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The Unseen History of International Law

Hugo Grotius (1583-1645) is widely described as the 'father of modern international law' (the mother is unknown) and, since its first publication in 1625, his *De iure belli ac pacis* has been commonly and continuously hailed as the beginning of this discipline. Understandably, the book's composition, arguments, reception and dissemination have been minutely discussed - except for the physical copies themselves. Our project locates, examines and describes every surviving copy of the first ten editions, ending in 1650, the first edition after the Peace of Westphalia; transcribes and translates the thousands of annotations left in the margins by rulers and aristocrats, lawyers and students; traces the movements and adventures of the book around the world; and will publish the resulting census bibliography in 2025, the work's 400th anniversary. The census will, for the first time, reconstruct not only Grotius' real reception, but also the foundation and evolution of modern international law.

Literature:

https://brill.com/view/journals/grot/40/1/article-p173_173.xml?language=en

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-05941-0/>