

6th June 1957

Luke's House  
Bireay  
Orkney

Dear Mr Brice

I left London after the Council meeting of the Society of Antiquaries. I have since been travelling in the north and correspondence, including your two letters, only reached me after some delay. I am now in the process of excavation here and am dealing with the accumulation that has reached me.

I would ask you to accept my assurance that no discourtesy was intended in reaching the decision without consulting you. The meeting of the Executive on 7th May was the last of the session: there would be no further meeting till October. ~~Recommenda-~~ Recommendations of the Executive come up automatically before the Council two days later. In view of the long delay involved I felt it desirable to come to a decision rather than let the matter remain in uncertainty for another 5 months. I felt that this was the right course even though it involved reaching a decision without being able to consult you. I am sorry that you should feel grieved at this procedure but I accept full responsibility for not having asked that the matter be remitted to the sub-committee with the Executive's comments before a final decision was reached. This would have been the constitutional way of offering you an opportunity of commenting on the matter while it was still sub-judice. It is of course open to you to lay any views before the Executive Committee, when it meets in October. I do not think that there is any prospect of the Committee recommending to Council a rescission of the decision, but I shall be ready to put any views that you may desire.

I considered the possibility of an approach to Pugliese Beattelli on the lines you suggest in your second letter but, for various reasons,

I did not think that it would be practicable.

I shall return south about the middle of the month. I do not think that that there is, at the moment, any further comment that I can usefully make as I write without files or correspondence. I would ask you to believe that the decision to suspend publication of Scripta Minora III was only reached after very careful consideration of every aspect of the problems and with a very full realization of the disappointment, possibly even embarrassment, that it might cause you. For this inconvenience I can only ask you to accept our most sincere regrets.

Yours sincerely

C. L. Raleigh Redford