

Collins

柯林斯名人故事集

AMAZING
PEOPLE
worldwide

了不起的作家

Amazing Writers

[英] Katerina Mestheneou 编

4级

英语注释



商务印书馆
The Commercial Press

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第4级

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[英]Katerina Mestheneou 编

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出版前言

商务印书馆自创立以来，始终以“昌明教育，开启民智”为己任，致力于翻译西学、沟通中外，坚持以高质量的出版物促进文化交流，以传播先进思想推动社会进步。近年来更是加大了外语学习读物的出版，如推出“莎翁戏剧经典”丛书、“阿加莎·克里斯蒂经典侦探作品集”系列等，此次引进“柯林斯名人故事集”系列是我馆开发英语学习读物的又一成果。

本系列丛书的英文原书由英国柯林斯出版社按照柯林斯 COBUILD 分级标准，邀请英国语言和文学专家改编而成，每一级均对照欧洲语言教学大纲（CEF）相应级别，是适合初级至中级水平英语学习者的英语读物。

本系列丛书分为四级，每级 5 册，共 20 册，每册集中介绍一个领域的 5—6 个著名人物。正文部分用简明清晰的英文以第一人称讲述人物生平故事，并以脚注形式提供重点词汇的词性和释义；文后附英汉对照的人物生平大事记；书后附英文词汇表，供读者了解本书重点词汇详细的英文释义。

此外，每本书均提供点读笔和二维码音频下载功能。

希望这套“柯林斯名人故事集”丛书能够帮助读者在学习英语的同时了解人类历史上各个领域最杰出、最有影响力的人物，在提高英语能力的同时，走出一条成功的人生之路。

商务印书馆编辑部

2016年9月

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。

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Voltaire

伏尔泰

1694—1778

the French writer who believed in social and
religious freedom

信奉社会自由与宗教自由的法国作家



本节朗读音频



All through my life, one thing was important to me and that was freedom. Freedom to belong to any religion, freedom to work and earn a living, and most importantly, freedom of speech. I always said and wrote exactly what I thought.

I was born in Paris, France on 21st November 1694 and I was the youngest of five children. My parents named me François-Marie and although my family name was Arouet, later as a writer, I chose the name Voltaire and that is how I am still known. My father, François Arouet was a public official^①, a lawyer, and my mother, Marie Marguerite d'Aumart, who died when I was 7 years old, came from an aristocratic^② family. Even though my

① official *n.* 官员 ② aristocratic *adj.* 贵族的

father was considered to be upper-middle class^① and not part of the aristocracy^②, we lived well and did not have any financial problems. When I was 10 years old, in 1704, I started going to school at the *Collège Louis-le-Grand*. Here I was educated by Catholic priests and I discovered that I loved literature, theatre and writing, especially writing poetry and plays. From an early age I knew I wanted to become a professional writer. My father had other ideas – for some reason he did not want his son to follow a literary career – and so I was not allowed to continue studying what I loved. Instead, my father wanted me to become a lawyer and in 1711, when I left school, he found me a job in Paris as an assistant to a notary – a type of lawyer.

However, instead of learning about the law, I spent my time secretly studying and writing poetry. When I wasn't writing, I spent my time with friends. I soon found out that I was able to write in a way that amused people and I wrote funny poems about well-known people – poems that often lacked respect and were sometimes even rude. When my father discovered what I was really doing, he was furious. He was angry, not only because I had lied to him but also because he did not approve of my friends. In 1713, he sent me away to Caen in Normandy to study law.

While I was in Normandy, my father arranged for me to move to the Netherlands to work as a secretary for the French Ambassador. In the Netherlands, I met a young French woman called Catherine Olympe Dunoyer who was a Protestant^③ refugee. In France, the only religion that was allowed was Catholicism^④.

① upper-middle class *n.* 上层中产阶级 ② aristocracy *n.* 贵族阶级

③ Protestant *n.* 新教教徒 ④ Catholicism *n.* 天主教

If you were not Catholic, you could be punished. Catherine and her family had gone to live in the Netherlands, which was mainly Protestant, where they were safe. We loved each other and wanted to run away and get married. My father discovered our plans and stopped us. Once again he was angry with me. At the age of 19, in disgrace, I was sent back to France, where my father thought he could control me.



My relationship with my father had never been very good and I felt increasingly bitter and angry with the way he kept interfering in my life. I could not support myself because I had no money of my own and so I was forced to do what he wanted. I was also



King Louis XIV of France

unhappy with the way French society was organized. For the past 50 years, France had been ruled by King Louis XIV. He believed that his right to be king had come from God. He also believed that God only supported Catholics and that every other religion should be forbidden. This made me furious because I completely refused to accept that God was only in favour of one religion. To me, it was impossible. I believed in a different kind of society – one where everybody had the same rights, no matter what their religion, gender or social class was. Only the aristocracy and the Church had rights in France and, thinking it was most unfair, I expressed my feelings in the things I wrote. In a country where there was no social freedom, this was dangerous and probably not very wise.

My writing became more satirical^① as I criticized the church, and the king and his advisors^②, and I started to make enemies. My father decided to send me away again and I went to stay with the Marquis de Saint-Ange, a friend who lived in the country. I stayed there for some months and when I came back in 1715, my father tried to introduce me to a new circle of friends that he thought would have a better influence on me. I joined the elite^③ social circle – the Court Sceaux – of a woman called the Duchesse du Maine. Here I found that many people admired my satirical humour, which naturally encouraged me to write more, and I started to become famous. The following year, in 1716, I made fun of the Duc d'Orléans, who was ruling the country until the king was old enough to do it himself. Louis XIV had died and King Louis

① satirical *adj.* 讽刺的 ② advisor *n.* 顾问 ③ elite *n.* 精英

XV was only five years old. The Duke was so annoyed by what I had written that he exiled^① me to a place called Tulle, which was about 480 kilometres from Paris. After a short while, he let me come back home.

Then, in 1717, I was arrested for having written an offensive poem about members of the ruling aristocracy. I was sent to the Bastille, which was a prison in the middle of Paris, for 11 months. Conditions there were terrible. It was full of mad people and rats carrying all kinds of disease. Being locked up didn't stop me from wanting to write about everything that I thought was wrong with French life. While I was in prison, I wrote my first play, called *Oedipe*, and I started to write *La Henriade*, which was a long poem that I didn't publish until 1723. When I came out of the Bastille in 1718, *Oedipe* was performed for the first time and it was a great success. It was about this time that I adopted the name Voltaire.



In 1722, my father died and I started working for a man called Cardinal Guillaume Dubois as a secret diplomat. I hadn't stopped writing and managed to publish my poem, *La Henriade*. In 1726, I had an argument with a man called Chevalier de Rohan, who was from one of the most powerful aristocratic families in France. He said that I had insulted him and he had me arrested. I was sent to the Bastille once more. After a few weeks, I was given a choice. I could stay in prison or I could leave the country. I did not hesitate for a moment and decided to leave France and go to live in exile^②.

① exile *v.* 流放；放逐 ② exile *n.* 流放；放逐