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## The Lodge of Nine Muses supports Stowe's Nine Muses

Following a presentation from the National Trust, The Lodge of Nine Muses has made a charitable gift towards the restoration of the statues of the Nine Muses and Apollo at the Elysian Fields in the gardens of Lord Viscount Cobham at Stowe in Buckinghamshire.

There is some discussion whether the Lodge is named after these garden statues as Lord Cobham created this part of the garden only a few years before the Lodge was formed in 1777.



W.Bro. David Connell (P.A.G.Purs). W.Bro. Michael O'Shea (Treasurer), W.Bro. Bryan Short (Charity Steward), Alaina Cornish (Fundraising Manager for the National Trust, Stowe) and W.Bro. Michel Henri.

## Background to the 'lost' Apollo and the Nine Muses statues at the Elysian Fields in Stowe Gardens.

The ten statues are symbols of inspiration, artistic creation and learning.

1. Apollo the God and patron of poetry, music and the arts
2. Clio the Muse of history
3. Erato the Muse of love and erotic poetry and mime
4. Euterpe the Muse of lyric poetry
5. Polyhymnia the Muse of sublime hymn
6. Thalia the Muse of comedy and idyllic poetry
7. Urania the Muse of astronomy
8. Calliope the Muse of epic poetry
9. Melpomene the Muse of tragedy
10. Terpsichore the Muse of choral dance and song

This group was associated with the gardens of Lord Viscount Cobham at Stowe from the early eighteenth century and they became focal points within three areas of the garden, moving to their final location around the Doric Arch in the late 1760s, and remained in the gardens until the nineteenth century (*as with other statues and temples, these were relocated within the gardens a number of times where they formed key focal points*).

The Lodge of Nine Muses recently donated to this project as there is some discussion whether the Lodge is named after these garden statues, as Lord Viscount Cobham created this part of the garden only a few years before the Lodge was formed in 1777.

As part of the Stowe Landscape Programme the National Trust intends to return replica statues and recreate this setting as close to the original as possible.

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