



WARM & RICH & FEARLESS

THE SIKH COLLECTION



Celebrating Five Centuries of a Spirit-Born People
Limited Edition

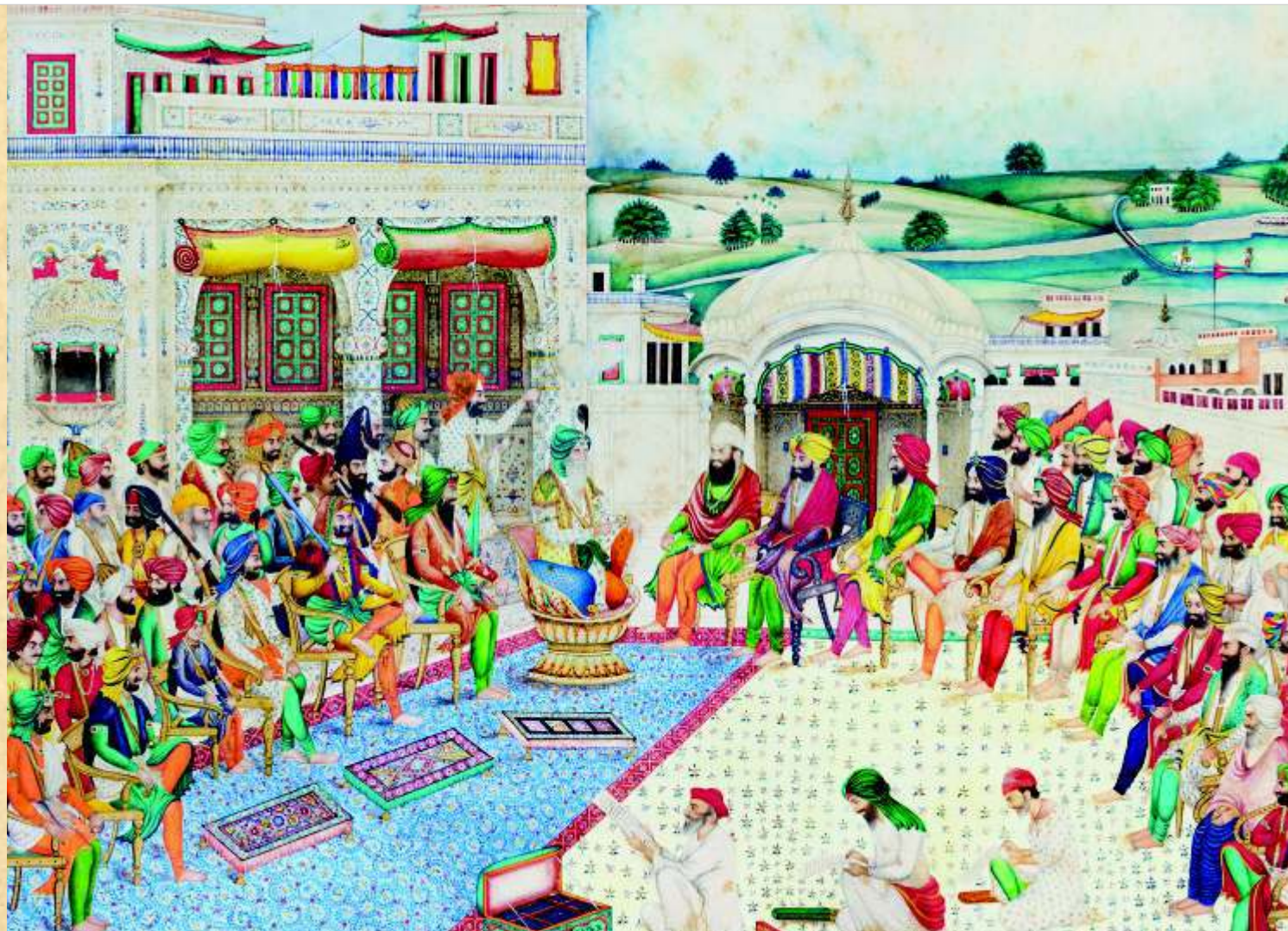


The Sikhs you see around you today, men of sturdy build, handsome countenance, tough strength and unflinching courage are disciples of Baba Nanak. It is his noble personality and sublime spirituality that brought this race into existence. It is through his teachings that their temper is fearless; they keep their heads erect; and their character and countenance are brightened with magnanimity.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE (1861-1941)
NOBEL LAUREATE



Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the Lion of Punjab, at the height of his power presiding over his court at Lahore





ARJAN SINGH, DFC
Marshal of the Indian Air Force

To serve my country as airman and diplomat for over 50 years has been an immense honour for me. From all my travels during that time my abiding memory is of the respect and comradeship between ordinary people of different faiths, none more so than the Sikhs, the people of the Punjab and followers of the teachings of Guru Nanak.

The position of esteem that Sikhs hold in Indian societies around the world has been moulded by men of great wisdom and fearless disposition. This remarkable narrative is now retold through the Sikh Heritage Stamps - historic images of the Sikh faith drawn from leading museums and private collections around the world. Twenty five of the most important stamps have been fashioned in silver and gold to commemorate the epochal events and iconic personalities that shaped them and founded the ideals of Sikhism.

I trust that this set of engravings will remind future generations of the sacrifices and achievements of our forebears.

Arjan Singh, DFC

THE SIKH COLLECTION



INTRODUCED BY
Arjan Singh, DFC



WARM & RICH & FEARLESS THE SIKH COLLECTION

GURU NANAK ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ 1469-1539



Guru Nanak
By Sobha Singh



GURU ARJAN 1563-1606



RISE OF THE MISLS



BHAI DEEP SINGH SHAHEED 1682-1757



ADI GRANTH SAHIB 1604

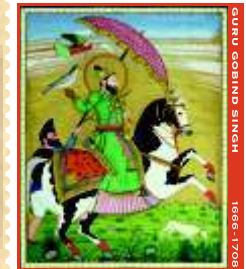
MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH 1780-1839



BIRTH OF THE KHALSA 1699



THE GOLDEN THRONE OF EMPIRE



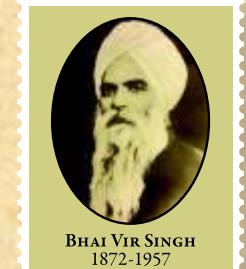
GURU GOBIND SINGH 1666-1708



KHALSA RAJ 1710-15



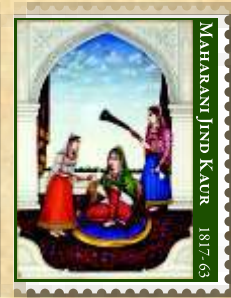
SIKH CAVALRYMEN 1838



BHAI VIR SINGH 1872-1957

HARI SINGH NALWA 1791-1837





UK PUNJAB HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATING FIVE CENTURIES OF A SPIRIT-BORN PEOPLE

25 Sikh Heritage Stamps minted in gold-plated pure Swiss silver

The soul of Punjab, like its artistic tradition, is “warm and rich and fearless”. It is home to the Sikhs, a people warm in manner, rich in heritage and fearless in their defence of the values bestowed upon them by their Gurus. In the words of the legendary Professor Puran Singh they are truly a “spirit-born” people.

Now, for the first time, it has been decided to celebrate their great achievements with the creation of “The Sikh Collection”, 25 of the most important Sikh Heritage Stamps engraved as solid

pure silver ingots and layered with 24-carat gold. “The Sikh Collection” commemorates the remarkable impact the Sikhs have had on 500 years of world history. Beginning with the lives of the Gurus and the emergence of their empire, to their role in two World Wars and continuing contribution in modern times through every facet of life, “The Sikh Collection” is a rare and treasured heirloom to be preserved for future generations.



