

*A Dream*  
*of Red Mansions*  
红楼梦

〈汉英双语精简本〉

曹雪芹

高鹗

原著

◇

黄新渠

改写

/ 英译

◇



汉英双语精简本

曹雪芹·高鹗 原著◇

黄新渠 改写/英译◇

*A Dream*  
*of Red Mansions*  
红楼梦

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

北京 BEIJING

## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

红楼梦 = A Dream of Red Mansions: 汉英双语精简本 / (清)曹雪芹, (清)高鹗著; 黄新渠改写; 黄新渠译. — 北京: 外语教学与研究出版社, 2008.3  
ISBN 978-7-5600-7285-2

I. 红… II. ①曹… ②高… ③黄… ④黄… III. ①英语—汉语—对照读物  
②章回小说—中国—清代 IV. H319.4: I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2008) 第 027360 号

出 版 人: 于春迟

责任编辑: 王霖霖

封面设计: 袁 璐

版式设计: 蔡 颖

出版发行: 外语教学与研究出版社

社 址: 北京市西三环北路 19 号 (100089)

网 址: <http://www.fltrp.com>

印 刷: 北京市鑫霸印务有限公司

开 本: 880×1230 1/32

印 张: 15.125

版 次: 2008 年 4 月第 1 版 2008 年 5 月第 2 次印刷

书 号: ISBN 978-7-5600-7285-2

定 价: 32.90 元

\* \* \*

如有印刷、装订质量问题出版社负责调换

制售盗版必究 举报查实奖励

版权保护办公室举报电话: (010)88817519

物料号: 172850001

## 序

英国小说和中国小说都在18世纪不约而同地出现了各自一些最好的代表作品，例如，菲尔丁的《汤姆·琼斯》和曹雪芹的《红楼梦》这两部小说都以情节结构、人物塑造和语言对话见长，并且二者都在各自背景的陪衬下烘托出一幅社会生活和家庭生活的现实主义图画。和弃儿汤姆大不相同，中国小说里的贾宝玉却是一个有钱有势的贵族家庭中备受纵容和宠爱的娇儿。这两部小说都描述主人公性格的成长和发展过程。在这个意义上，两者都可作为“教育小说”来读。但是中国的这部小说却主要被说成是一部言情小说，讲的是贾宝玉和林黛玉之间的纯洁、美丽和悲剧性的爱情故事，还讲到宝玉最终对于尘世间爱情的超越。在这一点上，读者会联想到乔叟的《特洛伊罗斯和克雷西达》中特洛伊罗斯的结局。此外，《红楼梦》明显地是放在梦幻讽刺法的模型里铸造成的。按照这个模型，现实世界不过是一场梦幻，而超现实的世界却是真实的存在。对于世界的这种看法来自佛教思想。

在《红楼梦》中，读者还会联想到西方的神仙传说，例如，贾宝玉从尘世间的消失让人想起史诗《贝奥武夫》中一位早期丹麦国王的海葬（船葬），或亚瑟王在最后一次大战役中受到致命伤后被仙女摩根用一条船运往阿瓦隆岛养伤治病的情节。所有这一切事件都具有一种不可思议的美，萦绕、盘桓在读者的脑海里。因此，我们在阅读《红楼梦》的过程中就会不断回忆起西方文学（或许世界文学也包括在内）的著名段落。这本书的普遍意义无论如何强调都不会过分。

另外，《红楼梦》曾一直被推崇为中国文学在繁荣昌盛和向纵深发展时期的一座宝库。当时社会生活的全部真谛在书中得到细致入微的表现和入木三分的评价。读者被小说酣畅淋漓的笔墨和娓娓动听的讲述深深

感染。另一方面,《红楼梦》中却极少有作者自己的直白介入。在这个方面,创作《红楼梦》的小说家兼叙事人的艺术手法比菲尔丁或乔治·艾略特的写作技巧更为高明。

《红楼梦》曾多次被译为各种西方文字。最好的英译本是大卫·霍克斯的五卷本《石头记》。因为这部中国文学巨著长达120回,因此人们确实感到有压缩的必要。黄新渠教授为满足当代读者的这个需要,做了出色的工作。他的《红楼梦》英文简写本做到了明智而审慎,充分体现了原著的内容和韵味。黄新渠教授选用了艾迪生称之为“适中的文体”来译这部18世纪中国文学名著。他的简写本的英文平易、流畅,读起来令人感到轻松愉快。我愿祝贺他成功地为全世界读者做了一件有益的工作。

