OUT OF THE BLUE
Researchers recently discovered lapis lazuli, a stone used to make paint for manuscripts, in the teeth of a woman who lived between 1000-1200 CE.

PUT IT IN A LETTER
There are surviving copies of letters that nuns wrote to each other in which they write about things like pilgrimages and every day life as a woman.

MEDIEVAL FEMINISM
In 1405, a woman named Christine de Pizan wrote a book called "The Book of the City of Ladies," an early feminist book.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS
Nearly half the workers building Périgord college in Toulouse, France from 1365-1371 were women.

UNEQUAL PAY
Female workers were routinely paid less than male workers, often at a ratio of 3:5.

UNIONIZE
Between 1452 and 1453 in Strasbourg, France, two women joined the stonemasons's guild.

WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN
Women who had the ability to hire employees tended to hire women and support the work of other women.

PETRONELLA OF LEICESTER
Countess Petronella of England fought in the Revolt of 1173-74, gave military advice, and wore armor.

ISABEL OF CONCHES
French noblewoman Isabel wore armor, defended her city, and was respected as a knight.

MATILDA OF BOULOGNE
English queen Matilda was a military commander who steered her troops to victory.

EMPERESS MATILDA
Empress Matilda ruled England in the 12th century CE, led a civil war when her cousin stole the throne, and wrote charters.

QUEEN AETHELFLAED
Queen Aethelflaed ruled part of what would become England in the 10th century CE. She valued education and fearlessly defended her kingdom.

BRUNHILD AND FREDEGUND
Brunhild and Fredegund were queens, sisters-in-law, and bitter rivals who ruled neighboring kingdoms.
NUNS

HILD OF WHITBY
Hild of Whitby founded a monastery for monks and nuns, raised a princess, and encouraged the poet Caedmon to write.

HILDEGARD DE BINGEN
Hildegard de Bingen wrote books, musicals, and scientific works, as well as exchanged letters with kings and popes.

BRIDGET OF SWEDEN
Bridget of Sweden's religious beliefs were so influential that she founded her own religious order and travelled widely.