



World in the Balance: The Historic Quest for an Absolute System of Measurement

Robert P. Crease

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“Shows that the story of metrology . . . can in the right hands make for a riveting read.”*The Economist*

Millions of transactions each day depend on a reliable network of weights and measures. But achieving such a network was anything but easy, as Robert P. Crease, physicist and philosopher, demonstrates in this endlessly fascinating, always entertaining look at just how this international system evolved. From the link between musical pitch and distance in the dynasties of ancient China and the use of figurines to measure gold in West Africa to the creation of the French metric and British imperial systems, Crease takes readers along on one of history's greatest philosophical and scientific adventures. 35 illustrations

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