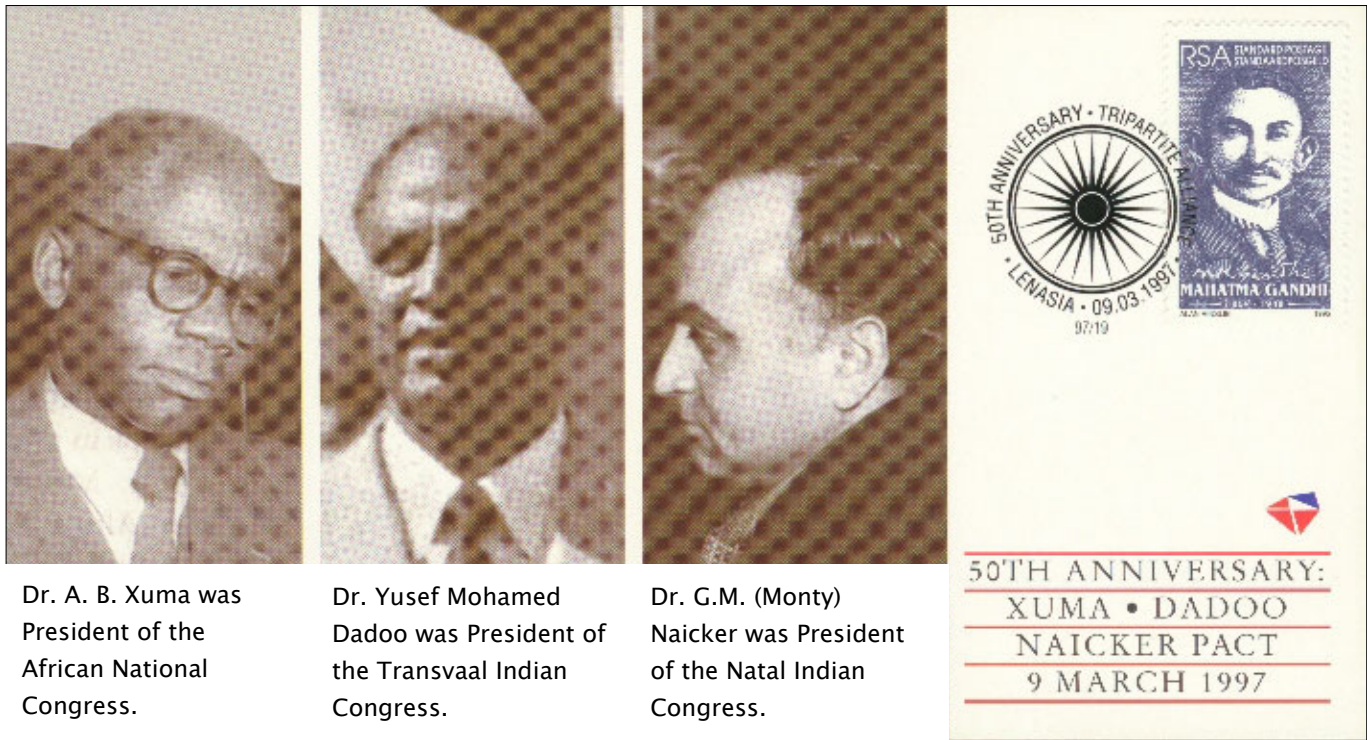


Natal Indian Congress (1894-1914)

Organized a year after Gandhi arrived in South Africa to fight the Asian Franchise Law Bill in 1894, Gandhi became the organization’s first Secretary of the Natal Indian Congress and stayed associated with it for 20 years. In 1947, long after Gandhi left South Africa, this organization formed the core of the budding anti-apartheid movement, by teaming up with the African National Congress and the Transvaal Indian Congress.

South Africa (1997): Commemorative pictorial post card from the South African Post, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Tripartite Alliance that launched the anti-apartheid struggle.



Indian political organization in SA was in good hands by the 1940s. Dadoo and Naicker [native born in Transvaal and Natal of Indian immigrant parents] kept in touch with Gandhi throughout their struggle against apartheid.



Indian National Congress (1897-1948)

The Indian National Congress was formed in 1885 to function as a “safety valve” to protect the British interests in the face of Nationalism after the 1857 *Sepoy Mutiny*.



India (1988): Mutiny for the British was the “First War of Independence” for India, as depicted in this stamp.

Gandhi’s activities in South Africa led to his association with the INC from 1897, long before he returned to India. Recognizing his potential from his activities in South Africa, Gandhi was invited by Gopal Krishna Gokhale (a moderate force in the Congress) to join the efforts of the INC in India by 1914.



