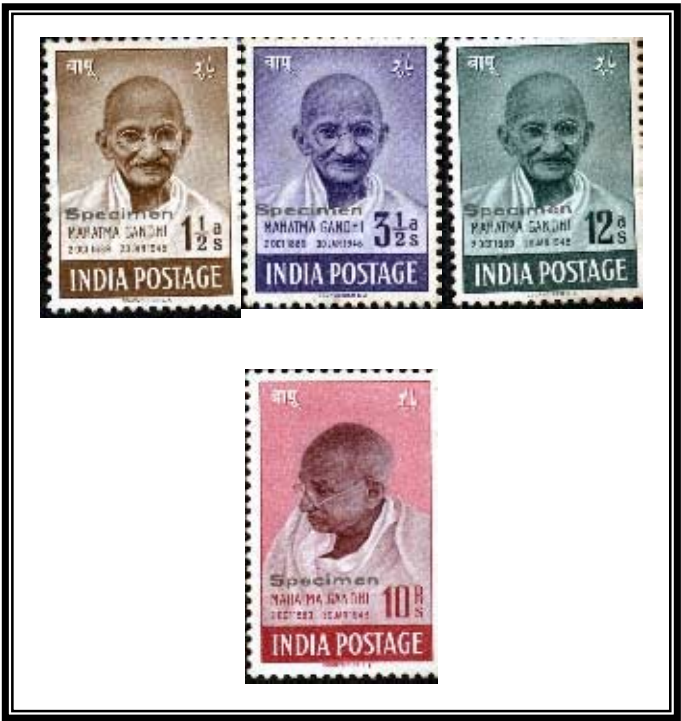
Bromide Essay of the 12 Anna in Bicolor Design



There were three lower denominations in this set. The first design in single colors was used for the 1½, 3½ and 12 As. values. Instead of completing the set with another common postage rate, the second design in two colors was used for an exorbitant face value of 10 Rs., the most expensive commemorative issue from India until then.

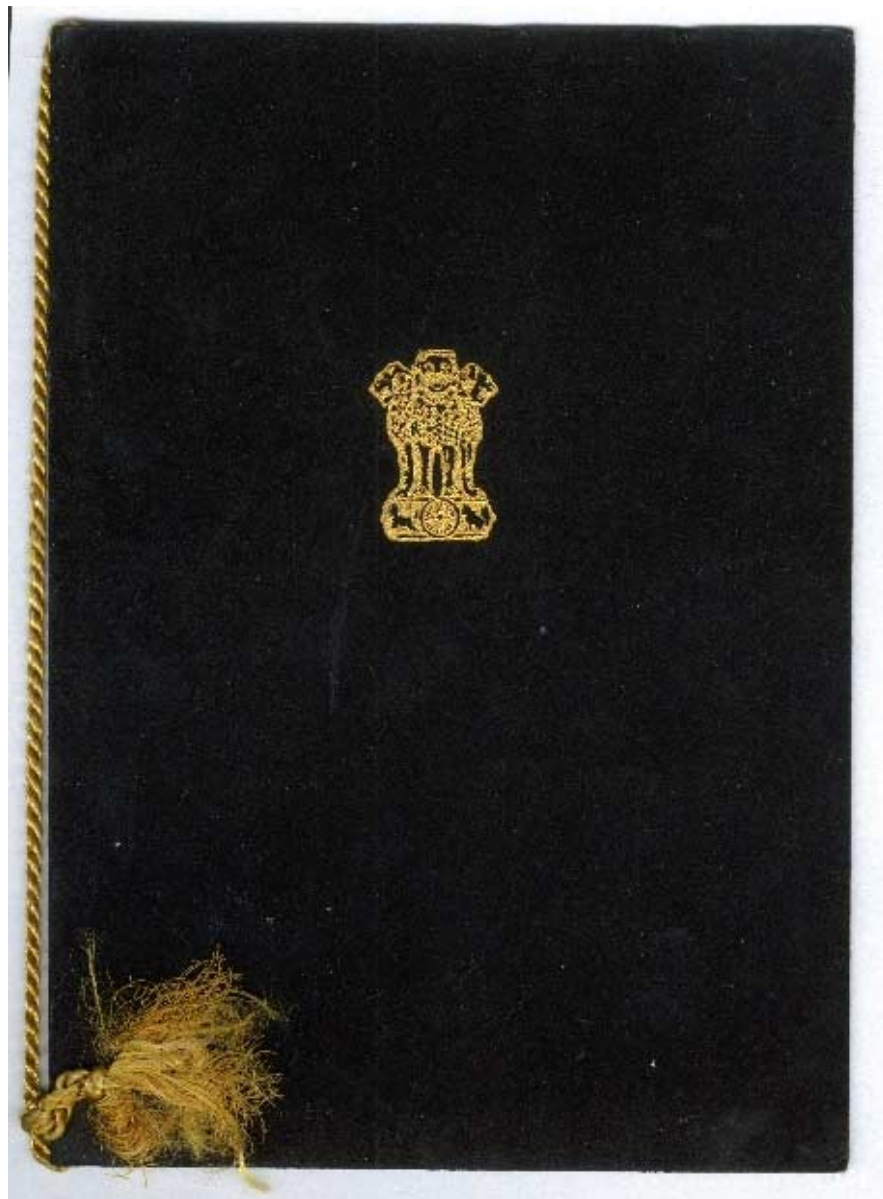
At some point during the review, the two color design was also considered for the 12 As. denomination, as evidenced by these two rare photographic essays.

