

中学生英汉对照小读物

短文故事精选

(一)

本书编委会编

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T. V.

Television (colloquially known as 'T. V.' or 'the telly') is nowadays so popular in Britain that it is hard to believe that the first acceptable televised pictures were transmitted less than forty years ago. A pioneer team working at Hayes, Middlesex, were the first to produce what is known as 'high definition television', which gives pictures of moving objects clear enough to be enjoyed as entertainment.

The BBC was the first authority in the world to provide a public television service, which began in 1936. During the war transmissions ceased, but were resumed in 1946. Viewers are now able to watch television for many hours a day, if they have time and inclination. Moreover, viewers now have four channels at their disposal. In 1955 the Independent Broadcasting Authority opened a television service and in 1982 a second independent service came into operation. The BBC provides two channels. The viewing hours have also been extended with the introduction of breakfast television by both the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority. Advertisers buy time for advertising on Independent Television, but the amount of time devoted to advertising is small, it is strictly limited by the special Act that allowed commercial television. Viewers of any of the programmes can watch plays, 'live' transmissions of topical events, sports and athletics, news features, interviews

with prominent people, musical performances and many other items. Films are often televised, and many of them are made specially for television. The cinema industry is jealous of television, and understandably keeps new films for showing in cinemas; nevertheless, T. V. occasionally screens a premiere. Television has attracted many people away from the cinema and, in recent years, many cinemas have had to close. A frequent criticism of T. V. programmes is that they too often feature violence and gun—play. On the other hand, it must be said that religious programmes also are transmitted, and many serious and instructive matters are presented.

About ninety—five per cent of the population now have television in their homes. In 1982 there were over 18 million licences in force, and the revenue from these goes to the financing of the BBC transmissions. It is possible for many people to have TV sets, for although these are not cheap, there are ample facilities for renting sets or for hire—purchase.

Most programmes, whether BBC or ITV, are now transmitted in colour—but can of course also be received in black—and—white. The number of colour sets in use is very large. British television is linked with Europe through the Eurovision network. There is, however, no truth in the rumour that the experts have invented a method of broadcasting smells!

电 视

电视(常说的 TV 或 telly)目前在英国之普及,致使人难以相信从第一次转播可接受的电视画面以来至今还不到四十年的时间,在米德塞克斯的海斯,一些开创者首先生产出了“高清晰度电视”,它能清晰地反映出活动物体的图象,足可供人们娱乐享受。

英国广播公司是世界上最早提供电视开播业务的权威机构,在 1936 年就开始了这项业务。在战争期间停止了转播,但到 1946 年又重新恢复了。现在如果观众有时间而且爱看的话,每天都可看上好多小时的电视,而且有四个频道的节目可供观众随便选择。1955 年,独立广播公司开播了一个电视频道,1982 年该公司又开播了一个频道。英国广播公司也开播了两个频道。随着两家公司开办的晨间节目,电视播放时间也就拉长了。广告商们在独立电视台花钱做广告,但专用于广告的时间很短,因为它受到对商业电视广告的一项特殊法案的严格限制。在每一套节目中,观众能看到戏剧、重大事件、体育和田径运动的实况转播、新闻特写、名人采访、音乐会以及许多其它的节目。电影也经常在电视上播放,而且有许多电影是专为电视节目制作的。电影业对电视是戒备的,把新影片放在电影院里映出,这是理所当然的事。尽管如此,电视有时也播放电影的首映场。电视从电影院里吸引走了很多观众,很多影院近年来都被迫关闭。人们对电视节目经常的批评是在节目中过多地宣扬暴力和枪杀。另一方面应指出的是电视也转播宗教节目以及提供许多严肃,有教育意义的节目。

现在大约 95% 的人家里都有电视机。1982 年持有有效的电视收看许可证的有 1800 多万人, 这些用户交的收视费用于英国广播公司的转播费。许多人有电视机这是可能的, 因为虽说它价钱不便宜, 但可通过租借或分期付款等办法得到电视机。

现在大多数节目, 无论是英国广播公司, 还是独立广播电视台都是彩色转播, 当然也可用黑白电视机接受。彩电的拥有量非常之大。英国的电视台通过欧洲电视网络与欧洲相连。然而, 那些所谓专家们已发明了播放有臭味的电视节目的说法, 纯属无稽之谈!

The Weather

Other countries have a climate; in England we have weather? This statement, often made by Englishmen to describe the peculiar meteorological conditions of their country, is both revealing and true. It is revealing because in it we see the Englishman insisting once again that what happens in England is not the same as what happens elsewhere; its truth can be ascertained by any foreigner who stays in the country for longer than a few days.

