

中英文对照



中國文化故事

◎ 周 仪 编著

CHINESE-ENGLISH EDITION
CHINESE CULTURAL STORIES



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内 容 提 要

本书是一本普及性的英语读物,通俗易懂。内容包括四部分:中国历史故事(30篇),中国神话故事(30篇),中国寓言故事(30篇),中国成语故事(30篇)。

本书雅俗共赏、老少咸宜,既可辅助大学英语的教学,提高大学生学习英语的兴趣,夯实他们的文化底蕴;也可作为高中生理想的英语课外读物,在学习英语的同时温习中国历史及语文,扩充知识面,提高考试成绩;还可作为孔子学院的教材,弘扬博大精深的中国文化;对于广大的英语爱好者而言,本书也是不可多得的提升英语水平和历史知识的优秀读物。

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

中国文化故事=Chinese Cultural Stories:英文/周
仪编著. —上海:同济大学出版社,2012. 10
ISBN 978-7-5608-4942-3

I. ①中... II. ①周... III. ①英语—语言读物
②故事—作品集—中国 IV. ①H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2012)第 183805 号

中国文化故事

周 仪 编著

责任编辑 陈佳蔚 助理编辑 吴丽丽 责任校对 徐春莲 封面设计 潘向葵

出版发行 同济大学出版社 www.tongjipress.com.cn
(上海市四平路 1239 号 邮编:200092 电话:021-65985622)

经 销 全国各地新华书店
印 刷 苏州望电印刷有限公司
开 本 787 mm×1 092 mm 1/16
印 张 13.75
字 数 275 000
印 数 1—7 100
版 次 2012 年 10 月第 1 版 2012 年 10 月第 1 次印刷
书 号 ISBN 978-7-5608-4942-3

定 价 30.00 元

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曾留学加拿大不列颠哥伦比亚大学,赴美国麦瑟大学讲学,考察欧洲八国,访问泰国 13 所大学和越南 3 所大学。出版了专著、译著、教材、词典 21 部,发表文章 100 多篇,获七项省部级学术成果奖。主要著作有:《翻译与批评》(中华翻译研究丛书之九,湖北教育出版社,1999 年)、《中国文化概论》(英文版,重庆大学出版社,2003 年)、《中国历代文化典籍概要》(英汉对照,世界图书出版公司,2000 年)、《蝇王·金字塔》(译著,获诺贝尔文学奖丛书之戈尔丁卷,漓江出版社,1995 年)、《中华经典文化》(国际华文出版社,2011 年)。



Preface

When I was compiling the textbook *Chinese Classical Culture* 《中华经典文化》(Chinese edition), it occurred to me that a story-book about Chinese culture in English would be a great help in the use of the textbook, and in the development of students' interest in English study.

Therefore, after the publication of *Chinese Classical Culture*, I set my hand on writing *Chinese Cultural Stories* (Chinese-English edition). After six months of intense work, I felt relaxed with a pile of finished manuscripts on my desk. Most probably, this is the last book that I've ever written in my academic career.

From my fifty years' experience in English teaching, I believe, this book will meet the needs of different readers.

For students of the English major, this book will help them raise their writing and retelling ability in English, strengthen their cultural grounding in Chinese, and change the embarrassing situation in which they are "quite strong in English but rather weak in Chinese".

For the large number of university and college students, this book is suitable for their outside reading. It can arouse their interest in English and enhance their capacity in learning the language.

For the high school students, this book will not only help cultivate their interest, but also create their confidence in learning the English language, for it is written in easy English and contains many interesting stories in Chinese history and language. It will assist them as well in preparation for the national entrance examination for the university.

For the foreign students in the Confucius Institutes abroad, this book will help them understand better the Chinese culture, promote and develop the Chinese culture all over the world.

For other readers who are interested in English, this book can help maintain their interest in the language, and they can also use this book to give necessary guidance to their children, relatives and friends in learning English.

All in all, this Chinese-English edition of story book will be popular with the public and benefit all its readers when it comes out.

This is the twenty-second book I've ever written. It is the youngest "son" of mine. Delicate as it is, I hope, it would become strong and successful and would have its position in society.

My acknowledgement should go to the American Teacher, Mr. Richard Williams who helped me to read through the manuscripts and gave me valuable suggestions. Special thanks should go to my student Yu Zourong who helped to type the manuscripts and translate most of the stories into Chinese. I can't thank her too much.

Zhou Yi

Guangxi University of Foreign Languages

July, 2012



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Part One

Stories in Chinese History

中國歷史故事



1. Shennong Tasted Hundreds of Wild Plants

Tea-drinking is a constituent part (组成部分) of Chinese culture. China is the original producer of tea and its skills in planting tea, its customs of tea-drinking spread over to Europe, and then, to many other regions of the world through cultural exchange via the ancient “Silk Road” and other channels of trade. The Chinese nation has written a brilliant page for its tea culture in the history of world civilization. Together with silk, tea is the pride of the Chinese nation. The production and promotion of tea has been one of China’s principal contributions to the world.

According to Lu Yu’s *Tea Classics* (陆羽《茶经》), tea-drinking in China can be traced back to the Zhou Dynasty (1046 B.C.—222 B.C.): “Tea was discovered by Shennong and became popular as a drink in the State of Lu because of Zhou Gong.” (茶之为饮,发乎神农氏,闻于鲁周公。) Tea drinking in China has a history of four thousand years. As the legend has it, Shennong (神农), a legendary hero, tasted hundreds of wild plants to see which were poisonous and which were edible, so as to prevent people from eating the poisonous plants. It is said that he was poisoned seventy-two times in one day but was saved by chewing some tender leaves of an evergreen plant blossoming with white flowers. Since he had a transparent (透明的) belly, people could see how the food moved throughout his stomach and intestines (肠). When they saw the juice of the tender leaves go up and down in the stomach as if it were searching for something, they called it “查” (chá), meaning search. Later it was renamed “茶” (chá) having the same sound of “查”. In the end Shennong was poisoned by a kind of small grass with small yellow flowers. He felt great pain in the belly and before he could eat some tea, his intestines broke into pieces and he died. That little grass is called “breaking-intestines grass” (断肠草). People told and retold this story from