

Chipman

The World of Pharmacy and Pharmacists in Mamlūk Cairo

This is the first detailed analysis of an immensely popular 13th c. Arabic guide for pharmacists, from a time in which Jewish physicians and pharmacists worked alongside Muslim and Christian practitioners. Minhaj al-dukkān ("How to manage a pharmacy"), by Abu 'l-Munā al-Kuhin al-'Attar (fl. 1260) is the first attempt to explore the full spectrum of pharmacy in the medieval Arabic world: identification of the materia medica and methods of preparation; pharmacy's place within the sciences and particularly its relationship with medicine; the social position of the pharmacist and his role in the marketplace and the hospital; the economics of pharmacy; legal aspects of pharmacy; and the image of the pharmacist in literature and drama. The result is a full and nuanced picture of a section of society usually invisible.

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180,50 €

168,69 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9789004176065

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-90-04-17606-5

Verlag: Brill

Erscheinungstermin: 18.11.2009

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2009

Serie: Sir Henry Wellcome Asian Series

Produktform: Gebunden

Gewicht: 1400 g

Seiten: 318

Format (B x H): 163 x 239 mm

