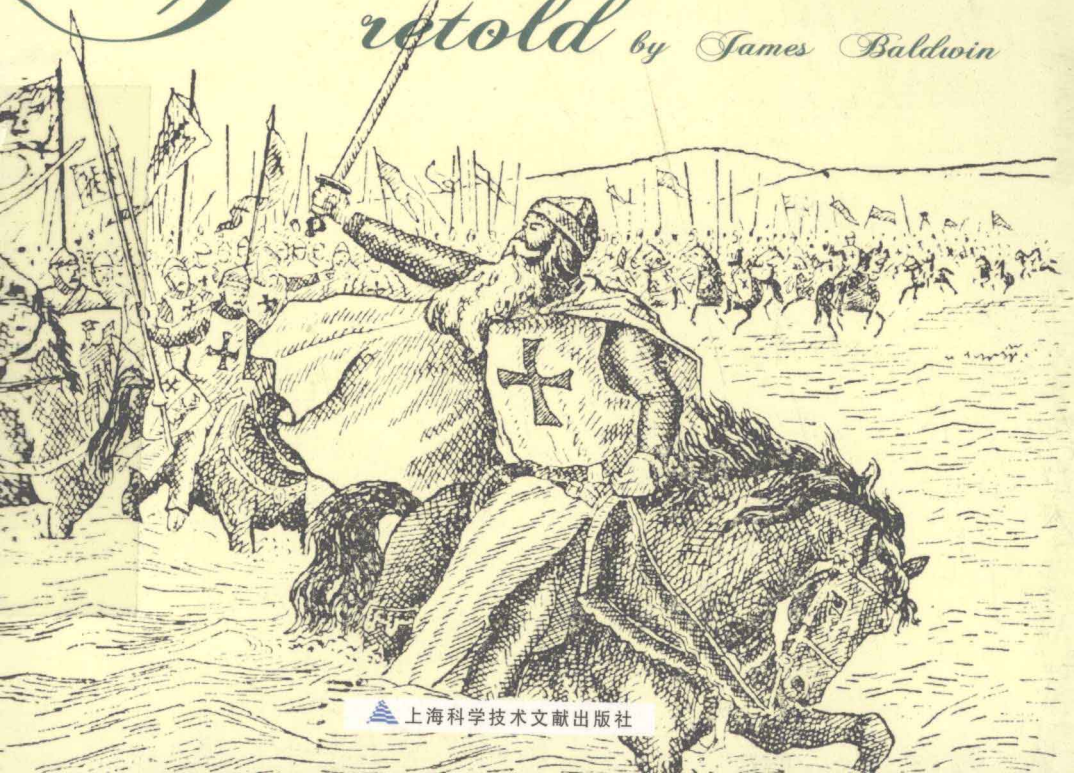


英文自修经典读本
泰西三十轶事

盛仰红 金岚 译

*Thirty more famous stories
retold by James Baldwin*



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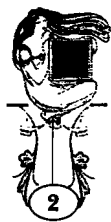


童话、寓言、神话、历史故事、名人传奇是每个民族文化记忆中的核心内容。它们以口承和文字形式代代相传绵绵不绝,既延续着一个个历久弥新的故事与文本的记载,同时也传递着一种精神的力量。不论何时何地,这些被众人耳濡目染的片断,总是以各种形式在儿童们的心灵中浸润滋养,在青年人的胸扉里哺育激荡,在中年人的脑海中回味咀嚼,在老人们的长叹中引人深思……古往今来,令人难忘的传说与往事常常就是这样慢慢地如清泉般流入人们的心田,渐渐地成为人们喜闻乐见的经典,化为人格的精神动力。

在西方国家,人们非常重视少年儿童的教育,大量的少儿读物中,詹姆斯·鲍德温编写的《Fifty Famous Stories Retold》和《Thirty more Famous Stories Retold》是受到人们普遍喜爱的两本书。这两本书的内容主要取材于西方著名的历史故事,名人轶事和民间传说,都是人们关注的传统题材和内容。先行问世的五十个经典故事由于内容生动活泼,文字通俗优美,很快成为畅销书。之后,在读者们的强烈要求下,鲍德温又续编了三十个经典故事,成为两本珠联璧合的名作,一直传诵不绝。诚然,书中的故事对人们早已是耳熟能详,但优秀的读本却能把零散的记忆断章集成智慧的殿堂,令几代人流连忘返。

