

# The Metre, The Kilogram And the Creation of the BIPM



**Terry Quinn**

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**Friday, April 16, 2010, Green Auditorium, 10:30 a.m.**

**The cubit, foot, and yard, and the grain, stone, and pound -- after more than 2000 years of use, it was time for a fundamental change. This is the story of events and personalities surrounding the Metre Commission in 1872, the Diplomatic Conference of the Metre Convention in 1875, and the 15 years of work that led to the new international prototypes of the metre and the kilogram being adopted by the first General Conference on Weights and Measures in 1889. This all epitomises the fact that it is personal, institutional, and national pride and goals that decide the outcome of events such as these.**

