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## 7th Annual Great Illinois Book Fair Set for Nov. 8 at IWU

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Oct. 14, 1998    Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

## **7th Annual Great Illinois Book Fair Set for Nov. 8 at IWU**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--The 19th-century American writer Ralph Waldo Emerson said: "A man is known by the books he reads."

The English philosopher Francis Bacon opined: "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested."

And, Nobel Prize-winning novelist John Steinbeck quipped: "Books are the best friends you can have; they inform you, and entertain you, and they don't talk back."

Book lovers will be able to test these adages when Illinois Wesleyan University hosts the 7th Annual Great Illinois Book Fair, Sunday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Shirk Center (Practice Gym), 302 E. Emerson, Bloomington.

About 20 book dealers and collectors will be selling and displaying antiquarian and rare books, Americana, mysteries, travel, cooking, and other books. Additionally, two dealers will sell postcards and other non-book paper collectibles.

Admission and parking are free.

"Book enthusiasts can look forward to a treasure trove of old and rare books, first editions, and special editions spanning a wide range of interesting subjects," said University Librarian Sue Stroyan.

"The Great Illinois Book Fair," Stroyan added, "is the type of event where book lovers can spend hours roaming around and combing through old volumes looking for that special book they've been hunting for for years."

"The book fair," she said, "attracts people who share Thomas Jefferson's philosophy, which is simply, 'I cannot live without books.'"

Sheean Library, Stroyan said, sponsors the book fair each year as a community service designed to give area residents access to a wide range of hard-to-find books and to encourage reading and a love of books in the community.

Stroyan pointed out that the Book Fair draws a far-flung clientele, especially students and educators from area college towns like Bloomington-Normal, Champaign-Urbana, Decatur, Peoria, and Springfield.

Typically, books on sale at the fair fall into several categories, including: history, biography, children's books, fiction, Americana, military, Abraham Lincoln, mysteries, African-American studies, the Holocaust, and many other fields.

Books on sale at the fair fall into a wide range of prices. However, a few years ago one book sold for \$1,000, an indication of the type of serious book collector who is lured to the Great Illinois Book Fair.

As book lovers await the Great Illinois Book Fair, here are some quotations about books--serious and humorous--to ponder:

• "The things I want to know are in books; my best friend is the man who'll get me a book I ain't read."--Abraham Lincoln, U.S. president

• "The paperback is very interesting, but I find it will never replace the hard cover book--it makes a very poor doorstep."--Alfred Hitchcock, film director

ð "The covers of this book are too far apart."--Ambrose Bierce, writer

ð "In every fat book there is a thin book trying to get out."--Unknown

ð "Books are the curse of the human race."--Benjamin Disraeli, British prime minister

ð "Classic: A book which people praise and don't read."--Mark Twain,  
writer

ð "The difference between literature and journalism is that journalism is unreadable, and  
literature is not read."--Oscar Wilde, writer, playwright

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