



THE  
SIKH FOUNDATION  
*I n t e r n a t i o n a l*

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Sikh Foundation, in Palo Alto CA (founded 1967) has pioneered projects in the important fields of Academics & Arts including four Chairs of Sikh Studies in various universities, international Sikh Art exhibits and publications.

The Sikh Foundation, with the generous support of Mr. Sardool Singh Samra, Subway Development Agent for San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, and a resident of Daly City, CA, has already placed high quality books on Sikhs & Sikhism in the public libraries of Pacifica, Foster City, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Fremont, Union City, Dublin and San Jose. This program has now been expanded to include an additional ten libraries of Northern California.

The books\* in the gift set are:

- ***The Sikhs*** by Khuswant Singh & Raghu Rai, Roli Books- 2001
- ***Sacred writings of the Sikhs*** by Tarlochan Singh & others, UNESCO & Orient Longman-1960
- ***Sikh Art & Literature*** by Kerry Brown, The Sikh Foundation & Routledge Books-1999
- ***The Sikh Wedding*** by Mohinder Singh, UBS Publishers-2004
- ***Bindhu's Weddings*** by The Amrit & Rabinder Kaur Singh, The Sikh Foundation-1999

Since Libraries also carry multimedia, we have also included the following:

- ***Dya Singh*** CD, "taking Sikh music to the world music stage" [www.dyasingh.com](http://www.dyasingh.com)
- ***Sri Harmandir Sahib***, a DVD by Asha Seth is unique film which documents the 400 year old history of the Golden Temple.
- "***Maharaja Ranjit Singh***" VHS, produced by T Sher Singh & the Centennial Foundation.

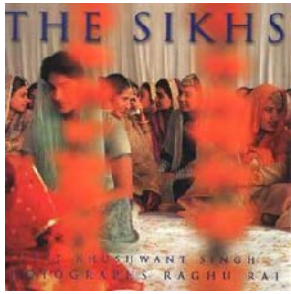
While many libraries may have some books representing the Sikh community, a very important fact is that there are very few Sikh Children's books. We have made a very conscious effort to include high quality books for our young readers. Our publication, "Bindhu's Weddings" is appreciated by the librarians, for its unique style of representing multicultural content.

This project has the potential to expand to include other schools, colleges, universities and public libraries in California.

For more details please call 650-494-7454 or email [info@sikhfoundation.org](mailto:info@sikhfoundation.org)

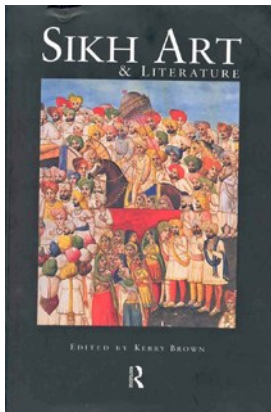
***\*See below for details on the titles of all books and multimedia materials.***

## Details of Books & Multimedia for Gifting to Libraries:



### 1. **The Sikhs by Khuswant Singh & Raghu Rai.**

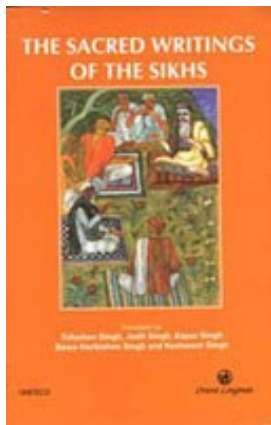
The Sikhs are culturally one of the richest communities of India. The Sikh faith emerged and spread in North India to combat the stifling practices of the Hindu caste system and went on to become an all-encompassing way of life. Tracing the history of this race from the inception of its religion by Guru Nanak, this book explains the turbulent history of the Sikhs, their faith in one God, their ten Gurus and the casteless fraternity of the Khalsa Panth. It chronicles their customs, beliefs, rituals, modes of worship, weddings, baptism, dances and martial traditions-the factors that make them an assertive and extrovert people with a zest for living. The Sikhs are now prominent in all spheres of modern life. The succinct, yet comprehensive and objective text by one of India's most celebrated authors is enhanced by rare, brilliant and varied photographs taken by one of the country's best photographers who has explored their private and public lives carefully and lovingly.



### 2. **Sikh Art & Literature edited by Kerry Brown.**

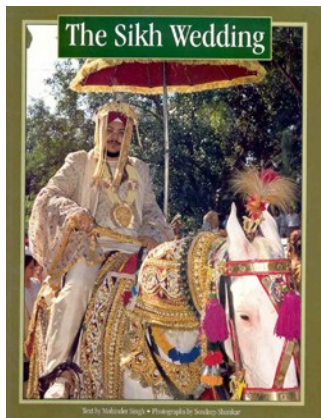
Essays by art curators, historians and collectors, and scholars of literature and religion are illustrated with some of the earliest and finest Sikh paintings, the overlooked *Janam Sakhis* genre, the dazzling treasures of the Sikh kingdoms, the romantic artworks of the visiting European dignitaries, the distinctive elements of Sikh architecture, and recent works of rising stars in contemporary Sikh art. Excerpts from journals of visitors to the court of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and new translations of early twentieth century poetry add depth and originality to this beautiful and accessible introduction to 500 years of Sikh culture.

