

CULTURE

○→ 英汉对照



西方文化轻松读系列
EASY READING OF WESTERN CULTURE

LIVING IN
THE WEST

生活在西方

丛书主编 吴瑾瑾 王剑波

本书主编 封秀云 刘晓雪 副主编 李英华 景 翠 吴 红



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前 言

社会生活的信息化和经济活动的全球化使得外语,特别是英语,日益成为我国对外开放和与各国交往的重要工具。当代社会的发展迫切需要我国公民具备使用外语的基本技能,而大量阅读英语书籍是提高英语水平的有效途径之一。

加强东、西方文化的交流与融合,不仅顺应了全球一体化进程的需要,也使我们的生活更加丰富多彩;同时,了解西方文化也有助于学习在这种文化背景下所使用的语言。

本书精心选编了“节日庆典”、“休闲时光”、“礼仪习俗”、“生活面面观”共四个版块五十多篇文章,原汁原味,新颖别致,题材广泛,语言流畅,内容贴近生活,富有时代气息,融趣味性和知识性于一体,有助于读者在提高英语阅读能力的同时扩大知识面,加强对西方文化背景的了解。

每篇文章都有中英文对照，以便读者深入地理解原文，提高翻译技能。

针对文章内容，我们精心策划了“非常收获”栏目，其内容广泛，形式新颖，读者仔细研读，必定收获非常。

编 者

2006年5月

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第一部分 节日庆典

现代信息技术社会的到来使得东西文化交流日益频繁,西方风姿多彩的节日习俗也陆续传入我国,深受我国广大年轻人的喜爱,为现代生活注入了新鲜活力和丰富内涵。我国的传统节日主要体现了人与自然的关系,如春节;而西方节日则更多关注人与人的关系,如圣诞节、情人节等,这既反映了东西方历史文化的差异,也说明了解西方节日习俗的必要性和重要性。

本部分主要介绍复活节、感恩节、圣诞节等七个主要的西方节日,文章通俗易懂,旨在向读者展现这些节日的历史渊源、庆祝方式和习俗趣闻,使读者在进行美文欣赏的同时,加深对西方历史文化的了解。

阅读提示

复活节是基督教中最古老的为纪念耶稣的重生而创立的节日。这一天最大的特色就是西方国家的人们向孩子们赠送复活节彩蛋或复活节小兔。复活节彩蛋曾经是耶稣重生的象征,现在已经是一种“给人们带来惊喜的礼物”,但无论如何它都是那一天的主角。

Easter Eggs

When the first spring flowers blossom, Easter comes. It is the oldest Christian feast, commemorating^① the resurrection^② of Jesus Christ.

Along with the traditional Easter walk or outing, the giving of Easter eggs and, more recently, of Easter presents is a main feature of the feast. Parents give their children “Easter eggs”—colored and boiled eggs, chocolate eggs, marzipan eggs—Easter bunnies^③, sweets, and other gifts. In some German regions, children virtually^④ “collect” Easter eggs from their relatives, especially their godparents.

Usually, the Easter eggs are carefully hidden in the garden or in the house and the children must search for them on the morning of Easter Sunday. They are told that the Easter bunny has brought them. This anonymous^⑤, mysterious bunny is like Santa Claus^⑥ at Christmas. But it is less of an “educational” figure than Santa Claus is, since the eggs are not given to children as rewards for being good.

Some Easter egg games have been preserved at certain places in Germany or have even been newly developed. Children try to outdo^⑦

复活节彩蛋



1 commemorate 纪念

2 resurrection 重生,复活

3 Easter bunnies 复活节小兔

4 virtually 实际上,简直就是,真的

5 anonymous 匿名的

6 Santa Claus 圣诞老人

7 outdo 做得比别人好,超过,胜出

当春天第一束花开的时候,复活节便来临了。它是纪念耶稣基督死后复活的节日,是基督教里最古老的节日。

除了传统上的复活节出游以外,赠送复活节彩蛋和近年来新添的赠送复活节礼物是这一节日的主要特色。父母们送给孩子们各种各样的彩蛋——煮熟了的彩蛋、巧克力蛋和杏仁彩蛋——此外,还有复活节小兔、糖果以及别的礼物。在德国的一些地区,孩子们简直就是向他们的亲属们“征集”彩蛋,尤其是他们的教父教母们。

人们常常把彩蛋埋在花园或藏在屋内,孩子们要在复活节周日的早晨把它们找出来。大人们说是小兔送来的彩蛋。这个匿名的神秘小兔如同圣诞老人一般,不过它却不像圣诞老人那样爱教育人,因为它的彩蛋对所有的孩子都一视同仁,并非只送给那些听话的孩子。

在德国的一些地方,人们还保留并发展着某些复活节彩蛋的游戏。比如,孩子们在长满青草的坡

each other in rolling colored eggs down grassy slopes[■], for instance, or they knock the eggs' pointed ends together and the child whose eggs do not shatter gets the broken one, too. In some places, this custom was even used as the name of a local festival.

Easter presents furnish[■] interesting stories of cultural and social change. The first historical mention of colored eggs goes back to the year 1230 AD. In the 16th and 17th centuries colored eggs were given as Easter presents. In the Baroque[■] period it became customary for young people who wanted to become engaged to[■] give each other colored and decorated eggs. This remained a rural custom in some regions of central and eastern Europe for a long time.

