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英语散文名篇欣赏

旨在提高阅读、反思生活 和批判性思维能力

殷恒光 编著



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心灵的食粮

"散文是文明发展的成果,那是在人们学会了如何在一起协商而不相互攻击漫骂之后;人们理解到真理难寻而又值得追寻;人们不是去谴责对方的邪恶,而是展现理性和耐心。最优秀散文所述,用诗歌表达不了;最优秀散文能做到的,诗歌做不到。在痴狂和勇夫精神下,人类文明超越不了原始形态。若要文明,最好是在日常生活中有更多和善、理性和持久的努力。而这种和善、理性和持久的努力都在散文的杰作里得以体现和颂扬。"

——亚瑟·克拉顿·布洛克《论英语散文》

Food for Your Heart

For prose is the achievement of civilization, of people who have learned to discuss without blows or invective, who know that truth is hard to find and worth finding, who do not begin by accusing an opponent of wickedness, but elicit reason and patience by displaying them. You cannot say in poetry what the best prose says, or accomplish what the best prose accomplishes. Civilization may not surpass a primitive society in heights of rapture or heroism, but it is, if it be civilization, better for everyday life, kinder, more rational, more sustained in effort; and this kindness and reason and sustained effort are expressed and encouraged in the masterpieces of prose.

— Arthur Clutton-Brock "On English Prose"

全书共选 17 篇散文,可供一学期使用,约 18~20 周。开头文章短小,后面文章偏难,涉及社会批评和文学批评等。本书选文分为三类:人生哲理类的美文(1~8 单元)涉及友情、处人之道、爱情、友谊、老年生活、生活目标、为官之道和美的定义;社会生活类文章(9~14 单元)涉及大学教育、女性职业、劳动、美容业、民族欺压和社会惩罚;文学创作理论类文章(15~17 单元)涉及《麦克白》评论、口头文学要旨和《乌鸦》创作设计。本书尝试选入作家文学创作思想的文章。由于难度大,以前的同类书籍涉及较少。

作者和篇目介绍力求简洁,少做生平介绍,直接进入与选文相关的信息,如作者主要贡献、原文的早期发表信息和选文相关信息等。这样可以还文章的本来面目,了解原文的语境。文前还有引导进入文章内容的引导性问题。这些设计是为了一个目标:专注地、快速地把握文章主题。

教材以详细的词汇注释、文化注释、启发性问题和段落大意引导读者快速地把握文章思路,提高了阅读效率;而且在单元后面开拓性地编写了论证层次表,更便于把握全局。编写体例方便英文授课,也方便学习者锻炼英文思维。同时汉语译文尽量贴近原文,兼顾通顺,可以帮助读者更好地理解原文。教材有读者友好型的版面设计,着眼于读者阅读的舒适性和便捷性。中英文文本和注释对页设计,方便对照学习。文后学习问题参考答案可在本页脚注中查看。

关于文章的理解建议分三个层级进行。

- 一、初次印象型的阅读。先读选文前的引导性问题(Leads to Understanding),然后阅读原文。若有生词,参照右栏注释或稍作标记,继续读下去。词汇注释中有难度不大的单词,主要是考虑不同层次读者的需求,还因为这些词汇在具体语境中的具体用法不同。
- 二、参照大意总结和理解注释(Summaries & Comprehension Notes)加深理解。这里可以阅读段落大意以快速把握思路,可以关注词组和句法提醒,还可以思考较深的潜在涵义。
- 三、参照汉语译文、文化性脚注和进一步理解问题(Further Comprehension)及答案脚注进行更深层的阅读。

读者的批判性思考、中西文化对比思考可以放在主题讨论和批判性 讨论问题(Thematic & Critical Discussion)里。参考评论(Referential Criticism)供加深理解或欣赏所用。

部分所选文章有过去名家和大师们的译文,他们的语言功底和贡献令人仰慕。有人曾经说过,每隔一段时间,对一些名篇都应该有新的翻译尝试,以体现新时代的理解。于是编者怀着惴惴不安的心情,尝试翻译本书全部所选文章,以便体现本书统一的译文风格,展示编者个人的理解。对以前译文感兴趣的读者,可以自行查找参阅。虽然翻译永远是出力不讨好的工作,但编者愿意以自己的研析心得抛砖引玉。编者翻译的指导原则是贴近原文。不求辞藻华丽和文采飞扬,而是以学习者为目的读者,尽力保留原文的意象和图式,方便读者进行对照阅读。同时对生涩部分进行适当归化处理,以顾及顺达。

