

mEdieval ReBELS!

Check out this zine we made to learn about three medieval rebels, and then follow the steps at the end to make one of your own!

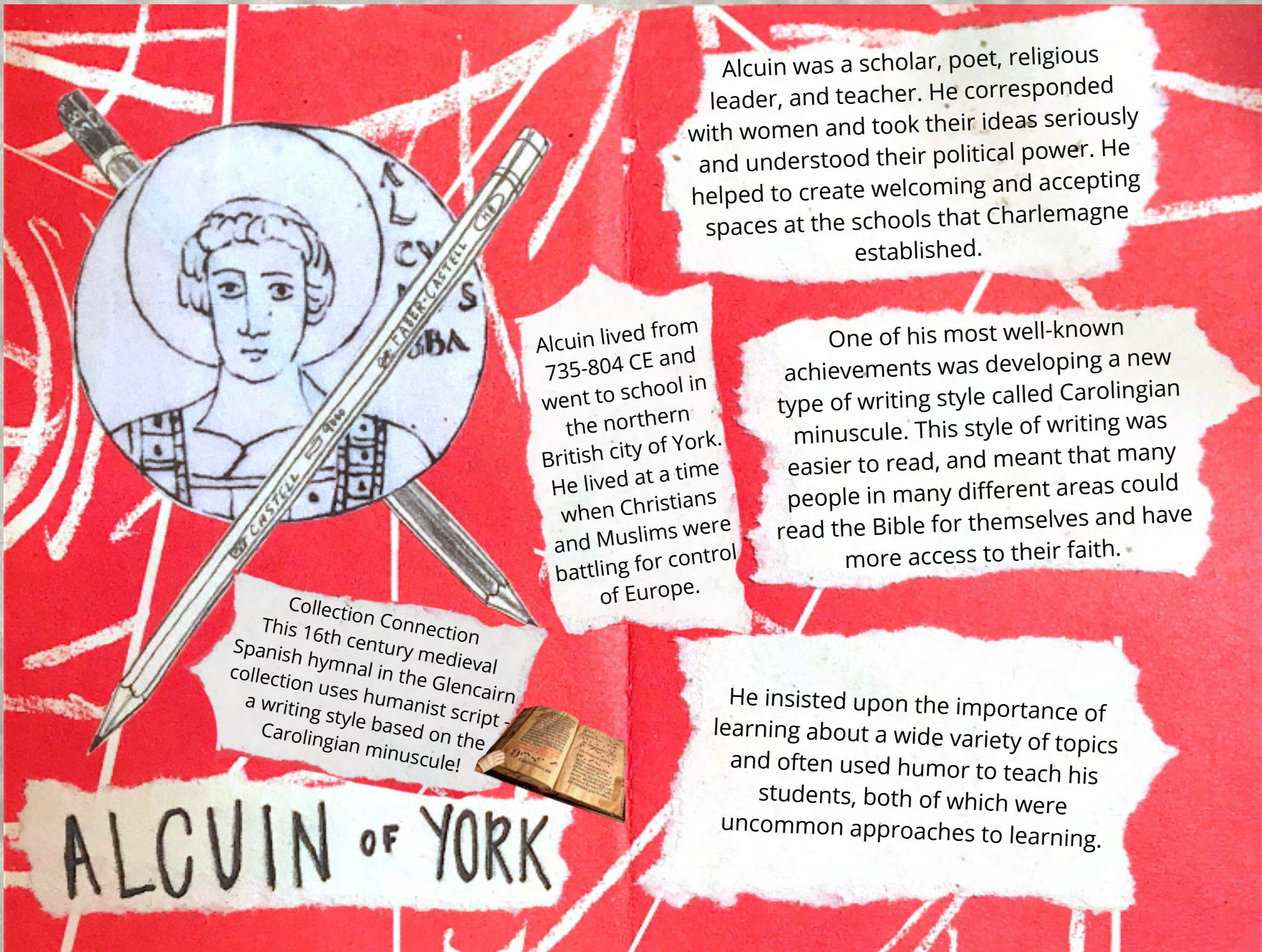
FRONT COVER

For as long as there have been humans, there have been people...

