TORRE DEL ORO

By Manuel Matías Castro

This famous monument is La Torre del Oro and it one of the most important places of Seville.

It is a watchtower on the left bank of the Guadalquivir River and in the Monumetal heart of the city.It was built in several moments.

The first between 1220 and 1221 by order of the almohade governor of Seville, Abù l-Ulà, the second section was constructed by Pedro I, the Cruel, in the 14th century, being built in 1760 by the military engineer Sebastián Van der Borcht. In 1931 it was declared an historical-aristic monument.

It owes its name to its primitive coating of tiles with golden reflections.

It is 36 metres tall and an extesion of 15. It is a tower formed by three sections: the first and second bodys are have twelve sides and the last body is cylindrical shape and ending in the dome. It was part of the wall that defended the Alcazar and was united to the Torre de la Plata.

The tower served as a prison and a safe place to keep the precious metals of the Americas. At present it is the Museum of the Navy, where are the historical documents on the discovery of America, on the river Guadalquivir or on the Seville itself.

I think it is a tower with many interesting features and a symbol of the city of Seville.