英汉对照



兰姆书信精粹

THE BEST LETTERS
OF CHARLES LAMB

[英] 查理・兰姆 著 Charles Lamb 谭少茹 译 英汉对照



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兰姆的书信内容丰富,本书选编的是他与华兹华斯、柯勒 律治、骚塞等当时文坛上的主要人物的信件。信中有他对自身 悲惨家庭遭遇的深沉低诉,有对所到之处种种人情世故、时代 风貌的幽默讲述,当然更多的是他对当时许多重要文学作品和 文学现象的品评。兰姆的书信如同他的散文一样,风格独特, 回味悠长,是书信中的经典。

查理・兰姆(Charles Lamb, 1775—1834),英国作家,笔名伊利亚。著有「伊利亚散文集》,作品触及资本主义社会的一些矛盾,带有浓厚的感伤情调。与其姊玛丽・兰姆合编、莎士比亚故事集」。

在欧美诸国,普通家庭在客厅、壁炉旁或卧室等处,一般都置有一个书架,上面摆满了他们称谓的"家庭读物"。在中国,所谓的家庭常备读物似乎固有所指,通常为菜谱、医疗保健或旅游指南之类,但西方的家庭常备读物却主要是经典的文学艺术作品;这些书不是整整齐齐码在书架上,纯粹为了装饰或摆设,少有开卷,仅供观瞻,而是放在床头、茶几、阳台甚至卫生间,触手可及,可以随时翻阅。出门旅行前也可以顺便带上一册,在候机候车间隙捧而读之,既打发时间,又时时受益。这样的书,父母看过可以传给孩子,孩子看完再传给自己的孩子,子子孙孙,代代相传。文化的传承就这样在不知不觉间静悄悄地进行,伟大的文明就这样绵延于世。

令人遗憾的是,以文明悠久著称的中国,在经济飞速发展的今天,却缺少和自己的民族文化地位相对应的普通家庭常备读物。走进一个个越来越宽敞明亮的中国家庭,我们能看到琳琅满目、充满了艺术感的家具,能感受到灯光营造出的朦胧诗意的氛围,却很少能看到一个书架,一个承载人类文明积淀的书架;乘飞机或火车出行,多见旅人们百无聊赖无所事事地等候、聊天、打牌,亦多见时尚杂志或街头小报人手一份,却少见有人手捧一册文学艺术作品在喧嚣的环境中静静阅读。承续了五千年文明的中国人,在现时代表现出的对精神生活的漠视,让人生出一种巨大的遗憾和忧伤……

正是这样的感时伤怀,正是这样的遗憾和失落,正是这样一种久违

出版前言

了的文明意识,正是这样一种萦绕于心的担当,让我们起意策划出版这样一套充满着人文气息的"家庭书架"。

这是一套在西方文化发展和文明积淀过程中影响久远的读物,这是一套影响了欧美诸民族心灵世界和集体文明无意识的读物,这是一套可以让个体的精神世界变得无比丰富和无比强大的读物,这还是一套人人皆可阅读但充满着贵族气息的读物。

这套"家庭书架",凝聚着人类文明中最美妙的智慧和最敏锐的灵感,一群最善于思考最长于想象的伟大作者,将神奇而微妙的精神活动进行到底,凝结成人类文明最璀璨的结晶体。

这些作品是思想的圣坛,回响着每个与之结缘的个体在文明深处徜徉徘徊时细微而悠远的脚步声;这些作品是人类语言的丰碑,文字垃圾在这里被无情地埋葬,快餐文化在这里灰飞烟灭。

