

凡尔纳科幻探险系列

英汉
对照
全译本

From the Earth to the Moon

[法] Jules Verne 儒勒·凡尔纳 著

从地球到月球

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《英汉对照凡尔纳科幻探险小说系列》

《从地球到月球》

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导 读

《从地球到月球》是儒勒·凡尔纳太空历险小说的代表作之一,它和《环绕月球》一起构成了一部完整的太空历险记。

在凡尔纳众多作品中,这部作品是为数不多的以美国人为主角的作品。故事发生的历史背景是美国内战即南北战争结束的随后几年间。由于战争结束,战争中大显身手的军人们无事可作,于是其中有一人作了一个大胆的设想,并要将之付诸实施,这人就是巴比康。他的想法是通过发射一颗炮弹到月球上,从而与月球建立某种联系。当然,他的想法并非空穴来风,凡尔纳在故事情节上如此设计,当然也是受当时人们登月思潮的影响。总之,作品中描写了种种由此引发的故事,十分精彩。

凡尔纳的作品描写人物性格向来十分到位,在他的其他作品中我们早已领略过法国人的浪漫与多愁善感,德国人的精明细致,英国人的绅士风度以及在一定程度上的斤斤计较。那么在这部作品中我们可以充分感受到美国人,即扬基人的特色,他们聪明、冲动,兼有许多民族的特点。故事中,美国人敢于大胆提议,想做就做,具备十足的实践精神,而且他们不怕困难,当然这一切与美国当时的科技水平分不开的。

作品语言风格风趣、诙谐,读来令人捧腹。在对一些事的描写上虽然十分夸张,却更能表现出其本质,令读者对人物个性认识更为深刻。

在本部作品中出现的主要人物如巴比康、尼科尔、阿尔当的命运究竟如何呢?结尾是个悬念,他们后来的经历将在另一部作品,即本篇的续集《环绕月球》中继续讲述。

写给读者的话

读小说可以划分为三个阶段。第一个阶段是以了解故事情节为主,读者关注的是书中形形色色的人物以及他们不同的遭遇和命运。第二个阶段的读者注重透过故事本身去体味它反映的社会现实和作者的情感,进而去品味人生的涵义。第三个阶段的读者则从纯文学的角度把握小说的构思、布局和创作技巧。

由于目的不同,阅读的方式也不同。所以,这三个阶段并没有层次高低的分别。英文小说的读者大多是以学习英语为目的,限于对语言的理解程度,不便也不可能按照后两个阶段的要求阅读。因此,读者们大可不必过高地要求自己,看懂大概内容即可。这样,阅读的负担便减轻了,学习的过程也回复了读书原本的目的——娱乐。

为此,我们特别提醒读者,在阅读时,切莫拘泥于生词。本丛书中任何一部英文小说的单词量均在 12,000 字左右,几乎包括了全部英语常用词汇。遇到生词是很正常的,一见生词就查字典的作法并不可取。过分地关注单词带来的只有扫兴和挫败感。为了保持阅读的兴趣和连续性,建议读者尝试着去抓句子的中心意思,对与中心意思联系不大的单词不必理会。只有与中心意思密切相关的生词才有查字典的必要。无论一页书上有多少生词,翻字典的次数也别超过三次,这是保持阅读连贯性的关键。假设每天看五页书,一页书上记三个单词,一天便掌握十五个单词,正是人脑每日能够熟记的单词量。照此速度,读者在两个半月内即能将本书轻松看完。如果需要将上述数字与英文水平挂钩的话,大学英语四级水平的读者在读完本书后,应能通过大学英语六级考试。而不足四级水平者,则可达到四级水平。

此外,读者应充分利用中文译文。本书的译文对照原文段落放在同一页上配附,帮助读者方便和灵活地阅读,碰见生词和海涩的句子时,读者即可与译文对照。对于个别难懂的段落,也不需费神推敲,可直接阅读译文。由于有了对照译文,读者免去了动辄查字典之苦,也能初探英语翻译之端倪。这正是我们精心设计的初衷。

当然,读者在这部小说中收获的不仅仅是英语,故事本身也给了

我们许多启迪。

我们相信,按照以上的建议阅读本书,读者会受益匪浅。

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Chapter 1 The Gun Club

During the War of the Rebellion, a new and influential club was established in the city of Baltimore in the State of Maryland. It is well known with what energy the taste for military matters became developed among that nation of ship-owners, shopkeepers, and mechanics. Simple tradesmen jumped their counters to become extemporized captains, colonels, and generals, without having ever passed the School of Instruction at West Point; nevertheless, they quickly rivaled their compeers of the old continent, and, like them, carried off victories by dint of lavish expenditure in ammunition, money, and men.

