

新世纪大学英语阅读丛书
丛书总主编 宋渭澄

新世纪
大学英语
文史知识阅读

王少琳 主编

北京大学出版社

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总 序

随着改革开放的不断深入和对外交流的进一步扩大,英语在越来越广泛的领域中发挥着重要作用。为适应二十一世纪社会发展和经济建设对各类人才的要求,《大学英语教学大纲》(修订本)在重视打好语言基础和语言应用能力培养的同时,对大学英语教学的教学目的和教学要求都提出了更高要求。《新大纲》重视素质教育,在强调加强学生英语语言基础和提高实际应用能力的同时,提出大学英语学习要四年不断线,提倡学生充分利用在校期间的有利条件,有计划、有目的地使英语水平得到稳步提高,以适应社会发展的总要求。

《新世纪大学英语阅读丛书》就是针对《新大纲》的要求编写的一套以巩固大学基础阶段英语学习成果为目的,以扩大学生各种知识面为目标的阅读丛书。该套丛书共五册,包括:《新世纪大学英语高科技知识阅读》(杨智颖主编)、《新世纪大学英语军事知识阅读》(周评主编)、《新世纪大学英语文史知识阅读》(王少琳主编)、《新世纪大学英语社科知识阅读》(李兆平主编)和《新世纪大学英语世界知识阅读》(曲江烨主编)。丛书由南京国际关系学院副院长、博士生导师、全国高校外语专业指导委员会英语专业组委员宋渭澄教授担任总主编,大学英语教学界诸多有名望的教师担任了编委会委员。各分册主编都是一些著名高校的外语教研室主任,编写人员都是长期工作在大学英语教学第一线并具有丰富教学经验的老师们。

这套丛书重点突出“新”和“泛”,总的来说,它有如下特点:一、选材新颖。丛书选编了不同领域的最新文章,能充分体现时代特色,紧跟时代潮流,反映时代精神。二、知识面广。丛书选编的文章涉及到政治、经济、军事、外交、社会、科技、医学、文学、文化、国家概况等诸多方面,覆盖面广,阅读这些文章必能有所收获。三、文章体裁广泛。丛书中编入了各类文体的文章,有利于学生提高和培养阅读能力。四、专业词汇量大。丛书涉及大量相关领域的词汇,并且很多是相关领域的最新词汇,在阅读中不仅能让了解专业知识,提高阅读兴趣,还能扩充专业词汇,适应毕业后的工作需要。

我们诚挚地希望这套丛书能够对繁荣新时期大学英语教学有所裨益,同时让广大学生在阅读过程中得到启迪和收获。

2001年5月

前 言

大量阅读英文书籍是从根本上提高英语学习者英语水平的首选途径。英语阅读能力的培养和形成是英语语音、听说、词汇、语法、写作等一系列语言知识学习和技能训练的最终目的之一。在英语学习的过程中,认识和理解英语文章的基础是词汇和语法,阅读反过来又起着巩固词汇和语法知识的作用;一定的听说能力为阅读理解能力的培养提供了物质基础,而阅读理解能力的培养又巩固了听说训练的成果。另一方面,在阅读过程中,由于词汇、句法等各种知识在阅读材料中都能得以反复交叉出现,大量阅读便可以巩固和加深读者对这些知识的认知,并拓宽与文章相联系的异国文化背景知识。此外,通过大量阅读,读者细致观察语言、假设判断、分析归纳、推理验证和逻辑思维等能力能够得到很好的培养。由此可见英语阅读的重要性。

《新世纪大学英语文史知识阅读》是《新世纪大学英语阅读丛书》中的一册。它旨在帮助那些已完成大学英语基础阶段课程学习的同学们进一步提高英语阅读能力,并在阅读的同时了解一些文学、历史、艺术及其它相关领域的知识,增加自身知识的信息含量,扎扎实实地巩固和提高英语水平。

该书在选材上力求体现时代性、知识性和趣味性。其中的大部分文章来自经典文学评论著作、史书、英美报刊等。通过阅读这些文章,能了解到西方文明的诸多方面,从不同角度看待西方世界的各种文化现象。所选的题材中不乏表现自强精神的优秀作品,读后给人以一种奋发向上的力量。

参加本书编写工作的都是在大学英语教学第一线的教师,他们将自己在教学工作中的经验和体会溶进了本书的字里行间。当然,本书的编写工作也有很多不足之处,诚望各位读者提出宝贵意见。

