

Fighting Totalitarianism in Central Europe (1953-)

Totalitarianism in Europe was finally defeated from within, by people on the streets, not by the military might of the West.

The famous Solidarity Movement in **Poland** did not begin in the 1980s. It was a continuation of Polish working class and intelligentsia movement that began with the “Polish October” in 1956.

Poland (1969): Airmail postal card issued for Gandhi centenary.

Czechoslovakia, a Soviet-style state from 1948, began moving towards liberal policies after Stalin’s death in 1953. This peaked in the “Prague Spring” of 1968 and led to armed invasion by the Warsaw Pact.



Czechoslovakia (1969): Prague commemorated the Gandhi centenary with this special cancel. Within months, Alexander Dubcek, architect of the “Prague Spring”, was ousted from office.



Greece (1970)

In 1967, a military Junta seized power in **Greece** and controlled the country for 8 years.

In **Hungary**, youth in society began to mobilize against totalitarianism in the 1950s. This led to Soviet armed invasion of Budapest in 1956, followed by three decades of political repression.



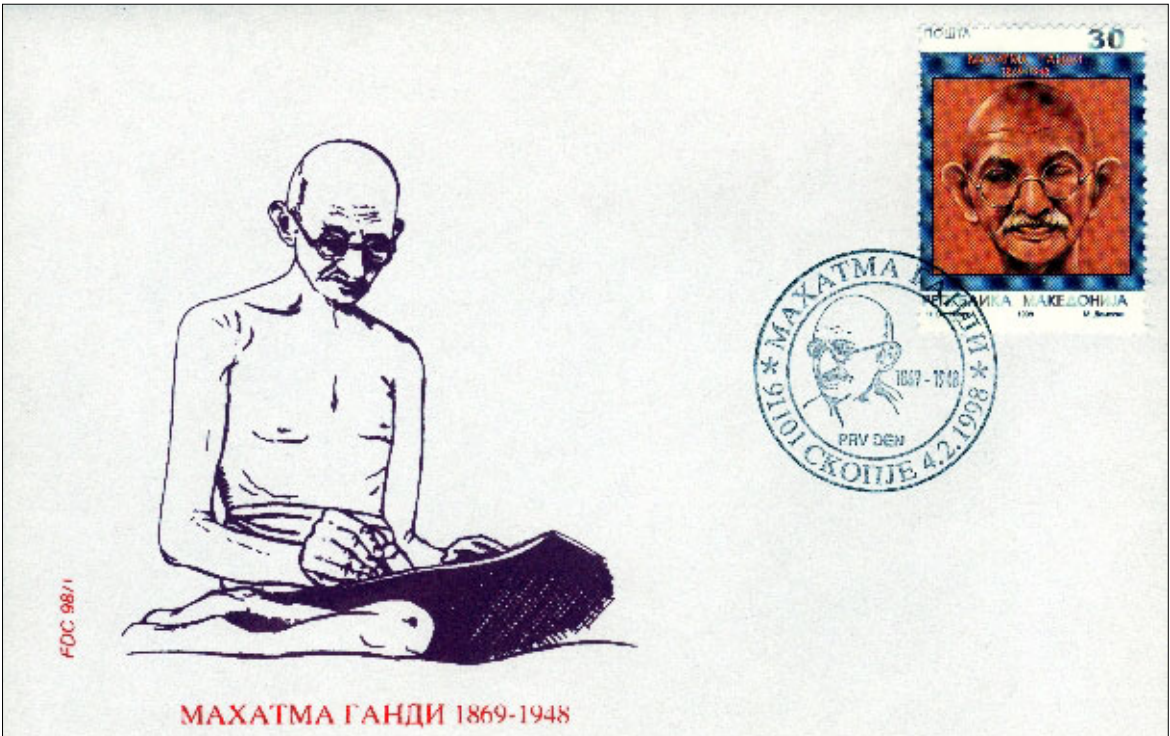
Hungary (1969): Registered cover to Australia.

With the abdication of King Michael in 1947, **Romania** joined the other central European counties in establishing a repressive socialist state. The Romanian revolt of 1989 was the only violent one in central Europe, leading to execution of the leaders and death of over 1500 people in street fighting.

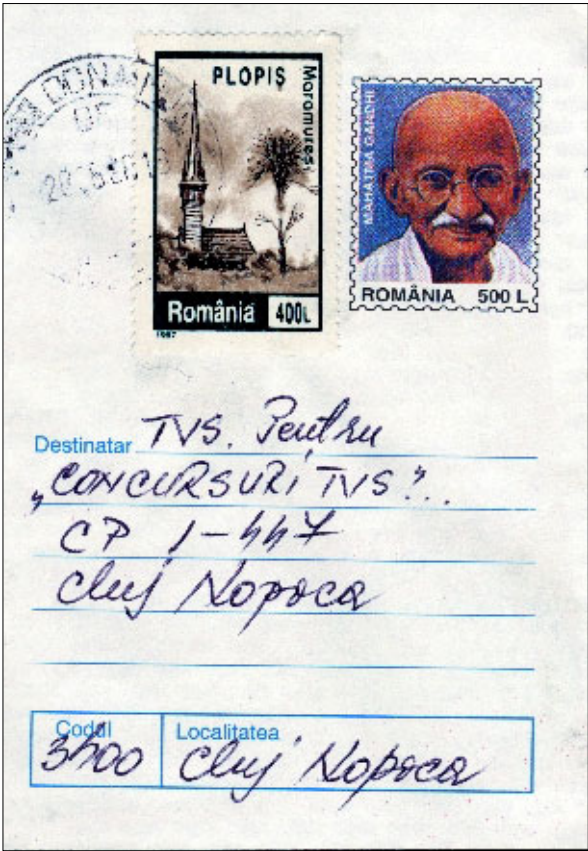
Romania
(1998): Special
pictorial
cancel to
commemorate
50th
anniversary of
Gandhi's
death.