In no country other than England, it has been said, can one experience four seasons in the course of a single day! Day may break as a balmy spring morning; an hour or so later black clouds may have appeared from nowhere and the rain may be pouring down. At midday conditions may be really

wintry with the temperature down by about eight degrees or more centigrade. And then, in the late afternoon the sky will clear, the sun will begin to shine, and for an hour or two before darkness falls, it will be summer.

In England one can experience almost every kind of weather except the most extreme. (Some foreigners, incidentally, seem to be under the impression that for ten months of the year the country is covered by a dense blanket of fog; this is not true.) The snag is that we never can be sure when the different types of weather will occur. Not only do we get several different sorts of weather in one day, but we may very well get a spell of winter in summer and vice—versa.

This uncertainty about the weather has had a definite effect upon the Englishman's character; it tends to make him cautious, for example. The foreigner may laugh when he sees the Englishman setting forth on a brilliantly sunny morning wearing a raincoat and carrying an umbrella, but he may well regret his laughter later in the day! The English weather has also helped to make the Englishman adaptable. It has been said that one of the reasons why the English colonized so much of the world was that, whatever the weather conditions they met abroad, they had already experienced something like them at home!

And, of course, the weather's variety provides a constant topic of conversation. Even the most taciturn of Englishmen is always prepared to discuss the weather. And, though he

sometimes complains bitterly of it, he would not, even if he could, exchange it for the more predictable climate of other lands.

天 气

“国外有气候，在英国只有天气”。英国人常常以此来表明自己国家气象条件的独特性，这种说法既明确又合乎情理。说它明确是因为我们知道英国人一贯坚持认为在英国所发生的一切事情不同于其它地方。说它合乎情理是因为任何一位在英国多逗留几天的外国人都可以确定这一事实。

据说，只有在英国才能一天中体验到四季的变化。黎明时分温暖如春；一两个小时之后，不知从何处涌来大片乌云，顷刻就会倾盆大雨；中午时分酷似冬天，气温骤然下降 8 摄氏度，甚至更多；午后天空晴朗，阳光明媚；夜晚来临前一两个小时，又是夏季。

在英国，除了极端的天气外，人们几乎可以体验到各种天气。（顺便说一下，一些外国人似乎认为英国一年当中有十个月都是浓雾笼罩着，这并不是事实）。问题是我们永远也无法预测即将出现何种天气。我们不仅在一天当中可以体验到几种天气的变化，而且在夏季会感受到一段时间冬天的气候，反过来也如此。

变化莫测的天气对英国人的性格产生了一定的影响。例如，这种天气使人变得格外谨慎。看到一位英国人在阳光明媚的早上出门时穿着雨衣，带着雨伞，外国人可能会感到可笑，但是不久以后他就会为自己的“感到可笑”而后悔。英国的天

气也使得英国人更具有适应性,据说,英国之所以能够对世界上大片土地进行殖民统治的原因之一就是无论他们在国外遇到什么天气,他们都早已在国内体验过了。

当然,多变的天气也为人们提供了经常的话题,甚至英国最沉默寡言的人也总是谈论天气,尽管人们有时苦苦地抱怨天气,但是,即使可能,他们也不愿为享受可预测的天气而移居他地。

My Father, Lin Yutang

BY LIN TAI-YI

One morning in 1911, the Lin family set out by boat from the mountain hamlet of Poa—ah in Fukien province in southern China to take 20—year—old Mei—kung to her wedding. They were also sending 16—year—old Yutang off to Shanghai for college. It was a momentous day for the whole family.

Mei—kung had wanted to go to college too. But her father, Pastor Lin Chin—cheng, said “no.” A college education for a girl was a luxury, and so when Mei—kung realized it was hopeless, she agreed to be married.

On her wedding day, Mei—kung took 40 cents from her gown and gave it to Yutang, saying, “We are a poor family, and I have only this to give you. Because I’m a girl, I can’t go to college. Make the most of your opportunity, little brother. Study hard, try to become a good man—and a famous one.”

These words made Yutang feel as if he were going to college on her behalf, and must make good her hopes for him. But she would not live to see them come true. The following year, Mei—kung was dead of bubonic plague.

Whenever my father repeated this story, tears formed in his eyes. As I sat in his study, surrounded by bookshelves of his works, I knew that Mei—kung's words had never ceased to influence him.

In his 80 years, my father wrote and translated more than 50 books and became a world—renowned author. The New York Times said at the time of his death, "Lin Yutang had no peer as an interpreter to Western minds of the customs, aspirations, fears and thought of his people." Father was a novelist, essayist, philosopher, philologist and lexicographer. He also invented a Chinese typewriter. "But he was more," wrote Prof. Nelson I. Wu of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. "He was a total man, stubbornly going his own way through the criticism of lesser minds to become a universal genius."

