英美文学经典作品
赏析与导读

—— 英国篇 ——

郑茗元　岳丽萍　主编

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前　言

　　正如许多西方人热切地想了解中国文化一样，中国的英语学习者及爱好者对西方文化及人文的了解也处于热切的需求当中。是的，如果对西方的历史、文学、艺术、宗教、哲学没有一个最基本的了解，就连看好莱坞大片都会成为一个问题；不了解这些，则与任何稍有层次和品位的西方人的交流都将难以顺畅。若想精通一门语言，没有对其文化背景的深入了解恐怕永远难登大雅之堂。在全球化日益成为国际主流的今天，英语作为西方文化头牌语言的重要性已日益凸显——今日世界，恐怕在地球上的任何角落人们都可以用英语问路、用英语聊天、用英语购物、用英语交友、用英语在跨文化间作深度交流，甚至用英语作为工作语言。

　　此外，国内的英语学习者如再停留在日常生活中"泛泛英语（English in General）"的层次上，必将难以适应深度沟通和交流的需要，因此，对专业英语及文化背景的深入了解和学习将是提升英语能力的必由之路。有鉴于此，本套丛书为读者奉上原汁原味的人文阅读精华，其或选自原典正文、专业教材，或选自网络热点、文学史纲目，由精研此业者掇菁撷华、辑录成册，希望能帮助读者在学习英语的同时助其领略西方人文经典的独特魅力。书稿中的学术见解和经典名句均转引自梁明编译的《一本书读懂英国文学》（陕西师范大学出版总社有限公司，2011年版），特此说明。

　　我们写历史，致力于拨开其厚重压抑而向读者展示他们感兴趣的文化、建筑、艺术、风俗等人文知识；我们写文学，力求抛开一般文学史纲目划分的束缚而代之以切合各国风情又适合读者的脉络。文学共语言同飞，阅读与思想共舞。读万卷书行万里路，在我们无法踏上万里之路以娱耳目的时候，我们可以用阅读来滋养心灵，拓展人生版图。于某一日午后，抛开世俗的纷扰，挑一静谧之处，一杯香茗，几卷书册，品文化，长知识，学英语，在书页和文字之间体味大千世界的真谛，并在分享人类文明的过程中成就自己的文化修养、人文理念及完美人生。

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郑茗元　岳丽萍

2015年6月于郑州龙子湖畔

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第一章 英国文学的开端

1 《贝奥武夫》(*Beowulf*)

《贝奥武夫》简介

Beowulf is the conventional title of an Old English heroic epic poem consisting of 3182 alliterative long lines, set in Scandinavia, commonly cited as one of the most important works of Anglo-Saxon literature. It survives in a single manuscript known as the Nowell Codex. Its composition by an anonymous Anglo-Saxon poet is dated between the 8th and the early 11th century.

In the poem, Beowulf, a hero of the Geats, battles three antagonists: Grendel, who has been attacking the resident warriors of the mead hall of Harrogate (the king of Danes), Grendel's mother, and an unnamed dragon. The last battle takes place later in life, Beowulf now being king of the Geats. In the final battle, Beowulf is fatally wounded. After his death his retainers bury him in a tumulus in Geat-lang.

《贝奥武夫》，又译《贝奥武甫》，是完成于公元750年左右的英雄叙事长诗，长达3182行。故事的舞台位于北欧的斯堪的纳维亚半岛，是以古英语记载的传说中最古老的一篇。该故事也是欧洲最早的方言史诗，在语言学方面也是相当珍贵的文献。毋庸赘言，《贝奥武夫》(*Beowulf*)乃现存古英语文学中最伟大之作。现存的《贝奥武夫》唯一手稿，出于一个名叫诺埃尔的记员之手，成稿时间为10世纪早期。本诗原以西撒克逊方言写成，押头韵而不押尾韵，用双字隐喻而不用明喻。

