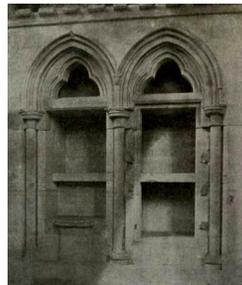
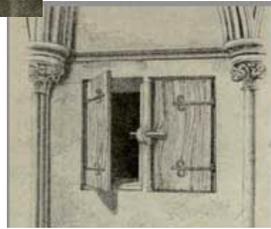


Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary



Top: Aumbry in the walls of a church at Rothersthorpe, Northants; *Center and Below:* Lincoln and Salisbury Cathedrals.

Aumbry

An aumbry/ambry from L. armarium, is a cupboard to hold books. The library at the great monastery of Cluny was called an armarium and the custodian an armarius. In medieval churches the aumbry was a cupboard in the wall of the sanctuary where sacred vessels were kept when not in use, especially in those churches that did not have separate sacristies. Holy oils (Chrism) might be kept there and it was sometimes used to secrete important documents. The reserved Sacrament could be placed there, but was usually kept in the hanging pyx. The sacristy frequently was called an armarium perhaps because it contained cupboards for books as well as vestments and vessels.