编 者

2001年5月

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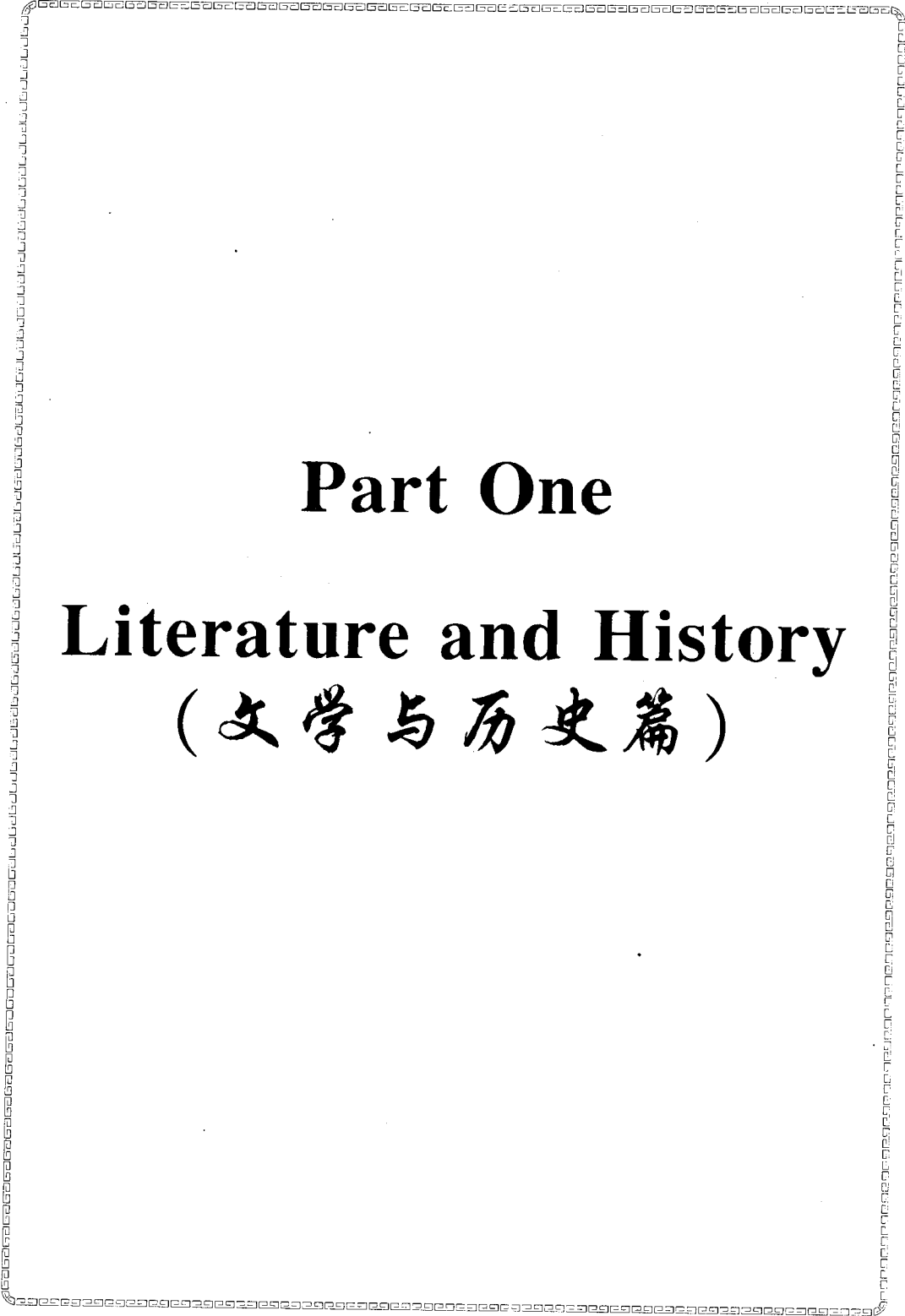
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Part One

Literature and History
(文学与历史篇)



