

最新英美报刊 文摘

2/88

WORLD NEWS DIGEST

目

1

布什与拉瑟唇枪舌战

- “勃列日涅夫主义”寿终正寝
- 硕士研究生入学英语考试系列讲座

最新英美报刊文摘 2/88

WORLD NEWS DIGEST

时文选读

- 2 Rather: 平注并校
- 8 The Bell T 其祥选注
- 12 **One-Time** Germans Come Home from Communist East
黄昌玮注 周学艺校
- 18 Defiance in the Streets 褚广友注并校
- 23 Education's 'Older Face' 杨爱梅注 龚文库校
- 29 Chopsticks Comeback In Japanese Schools
马秀芳注 周学艺校
- 34 Experts Predict Decline in Global Birthrate by Year 2000
邵伯栋注 周学艺校
- 38 Combating Threats to Environment Urged
陈光月注 黄金祺校
- 42 Reagan's Latest Film Promises to Be Better Than Earlier Works
金锡权陈仪贤注 黄金祺校
- 49 The Living Paintings 孟继有注并校
- 52 So Who Was Abusing Whom? 石春祯注并校
- 58 Pornography Becomes Boom Industry in Italy
秦亚青注并校
- 62 Syria's Ancient Turkish Baths a Haven for Modern Aches
曹翠珠注 陈文伯校

H31
284

66 How to Write a Personal Letter . . . 王人敏注 马德麟校

阅读理解

71 Controlling Destiny Together 刘平梅编

Wealthy Japan Opens Its Purse 周序鸿编

Helping Kids Like the Lab 钟志斌编

80 A Terrorist's Hidden Past 丁孝弘编

83 Drums across the Planet 刘民 满永珍编

新 语 录

87 Perestroika 和 Glasnost  董乐山

学习指导

88 浅谈“完形填空” 葛柏栋

90 “托福”试题词汇漫谈 王廷鑫

92 硕士研究生入学英语考试系列讲解 毕金献

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Rather¹: 'Lightning in a Bottle'²

New questions about CBS³'s volatile⁴ evening-news star

梅平 注并校

Tom Bettag, executive producer of the "CBS Evening News," couldn't believe what was coming through his earpiece.⁵ He was in the control room in New York, about to go to a live interview with George Bush⁶ on the country's most-watched network-news program, and the vice president was threatening to walk out.⁷ "They aren't gonna talk about

Notes

1. Rather — Dan Rather 丹·拉瑟是美国哥伦比亚广播公司的首席新闻节目主持人。1988年2月初，该公司在“晚间新闻”电视节目精心安排了一场拉瑟采访布什的实况。采访约十分钟，拉瑟出其不意地向布什提出一连串涉及伊朗门丑闻的问题。布什佯装受骗，却成竹在胸地伺机反击。一场“绅士对话”遂变成双方大动干戈的唇枪舌战。电视观众、政界人士为之震惊，褒贬不一。
2. Lightning in a bottle — 直译：瓶中闪电。真正含义如文章第四段解释是 brilliant and dangerous. 光耀夺目但十分危险。标题可译作：“拉瑟：锋芒毕露，险象环生。”
3. CBS — 哥伦比亚广播公司 Columbia Broadcasting System Inc. 的缩写。美国三大广播电视公司之一。
4. volatile — ['vɒlətaɪl] 性情多变、捉摸不定的。
5. what was coming through his earpiece — earpiece = earphone 耳机。此句的意思是 Tom Bettag 简直不能相信在耳机里听到的谈话内容。
6. about to go to a live interview with George Bush — be about to do something = just ready to do something 正要、正准备做某事。live [laɪv] 此处是形容词，意思是传真，现场转播的。
7. and the vice president was threatening to walk out — 此处的 and 不是一般用法，带有‘而’‘则’之意。walk out 退场，退席，退出以示抗议。两句话合在一起便是：他正准备去参加，而副总统却威胁要退出以示抗议。

Iran-contra, are they?"⁸ Bettag heard Bush say through the audio feed⁹ to the VP's office in Washington. "If he talks to me about the Iran-contra affair, they're gonna see a seven-minute walkout here."¹⁰ Bettag talked into Dan Rather's earpiece in the studio a few feet away. "Don," said Bettag, "Bush is saying he didn't know the subject. I don't know what to do. Just be aware of it."

