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人类文明的灵魂 影响一生的榜样

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故事汇

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## 创业先锋

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## 非常名人故事汇

## ·创业先锋·

中国学般出版社

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### 前言

漫长而曲折的人类历史孕育了无数仁人志士、至圣先哲。他们当中有运筹帷幄的军事家、万人敬仰的科学家、才华横溢的文学巨匠、享誉全球的艺术家……他们是历史转折时期的关键人物。本丛书将通过简洁而不失精彩的语言和精美而珍贵的图片再现一位位世界名人,将他们成长励志的故事呈现给广大读者。

翻开历史长卷,我们会发现,在人类活动的各个领域里,都涌现了许多杰出人物,亦可统称为英杰。英杰是伟大人格的代表,是时代精神的凝结,是自我完善的象征,是各自领域里劈波斩浪、奋勇前进的行者。他们用自己光辉的业绩表明,人类的精神、智慧、胆识、能力之花,能够在怎样难以企及的高度上尽情绽放。正是因为时势化育了他们,人类的历史才波澜壮阔、辉煌灿烂、风光旖旎、胜景百出。

一个人在青少年时期,处于长身体、学知识、逐步了解社会的阶段。在这个阶段里,要尽量多了解一些英杰人物,多阅读一些有关人物传记的图书。了解圣哲,就是和圣哲的头脑对话;了解伟人,就是和伟人的心灵沟通。如果你能和古往今来的政治领袖、军事统帅、思想圣哲、文学大师、商业巨子、艺术巨匠、科技精英、体坛名将、影视明星们成为精神上朋友,你就可以领略到常人难以领略到的辽阔天空,你就会站在巨人的肩头去迎接新一轮日出。

为此我们经过认真分析、反复策划、精心制作,推出了"悦读英

语"丛书《非常名人故事汇》系列。本系列共分 10 册:《政治领袖》、《军事统帅》、《思想圣哲》、《创业先锋》、《文学大师》、《商业巨子》、《艺术天才》、《科技精英》、《体坛名将》、《影视明星》。本丛书采用中英文对照的方式,让您在感受地道英文的同时,也能与这些名人进行心灵对话,从他们的身上去探索成功之道。为了方便读者学习和阅读,每篇文章都设置了名人档案、名人名言、热词空间,并在文中将重要单词或词组编号加粗标出,以方便读者记忆单词和提高阅读能力。相信通过对本丛书的学习,不仅能够大大提高你的英语阅读能力,还能够极大地提高词汇量,同时也是一次难忘的心路历程。

编者 2009 年暮春于北京

## 目 录

#### 网络精英

#### Internet Elite

		III
	直销之王:迈克尔・戴尔 ······	· 48
80	The King of Direct Selling; Michael Dell	
	从逃学小子到亿万富翁 : 拉里・埃里森	• 42
07	The Billionaire Dropout: Larry Ellison	
	网上拍卖之王:皮埃尔・欧米迪亚	• 35
06	The Online Auction King: Pierre Omidyar	
	网络零售怪才:杰夫・贝索斯 ······	· 28
05	Jeff Bezos: The Wizard of Web Retailing	
	美国在线奠基人:史蒂夫・凯斯	· 22
04	Founder of AOL: Steve Case	
	电脑业中的金苹果: 史蒂文・乔布斯	· 16
03	The Golden "Apple" in Computer Industry: Steve Jobs	
	计算机巨头:托马斯・沃森	9
02	Computer Titan: Thomas Watson	
	微软英雄:比尔・盖茨	2
01	The Hero of Microsoft: Bill Gates	

#### 行业巨头

#### Industry Magnate

09	John D. Rockefeller: Anointed with Oil
	约翰·洛克菲勒: 石油的浸礼 ····· 56
10	Head Hotelier: Isadore Sharp
	酒店业的领头羊:伊萨督・夏柏 63
11	The Prince of Publishing; Henry Luce
	报业巨子: 亨利・卢斯 70
12	The Courageous Challenger: Ted Turner
	永不后退的挑战者: CNN 创始人泰德・特纳 ······ 77
13	Investment Genius: Warren Buffett
	天才股王:沃伦・巴菲特 84
14	The King of Greeting Card: Joyce Hall
	贺卡大王:乔伊斯・霍尔 91
15	Conrad Hilton: A Powerful "New" Service Creator
	康拉德・希尔顿:优良服务的倡导者 98
16	The Great Inventor: King Gillette
	伟大的发明人:金・吉列 104
17	The Kodak Man: George Eastman
	柯达人:乔治・伊斯曼
18	The Empress of Homemaking: Martha Stewart
	家政女皇玛莎・斯图尔特
IV	