Claimed by Bulgaria and Greece during and after WWII, **Macedonia** became an autonomous republic under the federation of Yugoslavia in 1943. Following a popular referendum in 1992, Macedonia seceded peacefully from Yugoslav. Part of the land once ruled by Philip of Macedon and Alexander the Great, Macedonia is struggling to establish a modern multi-ethnic state with its minority Albanian population.



Macedonia (1998): Stamp commemorating 50th anniversary of Gandhi's death.

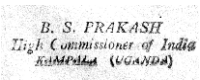


Romania (1997): Domestic use of pre-stamped postal envelope with image of Gandhi issued to celebrate India's 50 years.

The Indian Diaspora

Diaspora in East Africa. English speaking countries of southern and eastern Africa have all shared the common history of indentured labor from India. This migration dates back to the official consent of the Government of British India in 1860. Few returned to India, like Gandhi. Most stayed and adopted Africa as their homeland.

Uganda (1998): Pair of 600 UgSh Gandhi stamps on large commercial cover. Stamp portrays image of the South African lawyer. Corner card indicates that it was mailed form the Office of the Indian High Commissioner in Kampala.

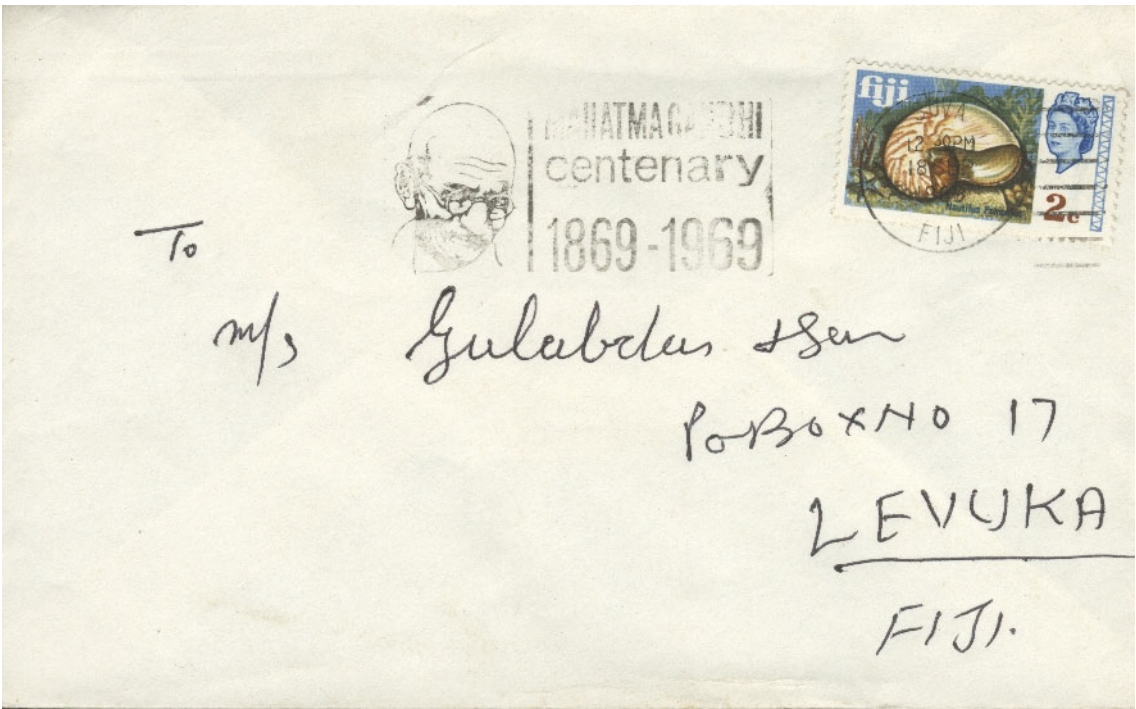


Over 95,000 native born Indians were kicked out of Uganda in 1972 in Idi Amin’s “Africa for Africans” drive.

Indians from eastern and southern India migrated to Fiji as indentured labor in the 1800s and settled there. Recently, ethnic tensions have erupted with natives of Fiji.

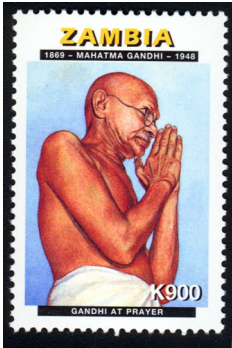


Uganda (1997): Another cover with stamp showing an older Gandhi. 700 UgSh was the lowest airmail rate to the USA.



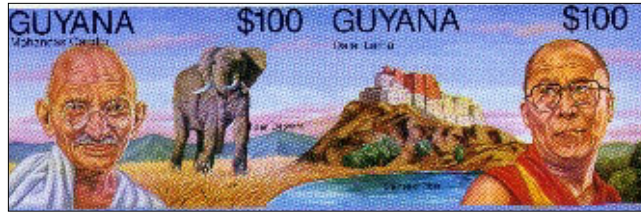
Fiji: Special pictorial cancel for the Gandhi centenary on local cover.

