

The Gaston Planté Medal Presentation Address

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While looking through the materials kindly offered to me by Professor Pavlov, I was very impressed to discover that the decision of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, taken four years ago, to award a medal after the name of Gaston Planté, the inventor of the lead/acid battery, appeared to be a fulfilment of a prediction made more than a 110 years ago. It was in 1882 that Gaston Planté was awarded a medal – the Ampère Medal. In presenting the award, Jean-Baptiste Dumas said: ‘Je suis heureux de vous remettre cette médaille à l’effigie d’Ampère, en attendant que nos successeurs la remettent, dans l’avenir, à votre propre effigie’. Or, if I try to translate these words in English, they might sound as follows: ‘I am happy to hand you this medal with the effigy of Ampère expecting that our successors will award in future such a medal with your own effigy’.



Fig. 1. The Scientific Secretary General of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Professor Naum Yakimoff presents the Gaston Planté Medal and Scroll to Paul Ruetschi of Leclanché SA, Switzerland.

Dear Dr Ruetschi:

I am not a prophet, but I would like to express my deep conviction that the honourable Planté Medal Committee has nominated a distinguished scientist and a substantial contributor to the field of lead/acid batteries. It is my pleasure and honour to present you with the Planté Medal of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.