

From Chloroform to Clio and Calliope, Liebig's Muses of History and Epic Poetry



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.)

George S. Bause, M.D., M.P.H., Honorary Curator, ASA's Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, Schaumburg, Illinois, and Clinical Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. UJYC@aol.com.