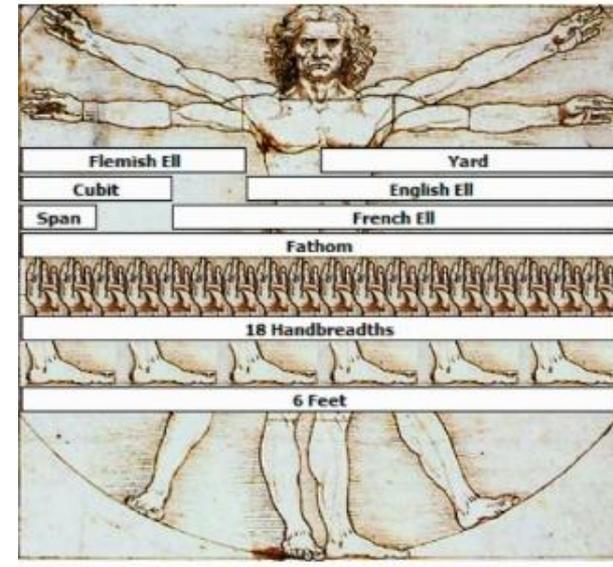
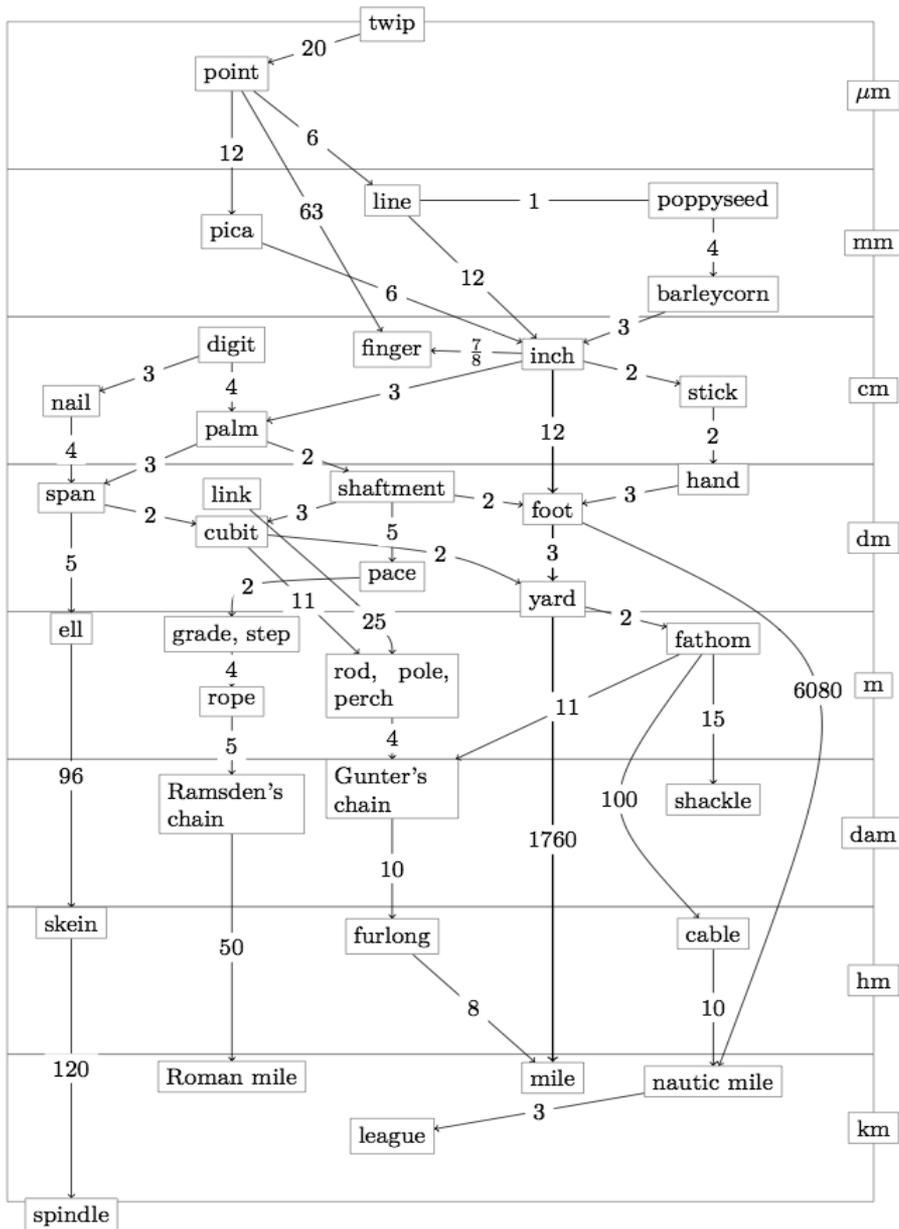
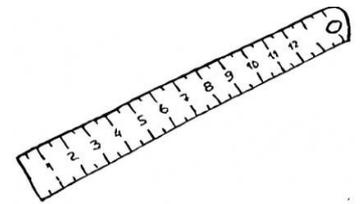