But the point in which the Americans singularly distanced the Europeans was in the science of gunnery. Not, indeed, that their weapons retained a higher degree of perfection than theirs, but that they exhibited unheard-of dimensions, and consequently attained hitherto unheard-of ranges. In point of grazing, plunging, oblique, or enfilading, or point-blank firing, the English, French, and Prussians have nothing to learn; but their cannon, howitzers, and mortars are mere pocket-pistols compared with the formidable engines of the American artillery.

This fact need surprise no one. The Yankees, the first mechanics in the world, are engineers — just as the Italians are musicians and the Germans metaphysicians — by right of birth. Nothing is more natural, therefore, than

第一章 大炮俱乐部

在美国南北战争时期,马里兰州的巴尔的摩城成立了一个新的很有影响力的俱乐部。众所周知,当时在这些船主、商人和机械工程师中间,都有很浓厚的兴趣和精力去从军。普普通通的商人,从未受到西点军校的正式训练,跨出他们的柜台,就当上了尉官、校官,甚至将军。不仅如此,他们很快就和旧大陆的那些对手们不相上下,同时也和他们一样,依靠大量的炮弹、金钱和人力,打了几次胜仗。

但是美国人远远领先欧洲人的很特别的一点,是在弹道学方面。然而不是因为他们的武器达到了怎样完美的程度,而是它们的体积前所未闻的巨大,从而射程也前所未闻地远。在擦地射击、俯射或者直射、侧射、纵射或者反射方面,英国人、法国人、普鲁士人已经没有什么向他们可学的了,但是他们的大炮、榴弹炮、臼炮和美国军方的那些可怕的机械一比,不过是袖珍手枪。

人们倒也不必对此感到惊奇。扬基人——世界上第一批机械学家,是天生的工程师,就像意大利人天生是音乐家,德国人天生是哲学家一个道理。

to perceive them applying their audacious ingenuity to the science of gunnery. Witness the marvels of Parrott, Dahlgren, and Rodman, The Armstrong, Palliser, and Beaulieu guns were compelled to bow before their transatlantic rivals.

Now when an American has an idea, he directly seeks a second American to share it. If there be three, they elect a president and two secretaries. Given four, they name a keeper of records, and the office is ready for work; five, they convene a general meeting, and the club is fully constituted. So things were managed in Baltimore. The inventor of a new cannon associated himself with the caster and the borer. Thus was formed the nucleus of the "Gun Club." In a single month after its formation it numbered 1,833 effective members and 30,565 corresponding members.

One condition was imposed as a unique one upon every candidate for admission into the association, and that was the condition of having designed, or (more or less) perfected a cannon; or, in default of a cannon, at least a firearm of some description. It may, however, be mentioned that mere inventors of revolvers, fire-shooting carbines, and similar small arms, met with little consideration. Artillerists always commanded the chief place of favor.

The estimation in which these gentlemen were held, according to one of the most scien-

所以把他们大胆的发明才能运用到弹道学上,没有比这更自然的事了。看到派罗特、道格林、罗德曼等人创造的奇迹,欧洲人的“阿姆斯壮”、“巴利赛”、“鲍烈”大炮只好在它们海外的竞争对手面前甘拜下风。

一个美国人如果想出了一个主意,他会直接去找第二个美国人去探讨、分享。如果有了3个人就选一个主席,两个秘书。如果是4个,就指定一个人做档案管理员,而且办公室已经准备开始工作了。如果是5个就召开一个全体会议,成立俱乐部。巴尔的摩的情形就是这样。第一个发明一种新式大炮的人同第一个铸炮人和第一个膛炮筒的人联系起来。这是“大炮俱乐部”的核心。俱乐部成立仅仅一个月,就注册了1833个正式会员和30565个通讯会员。

每一个想要参加这个组织的人必须具备一个不可缺少的特别条件,这个条件就是他曾经设计或者至少或多或少地改良过一种大炮,没有大炮,至少是一种火器,然而,必须注明一点,发明左轮手枪、回旋式卡宾枪或者简单的短枪的人是得不到重视的。而大炮发明家总是身居要职。

这些先生受到的尊敬的程度——正如大炮俱乐部的一位

tific exponents of the Gun Club, was "proportional to the masses of their guns, and in the direct ratio of the square of the distances attained by their projectiles."

