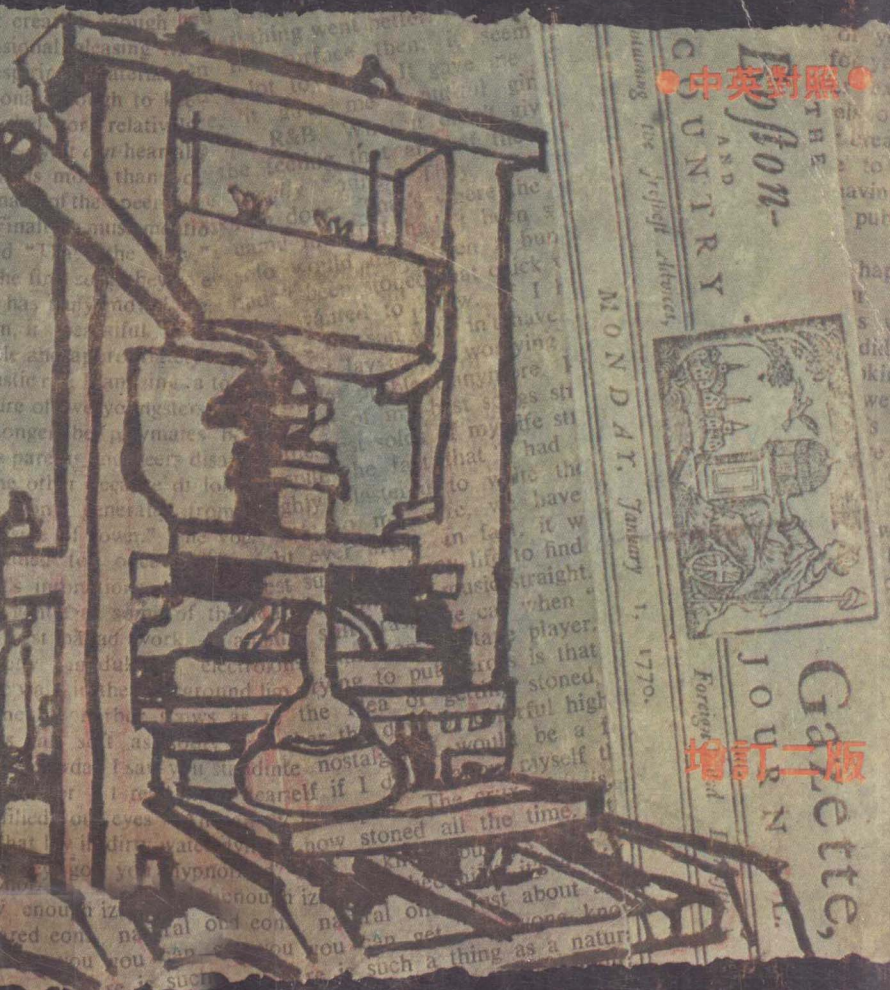


業先驅

G. P. 梅雅著 · 維霖譯

●中英對照●



NEERS OF THE

by Gerard Previn Meyer

PIONEERS OF THE PRESS

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報業先驅

G. P. 梅雅著

維霖譯

· 金帶譯萃叢書 ·



今日世界社出版

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中英對照·金帶譯萃叢書

報業先驅

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CHAPTER I

Introducing Ben Harris

THERE were no newspapers in Boston in 1690. There were no newspapers *anywhere* in America in 1690. And precious few anywhere else in the world.

What did people do for news in the Colonies, without newspapers and, of course, without radio or television?

They probably listened to the Town Crier, who told people what was going on in town. Every town of any size had one. With his loud rattle or bell, and his louder voice ringing in their ears, they could hardly help but listen.

Or, if something very special were going on, people could, for a few pennies, purchase of a "hawker" on the street a "broadside"—a printed sheet telling the story, say, of the trial and execution of some notorious pirate captain.

第一章

介紹班·哈利斯

一六九〇年波士頓一份報紙也沒有。一六九〇年美洲那兒也沒有報紙。世界別處有報紙的地方也少得可憐。

當時殖民地的人民既沒有報紙，當然又沒有無線電、也沒有電視，想得點新聞怎麼辦呢？

他們可能聽到處宣佈新頒規則和法令的鎮公務員來報告鎮上發生的事。每一個鎮不分大小都有一個這樣的公務員。他搖着聲音洪亮的、嘎啦嘎啦響的東西，或搖着鈴，洪亮的噪音震他們的耳朵，他們沒有法子不聽。

或者，如果有了特別的事發生，大家就可以花幾個小錢，在街上從小販手上買一份只印一面的單張印刷品，裏面講的，例如審問某一著名海盜船長，並把他正法的新聞。

If they were merchants, or ship captains, or just travelers passing through, they might sit in a Coffee Shop. Everybody (except ladies) sat in Coffee Shops those days, sipping coffee, or "tee," or "chuculetto." And while they sat and sipped they traded the latest gossip from near and from far. Since coffee came all the way from Arabia then, and tea from China, and chocolate from the West Indies—right into Boston Port they came by ship from over the seven seas—some of the gossip that arrived along with this precious cargo came from pretty far, too. Even London was far then: months away by sailing ship.