鲍德温编写的这两部读本为许多国家少年儿童所共享。在中国,同样以它独特的作用影响了众多的读者。20世纪前半叶,鲍德温编的这两本书曾以英语教材的形式流行于大江南北。兼有“读本”和“课本”的双重





阅读价值。

1922年“新学制”颁布后,我国教育从原先模仿日本为主转为模仿英美为主,明确规定从初中起设置外语教学课程。而这时期的英语教材则是良莠不齐,无法适应教学的需要。因此,许多学校纷纷采用《Fifty Famous Stories Retold》和《Thirty more Famous Stories Retold》作为课本。当时书名译为《泰西五十轶事》和《泰西三十轶事》。1921年和1922年商务印书馆与中华书局分别出版了这两本书的英文版。启明书局等也明确地将其作为英文自修读本推出了英文原版和中英对照本供学校选用。当时人们选用这两本书作教材的共识主要是文辞优美,故事引人入胜,内容具有教育意义,有助于培养少男少女们的高尚情操。

从“读本”到“课本”,这两本书对中国读者的影响是积极有益的。作为语言学习的课本,普惠于几代莘莘学子,而作为通俗的文学读本,又为人们学习和了解西方文化提供了一个窗口,是我们的前辈求学经历中难以忘怀的两本书,在许多名人的传记与回忆中常常提到这两本书的作用。所以当时有人说:“读过英文的人,没有不读过《泰西五十轶事》和《泰西三十轶事》的。”

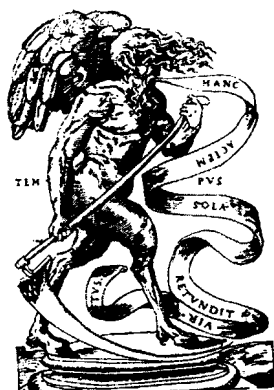
近几年,以加强大中小学生素质教育和人文修养为名编印的“读本”如过江之鲫,令人目不暇接。但被人称道者却了了无几,转瞬即逝。鲍德温的成功使我们看到,经典读本的诞生与认同,不仅在于内容的经典性和表达的完美性,而且要蕴含文化的理念和价值,让人们得到人文的熏陶。也许我们可以从中得到有益的启示,编出能为当代中国青少年所喜爱的经典读本。

半个世纪过去了,昨日的经典仍然不失它的光彩。这两本书的重译出版,再一次让今天的年轻读者体验昔日畅销书的魅力。我们相信,回归的经典依然芬芳隽永,传统的读本仍能读出新知。让我们打开本书,重温一个个经典的故事吧!

黄显功

2005年6月于上海图书馆

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Christopher Columbus discovered America on the 12th of October, 1492. He had spent eighteen years in planning for that wonderful first voyage which he made across the Atlantic Ocean. The thoughts and hopes of the best part of his life had been given to it.

He had talked and argued with sailors and scholars and princes and kings, saying, "I know that, by sailing west across the great ocean, one may at last reach lands that have never been visited by Europeans." But he had been laughed at as a foolish dreamer, and few people had any faith in his projects.

At last, however, the king and queen of Spain gave him ships with which to make the trial voyage. He crossed the ocean and discovered strange lands, inhabited by a people unlike any that had been known



COLUMBUS AND THE EGG

克里斯托弗·哥伦布于1492年10月12日,发现了美洲新大陆。这是他第一次美妙的跨越大西洋的航海旅行,他为此足足筹划了十八年。他将一生最美好年华中的梦想都倾注其中了。

他曾经和水手、学者、王子以及国王们展开过辩论,他说:“我相信,只要向西航行穿越大洋,最终一定能抵达新大陆的,那是欧洲人从未到过的地方。”但是人们都嘲笑他是个愚蠢的幻想家,没有人相信这些设想。

最后,还是西班牙国王和王后为他提供了试航的船只。他横渡大洋,发现了陌生的陆地,那儿居住着一个前所未闻的种族。那时,哥伦布认为这些陆地是印度的一部分。



哥伦布和鸡蛋



before. He believed that these lands were a part of India.

