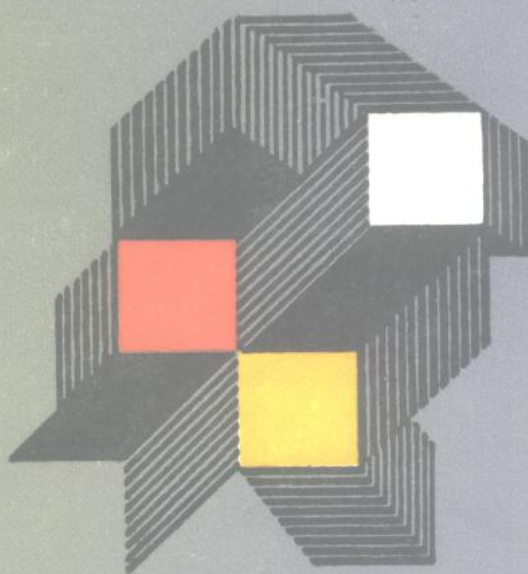


MODERN ENGLISH

现代英语

许国璋 编

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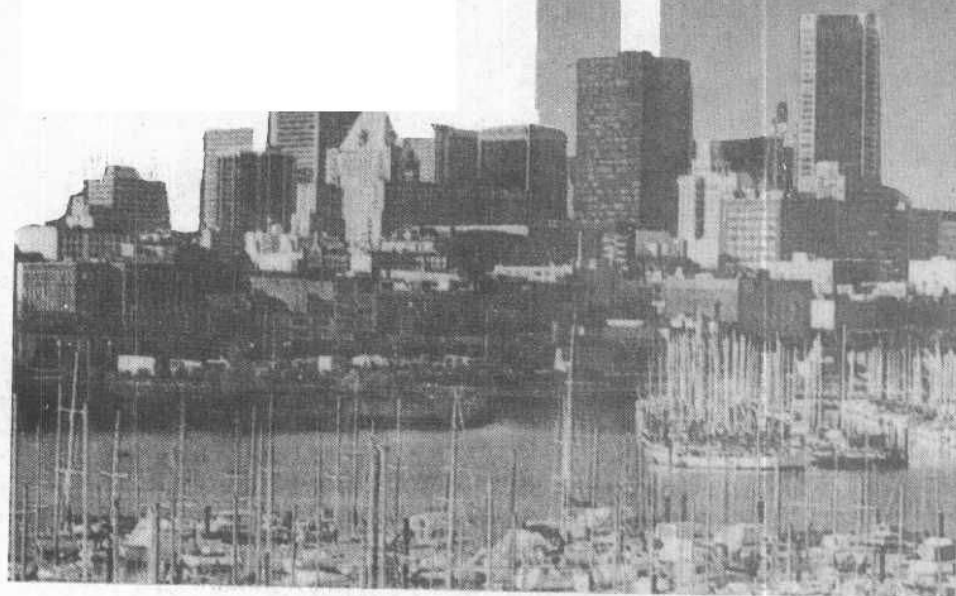


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许国璋编

第二册



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Lesson One

THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD

The term “Seven Wonders of the World” was known as early as 300 B. C. Today it is still often seen in Christmas books for children.

Travelling in ancient times was difficult and hazardous and so most people preferred staying at home. Merchants, traders and soldiers were the main travellers, and they went in large numbers and with armed guards. Ordinary people seldom ventured beyond their own villages or towns, and all they knew of the wonders of ‘foreign parts’ was from travellers’ tales, stories as likely to be made-up as fact. (Who knew, for example, if Polyphemus, the one-eyed giant who ate Odysseus’ crew in Homer’s story *The Odyssey*, was fact or fiction? Very few people would have visited his part of the world to see.)

By the time of Alexander the Great (356—323 B. C.), everything had changed. Alexander was a conqueror; his ambition was to make the world one single empire. He began with Greece, and then moved into Persia (a gigantic kingdom, as large as the present-day USA). His soldiers travelled the length and breadth of Persia, conquering as they went, and only stopped when they reached the river Beas (in what is now India). From being prince of a small mountain kingdom in northern Greece, Alexander came to rule an empire a hundred times as big.

As travel became more secure, people moved about more. There were Greek towns everywhere, with a friendly welcome for visitors; soldiers kept the roads and sea-crossings reasonably clear of robbers. People became curious about the other parts of Alexander’s enormous empire, eager to go and see for themselves what they had once only heard about in tales. It was the beginning of tourism.