The Gun Club once founded, it is easy to conceive the result of the inventive genius of the Americans. Their military weapons attained colossal proportions, and their projectiles, exceeding the prescribed limits, unfortunately occasionally cut in two some unoffending pedestrians. These inventions, in fact, left far in the rear the timid instruments of European artillery.

It is but fair to add that these Yankees, brave as they have ever proved themselves to be, did not confine themselves to theories and formulae, but that they paid heavily, in propria personal, for their inventions. Among them were to be counted officers of all ranks, from lieutenants to generals; military men of every age, from those who were just making their debut in the profession of arms up to those who had grown old in the gun-carriage. Many had found their rest on the field of battle whose names figured in the "Book of Honor" of the Gun Club; and of those who made good their return the greater proportion bore the marks of their indisputable valor: crutches, wooden legs, artificial arms, steel hooks, caoutchouc jaws, silver craniums, platinum noses, were all to be found in the collection; and it was calculated by the great statistician Pitcairn that throughout the Gun Club there was not quite one arm between four persons and two legs between six.

Nevertheless, these valiant artillerists took

最博学的理论说明家所说——是和他们大炮的体积成比例的,确切地说和他们的炮弹达到的射程的平方成正比的!

自大炮俱乐部一成立,不难想象美国人的发明天才在这方面所取得的成就。他们的武器的体积大得惊人,炮弹飞出了预定的界线,有一两次不幸地将没有恶意的行人轰为两段。事实上,这些发明已把欧洲那些温和的武器都远远抛在后面了。

为了公平起见,应该补充说明一点,这些已经证明自己是勇敢的美国人,并不把自己仅限于理论和公式,但是他们为此代价惨重,尤其从个人角度考虑。在他们中间有各级军官,从少尉到将军,有各种年龄的军人,有的刚刚开始军人生涯,有的在炮架上已经变老。还有很多人长眠在战场上,他们的名字列入了大炮俱乐部的“光荣册”,生还的人大部分都带着不容争辩的勇敢的标志:拐杖、木腿、假臂、代替手的铁钩、橡皮牙床骨、银脑盖骨、白金鼻子,这个集体里样样俱全,伟大的数学家皮特凯恩做过这样的统计:在大炮俱乐部里,平均每4个人分不到一条完整的胳膊,6个人才有两条腿。

然而,那些勇敢的大炮发

no particular account of these little facts, and felt justly proud when the despatches of a battle returned the number of victims at ten-fold the quantity of projectiles expended.

One day, however - sad and melancholy day! - peace was signed between the survivors of the war; the thunder of the guns gradually ceased, the mortars were silent, the howitzers were muzzled for an indefinite period, the cannon, with muzzles depressed, were returned into the arsenal, the shot were repiled, all bloody reminiscences were effaced; the cotton-plants grew luxuriantly in the well-manured fields, all mourning garments were laid aside, together with grief; and the Gun Club was relegated to profound inactivity.

Some few of the more advanced and inveterate theorists set themselves again to work upon calculations regarding the laws of projectiles. They reverted invariably to gigantic shells and howitzers of unparalleled caliber. Still in default of practical experience what was the value of mere theories? Consequently, the clubrooms became deserted, the servants dozed in the antechambers, the newspapers grew mouldy on the tables, sounds of snoring came from dark corners, and the members of the Gun Club, erstwhile so noisy in their seances, were reduced to silence by this disastrous peace and gave themselves up wholly to dreams of a Platonic kind of artillery.

