

# *Imperial* **RESISTANCE**

"Don't Give an Inch"

The Journal of the Anti-Metric Society

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THE Anti-Metric Society has been formed to give practical expression to the feelings of the majority of British people about the replacement of our traditional British system of weights and measures by the ugly, alien metric system.

The people of this country were never asked whether they wanted this new, anti-traditional, un-English system imposed upon them. They were never asked, because every one knows what the answer would be. Instead, the system is forced on us, often by illegitimate back-door methods.

For example, in the 1970s, under Mr. Edward Heath (probably the single worst Prime Minister this country has ever had) an official-sounding body called the Metrication Board was established. This body busied itself by sending "directives" to various firms and organisations, telling them that they must "go metric" by such-and-such a date.

The Metrication Board had *no* official powers and *no* legal right to issue such directives, any more than you or I have. But of course most people were intimidated by this important-sounding body which had been "set up by the Government".

To combat this outrageous piece of fraud, an organisation called the Anti-Metrication Board was established, which campaigned effectively against metrication and helped to expose the bluff and deception of the Metrication Board. Partly because of this campaign, the Metrication Board itself was soon disbanded; and the Anti-Metrication Board, feeling its job to be done, was wound up.

*Since that time, there has been no organised body in this country to oppose the creeping tide of metrication.*

That is why the Anti-Metric Society has been founded. We are not professional campaigners. We are like you: private individuals who feel that metrication must be opposed.

If there had been an anti-metric body in this country, we should simply have joined it and quietly given it our support (or, better still, given

it a bit of noisy support at times!). We could not do that because (as we found, rather to our horror) there was no such organisation. So we have had to set up our own. We hope you will support us. If you have a flair for organisation and would like to help us run the show, get in touch—we need you! If not, we hope you will join the Society and give it your full support—because without you, there will be no Society! □

## **AIMS OF THE SOCIETY**

1. To provide an organised voice for the majority of the British people who deplore the destruction of our ancient and traditional Imperial weights, measures and money, which are as much a part of our valuable national heritage as any fine building or work of art.

2. To educate the public with facts and arguments *for* Imperial measures and *against* metric measures: especially to rebut the erroneous arguments that metric measures are "more scientific" or "more practical" and to awaken people to the irreplaceable cultural value of our traditional measures which are being wished away by Philistine bureaucrats, Eurocrats, planners and money-grubbers.

3. To campaign, where it seems appropriate, against further metric impositions, and, where it seems possible, for the withdrawal or relaxation of present ones. To find and publicise "loopholes" in metric legislation and to encourage traders, teachers and others to take full advantage of all such "loopholes".

4. To support, encourage and seek to advance the natural tendency of the British people *not* to use metric terminology in ordinary life. To keep alive the Imperial flame with a view to its complete re-establishment at a future time. To promote and publicise a "Don't Talk Metric" campaign.

The Anti-Metric Society existed during the early 1990s. Its newsletter was *Imperial Resistance*, produced in A5 format. Only three issues of *Imperial Resistance* were produced, and we republish these, plus other AMS items, for the interest of BWMA supporters.



5. To foster widespread understanding of the fact that the metric issue is essentially a question of heritage. Metrication is one of the many ways in which our cultural, national and historical identity has been systematically attacked since the 1960s. The mentality of the metricator is the same mentality as that of the developer who tears down a Georgian building to put up a high-rise concrete block. While concentrating primarily on the metric issue, we will encourage it to be understood in its wider context, will co-operate with kindred campaigns such as those for the recognition of our traditional Counties, and will work incidentally for the furtherance of other traditionalist causes. □

## THE EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN

WE must provide people with *facts and arguments* for combating metrication. Too many people give up hope because they believe that metrication is "inevitable", or that metric measures are "more scientific" than our Imperial measures. It is important that we combat such woolly ideas with real knowledge (as a matter of fact, many scientific and technical bodies are returning to Imperial measures, or use them "on the sly", because they are so much better for technical purposes than metric).

There are many arguments in favour of Imperial measures, but they break down into two main groups, the technical, and the cultural.

### THE TECHNICAL ARGUMENT

WE must make it clear that the much-touted nonsense about metric measures being more "rational", more "scientific" or "better for business" are entirely false. The system may have some advantages, but it has many disadvantages. One expert has summed up the position as follows:

"The metric system was instituted without regard to long-established practices. Measures derived from the artificial metre do not allow any important scientific unit to be expressed as a whole number. They are unfortunate combinations of non-ergonomic quantities to an indivisible base that does not permit the ready formation of useful proportions or sizes."

Most "metric" countries use something equivalent to feet, inches and pounds in daily dealings, because these are more convenient (a "metric foot" is approximately a third of a metre—we say approximately, because one of the howling disadvantages of metric units is that they cannot be divided by three without producing a recurring decimal).

Napoleon, who enforced the metric system upon Europe, allowed the *système usuel* in Paris, by which a small addition was made to the old Paris foot to make it exactly one third of a metre (which is not, of course, a finite metric size).

This was then divided into twelve "metric inches" bearing, of course, no relation whatever to the metric system! Justifying this deviation from metric orthodoxy, the Man of Destiny commented "Twelve as a dividend has always been preferred to ten. I can understand the twelfth part of an inch, but not the thousandth part of a metre". This, from the man to whom the present use of metrics throughout Europe is entirely due.

The heresy was suppressed by law in 1840, a quarter of a century after Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo, but French craftsmen and engineers continue to use it to this day, wherever they can hope to avoid prosecution, because it is so much more convenient.

For most practical uses, pounds and ounces are far preferable to metrics. Take a pound of butter and divide it into two: you have two half-pounds (8oz). Divide one of those into two and you have two quarter-pounds (4oz). Divide twice more and you have ounces. The ounce, as every housewife knows, is a convenient size for weighing and measuring portions of food. Foreign cooks, in fact, use a "metric ounce" of 25 grammes, but how, starting with a "metric pound" of 500 grammes do you get to 25? After two halvings you are stuck with 125 which then has to be divided into five—almost impossible without resorting to measuring implements.

It is argued that the metric system is better for use with computers and calculators. This *may* have been true ten years ago, but today, when the pocket-calculator is in fact a miniature computer the manufacturers would not have the smallest problem in programming it to handle pounds and ounces, yards, feet and inches and pounds, shillings and pence. Any sixth-form pupil taking computer studies can easily write a short programme to enable any computer to do sums in yards, feet and inches, stones, pounds and ounces or any other system. It is just the sort of work computers are made for.