这套大型汉英双语版图书大致可以分为文学艺术类、传记类、历史类、游记散文、社会文化类等。作者们虽然身份、职业不同——他们或为文学家,或为艺术家,或为政治家,但都以文辞优美著称,即使深奥难测的美学著作,如佩特的《柏拉图和柏拉图主义》,也因作者优美的散文笔法而让人亲近。其他如奥威尔的《政治与英语》、吉卜林的《谈谈我自己》、康拉德的《生活笔记》、罗斯金的《艺术十讲》、杰罗姆的《小说笔记》、兰姆的《兰姆书信精粹》、卢卡斯的《佛罗伦萨的漫游者》、萨克雷的《巴黎速写》、鲍斯韦尔的《伦敦日志(1762—1763)》等,皆出名家之手。这些游记或散文,不仅充满着精神感召的力量,而且因其文辞隽美,还可以作为美文来欣赏、诵读。执一册在手,当是畅快的精神旅行。

众所周知,译事沉疴业已成为当代中国知识领域难以治愈的顽疾,草率、随性、误译、漏译、跳译、畏难等等随处可见。虽然当前仍有少数译者在译事丛林中艰难爬梳并屡有优秀成果问世,但我们已经很难看到当年傅雷先生之于《约翰·克里斯朵夫》及王道乾先生之于《情人》的译事之工了。在今天的译著中,我们看不到修辞,看不到信达雅,看

不到前人遗风,我们看到的是急功近利,看到的是用电脑翻译工具草译出来的种种无厘头。这是翻译者的悲哀,是出版人的悲哀,是读者的悲哀,是文化的悲哀。

在这种恶劣的翻译环境和悲哀的心境中,我们开始了充满挑战的组译议程。组织会聚了许多大师著作的"家庭书架"的翻译出版,于我们而言,与其说是建立出版功业,毋宁说是进入了布满陷阱的出版丛林。 我们规避陷阱的种种努力,都是为了给读者朋友提供一个可资借鉴的阅读文本。

我们深知,大师著作的翻译是艰难的,用汉语来传达他们的思想总会留下或多或少的缺憾,甚至我们都怀疑这些思想是根本无法用另外一种语言传达的。这时候"迁就阅读"就必须成为我们出版人唯一的选择。尽管译者和我们都想"用优秀的作品来鼓舞人",尽管译者和我们都努力地走在通往理想之塔的道路上,但在这些图书即将付梓之际,我们的内心仍然深感惶恐。我们深知,为读者奉献的译文仍然存在着有待克服的种种问题。

但是我们有勇气,有足够的勇气用这种英汉对照的方式将这些文本呈现给我们的读者。一则希望读者可以在英语与汉语的比照下更深地体察语言的精微和文本的精致;一则希望读者朋友在阅读过程中可以方便地提出自己的疑问,指出我们的不足,使这套丛书在今后不断的修订过程中日臻完备。

译事惟艰,出版惟艰。冀希读者朋友们一如既往地支持我们的翻译 事业和出版事业。丛书如存有不当之处,希望读者朋友们宽容并谅解。

> 江苏教育出版社 2006 年 8 月



兰姆书信精粹

INTRODUCTION

No writer, perhaps, since the days of Dr. Johnson has been oftener brought before us in biographies, essays, letters, etc., than Charles Lamb. His stammering speech, his gaiter-clad legs—"almost immaterial legs," Hood called them—his frail wisp of a body, topped by a head "worthy of Aristotle," his love of punning, of the Indian weed, and, alas! of the kindly production of the juniper-berry (he was not, he owned, "constellated under Aquarius"), his antiquarianism of taste, and relish of the crotchets and whimsies of authorship, are as familiar to us almost as they were to the group he gathered round him Wednesdays at No. 4, Inner Temple Lane, where "a clear fire, a clean hearth, and the rigor of the game" awaited them. Talfourd has unctuously celebrated Lamb's "Wednesday Nights." He has kindly left ajar a door through which posterity peeps in upon the company-Hazlitt, Leigh Hunt, "Barry Cornwall," Godwin, Martin Burney, Crabb Robinson (a ubiquitous shade, dimly suggestive of that figment, "Mrs. Harris"), Charles Kemble, Fanny Kelly ("Barbara S."), on red-letter occasions Coleridge and Wordsworth—and sees them discharging the severer offices of the whist-table ("cards were cards" then), and, later, unbending their minds over poetry, criticism, and metaphysics. Elia was not Barmecide host, and the serjeant dwells without regret upon the solider business of the evening-"the cold roast lamb or boiled beef, the heaps of smoking roasted potatoes, and the vast jug of porter, often replenished from the foaming pots which the best tap of Fleet Street supplied," hospitably presided over by "the most quiet, sensible, and kind of women," Mary Lamb.

