

M/S «VULCANIA»

## THE BLACK BOX TREASURES (2)

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. This theory can be explained in a very easy way: “The child who tries to open a door has to manipulate the handle (the input) so as to produce the desired movement at the latch (the output); and he has to learn how to control the one by the other without being able to see the internal mechanism that links them. In our

daily lives we are confronted at every turn with systems whose internal mechanisms are not fully open to inspection, and which must be treated by the methods appropriate to the Black Box.” (Ashby, W. Ross, *An Introduction to Cybernetics*, 86).

Many of us probably don't know that in our Archives here in Rome we have more than 200 black boxes. The boxes where we keep the treasures of our Congregation: letters, writings and reports. Some of those treasures have seen the light of day in many publications, but there are still others waiting to be seen...

(2)

Greetings from MS Vulcania! With the other 1500 passengers we are enjoying a wonderful time on an Italian ocean liner built in 1926. We are sailing towards Italy. Today, along with Bishop Robert S. Dehler, C.R., the first Catholic bishop of Bermuda, we are preparing for a special evening. The bishop cabin is 128 (we will hear more about his room in another letter), ours is right next to him. Of course both rooms are located in the first class area.

This evening Master Aurelio Asserto has prepared a “Farewell Dinner” for the bishop, who soon is going to leave the ship in order to take part in the first session of the Second Vatican Council. He will disembark in Naples on October 2nd. But today is September 27th, 1962 so there is still time to enjoy the trip and dinner.

In today's newsletter I open for you the black box numbered 150, where we find the documents regarding the Onatrio-Kentucky Province. In the envelope #8 which contains the documents and correspondence of Bishop Robert Dehler CR (1939-1967), I found this unique menu from the ship. So today we move from Fr. Semenenko's time to the year 1962 somewhere on the Atlantic Ocean (ACRR 63977).

Is everyone ready and hungry? Can I take your order? Enjoy this gorgeous evening!  
Bon Appétit!