In fact, we can stand the usual argument on its head, and come to the real truth of the matter:

□ The usual argument: *You cannot use Imperial measures in these days of computers, calculators and computerised cash-registers.*

□ The truth: *The only problem with the Imperial system is the age-old one that it takes a bit more intelligence to work with different number bases (twelves, sixteens, twenties); but even that problem can be completely eliminated with the use of modern computers, calculators and computerised cash-registers.*

### THE CULTURAL ARGUMENT

YET even if it were *true* that the metric system is superior for practical purposes to our ancient Imperial measures—rather than being, as it is, a clumsy, inefficient, artificial system, eminently justifying the old definition of a camel as "a horse



designed by a committee" — even if the metric system was actually overwhelmingly better for the purposes of calculation, that would be insufficient reason for its adoption. Because the metric issue is really a *cultural* issue. What is at stake is not a tad more convenience in totting up quantities or a spot of minor conversion for international trading. What is at stake is something of immeasurably greater importance — our national and cultural heritage.

Let us make no mistake about it: metrication is first and foremost an attack on our culture and our history. Like decimalisation of the money; like the supposed abolition of the traditional Counties (though actually, the traditional Counties were never abolished, as more and more people are coming to understand); like the use of the 24-hour clock on railway timetables; like the building of hideous, blank-faced concrete buildings; metrication is just another part of the many-pronged assault upon our traditional loyalties, our national heritage; another of the things which are calculated to make us feel like strangers in a cold, inhuman mechanised world.

The economist C.H. Douglas spoke of the various movements of the 20th century, saying "A common factor is the appearance of plans everywhere designed to make people forget their historical attachments." George Orwell wrote in *Nineteen Eighty Four* of a world where history is forgotten and "nothing exists except an endless present" — significantly, metrication was an important factor in the tyrannical bureaucracy of *Nineteen Eighty Four*. Metrication, indeed, lends itself admirably to tyrants and bureaucrats everywhere, from the French Revolution onwards. It is the instrument of those who wish to cut the people off from their roots and force them into a world in which only the latest *diktats* have any reality.

Like most of these ugly, clinical, world-changing "reforms", metrication began to be enforced in earnest in the '60s and '70s when bureaucrats everywhere felt free to re-mould all things in their own image, when "rational planning", riding roughshod over all that was traditional, civilised and beautiful, was at the height of its worldly power — a power which had been growing steadily since the 18th century.

By the early '80s the cult had already passed its peak. The high-rise tower-block is today a symbol of all that was wrong in the belief that people can be made to fit "rational" schemes devised in committee-rooms. Of course, it will be a long time before this hyper-rationalist phase has passed completely — it took centuries to grow, after all — but metrication today is already an idea which belongs not to the future but to a discredited past. Before long people will want to throw off metrication and preserve their cultural heritage in this area just as they do in the areas of architecture or the countryside. When the

mediaeval *Mappa Mundi* in Hereford Cathedral was nearly sold to foreign buyers, it was described as "an act of cultural vandalism". What else is the destruction of our ancient, elegant traditional measures for the sake (and for very limited advantage, too) of — foreign buyers?

The crude old idea that in questions of historic and cultural heritage, nothing matters but cold cash and vulgar economic considerations is rapidly growing out of date. We do not allow wide-boy developers to knock down Elizabethan country-houses now and build "shopping centres" in their place. Why should we allow wide-boy Eurocrats and businessmen to vandalise our ancient systems of mensuration for the sake of conglomerate profits or European colonialism? □

## THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN

ON what fronts and by what means should we oppose metrication? Should we get up petitions and lobby M.P.s? Or is that a lost cause?

In our view it is not altogether a lost cause, nor can we tell what will happen in the future as disenchantment with the great European Illusion begins to set in — which it will.

Let us be realistic and admit that, at present, the political front is not our strong point. That this will change in the middle-term future (i.e. early in the new century), many of us believe. What we *should* be doing at the present time is encouraging every sort of resistance to metrication; opposing every new act of metrication, and in general "maintaining a presence" so that we are ready to take more vigorous action when the tide begins to turn. □

## THE HOME FRONT

IF we are, at present, at a disadvantage in the political arena, on the Home Front our campaign occupies the high ground. British people do not "think" in metric and there is no sign that they are starting to. Metric measures are used for "official" purposes, but they are not used in every-day life. Some people worry about the new generation. "There are children growing up who will know nothing but metric". Fortunately, this is simply not the case. Let us quote from a recent article in *The Teacher*:

"Text books, work books and maths. equipment are based on the metric system, while the children's experience out of school is in Imperial units. . .

"For instance, my class of seven- and eight-year olds measured one another and made a chart. Andrew, height one metre 30 centimetres, said next day, "My dad says I shall grow as tall as him."

"How tall is your dad?"

"Six feet one inch."



And again:

"Imperial measurements seem to be the natural expression when it comes to creative writing. A seven-year-old describes in his Underground Adventure: 'I came to a molehill as big as a pond. It was 17 feet wide and 17 feet long. It must have been about a hundred and eleven feet deep.' And that from a child who had recently completed a page in a work book which required him to measure the height of the door, length of the classroom, width of his table and so on, in metres."

The schoolmistress who wrote this was not in any way anti-metric. In fact she seemed in favour of the system. She was just telling of her every-day experience with small children of the generation who are supposed to "know nothing but metric".

The present writer recently met a boy of 13 who actually believed that he knew nothing but metric. "I don't know the old measures at all," he said. "I don't know anything but metric."

A few minutes later, out of the blue, I said: "Look at that wall. How high would you say it is?" "Oh," he replied without hesitation "About three feet, I'd say."

Of course, when the time comes, we must campaign for a return to Imperial measures in our schools (that time is not yet). But in the meantime let us not be too despondent about the teaching of metric. For most children, if not for all, school is a very artificial environment, in which they learn all sorts of things which they will never remember later in life (how much French do most people know after heaven-knows-how-many hours of school-time spent on the language? Almost none unless they have had some other reason to use the language). The language of the classroom rarely impinges upon the language of the playground or of every-day life, and most children are as likely to describe a real wall in metres as to start a conversation about surds and tangents, or to call seawater a saline solution.

## PROPOSED TACTICS

So what should we be doing to take tactical advantage of this situation? How can we use the fact that Imperial measures are the natural and normal form of expression for every one, young and old, to resist the tyrannical imposition of alien measures?

