

metaphor, it needed firm central direction to keep all the balls in the air at once.

At last, in July 1906, the government nominated Reinhold Koser, the distinguished historian of Frederick the Great, now for ten years head of the Prussian State Archives. It was another step towards the Institute, another step away from the old conception of the chairmanship of a technical medievalist, *primus inter pares*, and both Holder-Egger and Bresslau were wounded. Koser, however, was a good administrator and an almost too tactful colleague. He did much to improve the status of the young workers, and took the first steps towards integrating them into the academic ladders of seniority, though by securing two state-paid posts he advanced another step towards bureaucracy.

Meanwhile Traube had died in 1907, and his great collection of books was bought by friends and presented to the *Monumenta*. Holder-Egger died in 1911 and was succeeded in the *Scriptores* by Bresslau; among notable publications were Levison's *Life of Boniface* (1905) and the *Anglo-Saxon saints* (1919-20), Ehwald's *Aldhelm* (1913-19), Tangl's *Letters of Boniface* (1916) and Caspar's *Register of Gregory VII*. Nevertheless, the *Monumenta* was not in the best of health. It was now operating in three distinct centres—the directorate and several sections at Berlin, the Carolingian *Diplomata* at Vienna, and the *Scriptores* and the Swabian *Diplomata* with Bresslau at Strasbourg; in all the sections the work was largely done by the disciples of the professor in charge of the section, and there was a tendency, already seen on a high level in Holder-Egger, for the Monumentist to be a technician rather than a medieval historian.

Koser died shortly after the outbreak of war in 1914, and for some years Bresslau held the fort. But he was once more deprived, partly now by age but chiefly from unwillingness to leave Strasbourg, of the final distinction of the presidency, and in 1919, when Germany's fortunes were at their nadir, Paul Kehr,¹ a pupil of Sickel who had long since done work for the *Monumenta* and who had in 1915 succeeded Koser as Director of the Prussian State

¹ 1860-1944. Memoir by W. Holtzmann in *D.A.*, viii, 26 ff. Kehr's great work as a scholar was to initiate and organize a complete collection, country by country, of papal documents. Among his collaborators Walther Holtzmann, himself a Monumentist since 1946, has published three volumes of *Papsturkunden in England*.