



## THE BLACK BOX TREASURES (#40)

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...

### (Letters from Quarantine #40)

Many of us have been cooped up in rectories or religious houses for some time now. Indeed, some are even in self quarantine. Self quarantine or imposed quarantine does not come easy for most. Reading the letters of our Founders, we can find notes about the times when they also were held in quarantine.

We learn for example that 1866 was quite difficult for our Fathers because of the so called *fourth cholera pandemic* (1863-1875). The pandemic began in the Ganges Delta, reached Europe in 1865/1866 and claimed 600,000 lives around the world. Many were infected and even as many as half died from severe vomiting, diarrhea and painful cramps.

When Fr. Jerome Kajsiewicz, C.R. was returning from Brazil in August of 1866 after finishing his general visitation, he was stopped in Hyeres, France. He spent two weeks there because of quarantine and when he finally arrived in Port Civitavecchia near Rome he was detained another week.

Today I would like to share with you some of his letters about being in quarantine....

### 1. (to Fr. Valerian Kalinka, C.R. - ACRR 6765)

Hyeres, August 4, 1866

JMJ - God’s will

*My Dear Valery!*

I just now received your letter with a cheque. God bless you. I took some medicine today. The doctor advised me to still wait a few days before resuming my journey. Meanwhile, cholera decreases in Marseilles, maybe God will give me an opportunity to return by sea and avoid the Italian pandemonium [chaos]. Maybe in the meantime they will find my suitcase that was lost. May God be with us...

**2. (to Fr. Alexander Jelowicki, C.R. - ACRR 6766)**

Hyeres, August 6, 1866

JMJ - God's will

*My Dear Father Alexander!*

I've been held here, and not because I like it, but probably it is God's providence. My stomach is causing me trouble so the doctor gave me aperient. If I were to go straight to Rome without resting here, I could get something longer lasting and more serious [...] But now what to do? I have 1,000 francs cash and a 3,000 in cheque. I don't want to travel by land... I could take a stagecoach to Genoa and there board a ship which departs every fifth day. But even so I will have to spend 5 days of quarantine before boarding. But will it free me from 15-days' quarantine in Civitavecchia near Rome? It will also be expensive just sitting here for two weeks with this bad air and being uncomfortable and without the possibility of attending a retreat and Holy Mass. I also wrote a letter requesting more information about a schedule of direct sailing to Civitavecchia. Maybe I could risk being in quarantine for some days and then maybe my Roman friends will help me get out after a few days...

**3. (to Fr. Peter Semenenko, C.R. - ACRR 6768)**

Toulon, August 15, 1866

JMJ - God's will

*My Dear Father Peter,*

I don't understand why it is happening, but clearly God is delaying my return to Rome. Yesterday I left Hyeres (France) against the advice of Mr. Dariusz and despite having had a restless night's sleep. I stayed in Toulon for a few hours to visit Fr. Szelechowski and then I decided to go to Marseille for the night. But after dinner, I had indigestion (even though I had eaten just a little bit). I was tired, sweating, and had diarrhea. I decided to spend the night and leave after Mass today. That night the problems continued. I had diarrhea, my tongue was white, my pulse was irregular. Not wanting to get sick at the hotel or on the ship, I decided to go back to Hyeres for a week. In event of becoming more ill I would have all the help for free. I hope to arrive next week, and then I hope to avoid quarantine. The authorities stopped hanging posters about cholera - they may not be telling the whole truth maybe for business reasons, but it is certain that cholera has been lessening. I will write to the Roman Consul tomorrow to ask his advice since the quarantine depends on me departure. If he tells me that there might still be quarantine and disinfection happening in a week, I will not bring the boxes with liturgical vestments and fruit preserves, because everything will smell of smoke from disinfection [...]

God bless you and may we see each other soon.

**(to Fr. Alexander Jelowicki, C.R. - ACRR 6772)**

Civitavecchia, August 29, 1866

JMJ - God's will

*Dear Brother in the Lord!*

[..] This is now the fourth day in quarantine. I could celebrate Holy Mass for three days now and I know that the guard gave evidence that we are all perfectly well. I hope it will only entail eight days. God be with you all...

