



## THE BLACK BOX TREASURES (#39)

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...

### (Let's take a picture! #39)

Anyone who has ever had the opportunity to visit Niagara Falls

probably took at least a dozen pictures of this beautiful sight but, from a good distance. Then too it is possible to take a boat tour and get really close to the falls. Even wearing a recyclable mist poncho it is almost impossible to take a photo without getting totally wet. However what is of extreme difficulty right now appears that, that was not so a hundred years ago.

Today I would like to share with you a very unique picture of Father General Jan Kasprzycki, C.R. who decided to take a picture just a few meters from the waterfall. It is not clear exactly when the picture was taken, but probably around the 1900s. When we look closely we can see that the picture was photoshopped. The photo included here was taken by the photographers Zybach & Company, who had an exclusive 10-year lease with access to the Table Rock where they operated the hydraulic lift and ran their business. "Zybach seems to have allowed tourists to acquire a lasting Niagara remembrance in the form of a dramatic image of churning waters with their own image (suitably cloaked in waterproof clothing) artificially inserted into the picture. However Zybach's technique was not perfect and leaves the visitor's image partially surrounded by a halo-like glow and partially faded out at edges. A whimsical look on the tourist's face appears to indicate that he takes the situation with a proper attitude of humour" (Christopher Wahren).

In our picture we can see four men... however, there is something strange about them. It seems that there are just two individuals cloned and doubled. But maybe I am wrong. What do you think?

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ZYBACH & CO.

TABLE ROCK

NIAGARA FALLS, ONT.