Adolph Alexander Weinman
Sculptor (1870 – 1952)

Weinman was born in Germany and came to the U.S. when he was 10. He studied at Cooper Union and Art Students League, and with sculptors AUGUSTUS ST. GAUDENS and Philip Martiny, and later served as an assistant to OLIN WARNER and DANIEL CHESTER FRENCH. Although Weinman is now best known as a medalist, when he was once introduced as such he vehemently denied being one and said that he was an architectural sculptor. Despite his objections he is still best remembered as the designer of the “Walking Liberty” half dollar and the “Mercury” dime, along with various medals for the Armed Services.

As an architectural sculptor, his work can be found on the Wisconsin, Missouri and Louisiana State Capitol Buildings. He became the sculptor of choice for the architects McKim, Mead, and White and designed sculpture for their Municipal Building, Madison Square Presbyterian Church and Pennsylvania Railway Station, all in New York City. A photograph of one of his angels in a landfill in New Jersey is one of the saddest reminders of the destruction of Penn Station in 1966. Elsewhere he created the dramatic frieze on the Elks National Shrine in Chicago and executed sculpture on the Post Office Department Building, the Jefferson Memorial and the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington D.C.

Weinman created the bust of Harrison, whom he accompanied on a trip West in 1891.