Moments later jaws were dropping all over the United States¹¹, Inside the CBS control room the effect of the Rather-Bush slugfest¹² was more dramatic: 10 minutes of near hysteria worthy of "Broadcast News." After weeks of planning, the interview the CBS News staff hoped would be a landmark of

8. "They aren't gonna talk about Iran-contra, are they?" — gonna (美俚) = going to. 将、要、准备、打算。这句话的背景是，在正式采访前四、五分钟时间里，CBS 的工作人员给布什放了一个短片，内容是布什在各种场合对伊朗门事件的解释。说法前后矛盾、漏洞百出。并且以 "Still to come, a live interview with Mr. Bush on arms to Iran and money to the Contras" 为引子来开始正式采访。布什看后大动肝火，谈了此番话。但从各种报道来分析，布什与他的顾问们对此是预料到并做了充分准备的。

9. feed — 可做动词也可做名词。动词作 supply material to a television program (as to a local station) 讲。此处是名词，意为输送电视节目内容的传声装置。

10. "They're gonna see a seven-minute walkout here." — "我将退出七分钟以示抗议。" 此句矛头所向十分明显，暗指拉瑟在87年9月干的那件蠢事。那天，拉瑟正在迈阿密主持新闻节目，哥伦比亚广播公司有关人士突然决定要在节目中插入正在进行的美国网球公开赛的实况。拉瑟怒不可遏，拂袖而去，导致电视台停播达六分钟之久。

11. jaws were dropping all over the United States — jaws 下巴，jaws dropped 下巴耷拉下来，张大嘴巴，表示惊奇。这句话的意思是：美国各地的观众都惊得目瞪口呆。

12. slugfest = heated dispute 激烈争吵。

journalism was exploding right before their eyes¹³ — not to mention the eyes of 10 million viewers at home.¹⁴ And there was nothing they could do to stop it. “I was ricocheting around like a Ping-Pong ball,”¹⁵ recalls producer Martin Koughan. “But it was like trying to change the trajectory of a Titan missile.¹⁶” When Bush attacked Rather for “the seven minutes you walked off the set¹⁷ in New York” (it was actually six minutes in Miami)¹⁸, one technician gasped. As the interview rumbled on, producers frantically dropped stories from the lineup¹⁹ while Bettag told Rather to “Cut! Cut! Cut!” Rather finally ended the fiasco, abruptly interrupting the vice president in midsentence.²⁰

13. *exploding right before their eyes* — explode 爆炸、破灭; right = exactly 恰恰, 强调“正在眼前”。这句话是“眼巴巴地看到他们的希望就这样破灭了。”
14. *not to mention the eyes of 10 million viewers at home* — 更不用说一千多万坐在家里收看节目的观众了。
15. *ricocheting around like a Ping-Pong ball* — ricochet 回跳, 这儿指急得直来回奔跑。
16. *But it was like trying to change the trajectory of a Titan missile — trajectory* 弹道 Titan [ˈtaɪtən] 太阳神。此句可译成“正像要让飞出去的太阳神导弹改变方向一样难。”意指: 要想挽回局而实无可能。
17. *the set* — set 此处是指拍摄电视的场景。
18. *it was actually six minutes in Miami* — 以上是布什口误。他显然把拉瑟那件事的地点和确切时间记错了。
19. *dropped stories from the lineup* — stories = news stories 新闻报导 lineup = television programming schedule 电视台预定的节目内容单。据“时代周刊”披露, 原定给拉瑟采访时间为3分钟到9分钟之内。现在时间已过, 不得不砍掉其它新闻报导为其让路。
20. *interrupting the vice president in midsentence* — 副总统话没说完就被打断。这一粗暴行为受到观众的指责, 当晚广播公司就接到6千多个电话。

Last week's drama in the control room underscored the network's uneasiness about its evening-news star. Intense and driven, Rather has a reputation for volatility that at times approaches instability²¹. Last week some CBS News staffers admitted that what concerned them most was not that Rather was losing control of the Bush interview, but that he might be losing control of himself. "Dan tried to remain objective but he got emotional," says former CBS News president Richard Salant. "Maybe he's accident prone or maybe he's very tightly strung."²² He certainly is not very pragmatic." Rather's current boss, Howard Stringer, once put it more succinctly. "Dan is like lightning in a bottle — brilliant and dangerous."