India (1966): Gopal Krishna Gokhale.



India (1958): Bipin Chandra Pal.

Along with Lala Lajpat Rai from Punjab, Gandhi had to face the *Lal-Bal-Pal* Trio [as they were called] in his efforts to organize a pragmatic political party out of the elitist organization.

India (1985): Presidents of the Indian National Congress since its inception in 1885. Gandhi is in Row 2, cell 3 of the bottom left stamp.

By 1907, Congress had split functionally- with the militant Bal Gangadhar Tilak from Bombay asking for unconditional self-rule (*Swaraj*).

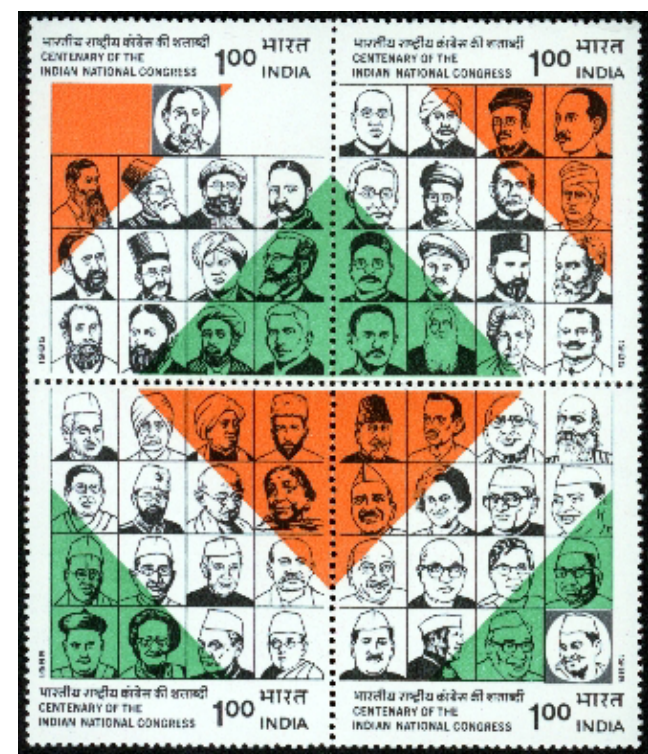


India (1956): Bal Gangadhar Tilak.



India (1988): Commemorating the Home Rule Movement, with a mural “Swaraj is my Birthright”.

Bipin Chandra Pal from Bengal was another militant leader who countered Gokhale’s moderate influence in the INC.



5b. Political Organizer and Negotiator: Indian National Congress [1897-1948]

While he had to wage his internal struggles in Congress, one steady lieutenant Gandhi had for his causes in the Indian National Congress was Jawaharlal Nehru. Nehru met Gandhi in 1916, when he was a 27-year-old budding lawyer with political aspirations within the INC.

The image of Gandhi and Nehru shown in all the stamps below is from the 1946 session of the Indian National Congress convened in Bombay on July 6. The newly elected and energized post-war All India Congress Committee [AICC] session was held under the “Presidentship” of Nehru.



Guyana (1998): 50th anniversary of Gandhi's death.



India (1973). 25th anniversary of Gandhi's death.



Maldives (1990) Nehru Birth Centenary.



Grenada (1990): Nehru Birth Centenary.



Zambia (1998) 50th anniversary of Gandhi's death.



Mauritius (1989): Nehru Birth Centenary.



Zambia (2000): Two overprint varieties of the revalued Zambia stamps with Gandhi and Nehru at the INC, on airmail covers to the USA. The original denomination was for local postage rate.
Note: One variety has single bar across original value. The other has two bars.

5b. Political Organizer and Negotiator: Indian National Congress [1897-1948]

Gandhi's Legacy in Congress

The 55th session of the All India Congress Committee met in Jaipur in December 1948, over 10 months after Gandhi's death.

Nehru, former president of the INC, who was elected Interim Prime Minister of India before independence, was now serving as the first Prime Minister of Independent India since August 15th 1947.

In honor of Gandhi, the location of Jaipur where the Congress convened was named Gandhinagar.

India (1948): Special cancellation applied to mail sent by the 55th Congress' delegates.

The two covers with lower value Gandhi stamps are cancelled with an CDS in Hindi only, a new feature in Independent India's post office. The CDS reads– "55th Congress, Gandhinagar, Jaipur". The date, also in Hindi numerals, reads "4 Dec 1948".



