

House of Muses - Park of
Muses - a court legend.

Olympus has been the seat of the Greek gods for centuries. People were afraid to climb the holy mountain. This has changed over time. When the old gods began to fall into oblivion, they had to find new places for themselves. The solution was to live among people in the form of ... statues. People liked them, so they cared for them, and the gods and goddesses enchanted in them could wake up on moonless nights and go out into the world. They just couldn't be noticed, so every ray of sunlight or moonlight was their enemy. They wandered, conducted disputes, sometimes helped and sometimes harmed people. Until dawn ... to the first ray. The sun or the moon. The rules were very strict. If one of the deities did not return to their place, they would turn into trees without the possibility of returning to the comfortable form of a statue ...

The present brick manor in Zglobice was built in the 19th century by Countess Lanckorońska. She also brought the mysterious nine statues of the Olympic Muses from the south. She ordered them to build special niches on the façade where they decorated the manor during the day and inspired the inhabitants. And at night ...

Why outside? Did she know their legend? Did it make it easier for them to move around? Why did she just bring them to Zglobice? It will remain a secret forever ...

On moonless nights, the statues came to life. They ran around the garden, but returned to their places before dawn.

One spring day, almost 200 years ago, the first accident happened. Polyhymnia (because that was the name of the muse) always kept to the side. The muse of sacred poetry liked the singing and the sound of bells. An exceptionally moonless night fell on Easter. In the nearby Zbylitowska Góra church, they began singing before the resurrection earlier than usual. Curious, Polyhymnia ran to see what was

happening. Listening to the choral singing, she did not notice that the sky began to pink in the east. When she realized what was happening, it was too late. She ran towards the manor. And maybe she could. Unfortunately, the mansion is on a hill. The sun's rays were the first to reach the recess in the wall. She was several meters away. Today it stands alone as a soaring linden tree on the eastern side of the manor, next to an empty place ...

After this accident, the sisters followed the rules very much. Long before dawn, they returned to the recesses so as not to risk contact with the light. But these security measures were not enough ...

The second accident happened only a few years later. There was a night that happens once in several dozen years. The night of a total lunar eclipse. As his shield disappeared into the shadow of the earth, the muses awoke. Calliope, Erato and Euterpe - the muse of epic, love and lyrical poetry, as usual, jumped off the windowsills and began to dance together, giggling and reciting poems. Talia, the muse of comedy, crouched behind a bush to make a joke to the sisters. And



Melpomene (the muse of tragedy and singing) repeated the role while walking nearby. Only Urania - the muse of astronomy - understood the seriousness of the situation. She knew that the lunar eclipse was a temporary phenomenon and that soon the moon would be full of light again. The sisters were in danger! She jumped off her ledge to run around the manor. She couldn't scream so as not to wake people up. She warned Clio and Terpsichore, who rushed back to their places, and as she was reaching Talia, the shadow of the earth revealed the bright disc of the full moon.

Three poetry muses frozen in dance as trees. Because they loved each other so much, their leaves took the shape of a heart. They became lime trees. The fourth of the sisters, from regret that she was stuck a bit further, became a catalpa. Its leaves are heart-shaped too, but they are huge. The catalpa writhes as if she wants to get out and move towards the sisters, and at the same time turns backwards. Next to her stands Urania, whose sacrifice made her become an oak ...

Melpomene, as the muse of tragedy, turned into a spiny robinia ...

Only two muses remained in the recesses. The other places are now empty. Apparently, Clio (the muse of history) and Terpsychora (the muse of choral song) on moonless nights go down from their places and go to talk with their sisters - trees. The hotel reception then reports a garden lighting failure that ... passes by itself. The called electricians do not find the reason why that one night it breaks the security and the garden for all night plunges into darkness for unknown reasons ...



Is the legend true? Well... in fact, there are only two statues of muses at the manor, and there must have been more of them. Indeed, there are remarkable old trees growing around exactly as described in the legend. Anyway, see and judge for yourself ...

Polihymnia linden grows on the eastern side of the manor, three sisters (linden) Kaliope, Erato and Euterpe dancing together can be found on the west side. You will see the catalpa Talia lurking a bit to the south and the Urania (oak) that covers it behind the Pavillon de Jardin. And Melpomene grows north of the three limes. Look for them ...

There are two more trees in the garden that are much older than the others. They grew here before the statues were brought. And they witnessed the entire history of the court. It is a 300-year-old oak on a hill and an equally old white poplar in the eastern part of the park. They are called Zeus and Mnemosyne. That was the name of the gods - parents of the Olympic muses.

