

The Sacred Band of Thebes

Primary sources

Plutarch. *Life of Pelopidas*, trans. Bernadotte Perrin (1917).

https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/e/roman/texts/plutarch/lives/pelopidas*.html

Plato. *The Symposium*, trans. W. Hamilton (1951).

Xenophon. *Hellenica*, trans. Carleton L. Brownson (1921).

Secondary sources

Romm, James (2021). *The Sacred Band*.

Romm's book, which we were sent an ARC of, is the most recent work on the Band. It's a good introduction to the time period but says surprisingly little about the Band given its title. In particular, although Romm does firmly believe the Band was composed of lovers, he provides virtually nothing in terms of explanation or analysis of this.

Leitao, David (2002). "The Legend of the Sacred Band". In Martha C. Nussbaum and Juha Sihvola (eds.), *The Sleep of Reason: Erotic Experience and Sexual Ethics in Ancient Greece and Rome*.

This chapter is particularly useful because it lays out all of the surviving ancient sources on the Sacred Band. It also notably argues that the Band was not composed of pairs of lovers. Although Leitao's argument has its flaws and has not been widely accepted, he raises some good questions that no other scholar I read addressed.

Leitao David (2019). "The Sacred Band of Thebes." In Howard Chiang (ed.), *Global Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) History*.

This chapter covers much the same ground as Leitao's 2002 one, but is much less dense.

Ma, John (2008). "Chaironeia 338: Topographies of Commemoration", *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 128 72-91.

Hubbard, Thomas K. (ed.) (2014). *A Companion to Greek and Roman Sexualities*.

A very useful volume for quick background information and suggestions for further reading. In particular, I read the chapters Ancient Pederasty: An Introduction by Andrew Lear, Peer Homosexuality by Thomas K. Hubbard and Sexuality in Greek and Roman Military Contexts by David D. Leitao

Hupperts, Charles (2005). "Boeotian Swine," *Journal of Homosexuality*, 49:3-4, 173-192.

A great rundown of our evidence for homosexuality in Boeotia.

Cook, Brad (2001). "Plutarch's Use of *legetai*," *Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies* 42 329-60.

Dover, K.J. (1978). *Greek Homosexuality*.

Percy, William Armstrong III (1996). *Pederasty and Pedagogy in Archaic Greece*.

Davidson, James (2006). *The Greeks & Greek Love: A Bold New Exploration of the Ancient World*.

Lear, Andrew (2015). "Was pederasty problematized? A diachronic view." In Mark Masterson, Nancy Sorkin Rabinowitz and James Robson, *Sex in Antiquity: Exploring Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient World*.

Cartledge, Paul (2020). *Thebes: The Forgotten City of Ancient Greece*.

Rockwell, Nicholas (2017). *Thebes: A History*.

Buckler, John (2013). "Epaminondas at Leuctra, 371 B.C." In Brian Campbell and Lawrence A. Tritle (eds.), *Warfare in the Classical World*.

Hanson, Victor (1988). "Epameinondas, the Battle of Leuktra (371 B.C.), and the "Revolution" in Greek Battle Tactics", *Classical Antiquity* vol. 7, no. 2, 190-207.

As mentioned in the episode, the military history for the period the Band existed is pretty hotly debated. As we didn't have time to dive into that, I wanted to recommend reading Buckler's chapter and Hanson's article on the Battle of Leuctra to get a sense of the competing ideas that exist.