Nehru and Patel were considered the logical leaders to take over the strategic reins of the INC from Gandhi. The latter served as Nehru's defense minister in the cabinet and made several decisions that could be construed as "un-Gandhian" over the next year.



Venezuela (1998): Stamps of Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel and Mahatma Gandhi, issued to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Indian Independence.

5c. Political Organizer and Negotiator

First Indian Round Table Conference (1930)

Arrested on 5th May 1930, in the aftermath of the Salt March, Gandhi was imprisoned without trial for the rest of the year. Ramsey MacDonald, as the Labor Prime Minister, made overtures to Congress for a political compromise.

The RTC was to be held to fulfill a mandate from the British Parliament issued in 1919.

Discussions were held in prison and the Congress held on to Gandhi's demands in June 1930:

- ❖ Constitutional goal of Dominion Status
- ❖ Repeal of the Salt Tax
- ❖ Amnesty for political prisoners
- ❖ Prohibition of liquor and opium sales

The British government accepted none of these demands and Gandhi did not participate in the London conference that followed. The First Indian Round Table Conference was held in London November 12- January 19, 1931. Attending were 60 to 70 Indian representatives handpicked by the Viceroy.



Rt. Honorable V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, an educator, was chosen to represent moderate Hindu intellectuals.

B. R. Ambedkar, a lawyer, was one of the most prominent Indian delegates who had broken ranks with Gandhi and the Congress establishment recently.



India (1970): Commemorating V.S. Srinivasa Sastri's birth centenary—he was the same age as Gandhi.

India (1991): Portrait of Dr. Ambedkar.

Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Gandhi's political nemesis in later years, was chosen to represent the Moslems of British India as the emerging leader of the Muslim League.



Burkina Faso (1988): Jinnah in western clothing, which he preferred.

The conference failed due to British obduracy, giving Gandhi political victory without participation.



UK (1930): Registered airmail cancelled with "Indian Round Table Conference" CDS. The cancel from St. James Place was used only for mail from conference delegates.

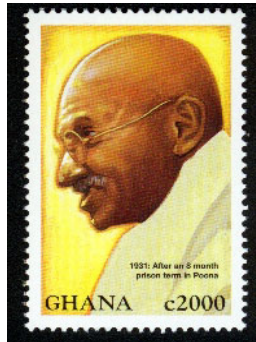
Second Indian Round Table Conference (1931)

Within a week after the end of the first RTC, Gandhi and his Congress colleagues were released from prison on January 26, 1931.

The “Delhi Pact of Truce” between Lord Irwin and Mahatma Gandhi [on behalf of the Congress] was signed on March 5, 1931.

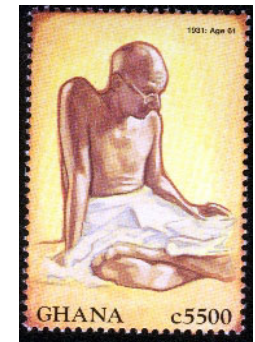
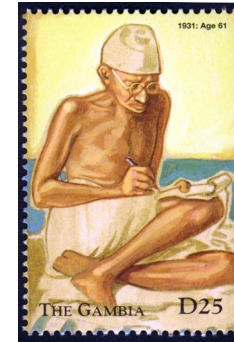
The British Government agreed to:

- ❖ Release political prisoners and restore confiscated property
- ❖ Withdraw arbitrary ordinances and repressive legislation
- ❖ Repeal the Salt Tax for those living along the sea shore
- ❖ Recognize the people’s right to lawfully and peacefully picket dealers of opium, liquor and foreign goods



In return, Gandhi agreed to suspend the civil disobedience movement and participate in the forthcoming Second Indian Round Table Conference.

Ghana (1998): Gandhi upon release in 1931, after serving 8-month prison term.



Gambia (1998) and Ghana (1998): Gandhi at age 61, based on photographs taken aboard the SS Rajputana.

At age 61, Gandhi set sail from Bombay on August 29th 1931. This was to be his last voyage to England- aboard the *SS Rajputana*.



UK (1931): Registered mail with “Indian Round Table Conference” CDS. The cancel from St. James Place was used during the 6-week period for mail from delegates.

