



THE BLACK BOX TREASURES (SPECIAL EDITION #23)

There is an interesting term called the “black box theory”. It speaks about an object which can be analyzed in terms of its input and output, but there is no knowledge of its internal workings. Many of us probably don’t know that in our Archives here in Rome we have more than 200 black boxes. Some of those treasures have seen the light of day in many publications, but there are still others waiting to be seen...

(The good old Fathers - #23)

The month of November invites us to reflect on the mystery of death. On All Souls’ Day we commemorate all the faithful departed. We pray for all those who preceded us in our journey toward Heaven. We think

about our deceased parents, friends and CRs.

Fr. Eugene Funcken, C.R. in one of his letters written to Fr. Peter Semenenko, C.R., expressed his grief over the loss of “the good old fathers” from the Community (ACRR 13131). He wrote: “Oh, my dear Father, it is often difficult for me, heart wrenching, to think that the good old fathers are passing away, one after the other. Surely you won’t mind if I enclose the short poems which express my mood and feelings at such moments”. In the poem “Longing for Death” he confesses “Oh, to go to the dear dead/ I want to go into the silent grave,/ And to see all, all again! The ones I loved!”. In his second poem “My Consolation” he adds “Oh, how bitterly I regret, /That I did not bring them more joy, /That I did not love them more, /And so often even saddened!”.

The letter of Fr. Eugene was written in German and has been translated in English by Fr. James Wahl, C.R. but those two poems were not translated. Thanks to John and Anne Kroisenbrunner, the parishioners of St. Mary’s Church in Kitchener, we can read them in English. The Polish translation was prepared by Fr. Pawel Kruczek, C.R. So today I would like to share those poems with you.

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine et lux perpetua luceat eis, requiescant in pace. Amen

