

Editorial Comment

This issue of the *Palimpsest* marks the completion of the first volume year of publication in the revised format, introduced in February 1973. It seems an appropriate time to speak directly to you, the reader. Frequently, changes in established institutions (and the *Palimpsest* is certainly an institution of Iowa literature and history) are experimental. The experiments of the past year, the new size, new design, new printer, and not least the new bimonthly schedule have now had a trial. For the most part they seem to be successful.

One of the most gratifying experiences has been your response to the call for manuscripts. There has been a steady flow of stories into the *Palimpsest* office since the first of the year. The manuscripts have come from many authors in many walks of life; from teachers, historians, housewives, journalists, students, physicians, and others. This has been a very welcome contribution to the publication. The year has passed and it has never been necessary for the staff to write the magazine themselves. This freedom has allowed more time for editing, for working with authors, for exploring the possibilities of the new design, and planning long range goals.

A fairly wide variety of material has found its way into print during the year, ranging from Joliet and Marquette to the State Psychopathic Hospital. While it is a little hazardous to predict until the type is set, articles during the coming year probably will include stories on silica mining, the Mesquakies of Iowa, town-planning, Iowa 49ers, and the Welsh of Iowa.

When the new *Palimpsest* was announced in the December 1972 issue, a call was put forth for reader comment, a call which many of you took seriously. The Society has received many letters, notes, and personal comments on the *Palimpsest*. I now want to emphasize again the need to hear from you, pro or con, about the magazine. Many of you have made valuable suggestions about articles you would like to see. Others have commented on the new format in a more general way. Your comments are important, they are taken seriously, and this is an invitation for them to continue.

The fascinating faces of Grant Wood's "American Gothic," which stare down at me from my office wall, remind me that the essence of Iowa has always been its people. Iowans are intelligent, hard-working, well-educated, and cultured in a fundamental way. It is to the exploration and celebration of the heritage of these people that the *Palimpsest* is devoted.

The Editor