Remember, our campaign, like any campaign, has natural strengths and natural weaknesses. Our greatest weakness lies in the political arena. We are not, at this stage, going to get Parliament to stop pushing metrication, or to stop using compulsion on traders and public bodies. This is part of the price the Government—of either party—has agreed to pay for the dubious benefits of "Europe".

The greatest strength of our campaign lies in the people. The people, who have not been given a

vote on these matters, because both parties have agreed on them "above their heads". The people, who may be bullied and browbeaten, but are not likely to use metric measures in real life in the foreseeable future, if ever.

There, on the Home Front, is where we must begin to build. We must strengthen and develop the *natural* resistance of our people to alien measures. We must help to stop alien measures taking root, so that the ground remains prepared for the full and triumphant return of true English measures when the time comes.

To this end we propose to launch a "Don't Talk Metric" campaign to help strengthen the natural disinclination to use clinical-sounding foreign measures in everyday talk. We also propose to encourage rough conversions to enable people to talk in approximate Imperial measures at all times. We want to help people say "quart" instead of "litre", "yard" instead of "metre", "2lb" instead of "kilogramme" etc. Of course, when exactitude is required, one may have to specify "a French quart", but the important thing is not to use metric language. Remember that traditional measures have never been standardised. An Imperial quart is larger than a French quart, but an American quart is smaller than a French quart. Remember, metric is, before all else, an attack on our *language*, our *culture* and our *history*. That is why the extreme-modern type of person, who is committed to a rootless, bureaucratic present (like Mr. Heath and the new-style B.B.C.) is so violently in favour of it. Remember also that this kind of tower-block modernism is already becoming out of date. We are the post-modernists; the neo-traditionalists. We are the voice of the future. □

## JOIN NOW!

THE Anti-Metric Society needs you! The annual subscription is £10-0-0 (though bigger donations are very welcome). We need your support in order to get anti-metric projects off the ground. We are planning to produce anti-metric stickers, fact sheets and regular journals to begin with and to publicise the campaign as widely as possible. Members will receive all published material as soon as it comes out and will be kept informed of developments as the Society gets under way.

I enclose £10-0-0 for membership of the Anti-Metric Society.

Mr./Mrs./Miss \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to Perfect Publications. Our address is: Perfect Publications, B.M. Perfect, London W.C.1 (full postal address).

(please write £10-0-0, not "£10.00" on cheque).



# *Imperial* **RESISTANCE**

"Don't Give an Inch"

The Journal of the Anti-Metric Society

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## **ANTI-METRIC SOCIETY ADVANCES!**

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

WITH the second issue of *Imperial Resistance* we are delighted to be able to report that the Anti-Metric Society is making splendid progress. An excellent write-up in the *Sunday Express* has alone brought in well over a hundred enquiries and about two-thirds of those who enquired about the Society then joined. This is an excellent "conversion rate" as the marketing types say.

The Society was the subject of a very favourable feature on *Network South East*, the B.B.C. television regional news programme which follows the six o'clock news and which covers an area which ranges from the Kentish coast to Oxford, including, of course, the whole London area. The cameraman who "shot" this feature was a firm anti-metricist and kept regaling the interviewer with arguments in favour of the Imperial system between "takes"! We were told that the programme, shewn at peak time, has an audience of several millions, so this was an important step in putting our message across to the nation.

Miss Traill and Miss Langridge have also given interviews on various local wireless stations including Oxford, Nottingham and a long one lasting 20 minutes and followed by a telephone discussion with listeners-in on the Midlands wireless network which covers nine Midlands wireless stations. We are hoping to make tape-recordings of these interviews available to our members. These will be useful for information, for supplying ammunition for arguments and for study by any of our members who may be thinking of taking the Society's message onto the airwaves.

Local publicity is not difficult to obtain if one has a clear message to put across and can put it across clearly; however, local newspapers and wireless stations are much more responsive if local people take the initiative. This is where *you* come in.

It is important for our members to take the initiative in this. The Nottingham wireless interview, for example, was wholly due to the initiative of Mr. James Woodward who got in touch with his local wireless station to tell them about the society in his first days as a member. Mr. F.W. Passey of Oxford has also written a splendid letter which was published in the *Oxford Mail* arguing against metrication and giving the name and address of the society. Why not write to *your* local paper or wireless station giving your views on metrication? Do not forget to mention the name and address of the Society. That is how we can grow!

A good idea is to look out for some local news item which bears in some way upon the issue of metrication and then to write a letter giving your comments upon it, ending by saying that any one who feels strongly about these matters should join the Anti-Metric society, B.M. Perfect, London, WC1N 3XX. You could mention that the membership fee is £10-0s-0d. Stress that Imperial measures are as (or more) rational than metric and are a valuable part of our heritage. □

### **WEASEL-POPPING**

SPEAKING of such things, where is your money going? Well, some of it has been spent on the equipment upon which this newsletter is being produced. The last one was done on equipment borrowed from Perfect Publications, and while we are still using some of Perfect's machinery, now we are able to do the main lay-out work ourselves, which should help us to avoid the delays which some of our older members have experienced (sorry chaps! — and chapettes!).

We have placed a few advertisements, and, of course we shall have to pay for the printing of this and future newsletters. So that, as the old song says, is the way the money goes. □



# THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

WE have received nothing short of a flood of post as a result of recent publicity, so we are devoting much of this issue to printing some of the letters and comments we have received from new members and from the general public.

## FACTORY-OWNER RESISTS

I have fought metrication since it was first mooted in every way that I possibly could.

Any organisation that can block further metrication and possibly reverse existing metrication I would be happy to join.

I run a small factory and it has not gone metric excepting where we are forced to do so by having to deal with suppliers who offer no alternative. All our measurements and machine-tools are still in Imperial and will continue to be so unless we are absolutely forced out of it.

MR. D. CHAPMAN, LINCOLNSHIRE.

## EURO-YUPPIES

I should be interested to receive information about your society, whose aims I strongly support.

I have no doubt that the public dislike the change, but the issue has so far gone by default. At one stage I drafted a defence of the old system, but most of the potential outlets were dominated by Euro-yuppies. I hope that you may have better success.

MISS M. COLTON, ESSEX

*We shall be publishing extracts from Miss Colton's admirable study in future issues, and may one day be in a position to publish the whole thing as a separate booklet.*

## NAPOLEON and HITLER

My wife and I were delighted that some one has at last decided to do something about this ridiculous insistence on everything being conducted in tens. It seems that Napoleon may have lost the battle but he obviously won the peace. It is as though Hitler left behind a legacy of, say, architecture and roadbuilding which was second to none, which every planner now slavishly follows — and I'm not sure that he didn't!