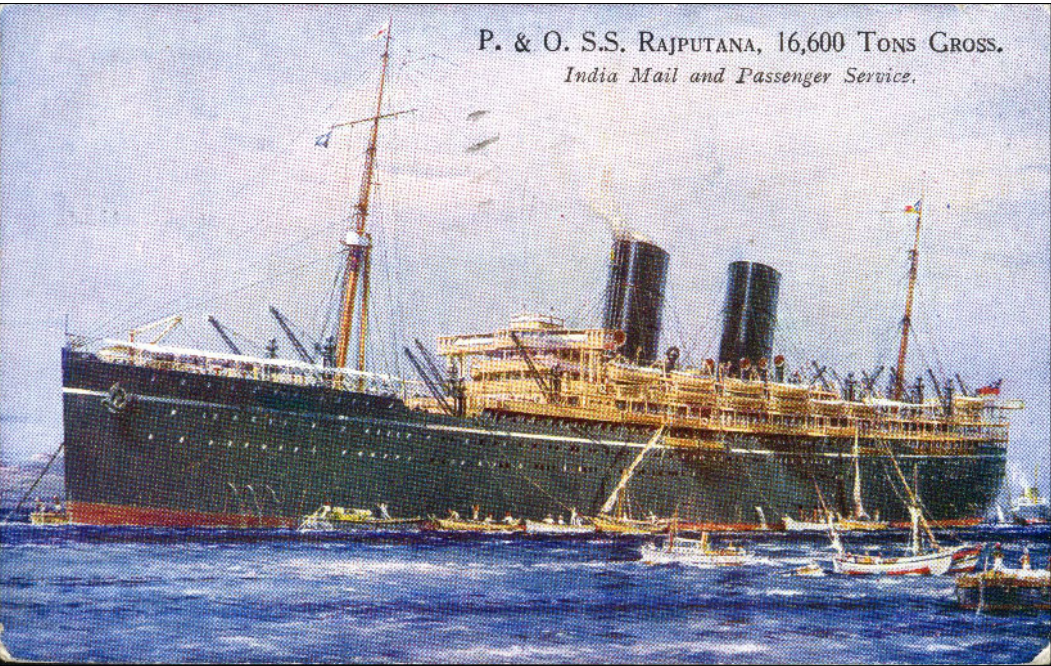
Delegates to the Second RTC included Gandhi and:

- ❖ 13 British ministers and MPs headed by Ramsay MacDonald
- ❖ 19 Indian Maharajas and Princes representing the states
- ❖ 75 other representatives of British Indian provinces

Mohammad Ali Jinnah and V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, Indian delegates from the first RTC, also attended the second Round Table conference.

Gandhi’s other activities while attending this conference left a lasting impression in the West and are elaborated in this section.

5d. Political Organizer and Negotiator: Second Indian Round Table Conferences [1931]



Prominent among the British Indian delegates were Madan Mohan Malaviya [founder of Banaras Hindu University], Mohammad Iqbal [poet and philosopher], G.D. Birla [industrialist] and Sarojini Naidu [poet and Congress activist]. All but Mr. Iqbal [who was in London] were also passengers with Gandhi on the *SS Rajputana* from Bombay to Marseilles.



UK (Marseille-Gare PAQUEBOT). Maritime mail from the *SS Rajputana*. Same ship that Gandhi took, sailing on the same route.



India (1988): Mohammad Iqbal.



India (1984): Ganshyam Das Birla.



India (1964): Sarojini Naidu.

Through Aden, Suez and Port Said, Gandhi familiarized himself with many mechanical devices on the ship, including looking through the sextant on the ship.



Comoro Islands (1991):Margin illustrations of Gandhi with the sextant aboard the *SS Rajputana*.

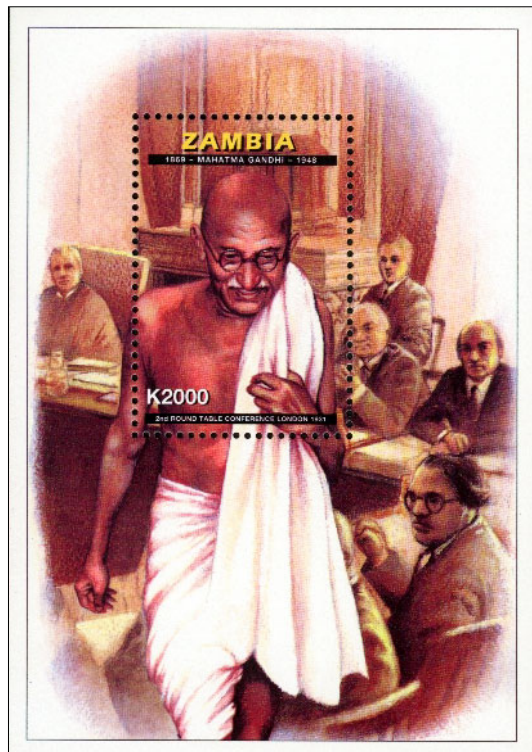
5d. Political Organizer and Negotiator: Second Indian Round Table Conferences [1931]

Gandhi made his maiden speech at the conference on September 15, 1931.



