Leaves in the Wind

Fragmentology of Persianate Manuscripts

5–6 December 2026

Royal Asiatic Society

London

Conference Programme

Saturday 5 December 2026

9:00–9:15 **Welcome remarks**

Alison Ohta · Shiva Mihan

9:15–10:45 **Session 1**

Sacred Texts: Transmission and Dispersal

Chair: Marcus Milwright

Muntazir Ali & Michael Willis
Archaeological Survey of India / Royal Asiatic Society
IO Loth 4 in the British Library:
A Kufic Qur'ān from India ascribed to Imām 'Alī

Kianoosh Motaghedi [ONLINE]
University of Kashan
The Qur'anic Treasury of Shah Nematollah Vali:
A Codicological Introduction to the Manuscript Collection of the Mahan Shrine

Milad Bigdeloo [ONLINE]
Allameh Tabataba'i University
When Translation Collects the Leaves:
Translational Evidence in the Identification of Early New Persian Qurʾān Fragments

10:45–11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15–12:45 **Session 2**

Reconstructing Literary and Historical Corpora

Chair: Anna Contadini

Andrew Peacock
University of St Andrews
Reconstructing the Works of Badr al-Din Kashmiri and Their Scriptoria

Nilab Saeedi [ONLINE]
Austrian Academy of Sciences
The Ottoman History Bureau: Şehnāmecilik

Gennady Kurin
University of Oxford
Reassembling a Royal Voice:
The Manuscript Transmission of Shah Ṭahmāsb's Five Stories

12:45–13:45 **Lunch break**

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13:45–15:45 **Session 3**

Anthologies, Fragments and Artistic Assemblage

Chair: Negar Habibi

Denise-Marie Teece [ONLINE]
New York University Abu Dhabi / New York University, Institute of Fine Arts
Fragmentation as Curatorial Concept: Supra-Illustrative Modes in Persian Manuscripts

Michael Chagnon
Aga Khan Museum / University of Toronto
Reconstructing a Dispersed Majmuʿa from Safavid Shiraz

Mahroo Moosavi
Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, Max Planck Institute
The Poetics of the Fragment: Assemblage and Visual Rhetoric in a Safavid Ashmolean Folio

Richard William Ellis
University of Wisconsin–Madison
Seeing King Solomon Through the Verses of Hafez: A Critical Study of Two Safavid Manuscript Fragments

15:45–16:15 **Coffee break**

16:15–17:45 **Session 4**

Lost Texts and Literary Transmission

Chair: Richard McClary

Mina Raminsabet [ONLINE]
University of Oklahoma
Misattributed to Rumi: Reassembling Sultan Walad's Ghazals from Early Mevlevi Manuscripts

Syed Baqar Mehdi Rizvi [ONLINE]
University of Texas at Austin
The Missing Persian Works of Naẓīr Akbarābādī:
A Quest for Early Modern Macaronic Verse and Instructional Books

Sajedeh Yousefi & Morteza Rezazadeh [ONLINE]
Hikmat International Institute
Shiʿi Textual Trajectories to Ḥillah:
Reconstructing Transregional Networks through Ibn Ṭāwūs's Library

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9:00–10:30 **Session 5**

Reconstructing Dispersed *Shāhnāma*s

Chair: Shiva Mihan

Negar Habibi & Richard Piran McClary
University of Geneva; University of York
A Shahnama in the Wind: (Digitally) Reuniting a Dispersed 15th-Century Shirazi Manuscript

Quentin Arnoux
University of Toronto
From Fragment to Codex: Codicological Evidence and Internal Documentation for Reconstructing a Deluxe Shāhnāmeh by Muʿīn Muṣavvir

Ali Shapouran
University of St Andrews
Text as a Tool for Localising Manuscript Fragments: Theoretical and Practical Considerations from the Early Shāhnāmas

10:30–11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00–13:00 **Session 6**

Material Evidence, Attribution and Manuscript Reception

Chair: Yasmin Faghihi

Tayyebeh Babaei
Trinity College Dublin / Chester Beatty
Reconstructing a Dispersed Corpus: Binding Practice and Place of Completion at the Āstāna of Ḥusām al-Dīn Ibrāhīm in Shiraz

Elhadj Benmoussa
University of East London
The Pasted-Down Persianate: Reconstructing Manuscript Lives from Binding Waste, Flyleaves and Repair Fragments

Roza Ashkenazi [ONLINE]
Russian Academy of Sciences
Methods of Attribution (Dating and Localization) of Judeo-Persian Manuscripts: Case of MS 1398 from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America

Mahdi Keshavarz Afshar [ONLINE]
Tarbiat Modares University
Reassembling Safavid Reception: Persian Foliation and Annotation across the Dispersed Morgan Picture Bible

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13:00–13:45 **Lunch break**

13:45–15:45 **Session 7**

Dispersal, Collecting and the Art Market

Chair: Michael Chagnon

Moya Carey
Chester Beatty
Last Orders: Chester Beatty's 1937 Purchases from Demotte Inc

Mahsa Nouri Soula [ONLINE]
Temple University, Philadelphia
Leaves on Approval: Fragmentation and the Market for Persian Manuscripts in the John Frederick Lewis Collection in Philadelphia

Margaret Shortle
Museum für Islamische Kunst, Berlin
Implications: Modern Markets, Fakes and an Illegitimate Field?

Parnian Ferdossi
University of Oxford
Tracing the Assembly of Persian Art through Room X

15:45–16:15 **Coffee break**

16:15–17:45 **Session 8**

Manuscript Collections and Artistic Traditions in South Asia

Chair: Ursula Sims-Williams

Jennifer Howes
Independent Scholar / Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society
Fragments of the Mysore Sultanate: Persian Manuscripts from Tipu's court collected by Thomas Marriott

Bronwen Gulkis
University of St Andrews
The Prince's Missing Muraqqa: Dara Shikoh's Calligraphic Works and Their Later Reception

Jochen Sokoly [ONLINE]
Virginia Commonwealth University, Doha
Contemporary South Asian Miniature Painting: The Work and Studio Practice of Ajay and Vinita Sharma, Jaipur

17:45–18:00 **Closing remarks**