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冷眼看西方英语阅读丛书之一

Chivalry
骑士精神

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【内容简介】《泰坦尼克号》所体现的骑士精神及真善美,日本宫廷传出绯闻,跨文化友谊给人们带来的乐趣,德国两次重建柏林的雄心,男女之间应相互了解的隐密,钟爱抽象艺术给画家惹来的麻烦,生活在黑暗中的盲人重见光明,小社区国际化的演变。几十个耐人寻味,且最能体现西方文化的故事,将使你体味到英语学习带给你的快乐,同时也会引起你深深的思考。

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前言

能够和英语国家人士毫无障碍地进行沟通是每一个英语学习者梦寐以求的最高境界。然而,您会发现,语言并不是交流的惟一障碍。只有真正融入西方社会,了解他们的背景文化,剖析他们的思维方式,您的交流才会如行云流水。否则,如果谈话涉及“柏林墙”、“甲壳虫”、“雷奥纳多现象”等英语国家尽人皆知的名词时,您却瞪目结舌、不知所云,谈话就会嘎然而止,或者是因为无共同话题而索然无味。

了解这些背景知识的渠道有很多,如报纸、杂志,一些专门介绍背景知识的书籍和因特网。然而,报纸、杂志失于琐碎,不能系统地展现一个完整的西方社会;一些专门介绍背景知识的书籍又过于平铺直叙,简单罗列,因而近于枯燥;至于因特网却不是人人皆能加以利用。那么,能否有一本书,全面、系统而又饶有趣味地介绍西方文化,展现西方世界的方方面面,使英语学习者对西方文化初窥门径。正是抱着这一宗旨,本书编者从西方报

刊、杂志,甚至是因特网上选择最新的资料,兼“古”及“今”,力求既能反映西方社会几千年的文化根基,又能反映社会的流行热点和最新趋势。在选材过程中,编者力求采取不偏不倚的态度,每一论题收录两或三篇从不同角度反映其主题的文章,构成一个独立的单元。这就要求读者在阅读之余,自己去思考、去提炼。同时考虑到一些读者的英语能力,我们在不失原作风味的前提下,作了稍许改动,并在篇尾给出一些文化内涵较深的生词。这样,您就可以畅游在英语的天地之中,享受英语为您带来的乐趣了!

骑士精神一直是西方社会一个颇受争议的话题,它究竟反映了男权社会中对妇女地位所作的虚伪的抬升,还是表现了一个有教养男士发自内心的谦逊和礼貌?维多利亚时代,骑士精神倍受推崇,那时的男士对女士彬彬有礼,体贴温柔,成为当今许多女士心目中的典范情人;而塞万提斯却在其作品《唐吉珂德》中对之作辛辣的讽刺,为读者刻画了一个受骑士小说荼毒的一个可怜又可笑的人物。随着女权运动的兴起,在“男女平等”的旗帜下,女权主义者对骑士精神嗤之以鼻,认为它是男性沙文主义的体现。而在当今社会,随着歧视妇女、虐待妇女现象的层出不穷,人们又在呼唤中世纪的骑士精神。但这绝不是简单的复古,骑士精神已被赋予崭新的时代精神。所谓骑士精神永存,正是这种崭新的骑士精神。

细心研读本书,您会发现本书并不拘泥于骑士精神这个大框架,而是对西方世界进行了多角度的剖析,力求为您描绘一个多姿多彩的西方社会,让您亲身在西方世界中体会新时代的骑士精神。

杜 娟

1999年8月

Unit 1

Setting Accounts

《泰坦尼克号》花落知多少？

耗资巨大的影片《泰坦尼克号》引起了世界极大的关注，种种传闻亦随之而来：制作的费用远远超出预算，剧组每天工作 18 小时，许多替身演员在拍摄过程中受重伤，临时演员在地狱般恶劣的环境中工作……这些是真是假，《泰坦尼克号》的导演将给您一个答复……

The Titanic disaster produced many myths and popular misconceptions in its time, and the film *Titanic* has done no less. This simple true-or-false guide should help clarify rumors and exaggerations.

The movie cost \$ 285 million.

FALSE. The total cost is \$ 200 million.

It is the most expensive film ever made.

TRUE, OR POSSIBLY FALSE. But this is the fourth time in a row that I have made a film that (rightly or wrongly) has been called the most expensive film ever made. In any event, many of our favorite epics from the '30s, '40s and '50s would cost more than *Titanic* if made today.

The production went way over budget.

TRUE. I hired the best, most experienced people in the film business to work with me on *Titanic*. The simple truth is that no one in any department (myself included) really understood the scale of this project going in. We were overwhelmed by the complexity of building a studio from the beginning of it, including the world's largest tank facility, and at the same time constructing one of the largest and most mechanically complex sets in history (imagine a 75-story building on its side ... now move it!). We were all seasoned big-budget experienced people, yet none of us had ever experienced anything like *Titanic*—nor, I dare say, would we care to again.