19	Frederick Smith: No Overnight Success	
	弗雷德里克・史密斯:没有一瞬间的成功	125
20	Robert Johnson: The Founder of BET	
	罗伯特・约翰逊:黑人娱乐电视网的创始人	132
21	The King of the Skies: Herb Kelleher	
	空中之王:赫伯・凯勒赫	138
	美味万花筒	
	The Kaleidoscope of Delicacy	
22	The Man Behind Coca-Cola; Asa Candler	
	可口可乐背后的男人:阿萨・坎德勒	146
23	The Chocolate King; Milton Hershey	
	巧克力大王:米尔顿・赫尔希	153
24	The World Famous Colonel: Harland Sanders	
	世界著名的上校:肯德基创始人哈兰・桑德斯	159
25	The Sandwich King: Fred DeLuca	
	三明治大王:弗雷德・德鲁卡	166
26	The Coffee King: Howard Schultz	
	咖啡大王:霍华德・舒尔茨	173
27	Golden Rule Merchant; James Penny	
	"金法则"商人:詹姆斯・彭尼	179

28	Stingy Billionaire; Sam Walton	
	小气富豪:山姆・沃尔顿	186
29	The Burger King; Ray Kroc	
	汉堡大王:雷・克罗克	193
	时尚潮流前线	
	Fashion Front	
30	The Beauty Magnate: Coco Chanel	
	美丽权贵:可可・香奈儿	200
31	Estee Lauder: Pursuer of Beauty	
	美丽的追逐者:化妆品女王雅诗・兰黛	207
32	Beauty Creator: Mary Kay	
	美丽缔造者:玛丽・凯	214
33	Charles Tiffany: The King of Diamonds	
	查尔斯・蒂法尼:钻石之王	221
34	Appreciating Armani	
	魅力无限阿玛尼	228
35	Fashion Prince: Calvin Klein	
	时装王子:卡尔文・克莱恩	235
36	Nike Guy: Philip Knight	
	耐克小子菲利普・耐特	241

The Hero of Microsoft Bill Gates 微体表纬:比称。蓝条

## 网络精英

Internet Elite

"It's fine to relibrate success but it is more important to beed the sames of failure", says fall Cates Fulure is sent dung Cates would set title of through his lifetime.

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## 01

#### The Hero of Microsoft:Bill Gates 微软英雄:比尔・盖茨

Life is not fair, get used to it.

---Bill Gates

生活是不公平的,你要去适应它。

----比尔・盖茨\*

"It's fine to celebrate success but it is more important to heed the lessons of failure", says Bill Gates. Failure is something Gates would see little of during his lifetime.

He was born in a prominent family. The family's affluence allowed Gates to be sent to the best private schools in his hometown. In elementa-

<sup>\*</sup> 美国商人、亿万富豪、微软公司创始人之一、前微软公司主席兼首席软件架构师。 微软公司在个人计算和商业计算软件、服务和互联网技术方面是全球范围内的领导者。 曾连续 12 年荣登美国《福布斯》杂志富豪排行榜的首位。获得《时代》周刊"1998 年 50 名 网络精英评选"第一名,被英国卫报评为 2001 年新闻界最有影响力的 100 人之一,2004 年 被英国女王册封为爵士,并获得 2006 年度詹姆斯·摩根国际慈善家大奖。

ry school, Gates displayed a superior knack <sup>①</sup> for math and science. He continued to impress his parents and teachers at Lakeside School, one of the finest private schools in Seattle known for its academic atmosphere.

It was at Lakeside where Gates got his first exposure to computers. In 1968, the school held a fundraiser <sup>②</sup> in order to be able to purchase computer time on a DEC PDP-10, which was owned by General Electric. Immediately, Gates became inseparable from the computer, often skipping classes and failing to hand in schoolwork in order to be in the computer room and explore the new machine. At the age of 13, Gates wrote his first computer program, a tic-tac-toe <sup>③</sup> game. It was in this computer lab where Gates would meet his Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen and many other of the first programmers that Microsoft would go on to hire.

