

At the end of the war the Bavarian government came to the rescue of the finances, but the losses were very serious. The documents in the mine had been burnt by a gang of foreign workers, and the stock of printed volumes at Weidmann's had been destroyed by enemy action. The president, Mayer, was *persona non grata* to the Allies, and he was replaced by W. Goetz, the true saviour of the *Monumenta*. Finally, under F. Baethgen (1947-58) the *Monumenta* was reorganized once more. Headquarters were established at Munich of the 'Deutsches Institut für Erforschung des Mittelalters'. The constitutions were in large part identical with those in force before 1935, but the president was to be freely elected by the directorate for presentation to the Bavarian Minister of Education.<sup>1</sup> The directorate itself was to contain two members from the five German academies of Berlin, Munich, Göttingen, Leipzig and Heidelberg, together with two from Vienna and other scholars of note. Thus once more independent in essentials, but recognized as a state Institute and with a wider field of reference, the *Monumenta* has opened yet another phase of its career. The president, elected in 1959, is H. Grundmann.

The great and unique achievement of the *Monumenta* has been to realize Stein's ambition of presenting Germans, or at least German historians, with an almost complete library of the literary and diplomatic sources of their country's history from the earliest times to the opening of the fourteenth century. The back of the task was broken by Pertz; and it must be his lasting claim to gratitude that by the 'sixties of the last century the materials for medieval German history were in large measure in print; this fact not only moulded the course of German historiography for more than half a century, but gave German medievalists the lead among European historians which even two disastrous wars have not taken from them.

In addition to this, and in a way that Stein could not have foreseen, this has been done in such a way that both text and editorial matter have attained on the whole the very highest of standards, and in so doing, have raised the standard of the whole of Western historical scholarship. While it is true that the *Monumenta* as such has never been a teaching school such as the *Ecole des Chartes*, it has in fact acted as a nursery of professors and archivists, and as

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, 22 ff.