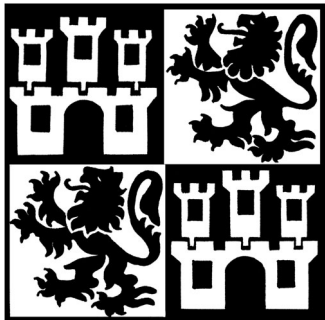


The Great Schism

1378-1415 A.D. The Roman Catholic Church divided when the king of France decided that he did not like the Italian Pope and elected his own who ruled from Avignon. Coined "The Great Schism," the existence of two popes and two accompanying papal structures lasted for 68 years, each claiming authority over the Catholic Church.



Ferdinand V and Isabella I

1452-1516 and 1451-1504 A.D. King of Sicily, Aragon (as Ferdinand II), and Naples (as Ferdinand III), he ruled jointly with his wife, Isabella, as king and queen of Castile and León. Known as the "Catholic Kings," they expelled all Jews and Moors due to their resistance to convert to Christianity and instituted the Inquisition in Spain. Their reign was pivotal in world history, for in 1492 they endorsed the explorer, Christopher Columbus, who in turn discovered the New World.



Jan Hus

c. 1369-1415 A.D. Bohemian priest and scholar who was excommunicated for attacking the corruption of the clergy. His relentless pursuit of God's truth planted the seeds for the Reformation. He was excommunicated, accused of heresy, and burned at the stake. He died singing.

Earl of Warwick

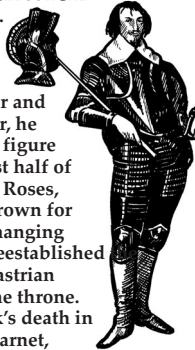
1428-1471 A.D.

Known as

"Warwick the

Kingmaker."

English soldier and political leader, he was a forceful figure during the first half of the War of the Roses, securing the crown for Edward IV. Changing alliances, he reestablished deposed Lancastrian Henry VI to the throne. After Warwick's death in the Battle of Barnet, Edward regained the throne.



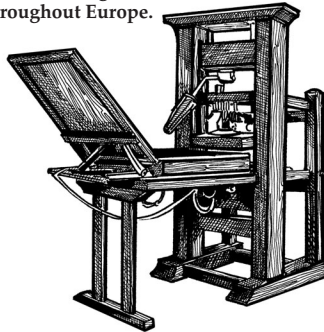
Christopher Columbus

1451-1506 A.D. Of questionable descent, Columbus was a navigator and explorer in the service of Spain (Ferdinand & Isabella) who, by sailing west in search of a trade route to Asia, discovered the New World in 1492. He made subsequent voyages in 1493, 1498, and 1502, exploring the Caribbean and coasts of Central and South America.



Johannes Gutenberg

1390s-1468 A.D. German printer and developer of the printing press, he pioneered the use of movable type. His *Mazarin Bible* (known also as the *Gutenberg Bible*) is most likely the first book printed with this method. His invention made possible an easier exchange of ideas throughout Europe.



Julius II

1443-1513 A.D. Pope and great patron of art, he commissioned Michelangelo to paint the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican, and "laid the cornerstone" in the construction of Saint Peter's in Rome.

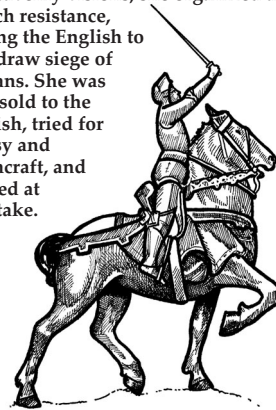


Henry the Navigator

1394-1460 A.D. Prince of Portugal, noted as the patron of navigation and exploration. He established an observatory and worked with navigators in Europe. He directed many important expeditions, encouraging the growth of Portugal's colonial empire.

Joan of Arc

1412-1431 A.D. Known as "the Maid of Orleans," French military leader and heroine. Inspired and instructed by heavenly visions, she organized a French resistance, forcing the English to withdraw siege of Orleans. She was later sold to the English, tried for heresy and witchcraft, and burned at the stake.



John Cabot

1450-1498 A.D.

Venetian explorer and navigator for the English whose expedition discovered the North American mainland in 1497, while seeking a route to Asia.



Alexander VI

1431-1503 A.D. Originally Rodrigo Borgia, Pope whose corrupt reign led to the execution of Savonarola. He was instrumental in the division of the New World between Spain and Portugal.



Lorenzo de Medici

1449-1492 A.D. Italian merchant-prince and head of the Medici family. The virtual ruler of Florence and one of the prominent figures of the Italian Renaissance, his interests included politics, arts, literature, education, and poetry. Also having an interest in the papacy, his power stirred up conflict among the religious leaders.