

The Pope Family's Grand Tour

Episode 6, Seville, Spain, 1888



With heightened exposure to the treasures of Spain, Theodate's creative instincts are becoming bolder. From art to architecture, Theodate draws powerful connections between concepts and cultures.

After a visit to Pickman's Pottery Factory, Theodate gains a greater appreciation for art in all its forms. Theodate is equally enamored by Pickman's innovative process and his high-quality production of award-winning pottery and porcelain as the official supplier to the Royal House of Spain. She takes notice of his keen business acumen as she continues her life journey. Theodate would become an informed and passionate collector, well-versed in fine furniture, paintings, and objets d'art.

In a moment of great revelation, Theodate hears of the fall of a dome of Seville Cathedral, the results of its impact echoing throughout the city streets, even four months later. The traumatic memory of the fallen Gothic masterpiece stays with Theodate as she later embarks on her architectural enterprise. Forevermore, her passion and promise lay in creating a sound foundation for her architecture.

December 9, 1888 - Seville

"We left Madrid last evening about eight, having been disappointed that a bullfight was postponed until today, and arrived in this fascinating old city at three o'clock this P.M."

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Seville, the capital of the southern province of Andalusia, has a long history of occupation, under a wide range of different cultures. Each era has left a unique



stamp on the people, architecture, and customs of this ancient city. Legends, which are not reliable sources, but do make for interesting reading, suggest that Hercules founded a settlement at Seville on six stone columns. Hercules was in the middle of completing his 12 “Labors” and had returned from gathering the three ‘golden apples’ that some would like to believe, were oranges.

Archaeologists have found evidence of an early Bronze Age settlement, dating back 12 centuries. Subsequent changes in control of the region included:

- Phoenicians
- Carthaginians (around 550 BCE)
- Romans (from 256 BCE) - two Roman emperors were born in Italica, a settlement 6 miles north of present-day Seville (then known as Hispalis)
- Vandals sacked the city in 426, replaced by the less-violent Visigoths, and called the town Spali, meaning ‘plain.’
- The Moors conquered the city in 711, renaming it Isbiliya
- Fernando III of Castille reconquered the city in 1248 (the Reconquista)



The Moorish occupation period resulted in some of the most magnificent buildings still in existence. Among them are the Giralda and Patio de Los Naranjos, along with the Alcazar and Torre del Oro, both of which Theodate will visit in the next episode. Even after the Reconquista, the rulers of Seville employed Mudejar (Muslim) artisans to design and create beautiful Moorish-style buildings, including parts of the Alcazar, the Casa de Pilatos and several churches. Even today, the most-coveted houses in Seville have cool central patios, with water fountains covered in brightly-colored tiles - a design introduced by the Mudejar and Moorish traditions.

Question:

Can you identify the 12 Labors of Hercules?

Hill-Stead connection:

The Pope family left Madrid without attending a corrida (bullfight). However, Mr. Pope subsequently purchased a painting by Edouard Manet (1832 – 1883) that depicts a group of Spanish bullfighters, *Toreadors* (1862), on display in the Drawing Room at the Hill-Stead Museum. The bullfighters were visiting Paris and came to pose for Manet, who wanted to depict a fighter in the quiet before a corrida.



Manet became fascinated with Spain by studying and appreciating the works of Diego Velasquez (1599 – 1660). He regarded Velasquez as "the greatest painter there ever was" in a letter to the author Charles Baudelaire. Manet was determined to visit the most extensive collection of Velasquez's paintings, as he undertook a brief trip to Spain in 1865, to explore the Prado Museum in Madrid. It was during this visit that Manet first attended a corrida. The paintings he produced capture the color and drama of a bullfight that he had experienced firsthand. Manet exhibited almost 20 paintings with Spanish themes at a solo exhibition that ran alongside the 1867 Exposition Universelle (World Exposition) in Paris.

Question:

At the time Manet completed *Toreadors*, he had not yet attended a corrida, and was, perhaps understandably, unfamiliar with aspects of the traditional costume of a matador (bullfighter).



