

Collins

柯林斯名人故事集

AMAZING
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了不起的探险家

Amazing Explorers

〔英〕Anne Collins 编

3级

英语注释



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柯林斯名人故事集

第 3 级

了不起的探险家(英语注释)

[英] Anne Collins 编

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Introduction

引 言

“柯林斯名人故事集”包含一系列简短的故事，每册介绍五至六个著名人物的生平，这些人的一生及他们的成就深刻地影响了今天的世界。所有故事都精心分级，以确保读者既可以享受阅读，又能从中受益。

你可以从头至尾阅读本书，也可以直接翻看自己喜欢的人物故事，每一个故事都是完全独立的。

每个故事后面都附有一个简短的年表，集中介绍该人物一生中最重要的事件，年表可以有效地帮助你复习刚才看过的内容。

超过本册阅读水平的单词第一次在每个故事中出现时都标有下画线，该书末尾的词汇表列出了所有画线单词的释义。第1级和第2级的释义来自 *Collins COBUILD Essential English Dictionary*，第3级和第4级的释义来自 *Collins COBUILD Advanced English Dictionary*。

为了给老师和学习者提供支持，以下网站提供了更多资料：www.collinselt.com/readers。

The Amazing People Worldwide

“柯林斯名人故事集”根据 The Amazing People Worldwide 出版的原始文本改编而成。The Amazing People Worldwide 是一个教育出版机构，于 2006 年由教育心理学家、管理学家查尔斯·马杰里森博士成立，出版纸质书、电子书、音频书、iBook 图书和视频内容，让读者可以“面对面”接触全世界各领域，如艺术、科学、音乐、政治、医学和商业等领域最鼓舞人心、最有影响力的人。

The Grading Scheme

分级标准

柯林斯 COBUILD 分级标准是根据当下最新语言使用信息设置而成，每一级都有全新的语法和词汇综合框架，确保本系列完全符合读者的英文水平。

| | | 欧洲语言教学大纲 (CEF) 级别 | 页数 | 词汇量 |
|-------|------|----------------------|-----|---------|
| 第 1 级 | 初级 | A2 | 64 | 约 700 |
| 第 2 级 | 中级初阶 | A2-B1 | 80 | 约 900 |
| 第 3 级 | 中级 | B1 | 96 | 约 1,100 |
| 第 4 级 | 中级进阶 | B2 | 112 | 约 1,700 |

欲知柯林斯 COBUILD 分级标准（包括每一级的完整语法结构）的更多信息，请参见：www.collinselt.com/readers/gradingscheme。

在线资料还包括：通过在线测试英语水平，了解自己的分级，测试网站：www.collinselt.com/readers/levelcheck。

目 录

Introduction

| | |
|----------|---|
| 引言 | 1 |
|----------|---|

The Grading Scheme

| | |
|------------|---|
| 分级标准 | 3 |
|------------|---|

Marco Polo

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 马可·波罗 | 1 |
|-------------|---|

Ibn Battuta

| | |
|--------------|----|
| 伊本·白图泰 | 17 |
|--------------|----|

Christopher Columbus

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| 克里斯托弗·哥伦布 | 33 |
|-----------------|----|