# Some Historical Units of Measurement

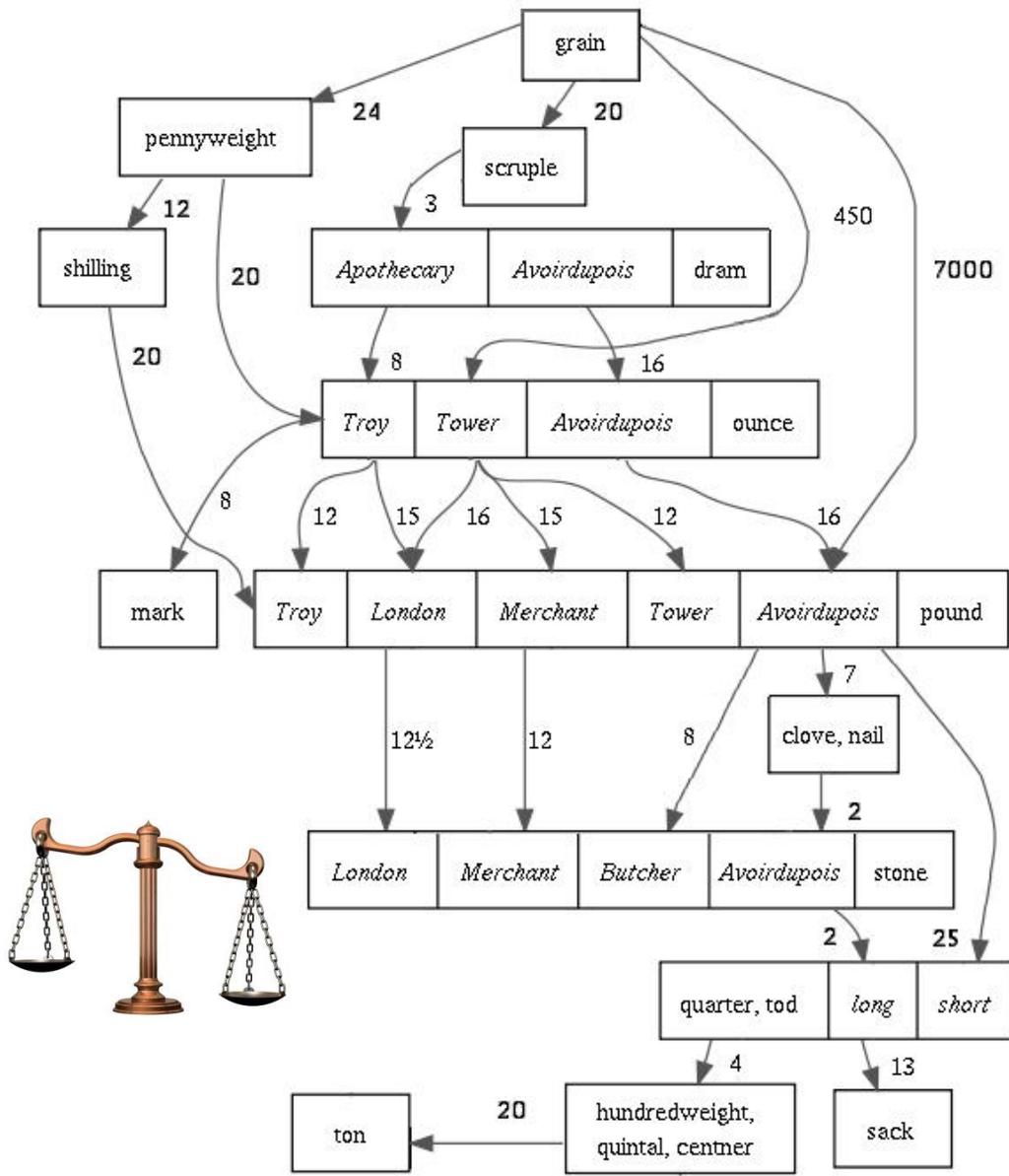


# Historical Units of Length



- **Digit**: the breadth of a finger (Egyptian)
- **Barleycorn**: the length of a barleycorn seed
- **Inch**: the width of a man's thumb or 3 barleycorns
- **Foot**: the length of a man's foot
- **Cubit**: elbow to fingertip length (Egyptian)
- **Yard**: nose to fingertip
- **Mile**: 5000 pedes (feet, Roman)
- **League**: 7500 pedes

# Historical Units of Mass/Volume



- **Grain:** the weight of a grain of wheat or barleycorn
- **Pound (*libra*):** ~5000 grains (Roman) or ~7000 grains (English)
- **Talent:** 100 libra
- **Stone:** 14 pounds (English/British)
- **Troy Ounce:** 1/12 of a pound
- **Carat:** weight of a carob seed

# The Cubit



The cubit is the measure from your elbow to the tip of your middle finger when your arm is extended.

