

Gyani Title for Sikh Scholar Max Arthur Macauliffe



MONTREAL: A recent International Conference: *Formulating Methodology for Interpreting Gurbani* held here highlighted the criteria for interpreting the scripture of the Aad Guru Granth Sahib and conferred the title of GYANI on Sikh-British scholar Max Arthur Macauliffe.

Scholars from Canada, the US and the UK made presentations to highlight the inadequacies of the available translations of the Sikh scripture. In his keynote address, Prof Devinder Singh Chahal quoted Max Arthur Macauliffe who was the first to point out the lack of understanding of the universal message of the Sikh Gurus. Various scholars presented papers at the conference which was dedicated to Macauliffe as his centennial anniversary fell this year on March 15.

- Dr. Avtar Singh Dhaliwal (North Carolina) spoke on “Explicative methodology for interpreting Gurbani”.
- Dr. Kulbir S Thind (California) made a presentation titled “Some Pitfalls of Translation of Aad Guru Granth Sahib into English”.
- Prof. Devinder Singh Chahal (Laval, Canada) discussed “Application of Science and Logic in Interpreting Gurbani”.
- Dr. Harbans Lal (Texas) stressed that translation must always be consistent with Gurmat doctrines, dedicating his paper to the Macauliffe Centennial.
- Devinder Singh Sekhon (Brampton, Canada) illustrated examples how incorrect splitting of *Larivar* (continuous text) caused errors in the interpretation of Gurbani.
- Other papers were on mixed topics such as “Exploration of Gender Equality in Sikhism” by Lovpreet Kaur from Wolverhampton University in the UK. There was another paper “Amrit Bani as a Trajectory of a Distinct Identity” by Charan Singh from Oshawa (Canada).

The conference unanimously passed two resolutions:

First, it was resolved that ‘*Formulation of Methodology for Interpreting Gurbani*’ by world class scholars is urgently needed. The resolution to this effect was moved by Dr Kulbir Singh Thind (San Mateo, US) and seconded by Dr Teja Singh (Brampton, Canada) and approved unanimously by the attendees with voice vote.

Secondly, it was unanimously decided to bestow the honorific title of GYANI upon Max Arthur Macauliffe for his contributions to Sikhism and introducing Sikhism to the English-speaking people of the West. The resolution was moved by Dr. Harpal Singh Buttar of Ottawa and seconded by Dr Teja Singh of Brampton.

**He will now be known as
Gyani Max Arthur Macauliffe.**

See more on next page:

Prof Devinder Singh Chahal, PhD, Editor-in-Chief, Institute for Understanding Sikhism, 4418 Rue Martin-Plouffe, Laval, Quebec, Canada H7W5L9; Email: Sikhism@iuscanada.com

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Some of the participants with speakers in the front row. From Left to Right: Ms Lovepreet Kaur, Dr Kulbir Singh Thind, Dr Devinder Singh Sekhon, Dr Harbans Lal, Prof Devinder Singh Chahal, Dr Avtar Singh Dhaliwal, Dr Teja Singh, Sr Charan Singh, Sr Daljit Singh. Standing: Executive Members of the IUS and some of the participants and audience.