On this Italian card advertising a company named after chloroform pioneer Justus von Liebig (1803 to 1873), a seated Muse Clio (right) records history upon a writing tablet with her stylus. As the Muse of History, Clio governs historical collections, such as the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology. However, in ancient Greece, long chronicles of names and events were frequently mastered in the semimusical oral tradition of ancient Greek verse. Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey invoked a goddess, perhaps the Muse of Epic Poetry, Calliope (“beautiful voiced”). She is frequently depicted as a belaureled standing figure (left) clutching her iconic scroll. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology.)

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