

None of the images burned at that time was ever heard of again in this country. But with so many at Chelsea, might it have been spirited away? The Nettuno tradition is that merchants salvaged the Madonna from England and gave it, with two others, to the town in 1550. Negative 'evidence' comes from a letter from a Florentine lady who visited Nettuno in the early sixteenth century, who made no mention of the image, implying it wasn't there at that time.

The statue was restored in 1959 and an inscription found saying *'these statues were restored at the expense of the Society of St. Roche, 1594'*. A chapel and figure of St. Roche is also found just outside the town. There was also an inscription *'in ancient and coarse English'* taken to say, *'Thou art gracious'*. This accords with the title Our Lady of Grace given to the Ipswich image. Dating the four feet tall figure has proved problematic, but intriguingly a photograph of the unadorned wooden image taken during restoration shows splits vertically down her skull and across one arm which fit with the description of the damage recorded in the Butley Chronicle.



Photograph of the statue before restoration with visible damage