Unit 1

The Case of the Durable Detective

【New Words and Expressions】

- estate *n.* 财产, 遗产
plaster of paris *n.* 烧石膏, 熟石膏
alibi *n.* 不在犯罪现场
locale *n.* (事情发生的)场所, 地点
elephantiasis *n.* 象皮病
carriage *n.* (站立时的)姿势, 仪态
diagnostician *n.* 诊断医生, 诊断学家
seafaring *n.* 海上航行
hang out one's shingle (尤指医生、律师)挂牌开业
close-set *adj.* (眼睛或牙齿等)长得紧靠在一起的
bearing *n.* 举止, 仪态
side-whisker *n.* 络腮胡子
tattoo *vt.* 刺花纹于
prescription *n.* 惯例, 传统
sheaf *n.* (一)捆
frame *vt.* (俚)陷害, 诬陷
afoot *adv.* 在活动中, 在进行中
sovereign *n.* 一镑金币(现不通用, 面值一英镑)

【Text】

For 79 years the adventures of Sherlock Holmes have thrilled millions—and the magic still remains.

In this age of the screaming jet, atomic power and the electric toothbrush, it is astonishing to find Mr. Sherlock Holmes, the horse-drawn detective of Baker Street, London, still very much alive. Among recent clues to the vigor of the hawk-nosed, pipe-smoking Holmes have been the 1965 Broadway^① musical "Baker Street" and the filming for television of some of his best ad-

① Broadway: 百老汇大街, 美国纽约市的一条大街, 为戏院、夜总会等娱乐场所的集中地区。

ventures.

Holmes' first triumph of detection was related by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle^① more than 80 years ago. In the years since, Holmes' adventures, as recorded in five books composed of 56 short stories, and in four short novels, have been translated into 45 languages. One estimate is that the world total sale of these books has long since passed the 100 million copy mark. The copyright, which runs until 1980, has produced the largest literary estate in history. Holmes has been the hero of 121 movies, some 500 radio scripts, half a hundred TV performances and more than 20 plays. Groups of Holmes fans, including college professors, doctors, writers and artists, continue to meet regularly, the world over, to talk about their hero.

Variations of the scientific detective methods introduced to the public by Sherlock Holmes are commonly used today. He employed plaster of paris molds to protect delicate bits of evidence and to register tire marks and footprints. Using a microscope, he studied the dust in clothing to determine the occupation of a victim and to confirm or destroy the alibi of a suspect. And he made a minute, detailed study of the area surrounding a crime for physical evidence linking the suspect to the locale.

Translated into Arabic, Sherlock Holmes stories serve as a text for the Egyptian police. And France has honored Holmes' creator, Conan Doyle, by naming a crime laboratory after him.

Arthur Conan Doyle was born to a family in modest circumstances in Edinburgh^②, Scotland. He entered medical school there at 17, and worked his way through. He caught the eye of Dr. Joseph Bell, the noted surgeon, and became his assistant. Bell had a highly developed talent for observation and logical process of thought. At his clinic, he delighted his students by identifying not only the patients' ailments but their racial origin, occupation and geographical background as well. "You, sir," he would say to a patient, "are a recently discharged soldier, just returned from Barbados^③. You are suffering from elephantiasis."

After both patient and students had shown their surprise, Bell would explain: "This gentleman is obviously a soldier by his carriage. The fact that he did not remove his hat on entering the room shows that he is newly out of the service. Both his tan and his ailment show he comes from the tropics—and I add that he is from Barbados, because there has been a recent outbreak of the disease there."

Doyle dreamed of becoming a surgeon and diagnostician like Bell, but lack of money made it necessary for him to take the job of ship's doctor on a whaler. Following his return from seafaring, he hung out his shingle in a rented house in Southsea, a suburb of Portsmouth^④. Patients were few, and he took up writing in the hope of getting a bit of income until his medical practice grew. He wrote several adventure stories for boys' magazines, but his payments were small. His

① Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: 柯南道尔(1859—1930),英国小说家,医生出身,主要以侦探小说而闻名,创立着重推理的侦探小说流派,著有《福尔摩斯探案》,还写有历史小说、科幻小说等。

② Edinburgh: 爱丁堡,英国苏格兰东南部城市,苏格兰首府。

③ Barbados: 巴巴多斯,拉丁美洲国家,在小安的列斯群岛最东部。

④ Portsmouth: 朴茨茅斯,英国英格兰南部港市。

first novel failed to find a publisher.

Discouraged, he happened to think of Dr. Bell and decided to try using his clever methods of diagnosis in a detective story. He picked up his pen and scribbled the title, *A Study in Scarlet*. For his hero, it is believed he combined the first name of a popular cricket player with the last name of Oliver Wendell Holmes^① —and Sherlock Holmes was born.