The “Official” Specimen Set



This specimen set was presented to the head of the Indian Legation of the UPU in Berne.

Presentation Folder from the Printer



Folder that the
"specimen" overprinted
stamps were mounted
in.

The "specimens" are
shown in the previous
page.

The folder was inside
an envelope from the
Swiss Printer
[printer's address on
back flap]

L'ADMINISTRATEUR
DE
COURVOISIER S.A.
Parc 150
LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS
(SUISSE)

Monsieur le Directeur Général
des Postes,
Légation des Indes,

B E R N E .

Governor General's Use



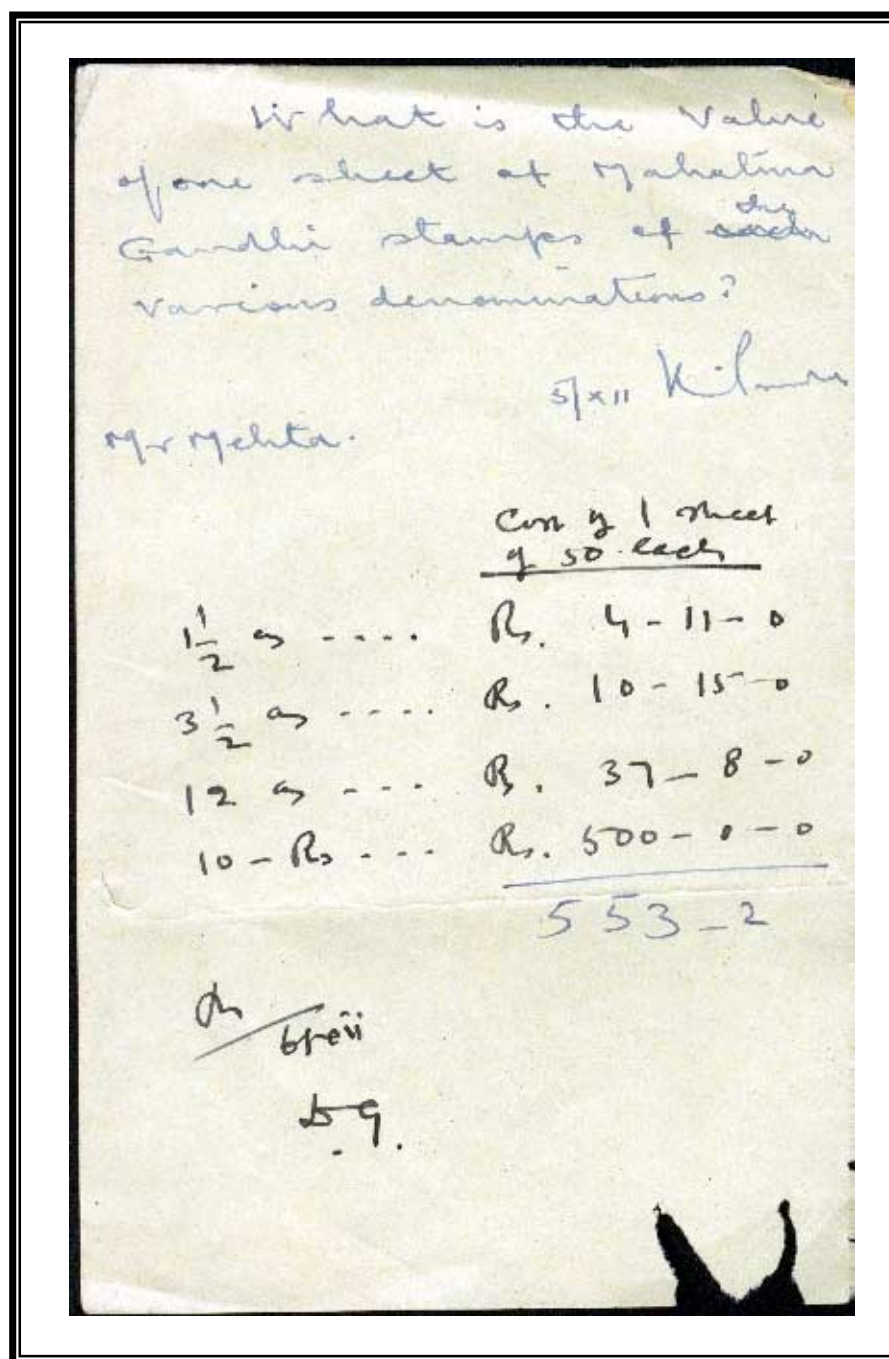
Only known SERVICE OVPT of an Indian commemorative issue. - used only from the Governor General's Residence.