...who went against the grain.

It can be easy to think of the medieval era as being a time when people had to act a certain way and fulfill certain expectations, but there were people who pushed back against these expectations, carved their own paths, and weren't afraid to be themselves.

Here are three of our favorite medieval rebels!



ALCUIN OF YORK

Collection Connection
This 16th century medieval Spanish hymnal in the Glencairn collection uses humanist script - a writing style based on the Carolingian minuscule!



Alcuin lived from 735-804 CE and went to school in the northern British city of York. He lived at a time when Christians and Muslims were battling for control of Europe.

Alcuin was a scholar, poet, religious leader, and teacher. He corresponded with women and took their ideas seriously and understood their political power. He helped to create welcoming and accepting spaces at the schools that Charlemagne established.

One of his most well-known achievements was developing a new type of writing style called Carolingian minuscule. This style of writing was easier to read, and meant that many people in many different areas could read the Bible for themselves and have more access to their faith.

He insisted upon the importance of learning about a wide variety of topics and often used humor to teach his students, both of which were uncommon approaches to learning.

HILDE- GARD- BINGEN

Hildegard lived from 1098-1179 CE in what is now western Germany, during the time of the Crusades.

Hildegard wrote what are essentially musicals for the nuns she led to perform, complete with characters and costumes. Audiences were often upset that the performances were not reverent enough, despite their religious content. Hildegard and the nuns performed them anyway.



Collection Connection
The Glencairn collection includes depictions of medieval women who went against the grain and weren't afraid to be themselves like...



Catherine of Alexandria

Hildegard experienced visions and divine inspiration, leading her to write and speak about all sorts of topics, including spirituality, the natural world, and medicine.

People all over the German-speaking world requested her advice and expertise, going against what we might expect of women's stories in the medieval age.



[Listen to part of one of Hildegard's songs called *O frondens virga* here!](#)

medieval REBEL: Joan of Arc



Joan lived from 1412-1431 CE in France, during the Hundred Years' War between England and France.

Joan presented as a man in order to participate in the war against England and when Joan was eventually put on trial after being captured by the English army, the debate was less about military participation and more about gender. Joan wore masculine clothes even after agreeing not to and Joan's consistent refusal to conform to people's expectations of women solidified her fate.

Since her death, Joan's story has inspired many people to stand up for what they believe in.

Collection Connection
Joan's participation in the war reflected her strong beliefs in her country and faith. These 17th century miner's dress axes were both tools and weapons, and clearly show connections to their owners' Christian faith through the ivory decoration of the Crucifixion on their handles.



BACK COVER

medieval (mē/dē/vel), belonging to the Middle Ages (the years from about A.D. 500 to about 1450). *adjective.*

rebel (reb/əl for 1 and 2; ri/bel/ for 3 and 4),
1 person who resists or fights against authority instead of obeying: *The rebels armed themselves against the government.* **2** defying law or authority: *a rebel army.* **3** resist or fight against law or authority: *Unfair taxes made the colonists rebel.* **4** feel a great dislike or opposition: *We rebelled at having to stay in on so fine a day.* **1 noun,**
2 adjective, 3,4 verb, rebelled, rebelling. [Rebel is from a Latin word meaning "one who makes war again." This usually referred to a person who had already been conquered in war, but kept on fighting anyway, hoping to regain freedom.]

MAKE YOUR
OWN ZINE

Make your own zine about medieval rebels!
Here are some of the websites and references we used to make ours:

- [How to make a zine from a single sheet of paper](#)
- [SmartHistory.org](#)
- [QSpirit: Saints](#)
- [Medievalists.net](#)
- [The Public Medievalist](#)