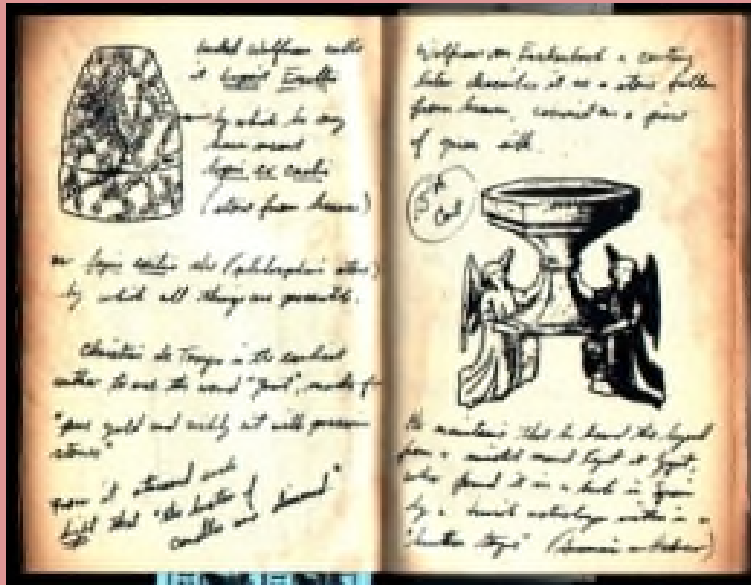


Euterpe Sings the First Song



The instructions for singing are the same as the instructions for writing; or, at least, they were once.

When the muses chanted the first rehearsed lyrics both art forms began.

Melete, Mneme and Aoide:
the original three muses embodied
the act of 'remembering' and 'practicing'
'song'.



Orpheus sings the story and he's in the story; which came first? Like a chicken and egg situation, the singer and song.

The Oldest Piece of Writing in the World?

Written around 340BC, this manuscript tells of a song by Orpheus, quoting part of the creation myth. During which Zeus swallows the Phallus of King Uranus, who first ejaculated the brilliance of heaven, if you please.





Oracles foretold of Orpheus, and
Orpheus told of Oracles in his songs.

Here, the Pythia's stool is placed above a pit
where the fumes of decomposing Python,
the beast slain by Apollo, lays.

The intoxicating smoke put this singer
into a trance.





**Orpheus' father is Apollo
and his mother is Muse Calliope.**

**Made by the gods, of the same stuff
as music itself....**





**All ancient sources agree,
he could tame the wild animals
with his song.**



And he charmed the king of the underworld with his music so Orpheus was allowed to take his dead bride Eurydice back to the light side...





But he broke Hades' rule, 'don't look back';
and lost her forever.

I used to think it was his lack of faith
but now wonder if it was
something she said?!



Trying to live without his wife, Orpheus gets torn apart by all the other women, who can never turn the god of music on.

His mother and the other muses bury the parts of his body around Greece.

Except for his head, which floats on the river Hebrus singing forever.





Here, Euterpe, Muse of Music, with her double flute, clearly has the closest relationship with Orpheus of all nine; except perhaps his mother, Calliope. As a musician, once upon a time, you'd have invoked her supernatural assistance for your song!