各种已有的优秀散文教材、读本以及读者熟知的赏析对我修正一些 个人理解错误有很大帮助。本教材的教研立项和编写得到多方面的大力 支持和帮助。在此一并致谢。感谢中国民航大学教务处各相关部门的支 持,感谢外国语学院朱敬才院长对本书的审阅、提出的中肯意见和鼎力 支持。感谢南开大学出版社张燕老师在此书出版过程中在各方面的大力支持和帮助。感谢本教材讲义试用阶段选课同学们有益的反馈意见。

在英语能力普遍较高的今天,把着力点放在散文思想的把握上,让读者进行批判性思考是一个新的尝试。本教材可以作为英语专业的选修教材;也可以作为英语爱好者的美文欣赏对照阅读。本书可以作为修身养性的人文读本,也可以作为提高英语水平的读本,还可以作为读者磨砺对社会现象的敏感性和对文学创作自觉性这个更高层面的读本。

由于编者的学识水平有限,疏漏和不妥之处在所难免,敬请指正。 编者

2013年1月23日 修订于宅中

译文语录

第1单元 送行

我是不善于此事的……朋友越亲密, 旅途越遥远, 可能离别的时间越长, 我们就会露面越早, 而送别就败得越惨。这种失败与场面的庄重程度和感情的深度成正比。

第2单元 论与人相处的艺术

可是在我们认为礼节多余的地方,它们才更有价值。对你的伙伴,你可以说 更多的真话,或者说得更直白,但不能比对陌生人还没礼貌。

第3单元 论爱

选择了海伦娜的人,就放弃了朱诺和雅典娜。任何人,如果太看重脉脉柔情,就放弃了财富和智慧。

第4单元 论友谊

我们知道赢得友谊的不是美德,所以也不怕行为不好而失去友谊。这样我们就达到了一种近乎天堂的幸福状态,生活中什么东西都比不上它。

第5单元 如何安度晚年

从心理上来说,老年时有两种危险要加以提防。其一是不恰当地沉溺于过去……应该避免的第二件事是对年轻人的依赖,不要希望藉此从他们的活力中汲取精力。

但一个老人,在洞悉了人生的悲欢,担负的任何待做的工作也有了成就之后,对死亡的恐惧就有点可怜和不光彩了。克服恐惧的最好方法——至少在我看来如此——就是渐渐让你的兴趣更广泛,更不要儿女情长,直到最后,自我的围墙一点点退去,于是你的生命就越来越融入到整个世界的生活中。

第6单元 我的人生目标

三种激情,简单而强烈,它们压倒一切,统领了我的人生:对爱的渴望、对知识的追求和那遏制不住的对受难者的怜悯。

第7单元 论高位

身居要职之人乃三重奴仆:王权或政体之仆、声誉之仆、事务之仆。

身居高位方得自由,可以行善或作恶……美德和善行是人行动的目标;知道目标已经达到人才能安心休息……力求让自己的行事之道有矩可循,让别人

事先知道可以有何期待;但不要太自信、太专断;当偏离规则时,应清楚表达自己(的想法)……属下权力同样应该维护;应把统领指导看作比事必躬亲更荣耀……当局者罪有四宗:拖延、腐败、粗暴和人云亦云。

第8单元论美

大自然能满足人类更崇高的需求,那就是对美的热爱……当商人、律师从街头的喧闹和狡诈中走来,看见了天空和树林,他又成了(本真的)人。

但在其他时侯,大自然则以它的可爱让人满足,不掺杂任何物质上的好处。如果给我健康的身体和一天的时日,我会用我的景观让帝王华丽的排场变得可笑。黎明是我的亚述文明古国,日落月起是我的帕福斯圣地景观,那是难以想象的仙国; 朗朗正午是有理智和理解力的英格兰; 夜晚将是有神秘哲思和梦想的德意志。

有更高尚的精神因素对于美的完善至关重要。那种高尚的、神圣的、有可爱 阳刚特质的美只有与人的毅力结合起来才能找到。

自然之美在人的心中把自身转化,这不是为了没有结果的沉思,而是为了新的创造。美的创造即是"艺术"。

第9单元 大学的功能

现代化大学体系要想成功,唯一的条件是最高当局要进行非凡的克制,要记住对待大学不能使用那些适用于常见商务公司的规定和政策……从教育层面来说,一所大学的全部要点在于把年轻人置于一群具有想象力的学者的影响之下。

