

VIVA LA REVOLUCION

Joe Flores, C-2

MANUEL SEVILLA
(Engraver-Artist)

By now, almost all collectors of Mexican Revolution coinage are aware that some of my coins were on display at the American Numismatic Association Museum in Colorado Springs, Colorado from November, 2003 to October, 2004.

During the time of the exhibit one of many visitors was Mrs. Margarita Sevilla (maiden name). She saw the collection and asked the A.N.A. if there was a chance of meeting the owner of the collection. She left her phone number. She announced that she was the granddaughter of Sr. Manuel Sevilla, a coin and currency plate engraver and artist before and after the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1920.

On my return trip to pick up the collection at the A.N.A, I called this lady so I could meet her and set up a lunch appointment with her and her husband. They were a very pleasant couple and we had a great visit. She displayed some of her grandfather's beautiful artwork and told me how Sister Mary Sevilla of St. Joseph, her sister, had made a genealogy book of their family.

I contacted Sister Mary Sevilla in Los Angeles to find out if it was possible for me to obtain one of her books. She was kind enough to mail me one and allowed me to pry into her family affairs. To my delight she was very understanding. In her family genealogy book, she tells of many high profile people during the history of Mexico. One person in particular was her grandfather Sr. Manuel Sevilla. He was born May, 1866, in Mexico City, and died September 22, 1937, in Los Angeles, California. His occupation was artist and engraver.

This has been a great treat for me to meet these ladies. As for her sister Mary, I have talked to her by phone, exchanged many E-mails, and had the pleasure of meeting her in June at the Long Beach coin convention. We had a great visit.

Manuel Sevilla was an engraver in Mexico City D.F. Mexico until Pancho Villa forced him and his family to move to Chihuahua, Mexico, to do some of his great work exclusively for Pancho Villa.

He was the engraver of a rare V centavo known as G.B. 59 ⁽¹⁾ as in photo A and G.B. 72 ⁽¹⁾ as in photo B, which is also known as the Peso Del Norte. These should not be confused with **Sevilla-Sevilla**, the so-called **patterns**. These coins first appeared in the United States in the '60's, and the dies are still in use. This information came from a very reliable source in Mexico City.

Manuel Sevilla's name appears on a very scarce uniface medal with Pancho Villa's bust wearing a military cap and jacket, catalogued as Grove # P376A ⁽²⁾ Photo C. I was informed that the medal was to be a peso but never completed. Mr. Seville with his son fled the country in 1915 to the United States. That might be the reason for this uniface medal. I will look into this matter further. I hope Sister Mary will be able to help me on this from some of her grandfather's paper work.

I have always admired the work of Sr. Sevilla because of the detail on his coins and medals. One coin in particular, the obverse side of the Peso Del Norte, has one of my favorite eagles.

Sources:

1. *Mexican Revolutionary Coinage* by Hugh S. Guthrie - Mark E. Goldberg.
2. *Medals of Mexico, Vol. II* by Frank W. Grove



Manuel Sevilla as a young man



Mr. Manuel Sevilla at a older age



Photo A Obv.

G.B.59

(not actual size)



Photo A Rev.



Photo B Obv.

G.B. 72

(not actual size)

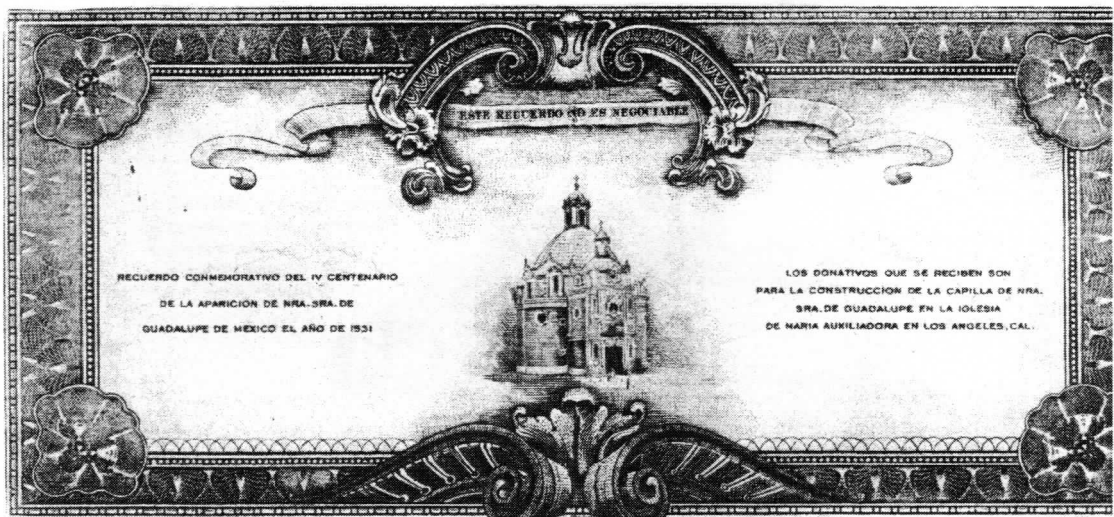


Photo B Rev.



Villa Medal
Grove P 376A

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