The Library of Charles Areskine discover’d:
with Observations on Transactions which have
occur’d so far.

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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