

大学英语文库

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# A Gallery of Cultures

范杏丽 主编

## 文化广角镜

· 中级 ·

华中科技大学出版社

文化廣場系列  
第10卷 藝術類



# A Gallery of Cultures

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## 文化廣場

第10卷 藝術類

中國青年出版社

大学 英语

总主编 秦傲



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# A Gallery of Cultures

文化广角镜

· 中级 ·

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## 内 容 提 要

本书系大学英语文库系列之一《文化广角镜》(中级)。该书精选了 30 多篇当代西方文化读物,涉及影视、婚姻、娱乐等文化领域。每篇读物都有简短而精确的导读,部分生词有汉语注释,较难词组和文化概念以脚注的形式加以注释,每篇读物均配有难句翻译以帮助读者深层理解原文中的长难句。读者通过阅读既可以提高阅读能力,扩大知识面,又对应试有所帮助。本书的独到之处在于语言地道,材料新颖,知识性强,图文并茂。文中大部分选材来自于原版刊物和因特网,内容适合高中生、大学生等英语学习爱好者。

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## 前 言

1999 年 12 月颁布的《大学英语教学大纲（修订本）》（以下简称新大纲）指出：“从语言学习的规律来看，英语应用能力的提高是建立在大量的语言输入、尤其是大量的阅读的基础之上的。”新大纲还提出：“大学英语教学还应有助于学生开阔视野，扩大知识面，加深对世界的了解，借鉴和吸收外国文化精华，提高文化素养。”

为了贯彻新大纲的精神，全国高等学校大学外语教学指导委员会英语组于 2000 年 7 月在大连召开工作会议，重点讨论了大学英语文库建设。会议确定了大学英语文库的编写原则和编写方案，会议提出，要“加紧大学英语文库建设”。

这套大学英语文库正是在上述思想指导下组织编写的，旨在使学生——读者通过大量阅读，巩固和加深所学语言知识，扩大词汇量，增强英语语感，达到双“提高”的目的，即：既提高英语语言应用能力，又提高文化素养。

这套文库内容十分丰富。从异彩纷呈的现代社会到五光十色的现代生活，从多姿多彩的各国文化到日新月异的科技世界，这套文库都有涵盖。这些内容分属五个系列，它们是：《社会聚焦集》、《文化广角镜》、《名人故事篇》、《科技新视野》和《生活万花筒》。每个系列均按语言难易程度分为初、中、高三个级别。原则上，初级适用于大学非英语专业一年级学生，中级适用于二、三年级学生，高级适用于四年级学生和研究生。

这套文库在选材、译注、体例和编排上均独具特色，不落窠臼。其主要特点有：

1. 各系列各级选文大都摘自国外报刊和互联网，仅个别选文有少量删改。文字规范，语言鲜活，有时代特征，并充分考虑了知识性和趣味性的统一。故这套文库不仅是学习英语、

提高语言应用能力的读物，而且是涉猎世界文化、社会、生活和科技知识的园地。每篇选文长度一般控制在 700—2 000 词之内（仅数篇确因内容不忍割舍的短文不足 700 词）。为方便读者做阅读速度的自我检测，文尾标出了该文的词数。

2. 每篇选文后均附有“Sentence Translations for Reference 参考译句”，以帮助读者加深对文中的长难句及全文的理解。这种在文中择句翻译的形式与全国大学英语四、六级考试中的“英译汉”题型是一致的，因此，它还有助于提高读者的英译汉能力，有助于他们备考英译汉测试。

3. 每篇选文以《大学英语教学大纲（修订本）》的词汇表为参照标准，直接在文中注出了超纲生词的词义，并且在不同文章中重复出现的生词重复注出词义。这样有利于读者打乱顺序任选文章阅读，也有利于读者加深对生词的记忆。此外，每篇选文还用脚注的形式针对有关语言难点和人物、典故进行注释，每条注释力求明快清晰、言简意赅。有的词语用了双语注释，目的是为了从各个方面来提高读者的英语应用能力。

4. 每篇选文均编撰了简明扼要的导读。读者在看到中英文对照的标题后，即可结合导读了解文章的主旨，有助于读者从语篇水平上加深对文章的理解；同时，导读还可以激发读者的兴趣，增强阅读的动力。

