

1A Box 1/I

Italian Embassy.

20. Grosvenor Square. W.

London, 28th November 1891

Sir,

I have been recommended by
Mr. Franks of the British Museum to
apply to you for some information
which our Ministero delle Pubbliche
istruzioni required to have as soon
as possible for a new Bill which will
be presented next month to the Italian
Parliament concerning the preservation of
the monuments.

Could you kindly tell me whether
any new Act had been voted in this
country since 1884 on this subject? and
do you know of any new Bill about it?

Pegging you to pardon me for
thus trespassing on your kindness but
thanking you very much for the answer
that you may give me I remain

Yours obediently

Martuccio Sabbatini

P.S. An urgent answer will greatly assist
as the Embassy will inform the Minister
by telegraph.

Copy.

Rushmore,
Salisbury.

Nov. 30th, 1891.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 28th inst., which has just reached me, having been forwarded from Grosvenor Gardens, no new Act has been voted by Parliament since the Act of 1882, which is still in force. By that Act the owners of prehistoric Monuments are enabled to place them under the Guardianship of the Commissioners of Works if they think proper to do so. They cannot afterwards be destroyed, and this is binding on future owners. They remain the property of the owners, but the Government become responsible for their preservation. The Act is purely permissive; no owner is bound to put his monument under the Act, unless he desires to do so, and the Government has no power by the Act to protect any Monument that is not under it. Roman and Early Christian Monuments have been put under the Act, although strictly speaking it applies to prehistoric Monuments only. No Mediaeval Monument has as yet been included.

Very little damage has been done to prehistoric Monuments in this country during the last 8 years, but this is owing mainly to the growth of public opinion in their favour, rather than to the efficacy of the Act, which is not considered a very valuable one. I shall be happy to give you any further information that you may desire.

Yours obediently,

A. Pitt Rivers.

P.S. Suggestions have been made to Government for amending the Act by enabling it to be applied to Mediaeval Monuments, but no new Bill is at present in contemplation, as the Government object to spending money on the matter.

Pk Box 1/11

Regia Ambasciata
d'Italia.

20, Grosvenor Square.

London Dec. 8th 91.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge
the receipt and to thank for
your letter of the 30th ult; and
its valuable information.

With many apologies for
the trouble

Yours obediently
Mantucci Talbot