

Appendix 1. Bibliography

The first of the following principal sources consulted in the preparation of this publication was used very extensively. It is therefore placed at the head of the list; the others are listed alphabetically.

FISCHER, Louis A., History of the Standard Weights and Measures of the United States, NBS Miscellaneous Publication 64;

BACHE, Alexander D., Report on the Construction and Distribution of Weights and Measures, S. Ex. Doc. No. 27, 34th Congress, 3d Session;

BIGOURDAN, Guillaume, Le Système Métrique des Poids et Mesures;

CHANEY, Henry J., Our Weights and Measures;

CHISHOLM, Henry W., On the Science of Weighing and Measuring and Standards of Measure and Weight;

GUILLAUME, Charles E., La Création du Bureau International des Poids et Mesures et son Oeuvre;

HASSLER, Ferdinand R., Comparison of Weights and Measures, H. R. Doc. 299, 22d Congress, 1st Session;

BOARD OF TRADE, GREAT BRITAIN, Reports on their Proceedings and Business under the Weights and Measures Act 1878;

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DES POIDS ET MESURES, Procès Verbaux des Séances;

CONFÉRENCES GÉNÉRALES DES POIDS ET MESURES, Comptes Rendus des Séances.

Appendix 2. Report on the Troy Pound of the Mint

Reproduced below is the text of an appendix to the report of the Committee of the Franklin Institute on Weights and Measures comprising a report of Dr. Samuel Moore, Director of the United States Mint, dated October 1, 1833, dealing with the original troy pound of the Mint. This report was printed in the Journal of the Franklin Institute of the State of Pennsylvania in the issue of May 1834 (Vol. XIII, New Series, No. 5), p. 302-3.

APPENDIX TO THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Report of Dr. Samuel Moore on the authentication of the Troy Pound in possession of the Mint of the United States

To the committee of the Franklin Institute charged with the subject of Weights and Measures

Mint of the United States, October 1, 1833.

The standard troy pound of the mint is a copy, executed with great care, of the British parliamentary troy pound of 1758, recognised and designated in the year 1824 as the imperial troy pound of Great Britain. It was procured at my request, in 1827, through the attention and influence of Mr. Gallatin, Minister of the United States at London. By the friendly offices of Mr. Davies Gilbert, Vice President of the Royal Society, the standard troy pound in the care of the Clerk of the House of Commons, was, on the application of Mr. Gallatin to the Speaker of the House, committed to the charge of Capt. Kater, for the purpose of effecting at his own house an adjustment of the copy to the original.

The standard weight is of brass, the original being of that material. It was made by Mr. Bate, who had constructed all the standard British weights, and the comparison with the original was made by a very delicate beam constructed by Robinson, the same artist who had constructed the beam with which Capt. Kater compared the standard weights above mentioned with the original standard troy pound.

The weight was enclosed in a neat casket carefully enveloped under seal of the American legation at London, and committed by

Mr. Gallatin himself to the hands of Mr. Cucheval, a public messenger, bearing despatches from the legation to the United States, by whom it was delivered into my hands, accompanied by a packet containing ample certificates from Capt. Kater and Mr. Gallatin, testifying to the accuracy of the weight in question.

The casket and accompanying package were retained under seal, waiting the return of Mr. Adams, President of the U.S., from his family residence to Washington, in order that the seal of Mr. Gallatin, and the various facts of chief moment, in regard to the authentication of the weight, might be verified, on his authority. They were accordingly opened in the presence of Mr. Adams, in Philadelphia, on the 12th of October, 1827, and his full certificate in regard to the seal, which he readily recognised, and to the circumstances generally, giving assurance of the fidelity of the whole transaction, and the consequent accuracy of the weight, has been added to the vouchers in the case; he declaring, in conclusion, his entire belief, that the brass weight then exhibited was the identical copy of the imperial standard troy pound of Great Britain, intended and referred to in the aforesaid certificates.

The above facts having been communicated to Congress through the committee on the mint, the troy pound thus certified was specifically declared by law to be "the standard troy pound of the mint of the United States, according to which the coinage thereof shall be regulated." See section 2nd of the act of May 19, 1827, respecting the mint, a copy of which is hereto annexed.

This is the specific pound weight, assumed as the standard unit of the system of weights reported to the Senate of the United States, under a resolution of that body of 29th May, 1830—see a communication from Mr. Ingham, Secretary of the Treasury, made to the Senate March 3d, 1831; also the report of Mr. Hassler on the subject, 27th January, 1832, pages 10 and 25; and a communication to the Senate from Mr. M'Lane, Secretary of the Treasury, accompanying this report, dated 20th June, 1832. It has been constantly in my possession, and is preserved with the utmost care.

Very respectfully, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL MOORE,
Director United States Mint.