While Indian immigrants were pioneer merchants in East Africa, they supplanted European merchants in Zambia, until restrictive laws were enacted. Many of these laws remained in the books after independence, leading to an efflux of Indians from Zambia to the West.



Zambia (1997): Gandhi, shown in traditional Indian greeting posture, in a stamp issued to commemorate 50th Anniversary of India’s Independence.

13g. Inspiration and Legacy: The Indian Diaspora



Guyana (1993): Imperforate copy of souvenir sheet featuring Gandhi and several other world leaders like the Dalai Lama.

Guyana, while the only British colony in mainland South America, preceded Indian indentured labor immigration history to Africa. This began in 1838, shortly after the abolition of slavery, but their treatment in plantations was so bad that the colonial government in India refused to send them from 1840 to 1844!

The rise of “black power” ideology in the 1960s and different political ideologies have polarized race relations in the Caribbean. Nobel laureate Sir V. S. Naipaul has written that his native Trinidad “teeters on the brink of a racial war”.

Closer to home, Indian merchants, predominantly from the south, followed European colonization to Southeast Asia. Just in the 1880s, over 140,000 migrated to Malaya, 165,000 to Burma and nearly 500,000 to Ceylon.

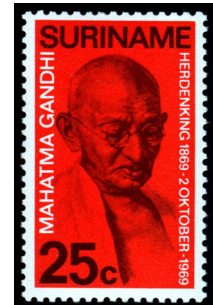
Gandhi visited both Burma and Ceylon explicitly to help the Tamils understand and bridge their social and cultural differences with the Singhalese and Burmese.



Sri Lanka (1988): Stamp featuring Gandhi was issued as appreciation to the Indian Peace Keeping Forces that responded to an invitation from the government.

Long before Gandhi was even born (beginning in the 1830s), thousands of Indians came to lands in and around the Caribbean. This included over 20,000 to Jamaica, 30,000 to Surinam, over 143,000 to Trinidad and over 239,000 to Guyana.

Surinam (1969): Portrait of Gandhi issued to commemorate his birth centenary.



Trinidad & Tobago (1969): Portrait of Gandhi and Indian flag, also issued to commemorate his birth centenary.

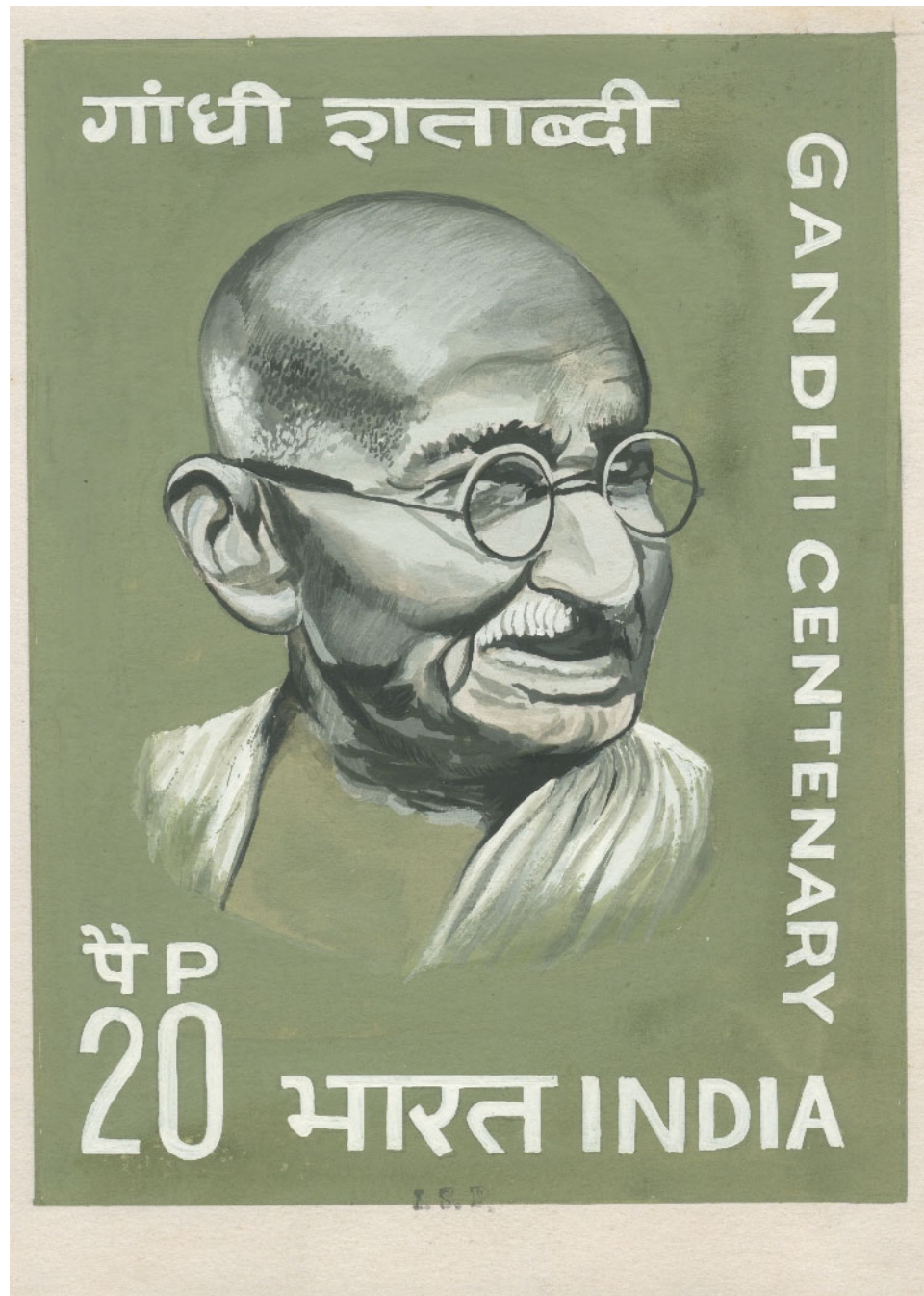


Burma (1969): Special cancellation commemorating the Gandhi centenary. Used for one day only from the Rangoon post offices.