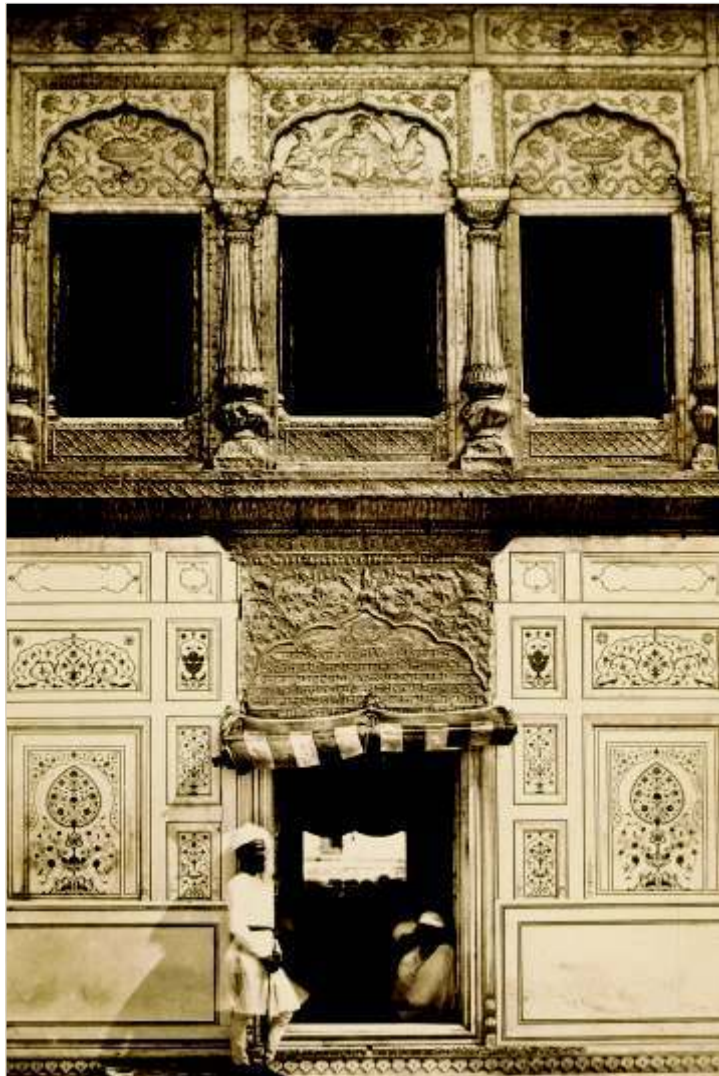
A sculpted ingot and its inspiration. Each engraved ingot is a faithful representation of the original stamp

All ingots are minted in solid silver (2.2mm thick) and layered with pure 24 Carat gold. Each stamp perforation is diamond cut



J.S. Grewal
PROF. J.S. GREWAL

 UK PUNJAB
HERITAGE
ASSOCIATION



TEACHER OF THE WORLD

The first master, Guru Nanak (1469–1539), was born near Lahore, Punjab. A man of infinite wisdom, enhanced by gentle ways and warm wit, he fearlessly spoke out against tyranny, oppression, prejudice and hypocrisy. He composed divinely-inspired hymns (Gurbani), taught right from wrong, and created a new community of devotees, or learners – the Sikhs. To spread his unifying message he undertook four odysseys across Asia. In total, he traversed over 12,000 miles by foot, leaving in his wake a spiritual legacy stretching from Arabia to Assam, and from Tibet to Sri Lanka.

This beautiful ingot shows the iconic image of Guru Nanak with his constant companions - the Hindu fan-bearer Bhai Bala and the Muslim rebeck-player Bhai Mardana.



The ingot's imagery is taken from a gilt copper panel that adorns the entranceway of the Golden Temple of Amritsar.

ਵਹ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਿਓ ਮਰਦ ਅਗੰਮੜਾ ਵਰੀਆਮ ਇਕੇਲਾ ॥
ਵਾਹ ਵਾਹ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਆਪੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਚੇਲਾ ॥੧੭॥

The Sikh scripture has always played a central role in Sikh life, as seen in this photograph of a regimental gurdwara in Sialkot, 1906.



