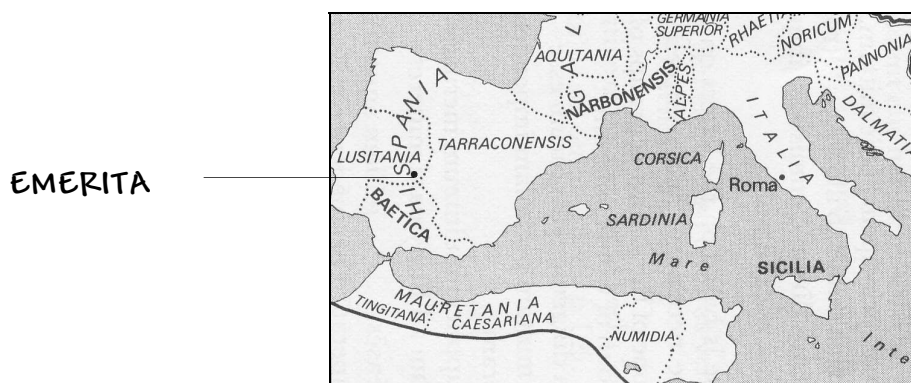


# AUGUSTA EMERITA - A.D. MMIX

*nomen meum est .....*

**200 - 19 B.C.** The **Romans** gradually conquered Spain and Portugal, defeating various **Iberian** and **Celtiberian** tribes, and the **Greeks** and **Carthaginians** living along the Mediterranean coast.

**25 B.C.** **Augustus** had just become the first emperor of Rome. **Mérida** was founded by the general **Carisius**, who was under orders from **Marcus Agrippa**, the son-in-law of the emperor Augustus.



The war to conquer the last part of Spain, Galicia, was just ending, and a town was needed to give the soldiers of the Vth and Xth Legions a home. The town was called **Augusta Emerita**, because the Latin for retired soldiers is 'emeriti'.

Soon afterwards the **Theatre** and the **Amphitheatre** were built. **Mérida** became the capital of the province of **Lusitania**.

**About A.D.400** The Romans lost control of Spain, as tribes from the north, such as the **Visigoths**, invaded. The Visigoths became Christians.

**A.D.713** Mérida came under **Arab/Moorish** control. The people of Mérida were mostly Christians and were unhappy to be ruled by the Arabs in Córdoba. The Arabs therefore built the **Alcazaba** to protect themselves. (This was built on top of Roman houses and roads. In order to be able to get water without going outside the walls, they built the cistern or **aljibe**.)