The three lower values are rare, ~100 copies of the OVPT of the high value known to exist.

Note the cancellations that read: Governor General Camp P.O. New Delhi

Since the Governor General's Residence was the former residence of His Majesty's Viceroy, official stationery of British India continued to be used.

An Exercise in Higher Math?



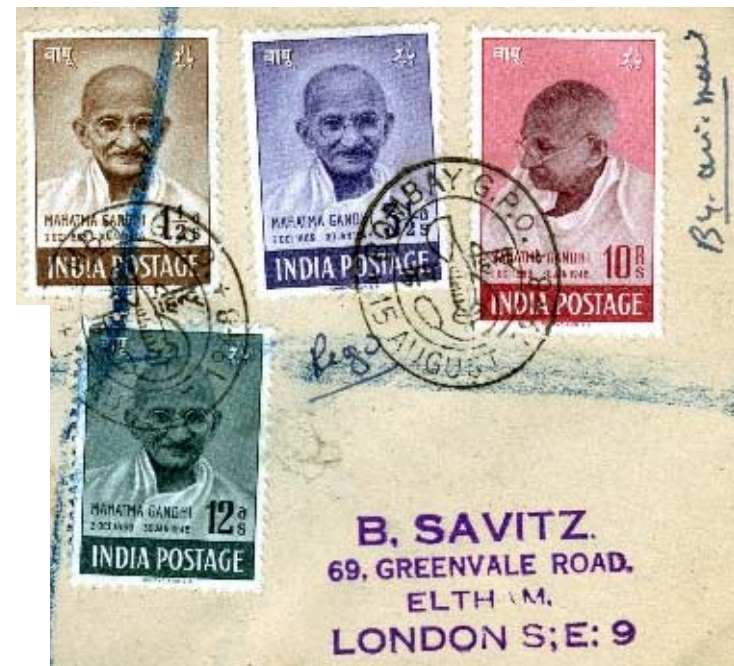
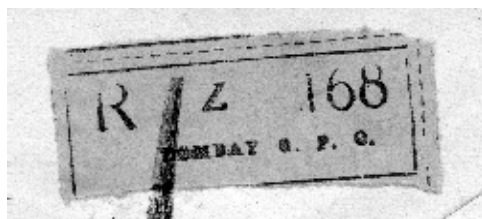
Complicated enough for the common man- but the Director General of the Postal department?

In typical bureaucratic flair, he delegates the calculations to an assistant. Un- Gandhian, one would think!

First Day Use



First day covers of the entire set mailed to Bombay and London.



The philatelic nature of these covers is obvious, as the 10 Rs stamp did not serve a specific postal use purpose.



The value of 10 Rupees in post-war India can be illustrated with this example.

This collector mailed a full set to a dealer in New York [who probably paid for them], but could not afford to get one set for herself!



Note Registration and delivery back stamps shown to the left.

Mini-Study of Usage- Rates and Destinations

1½ anna domestic rate

Philatelic cancels with the special Jai Hind cancel on the first day covers are common, like the ones from Poona and Madras, shown here.

Regular CDS cancels of the stamps used on the first day are more uncommon.

The first is from Ludhiana in the Punjab province.

