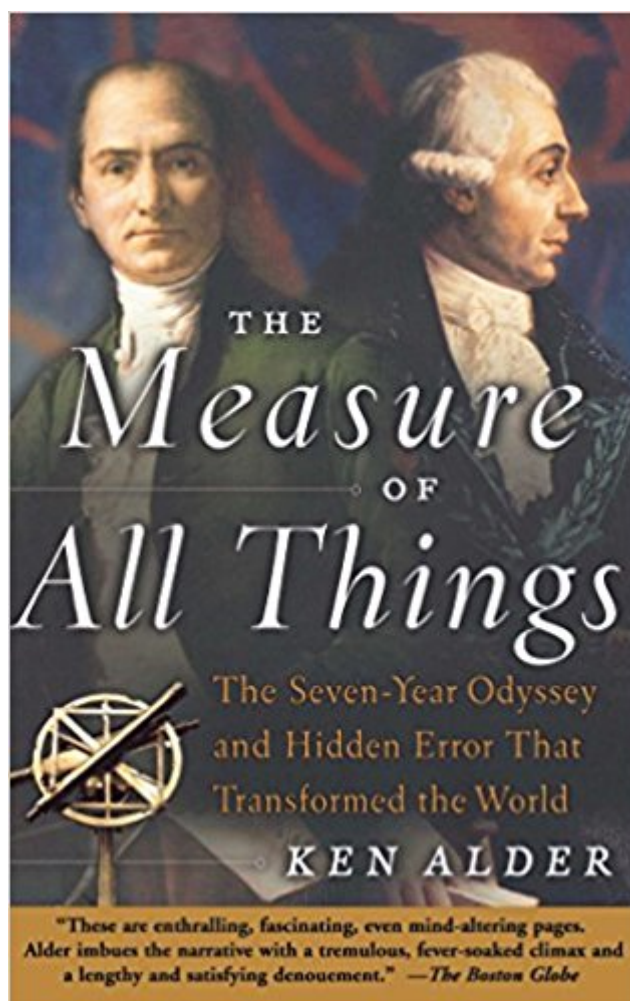


The book was found

The Measure Of All Things: The Seven-Year Odyssey And Hidden Error That Transformed The World



Synopsis

In June 1792, amidst the chaos of the French Revolution, two intrepid astronomers set out in opposite directions on an extraordinary journey. Starting in Paris, Jean-Baptiste-Joseph Delambre would make his way north to Dunkirk, while Pierre-François-Martin Maichain voyaged south to Barcelona. Their mission was to measure the world, and their findings would help define the meter as one ten-millionth of the distance between the pole and the equator—a standard that would be used for all people, for all time. This is the astonishing tale of one of history's greatest scientific adventures. Yet behind the public triumph of the metric system lies a secret error, one that is perpetuated in every subsequent definition of the meter. As acclaimed historian and novelist Ken Alder discovered through his research, there were only two people on the planet who knew the full extent of this error: Delambre and Maichain themselves. By turns a science history, detective tale, and human drama, *Measure* describes a quest that succeeded as it failed—and continues to enlighten and inspire to this day.

Book Information

Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: Free Press; Reprint edition (October 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743216768

ISBN-13: 978-0743216760

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.1 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #588,085 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #81 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Reference > Measurements #1064 in Books > Science & Math > Experiments, Instruments & Measurement #1227 in Books > History > Europe > France

Customer Reviews

The Boston Globe These are enthralling, fascinating, even mind-altering pages. Alder imbues the narrative with a tremulous, fever-soaked climax and a lengthy and satisfying denouement. The Philadelphia Inquirer One of those rare works that both rewrite history and capture the imagination. The New York Times Book Review Passes a central test of any popular work of history: it bathes the past in the light, life, and humanity of the eternal present.

Ken Alder is a professor of history and Milton H. Wilson Professor of the Humanities at Northwestern University. He is the author of *The Measure of All Things*, published to worldwide acclaim in fourteen languages. He lives in Evanston, Illinois.

To me, this was a fascinating and thought provoking work. It not only provides insight into the life and thought of the two historical figures but also provides vivid context and reflection on the meaning of what they did. A triumph of thorough research and excellent writing.

Scholarly work showing the evolution of the SI system. I was only vaguely aware of how the meter was defined so this was quite interesting. Even more interesting was the effort of some to introduce decimal time with 10 day weeks, 100 minute hours with 100 seconds, etc, and that France actually used this system for several years. In the meantime, I marvel at the continued use of the British units in the US despite how ill equipped it is to do anything efficiently. Change is indeed very hard.

This is an excellent narration that covers different issues: French revolution, standardization of measures and a field work to establish the length of the meter. Very well documented and supported.

Excelet book.

This looked like it would be a chore to read. But it was a delightful read on a subject that most authors could not have made interesting.

A rivetting tale of the dawn of the metric system amongst the French Revolution. Really well told and informative!

It's a paradox, the effort these two cientits made to establish a basic measure for all things and that in the English world still they use the old ones

Well written

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Measure of All Things: The Seven-Year Odyssey and Hidden Error That Transformed the World All Things Joyful All Things Lovely Catholic Journal Color Doodle: First Communion Gifts for

Girls in All Departments Confirmation Gifts for Girl in ... All Dep Catholic Devotional 2017 in all Dep
Measure Twice, Cut Once: Simple Steps to Measure, Scale, Draw and Make the Perfect Cut-Every
Time. (Popular Woodworking) Measure for Measure: The Arkangel Shakespeare Measure for
Measure (Arkangel Shakespeare) Measure for Measure Coaching Elementary Soccer: The easy,
fun way to coach soccer for 6-year-olds, 7-year-olds, 8-year-olds, 9-year-olds, and 10-year-olds
(kindergarten, first-grade, second-grade, and third-grade) All Things Lovely All Things Lovely
Catholic Journal Color Doodle: Catholic Devotional for Teen Girls in all Departments Catholic
Devotional for Women ... Books for Teens Girls Teen Girls in all Dep All Creatures Great and Small,
All Things Bright and Beautiful, and All Things Wise and Wonderful: Three James Herriot Classics
The Venice Experiment: A Year of Trial and Error Living Abroad Burn for Me: A Hidden Legacy
Novel (Hidden Legacy series, Book 1) (Hidden Legacy Novels) Adventures in Odyssey: The Official
Guide: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the World's Favorite Family Audio Drama (Adventures in
Odyssey Books) Sea Odyssey: A World Cruise to Remember (Sea Odyssey 1) Me and the
Measure of Things The Perilous Road (Odyssey Classics (Odyssey Classics)) James Houston's
Treasury of Inuit Legends (Odyssey Classics (Odyssey Classics)) Adventures in Odyssey Advent
Activity Calendar: Countdown to Christmas (Adventures in Odyssey Misc) Discovering Odyssey
(Adventures in Odyssey Classics #2) In the Shadow of the Moon: A Challenging Journey to
Tranquility, 1965-1969 (Outward Odyssey: A People's History of S) (Outward Odyssey: A People's
History of Spaceflight) Odyssey Guide to the Kathmandu Valley (Odyssey Illustrated Guides)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)