本书讲述勇士贝奥武夫与怪物格伦德尔搏斗，使其断臂而死。怪物之母

为子复仇，又被他追踪杀死。后来他做了国王，一次火龙来犯，他挺身斩龙，伤重而死。人民为他举行了隆重的葬礼。

虽然历史并未证实确有贝奥武夫其人，但诗中所提及的许多其他人物与事迹却得到印证。《贝奥武夫》仅存的手稿现收藏于大英博物馆。

📋 主要内容

诗的内容分为两部分：

第一部分描述丹麦霍格国王（King Hrothgar）宏伟的宫殿，在前后十二年中，半人半魔的妖怪格伦德尔（Grendel）每晚出没捉食霍格的战士。此时恰巧瑞典南部济兹（Geats）王子贝奥武夫率家臣来访，协助除害。国王当晚设宴款待，孰料妖怪格伦德尔又复出现，捉食一名济兹战士。贝奥武夫与之格斗，贝氏扭断其臂，妖怪落荒而逃，因受重伤致死。第二天晚上，格伦德尔的母亲前来为其子复仇，其后贝氏亦将其杀死在一片湖泊的洞穴中。

第二部分描述贝奥武夫返国，被拥立为王，其前后五十年，举国大治。最后贝奥武夫以垂老之年，杀一喷火巨龙，但其个人亦因此而深受重创，终于身死。诗末叙述其葬礼，并作挽歌。

📋 名著选读——《贝奥武夫》(*Beowulf*)

Part Ⅱ 第二部分

WENT he forth to find at fall of night

that haughty house, and heed wherever

the Ring-Danes, outrevelled, to rest had gone.

Found within it the atheling band

asleep after feasting and fearless of sorrow,

of human hardship. Unhallowed wight,

grim and greedy, he grasped betimes,

wrathful, reckless, from resting-places,

thirty of the thanes, and thence he rushed

fain of his fell spoil, faring homeward,

laden with slaughter, his lair to seek.

Then at the dawning, as day was breaking,

the might of Grendel to men was known;

then after wassail was wail uplifted,

loud moan in the morn. The mighty chief,

atheling excellent, unblithe sat,

labored in woe for the loss of his thanes,

when once had been traced the trail of the fiend,

spirit accurse: too cruel that sorrow,

too long, too loathsome. Not late the respite;

with night returning, anew began

ruthless murder; he recked no whit,

firm in his guilt, of the feud and crime.

They were easy to find who elsewhere sought

in room remote their rest at night,

bed in the bowers, when that bale was shown,

was seen in sooth, with surest token, —

the hall-thane's hate. Such held themselves

far and fast who the fiend outran!

Thus ruled unrighteous and raged his fill

one against all; until empty stood

that lordly building, and long it bode so.

Twelve years' tide the trouble he bore,

sovran of Scaldings, sorrows in plenty,

boundless cares. There came unhidden

tidings true to the tribes of men,

in sorrowful songs, how ceaselessly Grendel

harassed Hrothgar, what hate he bore him,

what murder and massacre, many a year,

feud unfading, —refused consent

to deal with any of Daneland's earls,

make pact of peace, or compound for gold:

still less did the wise men ween to get

great fee for the feud from his fiendish hands.

But the evil one ambushed old and young

death-shadow dark, and dogged them still,

lured, or lurked in the livelong night

of misty moorlands: men may say not

where the haunts of these Hell-Runes be.

Such heaping of horrors the hater of men,

lonely roamer, wrought unceasing,

harassings heavy. In gloomy nights;

and ne'er could the prince approach his throne,

—'twas judgment of God, —or have joy in his hall.

Sore was the sorrow to Scaldings' friend,

heart-rending misery. Many nobles

sat assembled, and searched out counsel

how it were best for bold-hearted men

against harassing terror to try their hand.