The saddest and most belligerent conflict has been between the predominantly Hindu Tamils and Buddhist Singhalese in Ceylon. Ironically, both groups migrated from India. The latter came from Eastern India centuries before Christ. The former, while often grouped together, came as two distinct groups. “Ceylon Tamils” have been on the island for centuries, long before the Singhalese came. “Indian Tamils” came from India between 1830 and 1930.

The Centennial Rebirth (1969)

Both in philately and other fields of study, interest in Gandhi exploded in 1969, on his birth centenary, after being ignored in the relatively prosperous and peaceful '50s.



India (1969): Unique original water color essay of Gandhi portrait that was later adopted for a higher denomination stamp (see right). Only copy known to exist, stamped by the INDIA SECURITY PRESS (I.S.P.) and signed in the back.



Service, Duty and Community

Gandhi always insisted on duty and service to community above self-indulgence. He also stated that there could be no “rights” without associated duties.

Quoting him to inspire civic pride has been an ongoing project for governments in India since the dawn of independence.

The almost religious fervor with which Gandhi committed himself to social service has manifested itself in the likes of others like Mother Teresa.

Sounds-bytes like the one shown here helped mobilize even the largely apathetic but god-fearing masses.

While generations and oceans separated him from Gandhi, John Kennedy’s Peace Corps inspired young Americans to serve much like Gandhi’s calls in the 30s to Indians. *“Ask not what your country can do for you....”* is very much in tune with Gandhian ideals of social service.



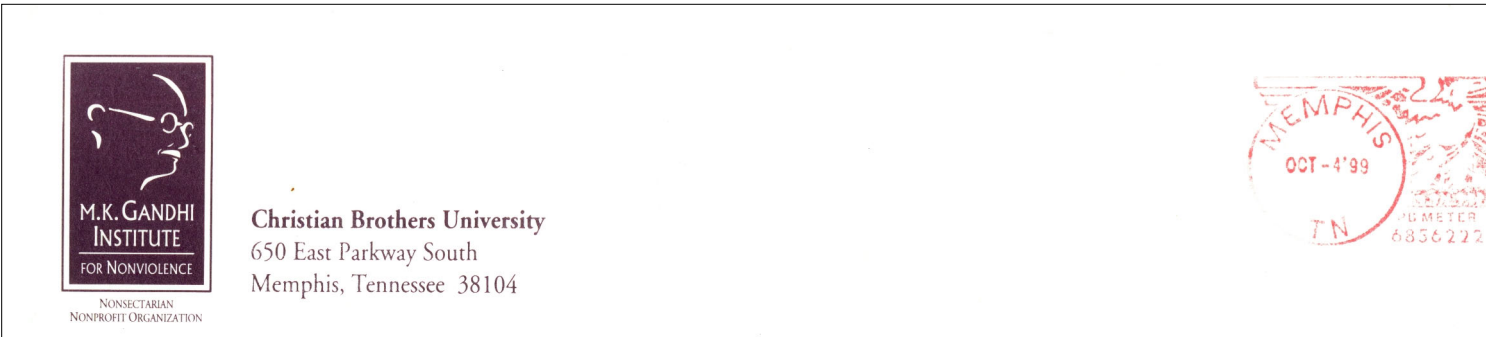
India (1973): Special slogan cancel – “True Source of Rights is Duty– Gandhi” in Hindi and English. Issued as first day cancel during National Philatelic Exhibition.



India (1970): Special slogan cancel – “Service is Worship”, a quote from Gandhi often seen goading civil servants in government offices. Used here with the first day cancel of stamp celebrating electric passenger rail service.



Antigua & Barbuda (1985): Archival Horizontal Gutter Pair of Kennedy and Gandhi stamps.



USA (1999): Domestic Metered Mail from the Gandhi Institute in Memphis.

Carrying the torch of grandfather’s service to his adopted communities everywhere he went, Arun Gandhi has established the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Non-Violence in Memphis, USA.

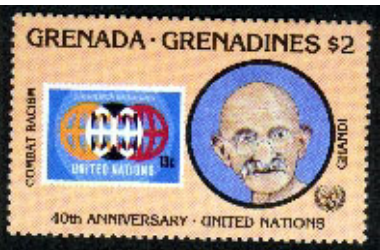
Race, Religion and Humanity

Time and again, Gandhi tirelessly worked to instill ethnic and religious tolerance in India. He dreamt of a world that was not race or class conscious, particularly in South Asia steeped in history and tradition.



India (1998): Showing Gandhi's historic walk for communal harmony through Bengal in 1946. Bengal continues to be a tinderbox for Hindu-Muslim conflict until today.

Guyana (1998): At age 77, Gandhi undertook a 116-mile walk through Bengal, to promote understanding and end the bloody conflict between Hindus and Muslims in what is today Bangladesh.



Grenada (1985): "Combat Racism" served as the slogan to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the UN, with Gandhi symbolizing unity among nations and peoples.

Leaders of bodies like the UN often quote Gandhi to invoke the spirit of "common cause" amongst nations.

