

Weight & Measures

Il mazzo *Pesi e misure* fu stampato da John Jaques & Son l.td. dal 1910 circa.

Le 52 carte misurano 86x63 mm. e sono state molto apprezzate dai bambini inglesi, o più probabilmente dagli adulti che si curavano di loro, tanto da essere rimaste in vendita per molti anni.

Per capire come mai un mazzo per imparare i pesi e le misure sia stato ritenuto indispensabile in Gran Bretagna dobbiamo dire che noi siamo molto fortunati adottando da tempo il sistema decimale.

Le equivalenze ci hanno fatto pensare alle elementari, ma in fin dei conti 100 centimetri equivalgono a un metro e un litro vale 10 decilitri. Abbastanza semplice.

I bambini inglesi invece fino a poco tempo fa avevano a che fare con il sistema imperiale britannico.

Introdotta dal *British Weights and Measures Act* del 1824, è stato utilizzato in tutto l'Impero britannico fino alla fine del XIX secolo ed ufficialmente nel Regno Unito fino al 1965, quando è stato introdotto il sistema metrico. Ma gli inglesi usano ancora il loro sistema tradizionale. Le monete sono passate al sistema decimale solo dal 1971.

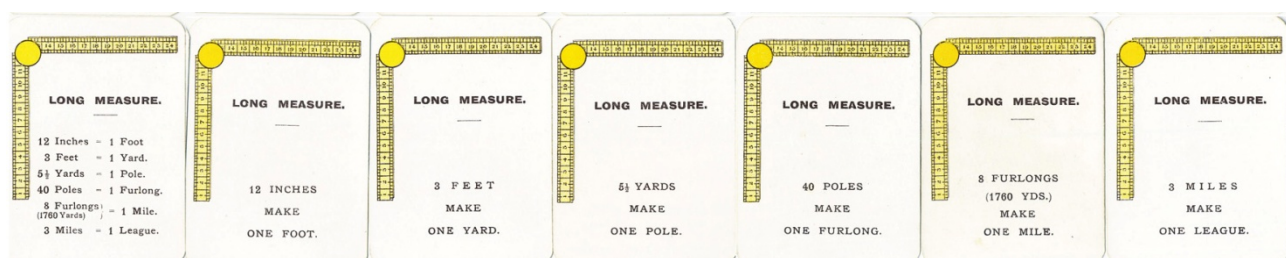
Long measure (misure di lunghezza)

L'inglese non misurava in centimetri, ma in pollici (*inch*), circa 2,5 cm., 12 pollici fanno un piede (*foot*) e 3 piedi una yarda (*yard*), 1760 yarde danno un miglio, ma beninteso un miglio terrestre (*statute mile*), perché per un miglio marino (*nautical mile*) ce ne vogliono 2015.

Oltre a queste abbiamo altre misure come mano (*hand* - 4 pollici), spanna (*span* - 9 pollici), gomito o cubito (*cubit* - 18 pollici), braccio (*fathom* - 2 yarde), barra o pertica (*rod, pole o perch* - 11 cubiti), catena (*chain* - 4 pertiche), *furlong* (10 catene) e lega (*league* - 3 miglia).

Provate a risolvere il seguente problema. La mamma manda Pierino a comprare 7 *yards* di stoffa, 4 *span* di tela e 1 *chain* di spago. Mettete il tutto in fila sul pavimento e misurate la lunghezza in metri, ammesso che possa interessare a qualcuno.

Ricordo quando i record di atletica erano per i 100 metri e le 100 yards (91,4 metri). i 1500 metri e il miglio (1609 metri), i 5000 metri e la lega (4828 metri) e così via.



