

Copy

June 20, 1949

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Battle Road
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

When, during our last conversation, we talked about the Monumenta Germaniae Historica, you expressed the wish to learn more about the conditions under which that great Central European research institute is working now. I take, therefore, the liberty of sending you a photostat of a short report which Professor Elder of Harvard University and I have just published about "Monumenta Germaniae Historica: Present Status and Plans".

At the present time, the Monumenta is supported by the three states of Germany in the American Zone, by some of the German academies, and by the Austrian Government. These grants are sufficient to pay the very modest salaries of the president and the research assistants of the institute (there is no clerical staff), to acquire books and periodicals published in Germany and Austria, and to finance the forth-coming publication of the Deutsches Archiv, and some editions of texts. Pope Pius XII has given the institute a lump sum of \$2000 which will be used, as I understand, primarily for the purchase of photostats of manuscripts and documents in non-German libraries and archives.

There exists, however, still one very important need which cannot be satisfied by the funds presently available to the Monumenta. The institute lacks copies of all non-German medieval books and periodicals published during and after the war. On the basis of various conversations with President Baethgen of the Monumenta, I should estimate that a sum of \$2000 would be sufficient to purchase the books and periodicals needed, and to subscribe to the relevant foreign publications for the next few years during which the existing currency regulations will exclude the possibility of acquiring them with German money.

I shall be most appreciative of any assistance you can give, through your many connections, to this great research institute, and I shall also be very grateful for any suggestions you should care to make. As to my personal status in this matter, I should like to point out that last summer I was elected a Corresponding Fellow by the Zentraldirektion (Executive Committee) of the Monumenta.

Very sincerely yours,

T. E. M.

Theodor E. Mommsen

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