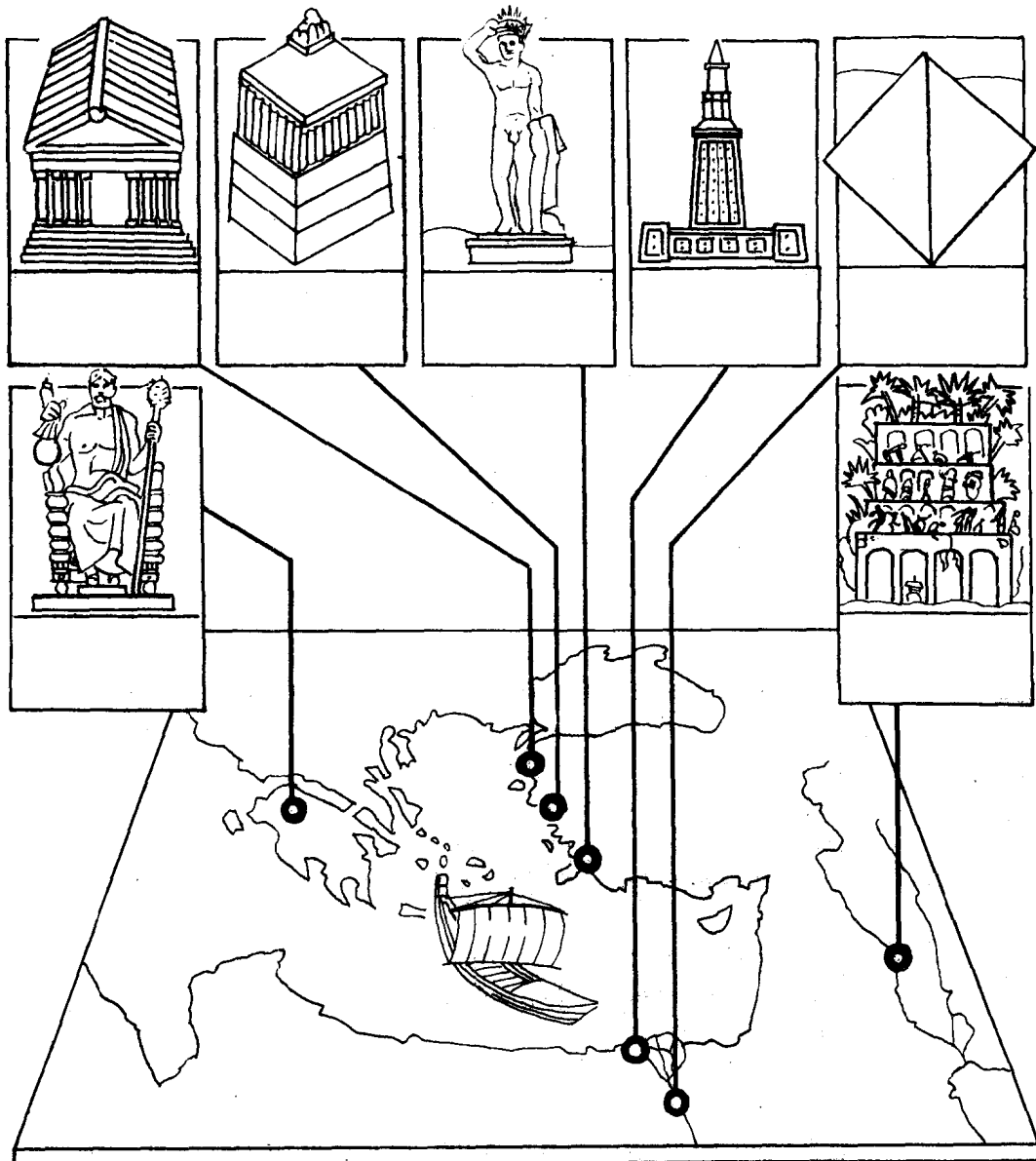
Guidebooks with wonder-lists were written as long ago as the sixth century B. C., but some time in the third century B. C. (no one knows exactly when), a list appeared of the Seven Wonders of

the World. It was a good idea—but why just seven? Why was China's Great Wall not included? After all, the Great Wall is one of the few remarkable features on earth visible from the satellite.

If China was not included, why were they called the wonders of the world?

They were the wonders of the world because that was the world as the Greeks understood it. It was the world of the Greeks; in that world they travelled. China was little known to them, if at all. Moreover, China's wall in 300 B. C. could hardly have been as impressive as it was in later times.

So the Greeks thought there were seven wonders of the world, and they were quite right for although only one of the seven



wonders exists today, the other six were real wonders by their size and height. They had perished because they were built of material less durable than stone.