FIRST CAME THE WORD

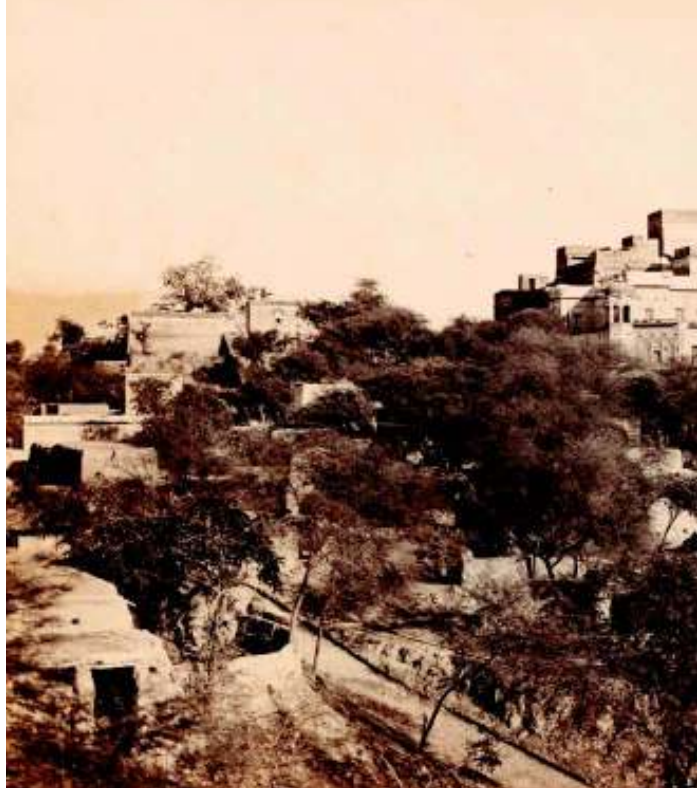
Guru Nanak's mission was continued by nine successors, several of whom also composed divine poetry in the pen name 'Nanak'. In 1604 their collected works were brought together by Guru Arjan (1563-1606) in one authoritative volume, the *Adi Granth Sahib* (the first or primary scripture). Besides the Gurus' works, including his own vast collection of inspired writings, Guru Arjan also included the sacred works of several Hindu and Muslim saints. Spanning five centuries and hailing from very different social backgrounds from across the subcontinent, they had all expressed the same universal message that recognised the Immortal One in all beings, in all places, and at all times.



The Adi Granth Sahib opens with Guru Nanak's fundamental creed, the 'Mool Mantar'.

It is shown in this exquisite ingot in the handwriting of Guru Gobind Singh, who declared the scripture as his successor, and henceforth to be known as Guru Granth Sahib.

One of the key events in Guru Gobind Singh's life was the founding of the Khalsa brotherhood of warriors, scholars and altruists in 1699. This rare photograph of Anandpur Sahib taken in 1870 shows where that event took place some 300 years ago.



THE TENTH MASTER

In response to increasing fanaticism of the Mughal Empire, the warrior-poet Guru Gobind Singh orchestrated the transformation of his Sikhs 'from sparrows to hawks'. Through the art of war and stirring verse, he taught them to cherish war against tyranny as a gateway to salvation. His life and message of a just war, epitomised in his letter to Emperor Aurangzeb, was a turning point in Indian history. Although the Guru himself had never instigated a battle nor sought power through domination, he did predict kingship for his Sikhs. Over the next century, these dauntless warriors overcame their oppressors to enjoy a golden age of sovereignty.