Compare the figure in Manet's painting with the matador appearing in Mary Cassatt's "Offering the Pañal to the Bullfighter" (1873). What differences can you identify in the costume of the matador?

Mary Cassatt used rich colors, and a painting style influenced by Diego Velasquez, to depict a young woman offering a glass of water to a matador. The matador dips honeycomb (pañal) into the water to make a refreshing drink.

December 9, 1888 – Seville (continued)

"...as yesterday was the fete day of the Immaculate Conception. There would be a special service at the cathedral at five o'clock. We went and saw the choir boys dance before the high altar, a custom which this church only practices. The Pope has tried in vain to break it up. The service was held in a side chapel, and consequently, the large organ was not used. The boys were beautifully dressed and sang or played the castanets as they slowly danced."

Construction of the extant Cathedral of Santa Maria de la Sede (Seville Cathedral) began in 1402 on the site of a grand mosque built in the 12th century under the orders of Abu Yaqub Yusuf during the Almohad Caliphate. The mosque had initially been converted into a cathedral following the conquest of Seville by Ferdinand III in 1248. Seville Cathedral was built to demonstrate the wealth and importance of the city. The city leaders determined to construct una tal y tan buena, que no haya otra su igual – "one so good that none will be its equal."



The resulting Gothic cathedral took a century to build, and it is vast – with an area of 124,000 square feet, it is the largest cathedral in the world and the fourth largest church. A cathedral is a church that contains the cathedra (Latin for "seat") of a bishop, thus serving as the central church for a specific region. The three largest churches are St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City, the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, DC, and the Basilica in Aparecida, Brazil.

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The Dance of the Sixes (Los Seises) dates back to the 15th century, and this tradition continues today at three times during the year. When Theodate and her family visited, the choirboys would have worn red jackets, in a scene similar to that depicted in a painting by Genaro Perez Villaamil (1807 – 1854). The artwork depicts the interior of the cathedral's central nave during the Corpus Christi procession, with the Seises performing their dance on the left-hand side.

Question:

- What are castanets usually made of? Did you know that a pair of spoons can work well, too?

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To Learn More:

Video Dance of Sixes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMAIkEVHbPg>
https://kids.kiddle.co/Seville_Cathedral
<https://www.catedraldesevilla.es/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/EN.pdf>
<https://www.catedraldesevilla.es/cultural-visit/#1524739809218-f9983c1a-5877>

Several elements from the Almohad mosque have been retained and repurposed:



• The Patio de Los Naranjos (orange tree courtyard) retains the original structure of pillars topped with horseshoe arches. Before entering the mosque, worshippers would have performed their ritual ablutions in this patio (known in Arabic as a sahn).

The door between the patio and the cathedral is known as La puerta del perdón, the Door of Forgiveness. The door retains the horseshoe arch shape, with decorative plasterwork added in 1522.



• The Giralda Tower, the former minaret for the mosque, is now used as the bell tower for the cathedral. Constructed between 1184-1196, it is another reflection of Seville as a conflation of cultures; the builders of the Giralda incorporated the remains of Roman structures. Henry Swinburne, who visited Seville in 1775, noted: "Tradition relates, that to form a solid foundation for it, the Moors made a deep hole, into which they cast all the marble and stone monuments of the Romans that could be found... many broken ornaments and inscriptions have been discovered."

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Question:

There is an unusual item on display, hanging from the rafters in one corner of the Patio de los Naranjos. Can you discover what the item is, and how it came to Seville? Hint - it is something that would normally be found in Egypt, by the banks of the river Nile.

December 9, 1888 – Seville (continued)

"This Hotel de Paris is a gem of neatness, great comfort after the Hotel de la Paix in Madrid."

The Popes stayed in the Grand Hotel de Paris, situated in a tiny square, the Plaza del Pacifico, about a half-mile from the cathedral. The plaza was built during the urban expansion of 1840-1850. The photograph below was likely taken before 1844. Note the height of the newly-planted palms and orange trees.



A magnificent sculpture was added to the fountain in the square after 1844. Renamed Plaza Magdalena, the square formerly occupied by the Hotel de Paris is now a major department store called El Corte Ingles.