The terati Talfourd's days were clearly hardier of digestion than their de-

2 INTRODUCTION

序言

自从约翰逊博士那个时代以来,可能还没有哪个作家像查理·兰姆一 样如此频繁地在诸如传记、随笔和书信等作品中与我们见面。对于我们来 说,他那结结巴巴的演讲,他那打着绑腿的"基本上是形同虚设的腿"(胡 德语),他那顶着一个"可与亚里士多德媲美"的头脑的瘦弱身躯,他对双 关语、印度雪茄及杜松果的产量研究的热爱(他承认,他不是宝瓶座),他 对古物研究的癖好,以及作为一个作家所意味着的怪异的想法,几乎就像 那些他每个星期三在内殿法学院4号巷召集到他周围的人一样令我们熟悉。 在那里,"一团纯净的火焰、一座整洁的壁炉和严谨的游戏"等待着他。泰 尔福德曾经油腔滑调地庆祝过兰姆的那些"星期三晚上"。他曾好心地将门 微微开了一条缝,透过这条缝,孩子们能够窥见他们一群人——赫兹里特、 李・赫特、巴林・康沃尔、葛德文、马丁・波尼、克兰布・罗宾逊 ("哈里 斯先生")、查尔斯·肯布尔、范尼·凯利 ("芭芭拉·斯"),偶尔还会有柯 勒律治和华兹华斯——用威斯特牌("牌就是牌")来释放严格的工作带来 的压力。然后,他们会随意进行一些关于诗、批评及形而上学的思考和谈 话。伊利亚不是一个只会给客人画饼充饥的主人,这位陆军士官不无遗憾 地讲起他用士兵的方式度过的那些夜晚:"冷烤羊肉或煮牛肉,烤红薯冒出 的一股股浓烟,看门人的大水壶,这水壶里经常被一次又一次地从泛着泡 沫的桶里装满由弗利特大街供应的最好的酒。"这种聚会由"最文静、睿智 和亲切的女士"——玛丽·兰姆周到地主持着。

序言

scendants are. Roast lamb, boiled beef, "heaps of smoking roasted potatoes," pots of porter—a noontide meal for a hodman—and the hour midnight! One is reminded, a propos of Miss Lamb's robust viands, that Elia somewhere confesses to "an occasional nightmare;" "but I do not," he adds, "keep a whole stud of them." To go deeper into this matter, to speculate upon the possible germs, the first vague intimations to the mind of Coleridge of the weird spectra of "The Ancient Mariner," the phantasmagoria of "Kubla Khan," would be, perhaps, over-refining. "Barry Cornwall," too, Lamb tells us, "had his tritons and his nereids gambolling before him in nocturnal visions." No wonder!

It is not intended here to re-thresh the straw left by Talfourd, Fitzgerald, Canon Ainger, and others, in the hope of discovering something new about Charles Lamb. In this quarter, at least, the wind shall be tempered to the reader—shorn as he is by these pages of a charming letter or two. So far as fresh facts are concerned, the theme may fairly be considered exhausted. Numberless writers, too, have rung the changes upon "poor Charles Lamb," "dear Charles Lamb," "gentle Charles Lamb," and the rest-the final epithet, by the way being one that Elia, living, specially resented. "For God's sake," he wrote to Coleridge. "don't make me ridiculous any more by terming me gentle-hearted in print, or do it in better verses. It did well enough five years ago, when I came to see you, and was moral coxcomb enough at the time you wrote the lines to feed upon such epithets; but besides that the meaning of 'gentle' is equivocal at best, and almost always means poor-spirited, the very quality of gentleness is abhorrent to such vile trumpetings. My sentiment is long since vanished. I hope my virtues have done sucking. I can scarce think but you meant it in joke. I hope you did, for I should be ashamed to believe that you could think to gratify me by such praise, fit only to be a cordial to some green-sick sonneteer."

