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# POEMS AND SONGS OF ROBERT BURNS

by Robert Burns

彭斯诗与歌

[ 苏格兰 ] 罗伯特·彭斯 著



Liaoning People's Publishing House, China

辽宁人民出版社

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## Robert Burns

Robert Burns (1759-1796), also known as Rabbie Burns, the Bard of Ayrshire and various other names and epithets, was a Scottish poet and lyricist. He is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland and is celebrated worldwide. He is the best known of the poets who have written in the Scots Language, although much of his writing is also in English and a light Scots dialect, accessible to an audience beyond Scotland. He also wrote in standard English, and in these writings his political or civil commentary is often at its bluntest. *Poems and Songs of Robert Burns* is one of his greatest works.

He is regarded as a pioneer of the Romantic movement, and after his death he became a great source of inspiration to the founders of both liberalism and socialism, and a cultural icon in Scotland and among the Scottish diaspora around the world. Celebration of his life and work became almost a national charismatic cult during the 19th and 20th centuries, and his influence has long been strong on Scottish literature.

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## General Preface

Millions of Chinese are learning English to acquire knowledge and skills for communication in a world where English has become the primary language for international discourse. Yet not many learners have come to realize that the command of the English language also enables them to have an easy access to the world literary classics such as Shakespeare's plays, Shelley's poems, Mark Twain's novels and Nietzsche's works which are an important part of liberal-arts education. The most important goals of universities are not vocational, that is, not merely the giving of knowledge and the training of skills.

In a broad sense, education aims at broadening young people's mental horizon, cultivating virtues and shaping their character. Lincoln, Mao Zedong and many other great leaders and personages of distinction declared how they drew immense inspiration and strength from literary works. As a matter of fact, many of them had aspired to become writers in their young age. Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.) is said to take along with him two things, waking or sleeping: a book and a dagger, and the book is *Iliad*, a literary classic, by Homer. He would put these two much treasured things under his pillow when he went to bed.



Today, we face an unprecedented complex and changing world. To cope with this rapid changing world requires not only communication skills, but also adequate knowledge of cultures other than our own home culture. Among the most important developments in present-day global culture is the ever increasing cultural exchanges and understanding between different nations and peoples. And one of the best ways to know foreign cultures is to read their literary works, particularly their literary classics, the soul of a country's culture. They also give you the best language and the feeling of sublimity.

Liaoning People's Publishing House is to be congratulated for its foresight and courage in making a new series of world literary classics ( Bedside Classics) available to the reading public. It is hoped that people with an adequate command of the English language will read them, like them and keep them as their lifetime companions.

I am convinced that the series will make an important contribution to the literary education of the young people in China. At a time when the whole country is emphasizing "spiritual civilization", it is certainly a very timely venture to put out the series of literary classics for literary and cultural education.

Zhang Zhongzai

Professor

Beijing Foreign Studies University

July, 2013 Beijing



## 总 序

经典名著的语言无疑是最凝练、最优美、最有审美价值的。雪莱的那句“如冬已来临，春天还会远吗？”让多少陷于绝望的人重新燃起希望之火，鼓起勇气，迎接严冬过后的春天。徐志摩一句“悄悄的我走了，正如我悄悄的来；我挥一挥衣袖，不带走一片云彩”又让多少人陶醉。尼采的那句“上帝死了”，又给多少人以振聋发聩的启迪作用。

读经典名著，尤其阅读原汁原味作品，可以怡情养性，增长知识，加添才干，丰富情感，开阔视野。所谓“经典”，其实就是作者所属的那个民族的文化积淀，是那个民族的灵魂缩影。英国戏剧泰斗莎士比亚的《哈姆雷特》和《麦克白》等、“意大利语言之父”的但丁的《神曲》之《地狱篇》《炼狱篇》及《天堂篇》、爱尔兰世界一流作家詹姆斯·乔伊斯的《尤利西斯》及《一个艺术家的肖像》等、美国风趣而笔法超一流的著名小说家马克·吐温的《哈克历险记》以及《汤姆索亚历险记》等，德国著名哲学家尼采的《查拉图斯特拉如是说》及《快乐的科学》等等，都为塑造自己民族的文化积淀，做出了永恒的贡献，也同时向世界展示了他们所属的民族的优美剪影。

很多著名领袖如林肯、毛泽东等伟大人物，也都曾从经典名著中汲取力量，甚至获得治国理念。耶鲁大学教授查尔斯·希尔曾在题为《经典与治国理念》的文章，阐述了读书与治国之间的绝妙关系。他这样写道：