"Papa, Harris, and I walked out bare-headed into the little square after dinner. Wild orange trees are found in every square."

Seville was the birthplace of Diego Velazquez (who moved to Madrid in 1623 when he was 24). He spent the rest of his career working closely with the Royal Court and Bartolomé Estebán Murillo (1617 – 1682), who remains the painter most closely associated with Seville.



This picture, 'Girl selling fruit' by Murillo, which was painted between 1650 – 1660, depicts a fruit-seller; her basket is full of the oranges which bear the name of Seville. The Seville orange is a bitter variety, *Citrus x Aurantium*, likely produced by a cross between a pomelo and a mandarin orange that was developed in South Asia and first introduced by sailors from Genoa. The fruit is too bitter to eat raw. Still, the aromatic oil extracted from its thick skin has many uses, including those considered medicinal. The rind of the Seville orange helps flavor liqueurs such as Cointreau, Curaçao, and Grand Marnier.

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One of the first things many visitors to Seville notice is the orange trees. The trees blossom in early spring, producing delicate white flowers called Azahar. For two or three weeks, their distinctive scent fills the air.

The high level of pectin found in the Seville orange helps make it the preferred variety of fruit for making marmalade in England. The origin of the word marmalade



is the Portuguese marmelada, which is a solid paste made from marmelo, or quince. One of the earliest references to a marmelade of oranges comes from a recipe book written by Eliza Cholmondeley in 1677; the recipe produces a substance similar to the firm, dark paste of its Portuguese inspiration. By 1797, James and Janet Keiller in Scotland had opened a factory to produce "Dundee Marmalade," which contains thick chunks of the Seville orange rind.. The legend goes that James had purchased a box of bitter oranges from a Spanish ship at

Dundee docks. Janet had the inspiration to adapt her recipe for quince paste, incorporating both more water and some of the rind of the oranges.

Questions:

Marmalade is an essential part of the British breakfast table and has converts throughout the world.

- Can you name the fictional character, originally from Peru, who traveled to England with a suitcase filled with jars of marmalade?
- Speaking of marmelo - can you find the poem that contains the line: "They dined on mince, and slices of quince; that they ate with a runcible spoon"? What do you think a 'runcible spoon' might look like?
- Two famous explorers took marmalade with them on trips to extreme locations, in 1910 and 1953, respectively. Can you name them?
- What essential food item would you pack for a voyage of discovery?

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There are approximately 40,000 orange trees in Seville, and every visitor notes the aroma of their blossoms. Mary Cassatt (1844 – 1926) spent six months in Seville between 1872-1873, following a brief visit to Madrid, where she familiarized herself with works by Velazquez and Murillo in the Prado.

Upon leaving Madrid, Cassatt found the landscape she traveled through "immensely sad, vast and dreary." However, she reacted favorably to her arrival in Seville, which she described as "full of color, gay lively, the Cathedral magnificent, orange trees growing in the squares and streets." Cassatt rented a studio space in the Casa de Pilatos and commenced painting studies of local characters and customs. One such work is "Peasant Woman Peeling an Orange," 1872.



To learn more:

<http://www.veoapartment.com/blog/seville-oranges/>

<https://www.frankcoopers.co.uk/about-us/>

https://kids.kiddle.co/Bitter_orange

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Marmalade>

<https://www.thewi.org.uk/life-at-the-wi/food-and-cookery/recipes/recipes/jams,-preserves-and-pickles/seville-orange-marmalade>

December 10, 1888 – Seville

“This morning, we heard for the first time the falling of one of the fine cathedral domes here last September. We went there this morning but could not judge well of its former impressiveness as building materials were strewn all round & part of the roof had been knocked down by the falling dome.”



Construction of the Seville Cathedral lasted over a century, finishing in 1506. Unfortunately, a mere five years later, the chimborazo, or dome, collapsed and required rebuilding. An earthquake struck Seville on August 1, 1888, and resulted in a second collapse of the dome. Repairs continued through 1903.