The indulgent pity conventionally bestowed upon Charles Lamb—one of the most manly, self-reliant of characters, to say nothing of his genius—is absurdly' misplaced.

Still farther be it from us to blunt the edge of appetite by sapiently essa-

古怪的泰尔福德的时代很明显要比他们后代的时代难以想象得多。冷烤羊肉、煮牛肉、"冒着浓烟的烤红薯"、守门人的水壶——这些属于打下手的工人们的午饭——却要在午夜吃!有人会想起兰姆小姐准备的风味独特的食品,伊利亚在某处说那是"一场突如其来的噩梦",但他又补充道:"但我却连一块完整的盘边装饰也没有保留下来。"我们深入来看这件事情,来思考其可能出现的思想的苗头。在柯勒律治意识中,《古舟子咏》神秘的光环以及《忽必烈汗》一幕幕景象最初的模糊印象可能已经经过了提炼。兰姆告诉我们说:"巴林·康沃尔也是在那些驰骋自己想象力的夜晚里感到了其特赖登和涅瑞伊德斯的嬉戏。"毫无疑问!

在这里,我们并不是有意要一遍遍咀嚼泰尔福德、菲茨杰拉德、坎 农•安格尔和其他人留下的残羹冷炙,而是希望从中发现一些关于奋理。 兰姆的新的东西。至少在这方面这将是一阵和煦的暖风吹向读者——就像 他本人一样,这些东西也被这一封或两封魅力无穷的信件装扮过了。既然 我们关心的是新鲜的东西,这个主题很显然被思考到了山穷水尽的地步。 无数的作家也曾在"可怜的查理·兰姆"、"亲爱的查理·兰姆"、"文雅的 查理•兰姆"等称号中摆来摆去,而最后一个绰号也是伊利亚尤为憎恨的 一个:"看在上帝的分上,"他在给柯勒律治的信中写道,"不要再在发表的 作品中或在一些较好的诗中把我称做'有着文雅心灵的'人了,这样会使 我感到很荒谬。在五年前的确可以这样说,那时我去看你,我像一个十足 的道貌岸然的家伙,你才写了几句诗将这个称号加诸于我;当然,这也不 排除'文雅'这个词的意思是模棱两可的,而且几乎总是意味着精神贫乏, 而文雅最根本的品质是厌恶这种可恶的自吹自擂。我的情感已经变得迟钝, 我希望我的德行不要再向我作更多的索求。恐怕你认为我这是在开玩笑, 我 倒 希 望 你 这 样 想 , 因 为 当 我 想 到 我 竟 然 会 相 信 你 认 为 用 这 种 赞 美 会 让 我 满意的时候,我应当感到羞愧。这样的赞美只对那些患萎黄病的十四行诗 诗人是一剂兴奋剂。"

这种宽容的同情按照惯例加诸于查理•兰姆——这位最果断、最特立

ying to "analyze" and account for Lamb's special zest and flavor, as though his writings, or any others worth the reading, were put together upon principles of clockwork. We are perhaps over-fond of these arid pastimes nowadays. It is not the "sweet musk-roses," the "apricocks and dewberries" of literature that please us best; like Bottom the Weaver, we prefer the "bottle of hay." What a mockery of right enjoyment our endless prying and sifting, our hunting of riddles in metaphors, innuendoes in tropes, ciphers in Shakspeare! Literature exhausted, we may turn to art, and resolve, say, the Sistine Madonna (I deprecate the Manes of the "Divine Painter") into some ingenious and recondite rebus. For such critical chopped-hay-sweeter to the modern taste than honey of Hybla-Charles Lamb had little relish. "I am, sir," he once boasted to an analytical, unimaginative proser who had insisted upon explaining some quaint passage in Marvell or Wither, "I am, sir, a matter-of-lie man." It was his best warrant to sit at the Muses' banquet. Charles Lamb was blessed with an intellectual palate as fine as Keats's, and could enjoy the savor of a book (or of that dainty, "in the whole mundus edibilis the most delicate," Roast Pig, for that matter) without pragmatically asking, as the king did of the apple in the dumpling, "how the devil it got there." His value as a critic is grounded in this capacity of naive enjoyment (not of pig, but of literature), of discerning beauty and making us discern it—thus adding to the known treasures and pleasures of mankind.

