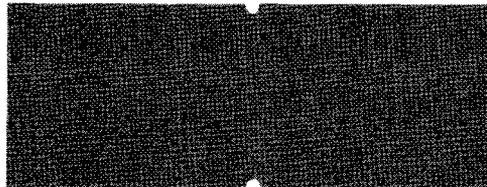


*Cover Story:* The 16th-century woodcut illustrated on the front cover shows how standards were set for the German rute, a variant of the old English rod. Sixteen men, selected at random as they came from church, were lined up heel to toe. The overall length became the rute, and a foot was  $\frac{1}{16}$  of the rute. The photograph was supplied through the courtesy of Walter W. Weinstein, Office of Information Activities, United States Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234.

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