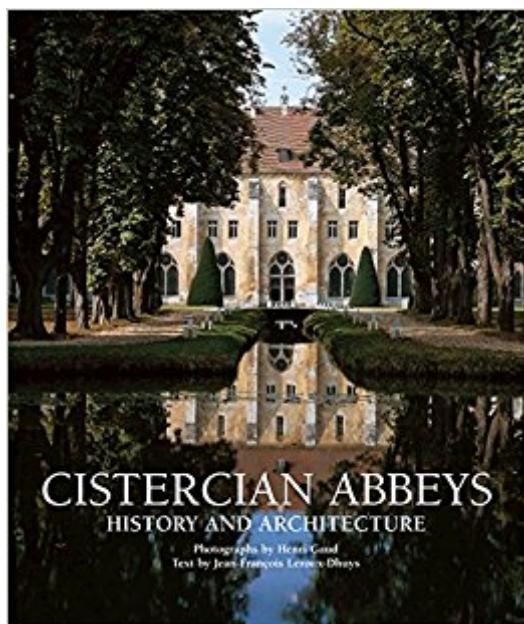


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Cistercian Abbeys: History And Architecture



Synopsis

Thanks to their spirituality, asceticism, technical skills, and craftsmanship, the Cistercians became one of the most influential monastic orders of the high Middle Ages. Nine centuries ago, when the dynamic energy of the Benedictine order was threatening to ossify into mere grandeur and formalism, the Cistercians returned to the original "holy rules" of Benedict of Nursia and working with their hands. The stone witnesses of this era include majestic monastic buildings. With their austere dignity and sublime absence of decoration, Cistercian ecclesiastical buildings came to stand for awe-inspiring spiritual clarity and purity. This book presents masterpieces of Cistercian architecture in France, Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Portugal, Spain, and Italy. A selection of original texts, pictures, and chronological tables offers information on the artistic and cultural-historical characteristics of the individual monasteries and their inhabitants. An impressive and inspiring oeuvre!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Henri Gaud is the scion of a photographic dynasty: his father also devoted his artistic talents to architecture. Working only with natural light, Gaud impressively captures the austerity and simplicity of his subjects.

Jean-François Leroux-Dhuys is an architect and journalist, and serves as conservator at the *comus* du cristal de Bayel. His interest in the Cistercians has culminated in his efforts

to restore historical Cistercian sites and to make them accessible to the public again.

Excellent book with comprehensive information on Cistercian architecture and history. I will be picking up and rereading this book often. A keeper for my bookshelf!

Ullmann's done it again. They have produced yet another, incredible, architectural gem and at one ridiculous price. This newest edition is not as mammoth as the original but Geez-Louise! - 16 bucks? How do you guys do it? I've ordered books, not nearly this one's equal, and spent three to four times as much. I'm not complaining - just keep those hits a comin'. For those with a penchant for Gothic architecture or fascinated by Medieval ruins this volume should satisfy your every craving. There are four hundred pages chock full of stunningly photographed churches, monasteries and adjoining grounds. The text is very informative, detailing the history of each of the sites featured and the Cistercian order itself. Many of the ruins are located in England as her version of the Reformation made liberal use of the wrecking ball. Much to her credit, France has managed to preserve a far greater number of these relics in their original state. I am glad to see publishers, like Ullmann, devote such serious attention to the photographic recording of these Christian treasures. One never knows what the future might bring. The next wave of barbarians may not even leave the stone piles. As Europe grows decidedly more secular the affection and attachment these holy sites have engendered will most assuredly diminish. Their very presence may come to represent an affront to opposing faiths. I can't help but wonder how much passion would be aroused should they once again be threatened. The more recent, wanton destruction of Hindu and Buddhist holy places and relics should offer ample justification for such concerns. This book is a must buy. It is beautifully produced and they're practically giving it away. If you wait till you can afford to go yourself you might just be visiting mosques.

Good book. Good text and nice color photos. I have a problem with this book: the letters are really very little. Is difficult read it.

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