Whiles they vowed in their heathen fanes

altar-offerings, asked with words

that the slayer-of-souls would succor give them

for the pain of their people. Their practice this,

their heathen hope; 'twas Hell they thought of

in mood of their mind. Almighty they knew not,

Doomsman of Deed sand dreadful Lord,

nor Heaven's-Helmet heeded they ever,

Wielder-of-Wonder. —Woe for that man

who in harm and hatred hales his soul

to fiery embraces; —nor favor nor change

awaits he ever. But well for him

that after death-day may draw to his Lord,

and friendship find in the Father's arms!

② 《盎格鲁—撒克逊编年史》(*Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*)

✑《盎格鲁—撒克逊编年史》简介

The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* is a collection of annuals in Old English chronicling the history of The Anglo-Saxons. The annuals were initially created late in the 9th century, probably in Wessex, during the reign of Alfred the Great. Multiple manuscript copies were made and distributed to monasteries[2] across England and were independently updated. In one case, the chronicle was still being actively updated in 1154.

The Chronicle is not unbiased: there are occasions when comparison with other medieval sources makes it clear that the scribes who wrote it omitted[3] events or told one-sided versions; there are also places where the different versions contradict each other. Taken as a whole, however, the Chronicle is the single most important historical source for the period in England between the departure of the Romans and the decades following the Norman Conquest. Much of the information given in the Chronicle is not recorded elsewhere. In addition, the manuscripts are important sources for the history of the English language; in

particular, the later Peterborough text is one of the earliest examples of Middle English in existence.

Nine manuscript survive in whole or in part, though not all are of equal historical value and none of them is the original version. The oldest seems to have been started towards the end of Alfred's reign, while the most recent was written at Peterborough Abbey after a fire at that monastery in 1116. Almost all of the material in the chronicle is in the form of annals, by year; the earliest are dated at 60 BC, and historical material follows up to the year in which the chronicle was written, at which point contemporary records begin. These manuscripts collectively are known as the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*.

《盎格鲁—撒克逊编年史》是一部记载公元前1世纪—12世纪英格兰历史的编年体史书。这部编年史以古英语书写，大约在9世纪后半期的韦塞克斯（Wessex）出现之后由英格兰各地的修道院独立书写、抄录与保存，最晚的更新延续至1154年。

尽管编年史也有偏见，《盎格鲁—撒克逊编年史》在有些情况下与其他中世纪的版本比较——很明显，作者省略了某些事件或叙述片面的版本；也有一些地方，不同的版本相互矛盾。但总的来看，此纪事是英国在罗马人撤离后和诺曼征服时期之间最重要的历史来源。纪事提供的大部分资料在其他地方没有记录。此外，该手稿是英语语言历史的重要来源，特别是后来的彼得伯勒文本是一个最早的中古英语的例子。

虽然九份手稿并不具有相同的历史价值，并且都不是原版的，但都以完整或部分的形式保存至今。最古老的一份是从阿尔弗雷德统治的开始到其统治结束的记载，最近的一份是1116年彼得伯勒大教堂火灾后的记载。几乎所有的材料都是以史册的形式记载的，并以年为单位。其最早日期是公元前60年，以历史材料为中心叙写历史。此时，现代记录开始了。

✏ 现状

现有的编年史为九份彼此相关的手稿，皆为后来抄写的副本，其中［G］

是［A］的抄本，不过前者系以拉丁文抄写。

版本	抄本名称	收藏地点	手稿
A	*The Parker Chronicle or The Winchester Chronicle*	剑桥大学圣体学院	MS.173
B	*The Abingdon Chronicle I*	大英图书馆	Cotton MS. Tiberius A vi.
C	*The Abingdon Chronicle II*	大英图书馆	Cotton MS. Tiberius B i.
D	*The Worcester Chronicle*	大英图书馆	Cotton MS. Tiberius B iv.
E	*The Laud Chronicle or The Peterborough Chronicle*	博德利图书馆	MS Land 636
F	*The Bilingual Canterbury Epitome*	大英图书馆	Cotton MS. Domitian A viii.
G或A2、W	*A Copy of The Winchester Chronicle*	大英图书馆	Cotton MS. Otho B xi., 2
H	*Cottonian Fragment*	大英图书馆	Cotton MS. Domitian A ix.
I	*An Easter Table Chronicle*	大英图书馆	Cotton MS. Caligula A xv.

