

BOOKS in Books 新东方双语书话译丛

护书之苦/

书若安好, 便是晴天







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前言

在这个世界上,有这样一些人——他们一走近书店,心就怦怦乱跳,不管有多少琐事缠身,总忍不住进店转转;见到一本心仪的书,不弄到手就坐立难安,哪怕买了书就要挨饿,也觉得心满意足。他们最爱做的,是在午后时分沏一杯香茶,捧读一本墨香淡淡、诗意浓浓的好书;他们最难忍的,是眼见好书被人蹂躏却无可奈何,抑或爱书在眼皮底下被抢去借走;他们最渴望的,莫过于拥有一间窗明几净、翰墨芬芳的书房,坐拥书城、徜徉书海。这些人,便是所谓的爱书之人了。

许多名人亦为爱书人,他们会在文章中经意不经意地流露爱书之情。这些文章林林总总,篇幅不一,或论读书历程和体会,或谈购书方法与艰辛,或道藏书室中的轶闻趣事,或抒群书散尽的悲伤感触。这套专为爱书人准备的"新东方双语书话译丛"系列之中,就收录了百余篇这样的文章。

此套丛书共五本,分别是:

- ·探讨读书方法与阅读境界的《书林辟径——邂逅生 命中挚爱的书》
- · 分享书海轶闻与随想感悟的《书海逸趣——有书陪 伴的人生不寂寞》
- · 介绍书籍天敌与呵护爱书的《护书之苦——书若安好, 便是晴天》
- · 讲述静处书斋与淘书苦乐的《藏书之乐——书架上的珍宝》
- · 谈及爱书缘起与书虫定义的《一派书心——缘何此 生只爱书》

在这套书中,你将看见形形色色的爱书人。有些以清新隽永的文字,如炉边谈话般将阅读心得娓娓道来;有些以诙谐幽默的笔触,令你或是会心微笑或是心有戚戚;有

些担忧书的未来演进,如数家珍地罗列自己与书的陈年往事;有些则对此不以为然,并以各种事例证明,书籍永远是人类的挚友……同为爱书人的你,是否深有共鸣?

值得一提的是,为了让读者在文山书海遨游的同时,能够领略大师笔下清晰明澈的英文,"新东方双语书话译丛"系列特以中英对照的形式呈现。其中每一篇英文,无不经过多方查找、层层筛选,意图穷尽西方 books about books 的经典之作,以及《纽约书评》《伦敦书评》等报刊的最新评述;每一篇译文,也都经过反复修改、多重校对,力求在贴近原文风格的同时,更符合当代读者的眼光、口味。

"新东方双语书话译丛"系列虽只有小小五本,但从策划、选文到翻译、注释再到编辑、出版却尝尽了"十月怀胎"的艰辛。在这漫长的征程中,我与王岑卉、钱卫、陈滢、姚洋、李鹏程等诸位优秀译者常常为一个句子的结构推敲再三,

也曾为一个短语的用法争执良久,为一个动词的译法辗转半宿更是稀松平常之事。足足十个月废寝忘食的坚持,才有了今天呈现于诸位眼前的精美小书。然而,书海无垠、译界无涯。该系列虽为悉心打造之作,但难免存在疏漏之处。如果您认为选取篇目尚可斟酌、译文质量仍可精进,欢迎随时与我们联系沟通!

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最后,要感谢俞敏洪老师的殷切鼓励,感谢新东方大 愚文化传播有限公司的鼎力协助。没有你们的激励与帮助, 就没有今天这套"新东方双语书话译丛"系列的诞生。

谨以此书献给天下爱书人!愿各位畅享阅读之乐!

