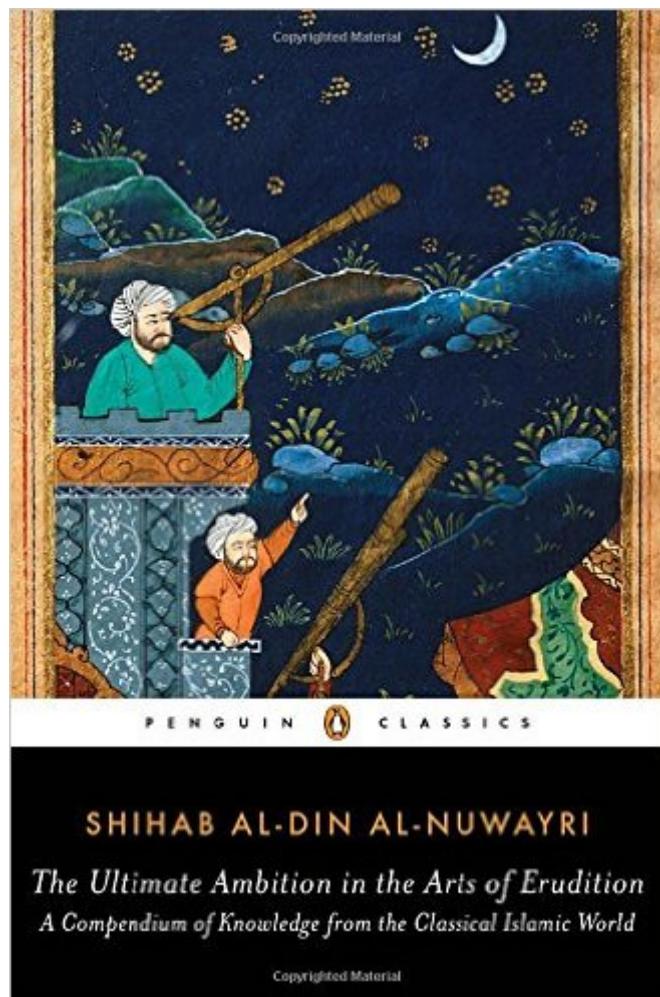


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The Ultimate Ambition In The Arts Of Erudition: A Compendium Of Knowledge From The Classical Islamic World



Synopsis

For the first time in English, a catalog of the world through fourteenth-century Arab eyesâ "a kind of Schottâ 's Miscellany for the Islamic Golden Age. An astonishing record of the knowledge of a civilization, The Ultimate Ambition in the Arts of Erudition catalogs everything known to exist from the perspective of a fourteenth-century Egyptian scholar and litterateur. More than 9,000 pages and thirty volumesâ "here abridged to one volume, and translated into English for the first timeâ "it contains entries on everything from medieval moon-worshipping cults, sexual aphrodisiacs, and the substance of clouds, to how to get the smell of alcohol off oneâ 's breath, the deliciousness of cheese made from buffalo milk, and the nesting habits of flamingos. Similar works by Western authors, including Plinyâ 's Natural History, have been available in English for centuries. This groundbreaking translation of a remarkable Arabic textâ "expertly abridged and annotatedâ "offers a look at the world through the highly literary and impressively knowledgeable societies of the classical Islamic world. Meticulously arranged and delightfully eclectic, it is a compendium to be treasuredâ "a true monument of erudition.

Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Penguin Classics (August 30, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0143107488

ISBN-13: 978-0143107484

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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