

and the first volume of the *Diplomata*, edited by Karl Pertz, was a thoroughly unsatisfactory piece of work. These and similar misfortunes led the government, spurred on by Ranke, to act, and a commission was set up to report. For six months the affair dragged on. Pertz, by a mixture of masterly inaction and historical and legal special pleading, defeated all efforts and resisted all appeals; it was his duty as Stein's legatee to hold on to the *Monumenta*. Finally, in February 1873, when his opponents, *de guerre lasse*, had decided that they must wait for him to die, Pertz suddenly and unconditionally threw in his hand. He was treated with great respect and allowed to share in the rearrangement, but in fact took no further share in the business. He had previously been forced to leave the library, and his last few years were spent in darkening shadows though his wife and family were loyal.

The interested scholars now became active. Waitz, who had refused to move against his old master, was now persuaded to act, and the *Monumenta* was entrusted to a new directorate. This was to include two members nominated by the three academies of Berlin, Munich and Vienna; the rest were to be chosen by co-optation, and were to elect a president, who was himself to have charge of the *Scriptores*.<sup>1</sup> The new directorate was a strong one; Mommsen, Sickel, Giesebrecht, Wattenbach, Dümmler were among its members, with Pertz and Euler carried over from the past. Von Sybel was among the early additions. The directorate was to meet yearly to settle matters of high policy; a committee, consisting of those resident in Berlin, dealt with business in the interim. To each of the five sections leaders were to be appointed with an *ex-officio* seat on the directorate. Ample government funds were granted for the work in general and specifically for a salary for Waitz, together with official quarters and a room for the *Monumenta*. In the autumn of 1875 Waitz left Göttingen to take up his duties. Pertz, greatly decayed in his powers, was present at the annual general meeting in 1876; he died of a stroke in the autumn. A final judgment on his scholarship and on his character had yet to be made, and it may well be more favourable than that of the historian whose account we have been following; here alone perhaps does he seem to lose his fine impartiality. In any case, Pertz had done an inestimable service to European scholarship. To him in another, but in as real a way as to Stein, the

<sup>1</sup> For the new statutes, see *N.A.*, i, 7-9.