When he returned home with the news of his discovery there was great rejoicing, and he was hailed as the hero who had given a new world to Spain. Crowds of people lined the streets through which he passed, and all were anxious to do him honor. The king and queen welcomed him to their palace and listened with pleasure to the story of his voyage. Never had so great respect been shown to any common man.

But there were some who were jealous of the discoverer, and as ready to find fault as others were to praise. "Who is this Columbus?" they asked, "and what has he done? Is he not a pauper pilot from Italy? And could not any other seaman sail across the ocean just as he has done?"

One day Columbus was at a dinner which a Spanish gentleman had given in his honor, and several of these persons were present. They were proud, conceited fellows, and they very soon began to try to make Columbus uncomfortable.

当他带着令人欣喜的新发现回去,人们向他欢呼着,把他看成是给西班牙带来新世界的英雄。人群列队在他经过的街道两边,每个人都渴望向他致敬。国王和王后在宫殿里欢迎他,饶有兴趣地聆听他说航海的故事。在此之前,还没有任何一个普通人,受过如此的尊敬呢。



哥伦布

但是,有人赞美就有人挑刺,一些人开始嫉妒这个探险家。他们问:“哥伦布是谁?他做了什么?他不是从一个意大利来的穷水手吗?别的水手不也能够像他一样航行穿过大洋吗?”

一天,一个西班牙绅士为深表敬意邀请哥伦布参加一个宴会,那些嫉妒他的人也出席了。这帮骄傲自满的家伙开始想方设法为难哥伦布。

“你在海对岸发现了陌生的大陆,”他们说:“但那算得了什

“You have discovered strange lands beyond the sea,” they said. “But what of that? We do not see why there should be so much said about it. Anybody can sail across the ocean; and anybody can coast along the islands on the other side, just as you have done. It is the simplest thing in the world.”

Columbus made no answer; but after a while he took an egg from a dish and said to the company, “Who among you, gentlemen, can make this egg stand on end?”

One by one those at the table tried the experiment. When the egg had gone entirely around and none had succeeded, all said that it could not be done.

Then Columbus took the egg and struck its small end gently upon the table so as to break the shell a little. After that there was no trouble in making it stand upright.

“Gentlemen,” said he, “what is easier than to do this which you said was impossible? It is the simplest thing in the world. Anybody can do it — *after he has been shown how.*”

么？我们看不出那有什么好夸夸其谈的。任何人都可以航海穿过大洋，任何人都可以像你一样沿着岛屿到达另一端，这是世界上最容易的事。”

哥伦布没有回答，过一会儿，他从碟子里取出一枚鸡蛋，问在场的客人，“先生们，你们中间有谁，能使这个鸡蛋竖立起来？”

他们一个个在桌上试起来。可是鸡蛋转了个圈回来，没有一个人做到。所有的人都说，这不可能办到。

于是，哥伦布拿起这枚鸡蛋，将鸡蛋小的一头在桌上轻轻磕破，然后毫不困难地把鸡蛋竖立起来了。

“先生们，”他说道，“还有什么比这个更容易的事吗？而你们却认为不可能。这是世界上最简单的事。任何人都可以做到，不过是在展示给他看该怎样做之后。”

哥伦布(公元1451年—1506年)，西班牙航海家。1492年首次远航，横渡大西洋，发现巴哈马群岛、古巴、海地。



哥伦布和鸡蛋



After Columbus had shown the way to America a great many Spaniards came over. They came to Haiti and Cuba and Porto Rico and the smaller islands near them. Like Columbus they believed that these lands were near the eastern coast of Asia. They believed that they were a part of India, and therefore spoke of them as the Indies. Afterwards, when their mistake became known, these islands were named the West Indies and the true islands of India were called the East Indies.

Far to the southwest of Cuba, Columbus had discovered a long coast which he named Darien. It was the neck of land which we call the Isthmus of Panama, but he supposed that it was a part of the mainland of Asia. A few years later some Spanish sailors visited Darien and carried word back to



在达连山的顶峰 I

“UPON A PEAK IN DARIEN”

FIRST STORY

自哥伦布指引出通往美洲之路后，许多西班牙人也慕名而去。他们到了海地、古巴、波多黎各和周边更小的岛屿。像哥伦布一样，他们认为这些大陆是靠近亚洲东海岸的，也认为它们是印度的一部分，所以称其为印度群岛。后来，人们意识到这是个错误，于是就把这些岛屿命名为西印度群岛，真正的印度群岛则被称为东印度群岛。

哥伦布发现离古巴西南部很远的地方，有个狭长海岸，他命名其为达连湾。这是美洲大陆的颈脖，我们现在称之为巴拿马海峡，而哥伦布却误认为它是亚洲大陆的一部分。数年后，一些去过达连湾的西班牙水手传话回来，说海地那里有金子。那时候，有个

Haiti that there was gold there. Now at that time a Spaniard would go to the end of the world for gold, and therefore this news caused great excitement among the young men who had come across the ocean for the purpose of adventure.

