



The Museo Antonio Canova in Possagno, Italy, where we discovered the plaster model of the Penitent Magdalene in this museum, which was used as the model for the creation of the Lord Liverpool Penitent Magdalene. You can see it in this photograph, third from the left, amongst many of his other masterpieces.

Conclusion

It is on record that one of England's leading sculptors, Sir Francis Chantrey was "charged" with installing the marble sculpture of the Penitent Magdalene for the British Prime Minister Lord Liverpool, purchased from Antonio Canova and completed in 1822 (see letter from Chantrey to G. Bedford in 1822 V&A Library. This letter is now in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London).

The Penitent Magdalene plaster model was in Canova's studio and is now still in the Possagno Museum in Italy. N.B.: A Magdalene known as the reclining Magdalene for auction in London is not the Penitent Magdalene referred to here.

The sculpture of the Penitent Magdalene was passed onto Lord Liverpool's half brother in 1828. He had it for 24 years until it was sold at auction by Christie and Manson in April 1852. It was described as "The celebrated Statue of the Magdalen by Canova" and was selected by the Duchess of Devonshire (see *The Lost Penitent Magdalene* by Corona Fine Arts). It was exhibited in the Crystal Palace London in 1852. (Recorder Tulse Hill Tenny).

It was acquired by the wealthy Palmer family for one of Ireland's magnificent mansions, Kenure House in Dublin (see *The Lost Magdalene*). It was sold at auction in 1964 for £40. It sold again by Mealy's at Upper Court Manor collection in June 1998 for £4750 + commission.



As a result of research by Corona Fine Arts it is clear this work is The Penitent Magdalene, installed by Francis Chantry for the British Prime Minister Lord Liverpool in 1822. See page 37. *The Volume of the Walpole Society Vol 56 – Page 169 – Letter from Chantrey to G. Bedford 1822 V&A Library.*

*Brief Summary
from the Report by*

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