✐ 名著选读

导读：本文选取的版本由牧师詹姆斯·英格拉姆（Rev. James Ingram）翻译。这个版本的文字主要基于普通人出版社（Everyman Press, London, 1912）1912年出版的《盎格鲁—撒克逊编年史》一书。

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The Island Britain is 800 miles long, and 200 miles broad. And there are in the island five nations; English, Welsh (or British), Scottish, Pictish, and Latin. The first inhabitants were the Britons, who came from Armenia, and first peopled Britain southward. Then happened it, that the Picts came south from Scythia, with long ships, not many; and, landing first in the northern part of Ireland, they told the Scots that they must dwell there. But they would not give them leave; for the Scots told them that they could not all dwell there together; "But," said the Scots, "we can nevertheless give you advice. We know another island here to

the east. There you may dwell, if you will; and whosoever withstand eth you, we will assist you, that you may gain it." Then went the Picts and entered this land northward. Southward the Britons possessed it, as we before said. And the Picts obtained wives of the Scots, on condition that they chose their kings always on the female side; which they have continued to do, so long since. And it happened, in the run of years, that some party of Scots went from Ireland into Britain, and acquired some portion of this land. Their leader was called Reoda, from whom they are named Dalreodi (or Dalreathians). Sixty winters ere that Christ was born, Caius Julius, emperor of the Romans, with eighty ships sought Britain. There he was first beaten in a dreadful fight, and lost a great part of his army. Then he let his army abide with the Scots, and went south into Gaul. There he gathered six hundred ships, with which he went back into Britain. When they first rushed together, Caesar's tribune, whose name was Labienus, was slain. Then took the Welsh sharp piles, and drove them with great clubs into the water, at a certain ford of the river called Thames. Whence Romans found that, they would not go over the ford. Then fled the Britons to the fastnesses of the woods; and Caesar, having after much fighting gained many of the chief towns, went back into Gaul.

B.C.60. Before the incarnation of Christ sixty years, Gaius Julius the emperor, first of the Romans, sought the land of Britain; and he crushed the Britons in battle, and overcame them; and nevertheless he was unable to gain any empire there.

A.D.1. Octavianus reigned fifty-six winters; and in the forty-second year of his reign Christ was born. Then three astrologers from the east came to worship Christ; and the children in Bethlehem were slain by Herod in persecution of Christ.

A.D.3. This year died Herod, stabbed by his own hand; and Archelanus his son succeeded him. The child Christ was also this year brought back again from Egypt.

A.D.6. From the beginning of the world to this year were agone five thousand and two hundred winters.

A.D.11. This year Herod the son of Antipater undertook the government in Judea.

A.D.12. This year Philip and Herod divided Judea into four kingdoms.

A.D.16. This year Tiberius succeeded to the empire.

A.D.26. This year Pilate began to reign over the Jews.

A.D.30. This year was Christ baptized; and Peter and Andrew were converted, together with James, and John, and Philip, and all the twelve apostles.

3 杰弗雷·乔叟（Geoffrey Chaucer）

✍ 出生背景

By the late fourteenth century, however, the three basic categories—the nobility, the church, and the large mass of commoners, were layered into complex, interrelated, and unstable social strata among which birth, wealth, profession, and personal ability all played a part in determining one's status in a world that was rapidly changing economically, politically, and socially. A growing and prosperous middle class was beginning to play increasingly important roles in church and state, blurring the traditional class boundaries, and it was into this middle class that Chaucer was born.