第10单元 女性的职业

它们是我职业生涯中的两次历险。第一件事——杀死"房中天使"——我认为我解决了。她死了。但是第二件事,关于自己身体体验方面说真话,我认为自己并没有解决。……仍然要与许多幽灵作斗争,要克服许多偏见……而且如果在文学这个对女性来说最自由的职业上尚且如此,那么在你们现在第一次进入的新职业里,情况又会如何呢?

第11单元 工作、劳役和玩乐

如果人对社会给他提供的工作毫无兴趣,而他只是因为需要谋生养家而被迫做这个工作,那么他就是一个劳役者……与劳役相对的是玩乐……处于劳役和玩乐之间的是劳动。一个人,如果他本人对工作感兴趣,而且社会付出报酬让他去做,那么他就是一个劳动者。

第12单元 美容业

不久以前,有身份的英国妇人还是面色严厉甚至吓人的,但如今她却在尽最大努力获得并长年保持那种会被前辈们说成是堕落女人的容颜。这一点她成功了。但我们并不震惊——道理上说不震惊,但审美上震惊了。

第13单元 一个慎重的建议

至于我自己,已经把这个重要问题在心中翻来覆去想了多年,并把其他的提议者的计划作了充分的权衡……在伦敦,我有个美国熟人。他见多识广,曾向我保证说一个年幼、健康的孩子如果养育得好,年方一岁,无论是炖、烤、焙或水煮,都是最味美、有营养且有益健康的食物。

第 14 单元 惩罚什么也救治不了

我确信惩罚什么也医治不了,它只能阻止和压抑强烈的情感。我们大多数人都承认惩罚能引起可怕的和受到压抑的仇恨……制度造就了社会,是这个制度造就了由恶棍和破坏者构成的被剥夺了权利的阶级。我确信犯罪增长的原因是财富和特权的不断增长……罪犯是病态的,应该被当作病人,而不是囚徒……反社会动机当然有无意识的因素,但惩罚触及不到无意识。

第15单元论《麦克白》中的敲门声

在被杀者身上,所有的思想挣扎、激情和想法的来回激荡都被淹没一切的恐惧所压倒,对即将来临的死亡的恐惧"用它那让人惊呆的权杖"重击着他。但在凶手身上,在讲究诗性美作家屈尊来塑造的凶手身上,一定要有激情风暴的狂飙——嫉妒、野心、复仇、仇恨——这些都将在他心里造就一个地狱;而我们想看的,就是这个地狱的内部。

第16单元 如何讲故事

故事有多种,但难讲的只有一种——幽默故事。现在我主要讲一讲这种故事。这种幽默故事是美国式的。英国式是滑稽的。法国式是机智的。幽默故事的效果取决于讲故事的方式,而讲滑稽故事和机智故事则依赖其内容。……你必须用一种哀怨的、责备的语气喊出来,然后你(用)给人印象深刻的(目光)死死盯最远处的那个听众——最好是一个女孩——然后在寂静中停顿,越来越令人生畏,当到了适当的长度时,突然跳起来冲向那个女孩,然后喊道,"就是你拿了!"

第17单元 创作的哲学

"在最具诗意的主题中,什么时侯是最忧伤的?"根据上面已有的长篇解释,这个答案也很明显——"当它最紧密地和'美'联在一起时"——那么美丽女人之死毋庸置疑是世界上最具诗意的主题。"

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Unit 1

Text: Seeing People Off



Max Beerbohm (1872-1956)

Authorial Information

Beerbohm was knighted in 1939. Sir Henry Maximilian (Max) Beerbohm was a drama critic, an essayist, a caricaturist, as well as the writer of one novel and many short stories. He was a contemporary to the famous Victorian men of letters such as Ruskin, Carlyle and Wilde. Beerbohm was known primarily for

his sharp wit and satire. His familiar essay "Seeing People Off" is frequently anthologized in textbooks of English essays. This essay was in his collection *Yet Again* 1 , the earliest edition of which came out in 1909.

