

# Assessment

Hildegard - ~~little effect~~ - influence effected her time but has little impact today, still felt today but not as strong as other persons.  
 significant bcos she altered perception of women's role in church & society

Contribution - visions, prophecies, revelations  
 mysticism.

- poetry, plays, writings - "scivias"
- chants, music "Symphonia armoniorum celestium revelationum"
- medicine, holistic healing.
- founded 2 nunneries.
- preaching tours - advised bishops, kings, pope.

31. 1141  
 1079 - 1148

effect - more respected approach towards mysticism

- increased women's credibility
- increased women's role in church - songs ~~before~~ 4 women.
- ~~holistic~~ holistic practices still used.
- nunneries whilst not flourishing not floundering.



Hildegard of Bingen, born in 1098, grew up in a time when women played a very little role in church life and matters of importance. Hildegard's independence, intelligence and mysticism greatly advanced women's role in society unknowingly, but despite <sup>this</sup> Hildegard has continued to have very little impact on society today.

Hildegard was a prolific writer of poetry, plays and theology. Out of these three, it is her theology that she is best known for, with its focus on the concept of the human soul, the transcendent and the holy spirit. In her context, it was virtually unknown for a woman's writings and works to be



published, but Hildegards held such insight, that they were. Her works such as the 'Scivias' are still explored today and ~~is~~<sup>are</sup> believed to be insightful.

Hildegard also claimed to receive visions and with these she wrote prophecies & revelations. Hildegard also had an artistic <sup>side</sup> and created illuminations after receiving these 'visions'. Through openly admitting these visions a more open approach was taken towards mysticism and people soon found a high sense of respect and credibility for mystics, such as Hildegard.

Hildegard not only painted but even created chants, music and her own language. Hildegards music is one aspect of her legacy that



still remains today. Pieces such as her 'Symphonia Ammoniae Celestium Revelationum' are still performed ~~today~~ and in her time her music broadened women's role in church services as she wrote for the female voice.

Hildegard was not only interested in music but also in holistic medicine and natural healing. Although these did not greatly impact upon people of her time, Hildegard's medicinal practices are still used today.

Along side all the writing, visions and natural medicine Hildegard also managed to establish two nunneries and embark on preaching tours.

Recently there has been a Hildegard



revival as the Hildegard nunneries in Europe are flourishing today ~~and Hilde~~ due to increased interest in her life works.

An integral part of Hildegard's life were her preaching tours. In these preaching tours Hildegard brought her theology to the people and even advised bishops, ~~the~~ the king and the Pope.

In exploring Hildegard's life it can be seen that ~~as the~~ she significantly impacted ~~the people~~ ~~of her~~ her society <sup>by</sup> ~~through~~ broadening women's role in church <sup>by women</sup> and society, increasing mystics' credibility, as well as laying the foundation for successful nunneries. Despite <sup>th's</sup> Hildegard's impact has failed to pass the test of time as new Christian



visionaries and revolutionaries arose.

It has only been in recent times that interest has been sparked in Hildegard's theology due to growing environmental concern.

Christianity looks to leaders of the past ~~and present~~ for advice and the theology of Hildegard suffices.