

workshop for the perfecting of certain well-defined technical skills. Take it for all in all, it is the *Monumenta* that has set up for all Western historical scholarship the ideal of the critical text.

Moreover, in the course of their labours Monumentists have made innumerable discoveries of manuscripts in the libraries of Europe, and have thus enriched German and European medieval history to an extent that can only be fully realized by those whose expertise lies in these fields. It is true that in Pertz's day the great majority of the texts printed were of interest solely to the historian of the medieval Empire; it is for this reason that the *Monumenta* remained virtually unknown in this country in the nineteenth century, and exercised so little influence upon the editors of our Rolls Series and early Camdens. But during the last eighty years the horizons both of Monumentists and of English historians have broadened and the work of Mommsen, of Traube, of Tangl, and of Levison—to name but a few—has benefited the whole commonwealth of learning.

The function of the *Monumenta* in the future is not easy to foresee. Thanks largely to its past achievement, scholars now in every country are engaged in editing medieval texts with something, at least, of the skill which the *Monumenta* has taught, and which French and Belgian scholars, in particular, have brought to new perfection. At the same time, the new interests of literary and philosophical history are demanding editions of medieval texts with which, at least hitherto, the *Monumenta* has not been concerned. But such an institution, with such a history, will never be out of place so long as the critical study of medieval history is of any concern to the inhabitants of Europe.