



The *disco illuminati* Secchi - The rest of the story

There once was an astro-limno-logical techi,
Father Pietro Angelo Secchi.
A true visionary, as his eyes,
From the seas to the skies,
Saw vast stars and waterborne flyspecki.

He invented the *disco illuminati* Secchi (*)
To view turbid water filled with tiny flecki.
He added a candle light,
So he would never lose sight,
When he looked far down in the depthi.

He was famous from Rome to Quebeci.
His disk was simple, not complexi.
Its basic design was sound,
Just black, white, and round,
And it requires no oil from OPECi

He considered sailing far out in xebeci (**) -
Searching for gold from the ancient Azteci.
His disks, easy to make,
To use out on a lake,
In bright sun as waves roll over the decki.

But he thought it best to rechecki,
How well his readings recorded consecutivli.
When he found water so clear,
It took forever to peer,
And all he got was a crick in his necki.

--SLD/052607

(*) *illuminati*, named for people like Secchi, who were unusually 'enlightened' on a subject.
For "*secchi Illuminati*", see a rather strange object d'art
http://images.gay.it/foto_articoli/220x165/sb/sbrana.jpg
"*Secchi*" translates as "pail" or "bucket", so "*secchi illuminati*" means "enlightened pail".

(**) a small Mediterranean ship with three masts rigged with both square and triangular sails.

For much more on the Secchi disk, The Great American Secchi Dip-In at <http://dipin.kent.edu/>.