In amplitζatru Carthaginis: the Carthage amphitheatre and its uses
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The exploration of the amphitheatre

The amphitheatre at Carthage lies on the W edge of the ancient city just south of the decumanus maximus as it heads inland (fig. 1). Modern investigation dates back to the late 19th c. when A.-L. Delattre spent several years (1894-96) excavating the building, but, apart from a handful of inscriptions and minor objects recovered, few details were ever published. In the decades following, parts of the amphitheatre were reconstructed but no further archaeological work was undertaken (fig. 2). It was not until the 1980s that a

1 The Latin phrase in my title is taken from A. Audollent, Defixionum tabellae (Paris 1904) 351, no. 253, ll. 17-18 (henceforth cited as DT).
3 A short account of the amphitheatre’s history is included in A. Lézine, Architecture romaine d’Afrique (Paris n.d. [1961]) 60-64. According to Abbé Chabot (CRAI 76 [1932] 25-31), the wall around the arena was rebuilt in 1926.

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