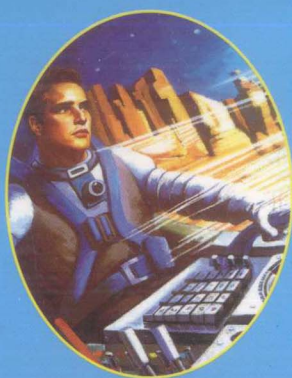




The Time Machine 时间机器

[英] 威尔斯 著
叶旭军 译



读名著 学英文
双重收获 效率倍增



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出版说明

为给广大英语爱好者提供一套便捷、有效地学习英语的理想读本,我们编辑出版了这套《英汉对照世界名著文库》系列丛书。其中收录了世界文学史上影响最大、价值最高、流传最广的经典名著,采用英汉对照的方式,旨在帮助广大英语爱好者通过读名著来学习英文。该丛书具有以下四个特点:

一、权威主编 质量一流

本丛书由著名翻译家宋兆霖先生担任主编,所选经典名著无论英文还是译文,都具有很高的文学艺术价值。我们试图通过这一努力,改变国内英汉对照名著良莠杂陈、令读者无所适从的现状。

二、一书两用 物超所值

名著是人类智慧的结晶,文辞优美,结构严谨,具有巨大的思想和艺术魅力。本丛书采用左英右汉的对照形式,帮助读者对照学习。使读者既可以阅读世界名著、陶冶情操、提高修养,又可以培养学习兴趣、提高英语读写能力,双重收获,效率倍增。

三、原汁英语 经典名著

本丛书除收录部分英、美等国作家的原著,对于非英语语言的名著,则由国内外知名的英语专家、学者以精准、流畅的英语重新编写,既保留了原著的精华,又使作品变得浅显易懂,从而避免了长篇名著的晦涩难懂。结合通俗、生动的译文,使读者能够准确地把握名著的精髓。

四、精编精释 理想读本

本丛书依照词汇量的多少及语法结构的难易程度,分为易、中、难三大部分,不同的读者既可以按不同的需求选择阅读,也可以由易到难,系统地学习。结合译作者精当的注释,以及相应的词汇表,帮助读者扫除阅读中的障碍,全面、深入、高效地阅读世界名著。

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Herbert George Wells (“Bertie” as he was called) had inherited a taste for reading which he was able to indulge freely at the local Literary Institute and lending library.

Born on September 21st, 1866 at Bromley, Kent, young Bertie was sent to school locally. His father kept a small hardware shop, and his mother, before her marriage, had been in domestic service. The shop never prospered, and the income was barely sufficient.

In 1880, when the family found itself in great financial difficulties, Mrs Wells accepted a post as a housekeeper with her former employers, and Herbert was apprenticed to a firm of drapers. He found it a soul-destroying occupation and left it. He got a scholarship to study at the now Imperial College of Science, in London and for three years, studied Physics, Chemistry, Geology, Astronomy and Biology. After this he became an assistant master in a school at Holt, North Wales. Here he suffered a severe accident while playing foot ball. In 1893, a serious haemorrhage of the lungs forced him to take a long rest.

关于作者

赫伯特·乔治·威尔斯（人称“伯迪”）秉承了家族阅读的爱好的，尽情投身于当地的文学社团，醉心于公共图书馆。

伯迪于1866年9月21日出生于英国肯特郡的伯罗姆莱。年幼的他被送入当地的学校就读。他父亲当时经营着一家小五金商铺，母亲在结婚前曾做过家庭女佣。由于父亲的店铺生意从未兴旺过，因此家庭经济也是捉襟见肘。

到了1880年，伯迪家陷入了严重的经济困境。他母亲只得重操旧业，去从前的雇主家当管家，小赫伯特则被送去布店当学徒。由于这份营生过于枯燥乏味，他便辞掉了这份活计。后来他设法获得了一份进入伦敦帝国理学院学习的奖学金。在此后的三年间他学习了物理、化学、地质学、天文学和生物学。学校毕业后，他在位于北威尔士霍尔特的一所学校谋到了副校长的职位。在期间的一次踢足球中，他遭遇了严重的事故。1893年，由于重度肺出血，他被迫长期休假。

This period became productive and he began to write essays, short stories and reviews for periodicals and magazines, such as *Pall Mall Gazette*, *Black and White*, and the *Saturday Review*.

1895 saw his collection of short stories *The Stolen Bacillus*, two novels — *The Time Machine* and *The Wonderful Visit*. 1896, saw *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, and *The Invisible Man* was published in 1897, *The War of the Worlds* in 1898, *The First Man on the Moon* in 1901, All the books were coming out in quick succession.

By 1900 he achieved world-wide literary fame, and settled in his house at Sandgate. Here he wrote some of his most celebrated works— *Anticipations* (a volume of Essays) *The Sea Lady* (1902), *The Food of the Gods* (1904), *Kipps*, *A Modern Utopia* (both in 1905). *In the days of the Comet* (1906), *War in the Air* (1908), *Tono Bungay* (1909), *The History of Mr Polly* (1910).