Having read the report of your launching of a society which will address itself to the removal of the bureaucratic computer from ruling our lives, we herewith enclose a cheque for ten (old) pounds with the hope that it will help your crusade.

ERIC & EANSWYTHE LAMAN, WILTSHIRE

## MURDERING OUR NATION'S IDENTITY

Please enrol me as a member of your Anti-Metric Society forthwith. I enclose a cheque for £10-0s-0d as my first year's membership fee.

I have become increasingly convinced that

metrication has been cunningly used to disguise inflation and as a nation we have passively accepted price rises and weight reductions because we don't really understand... Seven shillings for tiny bottles of fruit juice, the two-pounds-a-gallon barrier for petrol blurred by the fact that garages no longer need to display the price per gallon and nobody really understands the litre situation.

People don't ask "How many kilometres does your car do to the litre?", do they?

I voted to join the European Economic Community because I thought it would be advantageous both from a free trade and a peaceful co-existence point of view. I did not consider for one moment that I was murdering my nation's individuality and identity.

MR. NICHOLAS P. TOMLINSON, LANCASHIRE

## EUROPEAN EXPORTER RESISTS

I found your address recently in one of the newspapers and shall be pleased to receive details of your Society and its aims.

Despite a quarter of a century spent working as an export sales manager in Europe, I remain as dedicated an opponent of the Metric and the decimal/centesimal systems, to say nothing of S.I. in its various forms, as I was in the early '60s when I first became aware of the inability of Continental shop-assistants to carry out in their heads the simple mental additions then routinely practised by those serving in our own green-grocers', drapers' and hardware shops.

If you would like a copy of my paper "Psychological Barriers in Mental Arithmetic" I shall be pleased to make one available to you. It makes some very relevant, if controversial, points in favour of the Imperial system, or something like it.

Good luck to the Society in its difficult task.

MR. PETER M.A. CROZIER, BERKSHIRE

## TOEING the LINE

I must say that your attitude the metric system [*sic*] scares the hell out of me. Isn't it enough that Britain is out of step with European policies now with regard to monetary [*sic*], farming, space exploration, conservation etc. [?]

Not to mention our distressingly lethargic attitude towards 1993 [*sic*]. We are in for one hell of a shock in a few years time, out of step and out of touch, may the gods help us.

It does not surprise me then, that you want to go back in time and keep Imperial measures. It just throws me into despair.

Your argument seems to be that it is part of our cultural heritage. Big deal, so was slave trading, the class system, oppression [*sic*] any one whose skin colour was dark, stealing peoples land, blasting the wildlife to bits, to name but a few.



My point is some of our heritage should be kept some of it should not. Your proposal should not.

To have the gall to suggest that technology should be used to 'deal' with Imperial measures annoys me. Technology is for the future, not the past.

One thing that does not surprise me in the least about this affair is that women are behind it. I note also that a woman is behind our present situation with regard to the E.E.C.

Conclusions please, gentlemen.

MR. N. FRANCIS, LIVERPOOL, LANCASHIRE  
*How delightfully chivalrous. This is the only letter of opposition we have so far received; and we have printed it in full, so no one can say we are not scrupulously fair! Two comments only. Is it not interesting that one who has swallowed the metric line has also swallowed all the stock propaganda about "the class system" and our proud national and colonial history? And "technology is for the future not the past". Perhaps; but why should we accept a tawdry line of propaganda about what belongs to the future and what to the past? As far as we are concerned, Imperial is the rational system, the system of the future. Metric is an outdated relic of the French Revolution — as are most of the other ideas which lie behind this letter.*

### BUILDER RESISTS

My working interests are in the building industry, and I have always been opposed to Great Britain adopting the Metric System

In the past, people from other countries were interested and intrigued by our Imperial and monetary values, but now we are no different from other European countries.

Also, I find that metric measurements in the building industry are not so accurate as the old Imperial dimensions.

MR. J.H. WILLIAMS, CARMARTHENSHIRE

### ASTRONOMER RESISTS

Count me in! Ages ago, when we submitted to Europe and turned over to Centigrade, our motto was "Forever Fahrenheit!"

Yours Imperially,

DR. PATRICK MOORE, SUSSEX

### PRACTICAL DISADVANTAGES

Having read *Imperial Resistance*, I think you have understressed the practical disadvantages of metric. The decimal conversions between the different units is often stressed—yet in many contexts the supporters of the system use expressions like "1000mm" rather than "1 metre". If they do that, what is the point of having the different units in a decimal relationship? We always used to refer to 30 feet (or 30 foot) in some contexts, rather than two yards. We still

do. Foot, yard, etc. are individual units of practical size; their relationship to each other is a secondary consideration. No one needs to know as a matter of daily life what a pint of milk weighs — some things are measured by weight, others by volume. They may be proud of knowing that a litre of milk weighs a kilogramme, but apart from being untrue, it is, for practical purposes, useless.

MR. A. TURNER, WOLVERHAMPTON, STAFFS.

### SCANDINAVIA RESISTS

I have lived in various European countries for many years and have noted how most of them use Imperial measures even today. I myself have opposed the introduction of Napoleonic measures in this country, and will not be satisfied until we abandon them completely.

Finnish and Danish tailors use inches when measuring their clients, Denmark and Iceland use inches for piping (they call the joints *feetings*), and the Scandinavian timber trade measures wood by the Standard, or 100 cubic feet. Carpenters likewise use inches (in Danish: *tum* — thumb), and in Denmark you can still ask for and get half a pound of butter and a gill of cream.

MR. JUSTIN BROOKE, CORNWALL

### HEADMASTER RESISTS

I was a Headmaster in Berkshire for 25 years before I retired 16 years ago. I still think in Imperial measures and remember all my tables! When I buy petrol I always have £10 worth and would not know what a litre looks like, or, indeed, a metre.

I remember going into a shop in Newbury a few years ago to buy some flex. The shop was kept by a former pupil and when I asked for eight yards of flex, she said "you mean metres, sir". I replied that I had taught her to measure in yards, feet and inches, and that was what I wanted. It took her quite a long time, with the aid of a calculator, to do the necessary conversion!

MR. C.S. MOCK, PEMBROKESHIRE

### SHORT COMMENTS

I was most pleased to read of your campaign to eliminate metrication in all of its forms.

MR. P.H. LOVE, DEVON

I am but fifteen, yet am very interested in returning to complete Imperialism.