That may have been the reason—a big part of it, anyway—why Ben Harris set himself up in Boston Town, soon after he arrived there in 1686, as Mine Host of "The London Coffee House," at the corner of King and "the High" Street. London, and King ... You can see how a gentleman from old London might make himself at home there. "The London Coffee House" stood close to the Town Pump, near the 'Change, a lively spot. Not only did the good people of Boston come there for well water, but those came too whose thirst was for reading matter. For Ben Harris's shop was right in the middle of a whole district of booksellers—seven of them, in fact. He felt very much at home with these gentlemen.

Above all, this transplanted Londoner liked to keep up with the world, and many a day Mine Host must have sat with his friends around the table in his Coffee House, sipping Araby coffee, or "the China drink," or "chuculetto" (he was to acquire a license, four years later, for his "London, Coffee, Tea, and Chuculetto Shop") and

如果是商人或船長，或只不過是過路旅客，他們可以坐在咖啡館裏。那時候除了女太太，個個人都坐咖啡館，喝咖啡，或喝朱古力。他們在那裏一面喝，一面交換遠近的新聞。既然咖啡由阿剌伯，茶由中國，朱古力由西印度老遠運來——用船由七海直運波士頓——有些傳聞也就和這種貴重貨物一同由非常遠的地方抵達。當時甚至倫敦都算遠的地方：遠在好多個月的帆船航程之外。

班·哈利斯在一六八六年抵達波士頓鎮不久，就在國王街和高街口，設立「倫敦咖啡館」，做了東主，也許就是因為這個原故——無論如何，一大部份是爲了這個原故。又是倫敦，又是國王……你就能懂得，何以從古老的倫敦跑來的高尙人士，可以在那裏待得安適自在。「倫敦咖啡館」就設在本鎮抽水機附近，靠近交易所，一個熱鬧所在。不單單是善良的波士頓的居民跑到那裏汲取井水、就是好閱讀的人也跑過來。原來班·哈利斯的鋪子就在整個書店區的中央——事實上這裏一共有七間書店。他覺得和這些上等人來往毫無拘束。

尤其是這位倫敦移居過來的先生喜歡熟知世事，常常這位老闆要在他咖啡館裡，和朋友一桌子坐下喝阿剌伯咖啡，喝「中國飲料」，喝巧克力（四年後他就領到了開設「倫敦咖啡、

swapping the latest "advices" with anyone who might have a tidbit to pass on to him.

Why did he feel especially at home at this particular corner surrounded by the shops of seven booksellers? Because Ben Harris of "The London Coffee House" had more than one iron in the fire; the other thriving business he engaged in was bookselling.

In London, that hustling, bustling capital of old England—the city from which Ben Harris had come and which he never forgot—Ben Harris had started his career in business as a printer and bookseller, with a shop in Bell Alley, up Coleman Street, and a successful religious book with the exciting title, *War with the Devil*.

Before long he was printing a sort of newspaper, too, and that's what got him into trouble, back in old London Town. This newspaper had a long name, but a very short life. ...

Ben Harris's "Domestick Intelligence; or News both from City and Country" very soon fell under unfriendly eyes. Though he insisted his newspaper was "published to prevent false reports," there were some who doubted this. "He scandalizes truth and honesty in pretending to write for it," was the way one reader saw it. It was clear to the authorities that Ben Harris's publications would bear a closer watch.

And very shortly Ben Harris had one more reader than he had bargained for: His Majesty's Chief Justice, Sir William Scroggs. Justice Scroggs, we are told, was "undoubtedly one of the worst judges that ever disgraced the English bench." It is on record that, at the trial of one poor wretch, Henry Carr by name, who had dared to

茶、巧克力館」的執照。○任何人如果有有趣的新聞告訴他，他都肯把最新的「消息」拿來和他交換。

他在這個爲七間書店所包圍的角落爲什麼特別自在呢？因爲開這間「倫敦咖啡館」的班·哈利斯攬的事多得很，他經營的另外一樣興隆的生意是賣書。

班·哈利斯是由倫敦來的，他永遠忘記不了倫敦。在古老的英國那個騷動、擾攘的首都他早就與人合夥，做印刷和賣書的生意了，在柯爾門街上頭的鐘巷開了一間鋪子，出了一本銷路很好的宗教方面的書，書名極爲動人：「與魔鬼戰」。