Sierra Leone (1969): Special cancel that started listing what Gandhi stood for: "Truth, non-violence, and then said it all... Humanity! Ethnic hatred has manifested itself violently in Sierra Leone recently.

"I am a Hindu, a Moslem, a Christian and a Jew- and so are all of you", said Gandhi to his fellow Indians.



Kazakhstan (1993): Artwork showing Gandhi with silhouettes of a Russian Orthodox Church, a Mosque and a Temple in the background. Commercial cover with "stacked" Gandhi stamps to meet airmail rate to the USA.

Apostle of Nonviolence

“The real test of nonviolence lies in its being brought in contact with those who have contempt for it.”

Gandhi.

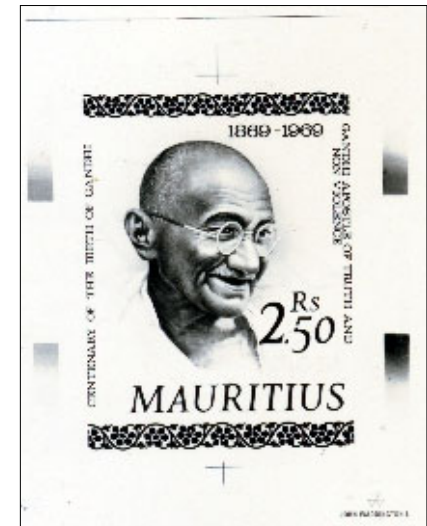


Cameroun (1968): Apostle of Non-Violence

“Nonviolence is not easy to understand or practice because we are weak.”

“Nonviolence becomes meaningless if violence is permitted for self defense.”

Gandhi.



Mauritius (1969): Printer's Die proof of stamp titled “Apostle of Truth and Non-Violence” (approved w/ signature and stamp of engraver on back).

“Nonviolence calls for strength and courage to suffer without retaliation, to receive blows without returning any.”

“My nonviolence does not admit of running away from danger and leaving the dear ones unprotected.”

Gandhi.

REPUBLIQUE DU SENEGAL



Senegal (1978): Special first day cancel paying “Homage to the Apostles of Nonviolence—Gandhi and King”.

“Just as one must learn the art of killing in the training for violence, so one must learn the art of dying in the training for nonviolence.”

Gandhi.

San Marino (1987): Stamp commemorating organization dedicated to the practice and training of nonviolent activism. Shown here on cover with special first day cancellation.

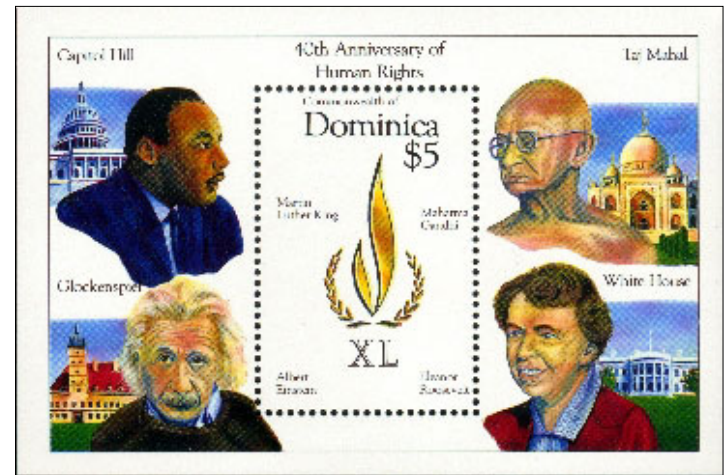


Champion of Human Rights

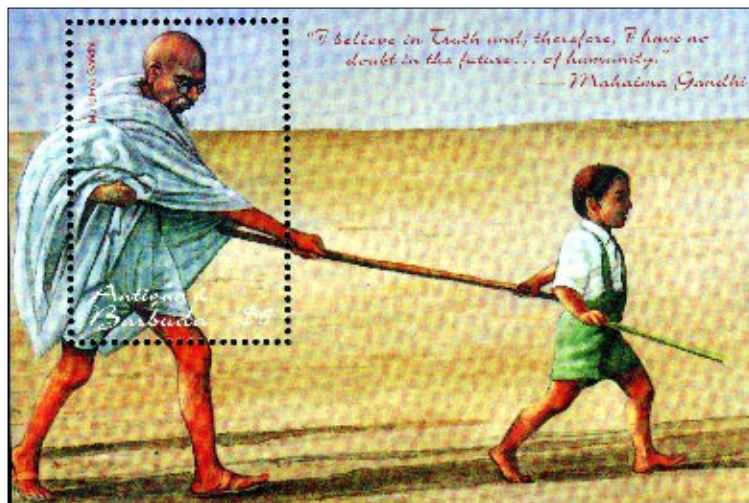
“Mankind is at a cross-roads. It has to make its choice between the law of the jungle and the law of humanity.”

“No charter of freedom will be worth looking at which does not ensure the same measure of freedom for the minorities as for the majority.”

Gandhi.



Dominica (1980): Souvenir sheet commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with Gandhi featured in the margin illustration.



Antigua & Barbuda (1998): Souvenir sheet overprinted "Barbuda Mail" for local use, features Gandhi led in a walk on the beach by his secretary's nephew. Includes quote from Gandhi: *"I have no doubt in the future.... of humanity."*

India (1979): Gandhi with his secretary's Pyarelal's nephew. Interesting error, with a strip of perforated adhesive paper overlaid on the bottom of one stamp during printing.