The water was freezing.

TRUE. Or at least it seemed like it. We froze our large barrels off. I remember spending many days up to my neck in what felt like ice water. And if there had been any other way to do it, believe me, we would have.

We worked long hours.

TRUE. But no longer than the hours on any other big location



film anywhere in the world. We did not, as reported, work 18-hour days. The majority of our shooting was exterior scenes filmed at night, so we clearly couldn't have.

The shooting went many months over schedule.

FALSE. The planned shooting schedule was 138 days. The film was completed in 160 days, a 16% increase.

Many stunt people were seriously injured.

FALSE. *Titanic* logged 6,029 stunt-man days, probably a movie-industry record (*True Lies* had 2,202). In all that time, there were three injuries requiring hospital treatment: one broken ankle, one cracked rib, one cracked cheekbone—and in the latter two, the stunt players were back at work the next day.

Set conditions were unsafe.

FALSE. As a result of unfounded rumors of unsafe conditions, the Screen Actors Guild investigated the production thoroughly and observed our working methods. They concluded that “the producers have taken extraordinary measures to ensure the health and safety of the cast and crew”, and that we had “set a new standard”. In fact, during the entire production, there were no on-set injuries requiring hospital treatment among actors or extras.

I am a “screamer”.

FALSE. A yeller, maybe. Working with hundreds of extras day after day for months makes yelling a way of life. From stem to

stern, the movie reflects Cameron's ambitious vision most never was there anger in it. In the darkest depths of the shoot, when responsibility for the budget overruns was a crushing burden, I was liable to some frustrated outbursts. I think I'm a good director, but I never claimed to have the best personality for directing. It brings out the worst in me, and it's the aspect of the work I hate the most. It should be noted that I am never negative with the actors, absolutely and religiously. In many ways they have the most difficult job on the set, and I make it my mission to be supportive and collaborative.

The extras worked in hellish conditions.

FALSE. Our extras worked hard and put tremendous heart into their performances. They became a community, with a high sense of purpose and fellowship. They were well fed, had more than plentiful clean facilities (in fact, we all used the same ones) and were provided with large jacuzzis for warming up between scenes during water work. Reports of mistreatment are false.

Titanic is a disaster movie.

FALSE. It is a love story. But don't worry—the ship does sink.

Titanic is an attempt by a very large number of people to do something extraordinary. It was never a "no brainer" piece of pop entertainment. Unlike most of the other big productions of the year, it is neither a sequel nor the launching point of a series of sequels. It is not based on a comic book. It was not designed to produce a vast number of toys, trade goods, video games and

theme-park attractions. It is an earnest and heartfelt work. But the same voice that disapprove of the formulaic commercialism of mainstream Hollywood product do not seem to applaud the studio heads who had the courage to back this unusual film.

Yes, *Titanic* is an easy target, by the nature of the subject itself, that great monument to the folly of arrogant confidence. But believe me, I have never felt arrogance or certainty on this project. Quite the opposite. It has been a nerve-racking, terrifying ride. The budget overages threatened to consume our very sobber mind; the scope of the thing was overwhelming. But something kept us going — the studio heads, myself, the crew. We knew we had a chance to do something special, and those chances don't come along often.

New Words

1. misconception [ˌmɪskən'sepʃən] *n.* 误解; 错误的观念
2. stunt [stʌnt] *n.* (电影等中临时雇用代替演员表演特技之) 替身
3. cast [kɑːst] *n.* (一出戏的) 演员阵容
4. extra ['ekstrə] *n.* (电影, 电视等) 临时演员
5. collaborative [kə'læbəreɪtɪv] *a.* 合作的
6. Jacuzzi [dʒə'kuːzi] *n.* “极可意”浴缸 (一种水力按摩浴缸, 源于商标名)
7. sequel ['siːkwəl] *n.* (故事, 影片的) 续集, 续篇

Reading Comprehension

1. According to the interview, which one is true?
 - A. The movie cost \$285 million.
 - B. The director hired the best and most experienced people.

- C. Everyone knew the big scale of the project.
D. Some of the crews have experienced such a scale as *Titanic*.
2. Most of the shooting was not filmed _____.
A. outside B. at night
C. at daytime D. in the evening
3. The director stated that _____ stunt people were injured
A. three B. three hundred
C. eight D. fifteen
4. Which one is the vivid description of the director?
A. He always complained the actors or extras loudly.
B. He sometimes was frustrated and yelled at the news.
C. He did nothing but creamed all the time.
D. He never talked with the actors in a gentle way.
5. Which one is not true in describing the extras?
A. They were well fed and had more than plentiful sanitary facilities.
B. They worked hard.
C. They had a high sense of purpose and fellowship.
D. Many of them were injured.
6. As a big production, *Titanic* is like others in such a way that
A. it is based on a comic book.
B. it costs much money.
C. it is not a sequel, nor the starting point of a series of sequels.
D. it is designed to produce video games and merchandising.
7. The interview indicated the true feeling of the project, which may be described as that _____.

