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HENIOCHUS AND THE SHAPE OF THE ATHENIAN ORCHESTRA

aus: Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik 130 (2000) 12

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## HENIOCHUS AND THE SHAPE OF THE ATHENIAN ORCHESTRA

Martin Revermann in *ZPE* 128, 1999, 25–28, claims that Heniochus fr. 5.6–8 K.–A.,

τὸ χωρίον μὲν γὰρ τόδ' ἐστὶ πᾶν κύκλωι  
 Ὀλυμπία, τῆνδὶ δὲ τὴν σκηνὴν ἐκεῖ  
 σκηνὴν ὄραν θεωρικὴν νομίζετε,

is evidence for a circular orchestra, probably in the Athenian theatre. I have no wish to argue that the orchestra was other than circular, but these verses throw no light on the question. κύκλωι means simply ‘on all sides, all round’, and does not (any more than English ‘round’ < *rotundus*) imply a circular area. It can indeed be used with reference to the perimeter of a rectangular structure: *Od.* 8.278 (Hephaestus’ bed); *Hdt.* 1.181.4 (the ziggurat of Bel in Babylon); *Thuc.* 3.68.3 (the hotel at the Plataean Heraion).

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