Leads to Understanding

- 1. Try to think and understand in English. The columns of "Vocabulary" and "Summaries and Comprehension Notes" are respectively for quick reference in the first reading and for further explication of main ideas (in italics) and difficult phrases in the second reading.
- 2. If you have to see someone off, what kind of feeling is expected in such a situation? Happy, sentimental or indifferent?
- 3. If the author tells you he doesn't like seeing people off, are you surprised?
- 4. If you have already given a farewell dinner to your friend and all necessary words have been said, can your seeing-off next day at a railway station or an airport be a passionate one?

¹ The Chinese translation of the title is《再来一次》.

	Seeing People Off Max Beerbohm	Vocabulary
1.	I am not good at <u>it</u> . To do it well seems to me one of the most difficult things in the world, and probably seems so to you, too.	it: the vague word refers to seeing people off.
2.	To see a friend off from Waterloo to Vauxhall were easy enough. But we are never called on to perform that small feat. It is only when a friend is going on a longish journey, and will be absent for a longish time, that we turn up at the railway station. The dearer the friend, and the longer the journey, and the longer the likely absence, the earlier do we turn up, and the more lamentably do we fail. Our failure is in exact ratio to the seriousness of the occasion, and to the depth of our feeling.	were: would be that small feat: to see a friend off on a short trip turn up: to be present fail: being unable to perform a enthusiastic farewell
3.	In a room or even on a door step, we can make the farewell quite worthily. We can express in our faces the genuine sorrow we feel. Nor do words fail us. There is no awkwardness, no restraint on either side. The thread of our intimacy has not been snapped. The leave-taking is an ideal one. Why not, then leave the leave-taking at that? Always, departing friends implore us not to bother to come to the railway station next morning. Always, we are deaf to these entreaties, knowing them to be not quite sincere. The departing friends would think it very odd of us if we took them at their word. Besides, they really do want to see us again. And that wish is heartily reciprocated. We duly turn up. And then, oh then, what a gulf yawns! We stretch our arms vainly across it. We have utterly lost touch. We have nothing at all to say. We gaze at each other as dumb animals gaze at human beings. We make conversation – and such conversation!	worthily: be worthy of the communicative function in saying goodbye implore: beg be deaf to: would not listen to entreaty: earnest request odd: strange and unexpected heartily reciprocated: warmly and thoroughly exchanged and understood duly: properly or timely

	Summaries & Comprehension Notes	送 行 马科思·比尔博姆 著 殷恒光 译
1.	How does the author appeal to the readers at the beginning? (He arouses the readers' curiosity about what he was not good at.)	我是不善于此事的。对我来说,这件事好像 是世界上最难的事了。对您来说可能也是如此。
2.	The reason of unsuccessful seeing off: The more serious the occasion is, the worse the failure is. Vauxhall is an inner city area of Central London and Waterloo is a district of London. Both are in the London Borough of Lambeth. The two stations are not far away. "Our failure is in exact ratio to": Our failure in expressing intense feelings is in proportion to	要是朋友从滑铁卢站到沃克斯豪尔站(两火车站相距不远,均在伦敦兰贝斯区),给他送行会非常简单。但是我们从来都不必去表演那种微不足道的小技。只有当朋友远行,离开一段较长的时间,我们才会在火车站上露面。朋友越亲密,旅途越遥远,可能离别的时间越长,我们就会露面越早,而送别就越令人悲伤和失望。这种场合越庄重,我们的感情越深,结果也越是令人失望。
3.	Where is the better place for a farewell? But what is the result if "I" insists on coming to the station? Home farewell is best performed, yet no word can be found for further railway-station farewell. "The thread snapped": the link is not broken. Is it hypocritical to ask others not to come, yet hoping for their seeing off? "Took them at their word": take their words seriously. What's the yawning gulf? (It is the metaphor of a break or obstacle in communication.)	在屋里,甚至在门阶上,我们的告别都能相当传情达意。我们的脸上能表达真实的悲伤。我们不会无话可说,没有不自在,任何一方都不会有拘束。我们之间的亲密没有断线。这是一种理想的离别。那么为什么不能让离别留在这一步呢?离别的朋友总是请求我们第二天早上不要费劲来火车站。而我们总是对这些恳求充耳不闻,因为我们知道他们有点言不由衷。如果把离别朋友的话当真,那么他们会认为很奇怪。而且他们也的确希望再见我们一面。于是这种强烈的愿望完全传达给了对方。我们恰如其分地出现。然后,哎,然后,一条多大的鸿沟张着大口(横在两人间)啊!我们伸出胳膊探过去,全是徒劳。我们完全失去了接触,没有一点东西可谈。我们互相凝视,就像默不出声的动物凝视人类一样。我们交谈——(难道)这也叫交谈!