The seven wonders were skilfully chosen to encourage travellers. Apart from the Hanging Gardens of Babylon in the east and the Statue of Zeus in the west, they all lay in the centre of the Greek empire, in places beside seas or navigable rivers, and they were equally easy to reach from east or west. None are natural wonders (as, say, the Grand Canyon or Niagara Falls are natural); all were made by human effort, and show human technology at its most stunning and inventive. They were like an advertisement for the skills of the people in the enlarged Greek empire, a proof to everyone of how civilised and organised they were.

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

wonders/'wʌndəz/*n.* 奇观
ancient/'eɪnʃənt/*adj.* 古代
hazardous/'hæzədəs/*adj.* 危险的
venture/'ventʃə/*vi.* 冒险
tale/teɪl/*n.* 故事, 传说
crew/kruː/*n.* (全体) 船员
fiction/'fɪkʃən/*n.* 虚构
conqueror/'kɒŋkərə/*n.* 征服者
empire/'empaɪə/*n.* 帝国
gigantic/dʒaɪ'ɡæntɪk/*adj.* 巨大的
kingdom/kɪŋdəm/*n.* 王国
length and breadth 全境
conquer/'kɒŋkə/*vt.* 征服
to move about 走来走去
keep clear of 避开(在文中应作:使道路畅通, 不受盗匪骚扰)
sea-crossing 横越海洋
reasonably/'riːzənəbli/*adv.* 适当地
Babylon/'bæbɪlən/*n.* 巴比伦

Statue of Zeus/'stætjuː əf zjuːs/ 宙斯神像
navigable/'nævɪɡəbəl/*adj.* 可通航的
stunning/'stʌnɪŋ/*adj.* [口]极好的
inventive/ɪn'ventɪv/*adj.* 发明创造的
civilised/'sɪvəlaɪzd/*adj.* 文明的
temple/templ/*n.* 神殿
Ephesus/'efɪsəs/*n.* 古代爱奥尼亚〔在小亚细亚西岸〕的一个海港, 现已不存在
mausoleum/ˌmɔːsə'liəm/*n.* 陵墓
Halicarnassus/hæ'lɪkɑː'næsəs/*n.* 哈利卡纳苏斯〔小亚细亚一古城〕
giant/'dʒaɪənt/*n.* 巨人
Rhodes/rəʊdɪz/*n.* 罗得岛〔希腊一岛屿〕
lighthouse/laɪthaʊs/*n.* 灯塔
Alexandria/æ'lɪg'zɑːndriə/*n.* 〔埃及〕亚历山大港
Pyramid/'pɪrəɪd/*n.* 大金字塔
Olympia/ə'lɪmpɪə/*n.* 奥林匹亚〔希腊一地区名〕

Polyphemus—/ˌpɒli'fiːməs/ 波吕斐摩斯, a one-eyed giant in Homer's 'Odyssey' who kept Odysseus and his companions prisoners. He ate two of his prisoners each day, until Odysseus made him drunk and blinded him.

Odysseus—/ə'dɪsjuːs/ 奥德修斯, Greek mythology, son of Laertes, king of Ithaca, and hero of Odyssey.

The Odyssey—/'ɒdɪsi/《奥德赛》a Greek epic poem in 24 books, probably composed before 700 B. C., attributed to Homer. It recounts the adventures of Odysseus after the fall of Troy. He visits many places, eludes the Sirens but

is shipwrecked, and escapes alone to the island of Calypso. After ten years' wandering he returns home to Ithaca and takes vengeance on the suitors of his wife, Penelope.

Homer—/'həʊmə/ 荷马, the poet, supposedly blind, regarded by the Greeks as the author of the 'Iliad' and 'Odyssey'. Modern scholars recognize the fundamental unity of the epics and date them sometime before 700 B. C.

Alexander the Great (356—323 B. C.)—/æli'g'zɑ:ndə/ 亚历山大大帝, king of Macedon, son of Philip II and pupil of Aristotle. He conquered Egypt (332 B. C.) and founded Alexandria (331 B. C.). He decisively defeated the Persians at Arbela (331 B. C.), occupied the easternmost Persian provinces, and then overran the Punjab (327—325 B. C.). His army refused to advance further and he returned to Babylon where he died in 323 B. C.

Beas—/bi:əs/ 比亚斯, a tributary of the Sutlej, flowing from West Himalayas through North Punjab, India.

the Grand Canyon—/'kænjən/ 大峡谷, a gorge (349km long) cut out by the Colorado River through the high plateau of N. W. Arizona, U. S. A. It is over 1,500 meters deep and 6—28km wide.

Niagara Falls—/nai'ægərə fɔ:ls/ 尼亚加拉瀑布, a waterfall in the Niagara, divided by an island into Canadian Falls and American Falls; a tourist resort.

