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Aeneas and Romulus in the Forum of Augusta Emerita (Hispania)

Roman Colony *ex novo* in the Image of Rome

Augusta Emerita is a direct result of Augustus' imperial policy in Hispania.¹ The conquest and pacification of the Iberian Peninsula prompted the reorganization of its territory. Augustus founded this new colony *ex novo* around 25–23 BCE,² and this was soon followed by the creation of a new Spanish province, Lusitania, when Hispania Ulterior was divided into the new provinces of Baetica and Lusitania.³ Augusta Emerita would become, just a few years after its foundation, the provincial capital of a vast territory. The province of Lusitania faced towards the Atlantic, *ignotus oceanus*, a new route in Roman geopolitics.

Thus, soon after the foundation of Augusta Emerita, Hispania was organized into three provinces: Tarraconensis, Baetica and Lusitania. Augusta Emerita became the political and administrative center of western *Hispania*, and in the fourth century CE, after the administrative reforms of Diocletian, it became the capital of the *dioecesis Hispaniarum*.⁴

The new colony was located in a privileged and rich geographical zone. It lay at the center of a communications network and was protected by two rivers, the Ana and the Barraeca, today the Guadiana and Albarregas.

Its first settlers were Italic veterans from the Fifth and Tenth legions of the Roman army.⁵ The colony's patron may have been Augustus' son-in-law, M. Vipsanius Agrippa. He had commanded the legions in the campaigns in the north of the peninsula and was very popular among the veterans.⁶ Several monumental inscriptions dedicated to Agrippa, dating to 16–15 BCE, are preserved in Emerita's first large theater, which were set up shortly before his death in 12 BCE.⁷

1 Iglesias 2014; Álvarez/Nogales-Basarrate 2015. For an overview of the history of the Roman colony of Augusta Emerita: Nogales-Basarrate 2021; Álvarez/Nogales-Basarrate in press. Translation revised by Jonathan Edmondson. Project “Augusta Emerita: modelo urbano, arquitectónico y decorativo en Lusitania-I” (PID2020-114954GB-I00). Programa Estatal de Generación del Conocimiento y Fortalecimiento Científico y Tecnológico del Sistema de I+D+i y de I+D+i Orientada a los Retos de la Sociedad. Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación.

2 Stylow/Ventura, 2009, 467; Nogales-Basarrate 2021, 35–36.

3 Álvarez/Carvalho/Fabião 2015.

4 Arce 2002.

5 Le Roux 1982; Saquete 1997; Edmondson 2018.

6 Roddaz 1995; Nogales-Basarrate/Álvarez 2018, 36.

7 Nogales-Basarrate 2007a, 106; Stylow/Ventura 2018, 157–160.



Fig. 1: 3D reconstruction of the colony Augusta Emerita. Photo: Josep Casals 2020, based on Golvin/Álvarez/Nogales 1995.

From the start, the urban models of the new provincial capital were closely linked to the city of Rome.⁸ The first construction systems of granite and local stones covered with stucco may be classified in the Italic tradition of the so-called military architecture, which specialized in public and utilitarian works.⁹ It is an architecture with little knowledge of the use of marble, a material that was already widespread in Rome in the great monumentalization projects of the *princeps*, such as the *Forum Augustum*.¹⁰

In this new provincial administration a very powerful political class emerged, with characters closely linked to the emperor such as L. Cornelius Bocchus,¹¹ L. Fulcinius Trio¹² or M. Salvius Otho, the future emperor.¹³ This close political contact with Rome from the moment of the colony's foundation could be the basis for Augusta Emerita's evident relationship with metropolitan models, which arrived in Lusitania

⁸ Nogales-Basarrate/Álvarez 2006.

⁹ Nogales-Basarrate/Álvarez 2018, *passim*.

¹⁰ Ungaro 2007; La Rocca 2011; Ungaro 2021.

¹¹ Saquete 2011; Almagro 2011; Fishwick 2011; González Herrero 2013; Álvarez/Nogales-Basarrate in press.

¹² Saquete 2005.