北京大学英语教授 李 赋 宁

1994.11.18

(本文系已故英语专家李赋宁先生为1994年11月在美国旧金山出版的美国版《红楼梦》英文简写本写的序言。)

## Preface

n. / aristocracy  
 aristocrat  
 aristocratic  
 aristocratically

It is a happy coincidence that both the English novel and the Chinese novel found some of their best representatives in the 18th century, such as Fielding's *Tom Jones* and Cao Xueqin's *A Dream of Red Mansions*. Both novels excel in structure, characterization and language and both draw a realistic picture of social and family life in their respective setting. Unlike Tom, who was a foundling, Jia Baoyu in the Chinese novel was the pampered son of a wealthy, influential, aristocratic family. Both novels trace the growth and development of the protagonist's character. In this sense they may be read as Bildungsroman. But the Chinese novel has been spoken of chiefly as a love story of the pure, beautiful and tragic love between Jia Baoyu and Lin Daiyu, and of the eventual transcendence of earthly love by Baoyu, in which respect the reader is reminded of Troilus's end in Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde*. Again, *A Dream of Red Mansions* is apparently cast in the mould of a dream allegory, in which the real world is viewed as a dream and the world beyond as reality. This conception of the world is derived from Buddhist thinking, and in the *Dream* the reader is further reminded of Western fairy lore, for instance, Jia Baoyu's disappearance from the world *A Dream of Red Mansions* suggests the sea-burial of one of the early Danish kings in *Beowulf* or King Arthur's being carried away by Morgan le Fay in a boat to Avalon to be healed of his mortal wounds after the great final battle. In all these incidents there is a kind of weird beauty that is haunting and lingering in the

reader's memory.

Thus one is continually reminiscent of well-known passages in Western, and presumably world, literature in the course of a perusal of *A Dream of Red Mansions*. The universality of the book cannot be overstated.

Furthermore, *A Dream of Red Mansions* has been praised as a treasure house of Chinese culture at its height and most sophisticated stage of development. All the refinements of cultural life are minutely delineated and discerningly evaluated. One is carried away by the enthusiasm and gusto of the novelist-narrator. On the other hand, there is the least amount of authorial intrusion in the *Dream*. In this respect, the novelist-narrator of the *Dream* is a better artist than either Fielding or George Eliot.

*A Dream of Red Mansions* has been translated into Western languages. The best English translation is David Hawkes's *The Story of the Stone*, in five volumes. Since the Chinese novel is fairly long (120 chapters), the need for condensation is keenly felt. Professor Huang Xinqu (Frank Huang) has done an excellent job in meeting this need. His abridged version of the *Dream* has been judiciously made, in which full justice has been done to the content and flavour of the original. Professor Huang has chosen what Addison calls the "middle style" in rendering the 18th-century Chinese classic. The English of the translation is easy, flowing and delightful to read. I would like to congratulate him on his success in doing a good service to the reading public the world over.

November 18, 1994

Li Funing, Professor of English, Peking University

# 前言

在所有古典文学作品中,《红楼梦》是中国人民家喻户晓的名著。此书于18世纪中叶由曹雪芹(1724—1764)写成。这部描写封建大家族的长篇家世小说长达120回,主要通过生动活泼的对话展开故事情节。本书塑造的人物形象达975人之多,成为中国文化的百科全书,不可多得的文学巨著,无与伦比的语言艺术典范,也是一部中国古典诗词、寓言以及栩栩如生的人物的选萃。

近年来,红学研究一直风靡世界。这种前所未有的学术研究不仅涉及小说的语言和文学优异之处,而且涉及它的美学、宗教和哲学价值观。有的专家学者已试图就中国文化、传统价值观念与现代文明,以及西方文化之间的冲突进行研究。

《红楼梦》是一部带有自传色彩的小说。令人遗憾的是,作者虽出身于封建贵族之家,但后来家道衰落,半生穷困潦倒,以致未能在生前完成这部巨著。本书在曹雪芹的有生之年,只有80回传抄问世。全书120回最终印就于1791年,即在作者逝世将近30年之后。曹雪芹通过本书诉说他的不幸遭遇,自然会对封建社会的伦理道德、政法体制、旧式婚姻结构,以及科举制度等传统进行全面抨击。