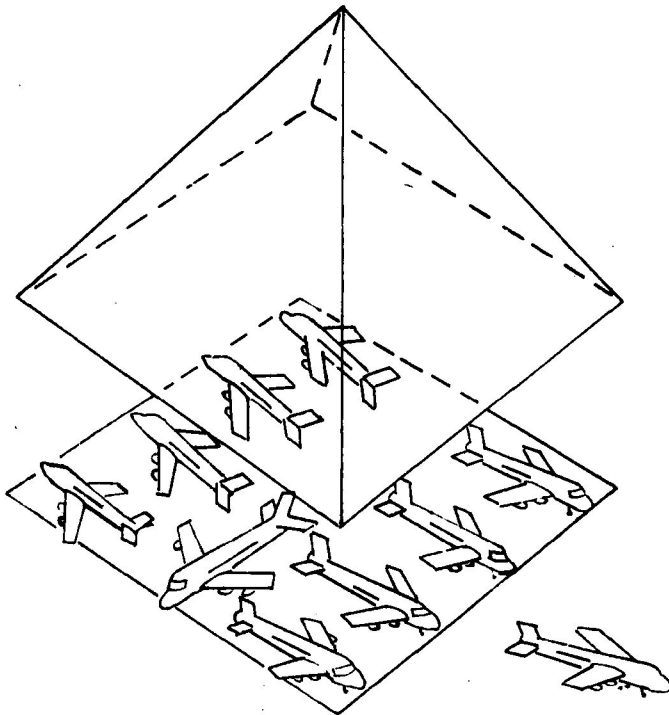
Lesson Two

THE GREAT PYRAMID

The Great Pyramid was built as a spirit-palace for King Kufu about 2590—2570 B. C.

It is the main building in a town of the dead near Giza (a suburb of modern Cairo beside the river Nile). Around it are the remains of more than eighty other pyramids, as well as temples, tombs, altars and ceremonial roadways. Beside the pyramids, as if guarding them, crouches the Sphinx, a stone lion with a bearded, human face. The whole place, pyramids, roads, temples, Sphinx, is constantly scoured by desert sand, which has pitted and scarred the surface of the stone.

The Great Pyramid is enormous, a hand-made hill. Its base-area



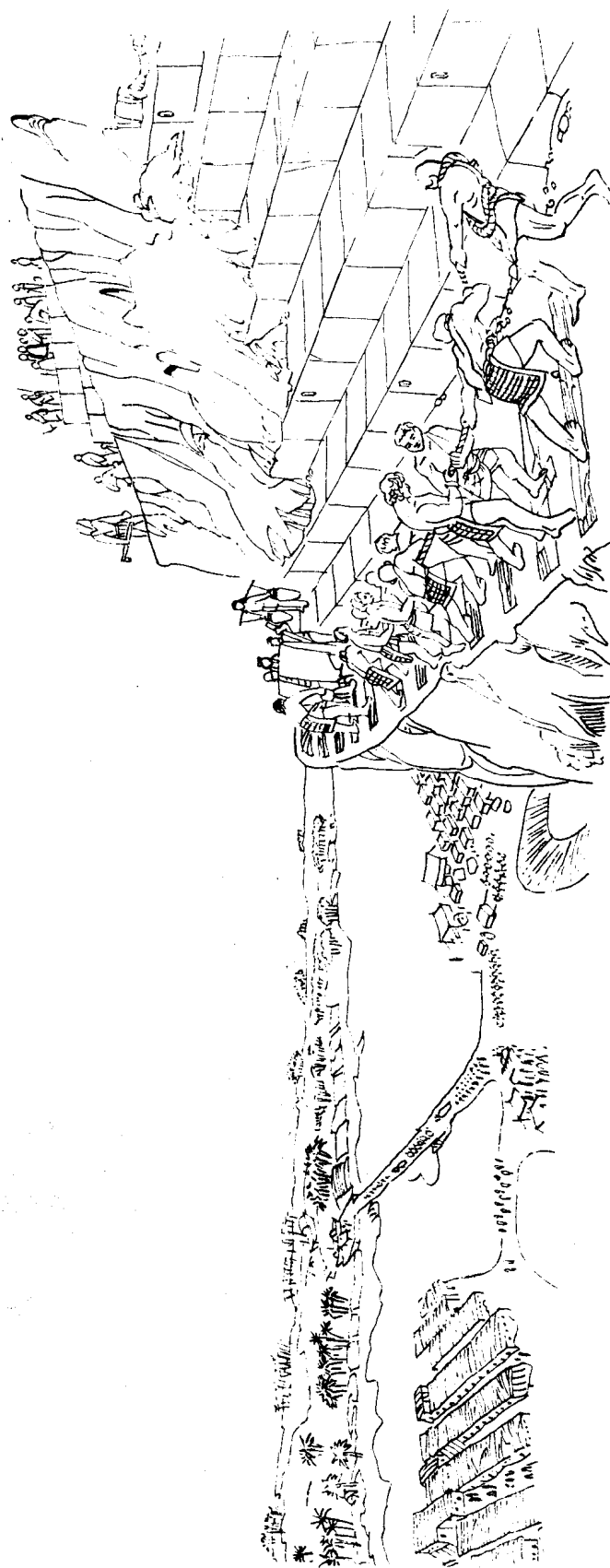
would allow parking-space for ten modern jumbo-jets. From its vast base it tapers to a point 10 cm (4 inches) wide which was originally gold-plated and glittered in the sun. The pyramid was built from more than two million stone blocks, each of them twice the weight of a modern car. If the pyramid was hollow (instead of solid, except for the burial-chamber right in the centre and the passages leading to it), it would comfortably hold the Houses of Parliament and St. Paul's Cathedral from London, or the Pentagon and the Capitol

