

Pordenone, the Colonna (Column)

Originally the column, a construction composed of a base, a column, a five-faced tabernacle and an agile pinnacle that stands on the top, was located in the centre of the village square that bore his name, one of the oldest in Pordenone, which extended between the Bertossi and Cavallotti streets, reaching as far as San Carlo. Its origins are still obscure: the popular tradition places its construction around the eighteenth century on the initiative of the inhabitants of the village, as an *ex-voto* to be saved from an epidemic. In reality, perhaps its construction could already be located in the sixteenth century, since the ancient fresco decorations, visible until the 1988 restoration and then removed on the five faces of the tabernacle, may have been linked to an artist close to Antonio Maria Zaffoni known as the Calderari (around 1500-1563). The Colonna, in addition to a votive-religious function, also had the practical role of supporting public lighting in the neighbourhood, consisting of some oil lamps first and then oil/petroleum, hanging from hooks placed above its frescoed faces. This goal ended in 1888, when electric lighting arrived in Pordenone. Towards the end of the twenties of the twentieth century, the Municipality of Pordenone decided to expand the area between Via Cavallotti and the square that housed the Colonna, which later became Piazzale Duca d'Aosta, to make traffic between Pordenone and Cordenons easier. The work was then repositioned in the "largo", then called "della Beorchia", currently a crossroads between the Colonna and Vallona streets, where we can still find it today.

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