

Lengths of Ages

by Bob Boucher, April 2011

The Units of length that we use today
were first used long ago and far away.
The Cubit of Indus, Tigris and Nile
used when the Pyramids were still in style.

From elbow to forefinger of the king,
Sixteen and one half inches was the thing.
The Sacred Cubit $5/4$ cubit long,
The Hindu Hasta was two cubits long.

The Romans gave us our inches and feet.
The Centurion's Pace equaled five feet.
Marching one thousand Paces up the Nile,
Caesar's army advanced one Roman mile.

Queen Elisabeth the First, by decree
The British mile, eight furlongs was to be.
A British Furlong equals forty rods.
One rod contains twelve Cubits. That's so odd!

Background Information

One Cubit = 16.5 inches

One Sacred Cubit = 20.5 inches

One Hindu hasta= two cubits

One Roman inch = one British inch

one Roman Foot = 12 inches

One Roman Pace = 5 feet

One Roman Mile = 1000 Paces

One Roman Mile = 5000 feet

One British Mile= 5280 feet

One British Mile = 8 Furlongs

One Furlong = 660 feet=40 rods

One Rod = 12 Cubits = 16.5 feet

All Gothic Cathedrals were sized in even multiples of Rods!