from Washington, D. C. If the stones were broken up and made into a wall 30 cm (1 foot) wide and 1 metre (3 feet) high, it would stretch all the way round France.

Even today, with dynamite to blast the rocks, and cranes and bulldozers to shift them, it would take years of effort to build such an enormous pile. The Egyptians made do with muscle-power and brains. To quarry the rocks (from cliff-sites sometimes many kilometres upriver), they chiselled holes in the sandstone cliffs, then hammered wooden wedges into them and soaked the wedges with water. The wedges swelled and the rocks split. When each 2-to 3-ton block was ready, they raised it with levers on to a huge wooden sledge, and harnessed a team of men to it. Perhaps a hundred men pulled, while ten more lubricated the sledge-runners (with water, animal-fat or milk). Like ants dragging along a burden a hundred times their own size, they hauled the stone to the river Nile, floated it on rafts down-river to the building-site at Giza, heaved and tugged it up sloping earth ramps and fitted it in place. Modern archaeologists have calculated that if one gang of men could move ten stones a month, it would have taken 70,000 to 80,000 men about five years to build the pyramid.

When the basic pyramid was finished, the builders faced it with smooth stones to make its sides sheer and flat. (These stones were later removed for other building-work, and the sides of the pyramid are now like gigantic flights of steps.) Inside, passageways led to a burial-chamber about the size of a small modern house (10×5 metres, or 34×17 feet; 6 metres, or 19 feet, high). Its walls were of polished pink granite and inside was a sarcophagus (coffin-box) carved so perfectly from a single stone that if you hit it it made a sound like a bell.

At the king's funeral, his body was brought downriver on the royal barge, carried in procession to the pyramid, down the passageway and into the chamber, where it was laid to rest with all the belongings his spirit would need in the afterlife, and even the mummified bodies of his favourite pets. The chamber doorway was plugged with stone, and a curse was placed on anyone who broke it down. Then the priests and mourners went away, and the builders filled up the passageway with rubble, hid the entrance, and moved on to their next job, leaving Kufu's body and spirit to enjoy the afterlife in peace.



WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

pyramid /'pɪrəˌmɪd/ *n.* 金字塔

spirit-palace 鬼魂, 宫殿

King Kufu /'kuːfuː/ 又作 Khufu, 胡夫王,
埃及第四王朝国王(公元前2590—2568)

