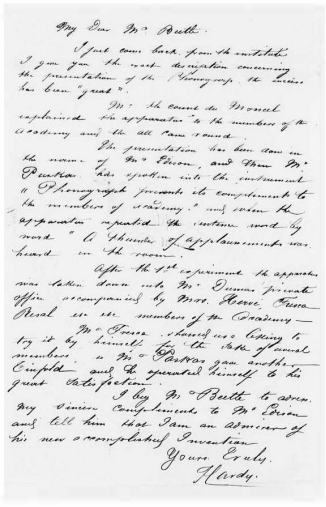

ENCLOSURE[c]

PARIS, March 11, 1878.[11]

MY DEAR MONSIEUR BEETLE:

I have come in from the Institute[12] and will write you an exact account of the presentation of the phonograph, that you may know the details. I never saw such a success. When the Count du Moncel[13] commenced to explain the apparatus and the principles governing it, the greater number of the members of the Academy arose and approached it. M. du Moncel made the presentation in the name of Mr. Edison, and said that the latter had a representative here to exhibit it. M. Pasques[14] then spoke into the phonograph: "The phonograph presents its respects to the Academy." When the apparatus repeated this sentence, there was great excitement and a storm of applause, which was renewed after other sentences. When the presentation was finished, the Count du Moncel came to me and said that several members of the Institute desired to examine the apparatus more particularly. M. Pasques and I went down to the office of M. Dumas, the permanent secretary,[15] accompanied by the following members of the society: First, M. Herve Manson, the son-in-law of M. Dumas, senior professor;[16] second, M. Tresca, professor and director of the Conservatory;[17] third, M. Resal, professor in the Polytechnique School;[18] and fourth, a member whom I do not know. M. Tresca said to me: "We wished to see for ourselves, because, perhaps, some doubt might remain in the minds of certain members. Besides, I will tell you frankly that, some time ago, we went to the Grand Hotel to see a speaking machine.[19] Well, there was a ventriloquist behind it. We are perfectly certain that the invention is real and marvellous, but we wish to make it speak ourselves."[20] M. Pasques then put a new piece of tinfoil around the cylinder and spoke into the mouthpiece. M. Tresca turned the machine, which repeated what had been said. He then spoke himself, and had his own words repeated. M. Resal then spoke into the phonograph, which repeated what he had said.

These gentlemen departed in a state of enthusiasm. M. Herve-Manson said to me: "When I heard it, I applauded frantically."

I beg of you, dear monsieur, to accept my sincere congratulations.

I have little influence in the Academy, but I have already told you how amazed I was by the apparatus, and I beg of you

to take the first opportunity of being my interpreter to Mr. Edison and of expressing to him my great admiration. Yours ever,

E. HARDY,[21] Engineer Electrician

ALS, NjWOE, DF (*TAEM* 15:339). [a]Second dateline appears below. [b]Interlined above. [c]Canceled. [d]"as soon as possible" underlined twice. [e]Enclosure is a PL (translation) in "The Wizard of Menlo Park," *New York Daily Graphic*, 10 Apr. 1878, Cat. 1240, item 500, Batchelor (*TAEM* 94:160).

1. Doc. 1237.

2. Neither Edison's letter to Puskas nor the Nottage letter and cable have been found. The earliest extant letter from Nottage is dated 7 March. DF (*TAEM* 19:215).

3. The Académie des Sciences was officially created in 1816 and remains the most prestigious general scientific society in France and a unit of the national government. Crossland 1992, 14–19, 50–56.

4. The patent had been granted on 19 February (see Doc. 1202 n. 4). As in the British patent, the phonograph was part of a telephone patent.

5. Not found; however, Edison made the same proclamation to Alfred Mayer on 2 March (Doc. 1229).

6. Puskas had been interested since sometime the previous year in arranging a telephone exchange system in Brussels but apparently did not establish one. See Doc. 1153; Holcombe 1911, 356.

