

The Coherent Muses

Recent discoveries on the Greek Island of Desenex have shed light on the long-lost missing muses of the laser arts.

Some Background: the original nine muses have inspired artists down the millennia, appearing in ghostly form over the artists' shoulders, whispering ideas to receptive painters, poets, and playwrights. Here is the gallery of the classic muses:

Muse - Domain

Calliope - Epic poetry

Clio - History

Euterpe - Song

Erato - Lyric poetry

Melpomene - Tragedy

Polyhymnia - Hymns

Terpsichore - Dance

Thalia - Comedy

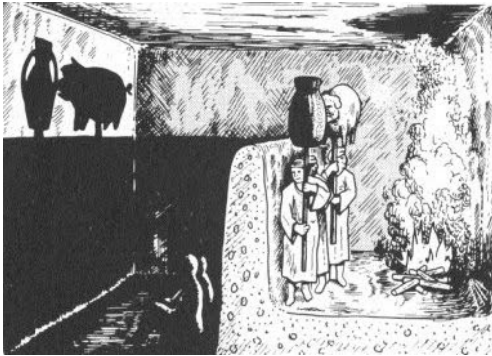
Urania - Astronomy

To that list we may now add:

Lumente - Epic Lasers

Photonica - Small lasers

Lumente and Photonica were daughters of Zeus's sister's maid, Moiré. Abandoned at birth, they were discovered on the banks of the river Galvoe (near the Coheren Sea) by a wandering magic lanternist, and raised to do shadow plays against the walls of caves to entertain prisoners.



Growing bored of working in the shadows, they discovered how to create more interesting shows, using a technology given to them by the demi-god Planteras. Zeus learned of this and smote them, but they escaped into the sky and were given refuge by Zeus's gardener, Seedybeme. There they became the muses they are today, inspiring generations of light-emitting artisans.



Above is one of the recent discoveries, reported by Prof. Jon Bobson of the Saint Wilford institute of Lumentics. An ancient laserista (or hoplight, as they were known) is shown prepping for a pre-orgy projection session. Hanging systems hadn't been developed yet, so hoplights had to do the tricky business of holding the projector with one hand while adjusting kinematics with the other.



Above is a fresco from the caves at Drier, Ionia, believed to depict Lumente preparing to align an early oil lamp-pumped projection system. Note the crude shutter. Such primitive devices were challenging to maintain, as they required 30 candle power and circulating retsina.



This is one of the earliest known depictions of a laser pointer, found in the tomb of the unknown Rhodie, in the town of Bener on Desenex. The beam was apparently in the region of 520nm, and based on some sort of olive oil dye, the technology for which has been lost. This is believed to depict Photonina offering up a pointer on a shield as a sacrifice to Byclops (just before he became Cyclops).



In this tomb painting, found on the island of Yogi-Phideaux by Prof. Patrick Stonefree of the Internal Lapidary Department of Antiquities, Photonina is seen waving around a 1W blue laser wand while a slave cowers in fear. At her feet is a tray with the likeness of DTRa, a mythic supplier of wand supplies. With her right hand she is filling out a variance on a scroll of vellum.

This has been my annual report on the latest in laser archeology.
Tune in next year this time for more updates.

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