



Exhibit Series: Little-Known Facts About Famous Jurists Hugo Grotius

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The Law Library recently mounted a display on Hugo Grotius (1583-1645), widely known as “the father of international law.” Grotius was not as well known for his anti-Calvinist writings, but those inflammatory writings resulted in his being tried, convicted and subsequently imprisoned for the act of treason in 1619. The library display, the first in a series of displays in which we will provide little-known information about famous legal figures, featured the very rare, original trial court sentencing document, *The sentence of eternal imprisonment pronounced against Hugo Grotius in the extraordinary trial for laesa maiestas, Rotterdam, May 18, 1619*. After twenty months, Grotius escaped prison by being spirited away in a book trunk.

The Law Library’s Grotius collection is one of the largest and most comprehensive in the country. For more information, see an [overview](#) of our Special Collections and an earlier article by Herb Somers, Foreign/International Law Librarian, “[The 'Father of International Law' is Well-Represented at The Jacob Burns Law Library](#), *A Legal Miscellanea*, Vol. 1, Number 2 (Autumn 2004).