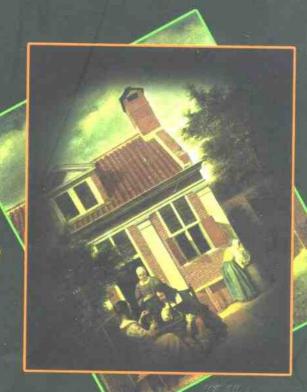


FLEA READERS



第一辑②

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(2)

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儿子与精人

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前言

《跳蚤·阅读》(FLEA READERS) 是刘国彬教授和美籍专家迈克·理斯顿先生为大中学生和广大英语爱好者精心策划的一套英语课外读物,是针对教育部对目前英语教学现状提出的意见编撰的,旨在为广大中学生和大学低年级学生提供一套既实用又轻松的中英文对照读物。

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尽管我们在尽最大的努力做好每一件事,但是失 误仍然在所难免。希望广大读者一如既往地对我们的 工作进行监督与批评,并欢迎广大读者随时与我们联 系。

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Organized Crime EIGHTEENTH CENTURY STYLE

by laurence Thompson

It is hard to imagine a large city without policemen, but such was the situation in London in the early part of the eighteenth century. There was no organized police force to apprehend ^① criminals. There were public watchmen, or Charlies, as they were called, but they were generally feeble old men, unfit for more strenuous ^② assignment than calling out, "Past ten o'clock and a cold, frosty morning."

There were also constables ³ appointed to keep the peace. From as far back 1252, constables had been appointed for each parish ³ in England. The position of constable was an honor, given only to trustworthy ³ men.

The constable was unpaid, however, and not expected to do more than carry out the law in country towns and villages where the commonest crime was likely to be the theft of someone's wash. In London more serious crimes were committed; as the work of the constable became more difficult and dangerous, the men who should have done it paid others, less respectable and less efficient, to do it for them.

It was part of the constable's duty to raise the "hue and



有组织的犯罪

- ─ 18 世纪的世风

劳伦斯·汤姆普森

很难想像一个大城市里竟会没有警察。但是 18世纪早期的伦敦确实如此。城中没有组织起来的警察队伍去拘捕罪犯。只有公共的更夫,或被叫作"查理斯"的看守人,他们一般都是体弱的老年人,除了能喊一喊"过 10点钟了"和"早上天冷啊!"之外,做不了什么大事。

警察也被派来维持治安。早在 1252年,警察就被派到英格兰的各教 区。警察的职位仅仅是授予值得信任 的人的一种荣誉。

警察不取报酬。在城镇与乡村,当时最常见的犯罪行为是偷窃他人洗晒的衣物。警察除了依法处理这种案件之外,也做不了别的事情。在伦敦,犯罪更严重,警察的工作也就变得困难和危险。因此,他们便花钱雇佣地位不高、能力不强的人去代替他们执行公务。

警察的一部分职责是在追捕逃



① apprehend [ˌæpri·hend] v. 逮 捕,拘押

(2) strenuous

['strenjuas] adj. 辛 苦的、奋斗的

3 constable

[·kʌnstəbl] n. 警察

④ parish['pæri∫]

n. 地方自治区

⑤ trustworthy ['trʌstɪwəːði] *adj.* 可信赖的 cry" after an escaping criminal. On hearing the hue and cry, all passers were supposed to join in the pursuit, but in practice, not many passers by could be persuaded to help. It was too dangerous a task, and the constable was unarmed. Anyway, in the squalid T surroundings that criminals frequented, the passers by were generally on the fugitive's © side.

Within the City of London lay another city, in which a criminal was safe. It was a city of poverty, tightly packed with wood-and-stone hovels ® overhanging narrow, filthy courtyards. The fleeing criminal would dodge ® from court to court through the maze of twisting streets, finally ducking into a house or climbing across the sloping roofs. Meanwhile his friends did their best to mislead, trip, or even knife the handful of "thief takers" who came after him.

Henry Fielding, the famous novelist who was also a London magistrate, once made a night raid on two known hideous ⁵ in this city-within-a-city; he found seventy men, women, and children packed away in a few tiny, stinking rooms. All of these people, including little children of five and six who were trained as pick-pockets, were wanted for crime.