The protectors of Seville Cathedral are Saints Justa and Rufina. They are depicted in a painting by Francisco Goya from 1818, which hangs as an altarpiece in the sacristy of the Cathedral.

Sisters Justa and Rufina, Seville natives, worked as potters during the Roman occupation in the 3rd century.

When Justa and Rufina had refused to supply pottery vessels for a pagan festival, as ordered, they were imprisoned, tortured and killed. In one punishment, they were forced to run over sharp stones without shoes, which is why they are depicted barefoot in the Goya painting. Rufina, appearing on the right side of Goya's painting, was thrown into the lion's den, but the lion refused to attack her. The lion is shown licking Rufina's foot.





The girls are carrying examples of their pottery, and carry palm fronds, as symbols of martyrdom. The painting shows the two saints and credits them with saving the tower, Giralda, during the 1504 earthquake.

Esteban Murillo completed a similar treatment of Justa and Rufina around 1666 and offered a more detailed depiction of the Giralda.

December 10, 1888 – Seville (continued)

"In a side chapel is Murillo's picture of St. Anthony & the angels."



The Popes were fortunate to see the "Vision of Saint Anthony of Padua" (1656) in its entirety. In November 1874, thieves cut out the portion depicting [Saint Anthony](#), and the fragment, about seven feet high, was offered for sale to an art gallery in New York. Thanks to the publicity surrounding the theft, the gallery owner, William Schaus, recognized the fragment as the stolen St. Anthony,



purchased it for \$250, and contacted the Spanish Consul in New York. The piece was recovered and reunited in its original location in 1875.

"This afternoon we drove out of town to Pickman's pottery factory. Had never seen ware made before... First, they knead the clay & cutting it with wire throw it together to make it tight; then for plates, it is cut roughly into flat round pieces, these are put on little revolving tables & shaped by the hand & by a wooden or china form; after that they are air dried...Then first temperate baking is given them, after that comes varnish, paper decorations or hand-painted work, then the final baking. The baking is done in large furnaces reminding me of the annealing furnaces at home."

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The creative reuse of ancient buildings is a recurring theme in Seville. The Cartuja Monastery was built at the end of the 14th century for the Carthusian order of monks. It was known as the Monasterio de Santa Maria de las Cuevas. The word “cuevas” translates as caves in English. The monastery’s name refers to the legend of an image of the Virgin Mary, which was discovered in a cave formed from the extraction of clay back in 1248 (Moorish times).

Christopher Columbus spent time living, studying, and working with the Carthusian monks before his second voyage of exploration to the New World. A statue of Columbus was raised in 1887 next to an Ombu tree (*Phytolacca Dioecius*) at the monastery. This tree was a descendant of the specimen reportedly planted by Columbus's son Ferdinand (1488 - 1539) nearby.



Around 1655, Francisco de Zurbarán (1598 - 1664) produced a series of paintings for the Carthusian monks, including "Saint Hugo in the Refectory." It depicts the seven founding members of the Carthusian order being visited by Bruno of Cologne. The scene shows a miracle which occurred in 1084, after which the monks decided to renounce eating meat.

The monastery was confiscated by the government and closed in 1836, then sold before re-opening in 1841 as a porcelain factory. The Popes may have been familiar with the name Charles Pickman (1808 – 1883), an Englishman. He produced both ceramic tiles and porcelain china. The factory won numerous awards and gold medals at international exhibitions, and by 1849 had 22 furnaces and about 500 employees.

"Carlos" Pickman established novel methods for the production of porcelain and pottery, such as using molds and specialized machinery, including mechanical arms and presses. The business flourished, and Pickman's, now known as "La Cartuja de Sevilla," was appointed the supplier to the Royal House of Spain in 1871. Carlos also received a Spanish noble title of Marquess of Pickman in 1873.

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Pickman's pottery relocated to a modern factory 10 miles outside Seville, and the old location has been repurposed twice:

- The Royal Pavilion at EXPO '92
- Andalusian Center for Contemporary Art (CAAC), since 1997



Questions:

- Many people are familiar with the names of the ships that Christopher Columbus took with him on his first voyage to the New World. Can you name the ships? Hint: There were three ships.
- What about Columbus's second voyage in 1493 – can you find out how many ships Columbus took with him this time?