这套文库是华中科技大学、武汉理工大学和中国地质大学等三校联袂合作的成果。参加编写工作的有三校的老、中、青年英语教师和华南理工大学外国语言学及应用语言学专业部分硕士研究生，共计 30 多人。编写分工如下：华中科技大学负责《社会聚焦集》、《文化广角镜》和《生活万花筒》三个系列；武汉理工大学负责《名人故事篇》系列；中国地质大学负责《科技新视野》系列。

华中科技大学出版社对本文库的编写和出版给予了鼎力支持，投入了很大力量。本文库在编写过程中得到了华中科技大学



学外语系、武汉理工大学外语学院和中国地质大学外语系领导的关心、支持以及许多大学生的帮助。我们全体编写人员在此谨表示衷心的感谢。

这套文库大部分选材来源于最新的有关原版书刊和互联网，编委会谨向原文作者一并致谢。

由于校际间合作编写这样的大型文库是我们的第一次尝试，经验不足；加上水平有限，时间匆促，疏漏与错误在所难免，敬希各方读者和同行不吝赐教。

大学英语文库编委会

2001 年 10 月

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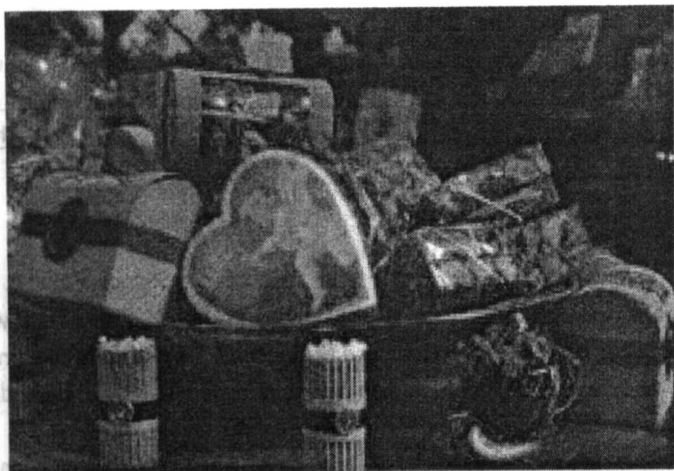
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## 1

## Saint Valentine's Day

## 情人节



*Want to know the origin of Valentine's Day? Please read on.*

There are varying opinions as to the origin of Valentine's Day. Some experts state that it originated from St. Valentine, a Roman who was *martyred* (杀害) for refusing to give up Christianity. He died on February 14, 269 A. D., the same day that had been devoted to love *lotteries* (抽奖). Legend also says that St. Valentine left a farewell note for the *jailer's* (狱卒) daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine". Other aspects<sup>①</sup> of the story say that St. Valentine served as a priest at the temple during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Claudius then had Valentine jailed for *defying* (不服从) him. In 496 A. D. Pope (罗马教皇) Gelasius set

① aspect: n. appearance, view 样子, 问题的另一个方面, 此处指故事的另外的版本。

aside<sup>①</sup> February 14 to honor St. Valentine.

Gradually, February 14 became the date for exchanging love messages and St. Valentine became the *patron saint* (守护神) of lovers. Sending poems and simple gifts such as flowers and candy marked the date.<sup>[1]</sup> There was often a social gathering or a ball<sup>②</sup>. In the United States, Miss Esther Howland is given credit for sending the first valentines. Commercial valentines were introduced in the 1800's and now the date is very commercialized. The town of Loveland, Colorado, does a large post office business around February 14. The spirit of good continues as valentines are sent out with sentimental verses (散文诗) and children exchange valentine cards at school.<sup>[2]</sup>

### The History of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day started in the time of the Roman Empire. In ancient Rome, February 14 was a holiday to honor Juno. Juno was the Queen of the Roman Gods and Goddesses. The Romans also knew her as the Goddess of women and marriage. The following day, February 15, began the Feast of Lupercalia.

The lives of young boys and girls were strictly separate. However, one of the customs of the young people was name drawing. On the eve of the festival of Lupercalia the names of Roman girls were written on slips of paper and placed into jars (罐). Each young man would draw a girl's name from the jar and would then be partners for the *duration* (期间) of the festival with the girl whom he chose. Sometimes the pairing of the children lasted an entire year, and often, they would fall in love and would later marry.