- A. he felt arrogant on the project
- B. he felt confident on the project
- C. he was not sure of the project
- D. he was certain of the project

What Ever Happened to Chivalry?

骑士精神安在？

尊重妇女、保护弱者的骑士精神在女权运动中逐渐消逝，这究竟是好是坏？本文作者呼吁社会在给妇女做女强人机会的同时保留可贵的骑士精神。

When the *Titanic* hit an iceberg and sank more than 81 years ago, only about a third of the great ship's passengers survived. Most were women and children. Several male passengers refused to enter lifeboats because they weren't sure all the women were safely aboard.

When a surviving ship's officer was later asked whether "women and children first" was the captain's rule or the rule of the sea, he replied that it was the rule of human nature.

The men who lived by that rule would be shocked to learn that today the fair sex is routinely verbally attacked and that even obviously pregnant women are denied seats on trains. They would wonder how we could fight to put a few women on the Supreme Court and in corporate towers while stripping all women of the freedom to walk our streets in safety.

This erosion of civility is due in part to feminists who saw chivalry as tyranny dressed in kid gloves. But that's not the only reason. Since the 1960s, an entire generation has joyfully rejected Victorian manners as rigid and snooty. Worse, manners were seen to perpetuate that great frightening Puritan thing—self-restraint.

It was not always so. During the Civil War, American Victorians were stunned by the horrible evidence that, as Charles Darwin had lately pointed out, humans were not one step below the angels but a few steps above primordial sludge. People took comfort in a greatly expanded etiquette code, which proved they could rise above their roots. The code covered every action from debating delicate subjects to the proper folding of a calling card. And self-restraint, taught in homes, schools and churches, came to shield women and dull the sharp edges of a Darwinian world.

In our era we have chosen to replace that code of etiquette with a cultural confusion encouraging immediate gratification and maximum self-expression, whatever the cost. Yet I venture to say that many women like me would welcome a little old-fashioned restraint.

People know that life a century and a half ago could be tough, but was also safer and smoother. In New York City, three out of five arrests were for nothing worse than drunkenness or disorderly conduct. Custom confined the rough guys who smoked on lower Broadway to the east side of the street because the west side had fine ladies' shops. If a man failed to bow his head to the lady of the house when raising his first glass of wine at the dinner table, he might not receive another invitation.

In the words of one mid-19th-century etiquette book, such practices form “a sort of supplement to the law, which enables society to protect itself against offenses which the law cannot touch”. This code of etiquette was far more effective than today’s fuzzy hate-crime and hateful-speech laws.

We cannot recapture the past any more than we can escape it. But women can demand civility as well as civil rights. This is no trivial quest by pinkie-crooking tea drinkers. (Actually, polite people never crooked their pinkies.) When men relearn respect for women and the self-restraint it implies, violence against women will decline and everyday life will be a little more pleasant. To my mind, incivility is sexual harassment.

