Charles Dickens

Catherine Peters (英) 著



查尔斯·狄更斯

外语教学与研究出版社

英国Sutton出版公司

Pocket Biographies

查尔斯·狄更斯 Charles Dickens

Catherine Peters(英) 著 蒋显文 译

> 外语教学与研究出版社 英国 SUTTON 出版公司

(京)新登字 155 号

京权图字 01-2001-1996 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

查尔斯·狄更斯/(英)彼得斯(Peters, C.)著;蒋显文译.-北京:外语教学与研究出版社,2002

ISBN 7-5600-2698-2

I. 查··· Ⅱ. ①彼··· ②蒋··· Ⅲ. 英语 - 对照读物, 传记 - 英、汉 Ⅳ. H319.4: K

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2002)第 013310 号

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责任编辑: 杨晓燕

出版发行: 外语教学与研究出版社

杜 址: 北京市西三环北路 19号 (100089)

域: http://www.nurp.com.cr

 印 場: 北京外国電大学印刷区

开 本: 850×1168 1/32

印 张: 7.25

版 次: 2002年5月第1版 2002年5月第1次印刷

书 号: ISBN 7-5600-2698-2/H·1395

定 价: 8.90元

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致读者

《外研社·英汉对照人物传记丛书》(Pocket Biographies)由英国 Sutton 出版公司授权外语教学与研究出版社翻译并出版发行。这些人物传记生动客观地向读者介绍了历史上杰出人物的生平事迹及对历史和社会发展的影响。这些人物中包括音乐家、政治家、王室贵族、科学家、民主政治领袖、心理学家、电影明星和剧作家等。他们大都具有独特的人生经历、性格魅力和历史功绩,其名字为世人所传诵。本套丛书英汉对照,英文部分完全保留了作品的原汁原味,中文部分则以英文为基础,可帮助读者更好地理解原著。

本套丛书适合所有英语学习者和爱好者,读者既可以从语言文字的角度咀嚼英文原著的精华,又可以从认识世界的角度更好地重温历史人物及历史事件。

C H R O N O L O G Y

1812	7 February. Born at 13 Mile End Terrace,	
	Landport, Portsmouth	
1817	Family move to Chatham, Kent	
1822	Family move to London. Dickens not sent to school	
1824	9 February. Begins work in Warren's blacking	
	warehouse. Father imprisoned for debt	
	June. Dickens sent to Wellington House Academ	
1827	Leaves school, begins work as a solicitor's clerk	
1830	Meets and becomes engaged to Maria Beadnell	
1831	Becomes parliamentary shorthand reporter	
1834	Begins to publish 'Sketches', using the	
	pseudonym 'Boz'	
1836	Sketches by Boz. Marries Catherine Hogarth	
1837	Pickwick Papers. Birth of Charles Dickens jnr.	
	Death of Catherine's sister Mary	
1838	Oliver Twist. Birth of Mary (Mamie) Dickens	
1839	Nicholas Nickleby. Birth of Kate Dickens	
1841	Old Curiosity Shop, Barnaby Rudge. Birth of Walter	
	Dickens	
1842	Jan/June. Visits America. American Notes.	
	Georgina Hogarth joins the Dickens household	
1843	A Christmas Carol	
1844	Martin Chuzzlewit. Birth of Francis Dickens	
	from July. living in Italy	

生平记事

出生在朴茨茅斯市兰德波特镇特雷
斯街13号
全家搬到肯特郡查塔姆市
全家搬回到伦敦、狄更斯没有被
送去上学
开始在沃伦的黑鞋油作坊干活,他
父亲因欠债入狱。
狄更斯被送往威灵顿寄宿学校
离开学校,在一家律师事务所当书记员
认识并与玛丽娅・比德内尔订婚
当了一名议会报道速记记者
开始用"博兹"笔名发表有关伦敦
生活和人物的短篇作品
《博兹系列短篇作品集》,与凯瑟
琳·霍格斯结婚
《匹克威克外传》, 小查尔斯·狄更
斯出生。凯瑟琳的妹妹玛丽去世
《雾都孤儿》,玛丽(梅米)・狄更斯出生
《尼古拉斯·尼克尔贝》, 凯特·狄
更斯出生
《老古玩店》,《巴纳比·拉奇》, 沃
尔特・狄更斯出生
访问美国,《美国札记》;乔治娜·霍
格思与狄更斯一家人同住
《圣诞颂歌》
《马丁・丘兹利威特》,法朗西丝・狄
更斯出生;从7月开始,旅居意大利

