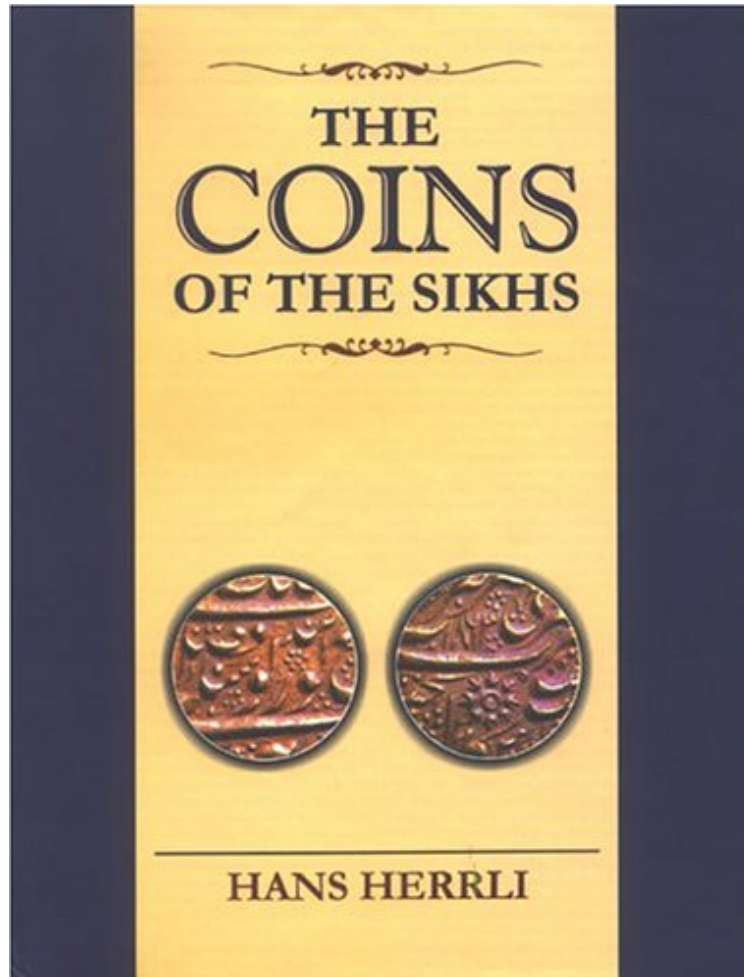


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Coins of the Sikhs (Second Revised and Augmented Edition)

Hans Herrli

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Classic WorkBy Dr. Johnson C. PhilipCoins of the Sikhs occupy a special place in Indian numismatics. However, very little work was done on them till Herrli wrote this book. The book not only brought Sikh coins to the world numismatic map, it also suddenly made them a collectors item in great demand. Two more books appeared after his work, but he is the pioneer in this field.This is the second revised and augmented edition in the light of a good amount of information that came to light after the first edition was published. Many errors have been eliminated and the book has become a collectors item. No study of Sikh numismatics can progress without consulting this book first.Highly recommended.

The Sikh coinage started in the second half of the eighteenth century, reached its apogee during the rule of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and ended abruptly with the annexation of the Panjab by the British in 1849. Although the Sikhs struck coins in about 20 mints, their coinage remained quite uniform until the end. Their rupees bear religious legends and never mention their issuer, but Amritsar, their main economic and religious center, produced the most complex system of mintmarks in modern India. Early observers were often baffled by the first major non-Mughal coinage of northern India and their descriptions of Sikh coins are commonly full of errors, errors that have all too often survived until today. In a first part the present book gives a short historical introduction and a general survey of the Sikh coinage. The second part consists of an illustrated catalogue of all actually known Sikh coin types arranged by mints. Several appendices offer a brief survey of Sikh tokens and medals and a few important numismatic texts in extensor. This book is not only intended as a useful tool for coin collectors, but also as a source of material for historians and students of the economy of the Sikh empire.