19世纪中叶以来,《红楼梦》的各种英文节略本在西方相继问世。英国牛津大学的大卫·霍克斯教授首先翻译了这部世界经典小说的全译本,第一卷于1973年由企鹅出版社出版。之后,外文出版社又分别于1978年和1980年先后出版了杨宪益和戴乃迭的全译本。然而,无论是我国青年读者或西方的一般读者,都花不出太多的时间和精力来读懂厚厚的几大册全译本。有鉴于此,我在美国讲授中国文化和中国文学(1982—1983)



期间，决心根据人民文学出版社1982年3月出版的《红楼梦》中文版和开明书店1935年出版的、茅盾的《红楼梦》节编本进一步精简，先缩写为中文稿，然后再译成英文，以帮助读者认识中国文学中的这一瑰宝，提高那些花不出更多时间和精力读完五大册全译本的读者的兴趣。我试图表现主要人物的悲欢离合，即宝玉与他的两个表姊妹宝钗和黛玉的爱情悲剧，以及贾府中几个典型女性的悲惨命运；同时精简了次要情节，力图在展现这个大家族兴衰的画面时，突出主要情节，尽量用浅显易懂的英文，使这部世界名著在较短的时间内赢得更广泛的读者。

感谢对我的英文译稿提出修改意见的国际朋友，他们是：威尔伯·伯克教授（美国）、瑞莲·彭勒（美国）、曼德勒·恩施（加拿大）和查尔斯·泰泽克博士（英国）；感谢我的诗友刘庶凝博士（美国）以及德国汉堡大学的关愚谦博士；我要特别感谢北京外国语大学我的已故导师王佐良教授，他推荐我编译中国四大名著之一，以及从比较文学的角度为我写序的已故北京大学李赋宁教授；我还要感谢黄文军校对了对英文的各章节，更要感谢关心此书普及又具有远见卓识的外语教学与研究出版社的支持，没有以上朋友的热诚鼓励和帮助，我很难完成这部文学巨著的中文简写和英文翻译。如果通过我这点微不足道的努力，能使这部中国小说中的经典作品的汉英双语精简本对中西方读者有所裨益，我就并未虚度此生。

《红楼梦》英文简写本于1991年9月由外语教学与研究出版社初版后，即受到我国读者的欢迎和好评，短期内即连续重印，供不应求。本书1994年11月出版的美国版也受到读者的青睐，被有的美国大专院校选作学习中国文学的入门读物，畅销一时；甚至在互联网上频频出现盗版、盗印的现象。遗憾的是，目前国内此书早已绝版。不少读者希望能在国内买到此书。由于本书部分中文缩写稿已经遗失，为了我国青年读者能读到这本古典名著的双语精简本，我在本书出版15年后，又根据英文缩写本转译成中文，现以汉英双语的形式出版，以帮助我国大专院校英语专业的学生和中外青年读者，从双语学习的角度来提高阅读这部古典小说的兴趣。

为了保持原著的精华，本书的中文仍按我国章回小说的文体，只对今天青年读者不太熟悉的古旧文字作了一些修改。与此同时，我还对1994年11月美国版的英文进行了修订。感谢张蕾协助我根据英文整理了本书部分中文简写稿，硕士研究生李丹将这部分中文稿输入电脑。热烈欢迎专家和读者不吝批评指正，以便今后改进。

黄 新 渠

1983年5月美国俄亥俄州布拉夫顿大学初稿

2006年6月于新兴应用外语研究所修订

## Foreword

Of all Chinese literary classics, the best known and most popular fiction loved by the Chinese people is *A Dream of Red Mansions*. This novel was written by Cao Xueqin (1724-1764) in the mid-eighteenth century. It is a great saga of a noble Chinese family, and it consists of 120 chapters in which as many as 975 characters are portrayed. The plot of this fiction is artfully developed with some fine diction of dialogues. This peak of Chinese fiction is a rare masterpiece of literary creation, the unchallenged model in linguistic style, and an encyclopedic reference of Chinese culture during the 18th century. It is also a fine collection of poems, fables, allusions and lifelike characters.