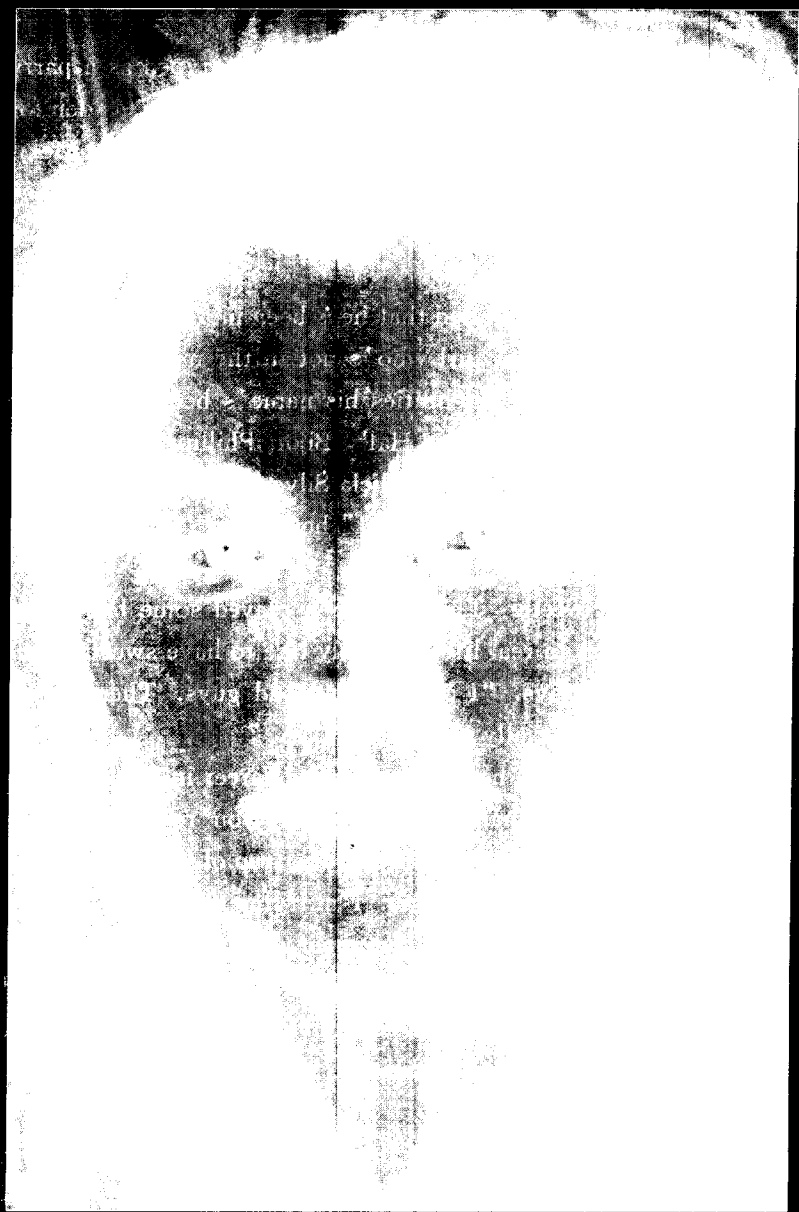
Before women had the vote, we had the moral ground. It is time for us to put one foot back on the pedestal while keeping the other planted in the executive suite. It can be done; a sex that can survive pregnancy, childbirth and menopause while still running an office and organizing car pools can do anything.

Leonardo DiCaprio

少女偶像雷奥纳多

雷奥纳多，千万少女心中的偶像，他的生活是怎
样的？本文将告诉你一些关于他的新闻。

Signs of Love: Leo was born on November 11, 1974, and is’ a
Scorpio. His love matches are Cancer and Pisces.



This Boy's Quiet Life: Leo is so sick of being typed as a party animal by the press that he's basically been staying in his den for the last few months (when he wasn't on the *Titanic* set in Mexico). Boo-hoo is right! There's nothing better than catching Leo excitedly enjoying himself on the town, but, hey, we understand his need to retreat.

Mystery Girl: Leo's revealed that he's been in a relationship for almost two years with a girl who's not in the movie business. But what about all the celebrities his name's been linked with romantically (models Bridget Hall, Bijou Phillips and Kristen Zang; actresses Kate Winslet, Alicia Silverstone, Juliette Lewis and Tori Spelling)? "Just friends!" he insists. "Can't I have friends?"

Sweets for the Sweetie: Though Leo's played some bad boys, he's not like that in real life. "I really like to have sweet people around me," he says. "I can't stand bad guys. There's too many of them, especially my age, in L. A."

High Hopes: Leo says he wants a lasting career in film, but admits it's easier said than done: "One day you're hot, and one day you're not. It's easy to fall into the trap of believing all the flattery that's written about you. I'm trying to avoid it."

Titanic Bummer: Planned your summer vacation around the release of Leo's romance-on-the-high-seas soaper *Titanic*? So did the rest of us, and there was a collective sigh of disappointment when it was announced that this tale won't be told till December!

Catch Him Next: After *Titanic* finds a port, Leo is set to star in *The Man in the Iron Mask*. He'll play a dual role as a mysterious

prisoner and the radiant Sun King of France, Louis XIV.

New Words

1. Scorpio ['skɔ:piə] *n.* 属天蝎座的人
2. Cancer ['kænsə] *n.* 属巨蟹座的人
3. Pisces ['paiziz] *n.* 属双鱼座星座的人
4. bummer ['bʌmə] *n.* [俚]坏事
5. radiant ['reidiənt] *a.* 指人(或外表)洋溢着喜悦的
6. feminist ['feminist] *n.* 女权运动者
7. snooty ['snu:ti] *a.* [非正式]妄自尊大
8. perpetuate [pə'petjueit] *vt.* 使永存;使人永记不忘
9. primordial [praɪ'mɔ:diəl] *a.* 最原始的;最初的
10. etiquette ['etiket] *n.* 礼节;礼仪
11. harassment [hə'ræsmənt] *n.* 骚扰
12. pedestal ['pedistl] *n.* 柱石或雕像基座
13. menopause ['menəpɔ:z] *n.* 更年期