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The Gaston Planté medal presentation address

Ivan Havezov (DSc)

Scientific Secretary of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia 1040, Bulgaria

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Twenty years ago, the Organizing Committee of the First LABAT conference came up with a suggestion to the Board of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences to establish an award - a medal, named after the inventor of the lead-acid battery, the great French scientist Gaston Planté. The award was to be presented to eminent scientists from all over the world in recognition of their signifi-

cant contribution to the development of lead-acid battery science and technology. The Board of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences approached the French Academy of Sciences for their approval. Gaston Planté was a French Scientist, after all! The Council of the French Academy enthusiastically approved the idea and provided ample documents and historical data about the life and the research activity of Gaston Planté. It was decided that an international Planté Medal Committee would elect the recipients of the award.

Today, for the 7th time, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences will present the Gaston Planté medal to the renowned scientist elected by the International Planté Medal Committee. I am very happy that the honour to present the award fell to me.

Looking through the materials about Gaston Planté I came across an interesting fact. In 1881, the well-known French physicist Jean Batiste Dumas presented the Ampère Medal to Gaston Planté with the words:

“I am most pleased to bestow upon you this medal bearing the portrait of Ampère much more, because I am confident that my successors will bestow a medal with your effigy upon the future outstanding scientists.”

We are pleased and proud that the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences made this prophesy of Dumas' comes true.

E-mail address: havezovi@eagle.cu.bas.