Charles Dickens Chronology

1845	The Cricket on the Hearth. Directs and acts in	
	Every Man in his Humour. Birth of Alfred	
	Dickens	
1846	Pictures from Italy, The Battle of Life. Living in	
	Lausanne and Paris	
1847	Involvement with Urania Cottage. Birth of	
	Sydney Dickens	
1848	Dombey and Son. Death of Dickens's sister Fanny	
1849	Birth of Henry Dickens	
1850	David Copperfield. Household Words begins	
	publication. Birth of Dora Dickens	
1851	Deaths of Dickens's father and daughter Dora	
1852	Birth of Edward (Plorn) Dickens	
1853	Bleak House. Gives first public reading, of	
	A Christmas Carol	
1854	Hard Times	
1855	Directs and acts in The Lighthouse, by Wilkie	
	Collins. Living in Paris for some months	
1856	Buys Gad's Hill Place	
1857	Little Dorrit. Directs and acts in The Frozen Deep.	
	Meets Nelly Ternan	
1858	Separates from his wife. Begins professional	
	readings from his works	
1859	A Tale of Two Cities. All the Year Round begins	
	publication	
1861	Great Expectations	
1865	Our Mutual Friend. Involved in Staplehurst railway	
	accident, with Nelly Ternan	
1867	November. Begins reading tour of America,	
	which ends in May 1868	

1845 年	《壁炉上的蟋蟀》, 导演和主演《人 人气质不同》, 艾尔弗雷德·狄更
	斯出生
1846 年	《从意大利来的图片》和《人生的战
1040 -	斗》,旅居洛桑和巴黎
1847 年	サル, 旅店谷米和 L 条 参与创办乌拉尼亚村, 悉尼・狄更
1847 - +	多与创办与私化业利, 恋化·秋史 斯出生
1040 &	• -
1848年	《董贝父子》,狄更斯的姐姐范妮去世
1849 年	亨利・狄更斯出生
1850年	《大卫·科波菲尔》,《家喻户晓的
	话》创刊,朵拉・狄更斯出生
1851 年	狄更斯的父亲和女儿朵拉去世
1852 年	爱德华(普罗恩)・狄更斯出生
1853 年	《荒凉山庄》,第一次公开朗诵《圣
	诞颂歌》
1854 年	《艰难时世》
1855 年	导演和演出威尔基・柯林斯写的
	《灯塔》,旅居巴黎数月
1856年	买下加得山庄
1857 年	《小杜丽》, 导演和演出《深度冻
	伤》,与内丽·特南相遇
1858 年	与妻子分居,开始把他的作品片断
	作专业化朗读表演
1859 年	《双城记》、《一年到头》开始出版
1861 年	《远大的前程》
1865 年	《我们共同的朋友》, 与内丽·特南
	在斯塔普尔赫斯特遭遇了铁路事
	故
1867年11月	开始在美国的巡回朗读表演,1868
	年 5 月结束

Charles Dickens Chronology

Farewell reading tour cut short when Dickens has a slight stroke
 March. Last public reading, A Christmas Carol.
 Starts The Mystery of Edwin Drood
 9 June. dies leaving Drood unfinished. Buried in Westminster Abbey

1868年

朗读表演因狄更斯的轻微中风而终止

1870年3月

最后一次朗诵《圣诞颂歌》,开始写作《埃德温·德鲁德的秘密》 6月9日,去世,留下《德鲁德》一书尚未完成,葬在威斯敏斯特教堂

INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 1841 Edinburgh greeted a hero: the 29-year-old Charles Dickens. He was given the freedom of the city. Over 250 male guests attended one of several dinners held in his honour, with nearly as many women looking on from a gallery. When he went to the theatre, the audience, warned by the newspapers that 'Boz' would be present, crammed in to see him. As he entered, the orchestra struck up 'Charley is my Darling'.

This extraordinary popularity lasted his whole life. Dickens's creative genius was fully recognized, not by a select readership but by a mass audience. He was read by rich and poor, the newly literate and the highly educated: 'almost everybody whose letters and biography have come down to us has something to say about Dickens'. What was the secret of his success?

He was of course a great entertainer, who could move from drama to comedy in a sentence, arousing

引 言

1841年的夏天,爱丁堡接待了一位杰出的人物——他就是查尔斯·狄更斯,当时年他仅29岁。他被授予爱丁堡市荣誉市民权。250多名男宾出席了为他而举办的宴会,吸引了众多的女士在门廊外观看。当他要去剧院时,报纸告知观众"博兹"将前来看戏,于是人们争先恐后地拥进剧院,渴望能一睹他的风采。当他步入剧院时,乐队奏起了乐曲《查尔斯,我最亲爱的人》。

查尔斯·狄更斯一生都极负盛名。他的创作 天才不仅被一大批有见识的读者所承认,而且被 广大的观众所肯定。无论是富人还是穷人,无论 是略具文化修养的人还是受过高深教育的人都 在争读他的作品。"几乎所有保存下来的个人书 信和流传下来的传记里面都提起过狄更斯"。那 么,他成功的秘诀是什么呢?