Under the rule of Emperor Claudius II Rome was involved in many bloody and unpopular campaigns. Claudius the Cruel was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. He believed that the reason was that Roman men did not want to leave their loves or families. As a result, Claudius cancelled all marriages

① set aside: 留出,此处意为“指定”这一天为纪念日。

② ball: n. 舞会

and engagements in Rome. The good Saint Valentine was a priest at Rome in the days of Claudius II. He and Saint Marius aided the Christian *martyrs* (殉教者) and secretly married couples, and for this kind deed Saint Valentine was dragged before the *Prefect* (长官) of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. He suffered *martyrdom* (牺牲) on the 14th day of February, about the year 270. At that time it was the custom in Rome, a very ancient custom, indeed, to celebrate in the month of February the Lupercalia, feasts in honor of a heathen god. On these occasions, amidst a variety of *pagan* (异教的) ceremonies, the names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed.

The *pastors* (牧师) of the early Christian Church in Rome endeavored (努力) to do away with<sup>①</sup> the pagan element in these feasts by substituting the names of saints for those of *maidens* (少女).<sup>[3]</sup> And as the Lupercalia began about the middle of February, the pastors appear to have chosen Saint Valentine's Day for the celebration of this new feast. So it seems that the custom of young men choosing maidens for valentines, or saints as patrons for the coming year, arose in this way.

### St. Valentine's Story

Let me introduce myself. My name is Valentine. I lived in Rome during the third century. That was long, long ago! At that time, an emperor named Claudius ruled Rome. I didn't like Emperor Claudius, and I wasn't the only one! A lot of people shared my feelings.

Claudius wanted to have a big army. He expected men to volunteer to join. Many men just did not want to fight in wars. They did not want to leave their wives and families. As you might have guessed, not many men signed up<sup>②</sup>. This made Claudius *furious* (狂怒). So what happened? He had a crazy idea. He thought that if men were not married, they would not mind joining the army. So Claudius

① do away with: 废除, 弄死

② sign up: 签约, 报名

decided not to allow any more marriages.

Young people thought his new law was cruel. I thought it was *preposterous* (荒谬)! I certainly wasn't going to support that law!

Did I mention that I was a priest? One of my favorite activities was to marry couples. Even after Emperor Claudius passed his law, I kept on performing marriage ceremonies—secretly, of course. It was really quite exciting. Imagine a small candlelit room with only the bride and groom and myself. We would whisper the words of the ceremony, listening all the while for the steps of soldiers.

One night, we did hear footsteps. It was *scary* (引起惊慌的)! Thank goodness the couple I was marrying escaped in time. I was caught. (Not quite as light on my feet as I used to be, I guess.) I was thrown in jail and told that my punishment was death.

I tried to stay cheerful. And do you know what? Wonderful things happened. Many young people came to the jail to visit me. They threw flowers and notes up to my window. They wanted me to know that they, too, believed in love.

One of these young people was the daughter of the prison guard. Her father allowed her to visit me in the *cell* (监狱里的单人房间). Sometimes we would sit and talk for hours. She helped me to keep my spirits up. She agreed that I did the right thing by ignoring the Emperor and going ahead with the secret marriages. On the day I was to die, I left my friend a little note thanking her for her friendship and loyalty. I signed it, "Love from your Valentine."

I believe that note started the custom of exchanging love messages on Valentine's Day. It was written on the day I died, February 14, 269 A. D. Now, every year on this day, people remember. But most importantly, they think about love and friendship. And when they think of Emperor Claudius, they remember how he tried to stand in the way of love and they laugh—because they know that love can't be beaten! (1,221 words)



## Sentence Translations for Reference

## 参 考 译 句

- [1] 相互赠诗、送鲜花、糖果之类的小礼物就成了这一天的特征。
- [2] 随着人们互赠附有情感诗文的(情人)礼物，孩子们在学校里交换卡片，一种美好的情感也就流传下来了。
- [3] 在罗马早期的基督教堂里，牧师们用圣灵的名字取代少女的名字，去努力消除这些节日里的异教的成分。