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Contact: Carol Houseal
(800) 526-7022 x 167
media@isi.org

DID GREATNESS STOP WITH GOETHE?

Why the answer to that question is important.

Wilmington, DE— An attempt to retrieve the literary basis of Western civilization for the benefit of the ordinary reader may seem a daunting even Quixotic task when chances are the ordinary reader is also a fan of *Real Housewives of OC*.

For Anthony O'Hear, eminent British philosopher and Director of London's Royal Institute of Philosophy, the revival of the great books of the West is based on the unwavering conviction that when approached without prejudice, these books are a source of endless interest, fascination, and provocation on levels from the simplest to the most complex.

In **The Great Books: A Journey through 2,500 Years of the West's Classic Literature**, O'Hear makes the case for the continued importance and freshness of these books against those who believe that the Western canon is tired, outdated, or politically repressive. He presents books as powerful, thrilling, erotic, politically astute, and awe-inspiring as any modern bestseller. Hardly outdated, the Western canon's vigor and dynamism has yet to be equaled.

Not simply a grand work of reference, **The Great Books** is also an easy-to-read and erudite narrative history shot through with a love of literature and the author's belief in its power to enrich and enliven everyone's world.

Sample Questions for Anthony O'Hear:

Why did you choose the books you did?

Are there really no great books after Goethe?

Aren't these books irrelevant to what people are interested in today?

Don't we need to adapt these works, so as to make them accessible?

Aren't they the work of dead white males?

Are they for everyone?

Aren't some of these works illiberal in various ways (sexist, nationalistic, glorifying war and violence)?

Anthony O'Hear is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Buckingham in England, Director of The Royal Institute of Philosophy (London), and editor of the journal *Philosophy*. His books include *Karl Popper, An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science, After Progress*, and *Plato's Children*. He has contributed to all the major national newspapers in Britain, where he is a frequent guest on many national radio and television programs.

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To schedule an interview with Professor O'Hear or for more information, please contact Carol Houseal at media@isi.org or (302) 524-6167.