The origin of the "Easter egg" custom is not fully known. One reason for it is that around Easter time the rural household had plenty of eggs handy. The hens began to lay eggs again in the spring. Another explanation is that Easter marks the end of the time of fasting[■] during which eggs and meat were forbidden. The decisive factor, however, probably had to do with the taxes which the peasants had to pay to their lords, to the Church, or to their parsons[■]. Easter was one of the dates when they became due and many eggs were among the payments delivered at this time. The lords of the land, especially the church and the monasteries[■], gave some eggs to the poor as a kind of charity.

Modern society claims that all men have the same rights and obligations. The customs relating to gifts have changed accordingly. Easter eggs have lost their original color of charity, and have become "surprise gifts". Presents are now exchanged between individuals who want to surprise their friends or relatives and make them happy.

■ slope 坡地,斜坡

地上滚动彩蛋,比赛看谁的跑得快;或者,他们拿鸡蛋的尖头相互碰撞,谁的鸡蛋不破,便可得到对方破了的鸡蛋。在有些地方,这一风俗甚至成了当地节日的名称。

■ furnish 使发展,
使丰富多彩

复活节礼物的发展也非常有趣地反映出文化和社会的变迁,历史上有关彩蛋的记载最早可以追溯到公元 1230 年。直到 16 和 17 世纪,人们才开始把彩蛋作为礼物来赠送。在巴洛克时代,订婚的男女青年互送彩蛋竟成了一种乡村习俗,并且在中欧和东欧的一些地区延续了很多年。

■ baroque 巴洛克
时代

■ become engaged to
跟某人订婚

但说到彩蛋的来源,人们却不甚了解。人们送彩蛋的一个原因也许是,随着春天的来临,鸡开始下蛋了,在复活节前后,农户手里有很多鸡蛋。另一个解释是,复活节的到来标志着斋戒的结束,人们又可以吃鸡蛋和肉了。然而,复活节形成的一个关键原因也许和当时的税收有关,农民们要向领主、教堂或他们的牧师交税。复活节是交税的最后期限,大量鸡蛋便成为一种抵作税收的物品被交了上来,而领主,尤其是教堂和寺院,就拿出其中的一部分施舍给穷人。

■ fasting 斋戒日

■ parson 牧师

■ monasteries 寺院

在现代社会里,所有人都享受平等的权利和义务,这一习俗的意义当然也发生了变化,复活节彩蛋已不再具有原来那种慈善的色彩,而变成了“给人带来惊喜的礼物”。人们互赠礼物,以便带给朋友和亲人一份惊讶,一份欢乐。

阅读提示

你知道关于复活节彩蛋或复活节兔子的习俗的渊源吗? 彩蛋是一种新生命的开始, 长期以来复活节彩蛋被作为基督复活的象征。在这一天西方国家的人们精心装饰彩蛋, 制作复活节小兔的礼物, 并且穿上新衣来庆祝耶稣的重生。

Origins of Easter Traditions

Do you know how the custom of coloring Easter eggs began or how the tradition of the Easter Bunny began?

1. The egg has always been a symbol of new life. Christians have long used the egg as the symbol of Christ's rebirth.

2. It is thought the custom of dyeing^① eggs was brought to Europe during the Middle Ages by the Crusaders^②, as it was common practice among the Egyptians, Persians^③, Phoenicians^④, Greeks and Romans to dye eggs for their spring festivals.

3. In eastern and central Europe, Easter eggs are taken very seriously. The most elaborate^⑤ eggs are decorated by the people from Poland and Ukraine^⑥. They call them "pysanki" eggs, which means written eggs. Thus began the custom of writing on Easter eggs.

4. The most elaborate Easter eggs are not even real eggs. A Russian jeweler, Carl Faberge, made his eggs out of gold, silver and jewels. The eggs opened to show tiny figures of people, animals, plants or buildings. The Russian emperor gave these eggs as gifts.

5. The custom of wearing new clothes on Easter began around 300 A.D., around the time of Constantine, the first Christian emperor. He

复活节习俗的渊源



1 dye 给…染色，
染

2 Crusader 十字军
战士

3 Persian 波斯人

4 phoenician 腓尼
基人

5 elaborate 精心制
作的

6 Ukraine 乌克兰

你知道复活节彩蛋或复活节兔子的习俗是如何开始的吗？

1. 蛋一向是新生命的象征。长久以来，基督徒都以蛋作为基督复活的象征。

2. 人们认为给蛋染色的习俗是在中世纪由十字军战士传入欧洲的，因为埃及人、波斯人、腓尼基人、希腊人和罗马人惯常为庆祝其春节而将蛋染色。

3. 在东欧和中欧，人们对复活节彩蛋是看得很重的。最精心制作彩蛋的是波兰人和乌克兰人。他们把这种蛋叫做“pysanki”，意思是写了字的蛋。于是就开始了在复活节彩蛋上写字的习俗。

4. 最精心制作的复活节彩蛋甚至不是真蛋。一个叫卡尔·费伯奇的俄国珠宝商曾用金、银和珠宝做成彩蛋。打开蛋还可以看到小小的人、动物、植物和房子。俄国皇帝以此作为礼物送人。

5. 在复活节穿新衣服的习俗是在公元后 300 年左右开始的，大约在第一个基督徒皇帝康斯坦丁