

A NOTE ON THE AUTHOR

The name L. O. Cheever is well known to regular readers of *The Palimpsest*. From 1965 until his retirement July 1, 1972, he was Associate Editor of this publication. Last summer Cheever, a widower, moved to Missouri to be near his two daughters.

This unassuming man has had an unusual Iowa background. While he was a boy living near Nevada, Iowa, his father deserted his mother and three other children. Unable to hold the family together, Mrs. Cheever committed Larry and his younger brother to the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home. (Founded during the Civil War, this institution later became known as Iowa Annie Wittenmyer Home.) Here a librarian noticed and encouraged Larry's interest in books. He developed an early interest in the American Civil War.

In a round about way it was also because of Larry's infatuation with books that an Ottumwa physician and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. D. E. Graham, gave Cheever "a home, love and education." After completing high school at Ottumwa, Larry graduated from Ripon College, then went on to earn a Master's degree in Library Science from Columbia University. From 1935 to 1965 he edited a magazine for John Morrell and Co., first at Ottumwa and later at Chicago.

Through the years Cheever has been an avid collector of books. He has presented valuable collections to such institutions as Ripon College, the State Historical Society, and the University of Iowa Library. Recently he gave to the latter institution a complete collection of Carroll Coleman's Prairie Press publications.

At the close of the June 1967 *Palimpsest* which he wrote on "Iowa Annie Wittenmyer Home," Cheever expressed his gratitude to the State: "Thank you, Iowa." Iowans might well respond in kind, "Thank you, L. O. Cheever."