Giza /'ɡɪzə/ *n.* 吉萨

Cairo /'kaɪrəʊ/ *n.* 开罗

Nile /naɪl/ *n.* 尼罗河

remains /rɪ'meɪnz/ *n.* 遗迹

tomb /tuːm/ *n.* 墓

altar /'ɔːltə/ *n.* 祭坛

ceremonial /ˌserɪ'məʊnjəl/ *adj.* 仪式的

crouch /kraʊtʃ/ *vi.* 蹲伏

Sphinx /sfɪŋks/ *n.* 狮身人面像

scour /skaʊə/ *v.* 侵蚀

desert /'dezət/ *n.* 沙漠

pit /pɪt/ *vt.* 留下疤痕

scar /skɑː/ *vt.* 伤痕

surface /'sɜːfɪs/ *n.* 表面

parking-space *n.* 停置场

jumbo-jet *n.* 大型喷气飞机

taper /'teɪpə/ *vi.* 逐渐减少

gold-plated 镀金

glitter /'ɡlɪtə/ *vi.* 闪闪发光

hollow /'hɒləʊ/ *adj.* 中空的

burial-chamber 停棺室

St. Paul's Cathedral 圣保罗教堂

the Pentagon /'pentəɡən/ *n.* 五角大楼

the Capitol /'kæpɪtəl/ *n.* 国会山

dynamite /'daɪnəmaɪt/ *n.* 炸药

blast /blɑːst/ *vt.* 炸

crane /kreɪn/ *n.* 起重机

bulldozer /'bʊldəʊzə/ *n.* 推土机

to make do 设法应付

quarry /'kwɒrɪ/ *n.* 采石场

cliff-site 悬崖所在地

hammer /'hæmə/ *n.* 锤

wedge /wedʒ/ *n.* 楔形物

swell /swel/ *vi.* 膨胀

lever /'li:və/ *n.* 杠杆

sledge /sledʒ/ *n.* 橇

harness /hɑːnəs/ *vt.* 套上

lubricate /'luːbrɪkeɪt/ *vt.* 给……上油

haul /hɔːl/ *vt.* 用力拖

raft /rɑːft/ *n.* 木筏

heave /hi:v/ *vt.* 举起

tug /tʌɡ/ *vt.* 使劲拉

slope /sləʊp/ *vi.* 倾斜

ramp /ræmp/ *n.* 斜坡

archaeologist /ˌɑːki'blɒdʒɪst/ *n.* 考古学家

calculate /'kælkjuleɪt/ *vi.* 计算

face /feɪs/ *vt.* 使(石料)表面平滑

sheer /ʃiə/ *adj.* 薄

polished /'pɒlɪʃt/ *adj.* 磨光的

granite /'grænit/ *n.* 花岗石

sarcophagus /sɑː'kɒfəɡəs/ *n.* 石棺

carve /kɑːv/ *vt.* 开辟, 刻凿

barge /bɑːdʒ/ *n.* 驳船

in procession (列队)行进

to be laid to rest 安葬

belongings /bɪ'lɒŋɪŋz/ *n.* 财产

afterlife /'ɑːftə'laɪf/ *n.* 来世

mummified /'mʌmɪfaɪd/ *adj.* 成木乃伊状

pet /pet/ *n.* 宠物

plug /plʌɡ/ *v.* 堵上, 插上

curse /kɜːs/ *n.* 咒语

mourner /'mɔːnə/ *n.* 送葬者

rubble /'rʌbəl/ *n.* 碎石

Lesson Three

THE OLYMPIC GAMES



Crowning the victors

The Olympic games were first recorded in Greek history in 776 B. C. They took place every four years until 393 A. D. when they stopped. They were held no fewer than 292 times.

At first, this purely religious festival had very little to do with athletics—for several Olympiads, one 200 yard sprint was the only race held. Even when other contests were added, they were packed into one day. Only later were there four days of events with a fifth day for prize giving. The prizes, by the way, were officially nothing more than head bands of wild olive leaves.

However, when the victors returned home, they often found that their own city would give them a pension, free them from paying taxes and even feed them for life. Only in Sparta was the reward a place in the front line of soldiers in the next war!

Spectators and competitors came from all over the Greek world—not just the mainland but also from the colonies along the shores of the Mediterranean. A truce was proclaimed for the period of the games; civil wars stopped long enough for athletes and audience to get to the games and back to their own cities.

The spectators, perhaps 20,000 in number, tended to group themselves into factions around the running track, rather like the separation of home and away team fans at a modern football match. The crowd was entirely male; women were forbidden to watch or take part. In some places, including Olympia, women held their own games after the men had left.

The opening event was usually a chariot or horse race. Small chariots drawn by four horses raced round the horse track in clouds of dust. Sometimes as many as forty chariots were ranged along the starting line.

The race consisted of several circuits of the track. A twelve lap race was just over nine miles but few vehicles finished the course. Chariot drivers were the only athletes wearing clothes—perhaps to protect them in case of an accident.

The rest performed naked. Trumpet calls signalled the entry of contestants, judges and officials into the stadium.

The athletes had been practising for almost a year under their own personal trainers. Even the judges had to come early to be taught how to do their job.

On the day itself, the contestants had risen at dawn, prayed to their gods and promised at the altar of Zeus to keep the rules. Once they were in the arena, they stripped and oiled their bodies. A herald called for them to take their marks and they fitted their bare toes into a grooved stone which served as a starting block. Another trumpet signalled the 'off' and the race started.