**(to Fr. Alexander Jelowicki, C.R. - ACRR 6774)**

Civitavecchia, September 5, 1866

JMJ - God's will

*My dear Brother!*

I am still writing from quarantine - it could not be shortened, but I hope that God will let me go to Rome at eight in the morning. Yesterday, Vatera's ship came with seriously ill people and some deceased...The ship wanted to dock at the port, but it was pushed away, they couldn't even unload the goods ashore! [...]

Fr. Jerome

4562

Moj drog Watery

Wofy chwili odebratem lepa  
 hroj zwa lem. Buj rapai  
 Bratem dzi lek arthro. Dokto.  
 radi jebie du par zarekai  
 rdalra podroga. Eymy afem  
 cholera upoye um arifhi  
 moze da Buj re bed, mozt  
 wroci mozym umkny  
 p and em on em ut afki ega.  
 more ter. Eymy afem odnaj  
 fue tu in aja turby.  
 Buj zn umri ch arifjeme

X. H. Cronin

Koperte i adrej sadaj doli s'uker

Handwritten notes at the top right, possibly including a date or location.

Handwritten text, possibly a name or title, such as "Alex andge".

Main body of handwritten text, appearing to be a letter or document in a cursive script. The text is dense and covers most of the page.

prohibetur et de  
re aem' em m' r' d' c' h' n' an m' e  
refertur p' m' et m' i' e' p' all' d' p' l' o' r' o  
Mago bed' n' e' h' o' s' t' a' n' d' o' . Na  
p' g' a' t' e' m' o' i' n' f' o' r' m' a' n' i' e' d' o' s' t' o' l' e' t'  
de' d' o' m' i' n' i' s' p' r' i' m' i' s' h' i' c' o' d' y  
o' d' e' h' s' e' r' i' c' o' n' e' l' l' d' o' C' i' v' i' t' a' t' i' s  
bo' r' a' p' e' m' e' s' o' r' r' y' t' e' y' s' h' o' r' a  
r' a' n' d' e' m' u' s' a' l' t' o' r' y' m' i' n' i' s' t' e' r' i' o  
p' r' i' m' i' s' a' r' t' i' c' l' e' s' t' r' y' m' e' t' p' o' s' t' e' r' i' o' r' i' b' u' s  
o' m' n' i' a' t' h' e' s' e' r' i' a' .  
N. d' i' c' t' a' t' i' o' n' e' s' i' t' a' n' t' e' m' i' n' i' s' t' e' r' i' o  
i' n' t' e' r' v' e' n' i' t' a' l' t' o' r' u' m' z' a' p' e' m' e' s  
m' o' d' o' i' n' t' e' r' v' e' n' i' t' i' o' d' o' s' t' e' r' r' i' a' n' i' s  
w' e' g' i' n' i' s' p' o' s' t' e' r' i' o' r' i' b' u' s' p' a' r' t' i' b' u' s' v' e' r' i' t' o  
p' a' y' a' d' i' s' s' u' b' p' o' s' t' e' r' i' o' r' i' b' u' s' p' a' r' t' i' a' .  
Bo' i' s' z' o' a' n' n' i' s' c' h' a' r' i' s' i' n' e

4564

St. Hieronim

M. de la Roche

M. de la Roche  
adieu

4565

a l'eff. de la Roche  
adieu

M. de la Roche  
 nas in e Bog epöz in a m of  
 p an at do Ruyina.  
 bez araj wy' ab at em rthy res  
 po un in o ofe zen p. Dar iže  
 p an in o zem un' at fen in e  
 p ak dy' ny - zahy en at em sig  
 de p ar god iž sta raba  
 zem a st. I rel ab wy' k' e go  
 p apt an o in un' em i ch em a  
 na noc do m ar y li -  
 Eym g apun p. ab i ch e  
 an' g d em n a i' p a m a lo i ad em  
 gi' w am' e p. ab ro zu l m e  
 m' e - p of an an' em g an'  
 zar a i' d u p. an ny wy  
 i ch a i' - un' cy b i g em k a  
 i cy k b i a y - p. ab in' d p o  
 k o j' ny - R y s i' in' c r a s h o r o  
 w a r d e r s t' a b e l a l u b n a y t a k a

