

## Sources for the Lelantine War (in approximate chronological order)

### **Hesiod, *Works and Days* 654ff**

Crossed over to Chalcis, I did, to the funeral games  
For old Amphidamas. The great man's sons had put up  
Prizes aplenty for the contests, and I'm proud to say  
I won the songfest and took home an eared tripod

### **Archilochus, Fragment 3**

Not many bows will be stretched nor will there be numerous slings, whenever Ares brings  
together the press of battle on the plain it will be the woeful work of swords. This is the warfare in  
which those spear-famed lords of Euboea are skilled.

### **Theognis 891ff**

Shame on weakness! Cerinthus is being destroyed, and Lelantum's fine vineyards are being  
ravaged; the nobles are in exile and base men govern the city. May Zeus destroy the race of the  
Cypselids.

### **Herodotus 5.99**

The Eretrians participated in the war in Ionia not for the sake of the Athenians, but to repay a debt  
they owed to the Milesians, who had earlier helped the Eretrians wage war against Chalcis at the  
very time when the Samians had to the aid of the Chalcidians.

### **Thucydides 1.15**

Such wars as took place were all local affairs between contiguous states, and the Greeks did not  
undertake distant expeditions for foreign conquest. The big cities had not yet formed leagues of  
subject allies, nor did they choose to make common cause in any joint expedition: rather all wars  
were fought individually between neighbors. The main exception was the war fought long ago  
between Chalcis and Eretria, when alliance with one side or the other split the rest of Greece.

### **Aristotle, *Politics* 4.3.2**

Horse-rearing is always difficult without wealth. Hence in ancient times the states whose power  
lay in their horses had oligarchies and they made use of their horses in war against states whose  
borders were contiguous. We see this in Chalcis and Eretria and, on the Asiatic side, Magnesia on  
the Maeander and other areas.

### **Strabo 5.4.9**

Pithecusae was once settled by Eretrians and also Chalcidians, who, although they had prospered  
there on account of the fruitfulness of the soil and on account of the gold mines, forsook the  
island as the result of a quarrel.

### **Strabo 10.1.12**

Now in general Chalcis and Eretria were in accord with one another, and when differences arose  
concerning the Lelantine Plain they did not so completely break off relations as to wage their wars  
in all respects according to the will of each, but they came to an agreement as to the conditions

under which they were to conduct the fight. This fact, among others, is disclosed by a certain pillar in the Amarynthium, which forbids the use of long-distance missiles.

**Plutarch, *Moralia* 760e-761b (*On Love*)**

In the heat of the war between the Chalcidians and the Eretrians, Cleomachus went with the Thessalian force to aid the Chalcidians; at what time it was evident that the Chalcidians were the stronger in foot, but they found it a difficult thing to withstand the force of the enemies' horse. Thereupon they requested Cleomachus, being their confederate and a man signalized for his courage, to give the first onset upon the enemies' cavalry. Presently the youth whom he most entirely loved being present, he asked him whether he would stay and be a spectator of the combat. To which when the lad gave his consent, and after many tender kisses and embraces had put on his helmet, Cleomachus's love redoubling his courage, being surrounded with some few of the flower of the Thessalian horse, he charged into the thickest of the enemy and put them to the rout; which the heavy-armed infantry seeing, they betook themselves also to flight, so that the Chalcidians obtained a noble victory. However, Cleomachus was there slain, and the Chalcidians show his monument erected in the market-place, with a fair pillar standing upon it to this day; and whereas they abominated pederasty before, after that they admired and affected it above all other pleasures. Nevertheless, Aristotle tells us that Cleomachus indeed lost his life after the victorious battle which he gained from the Eretrians, but as for that Cleomachus who was thus kissed by his male concubine, that he was of Chalcis in Thrace, and sent to aid the Chalcidians in Euboea.

**Plutarch, *Moralia* 153f (*Dinner of the Seven Wise Men*)**

Periander now entered into the conversation, and said, "Nevertheless it is a fact, Cleodorus, that the ancient Greeks also had a habit of propounding such perplexing questions to one another. For we have the story that the most famous poets among the wise men of that time gathered at Chalcis to attend the funeral of Amphidamas. Now Amphidamas was a warrior who had given much trouble to the Eretrians, and had fallen in one of the battles for the possession of the Lelantine plain.