The cubit was the measurement used by the Egyptians to build the pyramids.



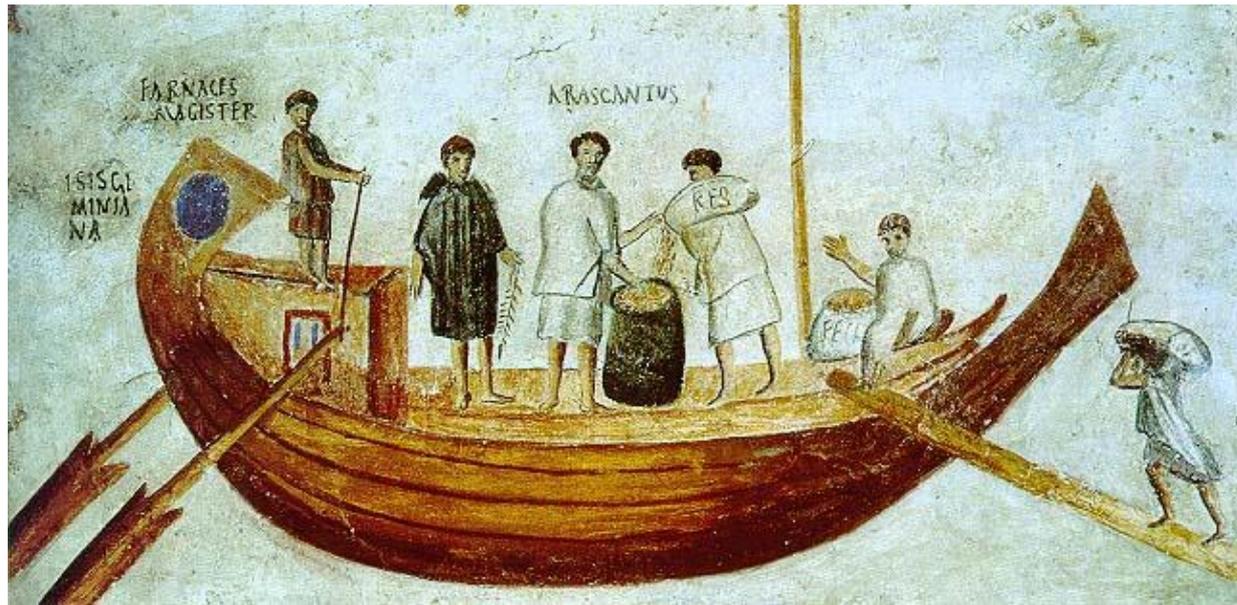
# The Palm

The palm is the *width* of your four fingers when they are placed together.

# The Fathom



The fathom is the measure from fingertip to fingertip when your arms are stretched sideways as far as they will go.



The fathom was used by sailors to measure the depth of water so that boats would not run aground.

# The Hand-span

The hand-span is the measure from the tip of your pinky to the tip of your thumb when your hand is stretched out.



Hand-span was used to measure the height of horses.

People **still describe horses** as being so many hands high.

# The Pace

The pace is the measure of distance from one step to another. This unit was used by the Roman army to judge speed.

The **term** is **still used** frequently during various types of **foot races**.



# The Foot

A measurement equal to the length of an individual's foot.



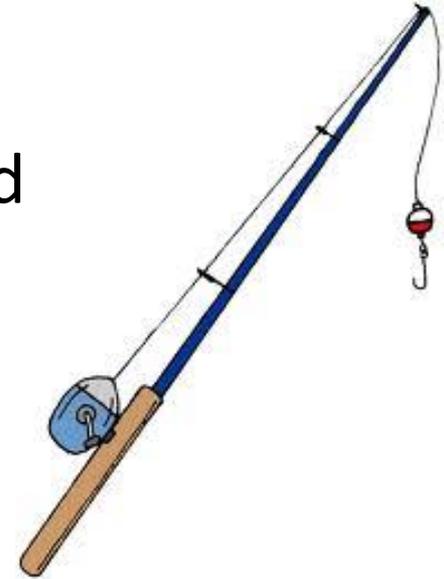
**Feet are different...**

King **Henry I** of England defined a standard for this measurement:

his foot was **12 inches long.**

# The Girth

The girth was the measurement around one's stomach (your *belt measure*).



Girth was used to measure fishing line.

The **term** (not unit) is **still used by US Post Office** and refers to package dimensions.



# The Acre

The acre (“field” in Saxon) was a **unit of area** equal to the size of a field that a farmer could plow in a single day.



French word for acre means “day” and the German word means “morning” or “day’s work”.