

Notes & Queries

NQ 57 DIAMOND SCALES (NQ 40) reply from G.M.M.Houben.

The ruttee was used in India for weighing diamonds, gold and silver, until 1930. The mass was different in various parts of the country; in Rangoon the ruttee was equal to 182.4mg, and in Bengal it was 187.7mg.

NQ 58 ROBERVAL (LETTERS page 197) note from H.Jenemann.

It was in the year 1670 that Roberval's report appeared in the 'Journal de Scavans':- "Mais M.de Roberval a fait voir à l'Assemblée qui se tient à la bibliothèque du Roy une nouvelle manière de Balance qu'il a inventée il y a long temps..." (Roberval presented to the Assembly, which was held in the King's library, a new type of balance which he had invented a long time ago).

The report does not include a date for the invention, or for the meeting in the library, but it may be supposed that if the report was published on 10th February 1670, the assembly took place some time before - surely in 1669 ? The precise date is not proven, but Charles Testut, who gave a very good history of the balance and weighing in his book 'Memento du Pesage', states on page 72, that Roberval gave his report in 1669.

NQ 59 SPANISH SCALE (ARTICLE p.307) - GERMAN SCALE note from W.Burgauer.

In the article there is a description of a 'Spanish' scale. I possess an identical type. It corresponds exactly with the description, with the exception that on the bottom it is marked FAVORIT instead of LA INFALIBLE, and where the Spanish scale is marked PATENTADA mine reads B.R.C.M. It was for weighing silver coins 1,1,2,3 and 5 Marks of the German 'Kaiserreich' period, which suggests a date of manufacture early this century. Fig 1.

N.B. The editor has a very similar balance for 5,10 and 20 Francs, marked Depose, Numismetre, "Etalon" CEM. Fig 2. Was the Spanish patentee the originator of this style ?

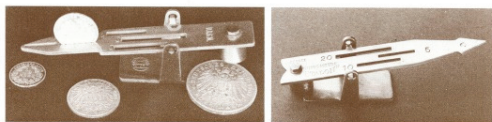


FIG 1

FIG 2

Author Jenemann, H.R.

Title Notes & Queries 58 - Roberval (Letters page 197)

In Equilibrium, 2 (1982), p. 445

Size 1 p., ill., 21 x 29.7 cm

Publisher ISASC International Society of Antique Scale Collectors

Place Chicago

Year 1982

ISBN ISSN 0893-2883

Abstract

Remarks