

Preface to 1976 Edition

Two publications of the National Bureau of Standards, now out of print, that deal with weights and measures have had widespread use and are still in demand. The publications are NBS Circular 593, *The Federal Basis for Weights and Measures* (1958), by Ralph W. Smith, and NBS Miscellaneous Publication 247, *Weights and Measures Standards of the United States—a Brief History* (1963), by Lewis V. Judson.

To meet the current demand for information on the history of weights and measures in the United States, Miscellaneous Publication 247, referred to above, updated where needed to bring it into accord with current usage, is reprinted in this Special Publication, together with a brief addendum that discusses important events involving weights and measures of the period 1963–1975, immediately following the original date of publication of MP 247. NBS Circular 593 is not being reprinted because of the significant overlap of material treated in the two publications. Those interested in a detailed account of the Federal legislative background in the field of weights and measures units and standards should refer to NBS Circular 593 in one of the more than 100 depository libraries throughout the country.

LOUIS E. BARBROW

Preface to 1963 Edition

In 1905, Louis A. Fischer, then a distinguished metrologist on the staff of the National Bureau of Standards, presented a paper entitled "History of the Standard Weights and Measures of the United States" before the First Annual Meeting of the Sealers of Weights and Measures of the United States. This paper quickly came to be considered a classic in its field. It was published by the National Bureau of Standards several times—most recently in 1925 as Miscellaneous Publication 64. For some time it has been out of print and in need of up-to-date revision. The present publication covers the older historical material that Fischer so ably treated; in addition, it includes a brief summary of important later developments affecting the units and standards for length and mass. (Liberal use of Mr. Fischer's text is made in this publication.)

LEWIS V. JUDSON.