

## THE SEGOVIA MINT RETURNS TO LIFE

The Royal Mill Mint of Segovia has a long and fascinating history originating from the collaborative effort on the part of governments and technicians to implant a more perfect system for producing coinage. An industrial product used daily by everyone everywhere, coins had always been produced by primitive hammer-struck methods since they were invented (640 B.C.).

In 1551, German technicians in Augsburg developed a roller-mill which could roll coins onto a metal strip. Cooperation with minters in Austria enabled this mechanical in-series production method to be transferred to Spain by King Philip II, who founded the Royal Segovia Mill Mint in 1583 specifically for this purpose. The highly departmentalized factory was built outside the walls of the city, on the banks of the Eresma River, which was harnessed to power 14 giant waterwheels that drove the machinery. This was the largest, most sophisticated industrial manufacturing plant ever built anywhere in the world. The building was designed by the famous architect Juan de Herrera, with the collaboration of German and Austrian engineers who came to Segovia to help build the factory and train Spaniards in its complex operation.

The results of this international cooperation were coins so perfect that no one dared to clip or file their edges, a big problem in those days which resulted in coins losing weight as they circulated. The Segovia Mint was for many years the most famous factory in all of Europe. It was a favorite destination to visit for all the Spanish Kings and their specially invited guests who marvelled at the sight of the world's largest coins being rolled off the mill as they watched.

These were giant *cincuentines* (50 reales, silver) and *centenes* (100 escudos, gold), each measuring 76 mm in diameter.

The mechanized Mint provided work for many thousands of Segovians for centuries. Indeed, minting was one of the most historic and important activities of the city, which had struck coins as far back as 30 B.C. The highly sophisticated operations also attracted experts from Germany, Austria, Flanders, Italy and France, until the Mint was finally closed in 1869.

Today the Segovia Mint is considered the oldest, most advanced and complete industrial monument still standing in the world. It is currently being restored to house a living and working museum of minting technology and the history of coinage in Europe. The museum project is every bit as ambitious as the historical uniqueness of the monument. The goal is to foster cooperation and understanding among cultural agents in technical and scientific fields, with the tangible and permanent goal of creating a unique museum for the education and entertainment of future generations.

Segovia is a candidate city for the *European Capital of Culture* in 2016.  
For more information see <http://www.segovia2016.es>



For more information and to join as a member of the Association:  
<http://www.SegoviaMint.org>



Coin designed and struck by the Association featuring the 4 principal monuments of Segovia: Alcazar, Cathedral, Aqueduct and Mint.



Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Segovia

## THE SEGOVIA MINT (coin factory)



### SEGOVIA'S PROJECT FOR EUROPE

**CULTURE IN ACTION**  
the people of Segovia restoring  
the world's oldest  
and most important  
industrial monument  
(1583)





## SEGOVIA PARTICIPATES

with the discovery and promotion  
of EUROPEAN CULTURE in a  
tangible project with a solid future



Coins  
designed  
and struck by  
the Association  
on our hammer press.



**EUROPEAN EXPERTS PARTICIPATE** by hunting for and photographing strange artifacts and machinery used centuries ago for producing coins, typically hidden away in museums around Europe. The German roller-die shown above is the oldest instrument known in the world for mechanical, in-series production of a high-precision industrial product - coinage-, and is dated 1572, a full 200 years before the start of the Industrial Revolution.

**SEGOVIANS PARTICIPATE** with the striking of coins on the *Friends of the Segovia Mint* Association's hammer press. Coining of souvenir and collector pieces will be one of the fundamental aspects of the future museum's financial base. This is how our city promotes its candidacy for the *European Capital of Culture* in 2016.



Ulm, Germany.



Hall in Tyrol, Austria.

### OTHER EUROPEAN MINTS



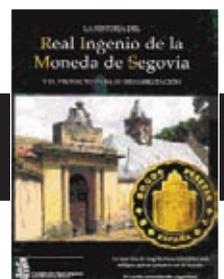
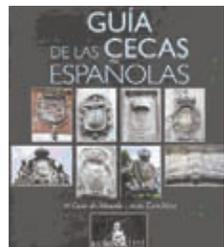
Venice, Italy.



Pamplona, Spain.



Stolberg, Germany.



**YOU CAN PARTICIPATE** by reading books about the Segovia Mint. You will find a complete listing of all publications about the Mint at <http://www.SegoviaMint.org>.

**THE ADMINISTRATIONS PARTICIPATE** by way of the acquisition and restoration of the buildings which comprise the Segovia Mint monumental complex. The reconstruction began on February 14, 2007, using the architectural plans of Eduardo de la Torre Alejano and his team of architects, and concept based on the museological project prepared in 2004 by Dr. Glenn Murray, winner of the grand European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Award 2009, and the Scientific Committee of the Royal Segovia Mint Foundation. Taking part are: Segovia City Hall, the Assembly of Castile and Leon, and the Ministry of Housing.

**YOU CAN ALSO PARTICIPATE** by sending us information about old minting tools and machines, location of old mint buildings and related topics in your hometown. Don't hesitate to check our website for orientation on these topics, and to write us at: [info@segoviamint.org](mailto:info@segoviamint.org).