7. Preece's talk, on 28 February, was for the Society of Telegraph Engineers, whose meeting was held on the premises of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Puskas's role in the event is reported (as "Puscus") in the 8 March issue of *Engineering*. "The Phonograph," Cat. 1240, item 449, Batchelor (*TAEM* 94:139); see also William Preece to TAE, 28 Feb. 1878, Cat. 1240, item 117, Batchelor (*TAEM* 94:117).

8. Prince Rudolf von Habsburg.

9. Puskas gave his own account of the event in an interview reported in a dispatch from 28 May. "Edison's Phonograph in Paris," *New York Daily Graphic*, 8 June 1878, Cat. 1029:146, Scraps. (*TAEM* 25:238).

10. Charles Batchelor wrote Puskas on 27 February; the phonograph had been sent to the express company three days earlier. Batchelor to Puskas, 27 Feb. 1878; Batchelor to Baldwin Bros. & Co., 24 Feb. 1878, Lbk. 1:369, 349 (*TAEM* 28:233, 221).

11. The original of this letter has not been found; another less complete translation is in DF (*TAEM* 97:718). This translation was published in the *New York Herald* of 29 March in an interview with Edison ("That Wonderful Edison," Cat. 1240, item 463, Batchelor [*TAEM* 94:147]).

12. The Académie des Sciences was officially one of several components of an overall National Institute. Crosland 1992, 50–58, 82–84, 87–90.

13. Count Théodore-Achille-Louis du Moncel made scientific and telegraph instruments, wrote numerous works of scientific reference and popularization, and served as an engineer and administrator for the French telegraphs. *DBF* 12:191; Butrica 1986, 202, 208; *DSB*, s.v. "Du

Moncel, Théodose Achille Louis" (both spellings of his first name were and remain common).

14. Puskas.

15. Jean-Baptiste-André Dumas, among the century's leading industrial and theoretical chemists, as well as a politician, prominent government official, and holder of various professorships, had been permanent secretary of the Académie des Sciences since 1868. *DSB,* s.v. "Dumas, Jean-Baptiste-André."

16. Charles-François-Hervé Mangon was chief engineer (specializing in rural drainage, irrigation, and hydraulics) in the government's foremost engineering division, the Ponts et Chaussées, and a professor at its professional school. *Gde. Ency.,* s.v. "Mangon (Charles-François-Hervé)."

17. Henri-Edouard Tresca was undersecretary of the Conservatoire des arts et métiers, its professor of industrial mechanics as well as that for applied mechanics at the École Centrale des Arts et Manufactures, and had been commissioner general for the 1855 Universal Exposition in Paris. *Gde. Ency.,* s.v. "Tresca (Henri-Edouard)."

18. Henri-Amé Résal, professor at both the École Polytechnique and the École des Mines and the second editor (from 1874) of *Liouville's Journal,* had been a mining engineer and superintendent of railways; he specialized in mathematical and engineering mechanics and thermodynamics. *WWWS,* s.v. "Résal, Henri-Amé"; *DSB,* 8:382b, 11:78b.

19. Nothing specific has been found about this event, but see Du Moncel 1974, 261.

20. Some accounts in the press indicated that many observers voiced intense scepticism, particularly when Du Moncel failed in his first attempt to make the phonograph work himself (for quotations and discussions see Charbon 1981, 48–49 and Du Moncel 1974, 244–46). Later it was claimed that the eminent chemist Henri Sainte-Claire Deville, professor at the École Normale Supérieure, had been the most outspoken of the scoffers ("The Present Bugbear of French Savants," *Sci. Am. Suppl.* 6 [Dec. 1878]: 2452).

21. Edme Hardy was an award-winning maker of scientific and telegraph instruments (notably chronographs) and the French manufacturer for Edison's electric pen. He was soon manufacturing Edison phonographs as well. Turner 1983, 75 (fig. 9); Butrica 1986, 164, 185 n. 36, 205; Doc. 1259.