“To Darien! to Darien! ” was the cry; and soon a company was formed and two ships were made ready to sail to that land of promise.

The voyage was a delightful one from the start. The sea was calm, the wind was fair, and the vessels sped swiftly on their way. Soon the pleasant shores and green mountains of Haiti were lost to view. Only little rocky islets could be seen. The ship was heading straight into the Caribbean Sea.

Then, what was the surprise of the crew of the larger ship to hear strange rappings in the hold! A voice also was heard, like that of some one calling for help. What could it mean? The sailors could not see any one, and yet the sounds could not be mistaken.

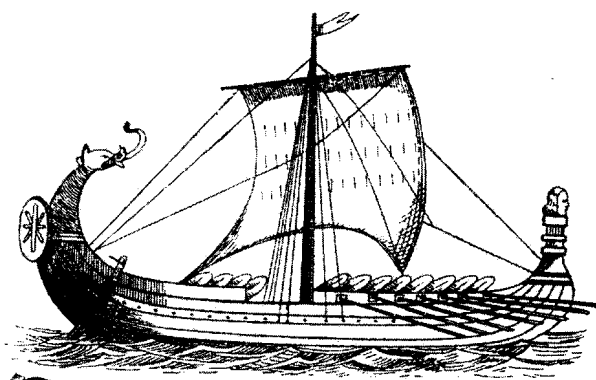
“Please help me out! ” The voice seemed to come from among some

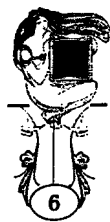
西班牙人正要去世界的尽头寻找金子,这个消息极大地振奋了那些为探险而横渡大洋的年轻人。

“去达连湾! 去达连湾!”的呼声鹊起。人们很快组建了舰队,建造两艘轮船,向那个充满希望的大陆驶去。

航海从一开始就是令人愉悦的。海面平静,和风徐徐,船只飞快地行驶着。海地令人愉快的海岸和青色的山脉很快消逝于视野。呈现在眼前的是布满岩石的小岛。船只径直驶入加勒比海。

这时,让大船上的员工吃惊的是货舱里传来奇怪的敲击声,





barrels in which provisions were stored.

“A man is in one of the barrels,” said the captain.

Soon the barrel was found and opened. Out of it leaped a young man, richly clad in a velvet cloak and a silk doublet embroidered with gold. He was a handsome fellow. His eyes were keen and bright, and his face had a determined look, like that of one who is used to having his own way about things. At his side hung a long sword, and in his belt was a dagger.

Several of the men knew him; and so he did not need to say that his name was Vasco Nuñez de Balboa. They knew that he was a dashing adventurer, always doing and daring, and always borrowing and spending money. But why was he in the barrel?

“The truth of the matter is this,” he said: “I am in debt to almost everybody in Haiti. The officers were looking for me and would have taken me to prison. So I persuaded one of my friends to put me in a barrel and send me on board with the salt beef. And now here I am, bound with the

还听到好像某人呼救的声音。这是怎么回事呢？水手们看不见任何人，声音却没有弄错。

“快救我出来吧！”声音好像是从某个储存桶里传来的。

船长说：“有人在桶里。”

很快大家找到了这只桶，并打开来。一个年轻人从桶里跳出来，他身着华丽的天鹅绒斗篷和双面绣花的金丝绸缎衣服。他是个帅小伙儿。两眼炯炯有神，脸上有种坚毅的表情，看起来像是那种凡事都有自己主见的人。他的身上还挂着一把长剑，腰带上插着匕首。

他不用自我介绍是巴斯科·努内·德·巴尔沃亚，因为许多人都认识他，知道他是一个冲劲十足、敢作敢为的冒险家，并为此借钱挥霍。但是他为什么会在桶里呢？

他解释道：“我几乎欠了海地所有人的债。当地的官员四处寻找我，我差点被抓进监狱。所以我说服一个朋友把我藏进了桶里

rest of you for the rich coast of Darien.”