In this first story, a Dr. Watson, wounded by a bullet in the Afghan wars, comes to London, and after an introduction by a friend, rents rooms with Sherlock Holmes at 221B Baker Street. Holmes is described as being tall, thin, hawk-nosed, with close-set eyes (a reasonable description of Dr. Bell).

Watson was introduced to his roommate's amazing lovers when, seeing a man looking anxiously at house numbers in the street below, he murmured, "I wonder what that fellow is looking for?"

"You mean the retired sergeant of Marines," said Holmes. (He had noticed that the man had a military bearing, regulation side-whiskers, an air of command and an anchor tattooed on the back of his hand.) This trick of Dr. Bell's, written into a murder story, turned out to be the prescription for the immortal Holmes.

The first Holmes story was barely noticed in England, and mildly successful in the United States. The second, entitled *The Sign of the Four*, established Holmes on both sides of the Atlantic. Doyle signed an agreement to do 12 Holmes stories for the Strand magazine. As each new tale appeared, Holmes and Watson took a firmer grip on the public.

Although his writing soon began to bring him wealth, Dr. Doyle still considered it a source of income only, not a career. In fact, Doyle grew tired of writing Sherlock Holmes stories and, in 1893, he killed his hero off in a hand-to-hand battle with Professor Moriarty at a waterfall in Switzerland. Doyle's public was enraged. Angry letters poured in. But Doyle held firm; he felt that Holmes had been keeping him from more important work.

Then, in 1900, Dr. Doyle volunteered for the Boer War^②. He became senior surgeon in a field hospital that had few supplies. Dr. Doyle worked day and night against both wounds and disease. At the war's end, he was knighted for his services.

In 1903, Sir Arthur consented at last to revive Sherlock Holmes. The unsinkable Sherlock, it now came to light, had not been killed after all. *The Empty House* explains how he had miraculously survived, beaten his way to Tibet to consult with the head lama, and returned to London to check into the mysterious death of an earl's son. Sherlock's return produced enthusiasm from his faithful fans in England and America and huge sales for the magazines that printed the stories.

Doyle had, in fact, created a character so vivid that masses of people refused to believe he

① Oliver Wendell Holmes: 霍姆斯(1809—1894), 美国医师、幽默作家, 以“早餐桌上”系列短文而闻名, 曾任哈佛大学医学院院长。其子奥列佛·威·霍姆斯(Oliver Wendell Holmes, 1841—1935)与其同名, 为美国法学家, 曾任美国联邦最高法院法官(1902—1932)。

② Boer War: 布尔战争, 指 1899—1902 年英国与南非荷兰移民的后裔布尔人之间的战争。

was fictional. The author regularly received letters addressed to Holmes asking for help in solving real cases. Some of the letters led to a demonstration of Doyle's own ability as a detective. One such incident concerned a man who had drawn all his money from his bank, taken a hotel room in London, attended a music hall, returned to his hotel, changed clothes and vanished. The police had failed to locate him, and his family feared that he might have been murdered.

Conan Doyle solved the problem at once. "You will find your man in Glasgow^① or Edinburgh," he said, "and he is there of his own free will. Drawing all his money out of the bank indicates intended flight. The music hall he attended lets out at 11. Since he changed clothes after returning to his hotel, he planned to take a trip. The Scottish expresses leave King's Cross at midnight." The man was found in Edinburgh.

But Doyle could be taken by surprise. Once, traveling abroad, he was startled when a cab driver addressed him as Dr. Doyle. "How did you know?" he asked. "It's written on your trunk," the man answered calmly.

In 1906, shocked by the death of his wife, Doyle stopped writing and seemed to be taking very little interest in life. His worried secretary, hoping to arouse his interest, handed him a sheaf of clippings concerning one George Edjali, convicted of writing threatening letters and of cruelty to animals. Sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, Edjali had been released after three years because of doubt as to his guilt, but the government still refused to pardon him, and he had lost his license to practice law.

After interviewing Edjali and studying all the circumstances of the case, Doyle concluded that Edjali had been framed. The man to look for, he said, was someone who had been to sea—the anonymous letters had come at intervals, suggesting long sea voyages, and contained references to seagoing life. The wounds inflicted on the animals indicated that the unknown criminal had worked as a butcher.