Money table (tavola delle monete)

Si pagava in *penny* (per fare un po' di confusione la sigla era *d* da *denarus*), *shilling* (scellino), che equivalevano a 12 *pence* e *pound* (sterlina) da 20 scellini, ma c'era la *sovereign* (sovrana, in oro), la *guinea* (ghinea - 21 scellini), l'*half penny* (1/2 penny), il *farthing* (1/4 di penny), il *florin* (fiorino - 2 scellini), la *crown* (corona - 5 scellini).

Non ho idea di quanti tasti avessero i registratori di cassa nei negozi.

A Londra nel 1970 venivano usati sia il sistema tradizionale che quello decimale, che sarebbe entrato in vigore in 1° gennaio successivo. Io facevo i conti con il sistema decimale e i commercianti mi guardavano come fossi un genio, perché loro impiegavano molto più tempo con le loro monete tradizionali.

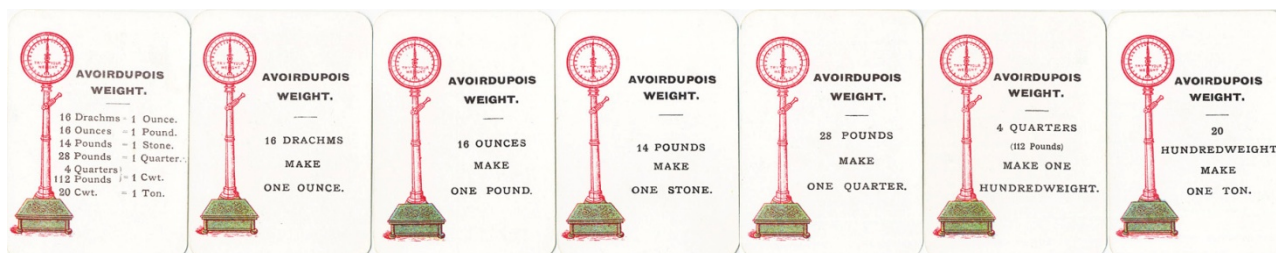


Avoirdupois weight (misure di peso)

Non andava meglio con i pesi, visto che comunemente si usava il sistema *avoirdupois*, ma per i preziosi era usato il sistema *troy*; inoltre i farmacisti ne avevano uno loro, detto *apothecaries weight*.

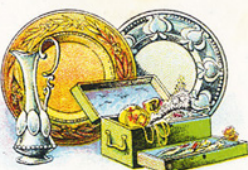
Un'oncia *avoirdupois* era di 28.35 grammi, l'oncia *troy* 31.10 come quella dei farmacisti.

Il sistema *avoirdupois*, quello normalmente usato, aveva il grano (*grain* - 1/7000 di libbra), la dramma (*dram* o *drachm* - 1/8 di oncia), l'oncia *avoirdupois* (8 dramme), la libbra (*pound* - 16 once), lo *stone* (14 libbre), il *quarter* (2 *stones*), l'*hundredweight* (4 *quarters*) e il *long ton* (20 *hundredweights*).



Troy weight (pesi per preziosi)

24 grains danno un *pennyweight*, 20 *pennyweight* sono un'oncia e 12 once un *pound* (libbra).

 TROY WEIGHT. (For Gold, Silver and Jewels). 24 Grains = 1 Pennyweight. 20 Pennyweights = 1 Ounce. 12 Ounces = 1 Pound.	 TROY WEIGHT. 24 GRAINS MAKE ONE PENNYWEIGHT.	 TROY WEIGHT. 20 PENNYWEIGHTS MAKE ONE OUNCE.	 TROY WEIGHT. 12 OUNCES MAKE ONE POUND.
--	---	--	---

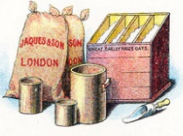
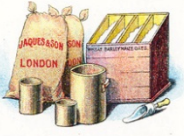
Apothecaries weight (pesi per farmacisti)

20 grains fanno uno *scruple*, 3 *scruples* fanno 1 *drachm*, 8 *drachm* fanno 1 oncia e 12 once una libbra.