Will Rogers,
famous American
artist, captured
the image of
Gandhi at the
conference thus:

*“All Delegates were well dressed
in tailor made suits. But a skinny
little fellow with nothing but a
breechcloth, with a spinning
wheel and an old she-goat comes
there representing more
humanity and with more
authority than all the high hats in
the world. It’s sincerity versus
diplomacy!”*



St. Vincent (1998): Gandhi
shown seated at the Second
RTC next to Malaviya and
Sastri. This stamp’s face value
(\$5) was for fiscal use.

Zambia (1998): Needless to
say, all eyes were on Gandhi
every time he walked into or
out of a session, as shown in
this souvenir sheet.

While in London, Gandhi visited with British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald at his residence at 10 Downing Street, an image captured in several examples of philatelic material.

Nevis (1998):
Multiple copies
of stamp
showing
Gandhi at #10
Downing
Street, on
registered
airmail cover
to the USA.

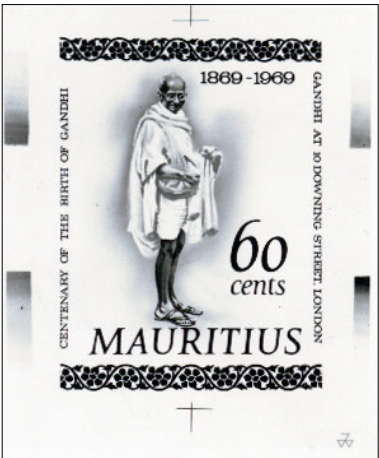


5d. Political Organizer and Negotiator: Second Indian Round Table Conferences [1931]

At the Prime Minister’s residence, the western image of Gandhi evolved from a nationalist and activist to that of a Statesman.



Bhutan (1969). Unique Original Artist’s watercolor essay (unadopted) of Gandhi at #10 Downing Street.



Mauritius (1969): Printer’s Die Proof of stamp showing Gandhi at 10 Downing Street.



Montserrat (1998): Specimen showing Gandhi outside the door of #10 Downing Street.



Scottish Local (1979): Archival Progressive Proofs of unique design with Gandhi and Ramsey MacDonald together.

5d. Political Organizer and Negotiator: Second Indian Round Table Conferences [1931]



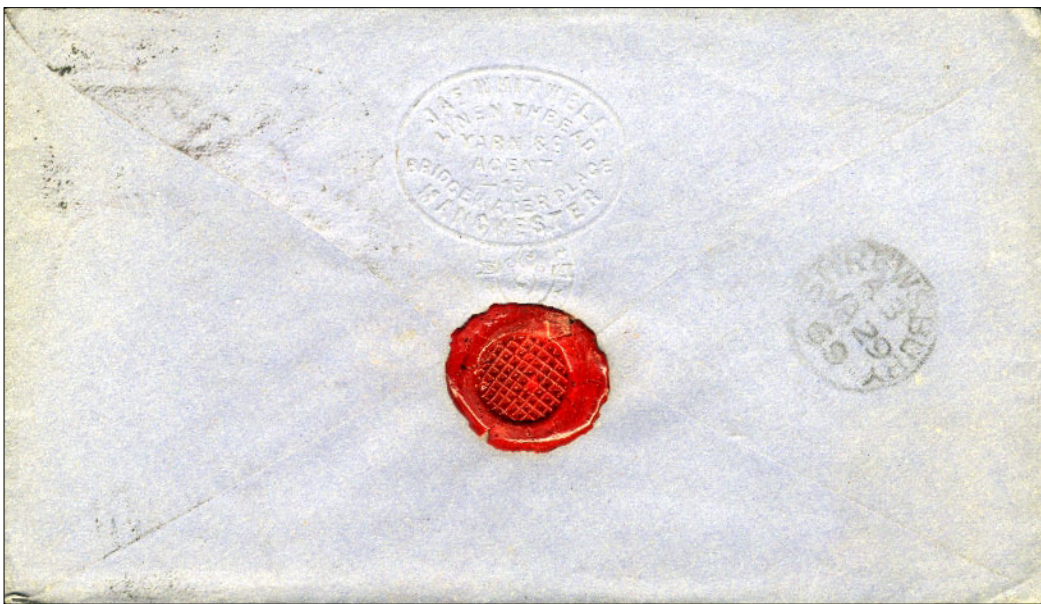
While in England, Gandhi visited Manchester area mills in Lancashire and was warmly welcomed by displaced mill workers and owners. They sympathized with him and appreciated efforts to revive the domestic handloom industry in India! Gandhi's "homespun" movement particularly hit cotton exports from mills in the Lancashire region.

