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Niẓāmī through Digital Eyes: Observations on Masterworks in the British Library

This paper aims to illustrate some of the ways in which expectations about the benefits of digitisation have been met by the experience with the British Library's Persian Manuscripts Digitisation Project. The examples selected consist of text passages and miniature paintings from some of the Library's best-known copies of Niẓāmī's *Khamsa* ('Five Poems'). The benefits accruing from their digitisation are by no means confined to conservation and facilitating art-historical research, important though those are. Discoveries are being made about textual history, relationships between text and illustration, and even codicology, patronage, and ownership history.