"Dangerous" and "accident prone" may seem strange words to describe the most powerful newsman in America! But Rather does have a propensity for bizarre and controversial incidents. While visiting Chicago for "60 Minutes"²³ in 1980, Rather got into a dispute with a taxi driver who then took him on a high-speed joy ride. Rather was rescued after he stuck his head out the window and screamed that he was being kidnapped. The anchorman has been attacked by strangers in airports and was once stalked from San Francisco to New York by a man who threatened to kill him. The oddest episode of all occurred in October 1986, when two men attacked Rather on Park Avenue, asking, "Kenneth, what's the frequency?"

21. has a reputation for volatility that at times approaches instability — reputation 名声; instability [ɪnstəˈbɪləti] 反复无常。此句可译作：拉瑟有个性情多变的坏名声，有时甚至到了反复无常的地步。
22. Maybe he is accident prone or maybe he is very tightly strung → prone = having a tendency towards 有……的倾向，易于……; accident prone 惯于出事、容易惹事生非。strung = tense 极度紧张。
23. "60 Minutes" — '60分钟' 是 CBS 广播公司的专题新闻采访节目，因时间持续60分钟而得名。丹·拉瑟在接替沃尔特·克朗凯特主持晚间新闻节目前一度主播"60分钟"节目，颇受观众欢迎。

Rather's mishandling of the Bush interview last week reveals another characteristic; a tendency toward excess.²⁴ "Are you running for something?" Nixon asked Rather during Watergate. "No, sir. Are you?" Some who know Rather well speculate that the pressure of acting as both managing editor and anchor of the "CBS Evening News" may at times overwhelm him. Rather rose from humble roots²⁵ in Texas — he was the first in his family to attend college — to the heights of a demanding profession. He speaks of his devotion to CBS in almost religious terms and takes his role as heir to the traditions of Edward R. Murrow and Walter Cronkite²⁶ very seriously. "I work at a place that's considered a national institution, a place with a 50-year history of excellence," he told Newsweek last week. "People expect more when you work at CBS News."

When the ratings²⁷ of the "Evening News" plummeted²⁸ to their lowest point in decades last summer, Rather's on-air demeanor grew erratic.²⁹ He experimented with a slower, less intense delivery; he questioned whether former CIA chief

24. a tendency toward excess — 一种缺乏节制的倾向。

25. Rather rose from humble roots — 拉瑟出身微贱。 roots (复数) 往往指人的出身。

26. Edward R. Murrow and Walter Cronkite — 爱德·默罗与沃尔特·克朗凯特均是美国最有名的电视新闻评论员。克朗凯特长期在哥伦比亚广播公司工作并主持“晚间新闻”节目，80岁那年退休，由拉瑟接替。

27. ratings — an estimate of the percentage of the public viewing a particular TV program 某一电视节目的收视率。

28. plummet — drop sharply and abruptly 突然急剧下降。

29. Rather's on-air demeanor grew erratic — on (the) air = broadcasting 广播，发表广播讲话。比如：The Prime Minister will be on the air at seven o'clock. 首相将在七时发表广播讲话。

demeanor [di'mi:nə] 态度、风度、表情 erratic 离奇、古怪、不正常。

William Casey³⁰ was really dead and whether journalist Charles Glass³¹ had actually been kidnapped in Lebanon (box). The Miami incident, where³² his loss of temper caused CBS to go black³³ for six minutes, was an almost unconscionable lapse of professionalism.³⁴

The night after the Bush interview, the anchorman defended his prosecutorial style. "Trying to be persistent about answers is part of a reporter's job." Rather said. Many colleagues were not persuaded. "We were stunned and embarrassed," said one CBS correspondent last week. "His style was abominable." "Dan Rather overstepped the boundaries,"³⁵ said Paul Raymon, president and general manager of WAGA in Atlanta,³⁶ one of the many CBS affiliates besieged by calls³⁷ after the interview. Yet despite the controversy within CBS, Rather's position appears secure for now. During last summer's ratings plunge, there was talk that the new chief of CBS, Laurence Tisch, was considering moving "60 Minutes" correspondent Diane Sawyer in as coanchor or replacing

