

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”.)

القانون في الطب

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

Summarizing the medical knowledge of the time and comprising five volumes, it is considered one of the great classics in the history of medicine. It was regarded as a medical authority as late as the early 19th century.

*The Canon of Medicine* contains “some of the most illuminating thoughts pertaining to distinction of mediastinitis from pleurisy; contagious nature of phthisis; distribution of diseases by water and soil; careful description of skin troubles; of sexual diseases and perversions; [and] of nervous ailments.”

3. Who created it?

Al Hussein ibn Abdullah Ibn Sina (also known by the Latinized version of his name, Avicenna).

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

Al Hussein ibn Abdullah Ibn Sina (also known by the Latinized version of his name, Avicenna, 980–1037 AD; 370–428 AH) was a Muslim Persian polymath and the foremost physician and philosopher of his time.

In his *Introduction to the History of Science*, the eminent historian of science George Sarton (1884–1956) characterized Ibn Sina as “one of the most famous exponents of Muslim universalism and an eminent figure in Islamic learning,” noting that “for a thousand years he has retained his original renown as one of the greatest thinkers and medical scholars in history.”

5. When was the item created?

Unknown.

6. Where was it created?

Unknown.

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

Ibn Sina's *Al-Qānūn fī al-ṭibb* (The canon of medicine) is his best known work. It is considered one of the great classics in the history of medicine. It was regarded as a medical authority as late as the early 19th century.

8. 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.)