¹³ Fernández Uriel 2001.

thanks to the important *officinae* charged with working on large projects such as the theater, amphitheater or the two *fora* (colonial and provincial) (Fig. 1).¹⁴

Forum coloniae: A Monumental Public Space and the Start of Imperial Cult

In the early years of the colony, in its topographic center at the intersection of the *decumanus* and the *cardo*, a great square with a temple was erected, the *forum coloniae* (Figs. 2A–C). Since the seventeenth century it has been called the “Temple of Diana” in the humanist tradition. This imposing religious building was related to the start of the imperial cult under Augustus (Fig. 2C); it was possibly dedicated to Rome and Augustus, as with other provincial examples. The temple was integrated as a *celeberrimus locus* within the large square of the colonial forum.¹⁵

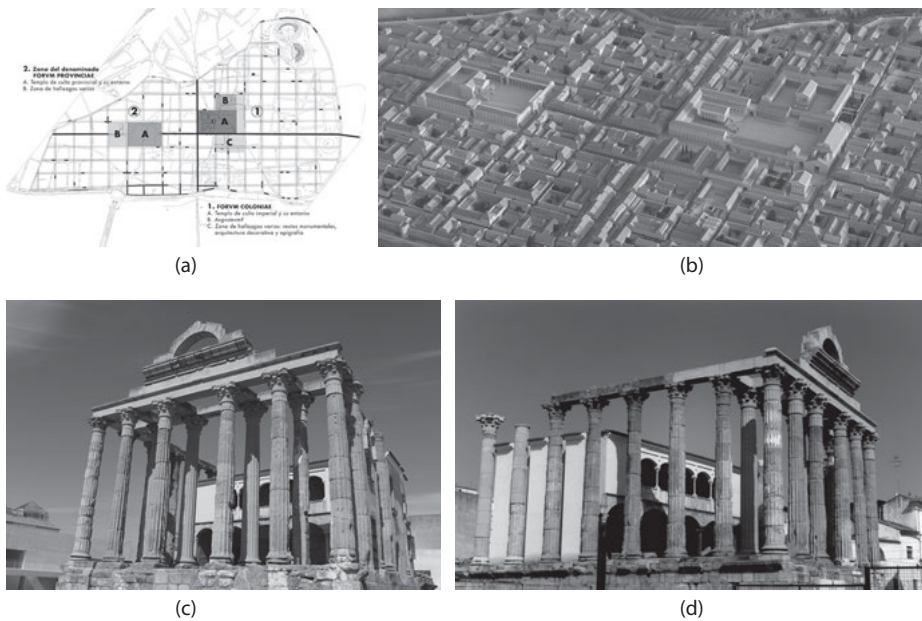


Fig. 2: (A) Plan with locations of both fora. After Álvarez/Nogales-Basarrate 2003. (B) 3D reconstruction of the *fora* at Emerita. Drawing by Josep Casals 2020. (C) and (D) “Temple of Diana”—Imperial Cult Temple. Photo: MNAR archive, C. López.

¹⁴ Nogales-Basarrate 2009.

¹⁵ Álvarez/Nogales-Basarrate 2003: *passim*.

As usual with Roman fora, the initial monumental space was enlarged and transformed over several centuries (Figs. 2A–B). This process evolved throughout the entire Julio-Claudian period and continued in the second and third centuries CE. Excavations, with sculptural, architectural and epigraphic material discovered in the area, allow us to document this evolution.¹⁶

The area has been known since the first documentary sources of the Renaissance because, over time, the remains of the Roman temple were reused and integrated into the so-called Palace of the Conde de los Corbos, which remained in use until the twentieth century.

In the nineteenth century the first discoveries were made in the area near the so-called Temple of Diana. The important sculptural pieces found were taken to the museum, created in 1838. The architectural remains were not recovered and were hardly documented by the researchers of that period.

In the twentieth century, the serious project of excavation and recovery of the forums of Augusta Emerita began. Under the direction of the MNAR, Dr. Álvarez Martínez identified the two urban complexes, which he called *forum coloniae* and *forum provinciae* (Fig. 2A).¹⁷ The denomination was questioned at first,¹⁸ since there is no epigraphic evidence, but today this nomenclature is fully accepted.

First, the Temple of Diana (imperial cult temple) was excavated. The archaeological work allowed the recovery of its important dynastic statuary programs linked to the imperial cult.¹⁹ It was also possible to free the temple, in part, from the remains of the palace and modern constructions.