30. former CIA chief William Casey — 前中央情报局长威廉·凯西。他是里根政府向伊朗出售武器以换取人质的重要知情者。在国会对丑闻开始正式调查后不久，因脑癌突然病逝。
31. journalist Charles Glass — 查尔斯·格拉斯是美国广播公司的驻外记者，1987年8月在黎巴嫩遭绑架。
32. where = in which. 整句话是 incident 一词的定语从句。
33. go black — go 动词，这儿起连系动词作用，与 become, grow, turn 相仿。go bad (green, mad) 变坏(绿, 疯)。go black 灯灭, 停映, 停播, 没有影像(也可以是 go blank)。
34. unconscionable lapse of professionalism — 职业规范上的一大失误。
35. overstepped the boundaries — 越界, 做得过份。
36. Atlanta — 亚特兰大市, 美国佐治亚州首府。
37. besieged by calls — besiege [bi'si:dʒ] = press with questions 纷纷责问。calls 这儿指 phone calls 打电话。

The Bell Tolls for the 'Brezhnev Doctrine'

Joseph C. Harsch

王其祥选注

本文认为苏联今年4月14日在日内瓦签署的自5月15日开始从阿富汗撤军的协定是历史上一件大事，意味着苏联‘勃列日涅夫主义’的结束。它把这一事件的重要性和美国在1968年4月22日在华盛顿宣布开始减少驻越南美军人数的决定相比。苏军撤走是时势所迫，国内外强大舆论压力所致。撤军后虽然会失去一些东西，也会有所得——与中国扩大双边贸易，从西欧北美得到更多的现代技术。

Notes

1. The bell tolls for . . . 丧钟为……而鸣。海明威著名小说 *For Whom the Bell Tolls* 书名取自英国17世纪作家 John Donne 文中 “... therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee”. 可参阅。本文题目可译作：《‘勃列日涅夫主义’寿终正寝》

Rather altogether.³⁸ Asked last week whether the controversy had hurt Rather's image, Stringer replied, "The audience will be the judge of that." Translated,³⁹ that means that as long as Rather remains high in the ratings, arguments about "style" and "substance" are not likely to prove fatal.⁴⁰

From *Newsweek*

38. moving Diane Sawyer in as coanchor or replacing Rather altogether — coanchor 两主播之一。哥伦比亚广播公司曾考虑要么把黛安娜·索耶调进来担任两主播之一，要么干脆由她代替丹·拉瑟。
39. translated — ‘换句话说’或‘讲明白了’（这儿不是‘翻译过来’的意思）。
40. are not likely to prove fatal — 意思是，都不会是致命的，或翻译成“都将是无关紧要的。”

• “时文选读”文章和注释经程慕胜同志审定。

Let us now mark down an important date in our history books.

On April 14, in 1988, the Soviet Union agreed in Geneva to pull all of its soldiers out of Afghanistan within nine months, beginning on May 15.

That the withdrawal will happen is no longer in serious doubt. Soviet units began pulling back from forward positions to their concentration areas over a month ago. We know. We watched them from our reconnaissance satellites overhead. Soviet units are no longer in intense combat with the Afghan resistance, which has already taken over much of the countryside.

Moscow, for the first time since the communist revolution of 1917, is voluntarily giving up a whole country which it had conquered with its own troops and in which it had planted a government which, by Moscow's own definition, is "socialist."²

Brezhnev is out³

This is not only the beginning of the end of Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan. It is also the end of the "Brezhnev Doctrine," which had decreed that any country once "socialist" must remain forever "socialist" and that the Soviet armed forces would enforce that rule.⁴

2. "这是自1917年共产主义革命以来，莫斯科（苏联）第一次自动放弃一个用自己的军队征服的国家，并曾在该国内设立了一个莫斯科认定的‘社会主义’政府”。
3. 这里的 out 有退位，下台、在野、不流行等意义，与下面一个小标题中的 in（指‘当权、上台、执政、在朝、流行’）相对。
4. “‘勃列日涅夫主义’规定，任何一个国家，一旦成为‘社会主义’就必须永远是‘社会主义’的，苏联武装力量就要强制实行它的统治。”

The Soviet signing becomes as important in history as the decision announced in Washington on April 22, 1968, to begin drawing down the number of US troops in Vietnam. It was later called "Vietnamization" of the war. The process of US withdrawal was long. The last US soldier did not leave Vietnam until March 29, 1973.

But the decision in 1968 to begin withdrawing US troops cleared the way for the US reconciliation with China which Richard Nixon began in 1972, and which ended in transforming the geopolitical world from a two-power confrontation to a three-power triangle.

This past week's Moscow action equally clears the way for⁵ fundamental change.

Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan has long been one declared Chinese precondition for the resumption of "normal" relations between Moscow and Peking. It has also been a US precondition for the readmission of the Soviet Union to the modern technological world.

There are other still unsatisfied preconditions by both China and the US. China wants fewer Soviet soldiers along their common frontier, and Vietnamese troops out of Cambodia. The US wants Soviet help in the Gulf and Mid-east, and a freer emigration policy for Soviet dissidents, primarily for Jews.

But the biggest precondition was the withdrawal from Afghanistan because Afghanistan is of great strategic importance. It is a potential launching pad⁶ for Soviet troops moving farther south toward the Indian Ocean and the Gulf, for putting pressure on Pakistan, for exerting pressure on India and China.

5. clears the way for 为...扫清道路, 作好准备

6 launching pad (火箭等的)发射台

For Moscow to give up such a favorable military position means to accept a stabilization of one of the Soviet Union's southern frontiers.

The Soviet Union has given up territory before, but not territory that had been taken by Soviet troops and upon which a "socialist" regime of Soviet selection had been firmly planted. It withdrew from the Soviet-occupied part of Austria, but Austria had never been "socialized" by a Soviet puppet regime. It had occupied large parts of modern China at the end of World War II, but never claimed them and never had planted Soviet puppet regimes on them.⁷

Moscow is giving up a lot in agreeing to bring its soldiers home from Afghanistan. But it stands to gain a lot. It can regain mutual useful trade relations with China. More important, probably, in the eyes of the Kremlin, it hopes to regain access to the high technologies of modern Europe and North America.

As the guns of World War II fell silent in 1945 Joseph Stalin decreed that the Soviet Union would go its own way in the modern industrial world. He decreed economic isolation, political imperialism, and guns before butter.⁸

Nikita Khrushchev tried to break away from Stalinism, but without giving up imperial expansionism. He tried to put missiles on Cuba and ruined it all. Brezhnev reverted to full Stalinism — economic isolation, imperial expansion, and guns ahead of butter. He sent his troops into Afghanistan.

7. but never . . . on them: "但没有要过(这些土地)并在上面设置苏联傀儡政权。" occupy 只是(临时)占据, claim 则认为属于谁, 应归谁所有。 plant = settle (a colony, government, etc.) 上面第4段已见, 同 establish.

8. guns and butter 常用来代表一个国家的军事和经济两方面的发展。这里指勃列日涅夫恢复到十足的斯大林主义——经济孤立, 帝国主义扩张, 军事发展优先, 经济建设次要。

One-time¹ Germans Come Home from Communist East

Anna Christensen

黄昌玮注 周学艺校

At dusk, German refugees of all ages pushed aside paper plates of brown bread and bologna² when the bell tolled outside the wooden evangelical chapel³ that is the heart of Friedland camp.

Notes

1. one-time: 从前的。
2. bologna: [bə'lounjə] 一种内含杂样肉类的熏制腊肠。



Gorbachev's realism is in

Above all, the signing in Geneva this past week proves that Mikhail Gorbachev is a realist who understands that Stalin-type isolationism means the Soviet Union falling disastrously behind in the technologies of the modern world.

There are some experts who think that it is already too late for the Soviet Union to catch up with Western Europe and North America. But Gorbachev might be able to stay ahead of China — if he lasts long enough in office and has enough success at home. His decision to pull out of Afghanistan shows that he knows what is best for his country and is willing to pay the price to rescue it from economic oblivion — if he can.

From *The Christian Science Monitor*

The refugees — from the Soviet Union, Poland and Romania — crowded into wooden pews⁴ to sing hymns in broken German and listen to their first church service in the new land.

“We remained devout Catholics, although we couldn't go to church,” said Evgeny, 52, who brought his aging and ill parents from Russia to the camp in West Germany. “We never lost our hope, we never lost our language and we never lost our culture.”