The second cover is from Samastipur in Darbhanga, where Gandhi started his first civil disobedience movement in India for the Champaran farmers.



More usage of these stamps is shown in the following pages.

..... 1½ anna Domestic Rate



Stamps are often used to seal flaps in India, making that form of usage interesting to collect.

First day use from Sehore. Note delivery markings in Delhi.



First day use in Ghoom in Assam [north eastern India].

Interesting in that many expected Assam province to join Pakistan, except that the Muslim League did not win majority votes in provincial elections in the late 30s, despite large Muslim populations.

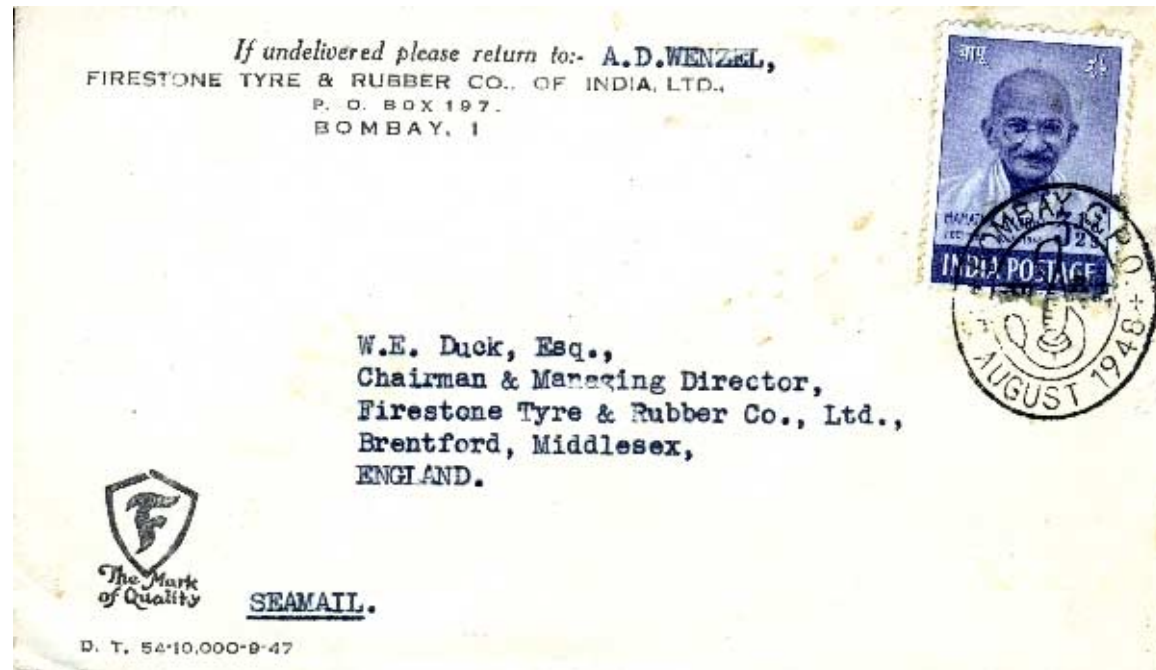
Took 4 days to get to Delhi.



First day use from Ajmer, a princely state in Rajputana.

Cover arrived in Delhi the next day.

3½ anna Sea Mail Rate



Commercial sea mail cover from
Bombay to England, First day
usage.

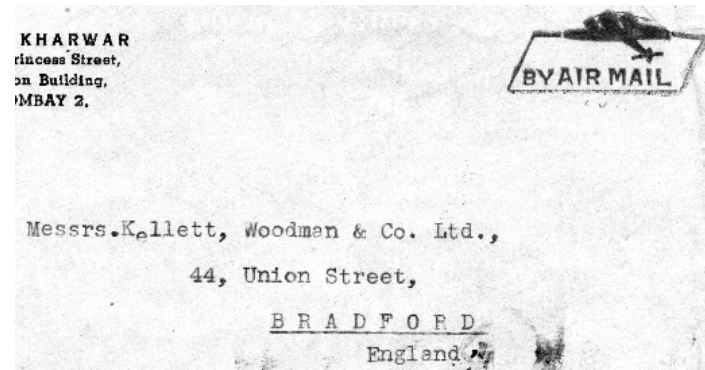
Commercial sea mail cover from
Madras to New York.

3½ anna Sea Mail Rate- multiple use



Sea mail usage rate to US destinations. Low value Gandhi stamp augmented with British India remainders, which were still valid for postage.

