

The move was not popular and the Knight's Templars so opposed it that the order was suppressed (1312) and its leader, Jacques DeMolay, was executed. There is an interesting tie to Freemasonry here..I may work with it for a moment.

John XXII is the best known of the Avignon popes and is also known for championing soul-sleep and some other tough doctrines. Political intrigue surrounded all parties through the whole era.

Urban VI succeeded in moving the papacy back to Rome (1378) although the cardinals who elected him under French influence were miffed and declared him deposed, electing Clement V in his place. But Urban did not give up and holding his own election in Rome continued to call himself "pope" and there continued a condition in the Roman Church with two or three persons claiming to be the head of the church until 1415.

A very interesting novel in this era is Umberto Eco's "The Name of the Rose." It is historical fiction..and if you like to read that sort of thing it is about as good as that literature gets.

5. The Councils of Pisa and Constance

These councils were attempts to solve the Avignon Papacy problem. Pisa was convened in 1408 and tried to dismiss the claimants while electing another. But Pisa did not have enough imperial prestige and its efforts did nothing

Constance (1415) had full imperial support with a voting privilege of one vote per member state (only about half a dozen states or electors voting) which made a more uniform possibility of resolution than having a delegate vote. Three claimants were removed from office (John XXIII, Benedict XII, and Gregory XII) but only with some struggles and Martin V was elected as the next pope..unifying the church again. This set an important precedent in the idea that the council was more authoritative than the papacy. It was a lesson that greatly influence the Reformation of the next century.

Umberto Eco