Friedland, which welcomed German prisoners home from World War II, has come to life⁵ again to accommodate ethnic Germans⁶ from the east bloc⁷ who only now are benefitting from Mikhail Gorbachev's emigration reform.⁸

The long, low barracks⁹ at the camp bulge with record numbers¹⁰ of resettled Germans. The numbers spill over into

3. evangelical chapel 福音派教堂。福音派广义指一切宣传福音的基督教会，包括天主教、新教及东方正教；稍狭义指基督教（新教）几个历史较为悠久的会派；但这词专指强调宣传耶稣基督福音，强调个人悔改得救，以《圣经》为唯一信仰基础，并积极从事国内外传教事业的基督教会。

4. pew: 教堂中有靠背的固定长凳。

5. come to life: 又有了生气和活力。这是指弗里德兰曾经接待过第二次大战后回国的德国战俘，而现在又挤满了从东欧移居回来的日耳曼人。

6. ethnic Germans: 日耳曼族人。

7. the east bloc: 东欧集团。指的是参加华沙条约组织的东欧社会主义国家。

8. Mikhail Gorbachev's emigration reform: 戈尔巴乔夫的移民政策的改革。这是指戈尔巴乔夫执政后，放宽了对苏联的犹太人、日耳曼人以及其他少数民族的移居国外的政策，以减轻国内矛盾。

9. barracks: 许多人居住的大而简陋的房舍。此词可与单数或复数动词连用。

10. record numbers: 创纪录的数目，record 是 more than ever before 的意思。

towns¹¹ where authorities had to turn gymnasiums into barracks holding up to 300 bunk-style cots.¹²

Officials said 14,488 people arrived last year from the Soviet Union, compared with 753 in 1986; 48,432 others from Poland, almost twice as many as the previous year; and 13,994 from Romania.

All of them are — or say they are — Germans.

Most arrive with a tourist visa, one suitcase, a bit of German and a hope for a better life. A majority are in their 20s and 30s, well-dressed and worldly¹³ in jeans and sweaters, sporting new down coats from local shops.

"I had no prospects for a better future in Poland, no opportunity to work in my profession¹⁴," said Karin, 22, who defected while on vacation, leaving behind her family and friends in Katowice, in Poland's industrial heartland.

Karin and her compatriots spend their days crowded into rooms waiting to be vetted for German citizenship.¹⁵ Strict examinations determine whether they meet government requirements and are entitled to financial help during their transition.¹⁶

11. The numbers spill over into towns. . . : spill over = spread and rush beyond the limits. 这里的意思是难民多得连难民营都容纳不下，所以就象水往外溢那样拥到城里去了。

12. bunk-style cots: 车上或船上所设床铺似的帆布床。

13. worldly: 俗气的。

14. no opportunity to work in my profession: 找不到适合我专业的工作。

15. to be vetted for German citizenship: to be examined carefully to get German citizenship, 意为受到严格审查，以得到德国公民权。

16. . . . whether they meet government requirements and are entitled to financial help during their transition: meet the requirements = satisfy the demands; to be entitled to . . . = to be given the right to . . . 这里 to 是介词。……他们是否符合政府的要求以及在过渡时期是否有权享受经济资助。

About one in three will be turned away, unable to prove their German roots, and will seek asylum elsewhere.

Those from the Soviet Union tend to be older and have waited longer for the chance to emigrate to Germany. Most spent decades in Siberian or Central Asian exile.

There are an estimated 2 million ethnic Germans in the Soviet Union. West German statistics say about 100,000 have asked to leave. The number allowed to go last year was greater than for the entire preceding decade, even exceeding the late 1970s peak of Soviet emigration.

All of the Soviets have legal exit visas and passports that identify them as German. Many have relatives in West Germany.

Traveling thousands of miles by Aeroflot¹⁷ jet to Moscow, from Moscow to Berlin or Frankfurt,¹⁸ they are put on trains that stop at an unmarked station at the edge of the camp. Their black cloth coats, the bright flowered kerchiefs of aging "babushkas,"¹⁹ the girls' white organza²⁰ hair bows²¹, the swaddling of babies and their shy mannerisms identify them as Russian.

Their religion, customs and German speech mark them as coming from a Germany their forefathers left two centuries ago.

Their families went to Russia after Catherine the Great,²²

17. Aeroflot: 苏联民航总局。

18. Frankfurt: 法兰克福, 联邦德国在莱茵河畔的城市。

19. babushka: 老妇人, 老奶奶。这词来自俄语。

20. organza: 透明硬纱。

21. bow: 蝴蝶结。

22. Catherine the Great: 叶卡捷琳娜二世(大帝)(1727—1796), 帝国女皇, 彼得大帝的继承者。她原是一位德意志亲王的女儿, 1745年与彼得大帝的孙子、俄国皇位的继承人卡尔·乌里希结婚。1762年加冕为“俄国女皇叶卡捷琳娜二世”, 在位三十四年。她确立了