"This is horrible!" said Tom Hunter one evening, while rapidly carbonizing his wooden legs in the fireplace of the smoking-room; "Nothing to do! Nothing to look forward to! What a loathsome existence! When again shall

明家却根本不在乎这些小事。每当战役结束,战报登出了相当于消耗的炮弹 10 倍的伤亡数目时,他们会为此感到自豪。

但是有一天——凄凉的、令人难过的一天——战争中的幸存者签署了和平协议,大炮的轰鸣声慢慢地停了,白炮沉默了,罩着炮衣的榴弹炮被无限期地搁置了,大炮剥下炮衣被运回军火库里,炮弹堆在工厂里,血淋淋的回忆慢慢地消退了。在上了大量肥料的田野里,棉花长得非常茂盛,丧服随着悲哀被扔到一边。大炮俱乐部也渐渐的完全无事可做了。

几个热情的工作者又开始忙于计算弹道,他们还在梦想发明巨大的无可比拟的榴弹。但是脱离了实践,仅仅是空洞的理论有什么价值呢?因此,俱乐部的厅堂里冷落起来了,服务员在接待室里打盹,报纸在桌子上发霉,阴暗的角落里传来鼾声,从前是那么爱吵闹的大炮俱乐部的会员们,现在都被悲惨的和平导致了沉默,每天放纵自己沉迷于制炮学的睡梦里去了。

"太难捱了!"有一天晚上,勇敢的汤姆·亨特在吸烟室的壁炉旁说,他那两条木腿眼看就要烤成炭了,"什么事情也得不到干!什么希望也没有!多无

the guns arouse us in the morning with their delightful reports?"

"Those days are gone by," said jolly Bilsby, trying to extend his missing arms. "It was delightful once upon a time! One invented a gun, and hardly was it cast, when one hastened to try it in the face of the enemy! Then one returned to camp with a word of encouragement from Sherman or a friendly shake of the hand from Medlellan. But now the generals are gone back to their counters; and in place of projectiles, they despatch bales of cotton. By Jove, the future of gunnery in America is lost!"

"Ay! And no war in prospect!" continued the famous James T. Maston, scratching with his steel hook his gutta-percha cranium. "Not a cloud on the horizon! And that too at such a critical period in the progress of the science of artillery! Yes, gentlemen! I who address you have myself this very morning perfected a model (plan, section, elevation, etc.) of a mortar destined to change all the conditions of warfare!"

"No! Is it possible?" replied Tom Hunter, his thoughts reverting involuntarily to a former invention of the Hon. J. T. Maston, by which, at its first trial, he had succeeded in killing three hundred and thirty-seven people.

"Fact!" replied he. "Still, what is the use of so many studies worked out, so many difficulties vanquished? It's mere waste of time! The New World seems to have made up its mind to

聊的生活! 每天早上快乐的炮声叫醒你的那种日子什么时候才能重返啊?"

"那种日子已一去不复返了,"微醉的倍尔斯贝说,同时想伸一伸他那已经失掉的胳膊,"那可真是一段快乐的日子! 谁要是发明了一种大炮,炮刚铸成,就有人迫不及待地拿到敌人面前去试验,然后,他会带着席尔曼的鼓励,或者和麦克克利兰拉友好的握手,回到兵营里! 可是现在,将军们都回到他们的柜台,取代了炮弹,他们开始运棉花了。唉! 美国制炮学已经没前途了!"

"唉! 战争是没希望了!" 这时候,大名鼎鼎的马斯顿用铁钩子搔着他那用古搭波胶做的脑壳说,"地平线上没有一点硝烟,在制炮学方面这正是取得进展的关键时候,这可真是太糟了! 是的,先生们,我告诉你们,就在今天早上我完善了一种白炮的图样,平面图、横断面图和纵断面图也都绘好了,它注定要改变作战的法则!"

"不会吧! 是真的吗?" 汤姆·亨特问,他的头脑中不禁想起了马斯顿的上次发明,那次发明一经试验,成功杀死 337 人。

"当然,"对方回答说。"不过,做了这么多工作,克服了这么多困难,究竟有什么用呢? 只不过是浪费时间而已,新世

live in peace; and our bellicose 《Tribune》 predicts some approaching catastrophes arising out of this scandalous increase of population."

"Nevertheless," replied Colonel Blomsberry, "they are always struggling in Europe to maintain the principle of nationalities."

"Well?"

"Well, there might be some field for enterprise down there; and if they would accept our services——"

"What are you dreaming of?" screamed Bilsby; "work at gunnery for the benefit of foreigners?"