The captain was very angry. He threatened to put Balboa ashore on one of the rocky islets. “Shame! shame!” cried the rest of the party. “Let him go with us. He will be a great help.” And so the captain grew kinder and agreed to take him.

Balboa’s manners were so pleasant, and he proved to be so able and brave, that soon nearly all on the ship looked up to him as their leader. When they reached Darien and began to seek for a good place to settle, Balboa gave them much help. He had been on the coast before, and he guided them to a safe harbor.

The captain proved to be so overbearing that the men at last refused to obey him. They chose Balboa to be their commander, and the captain was glad to go back to Haiti in one of the ships.

Balboa made a treaty with a powerful Indian chief who lived in a grand house and ruled all the country around. He married the chief’s daughter;

和这一桶桶腌牛肉一起装上了船。就这样,现在我就和各位一同奔赴富裕的达连湾了。”

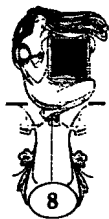
船长听了非常恼怒,他威胁说要把巴尔沃亚丢到乱石成堆的孤岛上。“太可惜了!太可惜了!”其他的船员大声说道:“让他与我们同行吧,他会有大用处的。”于是船长的口气变得柔和起来,同意带上他。

巴尔沃亚的脾气令人愉悦,他能干又勇敢。很快船上的所有人都把他视为首领。当船抵达达连湾需要寻找合适的停泊处时,他助了船员们一臂之力。巴尔沃亚以前来过这里,他指引船只驶进一个安全的港湾。

船长的行为令人无法忍受,人们终于拒绝服从他的命令。他们一致推选巴尔沃亚作他们的领航人,船长愿意乘一艘船回到海地去。

巴尔沃亚与当地一个德高望重的印第安酋长签署了一份协议。这个首领住着豪华宽敞的房子,管辖周围所有的村庄。巴尔沃





and at the wedding feast the chief gave the Spaniards a great quantity of gold and many slaves.

The Indians did not care much for gold. They did not know that it was worth anything. When they saw the Spaniards molding it into bars and quarreling over it, they were astonished. "If you think so much of that yellow stuff," they said, "why don't you go where there is plenty of it?" And then they told Balboa that far to the south, on the other side of the mountains, there was a great sea, and on the shores of the sea there lived a people who had so much gold that they used it to make cups and bowls and even pans and kettles.

Balboa made up his mind to go at once in search of that sea. With two hundred men and a pack of bloodhounds, to chase unfriendly Indians, he set off toward the mountains. The distance was not great, but the country was very rough, the forest was almost impassable, and the party had to move slowly. After many days they came to the highest ridge of the

亚与酋长的女儿结了婚,在婚宴上酋长给了这群西班牙人一大笔黄金和一些奴隶。

印第安人并不稀罕黄金,不知道它的昂贵,当看到西班牙人将金子放入坛子里,还常常为它争吵不休时,感到十分诧异。于是他们说:“你们既然想要这些金黄的东西。为什么不到盛产它的地方去呢?”他们告诉巴尔沃亚,在大山的那边,很远的南方,有一个大海,岸上住着的居民拥有很多黄金。他们用金子做杯和碗,甚至还有盘和壶呢。

巴尔沃亚决定立刻去寻找那个海。他带上两百多人和一群猎狗,追寻不友善的印第安人的足迹,向大山进发。距离并不是很远,但道路非常原始,森林几乎难以通过,队伍不得不放慢步伐。几天后,他们来到了一座山的山顶。巴尔沃亚站在最高峰上,举目四顾。西南方他看见了一个大海。它是那么近,看起来仿佛就像在他的脚下。大海向远处延伸,无边无际,直到与蓝天连接。

mountains. Balboa climbed to the top of the loftiest peak and looked around. South and west of him he beheld a great sea. It was so near that it seemed almost at his feet; and it stretched away and away into the distance until it seemed to meet the blue sky.

No white man had ever beheld that sea before; none had even so much as heard of it. The Spaniards afterwards called it the South Sea, because in going to it across the isthmus it seemed to lie south of the land; but we know it as the largest of all the oceans, the mighty Pacific.