不久他又印了一種類似報紙的刊物，這項生意却在那座古老的倫敦城給他惹出了麻煩。報紙的名字很長，壽命却很短……。

班·哈利斯的那份「本地消息，或城鄉新聞」不久便瞧在不懷好意者的眼裏。雖然他一口咬定，他的報紙是「出版來阻止不實的報道」的，可也有人懷疑這一點。一個讀者對他的看法是「你裝作鼓吹真誠，實則在中傷真誠。」當局看得清楚，班·哈利斯的出版物需要嚴密監視。

不多久，班·哈利斯料不到還有一個讀者：皇帝陛下的法院院長威廉·斯克魯格斯爵士。據說斯克魯格斯法官「無疑是有史以來最使英國法院蒙羞的最糟的法官之一」。歷史記載着說，一個名叫亨利·卡爾的可憐虫居然敢撰文談到英皇陛下的

write something about His Majesty's Government and publish it, Sir William declared the accused no better, nay worse, than a common criminal for so daring, writing, and publishing. "No man has a right to say anything of government!" ruled Sir William.

No right to say, let alone to print. Did Chief Justice Scroggs have a special distaste for printers? More than that, he had a loathing for them! He would "pile all the booksellers and printers up in prison like faggots," he thundered. They might, once discovered, expect of him "no more mercy than they could expect from a wolf that came to devour them." And then His Majesty's Chief Justice discovered Ben Harris, discovered that the said Ben Harris had dared to say something about the King, and in print!

As it happened, it was not his newspaper that brought Ben Harris into court before the dread Scroggs. It was something called "The Appeal from the Country to the City, for the Preservation of His Majesty's Person, Liberty, Property, and the Protestant Religion." This was a pamphlet which, the King's Recorder told Sir William, was "as base a piece as ever was conceived in Hell!" Reading "The Appeal," the Chief Justice agreed.

"There has hardly ever been any book so well designed to set us quarrelling among ourselves! One could hardly write a worse! 'Tis a most abominable piece of work!" shouted Sir William. It was, in fact, a quarrelsome piece of writing, taking His Majesty to task for not taking a stronger stand against his Royal enemies. It was a bold piece, but it was unsigned. However, Ben Harris was clearly the printer of it, and the Lord Chief Justice demanded that Ben Harris tell him the name of the author.

政府，還把它發表出來，在審訊此人的時候，威廉爵士斷言，該被告膽敢撰文發表，非但不比普通刑事犯人好，反而更壞。「任何人都無權批評政府！」威廉公爵就是這樣裁決的。

連一句話都不能說，何況印在紙上。斯克魯格斯院長對於印刷商可是特別不喜歡？還不止此呢，他簡直非常討厭他們！他恨不得「把所有的書商、印刷商全都像一捆捆的柴那樣，堆在監牢裡」，他大聲吼道。一旦給他發見，這些人可別想「求他手下留情，就像他們不能向跑來吃他們的狼求情一樣」。就在那個時候，皇帝陛下的法院院長發見了班·哈利斯，膽敢批評皇帝，而且竟敢印行！

偏偏湊巧，把班·哈利斯傳到法庭，站在非常可怕的斯克魯格斯面前的，並不是他的報紙，而是叫作「為維護皇帝陛下之人身、自由、財產，以及新教事，鄉村致倫敦市請願書」的文件。這是一個小冊子，據英皇推事告訴威廉爵士，這本冊子「簡直就和地獄裏撰出來的文章同樣卑鄙！」法院院長讀了那本「請願書」，覺得果然不錯。

「像這樣蓄意挑唆我們不和的書幾乎還沒有過！幾乎誰也寫不出更邪惡的書來了！這真是最可惡的一篇文章！」威廉爵士咆哮着說。事實上，這是一篇惹是生非的文章，責備皇帝陛下沒有對他皇家的敵人採取更强硬的立場。這是一篇大胆的作品，不過沒有署名。可是班·哈利斯却明明是印刷這篇文章的人，高等法院院長勒令班·哈利斯把作者的姓名告訴他。

Ben might have saved his skin, or gotten some mercy from the court (though that seems doubtful), had he named the writer of the piece that had so mightily offended the King's Recorder, the Lord Chief Justice, and, if the King had read it (which hardly seems likely), His Majesty King James the Second himself. But the printer was as honorable as he was rash; he had promised to keep the author's name a secret, and he would not tell. (Actually, the author was one Charles Blount. We can tell the secret now, since it hardly matters at this late date.) Instead, he made the worst possible defense for those days.

He had printed, both in his newspaper and in "The Appeal," only what was true, he said.

But sometimes the truth hurts. In any case, who was Master Harris to decide for himself what he would print about His Majesty the King?

"You admit to being the publisher of this ... this ..." The Lord Chief Justice could hardly find words harsh enough to describe the printed matter he was waving in the air, under Ben Harris's nose.