After Gates and his friends had used up all the allowed computer time for the entire school in just a few weeks, Lakeside entered into an agreement with Computer Center Corporation (CCC) to continue providing computer time to its students. Though they were once banned from the system for their hacking activities, Gates and his comrades could not be stopped. Gates, Allen and two other Lakeside students formed the Lakeside Programmers Group to try and put their computer skills to good use. In return for unlimited computer time, CCC hired the group to find

① knack:n. 本事,才能

② fundraiser:n. 资金筹集会,募捐会

③ tic-tac-toe;n. 画三棋(两人轮流在井字棋盘的方格内画×或〇,谁先将画过的三个方格连成—行者获胜)

④ hacking:n. 黑客行为



bugs<sup>1</sup> within their own system. "It was when we got free time at C-cubed that we really got into computers," recalls Gates.

By 1970, CCC had gone bankrupt. In order to continue honing <sup>②</sup> their skills, Gates and his friends began using the computers at the University of Washington, where Allen's dad worked. After successfully designing a payroll <sup>③</sup> program for Information Sciences Inc., Gates and Allen decided to branch off on their own. Soon after, they created Traf-O-Data, an innovative program that measured traffic flow in Seattle, and were compensated with \$20 000.

After entering Harvard University, he still skipped classes as in high school in order to spend time in the computer lab. He kept in close touch with Allen. The following year, Allen showed Gates a picture in a magazine that would forever change both their lives.

When Gates and Allen saw a picture of the Altair 8080 on the cover of Popular Electronics, they knew their lives were going to be different. They recognized that the home computer market was about to explode and that they had the opportunity to be at the forefront of it all. Immediately, Gates called Micro Instrumentation and Telemetry <sup>4</sup> Systems (MITS), the company that was manufacturing the Altair, and told them that he and Allen had developed a programming language for the computer.

① bug:n. (机器、体系、电脑程序等的)毛病,故障,干扰

② hone:v. 磨炼,锤炼,使精通

③ payroll:n. 工资名单

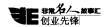
④ telemetry:n. 遥感勘测

With not a single line of code written and no Altair to work on, Gates and Allen worked around the clock on Harvard computers to do what they said they had already done. Eight weeks later, Allen flew to MITS headquarters in New Mexico to present their code. Without even a test-run, their program was a success and MITS bought the rights, making it an industry standard. Within one year, Gates had dropped out of Harvard and the two high school friends established Microsoft Corporation.

Their new company's vision was to make computer on every desk and Microsoft on every computer. In 1979, Gates and Allen took their company to Seattle and it was here where their venture really began to take off. Gates had learned that IBM needed an operating system for its new PC and he set out to create it. Buying an existing system from a Seattle company for \$50,000, Gates reformed it into MS-DOS, which he then licensed to IBM. Thanks to Gates's good business sense, Microsoft retained the rights to the program and was able to license it out to the numerous companies that would come out in later years. MS-DOS became the industry standard and sales for Microsoft rose from \$7 million to \$16 million. For the later years, Microsoft continued to grow and dominate the industry.

Gates's rise to success has not been without its hurdles. Microsoft has become a regular participant in court cases, having been sued both by Apple for copyright infringement<sup>①</sup> and by the US government for sustaining a monopoly and hindering the development of new technology.

① infringement:n. 侵犯(他人权利)



Despite having to make some concessions, the company continues to expand and retains its leading presence in the industry.

Though he never set out to be a millionaire, Gates not only became the world's first centibillionaire, but also one of the world's most respected entrepreneurs for having revolutionized the world of computers and setting new industry standards.

"If I'd had some set idea of a finish line, don't you think I would have crossed it years ago," asks Gates. Showing no signs of slowing down, Gates continues to fuel his business, inspire his workers and make his contribution to the global village.

"庆祝成功是好的,但注意吸取失败的教训则更为重要,"比尔·盖茨这样说过。但似乎在他的一生中根本就没有多少次失败。

他出生在一个显赫的家庭。富裕的家庭背景使得盖茨上的学校都是他家乡最好的私立学校。小学时,盖茨就表现出数学和科学方面卓越的才能。而后来在西雅图最好的私立学校之一,以良好的学术氛围著称的湖滨中学就读时,他的天赋更为老师和父母所惊讶。

