The Voyage of the Ghadar

Eastern Scholars Conference 2012
Pacific Coast Khalsa Diwan Society
Gurdwara Sahib Stockton, CA, USA

Hosted at University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA, USA
The Executive Committee of the Pacific Coast Khalsa Diwan Society in its Diwan (Communion) on April 23, 1926, on the occasion of The Birth of Khalsa (Vaisakhi Day), unanimously passed the following resolution:

That since the first day of the arrival of Sikhs in America and till the present day, whatever they have done for their motherland* and the Sikh Panth by utilizing their physical, intellectual, and financial resources, a detailed history of their deeds should be meticulously written and presented to the people.

[*A reference to pre-partition, undivided India.]

A production of

Pacific Coast Khalsa Diwan Society
Gurdwara Sahib Stockton, CA, USA

Centennial Eastern Conference Committee
Dr. Tarlochan Singh Nahal, Dr. Jasbir Singh Mann, Dr. Amrik Singh, S. Davinder Singh, S. Gulwinder Singh, S. Jasjeet Singh, Dr. Pritpal Singh

Stockton Gurdwara Centennial Committee Organizers for Eastern Scholars Conference
S. Kuljit Singh Nijjar, S. Harnek Singh Atwal, S. Manjit Singh Uppal, S. Bhajan Singh Bhinder, Mr. Pieter Singh
“THE VOYAGE OF THE GHADAR”

ABSTRACTS OF 17 SCHOLARLY PAPERS

on

THE GHADAR MOVEMENT

formed through

PACIFIC COAST KHALSA DIWAN SOCIETY
GURDWARA SAHIB, STOCKTON, CA, USA

prepared for presentation on

September 30, 2012

at the

VOYAGE OF THE GHADAR CONFERENCE
UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC, STOCKTON, CA, USA

www.SikhCentury.us
Welcome From Gurdwara Sahib Stockton Leadership

September 30, 2012

Dearest Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are deeply honored to welcome you to the September 30, 2012 “The Voyage of the Ghadar” conference hosted in memory of the Ghadar movement which launched India’s struggle for independence. This conference is the second of four events hosted in joyous celebration of the centennial anniversary of Pacific Coast Khalsa Diwan Society Gurdwara Sahib, Stockton, CA, USA, which was founded on October 24, 1912.

Through the enclosed scholarly abstracts, you will discover Gurdwara Sahib Stockton, the oldest Sikh American settlement, and learn about its role in the origins of Sikh American revolutionary movements that created Ghadar di Goonj, shook the foundations of the British Empire, led to the independence of the Indian subcontinent, and brought civil rights to American Sikhs.

Sikhs who settled around the first American gurdwara also led struggles to defend the rights to immigration, citizenship, and private property. They were inspired by the American founding fathers, who opposed a colonial system of oppression. They paved the way for Asians to become Americans. There are heroes on every corner of the Gurdwara Sahib Stockton campus.

We offer our warmest regards to the following scholars for their contributions:

By Dr. Balkar Singh, Dr. Sarabjinder Singh, Dr. Iqtidar Karamat Cheema, Prof. Sohan Singh Pooni, Dr. Gurnam Kaur, Dr. Jasbir Singh Mann, MD, Ajmer Singh, Gurmel Singh Sidhu, Prof. Sohan Singh Pooni, Rajwinder Singh Rahi, Dr. Tarlochan Singh Nahal, Dr. Prithipal Singh Kapur, Jatinder Singh Hundal, Dr. Gurdarshan Singh Dhillon, Dr. J. S. Grewal, Dr. Jaspal Singh, and Dr. Amrik Singh.

Gurdwara Sahib Stockton will, until the last days of the world, remain a place of vast meaning in the hearts of all Sikhs throughout the Earth. As the birthplace of the Sikh American community, as well as the source of the first organized and sustained campaign of resistance to the British Empire’s tyrannical occupation of the Indian subcontinent, it is of deep historical value to the continents of North America and Asia and to the story of our world.

Very sincerely,

Harnek Singh Atwal  
President

Manjit Singh Uppal  
Chairman

Stockton Gurdwara Sahib Management Committee  
Stockton Gurdwara Centennial Committee
A Letter from  
Vice-Chancellor Dr. Jaspal Singh, Punjabi University, Patiala

MESSAGE

The uniqueness and multi-faceted nature of Sri Guru Granth Sahib lies in establishing the relevance of its humanitarian concerns to every era in history. Its contemporaneous significance has been established through various events from time to time. From this point of view the Gaddar movement is a landmark in history that helped in establishing the validity of this assertion. The universal norms that the contemporaries of the movement adopted also validate the truth of this notion. I welcome the efforts being made a hundred years later by the Organising/Administrative Committee of the Stockton Gurdwara in America to understand, clarify and propagate traditional ethics and behaviour. This will definitely help in creating a rapport between the heritage and inheritors and present the contemporaneous value of Sri Guru Granth Sahib to the world.

What is the significance of the institution of Gurdwara in the life of a Sikh? How it has influenced Sikhs in every era can be traced through history and the documentary evidence of this is to be seen in Gurbani itself. Given knowledge needs to be supplemented and revived because this creates occasions for the reformation of the truant child through citing examples of legendary figures (Babaniya kahaniya put sput karen). In the present context the heirs of the Gurmat tradition need to spread the divine message of the Guru Granth Sahib among the whole of mankind (Jagat jalanda rakh lai apni kirpa dhar). Along with this we need to initiate the coming generation into the Gurmat tradition. This will increase the possibility of reaching out towards people not just at a personal, but at a universal level. This (Stockton) occasion is a commendable step in this direction and those Gursikhs who are actively involved in this endeavour need to be congratulated.

(Dr. Jaspal Singh)  
Vice-Chancellor
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   By Dr. Balkar Singh, Punjabi University, Patiala

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With thanks to and warm regards for assistance and cooperation from the Gurdwara Sahib Stockton Management Committee 2012-14

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A warm thank you to all our Sikh Sangat volunteers:

Special thanks to:
Patrick J. Nevers

Information Desk, Sikh Information Centre