By this time his health had improved, and he visited Europe and the United States. In 1920, he visited Soviet Russia, and in the years to come travelled all over the world.

He died at his London home on August 13th, 1946 after a prolonged illness.

Wells wrote more than forty novels, several volumes of

在休长假期间威尔斯创作了大量的作品。他开始给《蓓尔美尔街报》、《黑白快讯》、《星期六时评》等期刊、杂志撰写随笔、短篇小说和评论。

1895年，威尔斯的短篇小说集《失窃的病毒》、长篇小说《时间机器》、《奇妙之旅》问世。在此后的几年间，《莫罗博士之岛》(1896)、《隐身人》(1897)、《世界大战》(1898)、《月球上的第一批人》(1901)也相继面世。

1900年的威尔斯已享誉国际，他在桑德盖特定居下来。在那里他创作了一些他最负盛名作品——小品集《期待》、《海洋之妇》(1901)、《神食》(1904)、《基普斯》(1905)、《现代乌托邦》(1905)、《在彗星出现的日子》(1906)、《空中战争》(1908)、《托诺—邦盖》(1909)和《波利先生的故事》(1910)。

在此期间他的健康状况大有改善，他访问了欧洲和美洲，并于1920年游历了苏联。在此后的几年间他的足迹遍及世界各地。

威尔斯终因沉疴痼疾于1946年8月13日在伦敦的寓所中辞世。

威尔斯一生除了教育、历史和政论著作外，创作了40多部小

short stories, besides other educational, scientific historical and political works. Beneath the superficial differences of his work lies an unusual consistency of thought. The ideal which always occupied first place in his thoughts has been called the “open conspiracy for a better world.”

说，还有若干短篇小说集。在其作品不同的表象下贯穿着他始终如一的思想，其中占主导地位的便是那一份理想，即所谓的“公开密谋一个更美好世界”的理想。

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1

THE FOURTH DIMENSION

The Time Traveller (for so it will be convenient to speak of him) was explaining a very serious matter. His grey eyes shone and twinkled, and his usually pale face was flushed. The fire burned brightly, and the soft *radiance*¹ caught the bubbles in our glasses, as we comfortably sat in the cosy leather chairs. There was a luxurious after-dinner *atmosphere*, as he marked the points with his lean forefinger.

“You must follow me carefully. I shall have to oppose one or two ideas that are universally accepted. The geometry they have taught you at school, for instance, is founded on a misconception. I do not mean to ask you to accept anything without a reasonable ground for it.”

“Is that not rather a large thing to begin upon?” said Filby, an argumentative person, with red hair. “You’ll soon admit as much. You know of course that a *mathematical* line — a line of thickness has no real existence.” “That’s all right,” said the psychologist.

1. 本书正文中的斜体英文在文末词汇表中均有注释。——编者注

—

第四维空间

为了方便起见，就称我们的主人公为“时空旅行者”吧。此刻他正在给我们讲解一个高深莫测的问题，灰褐色的眼睛炯炯有神，就连平日苍白的面孔也泛出了红光。房间内炉火熊熊，柔和的灯光照射在我们酒杯里泛起的气泡上。我们大伙儿舒舒服服地靠在舒适的皮椅上。晚宴后的气氛轻松惬意，时空旅行者用他细长的手指给我们指着要点。

“诸位听好了，现在我就要来批驳一两个早已公认的定理。比方说，你们在学校里学的几何就是建立在错误的概念之上的。我并不是要你们接受什么无稽之谈。”

“你不觉得从这儿谈起，有点太不着边际了吗？”长着一头红发的菲尔比开了口，他生性好与人争辩。“你们不久就会明白。大家知道，数学上所谓的一条宽度为零的直线实际上并不存在。”“就算是这样。”心理学家应道。

“Nor, having only length, breadth, and thickness, can a cube have a real existence.”

“A solid body may exist,” said Filby.

“Can an instantaneous cube — that does not last for any time at all, have a real existence?”

I became thoughtful.

“Clearly,” the Time Traveller continued, “any real body must have extension in four directions : it must have length, breadth, thickness, and...duration. There are really four dimensions, three which we call the three planes of space, and a fourth, time.”

“That,” said a very young man, “...is very clear indeed.” “This is what is meant by the fourth dimension,” said the Time Traveller, “though some people who talk about the fourth dimension, do not know they mean it. It is only another way of looking at time. THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TIME AND ANY OF THE DIMENSIONS OF A SPACE EXCEPT THAT OUR CONSCIOUSNESS MOVES ALONG IT. Have you heard what they say about it?”

“I have not,” said the *provincial* mayor.

“It is simply this. Space, as our mathematicians put it, is always definable by reference to three planes, each at right angles to the others...But why not another direction at right angles to the other three. You know a flat surface has two dimensions. We can represent a figure of a three-dimensional