

WC 329-345 PP: 349-353 Transcript of Trail for Jeanne d'Arc

Chronology

1309	"Babylonian Captivity begins in Avignon
1330-84	John Wyclif
1377	Papacy returns to Rome
1378	Great Schism
1420	John Hus burned at the stake
1429-31	Career of Jeanne d'Arc
1431-49	Council of Basel fails to limit Papal authority

Star Terms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Schism • Lollards • Hussites • National Churches 	Geog. Terms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avignon • Bohemia • Austria
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A. Papal Palace at Avignon (1309)



The Palace of the Popes stands as the mighty symbol of the church's influence throughout the western Christian world in the 14th century. Construction was started in 1335 and completed in less than twenty years under the leadership of two builder popes, Benedict XII and his successor Clement VI. The Popes' Palace is the biggest Gothic palace in all of Europe (15,000 m² of floor space, which is the equivalent of 4 Gothic cathedrals) The interior of the building was sumptuously decorated with frescos, tapestries, paintings, sculptures and wooden ceilings. The popes departed Avignon in 1377, returning to Rome, but this prompted the Great Schism during which time the antipopes Clement VII and Benedict XIII made Avignon their home until 1403. The latter was imprisoned in the Palais for five years after being besieged in 1398 when the army of Geoffrey Boucicaut occupied Avignon. The building remained in the hands of antipapal forces for some years – it was besieged from 1410 to 1411 – but was returned to the authority of papal legates in 1433.

B. Schilling the Older, *Spiezer Chronicle*(1485): Burning of Jan Hus at the stake

John Hus was a Czech priest, philosopher, reformer, and master at Charles University in Prague. After John Wycliffe, the theorist of ecclesiastical Reformation, Hus is considered the first Church reformer (living prior to Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli). Hus is famed for having been burned at the stake for heresy against the doctrines of the Catholic Church, including those on ecclesiology, the Eucharist, and other theological topics. Hus was a key predecessor to the Protestant movement of the sixteenth century, and his teachings had a strong influence on the states of Europe, most immediately in the approval for the existence of a reformist Bohemian religious denomination, and, more than a century later, on Martin Luther himself. Between 1420 and 1431, the Hussite forces defeated five consecutive papal crusades against followers of Hus. Their defence and rebellion against Roman Catholics became known as the Hussite Wars. A century later, as many as 90% of inhabitants of the Czech lands were non-Catholic and followed the teachings of Hus and his successors.

C. Rogier van der Weyden, *Saint Luke Drawing the Virgin*, c. 1435-40. Currently Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Saint Luke Drawing the Virgin is an oil-on-oak panel painting by the Flemish artist Rogier van der Weyden has been describes as “among the most important northern European paintings in the United States.”. It depicts Luke the Evangelist, the patron saint of artists, drawing the Virgin Mary as she holds the Child Jesus. Van der Weyden incorporates religious iconography extensively. A representation of the Fall of Man is carved on the armrest of the Virgin's seat; Adam and Eve symbolize the role of the Virgin and Jesus in the redemption of man. Though she is seated under a damask canopy of estate, Mary sits not on the throne but on its step, representing her humility. A kneeling ox, seen at the very right in the anteroom, is a symbol of Saint Luke, and the open book represents his Gospel. In the rear, the loggia looks into an enclosed garden, an emblem of the Virgin's chastity. The artist presents a humanized Virgin and Child, as suggested by the realistic contemporary surroundings, the lack of halos, and the intimate spatial construction. This is also one of the first paintings to depict realistic landscape and human eye perspective.