“Mankind has eternity on its side to mend its ways.”
Gandhi.

Despite the terrible human tragedies that continue to plague the nations of the world through today, we have to believe that our children will lead us to a better world.

Champion of Peace



Bhutan (1969): Unique original water color artist's essay showing Gandhi walking (from Dandi march photographs) with doves representing peace.

"In the secret of my heart I am in perpetual quarrel with God that He should allow such things [that disrupt peace, as war and violence] to go on. My nonviolence seems almost impotent. But the answer comes at the end of the daily quarrel that neither God nor nonviolence is impotent. Impotence is in the man."
Gandhi.

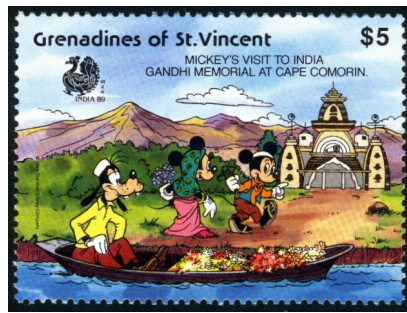


Sao Tome and Principe (1987): Set of stamps commemorating the International Year of Peace, featuring two winner's of the Nobel Peace Prize (King and Luthuli) and one who did not win the peace prize (Gandhi).



Somalia (1969): Stamp commemorating Gandhi's birth centenary shows the globe and the release of a dove, signifying Gandhi's influence on promoting world peace.

Monuments and Memorials



Grenadines of Saint Vincent (1989): Stamp part of a set featuring Mickey's visit to India. Shows a visit to the Gandhi Memorial at the southern tip of the Indian Peninsula.

Memorial statues of Gandhi have been erected from India to Brazil, Ceylon to the District of Columbia and Utah to Uganda.



Trinidad and Tobago (1969): Stamp featuring a statue of Gandhi in Trinidad.



Malta (1969) FDC Cachet showing the Gandhi Memorial in Rajghat, India.

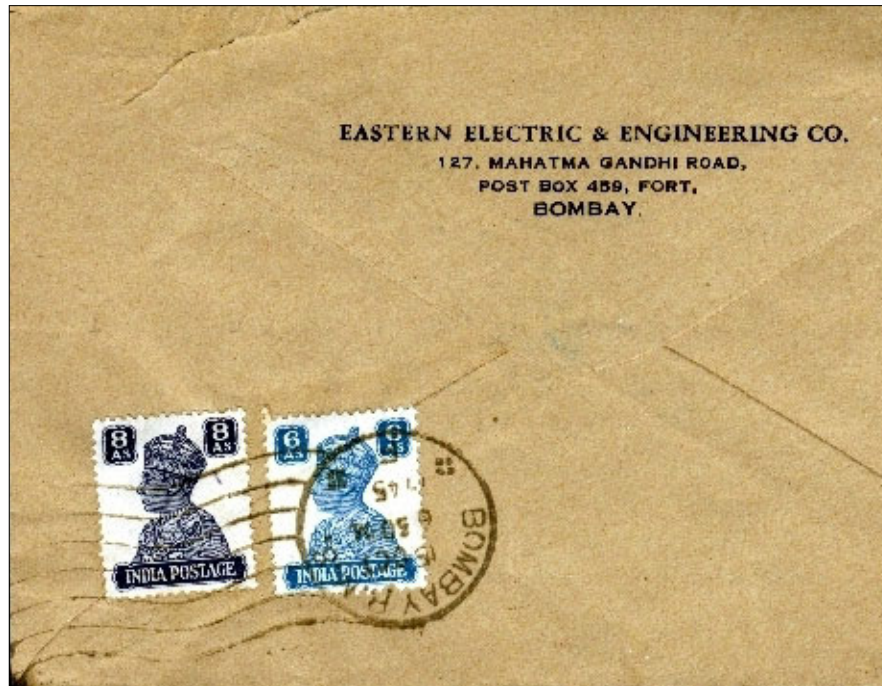


Luxembourg (1969): This special cancel coincided with the unveiling of a Gandhi statue in the park in Luxembourg City during birth centennial celebrations.

14e. Lip Service and More:

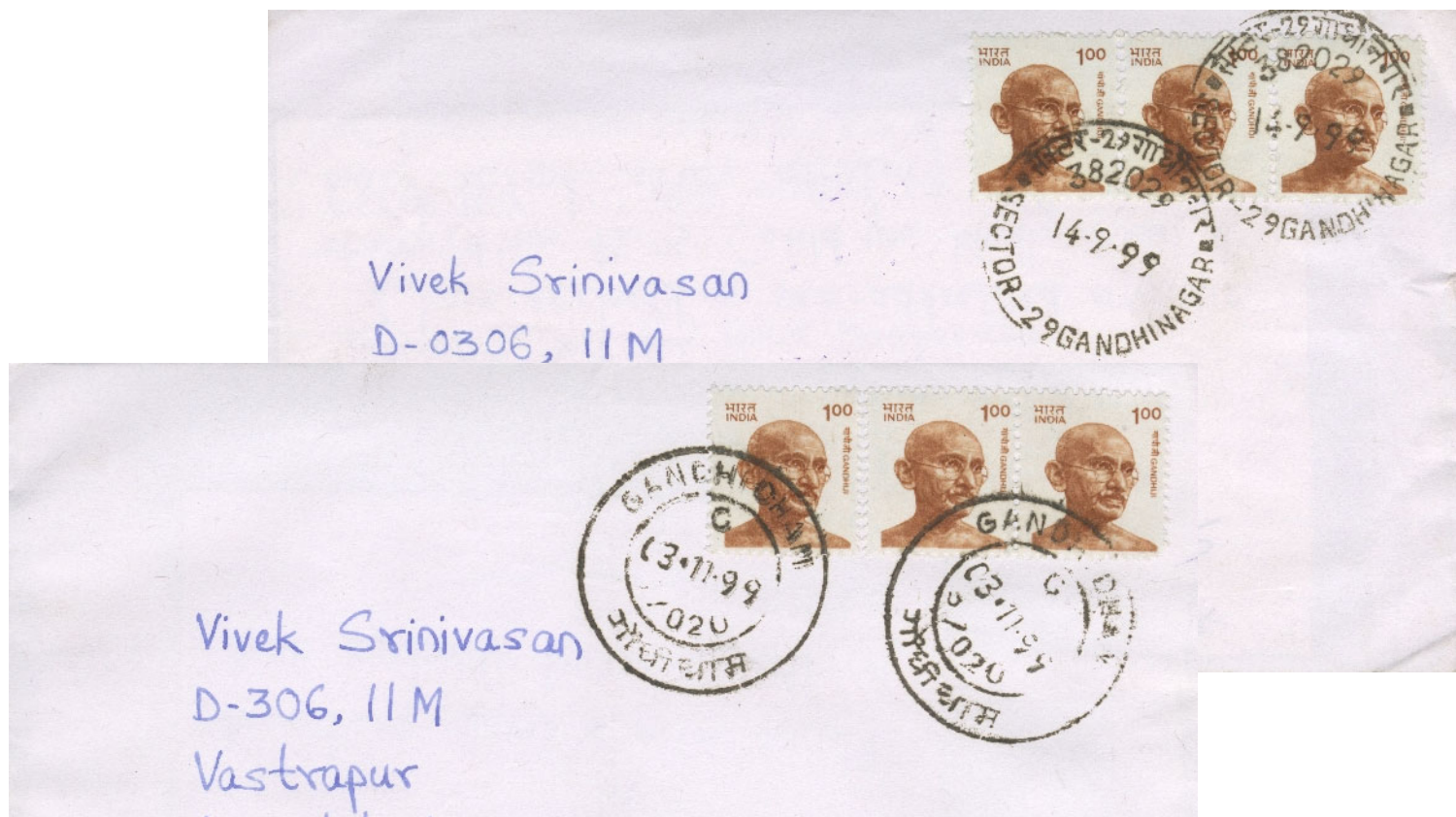
Streets and Towns

The tradition of naming streets after Gandhi began early. While still in British India, the Bombay Municipal Council, administered by members of the Indian National Congress, had begun the process.



Practically every city in India has streets named after Gandhi and hundreds of town and villages and suburbs have emerged in his name (Gandhinagar, Bapunagar, Gandhi gram....).

India (1945): Cover mailed in Bombay shows a return address on "Mahatma Gandhi Road". Typically, most of these early names were changed from King George, Queen Victoria, Parliament St. etc.



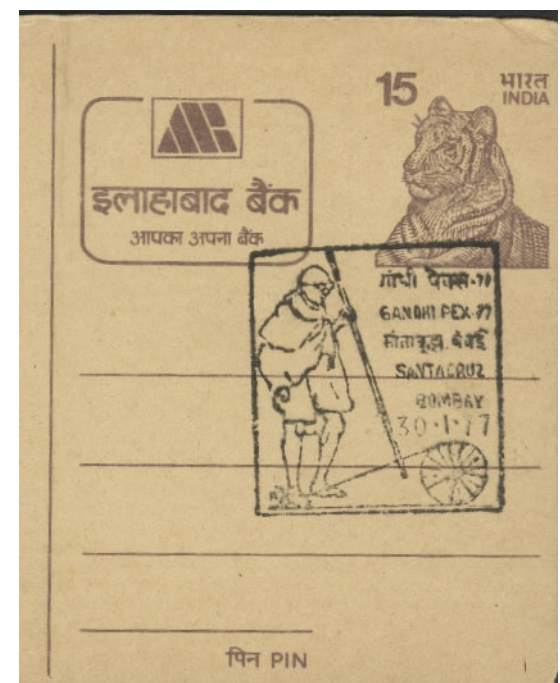
India (1999): Domestic covers mailed from post offices named after Gandhi.

Stamp Shows and Seminars



India: Covers with special cancel from Lincoln Gandhi Philatelic Exhibition (1967), Gandhipex, Chicago (1971) and Gandhipex, Bombay (1977). Note: The Chicago Gandhipex cover carries the special exhibition cancel and a second CDS from the Bombay RMS, after it was flown there by Air India.

Every few years since Gandhi's birth centennial, there have been philatelic exhibitions carrying his name. The earliest was in Hyderabad, India. The first in the USA was Gandhipex in Chicago, followed by a Gandhipex in Bombay .



