

This diploma thesis deals with writings of women writers of European Early and Central Middle Ages, particularly with four women writers, who flourished from the half of the 9th century to the beginning of the 13th century in western Europe. In the Middle Ages there were much more male than female writers, but unique personalities, influencing the world of literature, could be found even among the women writers. Ladies presented in this thesis exemplify with their writings general literary development of the Middle Ages, but, simultaneously, they are always at the beginning of something new. These women writers are Dhuoda, infelicitous wife of nobleman, canoness Hrotsvit of Gandersheim, abbess Hildegard of Bingen, and finally conscious author from the royal court, Marie de France. Dhuoda created in the middle of the 9th century with her writing *Liber manualis* unique didactic-educational work, the oldest „in France“ written piece about education.<sup>377</sup> Hrotsvit wrote, as her fellows did, legends and historical epics, but, moreover, she created first performable plays of the Christian world.<sup>378</sup> Hildegard of Bingen represents with her writings the breaking period of the 12th century, but her work is really vast and in its range unique. The last one, Marie de France, is the representative of the courtoise culture, but as a founder of new literary genre, narrative poem, she didn't care about period conventions.