

Our Rep. in Germany writes:

First of all I would like to apologise for my failure to react earlier to your letters regarding translating **SIKH REVIEW** articles and sending these to "VISIONEN" published in Germany.

In October 2008 I sent to them an article on "300 YEARS GURU GRANTH SAHIB", which could not be printed due to lack of space. I am in contact with the dealing editor, Mrs. Ingrid Hasswani. Recently, I got translated your article "CELEBRATING GURU GRANTH SAHIB - THE SOUL OF HUMANITY" (S.R. September 2008), which I liked very much. It has been sent to "VISIONEN" for printing in the next issue. Let us hope it will materialise this time.

We, the SIKH SANGAT of Berlin too celebrated the "300th GURTA GADDI DIVAS" in a Seminar in German language. You may like to write about this in the next issue of *The Sikh Review*:

"300th ANNIVERSARY OF GURTA GADDI DIVAS IN THE GERMAN CAPITAL, BERLIN"

The Sikh Sangat of Berlin celebrated the Gurta Gaddi Divas with a seminar on 15th November 2008 under the theme "GURU GRANTH SAHIB, THE ELEVENTH GURU OF THE SIKHS". In an auditorium of the Technical University Berlin approximately 350 invitees, half of them Germans, and many from other religions, attended the 2 hour programme, which was a resounding success.

Except for the Gurbani Keertan, the programme was in German Language.

The programme started with a Shabad by Mrs. Harcharan Kaur Kumar and Mrs. Gurdip Kaur Chauhan.

Sardar Amarjeet Singh (S.R. Representative) welcomed the guests and explained the importance of the celebration giving information about the Sikh Religion and Guru Granth Sahib. One of the highlights of the programme was Keertan by the famous Musician Group "SINGH BANDHU" of Delhi, who carried the audience with their melodious rendering of Gurbani Keertan in classical ragas.

They started their programme with "BANI GURU GURU HAI BANI" and ended with "SAB SIKHAN KO HUKAM HAI GURU MANEYO GRANTH".

The key-note speakers of the evening were two German scholars.

Mrs. Dr. Gabriele Yonan, a research scholar on world religions read a paper on "GURU GRANTH, A ROLE-MODEL FOR INTER-FAITH UNDERSTANDING".

Professor Dr. Georg Pfeffer, who has spent many years in the Indian Subcontinent, spoke about "MY INTERACTION WITH SIKHS". Both the lectures were highly appreciated by the audience.

Mrs. Professor Barbara John, ex-commissioner for Integration of Immigrants spoke very highly of the Sikh Community in Berlin. **The local M.P. Mr. Detlef Dzembitzki, of the ruling Social Democate Party, praised the peace-loving Sikhs in Berlin and suggested that immigrants like Sikhs should be most welcome in Berlin.**

Mr. Klaus Skarabis, who represented AKR an Inter-Faith organisation of the World Religions in Berlin, brought the good wishes of other religions and spoke about the universality of the Sikh Religion.

The Seminar naturally ended, with Guru Ka Langar, which was highly enjoyed, especially by the Germans. A brochure on "GURU GRANTH SAHIB, DER ELFTE GURU DER SIKHS" was released and distributed to the audience.

Editor's Note:

We are delighted to publish this short report of the First ever Seminar in Germany on SGGs. We

owe this initiative to our representative the self-effacing Sr. Amarjeet Singh who conducted the event.

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SGGS: Initiative in Germany

We have received an excellent handbook in Germany from our Berlin representative, Sr. Amarjeet Singh, marking the 300th *Gurgaddi* celebration of Sri Guru Granth Sahib. The booklet opens with German translation of the *Mulmantra*. Essential aspects of the Sikh faith have been encapsulated in 24 pages in art paper. In particular, the fact that the Holy Scripture is in *Ragas*, and *set to music in lyrical poetry*, should appeal to the enlightened German people who take pride in great philosophers, like Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and composer-musicians like Ludwig von Beethoven (1770-1827). Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sahib Berlin is on website: www.gurdwara-berlin.de

Our collective compliments to the blessed Sangat of Berlin!

S.S.

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Calcutta Celebrates Sri Dasmesh Prakash

A Report on the 'Nagar Kirtan'

The students and the teachers of all the Khalsa schools in Calcutta participated in the 'Nagar Kirtan', along with thousands of other devotees, to mark the auspicious occasion of the Prakash Utsav of Guru Gobind Singh Ji on December 28, 2008. The students marched to the beat of the school bands, all liveried and buoyant with enthusiasm. The marching students displayed placards and posters exhorting every one to keep the Metropolis and its roads clean. They also highlighted the teachings of Guru Gobind Singh Ji through attractively designed placards.

'Nagar Kirtans' are generally organised by the Sikh community in every nook and corner of the world before the Avtar Divas celebration of our glorious Gurus, primarily to promote their teachings and also to express fraternal solidarity. As a gesture of service for the participating devotees, many people organize the distributors of tea, snacks, fruits and sweets, enroute.

Post Script:

As a progressive community, let us all pledge to carry garbage bags with us, so that we can dispose of the plastic cups, peels, seeds, etc. collectively so that the roads offer a clean spectacle after the Nagar Kirtan. The students of Khalsa schools demonstrated this in an exemplary manner during this Gurburab. Let us keep up the good work.

- Avtar Singh



