

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Tom Farthing - Consultant

It is a great privilege and an honour to accept this assignment from Marco Ginatta. I will be delighted to take this beautiful inscribed Titanium memorial plaque to the church at Manaccan, in Cornwall, England, and present it to the Church on behalf of the Ginatta family. It is a very timely gesture, and one that will be much appreciated not just by the inhabitants of Manaccan, but also by all those associated with the Titanium Industry.

It seems to me to be very appropriate, in view of both of their contributions to the Titanium Industry, that this plaque should honour not only the memory of William Gregor and the 200th anniversary of the discovery of Titanium, but also the great contribution of Marco and Ugo Ginatta to Titanium. This is the VIth GTT Meeting and from the number of people attending, and the extremely interesting and wide range of papers, I am sure that the meeting will be even more successful than those in the past. The Ginatta family deserves all our congratulations for all that they have done for the Industry.

As many of you will know, Titanium was first discovered as a new element some 200 years ago, in 1791, by a clergyman named William Gregor who was born in Cornwall, the most westerly county in England. He was in fact born on Christmas Day, which obviously augured well for the future success of Titanium. In my brief research on the matter, I found that Mr. Gregor went to Cambridge University, which is where I subsequently attended. His College was St. Johns and mine Jesus. In view of his birthday, it might perhaps have been more appropriate if he had gone to my college instead.

The name Titanium was in fact given to this unknown element by the famous chemist Klaproth, a few years after its discovery by William Gregor, in recognition of its great strength and stability. William Gregor wanted to name it Manaccanite or even Georgium, after the then King of England. Klaproth clearly had the most accurate appreciation of the true character and properties of the new element and Titanium became the accepted name.

However not even Klaproth could have realized how appropriate and indicative his choice of name would be in describing the properties of the metal and its alloys. The GTT Conference has an honoured and recognized place in the International work which is carried out to widen our knowledge of the properties and applications of Titanium. I wish this VI'th Conference all success. Thank you very much.