Father was born in 1958, or the 21st year of the Kuang—hsu emperor of the Ching Dynasty. He was one of eight children—the fifth of six sons of Lin Chih cheng, a Presbyterian minister. Yutang had a happy childhood, growing up in a world filled with the beauty of clouds on the jagged mountain peaks around Poa—ah. Though he wondered how a person could ever leave this bucolic mountain valley, he also wondered

what the world beyond was like. His father had told him about the first airplane. "I've read everything about it," his father said, "but I don't know whether I can believe it."

Chih—cheng was a dreamer—keen, imaginative, humorous—and he communicated to his children a passionate zest for all that was new and modern that was sweeping China from abroad. The country was being encroached upon by Japan and Western powers. She must catch up with scientific progress in order to be strong. And so Chih—cheng decided his sons must receive a Western education.

Yutang was only eight when he declared he wanted to be a writer. His primary school teacher once commented on a composition, "It is like a snake crossing a paddy field," meaning the writing was vague and circuitous. Yutang countered, "An earthworm crossing the desert," meaning he was a humble creature in search of knowledge.

For the Lin family, the quest for learning was implicit. The pastor gave lessons to all his children, and they read together and made up stories. When Yutang walked past a bookstore, he wished he could go in and devour every volume. He felt that he was different from other people who did not want very much out of life, and would be satisfied if they married, had a good job and muddled through.

When Yutang was ready to go to college, Pastor Lin found himself short by a hundred yuan. Poa—ah that summer suddenly seemed very small to Yutang. The world was so

large, its history so long. He wanted to see, hear and taste everything there was in life.

His father finally remembered a student of his who had become wealthy. Pastor Lin had given the then impoverished boy a cap one winter, and the youngster had been so grateful that he vowed he would never buy another cap of its kind in his life. Chih—cheng went to see his former student and asked for a loan. Several days later, the man arrived with a blue cloth parcel. When Chih—cheng unwrapped it, he saw 100 shining silver dollars inside. Yutang's eyes became just as bright.

“Money Does Not Matter”

AT ST. JOHNS UNIVERSITY in Shanghai, the emphasis was on English, and Yutang spent his first year and a half mastering the language. He also studied theology, because he wanted to be a pastor like his father. But after extensive reading in science, Yutang began to have doubts about Christian dogma. The following summer, his father was mortified to hear him say the Old Testament should be read as literature. Returning to college in the fall, Yutang changed his major to philology.

At the end of his second year, he received four awards for scholastic achievement. The news spread to the folks back home—and to neighboring St. Mary's Girls School, where Yutang met a beautiful young art student from Amoy. But when

her father, a wealthy doctor, learned that the poor son of a pastor was chasing his eldest daughter, he was not amused. The doctor was already trying to arrange a match for his daughter with the son of another rich family; now he began working to marry off Yutang to the daughter of the neighboring Liao family, a young woman named Tsuifeng, or Hong, as she was nicknamed in the Amoy dialect.

Yutang was angry and humiliated when he learned of the scheme. But when he told his elder sister of his love for the wealthy doctor's daughter, she cried, "Are you crazy? How would you support her? You are a toad lusting after swan's flesh!" He could see that his cause was hopeless, and when he returned to Shanghai, it was as a changed man.

The next summer Yutang came to have a meal at the Liao house. Hong stood behind a screen and peeped at him, because she knew a match was being arranged. This was a daughter's lot.

Hong's father, Liao Yueh — fa, was the well — to — do owner of a store and a warehouse. He and his wife had six children, and although the family was Christian, that did not change the Chinese way of favoring sons over daughters. The sons lived lives of ease, but the daughters were strictly brought up, learning to cook, sew and do the laundry, so that good husbands could be found for them. To Liao, no love need be lavished on a married daughter; she was like water splashed out the front door never no return.

But Hong liked what she saw — a vivacious young man who gesticulated wildly, who seemed completely at ease with himself, who was a little unkempt perhaps, and who had a tremendous appetite. She longed to comb his hair and take a brush to his leather shoes.

Her mother asked, "What do you think of the match? Yutang is a bright young man, but Pastor Lin is poor." Hong said something that astonished even herself: "Money does not matter."

Yutang's elder sister heartily recommended Hong. She was a proper girl who was sure to be a good wife and mother. And she was attractive, with large eyes and a high nose, a long upper lip and a pair of long earlobes — signs of good fortune and longevity. Yutang agreed to the match.

But they would not get married right away. When Yutang graduated from St. John's in 1916, he accepted a teaching post at Tsinghua College in Peking. Here, he found himself surrounded by Chinese history. He visited the glorious temples and palaces, the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs. And he realized how small the confines of his Christian education had been. He knew that Joshua's trumpet blew down the walls of Jericho, but did not know the folktale of Meng Chiang — nu, whose tears for her lost husband at the Great Wall caused a section of the wall to collapse and expose his dead body.

Determined to make up for his inadequacy, he haunted bookstores, asking shopkeepers what were the most important