Suggestions not unprofitable for these later days lurk in these traits of Elia the student and critic. How worthy the imitation, for instance, of those disciples who band together to treat a fine poem (of Browning, say, or Shelley) as they might a chapter in the Revelation—speculating sagely upon the import of the seven seals and the horns of the great beast, instead of enjoying the obvious beauties of their author. To the schoolmaster—whose motto would seem too often to be the counsel of the irate old lady in Dickens, "Give him a meal of chaff!"—Charles Lamb's critical methods are rich in suggestion. How many ingenuous boys, lads in the very flush and hey-day of appreciativeness of the epic virtues, have been parsed, declined, and conjugated into an utter detestation of the melodious names of Homer and Virgil! Better far

6 INTRODUCTION

独行,而且对自己的天才不置一词的人----身上是非常荒谬的错置。

自作聪明地企图"分析"和解释兰姆的特殊兴趣和爱好,以此来减弱 对他的兴趣,仿佛他的作品或任何值得我们读的东西都是根据极有规律的 规则凑到一起的。这种方式也被我们更远地抛诸脑后。现今我们可能更醉 心于这些无趣的消遣:并不是文学中的"芬芳的麝香蔷薇"、"露莓"最能 取悦我们,就像《织工之花》一样,我们更喜欢"干草捆"。这对我们所热 衷的无休止的探听和追寻是一个多么辛辣的嘲讽啊,我们总是在隐喻中寻 找谜语的答案,在修辞中寻找含沙射影的表达,在莎士比亚身上搜寻某种 密语!文学走到了尽头,我们可以转向艺术,并把西斯廷圣母(我反对 "神圣画家"的灵魂)说成具有某种独特深奥的画谜。对于现代人们的口味 来说,这种就像收割了的干草一样的批评风气却比海伯拉的蜜糖更受欢迎, 因此,查理·兰姆兴味索然。"我,先生,"一次他向一个曾坚持解释马韦 尔或威瑟作品中某些奇特的段落的、平淡无趣而又废话连篇的人自夸道, "我,先生,是一个谎话连篇的人。"这是他有资格参加缪斯盛宴的最好的 理由。 查理 • 兰姆幸运地拥有跟济慈一样好的智力上的鉴赏力,能够品味 一本书的内涵,而不必像看到布丁中的苹果的国王那样很实际地问"它究 竟是怎样到布丁里去的?"他作为一个批评家的价值就在于他能将批评深植 于他 (不是对烤猪,而是对文学) 那种纯粹的欣赏能力之中,在于他能认 识到美并让我们也认识到它——这样就增加了人类知名的财富和快乐。

在伊利亚——这位学生兼批评家——著作的字里行间隐藏着许多对后世不无裨益的建议。例如,那些耶稣信徒们凑在一起评论一首好诗(比如勃朗宁的或雪莱的),仿佛它们应当是《启示录》里的一章——貌似睿智地思考着七只海豹和那只雄伟野兽的角的重要性,而不是欣赏它们的作者感受到的显而易见的美——像这样的模仿之作有怎样的价值?对于校长——其座右铭看起来太平常而不像狄更斯作品中生气的老妇人的忠告,即"让他吃一顿谷糠!"——查理·兰姆的批评方式也非常有益。多少单纯的孩子,放荡不羁的小伙子,他们曾沉浸在欣赏史诗所带来的激情和欢乐之中,

for such victims had they, instead of aspiring to the vanities of a "classical education," sat, like Keats, unlearnedly at the feet of quaint Chapman, or Dryden, or even of Mr. Pope.

