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(b) No preferred panel

(c) Title: Pythagoras's *Historiê* and the *Akousmata* Collection

(d) Outline of the content: In the ongoing debate about the nature of the contribution Pythagoras (c. 570-c. 480 BCE) made to the development of Greek thought two sets of evidence are of particular importance: the first are the testimonia by contemporaries or near contemporaries, the second the collection of sayings known as the *akousmata* or *symbola*. In this paper I wish to explore the implications the testimonia on Pythagoras's *historiê* (ἱστορίη) have for our understanding of the *akousmata*, and conversely, the implications the proposed understanding of the *akousmata* have for the character of the early Pythagorean movement. The Pythagorean *akousmata* are usually considered cult precepts that were obeyed literally by the early Pythagoreans, only to be interpreted as symbolic utterances in the later tradition. It is suggested in this paper that a tendency to interpret them symbolically is already noticeable in the early tradition, and that this tendency gained momentum when the sayings began to function as a collection. This has significant implications for our understanding of the identity of the early Pythagorean community.