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PANATHENAIC STADIUM

Built: 330-329 BC
Between 140 and 144 AD, Herodes Atticus restored and changed the Stadium

Location: The stadium sits between the two hills of Agra and Ardettos, over the Ilissos river.



Construction:
Originally this was a part of the natural ground. It was constructed into a stadium by Lykourgos in 330-329 BC for the athletic competitions of the Panathinaea Festivities. Lykourgos built the stadium that features a parallelogram shape with an entrance at one narrow end and room for the spectators on the earth slopes of the other three sides.

This is a multi-purpose stadium used for several events and athletics in Athens that hosted the first modern Olympic Games in 1896.

Restorations that Herodes Atticus did:

These restorations resulted in two main changes: the construction of the original rectilinear shape to a horseshoe shape and the installation of rows of seats of white marble. The track was 204,07 meters long and 33,35 meters wide. It is believed that the Stadium had a seating capacity of 50,000 people. Herodes possibly restored also the Ilissos river bridge on the Stadium's entrance.

The Panathenaia: This was an Athenian festival celebrated every June in honor of the goddess Athena. The Lesser Panathenaia was an annual event, while the Greater was held every four years. Some of the events at the festival included:

-The Musical Contest: This was only held at the Greater Panathenaia. The musical contest proper was introduced by Pericles, who built the new Odeum for the purpose. Previously the recitations of the rhapsodes were in the old unroofed Odeum. There is a very important inscription concerning these musical contests. Plutarch appears to have written a treatise on the Panathenaic music.

-The Gymnastic Contest: This was a late addition, said to have been first made by the Archon Hippoclidides in 566 B.C. The competitors were divided into paides 12-16 years old, ageneioi, 16-20 years old, and andres, were men above 20. The boys had their events first, then there was an interval and on re-assembling the men's events took place. The races were run in heats of four each, the victors in the heats afterwards running together. There were prizes for the first and

second in the deciding heat. The prizes consisted of oil from the moriai in the Academia. The gymnastic games probably lasted two days, certainly not less than one.

-**The Boat-race:** It was held every four years in the Piraeus in honor of Poseidon and Athena, in which ships were drawn to the sea.

Things to know:

-Olympics: The modern times restoration of the Stadium was conducted by G. Averof by the end of the 19th century for the first Olympic Games that were reborn again in 1896.

-Tomb of Herodes: Herodes died at the age of 76 and even though he died in Marathon, he was buried by the Panathenaic Stadium.

-Temple of Tyche: On the hill on the other side of the stadium stood the temple of the goddess Tyche/Fortuna with the ivory cult statue of the goddess inside. On the temple there is an inscription of Regilla as the first priestess of Tyche. Tyche is the goddess of fortune and luck.

Excavation: From as early as 1836, archaeological excavation had uncovered traces of the ancient Stadium of Herodes Atticus, and on the basis of these findings, as well as of the finds from the excavations conducted by Ernst Ziller in 1869, the plan for its reconstruction was prepared by the architect Anastasis Metaxas. The rebuilding of the Stadium from Pentelic marble is distinguished by its high degree of fidelity to the ancient monument of Herodes.

Questions:

- 1) Do you think Herodes involvement in building of the temple of Tyche had anything to do with Regula being the first priestess?
- 2) Would Herodes Atticus be as well remembered if he had not spent so much money on social projects?
- 3) Why do you think Herodes was buried at the Panathenaic Stadium, rather than at Marathon?

Article:

Tobin, Jennifer. "Some New Thoughts on Herodes Atticus's Tomb, His Stadium of 143/4, and Philostratus VS 2.550". *American Journal of Archaeology*. 1993:81-89.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/505840>. Web.

With this site, we collected information on the Tomb of Herodes and the Temple of Tyche.

Website:

"History of the Panathenaic Stadium.". *Panathenaic Stadium*. 2011.

<http://www.panathenaicstadium.gr/ThePanathenaicStadium/History/tabid/96/language/en-US/Default.aspx>. Web.

With this site, we collected information on when the stadium was built, the reconstruction and the excavations of the stadium.