M.C. ROSSELL, SURREY

Having been a World War I baby, I have indeed found it hard to come to terms with metrication and decimalisation. It would indeed be marvellous to go back to Imperial and £.s.d.

MR. I.R. SCUTT, YORKS.

I am all in favour. Down with litres, kilos and degrees centigrade. Let us revert to £.s.d. etc.

MR. F.W. PASSEY, OXFORD



Congratulations on this stance. Suggest boycott all garages not displaying price per gal.

MR. W.A.P. WITTY, HARROGATE, YORKS.

Although I am not entirely anti-European, I do not agree with the changes to or from Imperial measures.

MR. W.R. JONES, NR. MANCHESTER, LANCS.

I was delighted to read of your Anti-Metric Society. I also want to keep my heritage alive. I do not intend to become a "European".

MRS. B. MATHER, DORSET

I feel that metrication is taking away something from our heritage. Don't you?

MR. C. SMITH, SURREY

I fully agree with the Imperial measures campaign.

MR. W. WILSON, CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z.

You may be pleased to know that in the building industry Imperial measurement is very much used.

MR. J. ADAMS, BERKSHIRE

[*Imperial Resistance*] makes gratifying reading. I am delighted that a Society exists, the aims of which will find an echo in the hearts of all thinking people.

MR. G.M. HUBBARD, SURREY

THE foregoing extracts represent only a small sample of the many letters we have been privileged to receive. Metrication goes against the deepest interests of our people. It is an attack on the life and traditions we hold dear; like so many of the soulless changes that have been forced upon us over the last three decades, it makes us feel like strangers in our own land, cuts us off from our history and estranges one generation from another. People in this country are tired of having bureaucrats tell us how to talk, think and act in our daily lives; writing off a thousand years of tradition for the latest political fad. There is a new spirit of resistance in the air. □

## MONEY, THE TOUCHSTONE

SHOULD we campaign against decimal money and use the language of pounds, shillings and pence in our personal conversation? Some people suggest that this is already a lost cause and that we could weaken our case by fighting a change that has already been generally accepted. Well, we agree that the main thrust of our campaign should be against metric weights and measures which most Britons dislike intensely. But there are a number of reasons why we should not admit defeat on the money issue:

1) Decimal money is "generally accepted". Yes, but let us be realistic. There will be increasing pressure in coming years to get metric "generally accepted". If we are unable or unwilling to stand up against this sort of pressure, we may as well give up here and now. By standing against decimal

money, we make it clear that we will *never* accept metrication, not even if it lasts for twenty years. We make it clear that we are not just flash-in-the-pan protesters who make a fuss while a thing is being done but then evaporate once it is firmly in place and "generally accepted". Many people opposed decimal money when it came in, but eventually gave in. The Bureaucrats will assume that it is the same with metric. With good reason they take it that those who accept decimal money today will accept metric measures tomorrow. Let us show them that we accept neither.

2) Decimal money was the first major attempt to change the language of our daily lives by *diktat*. It represents all the attitudes we are fighting against now. We know that we are not going to get rid of it overnight; but the first changes come on the Home Front. Why should we, a dozen times a day, pay homage to the bureaucrat and the anti-traditionalist by talking in his un-English, clinical "new pence"? By refusing to use metric money, we are reclaiming our own life and speech.

3) Most importantly: "the best defence is a good offence". By merely opposing metrication, we are fighting a purely defensive battle. We must not only defend, but attack. We must seek to take back some of the ground the enemy thought was safely in his grip. Talk in inches and you are only being mildly conservative. Talk in shillings and you are making a stand. When decimalisation was introduced, the vast majority of "5p pieces" and "10p pieces" were still inscribed *one shilling* and *two shillings*. Many still are. A spirited nation would have rejected the newspeak and gone on talking of a "bob" or a "florin". In other countries, similar changes have never been accepted in ordinary speech; but the British passively obeyed and allowed their everyday speech to be tampered with. Well, it is *not* too late to resist. We are delighted by the numbers of young people who have never even known real English money who want to go back to it.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

To begin with, we can start *talking* in English money, at least among like-minded friends and family. Remember "5p" = 1/-; "10p" = 2/-; "20p" = 4/- and "50p" = 10/-. Remember that all round numbers can simply be doubled and the nought struck off. So if something is marked "30p", it costs you six shillings.

Remember that cheques for whole numbers of pounds can always be written correctly: £10-0-0. *not* "£10-00". Most of you wrote your membership cheques this way, we are delighted to say.

Next time, we hope to give fuller information for instant approximation of both metric measures and decimal money into English. In the meantime, remember to write to your local paper, and if you have any other ideas for action, pop away and tell us all about them.



# THE ANTI-METRIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

B.M. Perfect, London, W.C.1.

Autumn 1992

## SORRY FOR THE DELAY!

Those of you who have been members since the early days of the Society will not have heard from us for a considerable time. Please accept our apologies for this. We have not been idle and, as you can see, we have not ceased to exist. The workload was getting to be rather too much for the two ladies who founded the Society but, now that it has been spread among others as well, we will be in contact with you much more frequently; the next issue of Imperial Resistance should be out in the near future.

A few of you have written in to ask about renewing your subscriptions to the Society. Do not worry: we will let you know when they fall due. Subscriptions will not be paid annually but will run until they are used up, so we hope you will get value for money.

## PATRONS

We are delighted to announce that two distinguished gentlemen have agreed to become patrons of the Anti-Metric Society.

Dr Patrick Moore, the astronomer, will be known to all. A great believer in Imperial measures, he wrote in Imperial Resistance 2, that his personal motto is "For Ever Fahrenheit!".

Mr Michael Wharton is better known as "Peter Simple", whose column appeared in the Daily Telegraph for many years and is now in the Sunday Telegraph. His two volumes of autobiography, "The Missing Will" and "A Dubious Codicil" have recently been republished in one book, which makes for fascinating reading.

We thank both our patrons for their valued support.

## BRANCHES ANYONE?

As membership of the Anti-Metric society grows, it makes sense to consider the formation of local branches. At the moment, membership is patchy but there are some areas where there are enough

members to warrant starting a branch.

At this early stage we should like to hear from anyone who would consider organising a branch. If you are interested, please write and let us know; you will be committing yourself to nothing!

## BOOKLET

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the booklet "Yards, Gallons and Golden Sovereigns", written and produced by A.M.S. supporter Miss Hope Bourne. We are sure you will find it interesting and useful. Our only quibble is the use of the past tense in the text. Imperial measures are part of our history, but it is up to us to ensure that they are also part of our future.