 APOTHECARIES' WEIGHT. 20 Grains = 1 Scruple. 3 Scruples = 1 Drachm. 8 Drachms = 1 Ounce. 12 Ounces = 1 Pound.	 APOTHECARIES' WEIGHT. 20 GRAINS MAKE ONE SCRUPLE.	 APOTHECARIES' WEIGHT. 3 SCRUPLES MAKE ONE DRACHM.	 APOTHECARIES' WEIGHT. 8 DRACHMS MAKE ONE OUNCE.	 APOTHECARIES' WEIGHT. 12 OUNCES MAKE ONE POUND.
---	--	--	--	--

Dry measure (misure secche)

Le misure di capacità per i non liquidi erano la pinta (*pint*), il quarto (*quart* - 2 pinte), il gallone (*gallon* - 8 pinte), il *peck* (2 galloni) e il moggio (*bushel* - 8 galloni).

 DRY MEASURE. 2 Pints = 1 Quart. 4 Quarts = 1 Gallon. 2 Gallons = 1 Peck. 4 Pecks = 1 Bushel. 8 Bushels = 1 Quarter.	 DRY MEASURE. 2 PINTS MAKE ONE QUART.	 DRY MEASURE. 4 QUARTS MAKE ONE GALLON.	 DRY MEASURE. 2 GALLONS MAKE ONE PECK.	 DRY MEASURE. 4 PECKS MAKE ONE BUSHEL.	 DRY MEASURE. 8 BUSHELS MAKE ONE QUARTER.
--	---	---	--	---	---

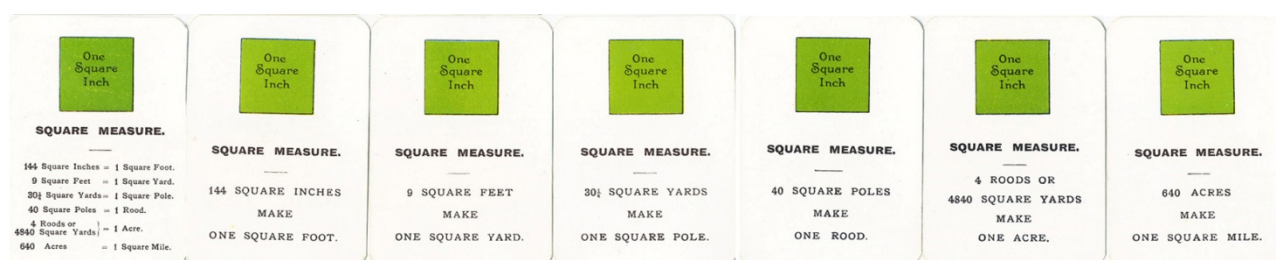
Mentre per i liquidi erano *oz* (oncia), *gill* (5 once), *pint* (pinta 20 once), *quart* (quarto - 2 pinte - 1/4 gallone) e *gallon* (gallone - 160 once - 8 pinte).

Un litro corrisponde a 1.000 centimetri cubici, ma per gli inglesi una pinta corrisponde a 34,6774 pollici cubici. Chissà il sollievo nel passare al sistema decimale.

Naturalmente, per semplificare le cose, il gallone inglese (4,54 litri), non corrisponde al gallone usato negli USA (3,78).