From that peak in Darien, Balboa looked down with mingled feelings of awe and exultation.

“With eagle eyes
He stared at the Pacific, — and all his men
Looked at each other with a wild surmise —
Silent, upon a peak in Darien.”

没有一个白人曾经见过这个大海,甚至没有人听说过它。西班牙人后来称它为南海,因为它穿过海峡位于大陆南边。但是,现在众所周知它就是宽阔的太平洋,海洋之最。

巴尔沃亚带着惊喜交杂的感情从达连之颠峰俯身望去。

如鹰隼般的双眸
他注视着太平洋——和所有人
彼此相望,任思绪奔驰
沉默,在达连湾之巅峰



巴尔沃亚站在最高峰上,举目四顾。

巴尔沃亚不知道自己发现了一个新的海洋。他猜测,这片巨大的水域只不过是一个天然的海湾或一个海水冲刷海岸形成的





Balboa had no idea that he had discovered an ocean. He supposed that the great water was merely a gulf or bay washing the coast, perhaps of India, perhaps of China. He hastened to get down to the shore. He stood on the beach, and as the waves broke about his feet he raised his sword in the air and declared that he took possession of the new-found sea in the name of the king of Spain.

Balboa with his men soon returned to the other side of the isthmus. He sent word to Spain of the discovery he had made. But ships and men and a new governor were already on their way to Darien; for word had reached the king that plenty of gold was to be had there.

The new governor was an old man, as fierce and heartless as a tiger. No sooner had he arrived in Darien than he began to oppress and kill the Indians. Thousands of them perished through his cruelty. Balboa was grieved to the heart; he felt pity for the poor savages. By the first homewardbound ship he secretly sent complaints to the king about the governor's doings.

海湾,也许是印度的,也许是中国的。他匆忙下山,来到海滩边。巴尔沃亚站在海滩上,海浪轻抚着双脚,他举起利剑指向天空,以西班牙国王的名义宣布将这片新发现的海洋据为己有。

巴尔沃亚和船员们回到了海峡的另一端,他将新发现的消息传到西班牙,但船队、人员和新总督已经航行在前往达连湾的路途中。因为那里有大量黄金的消息早已传到了国王耳朵里。

新的船长是一个像老虎一样凶残冷酷的老头。他刚刚踏上达连湾,就开始压迫和屠杀印第安人。数以千计的无辜者惨遭杀害。巴尔沃亚悲痛欲绝,他很同情可怜的土著人。在首次回家的船上,他给国王写了一封秘密的检举信,控诉总督的所作所为。然后,他就着手于南海探险的准备工作了。

巴尔沃亚将四艘小船拆开,然后把木块搬运到山的那头,在岸边重新组装这些木块,船又开始下海了。它们是在太平洋上航行的首批欧洲船队。

Then he set to work getting ready to explore the South Sea.

Four small ships were taken apart at Darien, and Balboa caused the pieces to be carried over the mountains. At the shore on the farther side these pieces were again put together, and the ships were launched upon the sea. They were the first European vessels that ever floated on the Pacific.

But they were not yet ready to sail. They still needed a few bolts to strengthen them and some pitch to stop the leaks. While Balboa was waiting for these things the governor sent for him. The old tiger had heard of the complaints that had been sent to the king.

Balboa was ready to obey orders. He recrossed the mountains and was met by the officers who had been sent to arrest him. "You have plotted against me, you have tried to turn the king against me," said the savage governor, "You shall die the death of a traitor."

Before the sun went down, the brave, dashing, handsome Balboa was dead.

但是他们还不能起航。他们还需要螺丝钉固定船只,要用沥青来填住缝隙。

当巴尔沃亚等着总督寄送给他这些东西的时候,老奸巨滑的总督已经听说了那封寄给国王的检举信。

巴尔沃亚乐意服从命令,他又翻过大山,与那些派来逮捕他的官员相遇。“你要谋害我,你想让国王来对付我,”凶残的总督说道,“你将以叛徒的罪名被处死。”

在夕阳西下之前,勇敢英俊、闯劲十足的巴尔沃亚离开了人世。

巴尔沃亚(公元1475年—1517年),西班牙探险家。第一个进入太平洋的欧洲人。

