

not popular with the clergy. They were generally followed by periods of weakness as the foes of the reformatory exercise took power and enjoyed riches. Many unworthy persons came to the Pontificate. Bishoprics were bought and sold and the prices haggled over. Rivalry and party factionalism prevented many men of quality from obtaining the office. In 1292, it took the cardinals 2 and one half years to agree on the next pope and when they finally selected a kindly and neutral man, the Benedictine Celestine V, the confusion and pressure were so great that he resigned and returned to his monastery. The notes in Farrow: PAGEANT OF THE POPES, are excellent for all these men...both the good and the bad. I commend it to you and you will be glad to see that it has the imprimature and the nihil obstat.

The Avignon Papacy

The time frame covers roughly the period from 1305-1417 but in a more precise analysis 1305-1378 (ca) The name derives from the fact that during this time the King of France succeeded in having the papal office moved from Rome to Avignon...on the French-Swiss border. (The map on 205 should show it!) The age is generally known as the "Babylonian Captivity of the Church." And the account wanders around like this:

Philip IV of France (1268-1314) militarily dominated the bishops of Rome and persuaded Clement V (1305-1314) to move the seat of Roman authority to Avignon. The office of Pope remained at this place until 1378. Opposition to the move was great but it was overcome and the leading opposition body, the Knights Templars, was suppressed in 1312 and its leader, Jacques DeMolay, was executed. (For those interested in Freemasonry, this is a very interesting point in time. The Masonic male youth movement is still called the DeMolay to this day. The intertwinings between Freemasonry and the Roman church are unbelievably complex and involved.)

The popes who followed in Avignon were not very distinguished. John XXII had a long rule and wrote a seven volume compendium of canon law. He had a close call with orthodoxy, apparently taught soul-sleep, and did a lot to irritate the church...including continuous feuding with the Emperor after the Imperial headship went back to Austria. Urban V