



AMT FÜR BAU  
UND INFRASTRUKTUR  
FÜRSTENTUM LIECHTENSTEIN



## ***Klafter* | m<sup>2</sup>**

In the Principality of Liechtenstein the square *klafter* was commonly used up to the year 2017 to measure land areas. 1 m<sup>2</sup> equals 0.278036 square *klafters*, 1 square *klafter* equals 3.596652 m<sup>2</sup>. In Liechtenstein, the *klafter* as a measure of length is consequently approximately 1.8965 metres long. (source: Wikipedia)

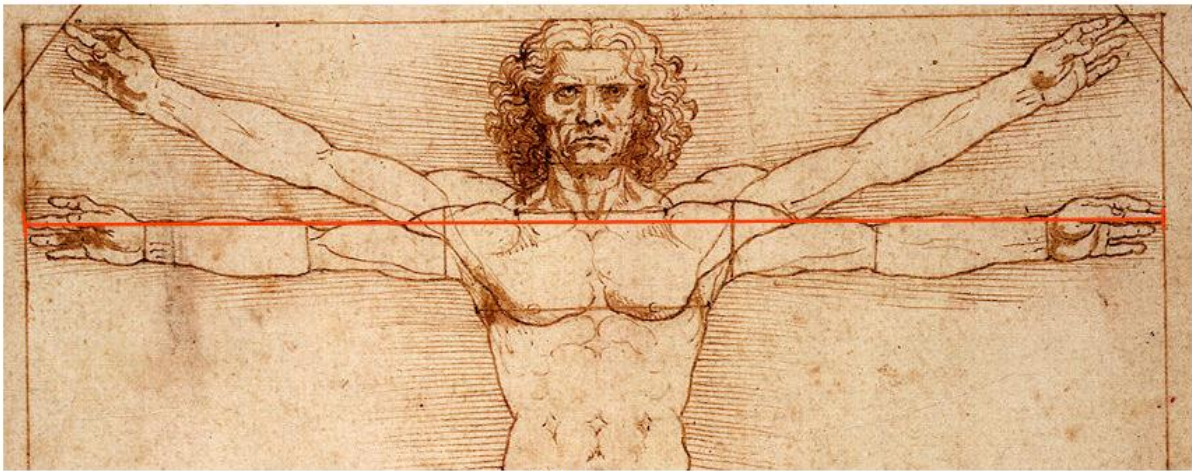


Abb.: व्यामः ।

[Bildquelle: Leonardo da Vinci, 1487 / Wikipedia. -- Public domain]

As a measure of length, the *klafter* derives from the span of a grown man's outstretched arms, and was traditionally defined as being 6 feet long, corresponding to about 1.80 metres (in Liechtenstein: 1.8965). This therefore means that one foot equals 0.316 metres. (Viennese foot)

1 <i>klafter</i> = 6 feet à 0.316 metres	=	1.896 metres
1 square <i>klafter</i>	=	3.596652 m <sup>2</sup>

With the replacement of the *klafter* by the square meter the country Liechtenstein loses the witness of a historical development from the peasant state to one of the wealthiest states of the earth. For this reason, the government has decided to remind the *klafter* in the cultural heritage year 2018 by an installation in the center of Vaduz. The two squares symbolize exactly one square meter and one *klafter*.



Image 1 Klafter installation made of brass

### Summary of the history of official measurement in the Principality of Liechtenstein

1809: Edict creating the Land Register as a tax cadastre (value of cadastre in guilder and kreuzer).

1865: First “National Survey Act” (“Gesetz betreffend die Landesvermessung”) and the associated ordinance “Instruction for Surveyors Entrusted with the Cadastre Survey of the Principality of Liechtenstein” (“Instruction für die mit Kadastral-Vermessung des Fürstenthumes Liechtenstein betrauten Geometer”).

1865 – 1870: Creation of the historical cadastre plans by the National Technician Lieutenant Peter Rheinberger and Forest Inspector Aloys Schauer.

1875: Introduction of the metric unit of measurement by statute in Liechtenstein. Although this was subject to the condition that the Princely Government had the power to postpone the date on which the *klafter* unit of measurement was to be adjusted, if necessary.

Unfortunately, no regulations governing the updating of the historical cadastre were subsequently issued. This undermined the quality and the comprehensiveness of the plans.

1921: In the Liechtenstein Civil Code (“Zivilgesetzbuch”) (Property Law) of 31 December 1922, Articles 521 and 61 of the final section make provision for the introduction of a new Land Register.

1937: Agreement between the Government and the Swiss Survey Directorate “concerning the adoption of the management and verification of the National Survey in the Principality of Liechtenstein by the Swiss Department of Justice and Police.” The “Report on the Performance of a new National Survey in conjunction with the Merger of Properties of the Principality of Liechtenstein” on the Agreement was prepared by the then Survey Director Dr h.c. Jakob Baltensperger.

1945: Entry into force of the new Survey Act came, establishing the basis for today’s official surveying operations.

1945 – 1964: Completion of various land register surveying such as the Alps and communal forests, the landlord and surveys Steg and Malbun, the survey of the village areas Triesen, Vaduz and Schaan (early 1950s) and the Meliorationen Planken and Triesenberg.

1964 – 1972: In order to meet the increasing requirements of architects and planners, the Government commissioned a 1:1'000 scale aerial photogrammetric survey. From now on, these photogrammetric plans served as a basis for various applications in areas without land register surveys, but did not gain any legal significance.

1970 - 2005: Remeasurement of further village and rehab areas.

2005: In effect of the new Surveying Act, which provides for the complete digital processing of all surveying works?

2005 - 2017: Completion of remeasurements of the remaining areas and renewal of existing land register surveys, which were still prepared according to the provisions of the Law of 1945.

2017: On March 8, 2017, the last initial survey was approved by the government and validated. On May 11, 2017, the Operats 8 in Eschen was entered in the journal of the land register. From this date onwards, no land areas are now left in the Land Register that continue to use the *klafter* unit of measurement.

Contact:

Office of Construction and Infrastructure  
Surveying and Geoinformation Bureau  
Städtle 38  
9490 Vaduz  
Phone: +423 236 60 72  
E-Mail: [info.abi@llv.li](mailto:info.abi@llv.li)