The Library of Charles Areskine discover’d

Citation for published version:
Baston, K 2009, ‘The Library of Charles Areskine discover’d: with Observations on Transactions which have occurr’d so far.’.

Link:
Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer

Document Version:
Peer reviewed version

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Edinburgh, October 2009.

The Most Learned Charles Areskine of ALVA, Lord TINWALD, has for many Years craved Recognition for assembling a fine Collection of Books relating to the LAW and to Other Miscellaneous Subjects. The present Happy Project is a Design to Enlighten the Populace about the Wonders contained in Areskine’s BOOKS. It proceeds from the efforts of Professor John CAIRNS and Doctor Brian HILLYARD both of this Town. These Learn’d Gentlemen have commission’d a Student who is wise in the Ways of Libraries to catalogue and analyse Lord TINWALD’S Collection.

This Student* derives her Income from the ARTS AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL. She has so far made the following Discoveries about Areskine’s Library:

Of LAW Books: The Law Books include many Commentaries on ROMAN LAW, Explanations of the LAW OF NATURE AND NATIONS, and much Information about the Pleadings, Statutes, and Acts of SCOTLAND and the UNION.

Of Books on Other Subjects: These BOOKS show that Areskine was an Enlighten’d Philosopher and Improver. Titles by Lord Kames, David Hume, and Scottish Historians took their Places on Areskine’s Shelves. The Mathematical Works of Sir Isaac NEWTON and Colin MACLAURIN also found Favour with the Doctissimi Domini.

Meanwhile, the CATALOGUE of BOOKS has been made into an Excel Spreadsheet so that it can be Sorted and Studied in a Modern Mode.

The Student has delivered Talks about Subjects related to Areskine and his Books — despite what Dr. JOHNSON has said about Women preaching — in Edinburgh, Cambridge, and London.

For the next Two Years, the Student endeavours to write a THESIS in which she will explain how Areskine’s Collection fits into the Scottish Enlightenment. Scottish Libraries housed the Ideas and Inspiration Scholars in Edinburgh us’d to change the World.

The THESIS will therefore be entitled:

THE LIBRARY OF CHARLES ARESKINE: BOOK COLLECTING AND LAWYERS IN SCOTLAND, 1700-1760.

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