James Cook

| | |
|--------------|----|
| 詹姆斯·库克 | 49 |
|--------------|----|

David Livingstone

| | |
|---------------|----|
| 大卫·李文斯顿 | 65 |
|---------------|----|

Yuri Gagarin

| | |
|--------------|----|
| 尤里·加加林 | 81 |
|--------------|----|

Glossary

| | |
|-----------|----|
| 词汇表 | 95 |
|-----------|----|

Marco Polo

马可·波罗

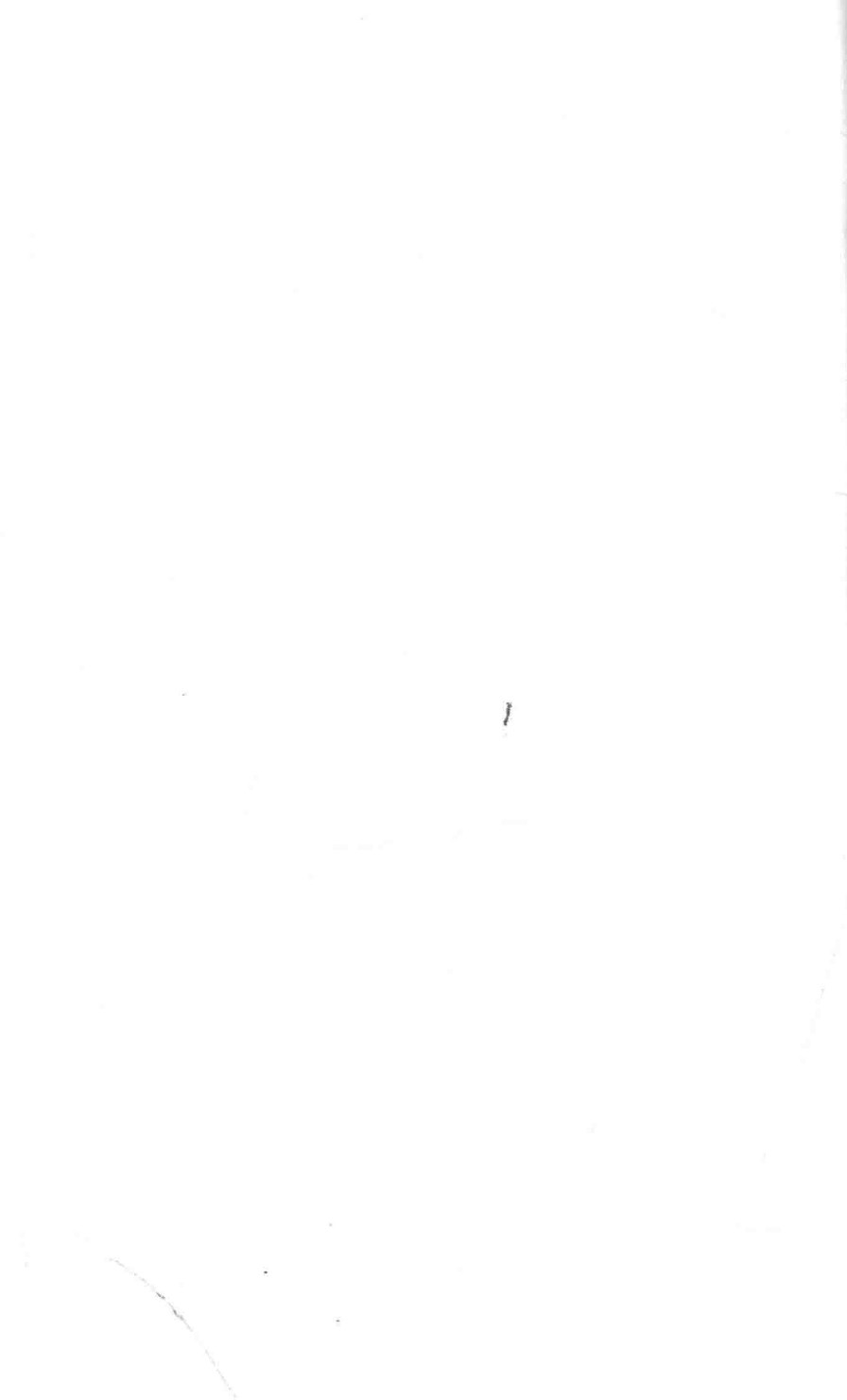
c.1254—1324

the man who taught the world about China

向世界介绍中国的人



本节朗读音频





I was the greatest European traveller of my time. I journeyed to China along the Silk Road^①, and lived there for many years in the service of Kublai Khan. I wrote a book about my travels which inspired^② Christopher Columbus.



I was born in the city of Venice, Italy, into a rich merchant^③ family. My father and uncle were Niccolò and Maffeo Polo, traders^④ who bought and sold goods^⑤ from different places around the world. At the time of my birth, Niccolò and Maffeo were away on a long journey, and didn't return to Venice until 1269.

① Silk Road 丝绸之路 ② inspire v. 激励, 启发 ③ merchant n. 商人 ④ trader n. 商人 ⑤ goods n. 货物

In those days, when traders made journeys, they often didn't come home for a long time. Sometimes they died on the way and didn't come home at all. My mother died when I was young, and I was looked after by other people in my family. But I didn't meet my father and my uncle until I was 15 years old.

My father and uncle told me wonderful stories about the amazing places they'd visited, and the people they'd met on their travels. In 1253, they'd sailed to Constantinople, an important city for traders from around the world. They'd stayed there for six years, then they'd travelled east through many countries, eventually reaching the city of Bukhara, in the country now known as Uzbekistan. At that time, Bukhara was an important city on the famous Silk Road. Niccolò and Maffeo stayed there for three years, trading^① their goods. Then they met an important official^② who was travelling to China to meet the great and powerful Mongol ruler of China, Kublai Khan. He invited my father and uncle to go with him to China, so they set off together along the Silk Road.