“在几乎所有经典名著中，都可以找到让人叹为观止、深藏其中的治国艺术原则。”

经典名著，不仅仅有治国理念，更具提升读者审美情趣的功能。世界上不同时代、不同地域的优秀经典作品，都存在一个共同属性：歌颂赞美人间的真善美，揭露抨击世间的假恶丑。

读欧美自但丁以来的经典名著，你会看到，西方无论是在漫长的黑暗时期，抑或进入现代进程时期，总有经典作品问世，对世间的负面，进行冷峻的批判。与此同时，也有更多的大家作品问世，热情讴歌人间的真诚与善良，使读者不由自主地沉浸于经典作品的审美情感之中。

英语经典名著，显然是除了汉语经典名著以外，人类整个进程中至关重要的文化遗产的一部分。从历史上看，英语是全世界经典阅读作品中，使用得最广泛的国际性语言。这一事实，没有产生根本性变化。本世纪相当长一段时间，这一事实也似乎不会发生任何变化。而要更深入地了解并切身感受英语经典名著的风采，阅读原汁原味的英语经典作品的过程，显然是必不可少的。

辽宁人民出版社及时并隆重推出“最经典英语文库”系列丛书，是具有远见与卓识的出版行为。我相信，这套既可供阅读，同时也具收藏价值的英语原版经

典作品系列丛书，在帮助人们了解什么才是经典作品的同时，也一定会成为广大英语爱好者、大中学生以及学生家长们的挚爱的“最经典英语文库”。

北京外国语大学英语学院  
北外公共外交研究中心  
欧美文学研究中心主任  
全国英国文学学会名誉会长

张中载 教授

2013年7月于北京



# Is This Book for You?

## 行走苏格兰的吟游诗人

——“最经典英语文库”第七辑之  
《彭斯诗与歌》导读

刘秀玉

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,*

*And never brought to mind?*

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,*

*And auld lang syne!*

...

*We twa hae run about the braes,*

*And pou'd the gowans fine;*

*But we've wander'd mony a weary fit,*

*Sin' auld lang syne.*

怎能忘记旧日朋友

心中能不怀想

旧日朋友岂能相忘

友谊地久天长

.....

我们曾经终日游荡  
在故乡的青山上  
我们也曾历尽苦辛  
到处奔波流浪

(《友谊地久天长》*Auld Lang Syne*——参见本诗集)

多么熟悉的旋律。这是很多西方国家辞旧迎新时传唱不衰的保留歌曲，也是经典电影《魂断蓝桥》的主题曲。你可知，这首歌的源头要追溯到18世纪的苏格兰？这是被称为苏格兰“民族诗人”的罗伯特·彭斯根据当地口口相传的民谣创作而成的诗，后来被谱曲，于是有了脍炙人口的《友谊地久天长》。

罗伯特·彭斯(1759—1796)是一位地道的农民诗人，在英国文学史上占有特殊重要的地位。他的诗歌音乐感极强，可歌可吟。他收集整理了大量苏格兰民歌，流传后世。2009年，在苏格兰电视台举行的投票中，彭斯被公众选为最伟大的苏格兰人。

1759年，罗伯特·彭斯出生于苏格兰西南部艾尔郡的一个佃农家庭。他从小跟随父亲辗转各个农场做工，辛苦劳作，家境却丝毫没有改变。幸运的是，农民出身的父亲深知教育的重要意义，经常在劳作之余亲自给彭斯讲文法和神学知识。12岁以后，彭斯到离家很远的地方上学，学习英文、法文，阅读了大量文学作品。

在田间劳作之余，彭斯热衷研究苏格兰民谣，并在此基础上创作诗歌。1786年，第一部诗集《苏格兰方言诗集》(*Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*)

出版，其中很多诗歌在农民中广为流传，这引起文学界关注。1789年，彭斯在家乡谋取到一个小税务官的职务，每周骑马上班。著名的《友谊地久天长》就诞生在那段驰骋于田野间的日子里。

1787年，彭斯遇到热爱苏格兰古老民歌的詹姆斯·约翰逊（James Johnson），受其影响，开始收集苏格兰民间歌曲和词作，先后编辑了两卷集《苏格兰音乐总汇》和《早期苏格兰民歌选集》，使许多将要失传的民歌得以保存。彭斯挚诚地热爱自己的民族文化，为了复活并丰富苏格兰民歌这项事业，他坚持不懈地努力工作着。但是，1796年，年仅37岁的彭斯却不幸去世。