*The Sikh Foundation, 580 College Avenue, Palo Alto CA 94306*  
Tel: 650-494-7454      [www.sikhfoundation.org](http://www.sikhfoundation.org)



### 3. The Sacred Writings of the Sikhs trans. by Tarlochan Singh & others.

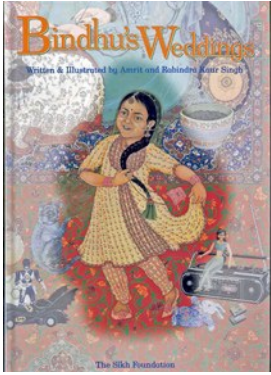
This work may be described, as an authorized version of certain of the Sacred Hymns of the Sikhs Scriptures. It is the fruit of the joint labors of the most distinguished contemporary Sikh theologians and scholars. The contents comprise selections mainly from the Adi Granth, generally regarded as the greatest works of Punjabi and Hindi Literature, of which the principle authors were Guru Nanak and Guru Arjan, the first and the fifth of the ten Sikh Gurus. A remarkable feature of the Adi Granth is that it contains writings of teachers in other religions including Hinduism and Islam. This book was previously published in the UNESCO Collection of Representative Works (United Nations Educational & Scientific and Cultural Organization).



### 4. The Sikh Wedding by Mohinder Singh & Sondeep Sarkar

Though Sikhs follow several Punjabi marriage customs, their marriage rites are performed through *Anand Karaj*. According to popular tradition, the *Anand* form of marriage was popularized by Guru Ramdas, the fourth Guru, who composed the hymns called *lavan* for the purpose of solemnizing Sikh weddings. The Anand form of marriage got legal sanction through the passage of the Anand Marriage Bill in the Imperial Legislative council in 1909. Through text based on Gurbani and popular tradition, the book tries to capture the spirit of the Sikh wedding through colorful pictures of various ceremonies connected with the wedding.

*The Sikh Foundation, 580 College Avenue, Palo Alto CA 94306*  
Tel: 650-494-7454      [www.sikhfoundation.org](http://www.sikhfoundation.org)



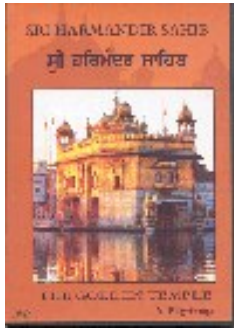
### 5. Bindhu's Weddings by Amrit & Rabindra Kaur Singh

The Singh twins are British born Indian artists whose award winning paintings have been described by art critics as "some of the most optimistic images of our multicultural world." A delightful account by "Bindhu", the youngest member of a Sikh family living in the north of England. Supported by vibrant and witty paintings, Bindhu's astute observations of her family's preparations and celebrations for various weddings are told in rhyming verse to accompany the brilliantly colorful artwork of the twins. This child's eye view of the antics of a Sikh family and their friends will entertain parents as well as their children.

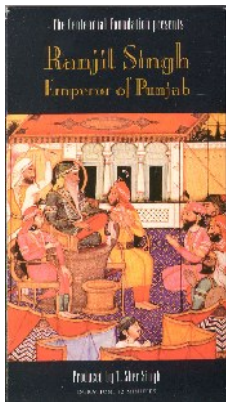


**6. Dya Singh Music CD** The Music of Dya Singh has a truly universal feel, with a blending of traditional music with modern and contemporary trends. It portrays the universal messages as espoused in the holy writings of Sikh and other Indian sages. While been based on Sikh & Punjabi classical, spiritual and folk music it also reaches out to music form other parts of humankind. Today it is one of the foremost "world music" groups in Australia and has 6 albums in 7 short years. It has twice been awarded "Instrumentalist of the Year" award by SAMIA (South Australian Music Industry) and twice been nominated "World Music Group of the Year" winning it once. It now travels widely throughout the world and is highly acclaimed by both Sikh and alternative mainstream audiences.

*The Sikh Foundation, 580 College Avenue, Palo Alto CA 94306*  
*Tel: 650-494-7454      [www.sikhfoundation.org](http://www.sikhfoundation.org)*



**7. Sri Harmandir Sahib DVD** This is a unique documentary showing in detail the history of the Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib) in Amritsar. The story starts from the time when Guru Ramdas sanctified the pool (amrit sarovar) in the sixteenth century and ends in 1999, when the new gold plating of the temple was done. It goes on to explain the history and background of all the important shrines on the temple complex (Parkarma). It also shows the 24 hours ceremonies held in the Temple (gurudwara). It shows how at 2 AM the gates (of Darshani Deorhi) are opened, at 4 AM, the scriptures (Maharaj ji di Aswari) is taken out, then all the day long there is the singing of the hymns (Kirtan) and at the end of the day, the scriptures (Guru Granth Sahib) is ceremoniously taken out in a gold palanquin (Palki for Sukhasan). Finally the Diwali is shown, when in the morning Jalau is displayed and at night lighting of the lamps (Deepmala) is done. All in all it is a very memorable documentary, fully focused and very educative. This DVD, in English and Punjabi, is a must for every Sikh home and library, to educate their children and American friends about Sikhism using the Golden Temple as the medium.



**8. Maharaja Ranjit Singh, VHS** On Baisakhi day 1801, Ranjit Singh became the first Sikh Emperor of the Kingdom of Punjab. The empire he founded came to be known as the Sarkar-e-Khalsa-the government of the people. He refused to sit on a throne, wear a crown or assume any ostentation. The coins of the kingdom, which held sway from Afghanistan to China to the banks of the Sutlej, proclaimed that he had power only “In the Name of the Guru Nanak Guru Gobind Singh”. In the true spirit of *Sikhi*, all religions were treated equally. Ministers, generals, governors: positions of power and influence were held not only by Sikhs but also Hindus, Muslims and Christians in equal numbers, each chosen on merit only. Furthermore as a patron of the arts, Ranjit Singh inspired a widespread Punjabi Renaissance. Two centuries later, the Maharaja continues to be revered as the “Lion of the Punjab” who wielded absolute power but did so with benevolence, compassion and humility.

*The Sikh Foundation, 580 College Avenue, Palo Alto CA 94306*  
Tel: 650-494-7454      [www.sikhfoundation.org](http://www.sikhfoundation.org)