

Archives, was nominated and confirmed—the only time, as he himself wryly remarked, that the directorate had voted unanimously. Kehr was by temperament an autocrat and a realist, some might say a pragmatist. He had little sympathy with the liberal views of Bresslau and others,¹ but he did the *Monumenta* an inestimable service in the years after 1919 and in the crisis of inflation. He restored the finances, shifted it to new and convenient quarters in a wing of the building of the State Library, and reorganized the work in three sections with full-time directors; *Scriptores*, *Leges* and *Diplomata*. Of these he took over the last and himself edited three volumes of Carolingian charters. Kehr was still in command when the régime of Hitler gripped Germany. He was not a Nazi, but his realistic, agnostic, authoritarian frame of mind allowed him to go part of the way, at least, with the tide. In 1934 a decree of the Minister of the Interior announced the take-over of the *Monumenta*, and on 1 April 1935 a remarkably laconic communiqué promulgated a new constitution.² According to this, the *Monumenta* became a Reichsinstitut directly under the Minister, who had the appointment of the director. The old directorate was changed into a council of twelve honorary members appointed by the Minister with a merely consultative function. At the same time the *Neues Archiv*, after a break, became the *Deutsches Archiv* (1937). Kehr accepted the change, but retired in the following year. He was succeeded as president by E. E. Strengel (1937–42) and Th. Mayer (1942–45).

The *Monumenta* continued to function during the first four years of the War, but when the allied air offensive showed signs of developing the president and his assistants removed to a mansion near Bamberg put at their disposal by the owner, while the more precious of the collections were stored in the galleries of a mine.³

¹ Kehr wrote of Bresslau's liberalism (*N.A.*, xlvii, 266): 'Dass dies alles Doktorfragen seien und dass es vielmehr auf die Praxis, auf die Wirklichkeit und auf die Loyalität der leitenden Persönlichkeiten ankomme, wollte er wenigstens theoretisch nicht zugeben'. But would the loyalty of leading persons have saved Bresslau, the Jew, from crossing the Rhine again in the opposite direction had he lived ten years longer?

² For an account of this see P. Kehr, 'Die preussische Akademie und die M.G.H.', in *Sitzungsberichte der preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften*, phil.-hist. Kl. 1935, 740–77. The 'Bericht über die Herausgabe der M.G.H.' in 1934 is *ibid.*, 731. The statutes of 1935 are *ibid.*, and in *D.A.*, i (1937), 276.

³ For this see *D.A.*, viii (1950), 1 ff.