彭斯生活在苏格兰被异族奴役的时代，他的《苏格兰人》（*Robert Bruce's March To Bannockburn*——参见本诗集）等诗歌充满激进的民主、自由思想。他还创作了大量幽默的讽刺诗，如《威利长老的祈祷》（*Holy Willie's Prayer*——参见本诗集）和《两只狗》（*The Twa Dogs*——参见本诗集）等，尖刻嘲讽教会的虚伪麻木，对农民的贫苦生活充满同情。

彭斯的抒情诗独树一帜。故国家园的秀美，大自然的壮丽雄伟，劳动人民的纯朴热情，爱情和友谊的温馨动人……彭斯用苏格兰方言歌唱，淳朴自然、乡土气息浓郁的风格为当时新古典主义盛行的英国诗坛吹来一阵清风，对19世纪初兴起的浪漫主义运动起了重要的引领作用，华兹华斯、柯勒律治、雪莱等人都深受到其诗风的影响，彭斯也因此被称为“浪漫主义先驱”。现在每年1月25日，苏格兰人民都会举行盛大的庆祝活动，纪念这位浪漫诗人。

彭斯将诗与歌完美结合起来，他许多著名的诗都



是根据传统歌曲创作而成的，比如本文开始时所提及的《友谊地久天长》和下面这首《一朵红红的玫瑰》（*A Red, Red Rose*——参见本诗集）等。诗人将心中的诗情赋予音乐性的表达，在创作过程中苦思冥想自然界中能够与其思想共鸣的对应物，等待缪斯女神的降临：

*O my Luve's like a red, red rose,  
That's newly sprung in June:  
O my Luve's like the melodie,  
That's sweetly play'd in tune.*

啊，我的爱人像朵红红的玫瑰，  
六月里迎风初开；  
啊，我的爱人像支甜甜的曲子，  
奏得合拍又和谐。

2016年诺贝尔文学奖授予美国民谣歌手鲍勃·迪伦（Bob Dylan），公众从惊讶、质疑到回复平静，终于接纳了一位歌手诗人。迪伦获奖是对古老民谣传统和浪漫主义诗歌的一次当代呼应，而迪伦本人坦言，他创作灵感最重要的来源是罗伯特·彭斯。

鲍勃·迪伦是工业时代的歌者，而彭斯是农耕时代的诗人。一个诺贝尔奖，将两位不同时代的诗人并置起来，将浪漫主义的衣钵承接起来，也再次引发对诗与歌命题的思考。

诗与歌同源。

好的诗歌可以跨越时代，超越诗歌本身，进入更宽广的神灵的世界，那里没有写作，只有灵魂在吟唱：

*My heart's in the Highlands, a-chasing the deer;  
Chasing the wild-deer, and following the roe,  
My heart's in the Highlands, wherever I go.*

我的心儿在高原，追逐着鹿儿，  
追逐着野鹿，跟踪着獐儿，  
我的心儿在高原，不管我上哪儿。

(《我的心在高原》(*My Heart's in the Highlands*——参见本诗集)



## PREFACE

**R**obert Burns was born near Ayr, Scotland, 25th of January, 1759. He was the son of William Burnes, or Burness, at the time of the poet's birth a nurseryman on the banks of the Doon in Ayrshire. His father, though always extremely poor, attempted to give his children a fair education, and Robert, who was the eldest, went to school for three years in a neighboring village, and later, for shorter periods, to three other schools in the vicinity. But it was to his father and to his own reading that he owed the more important part of his education; and by the time that he had reached manhood he had a good knowledge of English, a reading knowledge of French, and a fairly wide acquaintance with the masterpieces of English literature from the time of Shakespeare to his own day. In 1766 William Burness rented on borrowed money the farm of Mount Oliphant, and in taking his share in the effort to make this undertaking succeed, the future poet seems to have seriously overstrained his physique. In 1771 the family move to Lochlea, and Burns went to the neighboring town of Irvine to learn flax-dressing. The only result of this experiment, however, was the formation of an acquaintance with a dissipated sailor, whom he afterward blamed as the prompter of his first licentious adventures. His father died in 1784, and with his brother Gilbert the poet rented the farm of Mossgiel; but this venture was as unsuccessful as the others. He had meantime formed