The *forum coloniae* complex had a second space adjacent to the temple, known from nineteenth century finds. The first large square surrounding the temple was joined by a second square, which was successively labeled the “portico of the forum,” the “marble forum,” the “*forum adiectum*” and the “*Augusteum*.” These designations referred to its monumental porticoed architectural structure, annexed laterally to the temple square, and to the important decorative marble programs recovered from there, which could be the key to the interpretation of this new space.²⁰ In the middle of this second square a monumental altar may have been located,²¹ but other authors think that this was a temple.²²

¹⁶ Ayerbe, Barrientos/Palma 2009.

¹⁷ Álvarez 1982.

¹⁸ Trillmich 1993.

¹⁹ Álvarez/Nogales-Basarrate 2003; Nogales-Basarrate 2007b, 479–490.

²⁰ Nogales-Basarrate 2007b, 490–497; Nogales-Basarrate 2021, 45–47.

²¹ Nogales-Basarrate 1998, 2000a, 2000b.

²² Ayerbe, Barrientos/Palma 2009, 763–766.

The Decorative Program of the Colonial Forum: *Imitatio Romae*

The discoveries of the nineteenth century were followed by further finds in the twentieth century. In the years prior to the Spanish Civil War, numerous fragments of sculptural pieces that had been decontextualized and reused were recovered on the outskirts of the city; some of the most significant were *clipei* and caryatids, which were related to the decoration of the *forum Augustum* in Rome.²³ These provided the first evidence that the model of the *Urbs Romae* was used for designing this provincial capital of *Hispania*.

In the excavations of the colonial forum during the 1980s, new fragments of *clipei* (with heads of Jupiter Ammon and Medusa) and caryatids appeared, as well as new togate statues in their original context.²⁴ All these sculptures together allowed for a reconstruction of the colonial forum: an exterior decoration of the building with *clipei* and caryatids, completed with the sculptural cycles of *togati* displayed inside the porticoes. The nature and quantity of these togate statues recovered in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, unfortunately lacking any epigraphic documentation to identify them, made it obvious that the *forum coloniae* at Emerita followed quite faithfully the model of the *forum Augustum* in Rome (Fig. 3A).²⁵ All this material allowed us to propose an initial reconstruction of the enclosure, which we called the “Forum Portico” (Fig. 3B).

This large monumental portico incorporated semi-colossal togate statues of illustrious individuals (*summi viri*) signed by the metropolitan workshop of *Caius Aulus*.²⁶ The images were arranged along a back wall with niches, a solution very similar to that found in the Augustan forum. The *clipei* and caryatids belonged to the architectural decoration of the attic of the portico²⁷ (Fig. 3D), following the emblematic scheme of the *forum Augustum*.²⁸

The model seems to have gained popularity in the western provinces and was repeated in numerous buildings,²⁹ especially in Hispania.³⁰ The different versions of the iconographic model of the *forum Augustum* found in the provinces give an idea of its popularity and its durability.

²³ Floriani 1976; Floriani 1982.

²⁴ Álvarez 1982.

²⁵ Álvarez/Nogales-Basarrate 1990; Trillmich 1996; Trillmich 1997.

²⁶ Trillmich 1994; Trillmich 1995.

²⁷ De la Barrera 2000.

²⁸ Zanker 1968; Ungaro 2021.

²⁹ Spannagel 1999; Valeri 2010; La Rocca 2011; Goldbeck 2015.

³⁰ Peña 2007; León in press.