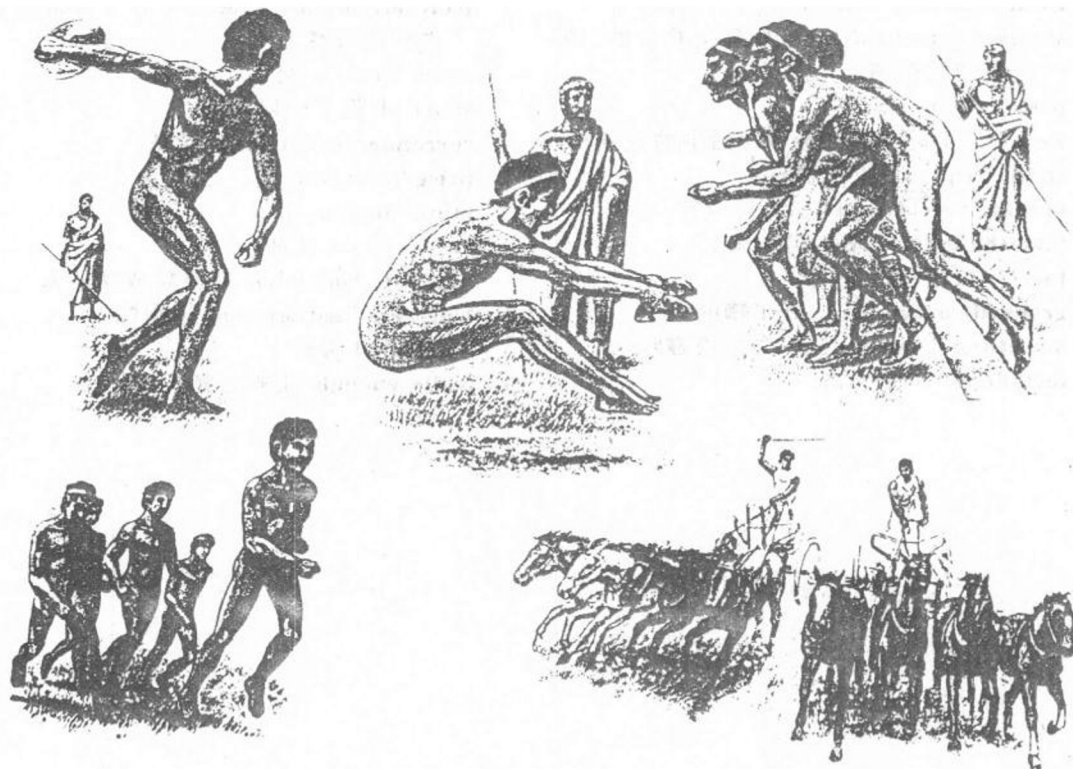
The short race of 200 yards was added as the years went by. A middle race of 400 yards was run and then one of nearly three miles. Curiously enough, there was never a marathon event, as it was started in modern times.

Other events were tacked on—boxing, wrestling, discus and javelin throwing, weight putting and long jump were some of them. The best performers usually entered the 'pentathlon' (five contests) and the really tough ones the 'pancratium' (all strengths) which was a cross between boxing and wrestling, with almost any kind of attack allowed, short of eye gouging, biting of finger breaking.

If he still had his fingers and could use them, a losing fighter could raise one as a sign of surrender. Sometimes the holds were so fiercely applied that the wrestlers could not free themselves and had to be prised apart.

When the main events were over there were 'mini' Olympics for the heralds and trumpeters, followed by wrestling and races for boys. One vase painting shows a young hopeful performing the

long jump. He is holding 'halteres', or dumb-bell shaped weights in his hands. He held them behind him and threw his hands forward as he jumped. The weights were supposed to increase the length of his jump.



Oddly enough, the high jump was not an ancient Olympic event. Neither, it seems, was swimming, even though the remains of a modern sized swimming pool have been found.