In recent years, the unique scholarship of studying not only the linguistic and literary merits of the novel, but also its aesthetic, religious and philosophical values, has been quite a fashion in the world. Some scholars have attempted to interpret the book in terms of Chinese culture and traditional values as well as the conflicts of these values with modernization and the Western culture.

Much of the novel is generally thought to be autobiographical. To our deep regret, though the author of this fiction was born into a noble family, after its decline, he lived most of his life in poverty and frustration. Therefore it is only natural that he would voice his sufferings and attack on the traditional aspects of Chinese feudal morality, political and legal institutions, the old marriage framework, and the feudal examination system. Unfortunately, he failed to finish the work by the time of his death.

Only 80 chapters of the book were copied and circulated during his lifetime. The completed novel did not come out until 1791, almost 30 years after his death.

Since the middle of the 19th century, various abridged English versions of the work have appeared in the West. Prof. David Hawkes of Oxford University produced his first volume of the complete translation of this classic in 1973. It was published by Penguin Books. This was followed by a full translation completed by Yang Xianyi and Gladys Yang, and published in 1978 and 1980 by the Foreign Languages Press. However, most people both in China and in the West may find it too difficult to read through the thick volumes of its complete translation. In view of this, while giving lectures on Chinese culture and literature in the U.S. colleges and universities (1982-1983), I made up my mind to offer a shorter version, so as to serve as an appetizer for those who cannot afford the time and effort to read through the thick volumes of the complete translation. For my translation, I have used the Chinese original text published by the People's Literature Publishing House, Beijing (1982 edition) and a clean Chinese edition prepared by Mao Dun, the late noted Chinese writer, and published by the Kaiming Press in 1935. I first worked out the details of my simplified Chinese text and then rendered it into English, so as to help the readers to get access to this treasure of Chinese literature. I took liberty to omit and simplify the minor details and nonessential episodes, focusing on the main characters' joys and sorrows, the tragic love of Magic Jade (Jia Baoyu) and his two female cousins, Black Jade (Lin Daiyu) and Precious Hairpin (Xue Baochai) as well as the tragic fate of some typical female characters in the Jia household. I have also attempted to highlight the main lines of the story, in an attempt to present a picture of the ups and downs of this noble Chinese family in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). I have tried to use modern English to make this world masterpiece readily

accessible to a wider circle of the reading public.

I would like to express my appreciation to those international friends who have made comments and suggestions for the improvement of my English typescripts. They are: Professors Wilbur Birky (US), Realene Penner (US), Madeleine Enns (Canada), and Dr. Charles Tyzack (UK). I would like to thank Steven Huang for his assistance in proofreading the English chapters. Thanks are due to my poet friend Dr. Steve Liu (US) and Dr. Kuan Yu-chien from Hamburg University (Germany), for their kind encouragement. I am especially grateful to Prof. Wang Zuoliang, my late tutor, from the Beijing Foreign Studies University who recommended me for this attempt in rendering one of the four classical Chinese novels into a simplified English version, and the late Prof. Li Funing from Peking University who has favored me with a preface from the perspectives of comparative literature. I would very much like to express my appreciation to the farsighted publishers at Foreign Language Teaching & Research Press (FLTRP) who have shown deep concern for the worldwide promotion of this great Chinese fiction. Without the warm-hearted encouragement and assistance in one way or another by the above-mentioned friends, I could hardly have completed this immense task. If my tiny efforts in putting this peak of Chinese fiction into a simplified Chinese-English version proves of some service to both the Chinese and Western readers, then I have not come to this world in vain.

When the first edition of my simplified English version was published by FLTRP in September 1991, it was warmly received by the Chinese reading public. Within a short period, this abridged edition was running into one reprinting after another, but still failed short of adequate supply. As the 1994 American edition was out, it was also well received by the Western readers. Some US colleges and universities have used it as a gateway reader to the Chinese literature. Unfortunately some pirated editions

and re-printings have appeared over the Internet. To my deep regret, this simplified English edition was out of print in China. Therefore, 15 years after its first edition, for the benefit of our young Chinese readers, I have to re-translate part of the lost Chinese version and work out a bilingual edition for the English majors at colleges and universities in China and readers elsewhere in the world, in an effort to help them with a bilingual reading and appreciation of this peak of Chinese fiction both in Chinese and English versions.