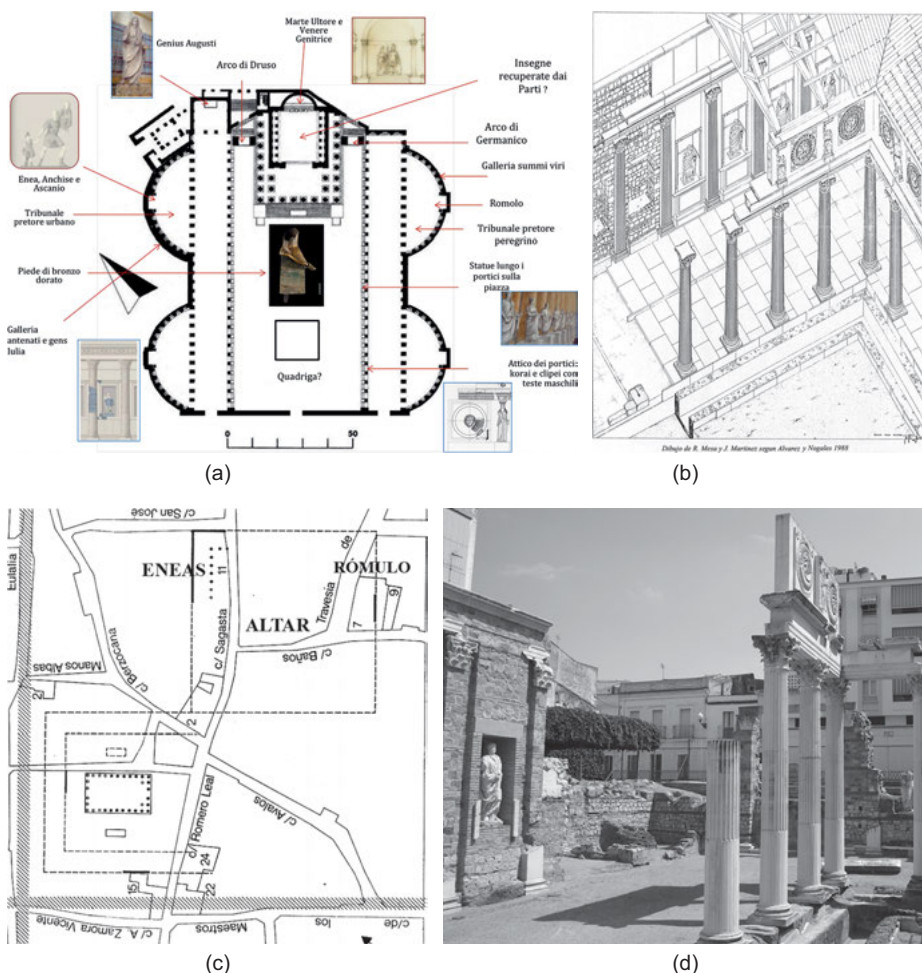


Fig. 3: (A) Decorative Programme of the Forum Augustum (according to Ungaro 2021). (B) Drawing reconstructing the Forum of Augusta Emerita. Image from Mesa and Martínez after Álvarez/Nogales-Basarrate 1990. (C) Hypothetical reconstruction of the decorative programme of the Augusta Emerita forum (according to Nogales-Basarrate). (D) Portico of the forum. Current situation. Photo: J. Edmondson.

Group of Aeneas: Metropolitan Models

Among the pieces located in the area of the colonial forum in the nineteenth century was a medium-sized statue known as the “Monsalud Diana,” since it was initially identified iconographically as the goddess Diana and then owned by the Marquis of Mon-

salud.³¹ The piece was acquired by the National Archaeological Museum of Madrid in the 1950s and became part of this museum's sculpture collection.

After the excavations of the 1980s, which revealed new findings from Emerita, Trillmich proposed a new identification of the Monsalud Diana as a statue of *Ascanius-Iulus*.³² The presence of Ascanius, son of Aeneas, suggested the existence of an Aeneas statue group, possibly following in a provincial context the pattern of the existing statue group from the Forum of Augustus.

The materials recovered in our excavations of the forum included several epigraphic fragments belonging to the *elogium* of Aeneas, the short text outlining the main details of his life which was originally placed with the Aeneas statue group in the Forum of Augustus in Rome.³³ These fragments allowed us to hypothesize about its location and confirmed the existence of the statue group. The document, which has interesting novelties, continues to be analyzed for its epigraphic interest.³⁴

The discoveries of our excavations at the end of the 1980s revealed numerous new sculptural fragments of the group, which we gradually analyzed and integrated into an improved reconstruction (Fig. 4A).³⁵ As a result, a good part of Anchises's right arm and shoulder, as well as the toe-end of his footwear, could be incorporated into original fragments. As for the statue of Ascanius, we were able to identify a small fold that belonged to the lower end of his tunic, which confirmed the provenance of the statue found in the nineteenth century as being from the same area excavated in the 1980s.