Amazingly, every one of Doyle's guesses proved true. The man he described was tracked down. It turned out that he had gone to school with Edjali but had been dropped at 13 because he was so unruly. He had gone to work as a butcher's helper, and had later shipped on a cattle boat. The government pardoned Edjali. Largely as a result of the case, a Court of Criminal Appeal was set up to deal with such errors in justice.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle died in 1930 at the age of 71, three years after he had written his last Sherlock Holmes story. More than 40 years had passed since Holmes and Watson had started their careers, but their world was still the London of the elegant 80's with horse cabs, rolling fogs, the slipping of a revolver into the pocket of a caped coat, the electric crackle of Holmes' voice saying to Watson, "The game's afoot," and the hasty command to the cab driver: "Charing Cross, and a sovereign if you make it under ten minutes!"

The magic still remains. It will for a long time to come.

① Glasgow: 格拉斯哥, 英国苏格兰中南部港口城市。

【Reading Comprehension】

1. By both training and choice, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a _____.
A. career officer B. lawyer C. physician D. sportsman
2. Sir Arthur gained his title as a result of _____.
A. inheritance B. his war service
C. his wealth D. his popularity as a writer
3. He first turned to writing because _____.
A. he had a strong desire to do so B. he failed at his profession
C. his mother urged him to do so D. he needed money
4. In both physical appearance and talent for observation, Sherlock Holmes was created in the image of _____.
A. Doyle's father B. Oliver Wendell Holmes C. a famous surgeon D. his tutor
5. Holmes' friend is named _____.
A. Dr. Watson B. Dr. Bell C. Dr. Moriarty D. Dr. Smith
6. Holmes resided at _____.
A. 10 Downing Street B. 331/2 Charing Cross.
C. 221B Baker Street D. 334 Wall Street
7. In 1893, Doyle enraged his reading public by _____.
A. announcing that he would write no more stories
B. having Holmes retired
C. having Holmes die of a fatal illness
D. having an enemy kill Holmes
8. The Holmes stories influenced police detectives in many countries to _____.
A. write stories about crimes they solved
B. study small details in connection with a crime
C. name laboratories after Sherlock Holmes
D. work together with other detectives
9. As a result of Sir Arthur's work in the Edjali case, _____.
A. a Court of Criminal Appeal was created
B. the bail-bond system was discontinued
C. Scotland Yard was established
D. the Supreme Court was organized
10. Today, the Sherlock Holmes stories are _____.
A. less popular than in former years B. liked only by children
C. as popular as ever D. read only by the elderly

【Questions for Discussion】

1. How popular was Sherlock Holmes around the world?
2. From whom did Sherlock Holmes get his name?
3. How did Doyle show to the public that he was an excellent detective himself?
4. Was Conan Doyle always so observant in finding clues to problems?

Unit 2

The Man Who Wrote *Moby Dick*

【New Words & Expressions】

waterfront *n.* (城市中的)滨水区

tramp *vi.* 步行, 徒步旅行

whaler *n.* 捕鲸船

whaling vessel *n.* 捕鲸船

wormhole *n.* 虫孔, 蛀洞

roughneck *n.* (美俚)粗鲁的人, 无赖

cannibal *n.* 食人的人

hardtack *n.* (供船上食用的)硬饼干

shanghai *n.* (用酒或麻醉剂)使失去知觉后劫到上当水手

conversant *adj.* 熟悉的, 精通的

vale *n.* 谷, 溪谷(用于诗和地名中)

vexation *n.* 烦恼, 苦恼

doleful *adj.* 令人悲哀的,

prim *adj.* 古板的, 拘谨的

folkway *n.* 社会习俗

peaceable *adj.* 太平的, 和平的

boathook *n.* 有钩的篙子

advance *n.* 预先付钱或贷款给

【Text】

The life of Herman Melville^①, seafaring adventurer, writer and original thinker, was as full of drama and tragedy as were his books.

On September 28, 1891, an old man died quietly at 104 East 26th Street, New York City. He had been living there for 28 years, earning his living as a customs inspector. His death received only three lines of notice, in one newspaper.

① Herman Melville: 赫尔曼·梅尔维尔(1819—1891), 美国小说家, 作品多反映航海生活, 富于现实感, 且多探索善恶、成败等哲理寓意, 代表作《白鲸》, 其他重要作品有小说《皮埃尔》、《毕利·伯德》等。