

Report on the Kalgi and Weapons of Sri Guru Gobind Ji Found

National Sikh Heritage Centre & Holocaust Museum have located a report written for the Chief Minister of Punjab in 1976

Wahe Guru Ji Ka Khalsa, Wahe Guru Ji Ki Fateh.

A report to the Chief Minister, Punjab Government, written on January 1st 1976 by W.G. Archer that discusses his search for the Kalgi and sword of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji has been discovered. The report was uncovered in the archives of the British Library by the research teams of the National Sikh Heritage Centre and Holocaust Museum, Derby, UK and the Sikh Community and Youth Services (Nottingham), UK.

W.G. Archer was a curator at the Victoria and Albert (V&A) Museum (London, UK) and sadly died in 1979. He played a pivotal role in liaising with the great-great-granddaughter of Lord Dalhousie for the purchase of the Sacred Shasters of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji in 1965 for return to Sri Anandpur Sahib. The purchase price is believed to have been £25,000, which in today's terms is in excess of £753,500. Clearly, the Sikh sentiments were exploited to the full by the greed of the Dalhousie descendants.

Evidence discovered in archives by the research team and which will be published shortly by the National Sikh Heritage Centre and Holocaust Museum support this fact.

It is not clear whether the report was actually ever sent to Giani Zail Singh; but what is known is that W.G. Archer had travelled to Panjab and met Giani Zail Singh along with other Sikh scholars.

The report highlights that a number of Sikh scholars had genuinely tried hard over several years to find the Kalgi and the two missing Kirpans of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji and they were assisted by the V&A Museum's experienced curator.

Manraj Singh Khela, Director of Strategic Development and Research at the National Sikh Heritage Centre and Holocaust Museum said, "the V&A made a further unsuccessful attempt in 1998-99 when preparing for the exhibition and book, 'The Art

of the Sikh Kingdoms', to once again search for one of the missing Kirpans. The Museum has confirmed recently to us that there is no real prospect of finding the missing shasters at the V&A as it was not marked in any way so its identification will be near impossible." Manraj goes onto to say, "our research has also established that the Indian High Commission in London under the Stewardship of Kuldip Nayar ade an attempt in 2000 to stimulate search for these sacred artifacts but without success. We also understand that they too had provided a brief to the Panjab Government but what actions the Panjab Government or Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) have taken as a result is not clear."

The combined research teams of the National Sikh Heritage Centre and Holocaust Museum and the Sikh Community and Youth Services (Nottingham), some 12 strong, is continuing to pursue the research and any new and interesting information will be made available shortly. A dedicated website is also being developed to share the research and to prevent duplication of effort.

In the meantime the Panth awaits the decision on the late Dr Channan Singh Chan's Kalgi which Kamaljit Singh Boparai and DIG Mr Harpreet Singh Sidhu took to Sri Harmindar Sahib at the beginning of July 2009.

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