Further copies of the booklet can be had from the Society at £1 for one copy and 15/- for each additional copy, postage paid.

## ENVELOPE STICKERS

Also enclosed are ten stickers which we hope you will stick on outgoing mail to encourage others to join the Society. If you would like some more, please write to us. There is no charge.

## LETTERS TO LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

The Society is in the process of writing to local newspapers throughout the United Kingdom, explaining our aims and inviting readers to write to us for more details. The response has been very encouraging and several of the members reading this newsletter will first have heard of us in this way.

If you should see one of these letters in your local paper, please write a letter in response to it. A couple of sentences saying how much you agree with the sentiments and urging others to join the Society is enough; the important thing is to get people thinking. Of course, you do not have to wait until you see



our letter before writing! If you do have a letter published, please send us a copy for our records.

Those of you who, for whatever reason, would prefer not to write to the press but would still like to help in some way are invited to sponsor our campaign. Although we will be writing to hundreds of newspapers all over the country, there are many more to which we cannot afford to write. If you send a donation of £1, this will enable us to write to three more papers and also write to you to let you know what response we have had from them. If you like, you can specify which county or area you would like the newspapers to be in, or you can leave it to us. Either way, the papers will be ones to which we would not have written without your donation.

Please send donations (postal orders, cheques - payable to "Perfect Publications" - or stamps) to the usual address and please do not be surprised if you do not hear from us for a couple of months; some of the newspapers we write to are only published monthly!

#### AU REVOIR TO THE FLORIN

By the time you read this, most of you will have seen one of the new, smaller two-shilling pieces. When the old florins cease to be legal tender (at the end of June next year) our coinage will contain no pre-decimal coins and no coins bearing the head of a monarch other than our present Queen. Another link with our past will have gone.

The florin was the last coin of the £.s.d. system to be introduced. First minted in 1849, it was to have been the first step on the road to a decimal currency (the first florins were inscribed "One Florin - One Tenth of a Pound"). Nothing came of the attempt at decimalisation (perhaps politicians took note of public opinion in those days) and the words "One Tenth of a Pound" were soon dropped. The florins in circulation today are the same size as those of 1849 (although those were, of course, made of silver) but there is a dignity and a

solidity about the old coins that is completely lacking in today's "ten pence" pieces.

I hope all our members will, over the next few months, put aside a few "two bob bits", George VI as well as Elizabeth II, to show to children and grandchildren in the years to come and to remind themselves of a part of our culture that has been temporarily suppressed. For, convinced as I am that sooner or later our country will come to its senses, I look forward with a sure and certain hope to the return of the shilling and its big brothers, the florin and half-crown.

#### C.I.B.

The Campaign for an Independent Britain recently advertised the Anti-Metric Society in its journal "Independence" and we are now pleased to do the same for them.

Many of you will already be members of the C.I.B. (I know that at least two of our members are secretaries of local branches) but those of you who are not might be interested in finding out more about Britain's leading anti-E.E.C. organisation.

The aims of the Campaign are: "To halt the drive towards political, economic and monetary union in the E.E.C. and to regain for Britain the rights, freedoms and powers of an independent nation."

Membership is £10 p.a. (£5 for retired people) and this, or further details, can be obtained from 81 Ashmole St, London, S.W.8.

#### METRIC ROAD SIGNS

There have been recent reports in the national press that Britain will change to metric road signs by the year 2007. A spokesman for the Department of Transport said that "Britain has exemption from an E.C. harmonisation directive and our policy is to carry on with Imperial signs until the majority of people in Britain have been educated in the metric system".

So much for Britain being "allowed to keep" the mile and the pint. How long will it be before our milk and (God forbid!) our beer



are sold by foreign measure?

A Welsh member of the Society suggests that the time has come for a mass lobby of M.P.s on the subject of metrication. We understand his desire to do something but have our doubts about the effectiveness of such action. In any case, the Society is not yet strong enough to undertake such a thing.

However, we do urge all members to write to their M.P.s (at the House of Commons, London, S.W.1.) expressing in the strongest terms their opposition to any further metrication. You should also write to the Prime Minister (The Rt Hon. John Major, M.P., 10, Downing Street, S.W.1.), asking him to reconcile the fact that our ancient weights and measures are being sacrificed in the interests of "European harmonisation" with his assurance that "closer European union will not mean that the British will be any less British". You might also mention that the preamble to the Maastricht Treaty (which he has probably not bothered to read) speaks of the heads of state of the signatory countries "Desiring to deepen the solidarity between their peoples while respecting their history, their culture and their traditions." We will be interested to hear details of your replies.

#### LANDLORD FINED

We finish on a happier note. In August the landlord of The Dolphin Tavern in Slough, Berkshire was fined £3,100 plus £210 costs for selling beer in foreign measures. Under the law, beer may only be sold by the third of a pint, half-pint or multiples of half a pint. Mr Nigel France, the landlord, had been selling beer in continental glasses holding seven and 12 1/4 fluid ounces.

The mischievous Mr France claimed that he had introduced the continental glasses to try to get people to come for the atmosphere of his pub, rather than heavy drinking. He also claimed that "the serving of brimful pints, to be slopped over the bar, furnishings and customers, isn't social."

Neither of these arguments stand up to scrutiny. If Mr France were to serve beer by the third- and half-pint he would be serving it in smaller quantities than his foreign glasses hold. If he is concerned about the clumsiness of his barmaids and customers, he could use oversized glasses with the appropriate measure marked on the side.

To suggest that Imperial measures in some way encourage drunkenness is, of course, rubbish and Mr France does not really believe it. He thinks that serving beer in continental glasses is "chic" and trendy. No doubt he is one of those people who believe everything continental is superior to its British counterpart. In some cases, and on a purely utilitarian level, he is no doubt right. But there are some things higher than logic and materialism. There are history, tradition and identity. The British have always done things differently from others. Sometimes the British way is not the most logical way, but it is our way and it often has a charm which the foreign way lacks. But I do not suppose that this is something Mr France, or Mr Major for that matter, can even begin to understand.

I do not imagine that the "atmosphere" of The Dolphin is one that I would find conducive, and I bet the beer is awful as well. However, one pub that does sound as if it is worth a visit, if you are ever in the area, is The Rose & Crown, North Parade, Oxford. Prices there are given in real money (but, unfortunately, not at pre-decimalisation prices!); there is no piped "music" (although a pianist plays on Tuesday nights) and the landlord formally introduces strangers to the regulars. I have not visited it myself and should be interested to hear from anyone who does.