We know that these friends are the friends from whom we different: being other than the parted overnight. They know that we have not altered. Yet, on old the surface, everything is different; and the tension is such that acquaintance we only long for the guard to blow his whistle and put an end and having a lot to talk about to the farce. On a cold grev morning of last week I duly turned up at overnight: the Euston, to see off an old friend who was starting for America. night before Overnight, we had given him a farewell dinner, in which festivity: joyous sadness was well mingled with festivity. Years probably would celebration elapse: passing elapse before his return. Some of us might never see him of time again. Not ignoring the shadow of the future, we gaily celebrated the past. We were as thankful to have known our manifest: clearly shown guest as we were grieved to lose him; and both these emotions were made manifest. It was a perfect farewell. And now, here we were, stiff and self-conscious on the 5. platform; and framed in the window of the railway-carriage was the face of our friend; but it was as the face of a stranger a stranger anxious to please, an appealing stranger, an to please: to be pleased awkward stranger. "Have you got everything?" asked one of us. breaking a silence. "Yes, everything," said our friend, with a prophecy: pleasant nod. "Everything," he repeated, with the emphasis of prediction of the possible lunch

an empty brain. "You'll be able to lunch on the train," said I,

though the prophecy had already been made more than once.

"Oh, yes," he said with conviction. He added that the train

went straight through to Liverpool. This fact seemed to strike strike: seem to be us as rather odd. We exchanged glances. "Doesn't it stop at odd: strange; Crewe?" asked one of us. "No", said our friend, briefly. He out of expectation

conviction: firm

helief

seemed almost disagreeable.

What is the tension? (It is the tension between having noting to say and having to say something.)

我们知道这些朋友还是昨晚分别的朋友,他们也知道我们也并无二致。然而表面上,一切都不同了(应该有说不完的话)。这个紧张啊,所以唯一的期望是列车员吹响哨子,结束这场闹剧。

Celebration before a friend's departure for America.

Interpret "sadness... mingled with festivity".

"Shadow of the future": uncertain feeling about the future Interpret

"We were as thankful... lose him": we were thankful to have him as the friend; equally, we were also sad to lose him.

The embarrassment of further seeing-off on the railway platform

What is the estranged effect of his friend in the frame of the window?

(The materialization of his friend rises out of the speaker's dislike of the expected talks.)

Explain why "everything" is repeated.

(This shows the emptiness of the talk and the empty brain.)

What's the implication of the train's going through to Liverpool without a stop at Crewe? (A short journey with no delay means no lunch, so the prophecy of lunch seems ungrounded.)

Why does the friend seem disagreeable? (He's aware of the embarrassment of breaking "our" lies.)

上周一个寒冷、灰蒙蒙的早晨,我适时地来 到尤斯顿火车站,给一位去美洲的老朋友送行。 之前的晚上,我们已给他践行,席间悲伤混杂着 欢庆。很可能好几年后他才能回来。我们有些人 可能再也见不到他了。虽然免不了谈到未来的阴 郁,但我们还是欢快地庆祝着过去。我们心存感 激能与他为友,同样,也会因失去他而感到悲伤。 这两种感情都表达明了。这个送别完美无缺。

可是现在,我们来到这里,在站台上,僵硬而不自在。火车车厢窗子里是我们朋友的那张脸。这像是张陌生人的脸——这个陌生人急于要别人让他高兴,这是个满眼哀求、尴尬的陌生人。"东西都带了吗?"我们中的一个人问道,打破了寂静。"是的,都带了,"我们的朋友高兴地点了点头。"都带了!"他重复道,嘴上郑重其事,脑子里却空空如也。"在火车上你可以吃午餐的,"我说道,尽管我这样的预言可能已经不止一次了。"哦,是的,"他说道,很有信心。他又补充一句说,火车是直达利物浦的。这个事情让我们觉得奇怪。我们交换了一下眼色。其中一个问道,"火车不在克鲁停留吗?""不。"朋友简短地说。他显得有点不自在。