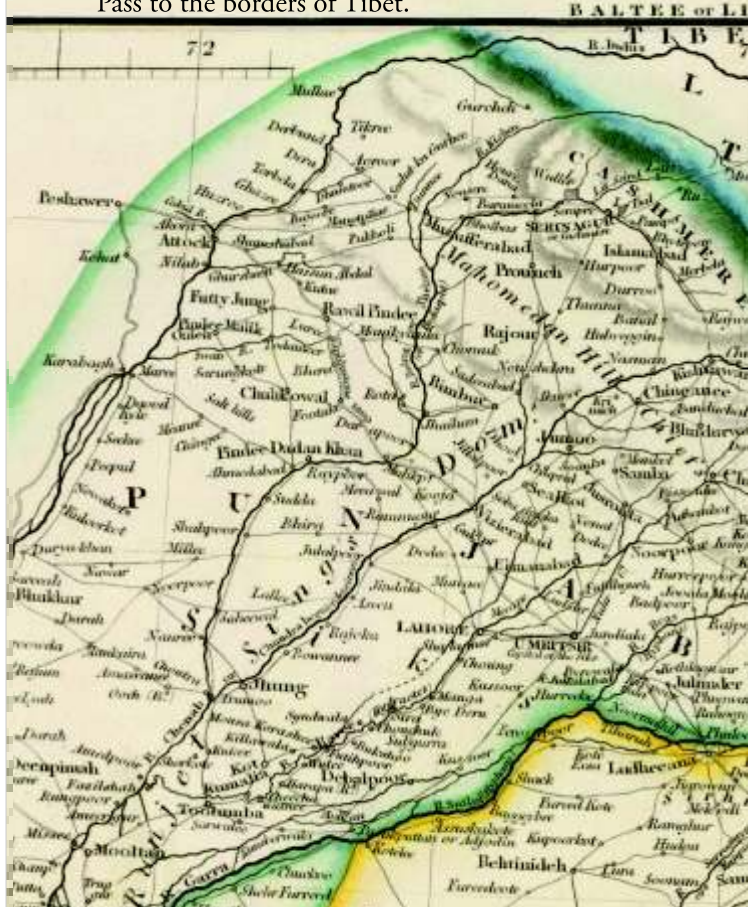
This vibrant ingot, based on a 19th century painting, shows an armed Guru Gobind Singh riding a majestically caparisoned piebald stallion.

In his entourage is a warrior-attendant holding a parasol, the insignia of kingship.



ਘੜੀਐ ਸਬਦੁ ਸਚੀ ਟਕਸਾਲ ॥

At the height of his power Ranjit Singh was respected as 'Sher-e-Punjab', the Lion of a Punjab that extended across its vast plains from the Khyber Pass to the borders of Tibet.