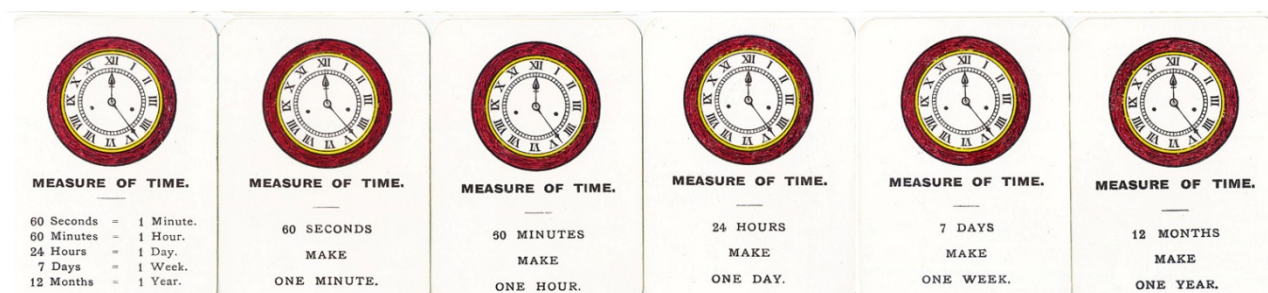
Square measure (misure di superficie)

Abbiamo il pollice quadrato (*square inch*), il piede quadrato (*square foot* - 144 *square inches*), la iarda quadrata (*square yard* - 9 *square feet*), il palo quadrato (*square pole* - 30,25 *square yards*), *rood* (letteralmente croce - 40 *square poles*), l'acro (*acre* - 4840 *square yards* - 4 *roods*) e infine il miglio quadrato (*square mile* - 640 *acres*)

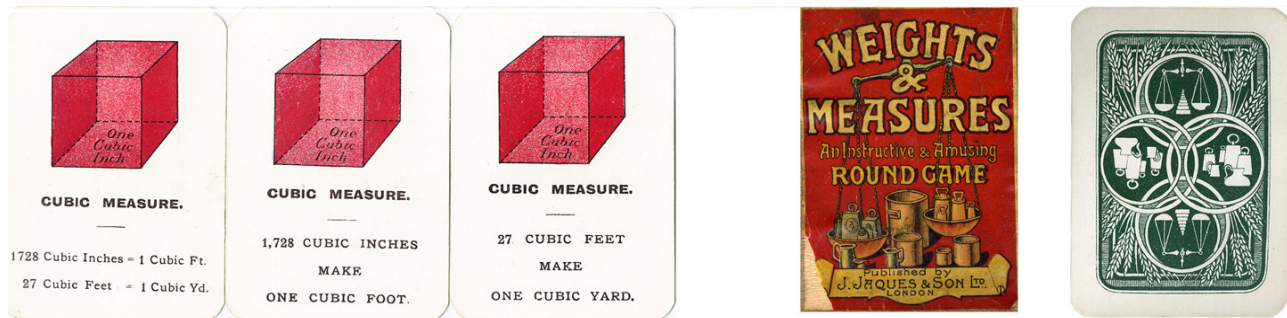


Measure of time (misure di tempo)

Le uniche misure uguali in tutto il mondo, misure che il sistema decimale non è ancora riuscito a soppiantare.



Cubic measure (misure cubiche) - scatola - retro



Cubic inch (pollice cubico), *cubic foot* (piede cubico - 1728 *cubic inches*) e *cubic yard* (iarda cubica - 27 *cubic feet*)

Oltre che per imparare il complicato sistema di pesi e misure con queste carte si poteva anche giocare, tentando di avere nella propria mano il più possibile dei 9 sistemi di misura per vincere il gioco.

Il foglietto allegato alle carte portava le regole del gioco e la pubblicità della planchette, la tavola utilizzata per la scrittura automatica durante le sedute spiritiche.

Probabilmente serviva per rivolgersi agli spiriti per capire quanto di spendeva in totale comprando mele da 3/6 scellini la libbra, vino da una corona la pinta e tela da 3 fiorini la yarda.

[Copyright.]

RULES OF THE GAME.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

"It is hoped that this little game may prove serviceable to follow-schoolmasters and others, who are daily struggling with the wandering thoughts of youthful minds; and, while adding to the delight of the pupil, may lessen the teacher's WEIGHT of anxiety and crown the efforts of both with a full MEASURE of success."

CHARLES F. WESTBURY.

The game is best played by six or more persons.