The Silk Road wasn't just one road, but a route made up of a number of roads between China and Europe. It was about 6,500 kilometres long, and hundreds of years old. It was very important for trade^③, because merchants used it to bring silk^④, spices^⑤, jewels and other goods from the countries of the East to Europe. The journey was long and difficult, and sometimes very dangerous. Travellers could be attacked by thieves or wild animals, or they could die from diseases. In order to protect themselves, merchants

① trade *v.* 做生意, 做买卖 ② official *n.* 官员 ③ trade *n.* 贸易

④ silk *n.* 丝绸 ⑤ spice *n.* 香料

often travelled together in large groups called caravans. They rode on camels^① or horses, stopping from time to time along the way at places called ‘caravanserais’. Here they could find food and rest, and meet other travellers.



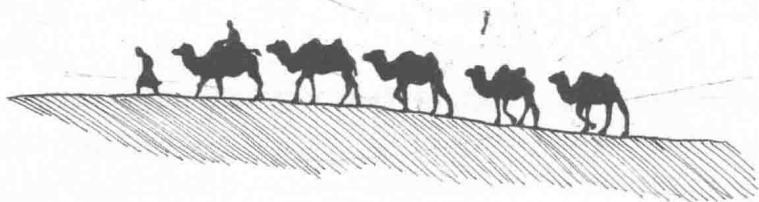
In 1264, after a long journey, my father and uncle arrived at Kublai Khan’s palace in the city of Khanbaliq (now known as Beijing). Kublai Khan was the grandson of the great Genghis Khan, and the most powerful man in the Mongol Empire^②. He was very pleased to meet Niccolò and Maffeo, and asked them many questions about European countries. He wanted to know about these countries’ systems of politics and law, and their other traditions too. My father and uncle developed a good relationship with Kublai Khan, and traded successfully in China for two years. When they left, the Khan made them promise to return, and gave them a special gold passport. This would show people that they were under the Khan’s protection, so that nobody would hurt them. In addition, it meant that they would be offered food and a place to stay on their journey.

Kublai Khan was also very interested in the Pope, the head of the Catholic Church^③, who lived in Rome. He asked Niccolò and Maffeo if they would take a letter to the Pope, and bring back a hundred priests^④ to China who could teach mathematics and science. In addition, he asked them to bring oil from the famous Church of the Holy^⑤ Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Niccolò and

① camel *n.* 骆驼 ② empire *n.* 帝国 ③ Catholic Church 天主教会

④ priest *n.* 牧师 ⑤ holy *adj.* 神圣的

Maffeo promised to bring both the priests and the oil. As soon as they returned to Venice in 1269, they started to plan their return journey to China. I was very excited because they'd told me that they'd take me with them. We left Venice in 1271, and sailed south to Acre, a town on the Mediterranean Sea about 130 kilometres from Jerusalem. From there we travelled to the Church in Jerusalem, and got the oil.



Merchants travelled in large groups called caravans

Although we had the oil, getting the priests was more of a problem. The old Pope had died and a new one, Pope Gregory the Tenth, was now head of the Catholic Church. He sent us some letters to take to Kublai Khan, but he only sent two priests to go with us, not a hundred! Unfortunately, these priests found the journey very difficult, and quickly decided to go back home. We were worried that Kublai Khan might not be pleased with us if we arrived without the priests, but we decided to continue our journey. We travelled through the countries now known as

Turkey, Georgia, Iran and Iraq, to Hormuz, where we were hoping to find a ship to take us to China. However, there was no suitable ship, so we continued our journey by land, along the Silk Road.



Along the way, I was learning valuable lessons from my father and uncle about the skill of trading. They showed me how to buy goods in some markets at a low price, then sell them in other markets at a higher price. It was especially difficult to trade in languages that I didn't understand! We journeyed on to Badakhshan (in the country now known as Afghanistan) but here I became very ill. Niccolò and Maffeo waited for many months for me to get better, but still I wasn't well enough to travel. At last, they took me away from the desert and high up into the cold air of the Pamir mountains, where finally I began to feel well again. We continued travelling east, until we came to the Gobi Desert, a huge area of sand which was very difficult to cross safely.