Gambia (1998) Stamp showing Gandhi spinning yarn in 1931.

As early as 1920, records indicate that India imported over £34 million in textiles from Manchester and Liverpool mills in the Lancashire region. This was part of the £80 million of textile and machinery that were exported to India from England that year. After over 100 years of stable business, import of British cloth and yarn fell by 75% between December 1929 and December 1930.



UK (1869): Manchester-Shrewsbury letter. Note embossed seal: Whitwell Linen Thread Yarn & Co. Note Manchester CDS.



Mills in this region, mostly based on Indian grown cotton, were well established before Gandhi's birth in 1869.

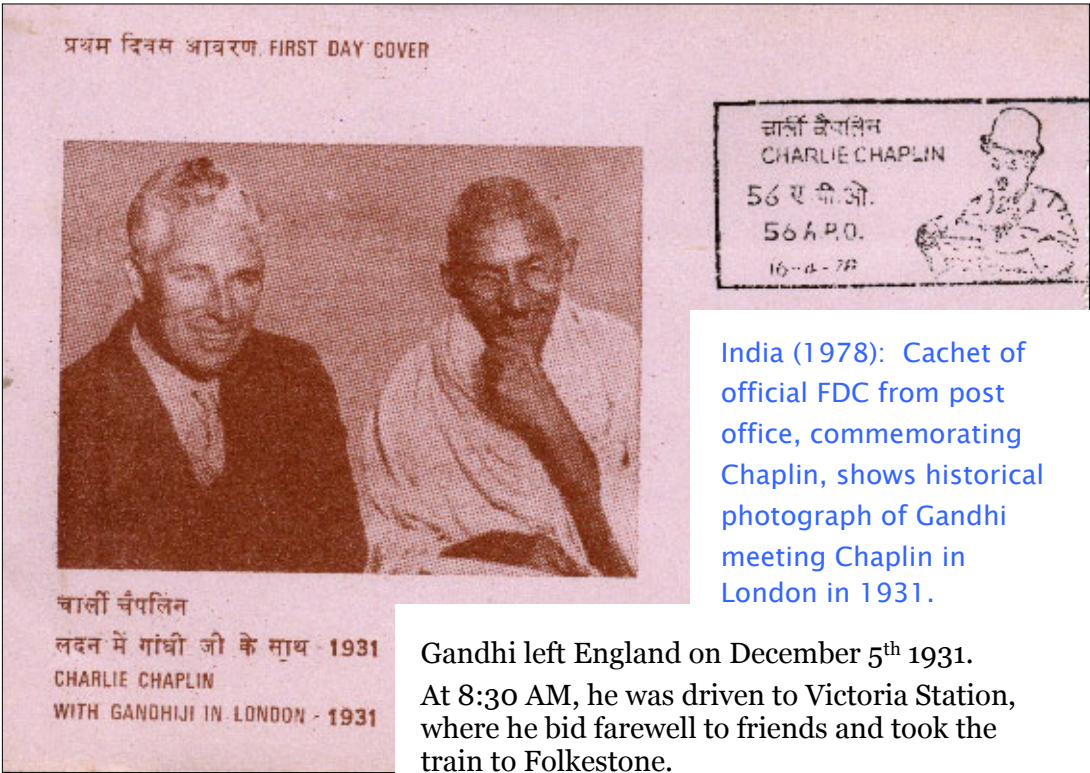
UK (1866): Liverpool-Shrewsbury letter. Addressed to family of Linen company's owner.

5d. Political Organizer and Negotiator: Second Indian Round Table Conferences [1931]

Perhaps the most unusual visitor he had, while in London, was Charlie Chaplin. It was stranger, when Chaplin (an admirer of Gandhi) found out that Gandhi had never heard his name before he met him!



Belgium (1999): Stamps of Gandhi and Chaplin issued in a set. 34 BF postage + 150 BF registration fee.



India (1978): Cachet of official FDC from post office, commemorating Chaplin, shows historical photograph of Gandhi meeting Chaplin in London in 1931.

Gandhi left England on December 5th 1931. At 8:30 AM, he was driven to Victoria Station, where he bid farewell to friends and took the train to Folkestone.