"That would be better than doing nothing here," returned the colonel.

"Quite so," said J. T. Matson; "but still we need not dream of that expedient."

"And why not?" demanded the colonel.

"Because their ideas of progress in the Old World are contrary to our American habits of thought. Those fellows believe that one can't become a general without having served first as an ensign; which is as much as to say that one can't point a gun without having first cast it oneself!"

"Ridiculous!" replied Tom Hunter, whittling with his bowie-knife the arms of his easy chair, "but if that be the case there, all that is left for us is to plant tobacco and distill whale-oil."

"What!" roared J. T. Maston, "shall we not employ these remaining years of our life in perfecting firearms? Shall there never be a fresh

界的人民好像下定决心要生活在和平中,连我们那斗志昂扬的《论坛报》也预言人类将来的灾难只可能是由可怕的人口膨胀引起的!"

"然而,"布鲁斯伯里回答说,"欧洲还一直在为维护民族自决的原则而进行战斗哩!"

"那又怎么样?"

"怎么样!也许那边会有用武之地,如果他们愿意接受我们的帮助……"

"你在做梦吗?"倍尔斯基叫起来了,"为了外国人的利益研究弹道学!"

"这总比什么也不干好吧。"上校反驳他说。

"正是如此,"马斯顿说,"不过我们不应该用此权宜之计。"

"为什么不?"上校问。

"因为旧世界的晋级观念和我们美国的习惯想法刚好相反。那些家伙认为一个服兵役的人必须先当少尉后当将军,这等于说,一个人不亲手铸大炮就不能当个好炮手!"

"可笑之至!"汤姆·亨特一面用猎刀削椅子扶手,一面回答,"既然那里是这种情况,我们能做的事也只剩下种烟草或者炼鲸鱼油了!"

"什么!"马斯顿咆哮道,"难道我们不能利用我们的余生改良枪炮了?再也没有新机

opportunity of trying the ranges of projectiles? Shall the air never again be lighted with the glare of our guns? No international difficulty ever arise to enable us to declare war against some transatlantic power? Shall not the French sink one of our steamers, or the English, in defiance of the rights of nations, hang a few of our countrymen?"

"No such luck," replied Colonel Blomsberry; "nothing of the kind is likely to happen; and even if it did, we should not profit by it. American susceptibility is fast declining, and we are all going to the dogs."

"It is too true," replied J. T. Maston, with fresh violence; "there are a thousand grounds for fighting, and yet we don't fight. We save up our arms and legs for the benefit of nations who don't know what to do with them! But stop — without going out of one's way to find a cause for war — did not North America once belong to the English?"

"Undoubtedly," replied Tom Hunter, stamping his crutch with fury.

"Well, then," replied J. T. Maston, "why should not England in her turn belong to the Americans?"

"It would be but just and fair," returned Colonel Blomsberry.

"Go and propose it to the President of the United States," cried J. T. Maston, "and see how he will receive you."

"Bah!" growled Bilsby between the four teeth which the war had left him; "that will

会试验我们炮弹的射程了? 我们的炮火再也不会照亮天空了? 再也不会会有国际争端发生,使我们可以和一大西洋强国宣战了? 难道法国人就不会击沉我们的一艘蒸汽船,英国人就不会违反国际法,绞死我们几个同胞吗?"

"不会再有这样的幸运事儿了,"布鲁斯伯里上校回答说,"再也不会发生这样的事了,而且,即使发生,我们也无法从中获利了! 美国人的好战心理急速下降了,我们已经世风日下,人心不古了!"

"这确实是真的,"马斯顿说,又升起新的怒火,"就算现在有成千个打仗的理由,然而我们还是不打! 我们为国家省下了胳膊和腿,国家却不知用它们来做什么! 但是等一下——不必到很远的地方去寻找战争的理由——北美早先不是属于英国人的吗?"

"毫无疑问,"汤姆·亨特拿拐杖气愤地拨着炉火回答说。

"很好! 那么,"马斯顿接着说,"为什么不应该轮到英国属于美国人呢?"

"这真是公平且合理的,"布鲁斯伯里上校回答说。

"去向美国总统建议,"马斯顿大声说,"看他怎样接待你们吧!"

"哈!"倍尔斯贝咬着战争留给他的仅有的四颗牙齿哪