Perhaps, by way of preparative to the reading of Charles Lamb's letters, it will be well to run over once more the leading facts of his life. First let us glance at his outward appearance. Fortunately there are a number of capital pieces of verbal portraiture of Elia.

Referring to the year 1817, "Barry Cornwall" wrote:

"Persons who had been in the habit of traversing Covent Garden at that time of night, by extending their walk a few yards into Russell Street have noticed a small, spare man clothed in black, who went out every morning, and returned every afternoon as the hands of the clock moved toward certain hours. You could not mistake him. He was somewhat stiff in his manner, and almost clerical in dress, which indicated much wear. He had a long, melancholy face, with keen, penetrating eyes; and he walked with a short, resolute step city wards. He looked no one in the face for more than a moment, yet contrived to see everything as he went on. No one who ever studied the human features could pass him by without recollecting his countenance; it was full of sensibility, and it came upon you like new thought, which you could not help dwelling upon afterwards: it gave rise to meditation, and did you good. This small, half-clerical man was—Charles Lamb."

His countenance is thus described by Thomas Hood:

"His was no common face, none of those willow-patternones which Nature turns out by thousands at her potteries, but more like a chance specimen of the Chinese ware—one to the set; unique, antique, quaint, you might have sworn to it piecemeal—a separate affidavit to each feature."

Mrs. Charles Mathews, wife of the comedian, who met Lamb at a dinner, gives an amusing account of him—

"Mr. Lamb's first appearance was not prepossessing. His figure was

这些史诗被解析,并列出名词、形容词和动词的变化形式,是一种如荷马和维吉尔这样抑扬顿挫的名字般让人厌恶的东西。成为这样的牺牲品远远要比热心于追逐一个空空如也的"古典教育"席位好得多,就像济慈一样,无知地跟随在古怪的查普曼、德莱顿,甚至是蒲柏先生的后面。

可能,在准备阅读查理·兰姆书信的过程中,我们会再次重温他生命中的主导方面。首先,我们来概略地看一下他的外貌。幸运的是这里有一些描述伊利亚肖像的资料。

1817年, "巴林·康沃尔"写道:

"那些习惯于晚上经过科芬园,并继续走上几码远进入拉塞尔大街的人总是能注意到一个身着黑衣、高而瘦的不起眼的人。他每天早晨出门,下午回来,准确得就像时钟的针走向特定的钟点一样。你可不能误解他。他的习惯有些呆板,装扮得几乎总是牧师似的。他长着一张充满忧郁的长脸,上面镶嵌着一双漂亮而又敏锐的眼睛;他迈着小步,坚定地向城中走去;他的目光从不在任何人脸上多作停留,然而却将他经过的一切尽收眼底。没有一个研究人的面部特征的人能够不回想起他的面貌就将他忽略。他的脸充满了敏感的表情,就像一束新的思想在你面前倏忽而过,过后你却要情不自禁地不断想起它:它能提升你的思想境界,给你有益的帮助。这个不起眼的、半个牧师式的人就是——查理•兰姆。"

他的面容在托马斯·胡德那里是这样被描述的:

"他的脸不是一张普通的脸,不是那些自然女神在她的陶窑里用柳木模子做出来的毫无特点的脸;而是更像中国陶瓷的范本——一套只有一个,是唯一的、古老的、精巧的。你可以根据每一个特征来断定那就是它。"

喜剧演员查理·马修斯的夫人在一次晚宴上碰到过兰姆,她对他作了一番有趣的描述:

"兰姆先生的首次露面并不引人注目。他外形瘦小而普通,见到他的人 没有不对他的裁缝特别表示一番钦佩的。他的黑色的新衣服(那一整天他 好几次假装因穿着那件上衣而沾沾自喜,假装那是一件他寻求了好久想要

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