Antigua and Barbuda (1984): Archival gutter pair, with bottom stamp pair showing Gandhi leaving London by train. Mrs. Naidu, who accompanied him to Folkestone, is also shown looking out the train window. Others seen in this stamp are his assistant Pyarelal and Madeline Slade.



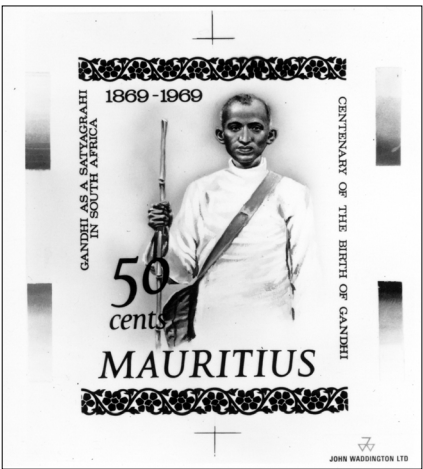
6a. Architect of Civil Disobedience

Satyagraha in Southern Africa (1907-14)

Gandhi convinced his fellow Indians to not submit to the Asiatic Law of 1906, even by risking arrest. Thus was born “Satyagraha” or achieving effect through “truth force”. To assist the several hundreds of Indian resisters who were going to prison and being released repeatedly, as a result of the protest, Gandhi established the Phoenix Ashram in Transvaal.



South Africa (1995): Official picture postcard, issued by the South African Post Office, showing Gandhi and Kasturba in the Satyagrahi ashram near Pretoria.



Mauritius (1969): Printer's Die Proof of stamp showing Gandhi as Satyagrahi at an ashram in Transvaal.

Nevis (1998): Registered Multiple use of stamp showing Gandhi as Satyagrahi at Phoenix ashram in Transvaal.



Swadeshi Movement-Boycott of Imports (1906-1935)

Perhaps the first successful mass movement to use boycott as a political weapon on an vast international scale.



India (1920s): Labels like the ones shown above were used in mail and the post office was instructed to reject them, due to the slogans specifically targeting British imports for boycott.



India (1930s): When the movement turned violent, labels that also included messages of non-violence and Gandhi's image appeared.

Later in the Swadeshi movement, Gandhi and other members of Congress organized “Swadeshi Rallies” where imported garments and textiles were setup in huge bonfires and public joined leaders in marathon spinning sessions!



Uruguay (1969): Gandhi and Swadeshi Rally shown on full sheet with color-shift error on all stamps.

6b. Architect of Civil Disobedience: Swadeshi Movement-Boycott of Imports (1906-1935)



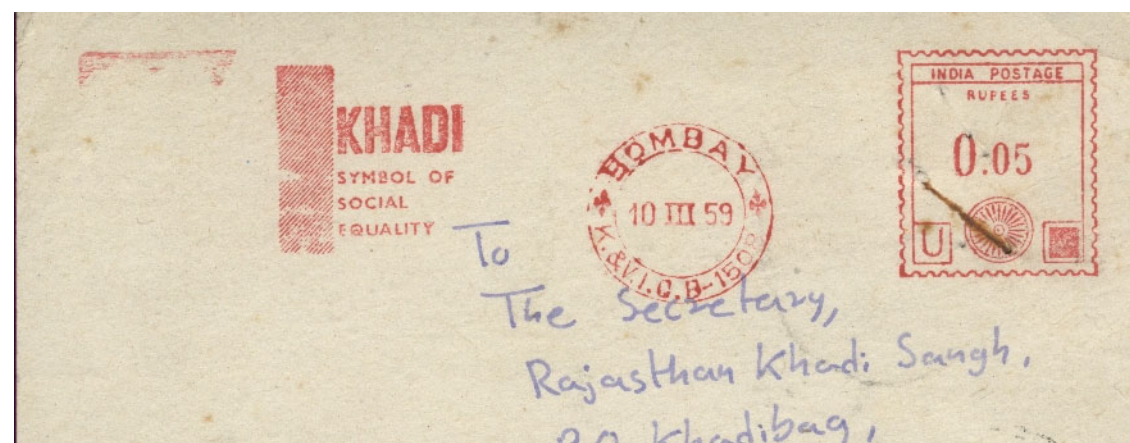
Perhaps the least offensive to British officials and the postal authorities were labels that merely called for patronizing Indian goods, that appeared in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

India (1920s): Patriotic Labels calling for patronizing Indian goods.

Another twist to this approach was advertisement covers and cards with similar patriotic slogans.