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

Olympic /ə'limpɪk/ *adj.* 奥林匹克

religious /rɪ'lɪdʒəs/ *adj.* 宗教的

festival /'festɪvəl/ *n.* 节日

athletics /æθ'letɪks/ *n.* 运动

Olympiad /ə'limpiəd/ *n.* 奥林匹克运动会

sprint /sprɪnt/ *n.* (短距离) 疾跑

head band 套在头上的花环, 扎在头上的带子

olive /'ɒlɪv/ *n.* 橄榄

Sparta /'spɑ:tə/ *n.* 斯巴达

spectator /spek'teɪtə/ *n.* 观众

competitor /kəm'petɪtə/ *n.* 竞赛者

colony /'kɒləni/ *n.* 殖民地

truce /tru:s/ *n.* 停战

proclaim /prə'kleɪm/ *vt.* 宣布

athlete /'æθli:t/ *n.* 运动员

tend to 倾向于

faction /'fækʃən/ *n.* 派别, 集团

home and away team fans 主队和客队的球迷们

chariot /'tʃæriət/ *n.* 古代双轮马拉战车

in clouds of dust 一团团的尘土中

range /reɪndʒ/ *vt.* 排成一行

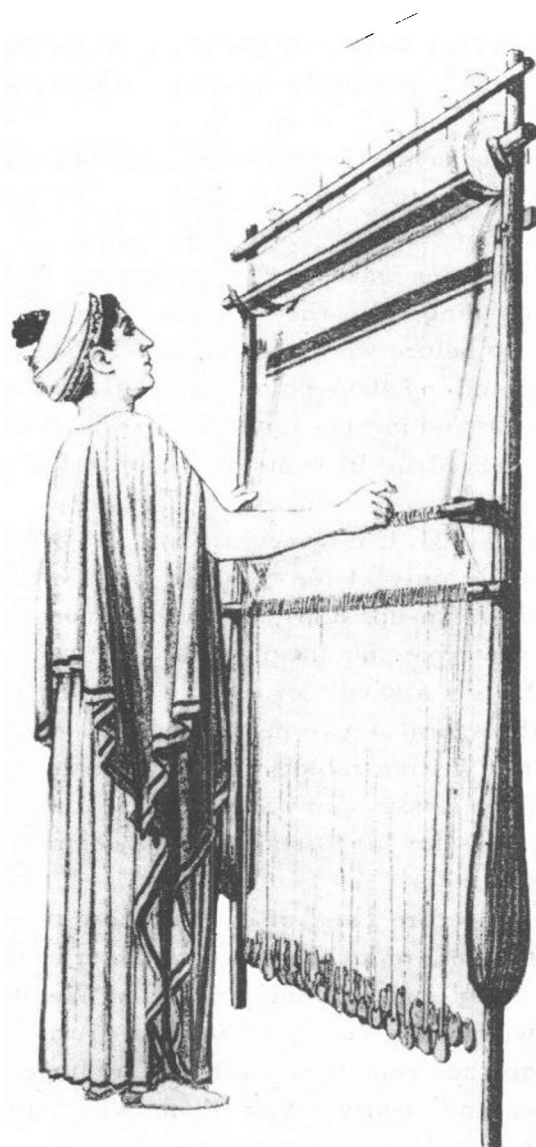
circuit /'sɜ:kɪt/ *n.* 环行

lap/ləp/*n.* (跑道的)一圈
vehicle/ˈviːkəl/*n.* 车辆
trumpet/ˈtrʌmpɪt/*n.* 喇叭
signal/ˈsɪgnəl/*vt.* 发信号
contestant/kənˈtestənt/*n.* 比赛参加者
stadium/ˈsteɪdiəm/*n.* (周围有看台的)露天大型运动场
pray/preɪ/*vi.* 祈祷
Zeus/zjuːs/*n.* 宙斯(希腊神话中的主神)
strip/striːp/*vt.* 脱光衣服
herald/ˈherəld/*n.* (旧时)传令官
take the mark 站在起跑线上
toe/tuː/*n.* 脚趾,足尖
grooved/ɡruːvd/*adj.* 开了槽的
marathon/ˈmæərəθən/*n.* 马拉松赛跑
tack on 增加

wrestling/ˈresəlɪŋ/*n.* 摔跤
discus and javelin throw/ˈdiskəs
ˈdʒævəlɪn/ 掷铁饼和标枪
pentathlon/penˈtæθlən/*n.* 五项运动
pancratium/pænˈkrætiəm/*n.* (古希腊)拳击和摔跤赛
cross/krɒs/*n.* 交叉
short of 除了...以外
surrender/səˈrendə/*n.* 投降
prise/praɪz/*vt.* 撬
mini/ˈmɪni/*n.* 小型
vase/vɑːs/*n.* 花瓶
hopeful/ˈhaʊpfəl/*n.* 有希望成功的人
halteres/ˈhæltəriːz/*n.* 平衡棒
dumb-bell 哑铃
oddly enough 说来也奇怪

Lesson Four

MEMBERS OF A GREEK FAMILY



A woman weaving

While the master was out at the agora, what were the rest of the family and relations doing? It has to be said straight away that ancient Athens was a man's world: decisions of all kinds, from simple hearth and home ones to those dealing with peace and war were an all-male affair.

A young Athenian woman was married to a suitor chosen by her father. Love hardly entered the matter at all—father picked a likely candidate on the ground of his birth, breeding and worldly goods. Even an old or ugly husband would be acceptable if the other conditions were met.

The wife was expected to raise the children, to feed and clothe the family and to know her place. As a child, she had to pick up what education she could. Girls were rarely educated formally: only her brothers were sent to school, while she stayed at home learning