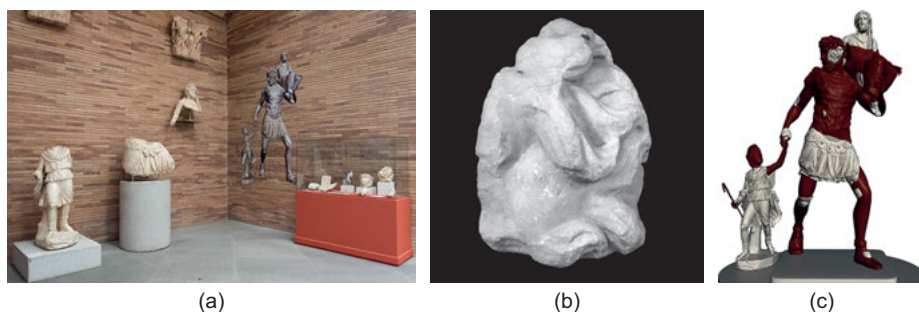


Fig. 4: (A) Original fragments of the Aeneas group in the National Museum of Art of Romania (MNAR). Photo: MNAR archive. (B) Fragment of the head of Aeneas. Photo: MNAR archive. B. Grunewald-DAI. (C) 3D reconstruction of the Aeneas group by Merchán et al. Reconstruction made by Nogales-Basarrate.

³¹ About the discovery of, and research on, the Aeneas group, see Nogales-Basarrate/Álvarez 2021.

³² Trillmich 1992.

³³ De la Barrera/Trillmich 1996.

³⁴ Edmondson in press.

³⁵ Nogales-Basarrate 2020.

Among further fragments we were able to identify a part of the head of Aeneas, corresponding to the left area of his cheek, mustache, and beard (Fig. 4B). The face corresponds to other known iconographic patterns associated with the image of the Trojan hero.³⁶ The most obvious parallels for this historical portrait are: the relief of the Ara Pacis where Aeneas makes a sacrifice to the Penates;³⁷ a relief from the south side of the Sebasteion at Aphrodisias, where three panels with the Trojan cycle were reproduced, one of them being the escape of Aeneas,³⁸ and a head from Rome that forms part of the collection of the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek in Copenhagen.³⁹

The face of Aeneas in all three of these examples—the Ara Pacis, the Sebasteion and the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek—shows many similarities with the fragment from Mérida. This suggests that they all come from a similar iconographic pattern, although their chronology ranges from the Augustan period (Ara Pacis) to the Neronian era (Sebasteion in Aphrodisias) to a later high-imperial period (Glyptotek portrait head); the latter must belong to another sculptural group in the round like the one from Emerita. All these images provide further evidence of the survival of the Aeneas group for several decades, and the similarities among them suggest that the original pattern was the one followed in the *officinae* of Rome and the provinces.

The fragment from Emerita that we attribute to the head of Aeneas is the one with the greatest movement of the hair, which is organized in thick curls of abundant locks (Fig. 4B). The style of its execution, which hardly shows any drill marks, suggests a date in the late Julio-Claudian period, when elements of the baroque style that was to predominate in the second century CE began to appear in Roman art.

In the excavations we also recovered various fragments of Aeneas' extremities: both of his arms, a hand, and a knee. All of the fragments are colossal and of the same scale as the largest fragment preserved with the cuirass, corresponding to the lower part of the trunk, from the waist to the start of the legs, of the prototypical image of Aeneas. All these elements were analyzed in detail to begin the process of recreating the group, which we will discuss below.

The group from Emerita is the first group of Aeneas in large sculptural format preserved almost in its entirety, since no fragments of the one that must have existed in the Forum of Augustus are preserved. If the head of the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek is an Aeneas and was integrated into a group sculpture, it could be another metropolitan model, since it comes from Rome.

We know the physiognomy of the group from examples preserved in other media: paintings, reliefs, gems and carvings, ceramic representations.⁴⁰ The pattern is very similar in all the iconography. Aeneas, as a mythical character, is an adult male

³⁶ Nogales-Basarrate 2020.

³⁷ Bianchi Bandinelli 1970, 188–189, fig. 202–203; Riis 1976, fig. 41 d; Rossini 2006.

³⁸ Smith 2013, 204–206, fig. 164, pl. 194–205.

³⁹ Riis 1976.

