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6th Annual Great Illinois Book Fair Set for Nov. 23 at IWU

Bob Aaron
Illinois Wesleyan University

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Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

locals,
Central IL,
Chicago

6th Annual Great Illinois Book Fair Set for Nov. 23 at IWU

"I cannot live without books."

--Thomas Jefferson

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Lovers of antiquarian, out-of-print, and rare books will have a field day later this month, when Illinois Wesleyan University hosts the 6th Annual Great Illinois Book Fair.

A number of book dealers will bring their wares to IWU's Shirk Center, Nov. 23, for book aficionados to browse through--and purchase. The 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. book fair will take place in the Shirk Center, 302 E. Emerson, Bloomington.

Admission and parking are free.

Loring Prest, information services librarian at IWU's Sheean Library, is the book fair organizer.

"The book fair," Prest said, "brings to Bloomington-Normal a high-quality collection of books not seen every day. Vendors at this book fair have many first editions, special editions, rare books, and old books--books that aren't castaways."

While books will fall into various price ranges, one book sold at last year's book fair cost \$1,000, an indication of the type of serious book collector attracted to the Great Illinois Book Fair, Prest said.

The book fair, Prest said, "shows an appreciation for the heritage of printed materials. We live in an electronic age and sometimes people think information is only valuable if it's in electronic form.

"But there's a beauty to a book," Prest added, "that electronic formats cannot replace. The simple movement of pages allows one to locate information quickly--without having to deal with power cords and computer crashes."

Prest concluded: "Books represented at this book fair are the best of books--they're rare and special. I hope people leave the book fair with an appreciation of the joy of having nice books in their collection."

Books on sale at the fair will fall into several categories, including: general history; children's books; juvenile literature; fiction, non-fiction; civil war; Illinois history; Indiana authors; women's history; western Americana; ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome; Abraham Lincoln; military; Alaska; black studies; Africa; prisoners of war; Holocaust; maps; and mysteries.

The Great Illinois Book Fair is sponsored by IWU's Sheean Library. -30--