Conditions like these bred more criminals. One of the typical cases was that of Jack Sheppard, whose execution in 1724 was watched by two hundred thousand people

犯时大喊大叫。听到叫喊声,所有讨! 路人应该都要参加追捕。但是实际上 1.没有多少行人会帮忙。这种任务。 讨干危险,警察又赤手令拳,没有准 备。因此、在罪犯頻繁出没的贫民窟。 周围地区, 行人无论如何通常总是袒 护罪犯的。

伦敦城中有城,在那里,罪犯是安 全的。那是一个贫穷之城,狭窄肮脏的 木石搭成的陋屋拥塞其中。逃犯穿过 迂回曲折形同迷宫的街路, 从这个院 子窜到那个院子, 最终会潜入一家或 爬过屋顶,逃之夭夭。与此同时,他的 同伙也竭尽全力将追捕逃犯的少数 "捉贼者"引入歧途、绊倒在地、甚至加 以伤害。

亨利・菲尔丁既是著名的小说 家,也是伦敦的一名地方保安官。有一口 squahd[skwohd] 次,他在突然夜巡这城中之城的两处1的 贼窝时,发现在几间狭小、散发臭气的 ② fugitive 屋子里挤满了70个男人、女人和孩 子。这些人被教唆去犯罪,其中包括年[③ hovel['hovl] n 仅五六岁受训当扒手的儿童。

这种环境滋生了更多的犯罪分 四开 躲开 子。一个典型的案例是杰克・谢泼 德。1724年执行死刑时,有 20 万人围 的

ada 肮脏的、鬼劣

[fluidates] n 逃亡 考

茅舍

4 dodge[dod3] n

(5) hideous[!hidiəs] adi 且恶的,可管

Sheppard, the son of honest working people, was an apprentice [®] in a respectable trade. He ran away from it because he fancied that he had been ill-treated, and soon found it easy to make more money by thieving than his father had done by a lifetime of honest work.

In Sheppard's day highwaymen committed robberies in broad daylight, in sight of a crowd, and rode solemnly and triumphantly [®] through the town without danger of molestation [®]. If they were chased, twenty or thirty armed men were ready to come to their assistance. Murder was an everyday affair, and there were many people who made heroes of the murderers.

So young, tight-lipped Sheppard, still in his teens, only five feet four inches tall, and very slender [®] and pale, became a petty thief, then a highwayman, with no future to hope for except the gallows or rival's [®] bullet.

Working behind most of the thieves were the receivers of stolen property, who had organized the thieves and rogues into gangs. One gang robbed on the main roads into London, one covered the churches, and one covered entertainments and public functions. One of the most notorious ® receivers, Jonathan Wild, set up a special brigade ® that would find employment as servants and then pilfer from the household or open the doors at night for other robbers to enter. He had a staff of mechanics for



观。谢拨德出身于普通的劳动人民家庭,曾在一家像样的商号学徒。他自认为在那里受到了虐待,便不辞而别。不久,他就发现偷窃比他父亲终生诚实的劳动更容易赚大钱。

在谢泼德所处的时代,拦路抢劫的强盗在光天化日、众日睽睽之下抢劫,一本正经,得意洋洋,招摇过市,却如人无人之境。如果有人追赶,就会有二三十个全副武装的人为虎作伥。凶杀如家常便饭,有许许多多的人竟因凶杀成了英雄。

年纪轻轻、沉默寡言的谢泼德,身高只有5尺4寸,身材修长,脸色发白,尚未成年,竟成了行窃好手,继而拦路抢劫。除了绞架或对手的枪弹之外,他已别无他途。

操纵大多数窃贼的是窝赃者。他们将窃贼与无赖组织成帮伙。一帮在通往伦敦的大路上抢劫,另一帮便行窃教堂,还有一帮去骚扰娱乐和公共场所。最臭名昭著的窝主之一是乔纳桑·怀尔德。他组建了一个特别大队,招雇佣人,然后去住宅行窃,或在夜里敞开屋门,引贼入室。他有一帮技工,专事换锁或将珠宝偷梁换柱。他有储

- ① apprentice [ə·prentis] n 学 徒,徒弟 ② triumphantly
- ② triumphantly [trai/Amfəntli] adv 成功地,得意洋洋 地
- ③ molestation [impulesiteijan] n 侵犯,折磨
- ④ slender[slendə] adı 苗条的,狭窄 的
- ⑤ nval[raivəl]n. 对手, 敌手
- ⑥ notonous [nəuˈtɔːnəs] n 恶 名昭著的
- ⑦ brigade[bri geid] # 故

altering watches and jewelry, warehouses to store the loot, and a sloop $^{\oplus}$ to convey certain stolen goods to the Continent, where they could be sold in safety.

Other stolen property he advertised as "recovered property" and sold back to the original owners; or, if they did not claim it, he openly sold it elsewhere, His activities became so widespread that special legislation was passed to make the receiver of stolen goods an accessory ²⁰ to the theft. Wild got around this by opening a "lost-property office," at which those who had had goods stolen might report their loss. Wild charged a fee for making inquiries about a theft—and he charged yet another fee when he returned the goods that he claimed to have found.

