[Photographs]

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Abbey Church of Rievaulx
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The Hilltop Review, Spring 2011
The Cloister, An Augustinian Convent Translated to the Bahamas

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From Within the Abbey Church of Rievaulx, Yorkshire, England

Rievaulx Abbey was founded in 1132 AD by twelve monks from Clairvaux Abbey, as the first Cistercian monastery in North England. This picture was taken of the east inside façade of the Abbey Church. The church was originally a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture; however, this east end was rebuilt into one of England’s finest structures of Gothic architecture in 1225. Most monastic churches face the east where Christ is expected to rise again in Christian religion, yet Rievaulx abnormally faces the south since the monks had to fit the monastery into a narrow valley.

The Cloister, Paradise Island, Bahamas

This picture features a cloister belonged to the monastic enclosure of the 14th-century Greco-Gothic Augustinian Convent at Montréjeau, France. William Randolph Hearst bought parts of the convent and had it carefully deconstructed and shipped to America in the 1920s. It was left in shipping crates, until A&P heir, Huntington Ford bought the structure in 1962 and had it reassembled in the gardens of his new estate in the Bahamas. Historians and travel agents alike wrongly date the cloister to the 12th century, which was a Romanesque monastery that Hearst had bought. They also mistake it for a priory (for men), when in fact it was a convent, a place for women which would likely have had such a cloister.