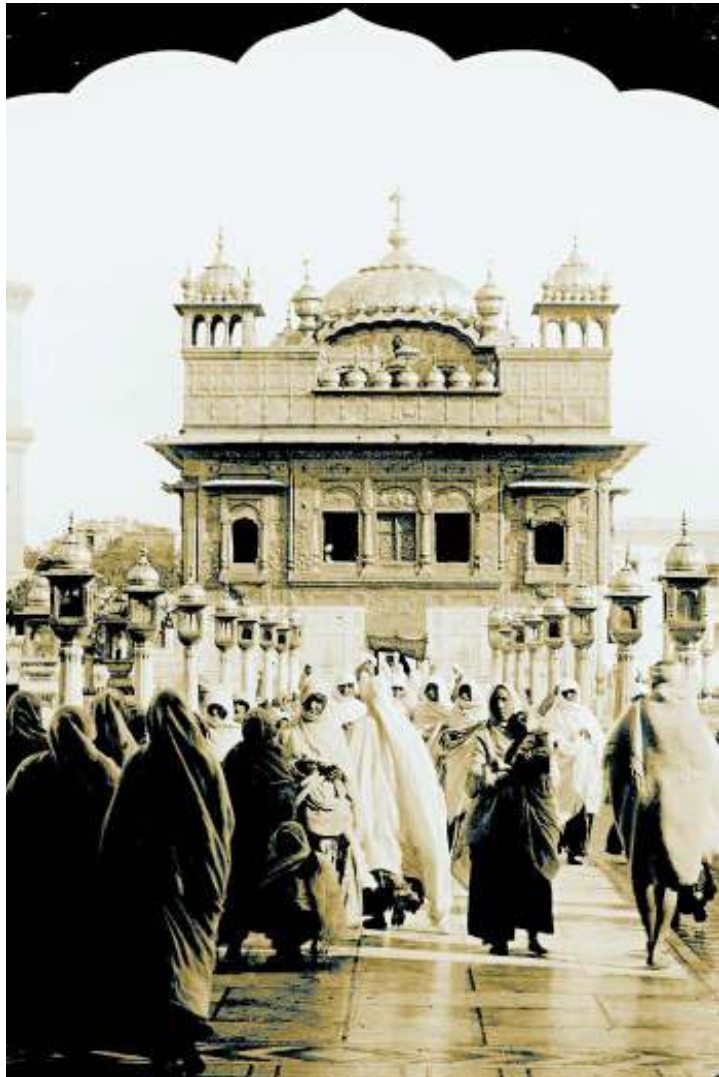
THE LION OF PUNJAB

Diminutive in stature but mighty in ability, the most successful Sikh to fulfil Guru Gobind Singh's prophecy was Ranjit Singh (1780–1839). This one-eyed chieftain possessed a unique mix of bravery, ruthless determination and keen intelligence to match his ambitions. His first major conquest came in 1799, aged just 19, when the gates of Lahore were opened to him. Within three years he had wrested control of Amritsar. By taking the city of the Harmandir Sahib, the holiest of holy Sikh sites, Ranjit Singh quickly established himself as 'maharaja' (great king) of the Sikhs. Though unlettered, he forged a secular kingdom that held his British and Afghan neighbours at bay for four decades.



The painting upon which this stunning ingot is based was commissioned by Ranjit Singh's trusted Italian officer, General Ventura, while on leave in Europe in 1838.

The finished work was presented to France's King Louis-Philippe (1773-1850) as a mark of friendship between the two nation states.



SIKH 'VATICAN CITY'

Ever since it was founded by Guru Arjan in 1588, the Harmandir Sahib has come to symbolise not only the epitome of Sikh architecture but also the undying love of its devotees. The complex that developed around it in the early 1800s was, according to one eyewitness, the Sikhs' very own 'Vatican City'. It uniquely encapsulated every aspect of Sikh heritage ranging from art, architecture and spiritual philosophy to literature, music and the warrior tradition. In its heyday it was highly regarded as both a beacon for those in search of spiritual enlightenment and as a centre of classical learning.

This resplendent ingot shows a historic panoramic view of the Harmandir Sahib in all its glory surrounded by the ancient 'bungas' or hospices of the Sikh nobility and religious orders, the gurdwara of Baba Atal and the Akal Takht.

The ebb and flow of pilgrims in 1906, as captured by famed Antarctica cinematographer, Herbert Ponting.



ਨਾਨਕ ਕੀ ਬੇਨੰਤੀਆ ਕਰਿ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਦੀਜੈ ਨਾਮੁ ॥
ਹਰਿ ਮੇਲਹੁ ਸੁਆਮੀ ਸੰਗਿ ਪ੍ਰਭ ਜਿਸ ਕਾ ਨਿਹਚਲ ਧਾਮ ॥੧॥



CREATED BY THE WORLD'S FINEST ENGRAVERS

For more than 50 years the Hallmark Group has worked with Post Offices and governments around the world to re-create the most valuable and important stamps as engraved solid silver ingots.

“The Sikh Collection” celebrates the rich cultural and spiritual legacy of the Sikhs, a spirit-born people inspired by Guru Nanak’s universal message of compassion and truth.

To ensure the highest quality, each Sikh Heritage Stamp Ingot has been specially crafted by the world’s finest artists and Swiss craftsmen. First, the image is sculpted large scale in bas-relief. Pure silver ingots (Swiss .999) are placed in a huge 360-ton minting press and struck with massive force to bring out every tiny detail of the original design.

Perforations are precision diamond cut and each stamp ingot is layered with pure 24 Carat gold to create a perfect golden masterpiece.