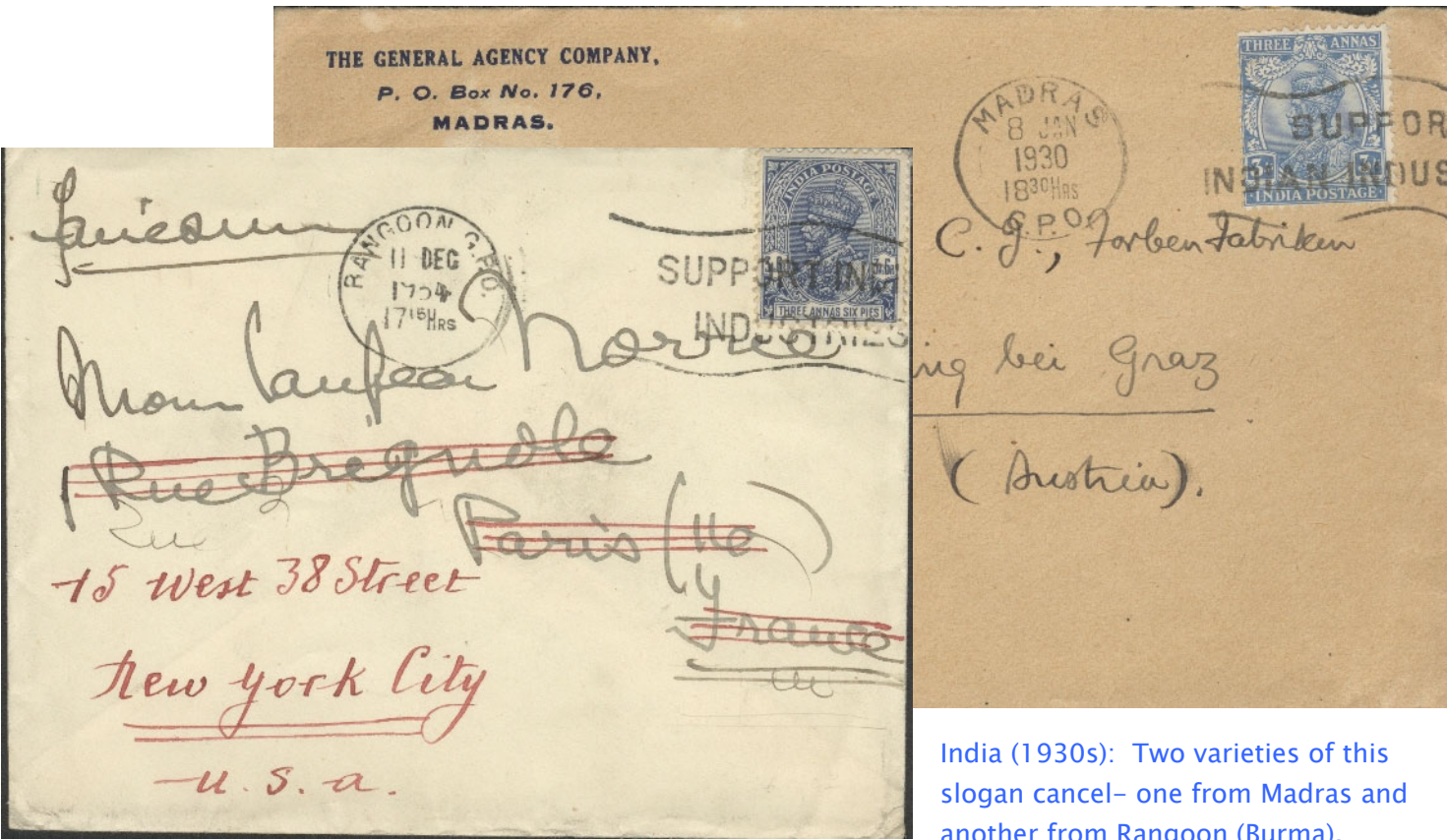
India (1929): Advertisements on Registered cover and post card calling for "Supporting Indian Industries".



India (1959): The Indian government took advantage of the popularity of such patriotic slogans supporting cottage industries—through slogan meter markings like this one: "Khadi, Symbol of Social Equality".

6b. Architect of Civil Disobedience: Swadeshi Movement-Boycott of Imports (1906-1935)

The British Indian PO adopted the “Support Indian Industries” slogan to several special cancels in the 1930s.



India (1930s): Two varieties of this slogan cancel– one from Madras and another from Rangoon (Burma).



India (1937): By this time, several prominent boxed cancels calling people to SUPPORT INDIAN INDUSTRIES appeared in POs from New Delhi– the new Capital of British India.