14世纪晚期的英国，组成社会的三部分——贵族、教会和贫民之间的关系越来越复杂，联系也日趋紧密。在这个不稳定且经济、政治不断变化的社会，决定个人社会地位的出生、财富和个人能力各自起着重要的作用。一部分成功的中产阶级正不断地发展壮大，并在国家和社会中起着越来越重要的作用，使得传统社会的阶层分界愈发模糊。乔叟正是出生在这样的一个中

产阶级家庭。

人生经历

Chaucer was the son of a prosperous wine merchant and spent his childhood in the London's Vintry, where ships come from France and Spain. Here he heard several languages spoken, become fluent in French, and received schooling in Latin. In his early teens, his father placed him as a page in one of the great aristocratic households of England, that of the countess of Ulster who was married to Prince Lionel, the second son of Edward Ⅲ. There Chaucer would have acquired the manners and skills required for a career in the service of the ruling class, not only in the role of personal attendant in royal households but in a series of administrative posts.

He began with a reference, in Elizabeth of Ulster's household accounts, to an outfit as a page (1357). And he was captured by the French and ransomed in one of Edward Ⅲ's campaigns during the Hundred Years War (1359). He was a member of King Edward's personal household (1367) and took part in several diplomatic missions to Spain (1366), France(1368), and Italy(1372). As controller of customs on wool, sheepskins, and leather for the port of London(1374-1385), Chaucer audited and kept books on the export taxes, which were one of the the Crown's main sources of revenue. He served as a justice of the peace and knight of the shire(the title given to a member of Parliament) for the county of Kent(1385—1386). As clerk of the king's works(1389-1391), Chaucer was responsible for the maintenance of numerous royal residences, parks, and other holdings; his duties included supervision of the construction of the nave of Westminster Abbey and of stands and lists for a celebrated tournament staged by Richard Ⅱ.

These activities brought Chaucer into association with the ruling nobility of the kingdom, with Prince Lionel and his younger brother John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, England's most powerful baron during much of Chaucer's lifetime;

with their father, King Edward; and with Edward's grandson, who succeeded to the throne as Richard Ⅱ.

The diplomatic mission that sent Chaucer to Italy in 1372 was in all likelihood a milestone in his literary development. This visit and a subsequent one to Florence (1378) brought him into direct contact with the Italian Renaissance. The works of Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio provided him with models of new verse forms, new subject matter, and new modes of representation.

He died in 1400 and was buried in the Westminster Abbey, and thus founding the "Poets Corner".

乔叟出生在一个富有的中产阶级家庭，父亲是一个成功的酒商。他童年的大部分时光是在伦敦的运酒码头上度过的。在那里他经常接触到从法国和西班牙来的酒商，因此学会了法语和西班牙语。他还在学校里学了拉丁语。十几岁的时候，父亲把乔叟送到了伦敦的一个贵族家庭——爱尔斯特的女伯爵家做侍应，女伯爵嫁给了爱德华三世的次子。在那里，他有机会学到了服务统治阶层所需的礼仪举止和社交技巧，不仅可以在皇室成员的家庭中担当侍者，还能在政府部门里求得一官半职。

此后，乔叟开始在爱尔斯特的伊丽莎白家族中管理账目，后到宫廷做侍童（1357年）。1359年，他参加对法战争时被捕，被爱德华三世赎回。后来他成为国王爱德华的贴身侍从，多次代表国王出使西班牙、法国、意大利等国。1374—1385年他担任伦敦港口的皮毛关税管理员，这些关税是当时皇室税收的主要来源。1385—1386年，乔叟任肯特郡治安法官和该郡骑士（众议院成员）。1389—1391年理查德亲政后，乔叟又先后担任公园等王室建筑工程主事，管理威斯敏斯特教堂正厅的建设和制定骑士比赛的规则和名单。

这些经历使得乔叟有机会与当时的王公贵族共事，其中包括莱昂内尔王子和他的弟弟约翰，兰开斯特公爵等当时英国最有权力的贵族们，以及他们的父亲爱德华国王和继承其王位的孙子理查德二世。

1400年乔叟逝世，安葬在伦敦威斯敏斯特教堂的"诗人之角"，他也是第一位埋葬于此的诗人。