

FROM THE CENTRE FOR REFORMATION AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES &
ITER: GATEWAY TO THE MIDDLE AGES AND RENAISSANCE

Two Women of the Great Schism

“The Revelations of Constance de Rabastens,” Raymond de Sabanac
and “Life of the Blessed Ursulina of Parma,” Simone Zanicchi



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The Great Schism (1378–1417) divided Western Christendom into two groups: those who recognized a pope in Rome and those who recognized one in Avignon. It was a crisis of authority that brought with it spiritual anxiety and political uproar. This book presents the responses of two late medieval women who refused to be passive bystanders to factions tearing Christendom apart. The rural Constance de Rabastens had dramatic visions indicting the Avignon pope Clement VII, despite his being recognized in her region. The urban Ursulina believed that Christ commanded her to engage in shuttle diplomacy between the Roman and Avignon papacies in order to end the schism. *Two Women of the Great Schism* translates Raymond de Sabanac’s record of Constance’s visionary experiences and Simone Zanicchi’s biography of Ursulina.

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