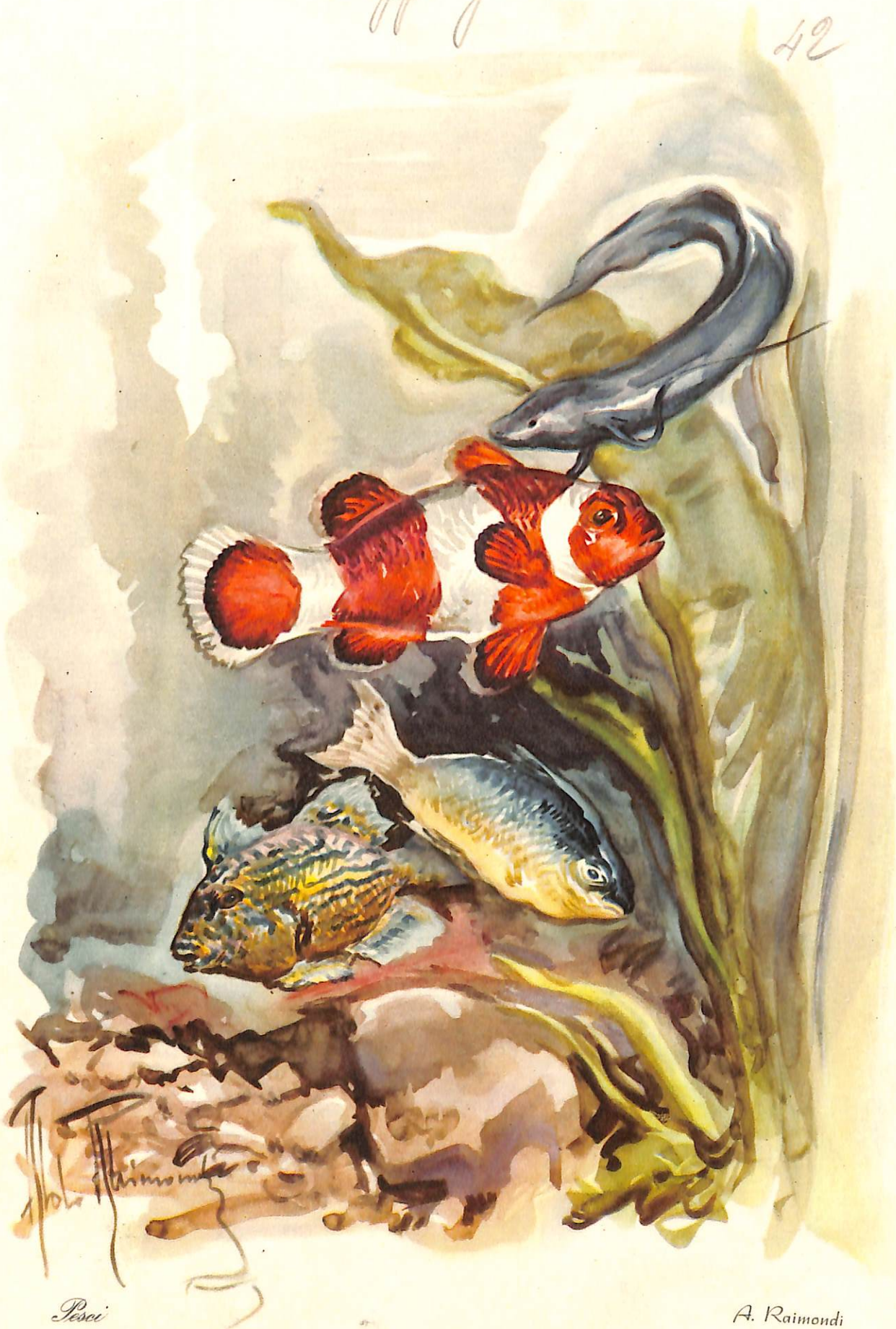
VULCANIA



Dehler, Bishop. R.  
Clippings

ARCHIVUM C. R.  
No. 63977

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Pesci

A. Raimondi



M.V. "VULCANIA"

AURELIO ASSERETO  
MASTER

FIRST CLASS

III

Thursday, September 27, 1962

# Farewell Dinner

GIVEN IN HONOR  
OF

Most Rev. Robert S. Dehler C. R.  
Catholic Bishop of Bermuda

Hamilton, Bermuda

Pineapple cup with Maraschino liqueur  
Grapefruit or tomato juice                      Shrimp cocktail

Volga caviar                      Blinis                      Sour cream  
Tureen of foie gras Strasbourg  
Salted almonds                      Patron olives  
St. Daniel raw ham                      Stuffed celery with Roquefort cheese

Double consommé, hot or cold                      Bologna tortellini in broth  
Petite marmite Henry IV                      Cold Vichissoise  
Jelly chicken consommé with Sherry                      Velouté à la Royale

Lobster en Bellevue  
Spring salad with mayonnaise

Fillets of turbot Vatel

Pheasant of St. Rossore Count of Brabant

Champagne Iced Punch

Chicken suprême Favorite  
Green peas à la Française                      Buttered Brussell sprout

Asparagus of Albenga à la Parmesane

Broiled prime sirloin steak  
Pont neuf potato                      Heart of lettuce and tomato salad

Prime ribs of beef Horticulturist                      Venison pie  
Smoked Denmark salmon                      Roast turkey, cranberry sauce  
Truffled chicken galantine                      Ox-tongue in jelly  
Stuffed eggs Harlequin                      Tureen of duckling à la Rouennaise

Marsala cake                      Frivolities Vulcania  
Plombier Nelusko                      Vanilla ice cream

Assorted fresh and dried fruits

SPUMANTE ANTINORI NATURE CUVÉE ROYALE





**"ITALIA"**  
SOCIETÀ DI NAVIGAZIONE  
GENOVA