⁴⁰ Spannagel 1999, 90–132, 365–396.

who dresses in Roman military style with armor and has a powerful anatomy and abundant hair and beard. Anchises, his father, is a bearded old man, with a lighter and more fragile body, who wears a toga that covers his head and is carried on the shoulders of Aeneas as a symbol of *pietas*; in size, he is usually smaller than Aeneas. Ascanius-Iulus is shown as a boy wearing a light tunic and a cloak or *chlamys* flying out behind, symbolizing the fact that he is running and fleeing; he also wears a Phrygian cap, alluding to his origins in the East. These various iconographic models repeat the same patterns when showing Aeneas in his flight from Troy, and it is these models that we have used to reconstruct the group from Emerita. It has always been assumed that models in the minor arts follow the original more closely because they repeat in small scale the most recognizable elements of the latter; in the large format versions the artists could introduce some personal variations to the original scheme.

Reconstruction of the Aeneas Group

A challenge for us was to restore the Aeneas group in such a way as to display it in the room dedicated to the colonial forum in the National Museum of Roman Art (MNAR). The fragmentary situation of the pieces of the group made the physical to-scale reconstruction very complicated, as it was impossible to fill the gaps between the parts using traditional methods.

Given their experience with high quality 3D models for sculpture,⁴¹ we developed a strong collaboration with the Department of Electronic Engineering of the University of Extremadura, to whose team we proposed the idea of conducting 3D-scanning of all the fragments that made up the group.

A digitization project began between the MNAR and this university team of engineers, which culminated in 2011 with the creation of the 3D model of the group (Fig. 4C).⁴²

The result of this laborious work was the creation of a total 3D model in which the different fragments were integrated into the areas where they most likely would have been in the original group. To produce this model of the group, we used the various known iconographic parallels of the group,⁴³ trying to make the image as close as possible to its original form based on the most commonly found composition, possibly the one most similar to the original model from the *Forum Augustum* at Rome.

The project on the iconographic programs of the colonial forum of Augusta Emerita, in addition to its scientific value, has a real-world application. Its development has allowed us to offer viewers in the MNAR a new reading of the Aeneas group, inte-

⁴¹ Merchán et al. 2014; Frischer 2015.

⁴² Merchán et al. 2011; Merchán et al. 2020.

⁴³ Spannagel 1999, 365–396.

grated into its original space and context: the colonial forum of Augusta Emerita. Since it was impossible to set up the restored statue group in its original context, in 2018 we incorporated it into the permanent exhibition of the MNAR thanks to a collaboration with the institution's staff.

Today, in room VIII on the first floor of the MNAR, the Aeneas statue group is presented together with the computer graphics resulting from the work undertaken by the aforementioned professional teams.⁴⁴ In this way, without altering any of the fragments, which would prevent them from being studied in the future, viewers can understand the magnitude of the Aeneas group from Augusta Emerita.

Romulus as Pendant of Aeneas

A fragment of a high-quality statue has formed part of the long-standing collections of the MNAR since 1926/1927. The piece corresponds to part of the upper right side of a decorated breastplate of an over life-size figure. It had been classified in the early collections of the MNAR as an example of the *Panzerstatue* type⁴⁵ in the series of imperial statuary from Hispania.⁴⁶

Our own study of the piece has led us to suggest that it could be from a statue of Romulus that would have formed a pendant to the Aeneas statue in the forum at Emerita.⁴⁷ Many aspects of this fragment support its identification as Romulus: the place of its discovery, on the eastern edge of the colonial forum; its size, which is much larger than natural, almost colossal and of the same scale as Aeneas; and the similar quality of this and the Aeneas statue, as well as its iconographic type.

The sculptural work is carefully decorated, with a rampant winged griffin standing on the remains of a scroll: i.e., part of three stems that form vegetal and floral circles. At the left edge of the fragment, two folds are preserved of the fabric of a *paludamentum*, which falls transversally from the figure's right shoulder. On the basis of this small element, it is possible to restore a good part of the statue, following the form of the usual type of Romulus *tropaiophoros*.⁴⁸

If we compare the stylistic and technical details of the vegetal elements of the scrolls on the breastplates of Aeneas and Romulus in terms of style and manufacture, we find that they are absolutely similar. This supports the idea that a single workshop created both works according to patterns deriving from the city of Rome.⁴⁹

⁴⁴ Nogales-Basarrate/Álvarez 2021, fig. 5.