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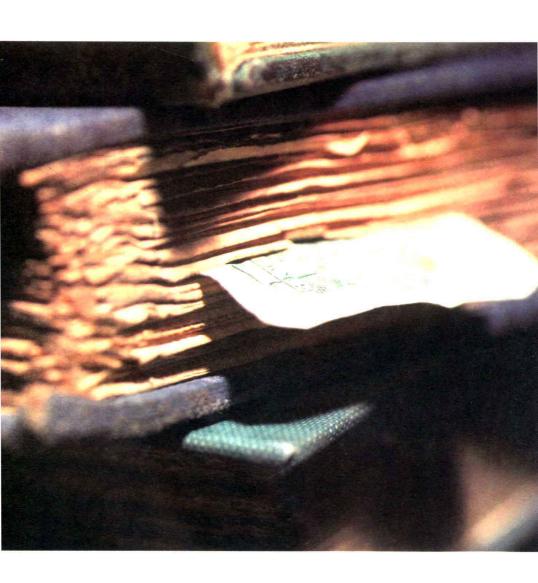
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第一章 读之抉择

Enemies of Books 书的敌人

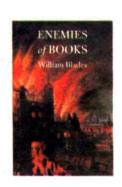
William Blades 威廉·布莱德斯



作者简介

威廉·布莱德斯 (William Blades, 1824—1890), 英国印刷 商人、目录学家。1840年,他在伦敦师从父亲学习印刷业务。他 对威廉·卡克斯顿 (William Caxton) 出版的卷册及英国早期印刷 史颇有研究,著有《英国首位印刷家卡克斯顿的生平与印刷术》(Life and Typography of William Caxton, England's First Printer) 一书。

威廉·布莱德斯不但热爱印刷业,也热衷于藏书。他于1880年 出版的《书的敌人》(Enemies of Books)用诙 谐的语言探讨了藏书的不易。该书出版后经久 不衰, 深受读者喜爱, 本文即选自此书。布莱 德斯笔触幽默, 历数"无耻小虫"的种种"恶行"。 现代藏书人虽已没有蠹鱼的困扰, 但本文中流 露的护书之心, 想必不少读者读过后会心有戚 戚焉。



"There is a sort of busy worm That will the fairest books deform, By gnawing holes throughout them; Alike, through every leaf they go, Yet of its merits naught they know, Nor care they aught about them.

Their tasteless tooth will tear and taint The Poet, Patriot, Sage or Saint, Not sparing wit nor learning. Now, if you'd know the reason why, The best of reasons I'll supply; 'Tis bread to the poor vermin.

Of pepper, snuff, or 'bacca smoke, And Russia-calf they make a joke. Yet, why should sons of science These puny rankling reptiles dread? 'Tis but to let their books be read. And bid the worms defiance."

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有种忙碌的蠕虫,能够破坏每本书。 它们洞穿每一页,许多小孔被咬出。 丝毫不知其价值,怜香惜玉也不懂。

毫无品位的牙齿,撕裂诗人与圣徒。 幽默学问留不住,你想知道为何故? 小虫把书当面包,此乃最佳的缘由。

胡椒鼻烟淡芭菰¹,它们全部都不怵。 科学之子落下风,可恶爬虫反无束。 只有将书常翻阅,虫儿午餐才打住。

——J. 多拉斯顿 ²

- 1. 淡芭菰, 西班牙语"烟草" (tobaco) 的音译。
- 2. J. 多拉斯顿 (J. Doraston) , 相传为英国诗人和藏书家。

A most destructive enemy of books has been the bookworm. I say "has been," because, fortunately, his ravages in all civilized countries have been greatly restricted during the last fifty years. This is due partly to the increased reverence for antiquity which has been universally developed—more still to the feeling of cupidity, which has caused all owners to take care of volumes which year by year have become more valuable—and, to some considerable extent, to the falling off in the production of edible books.

The monks, who were the chief makers as well as the custodians of books, through the long ages we call "dark," because so little is known of them, had no fear of the bookworm before their eyes, for, ravenous as he is and was, he loves not parchment, and at that time paper was not. Whether at a still earlier period he attacked the papyrus, the paper of the Egyptians, I know not—probably he did, as it was a purely vegetable substance; and if so, it is quite possible that the worm of today, in such evil repute with us, is the lineal descendant of ravenous ancestors who plagued the sacred Priests of On in the time of Joseph's Pharaoh, by destroying their title deeds and their books of science.

Rare things and precious, as manuscripts were before the invention of typography, are well preserved, but when the printing press was invented and paper books were multiplied in the earth; when libraries increased and readers were many, then familiarity bred contempt; books were packed in out-of-the-way places and neglected, and the often-quoted, though seldom seen, bookworm became an acknowledged tenant of the library, and the mortal enemy of the bibliophile.