

## THE BLACK BOX TREASURES (#31)

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... **In the case of today’s treasure the internal mechanism can be revealed...**

### *(How to wind this watch? #31)*

Pope Benedict XVI once said that “a priest is not asked to be an expert in economics, construction or politics, he is expected to be an expert in the spiritual life”. I would probably add to this list that a priest doesn’t need to be an expert in technology either. While using technology is not an issue for the younger generation of priests and there are also some very tech-savvy seniors, but there is a number of older priests who experience difficulty using it. This is true not just of present times, but in the past our fathers also faced similar struggles...

As you know our Founders received two watches from Antoni Patek who was their friend and the founder of Patek Philippe & Co. One is kept in Rome and the other in Krakow, Poland.

Looking at their serial numbers we can assume that the first was given to Fr. Peter Semenenko, C.R. around 1875, while the second belonged to Fr. Jerome Kajsiewicz, C.R. and was made around 1866. Both our Founders speak about watches in their writings. For example, Fr. Jerome in his letter of August 2, 1866, confesses: “Patek gave me a silver chronometer, but it already stops, probably it is my fault in that I don’t know how to properly wind it” (ACRR 6764). Was it the mechanism of his watch that was so complicated or was he just technologically handicapped? Maybe the answer is simple, like every mechanical device it could be just broken. We don't know. But the one, who for sure broke his watch (and probably not just once) was Fr. Peter Semenenko who in his letter of August 2, 1883 asks one of the fathers for a favour... “again, there was a disaster: the watch fell again and stopped. I have to return it back to the watchmaker. So please, give it back to the watchmaker, but to the same man from Piazza Colonna... and ask him to give me another watch, the same model, if it is possibile, which he gave me the last time” (ACRR 3109). Fortunately, the broken watch wasn’t the one from Antoni Patek.

In today’s newsletter I would like to show you some pictures of both watches. One of them hides a real treasure inside... the engraving of the Risen Lord maybe made by Antoni Patek himself!



*Patek, Philippe & Co.  
Genève*

The watch of Fr. Peter Semenenko, C.R.



The watch of Fr. Jerome Kajsiwicz, C.R.