⁴⁵ Acuña 1975, 89, n. XIX; Stemmer 1978, 99–100.

⁴⁶ Garriguet 2001, 10–12, V 2–4.

⁴⁷ Nogales-Basarrate 2008.

⁴⁸ Nogales-Basarrate 2008, 306–309, fig. 6 a.

⁴⁹ Nogales-Basarrate 2008, 306–308, figs. 5–7.

The direction in which the two statues move, Aeneas striding to his left and Romulus to his right, would correspond to their placements in the two corner niches of the forum at Emerita (Fig. 3C). This compositional scheme is the one observed in the so-called *tensa* relief in the Museum of Budapest, where the two groups of Aeneas and Romulus are observed as having similar compositional characteristics to those found in Augusta Emerita.⁵⁰

Thus, it seems that Aeneas and Romulus were present in the colonial forum of Emerita; they formed part of two sculptural groups in the round, of semi-colossal scale, which were located in each of the corners of the forum precinct, judging by the places where the remains of both groups were found (Fig. 3C).

It is logical to suppose that if the Aeneas statue group had its *elogium* fixed on the base of the monument, the same probably applied to the Romulus group, but we have no evidence for this.

Undoubtedly the closest parallel in the Iberian Peninsula to the Romulus statue from Emerita is the colossal statue from the forum at Corduba, identified by some as Romulus and by others as Aeneas⁵¹ and known as “Cuirass statue from the Tienda collection,” today in the Museum of Córdoba. The fragment from Emerita and the colossal statue from Corduba show a very similar typology: the treatment of the decoration of the cuirass is similar in its overall layout, although the scale of the Emerita example is smaller than the one from Corduba (Fig. 5A–B).

Another statue of *Romulus* has been documented at Italica,⁵² where *clipei* and caryatids have also been found, associated with a monumental building that imitated the model of Rome. With the identification of this fragment as belonging to a statue of Romulus, a further step has been taken in the configuration of the decorative program of the colonial forum of Augusta Emerita, in particular in the *forum adiectum*, which displayed such a remarkable array of works in the image and likeness of Rome.

The Two Founding Myths in a Provincial Political Discourse

The sculptural groups of Aeneas and Romulus in the colonial forum of Emerita, erected some years later than those set up in Rome in the Forum of Augustus, had a clear political message in this provincial capital in Hispania.

⁵⁰ Nogales-Basarrate 2008, 311–312, fig. 10.

⁵¹ Trillmich 1996, 175–195; Nogales-Basarrate 2008, 309–310, fig. 8.

⁵² Peña 2007.

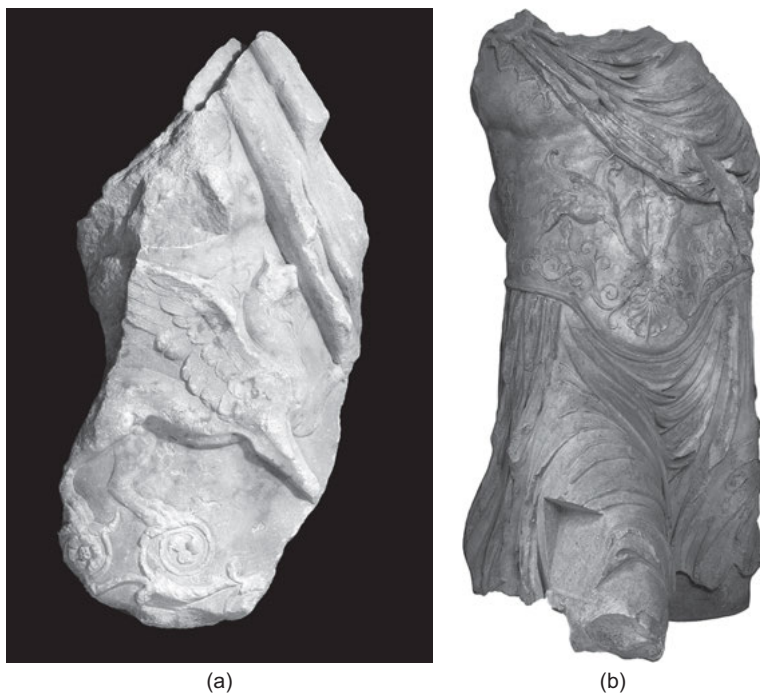


Fig. 5: (A) Statuary fragment of the possible Romulus from the colonial forum of Augusta Emerita. Photo: MNAR, archive / C. López. (B) Statue of Romulus from Corduba. Photo: MNAR-DAI, archive.