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THE ANTI-METRIC SOCIETY WISHES  
ALL MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS  
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

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# *Imperial* RESISTANCE

## "Don't Give an Inch"

### The Journal of the Anti-Metric Society

Patrons: Dr. Patrick Moore and Mr. Michael Wharton ("Peter Simple")

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## METRIC—UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

OPPOSITION to metrication and the support of our traditional Imperial measures is, as we have said before, primarily a question of heritage. Arguments over which system is more efficient (and there are strong grounds for saying that Imperial is far more efficient) are really beside the point. The argument is really one of humanity against bureaucracy, traditional beauty against corporate philistinism, classical architecture against tower blocks. The "practical" arguments in favour of metrication have never been more than excuses or justifications. The real point of metrication is that it is an attack on our traditions by the sort of people who hate tradition just because it is tradition and want to force us to live in an all-new, committee-designed world in which the bureaucrat is a petty god.

Metric is the language of the bureaucrat. In a sub-committee report or a gas-board leaflet it looks as it should look: cold, practical and inhuman; it is alien to poetry, to human warmth, to decent conversation and to everything which constitutes the real life of real people. We can demonstrate this easily, by looking at the traditions of our language and literature, shot through by the rich, powerful, traditional language of Imperial measurement. Take the hauntingly beautiful old children's rhyme:

*How many miles to Babylon?  
Three score and ten.  
Can I get there by candle light?  
Yes, and back again.*

A verse like this would be utterly destroyed by substituting "How many kilometres to Babylon"; and not only because the metre would be ruined. Even if the word could somehow fit the metre, the use of a cold, alien, clinical word like "kilometre" in place of a strong, resonant traditional word like "mile" would be bathetic. Even the fact that "kilometre" does not fit the metre is no accident. Metric measures are unwieldy, artificial, pseudo-technical terms which do not fit easily into any traditional poetic metre. It is really only in comic verse that one could fit a word like "kilometre" or "millilitre" into the scansion. Take these lines from that beautiful poem, *Lapis Lazuli* by W.B. Yeats:

*Though Hamlet rambles and Lear rages  
And all the drop-scenes drop at once  
Upon a hundred thousand stages,  
It cannot grow by an inch or an  
                                                ounce.*

Now, a "metric ounce" is 25 grammes, but it is probably fairer to suggest the lowest convenient metric units of size and weight, giving us "it cannot grow by a millimetre



or a milligramme", or, if you prefer, "it cannot grow by a centimetre or a centigramme". It is obvious that, quite apart from that fact that these words, however used, are too clinical to have anything but a ridiculous effect in a poem of this nature; they could not possibly be fitted into the metre by any means except the most absurd Lewis Carrollish gymnastics of versification, which would be wholly out of place in a dignified and lovely poem of this sort. "Metre" and "gramme" are possible metrically, but of course that means that smaller and larger quantities are both ruled out of poetry. In any case "metre" and "gramme" have not an ounce of poetry in them. They belong in the laboratory (where Imperial can still do a better job) rather than in the higher reaches of human language. One could, of course, use them in a comic parody of the verse, such as:

*Though Europe rambles and Heath  
rages  
And all the hacks pump out the sham  
Through speakers, screens and  
printed pages,  
We'll chuck the metre — and the  
gramme.*

But that is about the highest level of "poetry" that metric terminology can aspire to. The poetic use of Imperial measures is scattered about our everyday language. We talk of some one demanding his "pound of flesh" (from *The Merchant of Venice*). It is striking, and, if we think about it, a little shocking. But to speak of "500 grammes of flesh" hovers uneasily between the clinically disgusting and the plain absurd. Of course, we are not suggesting that any one—even a European committee—would seriously try to re-write our literature. The point is that these things demonstrate just how metric terminology is alien to poetry, and not only to poetry: to all warmth, depth, humanity and beauty in our language. Those who say that the Imperial system "belongs to the past" and the metric system "to the future" must

have a very cold, clinical, charmless future in mind. It is true, of course, that science fiction writers have often depicted the future as a cold, mechanised world, where warmth and beauty have no place. But is that what we want? Is that what any one really wants? A few social engineers and bureaucrats, perhaps—the sort of people who built the tower blocks; but the tower blocks are already a thing of the past, rejected by real people who want a decent, human, future which does not cut itself off from tradition. It is not only poetry which shows the cold absurdity of the metric system for purposes of human discourse. Take our children's playground-rhymes:

*Half a pound of tuppenny rice,  
Half a pound of treacle. . .*

What would the brave-new-world version of this be?

*250 grammes of two-pea rice,  
250 grammes of treacle. . .*

Ridiculous, isn't it? And note also how decimal money does not fit into these rhymes any better than metric measures. Most people have reluctantly accepted decimal money, but it has not become "naturalised" into our language. We still have (for a little while) "two pence", but the homely, friendly old adjectives like "tuppenny" are never used of the new money. It is not part of our real, living language, but an alien thing grafted onto it by a committee. None of us, even those who have grown up with it, quite knows how to talk about it. People talk uneasily of "one pence"; of course the expression is absurd, but every one knows the thing is not really a *penny*. The coins themselves have no homely reality for us. Take this:

*There was a crooked man  
Who walked a crooked mile  
And found a crooked sixpence  
Upon a crooked stile.*

A bureaucratised equivalent might be:

*There was a crooked man  
Who walked a crooked kilometre  
And found a crooked five-pea coin  
Upon a crooked stile.* 15



# TAKING ACTION

## Writing to Your Local Paper

*Mr. John Jordan, our energetic new membership secretary, has been writing to local newspapers up and down the country, bringing in scores of new members. Here is his guide to how it is done.*

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IN OUR fight to preserve our weights and measures it is essential that we gain as much publicity as possible. The letters sections of local newspapers provide excellent opportunities for us to get our message across and most local papers will print any letter that is coherent and succinct.

It is best to write a letter in response to something that has appeared in the newspaper. Even things which at first do not appear to have anything to do with imperial measures can be used as the basis for such a letter. For example, suppose that the paper has reported the intended demolition of an old building; you might start your letter thus:

"Dear Sir, Congratulations to the Evening Mail for bringing to our notice the proposed demolition of The Old Bakehouse. A civilised society should have

respect for its old buildings, recognising their value in providing a sense of continuity in a rapidly-changing world.