December 10, 1888 – Seville (continued)

"We drove quite a while after leaving there; coming across the bridge beyond which ocean steamers cannot go, saw the docks with barrels of wine is waiting to be shipped for South America."

Theodate and her family drove back along the Guadalquivir River, before crossing over the Puente de San Telmo (formally the Puente de Isabel II), back to their hotel. The river, just over 400 miles long, has played a critical role in the early settlement, and ongoing development, of the town that became known as Seville. Although Seville lies some 50 miles from the coast, the city has been Spain's main inland port for two millennia. In Roman times, the river was navigable as far as Cordoba (over 100 miles further inland, as the crow flies). The name of the river comes from the Arabic words, Wad-al-Kebir, or "of the great river."

A series of movements - of both goods and people - define the story of Seville, Spain, and the Americas:

- By the 1st century BCE, the Romans had built walls around Hispalis (their name for Seville), and their shipyards constructed boats to export olives, wheat, ceramics, and leather goods.
- The Arab rule (712-1248) saw the construction of the first bridge over the river. Caliph Abu Yacub Yusuf ordered the Puente de Barcas in 1171, a stone dock and river defenses, including the Torre del Oro. Theodate will explore these architectural elements in the next episode.

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- The Age of Exploration - Columbus formally completed his first voyage in Seville on March 31, 1493.
- On February 14, 1503, Seville received a state monopoly on all trade and activity with Spanish possessions in the New World. Gold bullion and silver flowed into Seville, with a 20% duty charged by the House of Trade. Additional treasures began to arrive, including spices, exotic wood, sugar, tobacco, and dyes.
- Ferdinand Magellan (c. 1480 - 1521) set sail from Seville with five ships, forming 'the Molucca fleet' on August 10, 1519. The impetus for the voyage was to reach the Spice Islands of South East Asia while avoiding the waters controlled by Portugal. This expedition would result in the first circumnavigation of the Earth.



A View of the City of Seville, attributed to Alonso Sanchez Coello (1531 - 1588), depicts the grand scale of commercial activity in Seville during the 16th century, as well as the iconic Giralda Tower and recently-completed Cathedral. This painting is attributed to Coello as he had trained under the Flemish painter, Anthonis Mor, from the age of 20, and was working in a similar style. The level of detail and close observation made by the painter, are seen as reflecting the style of Flemish engraving from the late 16th century.

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This painting (Triana bridge, Seville) by Joaquín Sorolla shows the bridge in 1908, very much as Theodate would have remembered.

By 1888, when Theodate visited Seville, the river had silted up, so only smaller ships could transport goods downriver to Cadiz. Major exports now included olive oil, wine, and sherry, destined for South America, and the rest of the world.

Question:

- Can you name the five ships that formed 'the Moluccan fleet'? Which was the only ship to complete the circumnavigation of the globe in 1522?

The House of Trade (Casa de Contratación) was established in Seville in 1503, regulating all trade and activity between Spain and the New World. All ships bound for the Americas had to leave from Seville.

The House of Trade was also responsible for maintaining the Padron Real, or Royal Register, the official - and secret - map that was used as the template for all of the maps used on Spanish ships in the 16th century. All ships returning to Seville were required to report any new lands or discoveries to the House of Trade, together the longitudes and latitudes.

Question:

- Which famous explorer, who participated in voyages of discovery between 1497 - 1504, was named the first Chief Navigator to the House of Trade, in 1508?

Theodate remains fascinated with architecture, particularly bridges such as the Puente de San Telmo. She saw bridges as a connector between cultures. Her design daring will defy convention as she navigates the construction of her architectural marvels in the years to come.

**Disclaimer: Theodate's journal entries have minor stylistic changes to enhance clarity and readability (correction of typos, spelling, grammar, etc.)*

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Created by Hill-Stead Museum: Beth Brett, Kate Ebner, Holly Maynard, Anitra Powers, Anna Swinbourne, and Lavell Thompson

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