People said that the Gobi Desert was so wide that it would take a whole year to get from one side to the other. However, we crossed it at the narrowest point, which took about a month. The desert consisted entirely of mountains and valleys and sand. It was an empty place where there was nothing at all to eat. Finally, we got to the other side and arrived safely in the city of Suchow, the first large city after the desert, where we stayed for a year. By this time, we'd been travelling for three years, but we still needed to travel further east to meet Kublai Khan. At last, we reached his magnificent^① summer palace at Xanadu, with its beautiful parks

① magnificent *adj.* 壮丽的, 宏伟的

and animals. The Khan was delighted to see us, and welcomed us in a friendly way.

The Khan was very pleased with the oil and the letters from the Pope. Fortunately, he wasn't angry that we hadn't been able to bring the hundred priests. He asked who I was, and from the time that I was introduced to him, he took a great interest in me. I was amazed by the wonderful things I saw at the Khan's palace, and the great respect his people had for him. He got his wealth from the taxes which his people paid, and he used the money to benefit them as well as himself. Every December, the Khan moved his court^① to the winter palace in the city of Khanbaliq. Khanbaliq was surrounded by four walls and each wall was almost ten kilometres long. There were twelve entrances guarded by soldiers and in the centre of the city ~~was~~ the winter palace with hundreds of rooms for the Khan and his wives.



I learned to read and write the Khan's language and several other languages too, and I became familiar with Chinese traditions. I quickly became one of the Khan's favourites, the people he liked and trusted most. I was impressed^② not only by the wealth and beauty of his palaces, but also by the new things I saw there, such as the use of paper money. The money was printed in a special place called the Khan's Mint, and was used for trading in every corner of his empire. This was the first time I'd seen paper money, and I thought it was an excellent idea.

Kublai Khan's empire produced many things, such as iron

① court *n.* 宫廷 ② impressed *adj.* 对……钦佩, 有深刻的好印象

and salt, and these goods were quickly transported by large boats. There was an excellent system of communication, so that messages could be taken from place to place very quickly. There were message stations every 40 kilometres along the road, where riders on horses waited. When a rider arrived at a station with a message, another rider then took it on to the next station. In this way, a message could be carried hundreds of kilometres in a day. We decided that there were 10,000 message stations in China.

Kublai Khan needed someone to travel around his huge empire, and to represent him officially^① as his ambassador^②. He liked and trusted me very much, so in 1275, he asked me to visit some places in his empire, and report to him what was happening. I wanted to do a good job, so I wrote down careful descriptions of everything I saw, and when I returned from my travels, the Khan was very pleased with me. During the next 17 years, I journeyed to many places for the Khan and became a very important man. I had a gold passport and fine clothes, and travelled with many servants. I visited the countries now known as Myanmar, India, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. In addition, from 1282 to 1287, I was the governor of the city of Yangzhou, which was a great honour.

But after 17 years, although we'd greatly enjoyed our time in China, my father and uncle were keen to go home to Venice. We'd enjoyed a very good relationship with the Khan for many years, but now he was an old man, and Niccolò and Maffeo were worried about what would happen to us after he died. They knew that some people at his court were jealous of us, and they were afraid that these people might become our enemies. However, every

① officially *adv.* 正式地 ② ambassador *n.* 大使, 使者

time we asked the Khan if we could leave and go back to Venice, he refused to let us go.



At last our chance came in 1292, when the Khan asked us to accompany a beautiful princess to Kerman in Persia (the country now known as Iran). The ruler of the Mongol Empire in Persia was looking for a wife, and the Khan had agreed to send him a princess from his court. The Khan ordered us to accompany the princess to Kerman, and take her to her future husband. He gave us permission to continue on to Venice, but after that he made us promise to return to China. We agreed, and in 1292, we set sail^① from the city of Zaitun with a fleet^② of 14 large ships. But the journey took two years, and was very difficult and dangerous. Our ships often ran into^③ bad weather, and many people died because of storms, accidents or diseases.

At last we reached Kerman, where we said goodbye to the princess. Then we set off for Venice, but on the way we received the sad news that Kublai Khan had died. We realized that this was the end of our travels to China because we could never live there safely without the protection of the great Khan. So we continued our journey home, and arrived back in Venice in 1295, after 24 years. I'd been a young boy of 17 when I first left Venice, and now I was a man of 41. It had been so many years since we left, that our families believed that we were dead, and they didn't recognize us. But we'd brought back jewels and gold from our travels, and we were now very rich merchants.

① set sail 扬帆起航 ② fleet n. 舰队 ③ run into 遇到, 遭遇