Aeneas and Romulus refer to the origins of Rome, a frequent theme throughout the first century CE.⁵³ The founding myths were associated with the origins of the new colony. As we have analyzed extensively in other studies, the program of the Emeritan forum was not a ‘faithful’ copy of the Forum of Augustus; it was an adaptation of the model of Rome with a clear political message for the new Spanish colony and the provincial capital of Lusitania.⁵⁴

The large togate statues of the forum of Augusta Emerita signed by the workshop of *Caius Aulus* would correspond to the series of protagonists of the genealogy of Rome.⁵⁵ Persons who were emblematic of the local history of Emerita had to be brought together with the founding mythological figures of Aeneas and Romulus and illustrious individuals from Roman history. Perhaps the legacy of the provincial governor P. Carisius and his successors in the political-administrative development of the new colony were present.

⁵³ Dardenay 2007.

⁵⁴ Nogales-Basarrate 2007, 496–497.

⁵⁵ Trillmich 1994; Trillmich 1995.

This genealogical and historical significance would explain Agrippa's presence in the narrative relief, possibly from an altar located in the center of the square,⁵⁶ in which a sacrifice scene has M. Vipsanius Agrippa playing a central role.⁵⁷ Surely this is a *patronus coloniae*, as can be deduced from the presence of Augustus' son-in-law in the monumental epigraphy of the emblematic theater.⁵⁸ The Agrippa scene makes reference to the foundation of the colony, which has a marked significance in local historical narratives.

In our judgment, the altar would have been located in the center of this porticoed space, which we would define as an *Augusteum*, forming part of an imperial cult complex. The narrative discourse of the altar was fully integrated into the general iconography of the monument: Starting from the Aeneas and Romulus groups and passing through the illustrious Roman heroes, one reached the center of the square, the sacred place. The external narrative reliefs of this cult enclosure recalled the foundation of the colony and, undoubtedly, would exalt the reigning dynasty during Nero's period in power, highlighting the *gens Iulia* with its ancestors portrayed there, who recalled the fact that Augustus himself was the initiator of this powerful dynasty (Fig. 3C).⁵⁹

Local Materials for a Metropolitan Workshop

The sculptures of the colonial forum of Augusta Emerita in this singular space of the *Augusteum* testify to a large-scale public monumentalization project, closely linked to imperial power and its representatives in the provinces. Let us not forget that M. Salvius Otho⁶⁰ was governor of the province of Lusitania at the very time when, in our opinion, the decision was made to carry out this significant urban transformation, with the aim of creating a new space for dynastic exaltation.

The nature of the programs, the quality of the works, and the important political message of the new project in the forum of the colony of Augusta Emerita imply a political commitment at the highest level. For this endeavor, workshops of recognized prestige, possibly knowledgeable and trained in the models of Rome, must have participated.

The type of marble used in these programs was of local origin, from the quarries of the *pagus marmorarius Emeritensis*, in the area of the Estremoz anticline (Portugal). The exclusive use of these materials implies that the Emerita workshops were

⁵⁶ Nogales-Basarrate 2007, 495–497, fig. 12.

⁵⁷ Trillmich 1986.

⁵⁸ Stylow/Ventura 2018, 157–163.

⁵⁹ Nogales-Basarrt/Álvarez 2006, 432–435; Álvarez/Nogales-Basarrate, in press.

⁶⁰ Fernández Uriel 2001.

familiar with this type of marble, which was of great quality and widespread across the Iberian Peninsula.⁶¹

In our judgment, it was the same workshops that worked on the monumentalization of the colony in its most significant public spaces: both forums and the theater. There are innumerable stylistic details that demonstrate the connection between the sculptural pieces of both spaces.⁶²

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⁶¹ Nogales-Basarrate et al. 2008.

⁶² Nogales-Basarrate 2009.

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