The Great Western Schism, 1378–1417

The Great Schism divided Western Christianity between 1378 and 1417. Two popes and their courts occupied the see of St. Peter, one in Rome, the other in Avignon. Traditionally, this event has received attention from scholars of institutional history. In this book, by contrast, Joëlle Rollo-Koster investigates the event through the prism of social drama. Marshalling liturgical, cultural, artistic, literary, and archival evidence, she explores the four phases of the Schism: the breach after the 1378 election, the subsequent division of the Church, redressive actions, and reintegration of the papacy in a single pope. Investigating how popes legitimized their respective positions and the reception of these efforts, Rollo-Koster shows how the Schism influenced political thought, how unity was achieved, and how the two capitals, Rome and Avignon, responded to the events. Rollo-Koster’s approach humanizes the Schism, enabling us to understand the event as it was experienced by contemporaries.

Joëlle Rollo-Koster is Professor of Medieval History at the University of Rhode Island. A scholar of the Avignon papacy, she is the author of Avignon and Its Papacy, 1309–1417: Popes, Institutions, and Society and Raiding Saint Peter. In 2016, she was made Chevalier de l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques.
THE GREAT WESTERN SCHISM, 1378–1417

Performing Legitimacy, Performing Unity

JOËLLE ROLLO-KOSTER
University of Rhode Island
À la mémoire de ma mémé Barton, et à mes filles Auriane et Laudine. Et pour toutes les petites filles de Besagne à Toulon, où je suis née, on en sort mais on y reste.
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Abbreviations

AAV Archivio Apostolico Vaticano (formerly known as Archivio Segreto Vaticano, ASV)
ADV Archive départementale de Vaucluse
Chartularium Universitatis Parisiensis, 3 Emile Chatelain and Heinrich Denifle, Chartularium Universitatis Parisiensis: Sub auspiciis consilii generalis fac. Parisiensium, vol. 3 (Paris: Delalain, 1894)
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