To keep the original flavor of classical Chinese novel, I have tried to preserve its classical style of fiction writing, only some minor revisions to the Chinese wording have been made, which might not be familiar with the young readers of today. All this is to make it easier to read for the convenience of our young readers. I would like to express my appreciation to Zhang Lei who has helped me to sort out part of the lost Chinese text according to the 1994 American edition. I also thank Li Dan (MA) who has helped me with the Chinese typescript of these chapters. Experts and readers are warmly welcome to offer their kind suggestions and comments for the further improvement of this work.

Bluffton University, Ohio, USA

May 1983

Frank Huang Research Institute, Chengdu, China

June 2006

(Frank) Huang Xinqu

## A List of Main Characters

### 主要人物表

#### Primary Residents: East & West Mansions

#### 1. The Honored Mansion (The West Mansion)

##### *Heads of the Jia Household*

The Lady Dowager (贾母), née Shi, widow of Jia Daishan, ruler of the Jia Household

##### *The Seniors*

Jia She (贾赦), elder son of Lady Dowager

Lady Xing (邢夫人), née Xing, wife of Jia She

Jia Zheng (贾政), younger son of the Lady Dowager; father of Magic Jade

Lady Wang (王夫人), née Wang, wife of Jia Zheng and mother of Magic Jade

##### *The Juniors*

Jia Lian (贾琏), son of Jia She

Madam Phoenix (Wang Xifeng 王熙凤), wife of Jia Lian and Lady Wang's niece, taking charge of the Honored Mansion

Magic Jade (Jia Baoyu 贾宝玉), son of Jia Zheng and Lady Wang

Jia Huan (贾环), son of Jia Zheng by his secondary wife Zhao; half brother of Magic Jade

Jia Lan (贾兰), son of Jia Zhu, the deceased son of Jia Zheng

Li Wan (李纨), widow of Jia Zhu and mother of Jia Lan

### *The Female Juniors*

Beginning of Spring (Yuanchun 元春), daughter of Jia Zheng and Lady Wang, and elder sister of Magic Jade; Imperial Consort

Greeting of Spring (Yingchun 迎春), daughter of Jia She by his secondary wife

Taste of Spring (Tanchun 探春), daughter of Jia Zheng by his secondary wife Zhao and half sister of Magic Jade

### *Relations of Jia Household*

Lin Ruhai (林如海), son-in-law of the Lady Dowager

Black Jade (Lin Daiyu 林黛玉), daughter of Lin Ruhai, granddaughter of Lady Dowager, Magic Jade's love

Aunt Xue (薛姨妈), elder sister of Lady Wang

Precious Hairpin (Xue Baochai 薛宝钗), daughter of Aunt Xue, Magic Jade's wife

Xue Pan (薛蟠), son of Aunt Xue, brother of Precious Hairpin

Lotus (香菱), secondary wife of Xue Pan, kidnapped daughter of Zhen Shiyin (甄士隐), a retired scholar

River Cloud (Shi Xiangyun 史湘云), orphaned grandniece of Lady Dowager

Jia Yucun (贾雨村), a poor scholar claiming relationship with the powerful Honored Mansion

Granny Liu (刘姥姥), an old countrywoman patronized by Madam Phoenix and the Jias of the Honored Mansion



## 2. The Peaceful Mansion (The East Mansion)

Jia Jing (贾敬), son of Jia Daihua, retired to a Taoist temple

Jia Zhen (贾珍), son of Jia Jing; in his place master of the Peaceful Mansion

Madam You (尤氏), nee You, wife of Jia Zhen

Jia Rong (贾蓉), son of Jia Zhen

Mistress Rong, wife of Jia Rong, also known by her childhood name Qin Keqing (秦可卿)

Grief of Spring (Xichun 惜春), daughter of Jia Jing

Old Mrs. You (尤老娘), stepmother of Madam You

Second Sister You (尤二姐), elder daughter of Old Mrs. You; later secondary wife of Jia Lian

Third Sister You (尤三姐), younger daughter of Old Mrs. You

Qin Zhong (秦钟), younger brother of Qin Keqing; Magic Jade's class-mate under the same tutor

Jiao Da (焦大), an old retainer of the Peaceful Mansion

### *Main Waiting Maids*

#### **Lady Dowager**

Lovebird (Yuanyang 鸳鸯)

Amber (琥珀)

Sister Silly (傻大姐)

#### **Lady Wang**

Gold Bracelet (金钏)