g off mo artem avo. ci. we by  
 dhan, i ch re do k g en, g dle  
 wane k wab y. bed, un at  
 w p h l i e s o p a m e n e d a m o.  
 A man be d o b a g i n a d i g i r e  
 p t y o a r a b y d i e n i e n i n k  
 n e k w a n t a n y. p r o k a t y i a  
 w a d s. o g t a h a. b u t e t r a y  
 m o r e t r a i k s. K t a n n e, p e r  
 e g a r d p o w r l a p t n a p p o  
 l e o n e t h e C a n e r e a l e  
 p e m o. r e c h a t e r a f r a b a  
 i g a p n e s n a p u f u i e t h o  
 d o k a n w a l a S h r e e k i e g o, b y  
 w a r d. e i p a l l i c e n r a p p o r  
 t a d o a p e, b o o d t e g o k u a  
 v a n t a n a g a t e r y - g d g b y  
 i r a b y d i e n i n e z a p e n n i f  
 m i r e p u y a b l e c a z a n n a  
 m e b e d a l e t o b y e n m e  
 e y i a t p a k g o r n a t a n n e  
 a k a i p t a r a n n i. b o b y t o  
 w s a n t h l o p r e i m a s t o.

[Do X. Jull'ana n apu h  
 by. w r t s p o w o t i b o t  
 4566



fiş do zary jako nury  
wityg Skettar Adam u atar  
i n an i'ata - aby - de Lu gi  
mu pan a gat qn ewu co do  
let olt ew. wityn i' do po  
iz ad ku dom bregu.  
pues te dn' I ubo a' ab se  
un' ot' g' ony jakoby del. olt k' i' c.  
fob i' c' jakoby wps an u  
Bug 310 ann. m' an o m' i' c'  
was wnyklich  
i' gn a' an y n.  
fre Rozyne.  
Da Bug do zob en n' i' a

X. Sk' erony

4567

JmJ  
Wsta 303<sup>a</sup>

ARCHIVUM C. R.  
No. 6772 +

Lazarat w Ciute Verhe  
Reg. Sing. 1886

Progi Bracie wspanu!  
4573

Ko byt am godziejdzajiego stalku kto  
ry nar przywiozt aby Ci Janicie  
re ato 49 dzien siedz wku arawta  
anq- Od <sup>trzech</sup> Comi moze par' aioni  
~~Moze~~ fra i wicm re pod ara' suna  
dehuo przywiozto stras'mka, re  
m am y. sic' dozke on abe. Jekt nodze  
ja re' at upim y sic' 80 Com' amni  
przywioz ym stalkiem napio'u' zhad  
ery rekzyim u.  
Buj w' amni wory, k' amni.

X. Hic aming

PARIS

1806

1806  
30  
1806

BRIGADE FRANCOISE  
1806  
1806

Paris de France

Le Sup. Alex. J. L. de la Mission polonoise  
Super. de la Mission polonoise  
Paris  
Rue S<sup>te</sup> Barbe d'Jfy

MARSEILLE  
SEP  
66

Civita Vecchia 5<sup>a</sup>  
marzo 1866

gnro  
Wola Bogia

4574

Mój drogi bracie!

proszę Cię bardzo, napisz do mnie jak się masz  
 i może do tamtej części...

piszesz iż... albowiem antany - nie  
 znalazło się... ale da Bog  
 rano... do...  
 zainstal...  
 um...  
 rych...  
 odep...  
 puz...  
 Bd...  
 Tam...  
 wili...  
 ki...  
 mis...  
 p...  
 a...  
 r...  
 w...  
 w...  
 w...  
 k...  
 w...  
 B...