毫无疑问,他是一位伟大的表演艺术家,他能 在同一个句子里完成从戏剧性到喜剧性的变化, the emotions and engaging the sympathies of his readers. But he was concerned with the major issues of his times, and his criticisms, many of them still valid today, challenged his readers' consciences and intelligence. Dickens saw astonishing changes; during his lifetime Britain was transformed from a predominantly rural economy to a major industrial power. Transport, mass communications, education, legal and parliamentary structures, the treatment of the insane and criminals, the position of women, were all radically altered. Because of Dickens's immense popularity, he had an influence on the shaping of social policy. Politicians read him, and knew they had to take account of what he wrote.

If Dickens's novels were merely melodrama or fictionalized social commentary we should not read them today. He also had the gift of imaginative insight, a playwright's ear for dialogue and, above all, an ability to sum up a scene or a character in a wholly original but startlingly exact image. It is this invention and humour, the eye for the bizarre poetry of everyday life, which makes his writing live. His responses did not remain static. There are differences between his picaresque early novels, the

引起读者的共鸣,唤起他们的同情心。但同时他又非常关注他那个时代的重大事件。他的许多文艺批评观点至今仍颠扑不破。它们唤起人们的良知,激发人们的智慧。狄更斯生前目睹了在英国发生的惊人变化。不列颠从一个由农村经济占主导地位的国家转变成为一个世界工业强国,交通业、通信业、教育、法律和议会体制都发生了翻天建地的变化。同时治疗精神病人、改造罪犯也取得重大进展,妇女地位得到大大改善。狄更斯的巨大声望使他对国家制定政策也产生了影响。政治家们也读他的书,往往不得不考虑他就某些问题写了些什么。

假如狄更斯的小说仅仅是传奇作品或以小说形式出版的社会评论的专集,我们今天大可不必再读它们。然而,狄更斯有着洞悉人们内心世界的天才,两只剧作家倾听人们日常会话的敏锐耳朵。更为突出的是,他有着这样一种能力——用一个新颖却异常准确的意象来概括一个情景或一个人物。正是他的这一创作手法、他的幽默和他的一双发觉日常生活中蕴藏着诗意的眼睛,使得他的作品栩栩如生。但他对生活的认识在各个时期是不同的。他早年创作的以流浪汉的冒险为题材的几部小说就存在着差异;在他的重要创

increased complexity of his major middle period, and the dark intensity of his later work. But whether he is being funny or terrifying, realistic or wildly improbable, the energy of the writing remains compelling. The 'Dickens world' he created is like no other.

Dickens was not only a novelist. In his fifty-eight years he accomplished as much as three or four people combined. He wrote penetrating, investigative journalism. He was a meticulous editor who personally read and revised the contributions to his magazines, a talented amateur actor and a magnificent reader from his own work. He played an active part in charitable enterprises and welfare schemes. He walked 10 or 15 miles a day. Over 14,000 letters written in his own hand, some of them many pages long, are known to have survived: many more have disappeared.

A 'pocket biography' can give only a flavour of Dickens. As he wrote to a critic of his novel Barnaby Rudge, 'the object is — not to tell everything, but to select the striking points and beat them into the page with a sledge-hammer'.² There are many excellent biographies and critical appraisals of his

作时期中间,其作品反映出其思想的日益复杂性;而他的晚年作品则表现出一种强烈的忧郁。然而,无论他是妙趣横生,还是令人恐惧,无论他是现实主义,还是荒唐可笑,他作品的生动性仍然使人对它们爱不释手,他所创造出来的"狄更斯世界"简直是独一无二、无以伦比。

狄更斯不仅仅是一个小说家。在 58 年的生涯中,他取得了相当于三、四个人所能取得的成就。他写过一些精辟的反映现实生活的新闻报导。他是一个严谨的编辑,总是亲自审阅和修改投向他自办杂志的稿件。他还是一个才华横溢的业余演员,一个把他自己作品的片段作朗读的表演者。他积极参与慈善和社会福利事业。他每天步行10到15英里。他一生中写的14,000多封信,其中一些长达数页,至今还保存完好;但还有相当多的部分遗失掉了。

一部"简短的传记"只能让人们对狄更斯略知一二。正如他在写给一个评论他的小说《巴纳比·拉奇》的批评家的信中所说的那样:我的目的不是把一切都包括进来,而是选择那些不同几响之处,并把它们用大锤子敲进书页之中。早已有许多出色的狄更斯传记和对其作品的评论问世、

work, some of them listed in the bibliography. Best of all, read Dickens himself. His novels have been a source of delight to me since I was ten years old. I shall go on reading them until I die.