The authorities might have taken stronger steps against wild had he not been so useful as a thief taker. He knew every criminal, as he employed most of them himself. Whenever it suited his purpose, he would hand a man over to the authorities for hanging. This brought him even more money, for a reward was generally offered for wanted criminals. It also provided Wild with a very effective means of controlling his men. Every man knew that if he disobeyed the boss he would be betrayed ³⁰ and would quickly find himself on the gallows ³¹.

Jack Sheppard, who had robbed for Wild and killed bonest men so that Wild might grow rich, was one of those who fell out with the boss and was duly betrayed to



3

藏赃物的货栈。他还有一艘木桅帆船,可以携窃来之物溜至新大陆,在那里 销赃。

对于其他赃物,他做广告称"失物招领",再卖给失主。或者,如果失主不来认领,他便可在别处公开销售。他的活动影响之广使得一项特别立法得以通过,将赃物窝主视为窃贼的同谋论处。怀尔德为逃避此法,又开设了"失物事务所",失主可以到这儿米声明挂失。怀尔德通过挂失咨询收一笔费用,在他把称作已找回之物归还失主时,还要再收一笔钱。

如果怀尔德不是在抓贼方面十分 有用,当局本来早可以采取更有力措施 对付他。他认识每一个罪犯,因为他亲 自雇佣过他们中的大多数人。每当他要 达到自己的目的之时,他便向当局交出 一个人绞死。他因此赚得更多的钱,因 为赏金一般授予缉拿罪犯的有功之臣。 这也为他控制手下人提供了有效手段。 每一个窃贼都明白,如果自己不服从老 板,就会被他出卖,很快走上绞刑架。

杰克·谢泼德曾经为怀尔德去抢劫,杀害好人,结果使怀尔德致富。他就是那些与老板闹翻的人之中的一

- ① sloop[slu p] n 单桅机船
- ② accessory [æk'sesən]』。附 件,从犯
- ③ betray[br'trei]v 率负,出卖
- |④ gallow['gæleu] |n 绞架、绞刑

the authorities.

While he was awaiting trial and certain hanging, Sheppard broke out of Newgate Prison. He accomplished this by getting rid of the irons with which his wrists and ankles were shackled [®], cutting through a double grille [®] of oak and iron bars, descending twentyfive feet by a knotted sheet and blanket, and climbing a twenty-two-foot wall. Before he reached freedom he was caught, and subsequently he was tried and condemned. He escaped again, however, and walked openly about the underworld city, where his ever ready pistols discouraged captors.

When he was captured a third time, he was taken to a stronger part of the prison known as the Castle, and there chained more securely than before. A third time he freed himself of his manacles [®]. He snapped the floor chains and climbed the chimney after having removed a heavy iron bar from it. Forcing the heavily bolted doors of several chambers, he found himself on the upper levels with a twenty-foot drop to the next roof. He cooly retraced his steps, removed the blanket from his cell, and triumphantly swung across to safety.

But though he might escape from prisons and chains, he could not escape from himself. At large again, he had no place to go except to his usual drinking dens, where he was finally captured. This time the gallows claimed him.



个,结果立刻被出卖给了当局。

正当等待受审,必死无疑之时,谢 泼德突然逃出了纽格监狱。他打开了 手铐脚镣,弄断了双层的橡木栅栏和 铁条,用系在一起的床单和毯子从 25 英尺高处跳下,爬过了 22 英尺的高 墙。在他获得自由之前,又被捕入狱, 接着受审,被判死刑。他再度越狱,公 开漫步在底层社会。在那里,他的神奇 射术使追捕者闻风丧胆。

他第三次被捕后,被押在更为牢固、被人们称为城堡的这所监狱中,被牢牢地锁在那里,比前两次都要牢固。他又一次挣脱了手铐,挣断了地上的锁链,弄掉了烟囱里的一根粗粗的铁杠,爬了出去,他撞开了好几间屋子的牢闭门闩,不知不觉地来到了离下面屋顶20英尺高的平台上。他冷静地顺原路返回牢房,取来毯子,成功地荡到了安全地带。

尽管他可以逃离监狱,摆脱锁链,他却无法摆脱自己。重获自由之后,他除了出人在常饮酒的贼窝之外,无处可去。在那里,他终于再次被捕,被送上了断头台。

① shackle['Jæk]]

n 手铐

② grille[gril] n 鉄棚

③ manacle [mænək]] n. 手 铐、束缚 It was novelist Henry Fielding who finally thought of equipping regular patrols with arms and uniforms and sending them out to police the streets of London. His half brother, Sir John Fielding, organized these first "patrols [®]", groups of well-mounted men armed with cutlasses [®], pistols, and truncheons [®].

At first these groups were financed by rich citizens who were willing to pay for their security, but later they were taken over by the government, and their numbers increased. The Fieldings "patrols" became a real police force.

HISTORICAL STORY