• 英汉对照 • 英汉对照 •

庄 玲 贝合宁 编译

知识出版社

A CHOICE SELECTION
OF ENGLISH ESSAYS

英语小品精选



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前言

本书共选现代英语小品36篇,其中大部分发表于 第二次世界大战结束以后。这些文章题材广泛、风格迥异,它们反映了西方社会的许多不同的侧面。有 些文章中呈现了多姿多彩的风土人情画面,有些对 人生哲理进行了深入的思索,见解独到,给人启迪, 有些对社会弊病作了犀利剖析和辛辣讽刺,也有些 对日常生活中的普通事物信手拈来,尽情发挥,涉笔 成趣。许多文章写得生动活泼,引人入胜。

不少英语读者有此体会,学习英语到了一定阶段,如果能多花一点精力研读些小品之类的短文是很有益处的,因为小品一般具有篇幅短小、文字精炼、内容有趣等特点。

书中各篇文章附有汉译文,供读者阅读时参考。 由于我们学力不足,水平有限,编译工作中错误失当 之处, 恳请专家学者和广大读者指正。

本书编译过程中得到秦希廉教授的热情鼓励和 指教,朱永生、徐青根、吴晓园三位老师提供了多方 面的帮助,谨此表示深切的感谢。

> 编译者 1991年9月

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Job Hunting

Art Buchwald

Vice President of Development Glucksville Dynamics Glucksville, California Dear Sir.

I am writing in regard to employment with your firm. I have a BS from USC and PhD in physics from the California Institute of Technology.

In my previous position I was in charge of research and development for the Harrington Chemical Company. We did work in thermonuclear energy, laser beam refraction, hydrogen molecule development, and heavy-water computer data.

Several of our research discoveries have been adapted for commercial use and one particular breakthrough in linear hydraulics is now being used by every oil company in the country.

Because of a cutback in defense orders, the Harrington Company decided to shut down its research and development department. It is for

. . .

this reason I am available for immediate employment.

Hoping to hear from you in the near future, I remain

Sincerely yours, Edward Kase

DEAR MR. KASE.

We regret to inform you that we have no positions available for someone of your excellent qualifications. The truth of the matter is that we find you are "overqualified" for any position we might offer you in our organization. Thank you for thinking of us, and if anything comes up in the future, we will be getting in touch with you.

Yours truly, Merriman Haselbald Administrative Vice-President

Personnel Director Jessel International Systems Crewcut, Mich. Dear Sir.

I am applying for a position with your company in any responsible capacity. I have had a college education and have fiddled around in research and development. Occasionally we have come up with some moneymaking ideas. I would be willing to start off at a minimal salary to prove my value to your firm.

Sincerely yours, Edward Kase

DEAR MR, KASE,

Thank you for your letter of the 15th. Unfortunately we have no positions at the moment for someone with a college education. Frankly it is the feeling of everyone here that you are "overqualified," and your experience indicates you would be much happier with a company that could make full use of your tallents.

It was kind of you to think of us.

Hardy Landsdowne

Personnel Dept.

To Whom It May Concern Geis & Waterman Inc. Ziegfried, Ill. DERE SER

I'd like a job with your outfit. I can do anything you want me to. You name it Kase will do it. I ain't got no education and no experience, but I'm strong and I got moxy and I get along great with peeple. I'm ready to

start any time because I need the bread. Let me know when you want me.

Cheers Edward Kase

Dear Mr. Kase,

You are just the person we have been looking for. We need a truck driver, and your qualifications are perfect for us. You can begin working in our Westminster Plant on Monday. Welcome aboard.

Carson Peters
Personnel

求 职

阿尔特·布赫瓦尔德

加利福尼亚,格拉克斯维尔格拉克斯维尔动力公司 副经理(负责研究与发展工作) 亲爱的先生:

我现致函贵公司求职。我曾获南卡罗莱纳大学理学士学位和加利福尼亚工程学院物理博士学位。

我原来的职务是在哈灵顿化学公司主持研究 与 发 展 工作。我们从事热核能、激光束折射、氢分子发展以及重水电子计算机数据等方面的研究。

我们的研究成果已有多项转为商品投入使用。在线性液 压方面的一项突破性成果现正应用于全国各石油公司。

由于国防订货的缩减,哈灵顿公司决定取消它的研究与发展部门。为此我可以立即应聘就任新职。

盼望近日得到您的回音。

您的诚挚的 爱德华·凯斯

亲爱的凯斯先生:

我们很遗憾地向您奉告。敝公司没有适合您这种高资历的职位。问题的实质在于我们认为就敝公司所能向您提供的一切职位而言,您的资历都太高了。

感谢您对敝公司的关注,今后如有机会当及时与您联系。

您的忠实的 梅里曼·哈塞尔鲍德 常务副经理

密歇根州·克鲁卡特 杰塞尔国际系统 人事处长 亲爱的先生:

我现申请到贵公司担任任何负责职务。我受过大学教育. 曾搞过一些研究与发展工作。有时我们也提出一些能赚钱的 建议。我愿意在开始时以最低薪金供职,以便日后证明我对 贵公司可能发挥的有益作用。

> 您的诚挚的 爱德华·凯斯

亲爱的凯斯先生:

感谢您 15 日的来信。遗憾的是目前我们没有适合大学水平人才的职位。坦率地说,这里每个人都感到您的资历太高了。您的资历表明您如果能在一家可以充分发挥才能的公司任职,将会更加胜任愉快。

承蒙对敝公司关注,不胜感激。

哈迪·兰斯道恩 人事处

伊利诺斯州,齐格弗里德 盖斯一瓦特曼公司有关部门 亲受①的光生②: 我很想在您单位找个活干。您要我干的我全能干。您说 要干啥我凯斯就干啥。我没上过学,也没经验,不过我身体棒, 劲头足,跟大伙关系混得还不赖。我随便哪天上工都行。因 为我要吃饭。您啥时候要用我就通知我。

> 祝您好 爱德华·凯斯

亲爱的凯斯先生:

您正是我们在物色的人选。我们需要一名卡车司机,您 的条件完全符合我们的要求。您可以在下星期一到我们的威 斯敏斯特厂上班。欢迎您来报到。

> 卡森·彼特斯 人事处

①② 这是写信人故意写的错别字。

The Importance of Elm Trees to the Art of Thinking

Russell Baker

Ever since reading about Clarkson College's plan to replace its library with a computer, I have been worrying about what college students will do in the spring. I mean, you can't just haul a computer out on the campus and plunk it down under a budding elm and lie there with the thing on your chest while watching the birds at work, can you?

You can do that with a book, and it is one of the better things about going to college. With a computer, though, you've got to have a video terminal, which is basically a television set that rolls little, green, arthritic-looking letters and numbers across a dark screen.

It's not much fun reading a television screen, since, for one thing, the print has a terribly tortured look, as if it had spent four months in a Savak cellar, and since, for another, you always expect it to be interrupted by a commercial. Which is neither here nor there, of course, since this kind of reading is not sup