Under the supervision of the eminent Sikh researcher Mr. Bobby Bansal, this Sikhlens exhibit within the Sikh Arts & Film Festival brings to life the extraordinary international melting pot known as the court of Maharajah Ranjit Singh (1780-1839). British, French, Spanish, Russian, Italian, even American expatriates served under the Sikh Maharajah’s secular and tolerant leadership, working as his soldiers, generals, diplomats, intelligence agents, ambassadors, bureaucrats and translators. The exhibit accentuates Ranjit's powerful interfaith spirit, and his drive for excellence without regard to religion or race or ethnic background. It showcases him as a brilliant administrator who successfully built his legendary empire by recruiting “the best of the best” from all over the globe.

Despite vast and fundamental differences in religious beliefs, social mores, and cultural traditions, these individuals from far-flung lands lived and worked in harmony, due to the Maharajah’s forward-thinking ways. The world-famous Singh Twins, passionate observers of Ranjit, have fashioned a spectacular coin commemorating him and the kingdom he created and ruled over. The 2 3/8” diameter coin—fashioned from an alloy of steel, brass, and copper, will be on display here.

For fans of Ranjit to take home, we are providing high-quality glossy oversized 2016 calendars produced especially by Sikhlens and Sikhpoint. This calendar brings to life one of Sikh history’s most inspiring figures, and demonstrates to everyone, how the Sikh religion can encompass and embrace people from everywhere, practicing any and all faiths and creeds.

EXHIBIT SCHEDULE: November 20th, 2015 - February 15th, 2016
Leatherby Libraries • Doy and Dee Henley Reading Room, 2nd Floor