



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:
Kathy Funke, Director
News & Information Services
812/465-7005
FAX 812/465-1956

COLUMBIAN EXHIBIT OPENS AT USI

**For Immediate Release
December 2, 1992**

"Maps and the Columbian Encounter," an 80-foot serpentine exhibit of 43 maps and 150 images dealing with the 500th anniversary of Columbus's voyage to the new world, will open Saturday, December 12, in the Administration Building corridor at the University of Southern Indiana.

The exhibit was organized by the Office of Map History at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and was brought to Indiana by the Indiana Humanities Council. Assisting with the exhibit at USI are Dr. Robert L. Reid, vice president for Academic Affairs and professor of history; the Historic Southern Indiana Project; and the USI School of Education and Human Services.

The exhibit will be on view from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, December 12-13, then during the University's regular hours until after the holidays when a new public schedule will be announced. It will continue on display through February 15.

The exhibition has rare and historic maps from the American Geographical Society Collection, and the Newberry, James Ford Bell, and William L. Clements libraries. The maps locate historic events in the space of the Old and New Worlds, chart the changing shape of the known world through medieval and early modern eyes, describe territorial struggles of both Native Americans and Europeans, record the clash between cultures and how maps were part of a religious as much as a geographical conquest.

The Columbus voyage of 1492 marks the beginning of the modern world. Nowhere is this seen more clearly than in maps of the period, providing a graphic portrait of this historic encounter from two sides of the Atlantic. Themes of the exhibit include: encounters between Old and New World peoples; myth and reality in geographical discovery; natural riches of the New World; cartography and the colonial empires of Portugal, Spain, France, and England; maps as expressions of religious belief; and transition from medieval to modern cartography.