"I do, milord. But ..."

Ben's excuse, if he had any, was cut short.

"Aha! You confess your guilt! I direct the jury, therefore ..."

"Milord!" cried Ben. "May it please you, and the other honorable judges of the King's Bench, to allow me to tell the jury ..."

"It does *not* please us!" Chief Justice Scroggs's scowl was even blacker than before. "Nor is there anything further to tell. You admit to having printed and sold this libel in the streets of our city."

班如果把得罪了皇家推事、最高法院院長、還有皇帝詹姆士二世本人——如果皇帝讀過它(此事或有可能)的這篇文章的作者姓名說出，他說不定可以安然無事，或者還可以獲得法庭的寬宥(這一點却有疑問)。不過這位印刷商的光明正大之處，就像他的鹵莽一樣；他答應過作者保守他姓名的秘密的，所以不肯說。(其實這位作者就是一名叫查理·布龍特的人。我們現在可以揭穿這個秘密了，因為遲至今日，已經不關緊要了。)他反而用了當時看來笨得要死的方法來替自己辯護。

他說他在報上，在請願書上，印出來的不過是真情罷了。

不過有時候真情是害人的。無論如何，哈利斯先生是什麼人，胆敢自己作主印發有關皇帝陛下的文章？

「你承認你是出版這篇……這篇……東西的人嗎？」最高法院院長幾乎找不出夠不客氣的字眼來形容這篇他拿在空中、在班·哈利斯的鼻子下面揮動的印刷品。

「院長，我承認。可是……」

班即使有理由，要申明也被打斷了。

「啊哈！你認罪了！因此我引導陪審團……」

「院長！」班高呼道。「希望我的話中您的、和皇家法院別位法官的聽，准我告訴陪審團……」

「你的話不中我們的聽！」斯克魯格斯院長的臉色比剛才還難看。「也不用再說什麼了。你承認印了這件誹謗文件、並在市內大街上發售了。」

"I do admit to printing and selling this pamphlet, milord. But to call it a libel ... If the gentlemen of the jury may examine it ..."

"They may not! Honorable gentlemen of the jury, you have heard the prisoner confess his guilt. How say you? Guilty or not?"

"Guilty!" said the Foreman of the Jury, after a quick look at the judges' stern faces, and an even quicker look around at his fellow jurymen, none of whom would have dared vote an acquittal.

Had it not been for Mr. Justice Pemberton, one of his fellow-judges, said the Chief Justice, Ben Harris might have been sentenced to be publicly whipped—and very properly, too! As it was, he had been fined five hundred pounds, a very large sum of money. And he had been sentenced to stand in the public pillory "over against the Royal Exchange," right in front of his own Coffee Shop, for one hour on the following Tuesday. To cap it all, he must give "security for his good behavior" (in other words, promise to hold his tongue) for three years.

First, though, there was this little matter of standing in the pillory. You might think one hour in the pillory was nothing much to worry about. But the pillory was a very uncomfortable place to stand in.

You stood there, locked into a wooden frame, with your head and hands poking out on one side, and the rest of you jutting out on the other. You stood there, and you stood there, locked in, with your head and hands caught in the frame, and you couldn't get loose till the Town Jailer came along and unlocked you.

It wasn't only that you couldn't move. That would have been bad enough. But even worse was the fact that folks generally thought it

「院長，我承認印了這本小冊子出售。可是要是說它是誹謗文件……如果陪審團各位先生把它審查一下……」

「不許他們審查！陪審團各位先生，你們聽過被告認罪了。你們怎麼樣說？有罪還是無罪？」

「有罪！」陪審長很快望了法官嚴厲的面孔一眼，更快地望了陪審團其餘幾位一眼就說，他們誰也不敢主張無罪開釋。

最高法院院長說，倘不是法官團裏有他的同事潘布吞法官，班·哈利斯就會被判公開挨鞭打的刑罰——他本也罪有應得！事實上判的刑是罰鍰五百鎊，這是很大一筆錢。他還要在下一個星期二站在頸手枷架上示衆一小時，這個架、對着「皇家交易所」放着，就在他自己的咖啡館門口。到末了他還要具結，「保證品行良好」（換句話說，就是緘口不言）三年。

然而首先讓我們說說站在頸手枷架上這件小事。你也許以為在頸手枷架上站一小時用不着担什麼心。可是那個架子站上去是極不舒服的。

你站在上面，鎖在木頭架子上，頭和手在一邊伸出去，身體的其餘部份從另一邊凸出。你站在那上面，站在那上面，鎖在裏面，頭和手套在框子上，不等本鎮獄卒跑來，把你的鎖開下，你出不來。

還不單單是你不能動。不能移動已經是夠糟糕的了。可是更糟的是大家跑到放頸手枷架子的地方來看，總當牠是挺有趣