Add. 25900

**Date**
Copy dated 846 (1442/43)

**Title**
Niẓāmī Ganjāvī, *Khamsah*

**Content**
The five poems making up the *Khamsah* by Niẓāmī Ganjāvī (1140 or 41-1202 or 3), containing 19 whole-page miniatures, one (f 41r) thought to date from the mid-15th century; 14 in the Herat later-Timurid style; and four (ff 234v, 245v, 250v and 271v) are Tabriz/Safavid work c. 1535-40. Three paintings (ff 121v, 161r and 231v) are attributed to Bihzad.

Illustrations:
(3v) A prince and his retinue being entertained at night in a garden.
(4r) Preparations for a banquet.

Add. 25900, ff 5v-30v
*Makhzan al-asrār*

Illustrations:
(18r) Sultān Sanjar and the old woman.

Add. 25900, ff 31v-100v
*Khusraw u Shīrīn*

Illustrations:
(41r) Shīrīn looks at the portrait of Khusraw watched by Shāpūr.
(44v) Khusraw watches Shīrīn bathing.
(70r) Farhād carries Shīrīn and her horse. Sculptures on the rocks.
(77v) A servant laying a carpet before Khusraw's horse as he arrives at Shīrīn's castle. Inscription dated Rajab 895/1490 (not 898 as stated in Titley, 1977).

Add. 25900, ff 101v-150v
*Laylā u Majnūn*

Illustrations:
(110v) Laylā and Majnūn at school. Inscriptions on the architrave and below.
(114v) Majnūn at the Ka'bah with his father and other pilgrims. Inscriptions above door.
(121v) Battle of the tribes watched by Majnūn. Ascribed to Bihzād in margin between verses.
(130v) Majnūn with animals in the desert.

Add. 25900, ff 151v-205r
*Haft paykar*

Illustrations:
(161r) Bahram Gūr kills the dragon. Ascribed to Bihzād in margin between verses.
(179r) Bahram Gūr with the Indian Princess in the Black Pavilion.
(188r) Māhān confronted by dīvs finds his horse transformed into a seven-headed dragon (story told by the Princess of Khvarazm).

Add. 25900, ff 206v-319v
*Iskandarnāmah*

Beginning with the *Sharafnāmah* (ff 206v-281r)
Illustrations:

(231v) Battle between Iskandar and Dārā. Ascribed to Bihzād in margin between verses.

(234v) Iskandar comforts the dying Dārā.

(245v) Nūshābah recognises Iskandar from his portrait. Inscription.

(250v) Iskandar visiting the hermit.

(271v) Iskandar lassoing Kintāl, the Russian champion.

Followed by the Khiradnāmah (ff 282v-319v).

Language

Persian

Physical description

Material: Paper.
Foliation: 319 ff
Dimensions: Leaf 19.1 x 12.1 cm
Date: Colophon on f 30v: 846 (1442-43)
Script: Nasta'liq; 25 lines to a page in 4 columns
Decorations: 19 single paintings. First four pages richly illuminated. Decorated headings
Binding: European brown leather binding.

Ownership

Acquired by James R. Ballantyne, Nov. 1837. Purchased by the British Museum from Mrs. Ballantyne 12 November 1864 (f 1r), or 30 August 1865 (f 320v).

Bibliography