12 anna Airmail Rate to England



Two examples of the 12 anna airmail rate to England. One with a single Gandhi stamp and other with multiple stamps of lower value.

13½ anna 6 pies Airmail Rate to East Africa

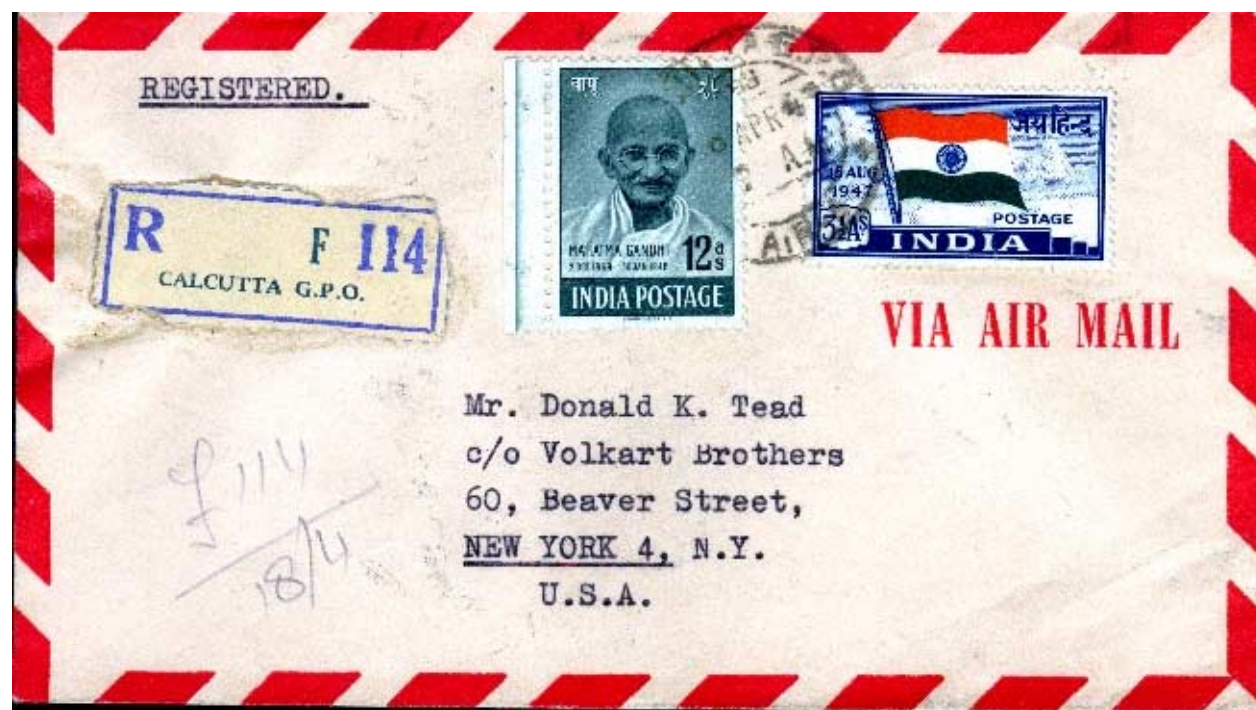


Unusual destination in East Africa.

Also unusual source post office in French India.

First day use. Note regular CDS on definitive!

22 anna Registered Airmail to USA



Additional Postage on cover in the back. Registered Airmail from Calcutta to New York.

17 anna Registered Airmail to England & Australia

This experimental PO was a first flight of a BOAC aircraft from Madras to England.

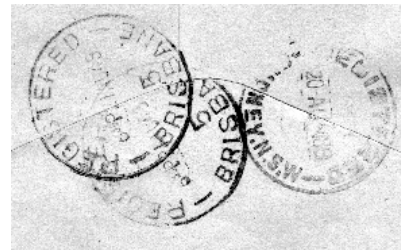
First day use of the Gandhi stamps.



Unusual destination in Australia.

Registered Airmail.

Note interesting backstamps.



16 & 18 anna Airmail to the USA

Interesting collection of multiple usage of the Gandhi stamp in regular airmail to the USA.

The 18 anna rate was the next notch up in weight class for regular airmail to the USA.



Surcharge on Postal Stationery: 8 Anna Rate on Air Letter to the USA



Interesting use of the low value Gandhi stamp to augment the value of an air letter to the USA.

24 Anna Rate on Preprinted Envelope to England



Unusually high postage use for an unregistered envelope mailed to London from Calcutta.