在湖滨中学,盖茨第一次接触到了电脑。1968年,学校募集资金购买了通用电气公司的小型电子计算机 PDP—10 的使用时间。盖茨一下子就着迷了,经常逃课,作业还常常不交,因为他总是跑去机房捣鼓那台新的机器。13 岁那年,他独立编出了第一个电脑程序,使用这个程序可以在电脑屏幕上玩画三棋的游戏。而在那个机房,盖茨也结识了后来和他合伙创办微软公司的保罗·艾伦,以及后来微软雇佣的第一批程序员中的一些人。

没过几个星期,盖茨和朋友们就用完了学校所有的电脑使用时间。

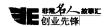
而湖滨中学又和电脑中心公司(CCC)签订了协议,让他们继续给学生提供电脑使用时间。虽然盖茨和朋友们曾因自己的黑客行而被系统禁止过,但他们依然停不下来。盖茨,艾伦和湖滨中学的其他两个学生共同建立了湖滨中学程序员中心,试图让自己的电脑技能发挥作用。CCC公司给他们提供了无限期的电脑使用时间,雇他们用自己的系统来抓电脑臭虫(电脑行业里人们称呼软件中的错误的代名词)。"正是在CCC公司没事干的时候,我们才真正沉入电脑的世界中,"盖茨回忆道。

1970年,CCC公司破产了,为了继续锤炼自己的技术,盖茨和他的朋友们开始去艾伦的父亲工作的华盛顿大学,去那里的机房使用电脑。在成功地给信息科学公司设计了一份工资管理软件后,盖茨和艾伦决定扩展自己的业务。不久,他们就编写出了 Traf-O-Data,这个新发明的程序可以对西雅图的交通流量进行统计。因此他们还相应地获得了 2万美元的报酬。

上了哈佛大学之后,盖茨依然和中学时一样,总是逃课去计算机房。同时他还和艾伦保持着联系。就在第二年,艾伦给盖茨看了一本杂志上的一张图片,就是这张图片永远地改变了两人的生活。

当盖茨和艾伦在《大众电子》的封面上看到 Altair 8080 电脑的图片时,他们就知道自己的人生将会发生转变了。他们意识到家用电脑市场将会迅速扩大,而他们也将有机会走在市场的风口浪尖。于是盖茨立即打电话给生产 Altair 电脑的微型仪器和遥感系统公司(MITS),称他和艾伦已经为这种电脑开发出了一种编程语言。

当时,程序一行都没有写,而且也没有 Altair 电脑可以用,盖茨和艾伦只好在哈佛的机房里夜以继日地编写他们所说的早已编好的程序。2个月后,艾伦飞到 MITS 公司在新墨西哥的总部,将程序递交给他们。甚至在未经试运行的情况下,程序就大获成功,MITS 公司立马买下了这一程序的所有权,使之成为了行业的使用标准。后来不到一年,盖茨



干脆从哈佛大学退学,和艾伦这个中学同学一起建立了微软公司。

他们这个新公司的远景目标是每台桌子上都有计算机,而每台计算机里安装的都是微软的操作系统。1979年,盖茨和艾伦把他们的公司搬到了西雅图。正是在西雅图他们的事业才真正开始起步。盖茨在知道 IBM 公司新生产的个人电脑需要操作系统时,他立即着手做起这件事来。他花了5万美元从西雅图的一家公司买来已开发成功的操作系统,在此基础上将其改成了 MS-DOS 操作系统,并授权 IBM 公司使用。归功于盖茨敏锐的商业触觉,微软公司才对这一系统一直拥有所有权,才能授权给后来涌现的众多公司使用。这样, MS-DOS 操作系统成为了行业的通用标准,微软公司的销售额也一下子从 700 万美元增长到 1 600 万美元。在后来的几年里,微软也在不断地发展壮大,并主导整个行业。

盖茨通往成功的路上也并不是没有障碍的。微软曾一度成为法庭的常客,被苹果电脑公司和美国政府分别以版权侵犯和实行行业垄断,阻碍新科技发展的名义告上过法庭。尽管不得不做出一些妥协,但微软公司依然在不断地扩大并在行业内保持领先地位。

尽管从来没有想过要成为百万富翁,可盖茨最后不仅成了世界上第一个千亿富翁,还是世界上最令人敬仰的企业家之一,因为是他使计算机行业发生了革命性的巨变并确立了新的行业标准。

"如果说我为自己设立了一个终点的目标,那么难道你不认为我多年前就已经超越了这个目标吗?"盖茨这样问道。目前他还丝毫没有松懈的迹象,而是继续地推动公司前进,鼓励员工,并为建立地球村作出自己的贡献。