"Unfortunately, those in power often do not seem to have any sense of history or tradition. Just twenty years ago we abandoned the system of money which had been in use for over twelve hundred years and now we are in the process of discarding our equally ancient system of weights and measures—"

If you cannot find anything in the local paper which might serve as the reason for a letter (or if you do not read the local paper)—do not let that stop you writing to it, the next best thing is to find a local example of the use of metric units. For example:

"Dear Sir, I am surprised to see that the new footpath signs on the common give the distances in kilometres. I

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**E** Apart from the white-coated sterility of "kilometre", note the difference between the good, clear, warm vernacular propriety of a "sixpence" and the ungainly awkwardness of the modern currency. Apart from the fact that it ruins the rhyme by containing too many syllables (all these committee-designed units seem to be an indigestible mouthful); a five-pea coin has no warmth or homeliness, no existence of its own as something that can live in fairy-tale or nursery rhyme or in comfortable conversation. It is just a number, a quantity of cash. It has no personality. Not in a hundred years (in the unlikely event that

it should last so long) will it ever be sung of in children's rhymes. A part of our heritage has been taken from us and replaced with something which cannot be used for anything except counting. It does not enrich our lives; our culture has been impoverished. They have taken our bread and given us a stone. Call it a shilling in your own daily life, and you are taking back with your own hands a little part of your cultural birthright. Refuse to use metric measures and you are preventing a theft from taking place in the first place.

*Beat the culture-vandals:*

**Insist on Imperial.**



understood that, even though the British people are having metrication forced on them against their will, the 'European Parliament' was 'allowing' us to keep the pint and mile—"

Even if you cannot think of any such local examples you should still write a general letter, perhaps based on the following:

"Dear Sir, Slowly but surely Great Britain is abandoning her ancient system of weights and measures and adopting the metric system. Already I have to buy my petrol in litres; how much longer before milk is sold by them too? My coal used to come in half-hundredweight sacks, now they are 25kg. When will I have to buy potatoes by the kilogramme as well?

"As with so many of the changes that have been introduced since the war, the approval of the British people for the destruction of this part of our culture has never been sought and there is no reason why we should accept it. Readers can start by ensuring that they do not 'talk metric'. If buying material or something else sold by the metre, ask for so many yards. If something is sold in a half-litre bottle, refer to it as a pint.

"I also urge those who care to join the Anti-Metric Society. The Society, whose motto is 'Don't Give An Inch', seeks to halt and reverse the creeping imposition of metric weights and measures.

"Its membership includes many [like myself,] young enough to have been taught nothing but these ugly, artificial measures at school, who nevertheless realise that as well as being part of our heritage and culture, Imperial measures are more practical for everyday use.

"For details of the Society, please write to B.M. Perfect, London, WC1N 3XX."

Remember always to give the address of the Society.

If your letter is published, it is an idea to read the letters page for the next couple of weeks to see if there is any response to it. If some one writes in with opposing views, answer his letter with another to the letters page. In this way it

might be possible to get a useful debate started. If the letter contains points that you are not sure how to answer then telephone the Society (0865 777 290) and we will be happy to help you.

Please remember to send us a copy of any letter that is published.

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## DON'T TALK METRIC!

Do not *use* metric units in conversation. If you must buy 500 grammes, call it a pound. If you must buy a litre, call it a quart. We shall be giving more information on rough equivalents later. If you need to differentiate between a *French quart* and an *Imperial quart*, do so, but often such precision is not needed. The important thing is to go on talking and thinking in civilised, traditional British units.

Remember: the battleground is the mind and *you* are in the front line.

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## PERFECT PUBLICATIONS

As we have often said, metrication is part of a much wider attack on our language, our culture and our way of life. It is part of the great undermining process which has been going on since the 1960s. Perfect Publications upholds our traditional values and our English culture, publishing a number of magazines very different from the cynical, anti-traditional "mass-media" of today. Perfect Publications defends our language and our traditions, bringing you stories, articles, features and even comic-strips on every subject under the sun. Perfect Publications are bright, intelligent and witty (far better written than the so-called "quality newspapers" of the late 20th century). They are the model of a new style of journalism for a new-traditional future. Perfect Publications include *The English Magazine*, *The Romantic and Imperial Angel* and a subscription to all of them can be had at half-price by all members of the Anti-Metric Society. Free sample copies are also available to members of the Society upon request from Perfect Publications, B.M. Perfect, London W.C.1.

*The Anti-Metric Society, B.M. Perfect, London W.C.1.*



## Imperial measures under attack

SIR, - Our ancient system of weights and measures is under attack from the metric system.

Already petrol is sold in litres; how long will it be before our milk and beer are as well?

Many footpaths up and down the country are already signposted in kilometres; how long before our road signs go the same way?

Members of the recently-formed Anti-Metric Society believe that our Imperial weights and measures are an important part of our culture, too precious to discard because of some imagined trade benefit.

We object to government changing yet another part of our everyday lives against the wishes of the people. We seek to halt and, where practical, reverse the creeping tide of metrication.

Those of your readers who agree with these aims are invited to write to the address below for further details about the Society.

**John Jordan**  
Membership secretary,  
Anti-Metric Society  
c/o I. Perfect  
London WC1N 3XX

Wellington Weekly August 1992

## Halt this change to metric system

Our ancient system of weights and measures is under increasing attack by those who want us to adopt the metric system. Many footpaths up and down the country are already signposted in kilometres and we are told that our road signs will go the same way in a few years. Already petrol is sold in litres. How long will it be before our milk and beer are as well?

Members of the Anti-Metric Society believe that our imperial weights and measures are an important part of our culture, too precious to discard because of some imagined trade benefit. We object to government changing yet another part of our everyday lives against people's wishes.

Those of your readers who agree with these aims are invited to write to me for further details about the society.

**JOHN JORDAN**  
The Anti-Metric Society, B.M.  
Perfect, London, WC1N 3XX

Teesdale Mercury 27 January 1993

None of the three issues of *Imperial Resistance* are dated, but we estimate the first two were produced in 1990 or 1991. The Autumn 1992 "newsletter" was produced after these, but before the third issue (note the references to Patrons) to bridge the gap of "considerable time" to which it refers. The third issue therefore likely came out in 1993.

The Autumn 1992 newsletter refers to one landlord Nigel France, fined for using metric measures. A decade later, on 2 October 2003, *The Times* contained the following snippet: "Nigel France, 52, the landlord of the Kings Head pub in High Street, Southwold, Suffolk, has been given notice to quit by Adnams Brewery after insisting on serving continental measures rather than the traditional pint. He said, 'I can't stand the stains left on the counter by pint glasses filled of the brim'".