The cards are dealt to the players in rotation by one chosen as the dealer.

The player on his left begins the game by asking one of the other players for any card he may require towards the completion of a trick, provided that he has the key-card or one or more cards of that trick in his hand.

If the player thus asked holds the required card, he hands it over.

If he does not possess it, he must say "Not-at-Home" and it then becomes his turn to ask any player for a card.

A player may continue to ask for cards until he receives the answer "Not-at-Home."

When a player has succeeded in obtaining a triok (which consists of a key-card and all its corresponding cards) he places it face downwards upon the table.

The game proceeds in this manner until all the tricks are completed.

The player scoring the greatest number of tricks is the winner.

When the *Weights and Measures* are well known it will prove useful, as a test of memory, to play the game without the aid of the key-cards.

Published by
JOHN JAKES & SON, Ltd., 102, HATTON GARDEN, LONDON.

What does Planchette Say?
AN INTRODUCTION TO MODERN TELEPATHY.

A RECENT sensational Chancery case has aroused great interest in the Planchette. All the leading newspapers throughout the country have given special articles dealing with it, and at all social gatherings the Planchette has become the great topic of conversation.

Punch (March 11th, 1903), made the following the subject for its witty cartoon. The Chief Secretary for Ireland is depicted with his hands on the Planchette, which has written the words "Land Purchase."

The Morning Leader (Feb. 24, 1903), in an article on Planchette, says, "Planchette is no new thing. It is a device that has survived the scepticism for more than twenty years."

The Daily Mail (Feb. 24, 1903) publishes some experiences of those who have used the Planchette.

"Mr. Archibald Dunich writes from Liverpool that he bought a Planchette, thinking it a toy, but that a few days later his son—seventeen years of age—found that by merely placing two fingers of one hand upon the board he could obtain distinctly legible and astonishing replies of from twenty to two hundred words on subjects of which he knew absolutely nothing. During the past week he has been manipulating two Planchettes, one with each hand, and meeting difficulty would refer to his queries simultaneously on the same sheet of paper."

The Daily News (March 5th, 1903) published a large illustration and a column and a half of interesting dealing with the Planchette. The matter is in the form of two interviews, and the following is one of the questions and answers:

"And what," asked *The Daily News* representative, "is your view of the Planchette?"

"One thing is absolutely certain," was the reply, "that it is not actuated by the conscious intelligence of the individual himself. It is not the conscious self, for persons using a Planchette will obtain writing in foreign languages of which they know nothing, will give answers to questions which are only thought by a person present, and will communicate information of which they have no knowledge."

"Disputed," in *The Referee* of March 4th, 1903, in "Mustard and Cress," speaks of his experiences of Planchette. He says: "Planchette didn't worry me, because I never believed in it a little bit, attributing all that it wrote to the mind of the person whose hands practically guided it. But Planchette prophesied these things about myself that have come true."

The Daily Telegraph, of March 4th, 1903, in an article entitled "The Mysteries of the Planchette," says: "There is a well known and wealthy stockbroker in the City who says he attributes his financial successes to the strange falling prophecies of Planchette during the late war. It predicted, he says, the duration of the war, the consequent slump in the money market, and the relief of *Lafayette* and *Crockerley*. *London* of money, securities, and stocks, all experienced men and women of the world, have alike become addicted to its mysterious influence."

See the name "JAKES" on each box.

PRICES OF PLANCHETTES.

	s.	d.
Plain wood in box	...	1 0
Ditto, superior quality	...	2 0
Polished Mahogany, with brass castors in box	...	3 6
Superior Polished Oak, with brass castors in box	...	5 0

An interesting pamphlet on the Planchette is included in all the above sets.

JOHN JAKES & SON, Ltd., 102, Hatton Garden, LONDON.

Ulteriori informazioni sul mazzo sono presenti sul sito
<https://www.wopc.co.uk/uk/jaques/weights-and-measures>