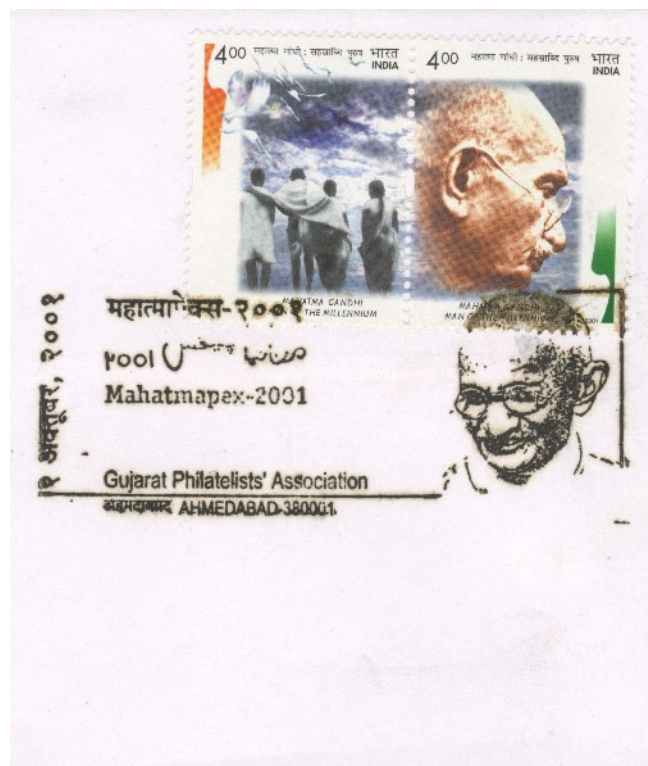
14e. Lip Service and More: Stamp Shows and Seminars

There is a cottage industry in India that has developed around teaching and preaching Gandhian thought. Many of these special events now seem to always include a special philatelic cover or special cancellations.



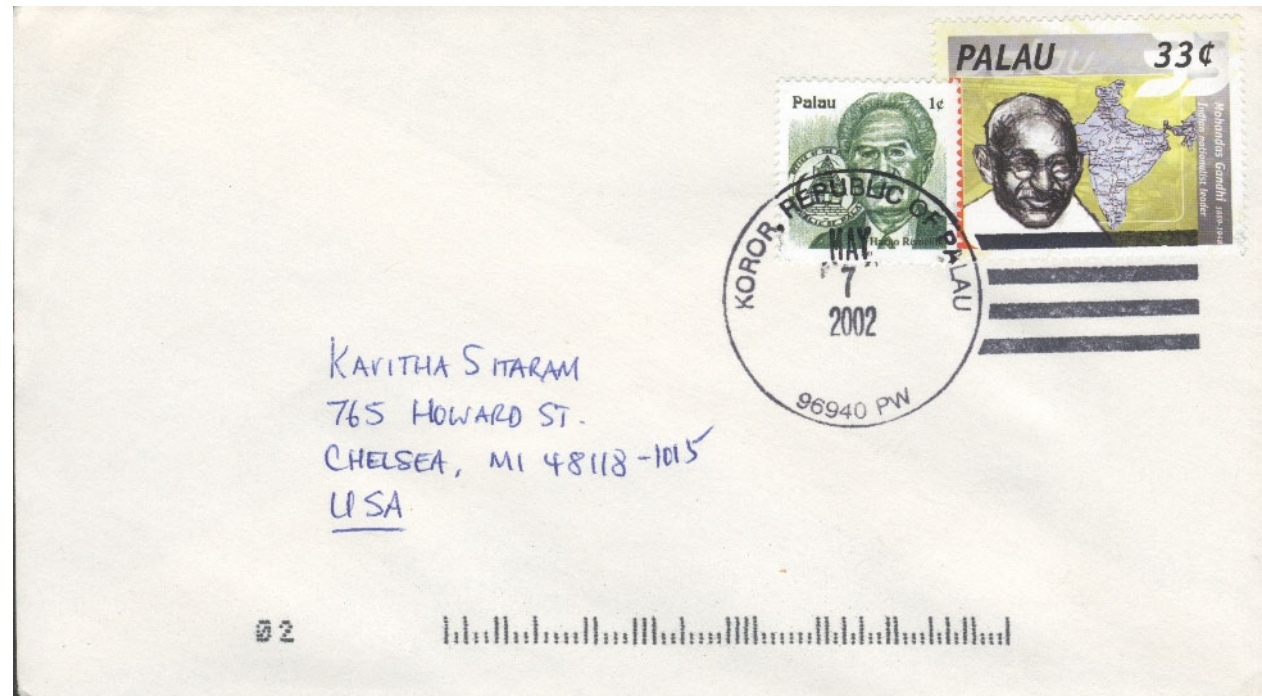
India (1982): Special pictorial cancels for SEMINAR ON GANDHI AND MODERN TIMES.

The new millennium has not slowed down the spate to Gandhi philatelic exhibitions like Mahatmapex in Ahmedabad, India (2001). Others, even when they do not carry his name, carry his image in commemorative cancellations.



India (2001): Special pictorial cancels from philatelic exhibitions.

The Shape of Things to Come



Palau (2002): Gandhi and India map on stamp.
Up-rated mail to USA (rates are synchronized with
USPS rates).

It is one thing to show portraits
of Gandhi along with the Indian
map. It is quite another to make
a portrait of Gandhi into the
map of India. While in practical
terms India continues to drift
from Gandhian ideals, it is
shaping up to become very much
like Gandhi on paper!



India (2000): Unique original artist's water color essay adopted for the
millennium issue from India. Only copy known to exist.

Conclusion

The story presented in this exhibit shows that the life thus remembered started as “an empty page to write on”- see section 2a) in a remote corner of India. Moral strength and divine inspiration turned a mediocre student and timid lawyer into a shrewd politician and a revered leader who motivated humanity like few ever have!



[Mauritius \(1969\) Printer's Die Proof](#) of this Souvenir Sheet, depicting the metamorphosis of Gandhi from an ordinary young man to a virtual saint. Prepared from original artwork. This photographic proof signed and stamped by the engraver, is the only one believed to exist, based on records from the Crown Agents' Archives.