GIFTS TO SUBSCRIBERS

As a subscriber to the Sikh Collection, you will receive one Sikh Heritage Stamp Ingot every month for 25 months (or at a faster rate if you wish – see options on your Order Form) until your collection is complete. In addition you will receive the following at no extra cost:

SPECIAL SUBSCRIBERS GIFT

THE GOLDEN TEMPLE OF AMRITSAR: REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST

by Amandeep Singh Madra & Parmjit Singh

This sumptuously designed volume features nearly 500 of the rarest and most beautiful images of the shrine, city and inhabitants of Amritsar, and combines them with two centuries of eyewitness accounts penned by many remarkable characters from around the world.

Specially bound in a double-fronted, gold embossed cover, this book is a beautiful and comprehensive compliment to “The Sikh Collection.”

Rs. 3,995 (MRP)



GOLD EMBOSSED COLLECTOR'S CHEST

This beautiful velvet-lined, lockable chest is designed to house and protect your collection for many years of enjoyment. A handmade mother-of-pearl spatula is provided to enable you to remove and inspect each ingot

JEWELER'S CLOTH AND COTTON GLOVES

Formulated to jeweler's standards, the cloth and gloves are the ideal way to safely handle your precious collection

FACT CARDS AND ALBUM

Each stamp ingot is accompanied by a fascinating Fact Card detailing the history behind the iconic image. Also included is a handsome Fact Card Album for storing these informative cards

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

Each subscriber is issued with an officially numbered Certificate confirming the edition limit and the precious metal purity of each stamp ingot.



HOW TO PLACE YOUR ORDER

You may order your collection in any of these three ways:

BY MAIL: Complete the enclosed Priority Order Form and mail it with payment for your first stamp ingot in the postage-paid envelope to:
Hallmark India Private Limited, F-2,
2nd Floor, Kalkaji, New Delhi – 110 019

ONLINE: Order online at

www.thesikhcollection.com

BY PHONE: 011-4640 4444 (9.30am to 5.30pm)



THE SIKH COLLECTION INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

- Twenty-five 24 Carat gold-layered, solid silver stamp ingots
- Jeweler's cloth and cotton handling gloves
- Elegant lacquered wood collector's chest with mother-of-pearl spatula
- Twenty-five individual Fact Cards and Collectors' Album
- Special hardbound edition of "The Golden Temple of Amritsar"
- Numbered Certificate of Authenticity

The reverse of each stamp ingot is engraved with the official logo of Hallmark Group Ltd, the UKPHA logo and the manufacturer's mark confirming the assayed purity of the precious metal.





The Sikh Collection is an Official Programme of Hallmark Group Limited issued in association with the UK Punjab Heritage Association. It is the first Stamp Ingot programme ever produced featuring Sikh Heritage Stamps and its release in India is strictly limited to 3,700 editions



UK PUNJAB HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

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PRIORITY ORDER FORM

Please accept my application for set (s) of The Sikh Collection comprising 25 gold-plated, pure Swiss silver stamp replicas. I understand that each stamp replica will cost Rs 8,500* (including all accessories, taxes and delivery costs). My first ingots will be delivered within 30 working days of this application.

One per Month Purchase Option

Set (s) ordered Ingot Rs. 8,500 per month = Rs pm

Completes Set Delivery

Set (s) ordered Rs. 212,500 per set = Rs

Delivery within 90 days

*Price can only alter subject to changes in Government taxes

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Address:.....
.....

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Please indicate how you wish to pay and fill in the relevant details

Cheque

Enclosed is my cheque for The Sikh Collection. Cheque to be made payable to "Hallmark India Pvt. Ltd."

Automatic payment by Credit Card

Your Credit Card will be debited only when your ingot(s) are ready for despatch.



Name as on Card

Credit Card Number

Amount Rs.

Card Expiry Date

Month

Year

Signature

Order Date / / dd/mm/yy

Order Reference

Note: Please include a signed photocopy of the front face of your credit card with your order. This is a requirement for your own security