

WDL Description Worksheet  
Doha Workshop 2013

*Please fill out this worksheet as completely as possible. If any of the information is not known, please write “unknown”.*

1. What is the original title of this item? (Please transcribe the title exactly as it is written on the item – if no original title is available, please write “None”.)

Arabiae Veteris Typus

2. What is this item?

This map is of the Arabian Peninsula.

3. Please describe it physically (size, contents, distinguishing features, etc.), if possible. How is the item composed or divided?

The map shows Arabia Felix, Arabia Deserta, and Arabia Petraea. Other regions included are Palestine, Mesopotamia, Chaldea, Persia, Aegyptus, and Aethiopia. Thus “Indicara,” “Iacara,” “Ichara,” and “Aphana” all could indicate the same place: the spot where Alexander the Great intended to build a capital on an island in the Arabian Gulf, enabling him to control the trade of the region and extend his empire (a scheme that he was unable to accomplish before he died). Archeological research suggests that this place was Failakah Island in present-day Kuwait, although some historians place it at Abu Ali Island. The map shows a peninsula near present-day Bahrain. The islands of “Arathos” and “Thylaso” indicate Muharraq and Bahrain islands, respectively, which are actually located north of Qatar. On this map, they are placed on the Persian coast side, probably because the cartographer confused them with “Hormuz” and “Qishm.”

4. Who created it?

The map is by Christoph Weigel.

5. What are important facts to know about this creator (where he/she was born, when, life achievements, etc.)?

Christoph Weigel (1654-1725) was a German engraver, art dealer, and publisher.

6. When was the item created?

Published in 1720.

7. Where was it created?

Nuremberg.

8. What is the significance of this particular item? What makes it special?

A large number of towns are shown. The title cartouche includes nine vignette coins. The tribal and town names on the map are those used by Ptolemy. Some are used more than once, with variations. Qatar is mentioned on the map as “Catara,” but its shape and location are not accurate.

9. Is there any other information that is important to note about the item? (For example, if any of the answers to the above questions are unusual or unexpected, please explain why.)