

*Charming English Series*



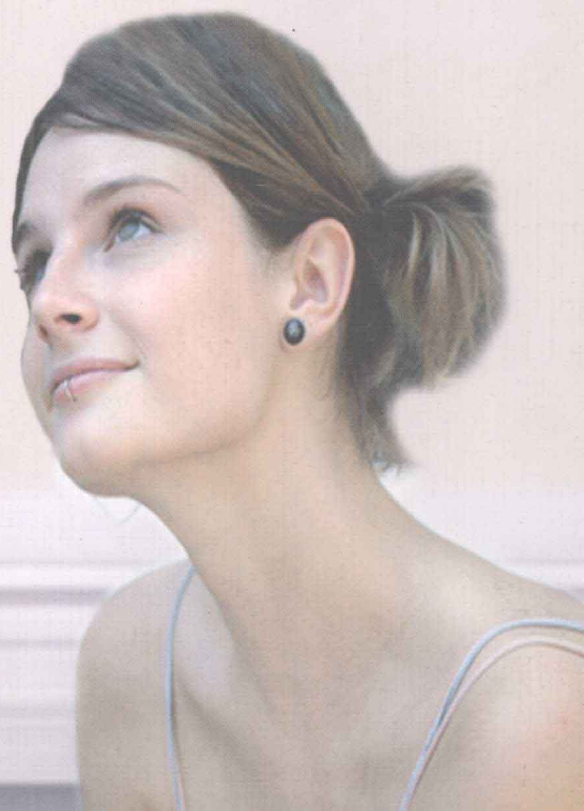
魅力英文书系

# 文化风情 逸事

常宗林 李云 编著



中国海洋大学出版社  
China Ocean University Press



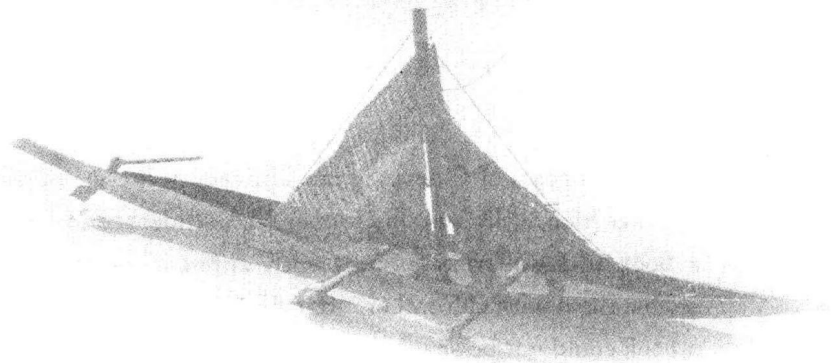
*Cross Cultural Experiences*

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## Preface

**P**eople from different cultural backgrounds have different cultural norms, practices and expectations in their social contacts. Their different ways of thinking and behaviours influence their ways of communications. Their upbringing, education and cultural environments vary not only from countries to countries, but also from regions to regions. They see the world through their own set of assumptions and attitudes, and through their own "cultural spectacles". If their contacts with the outside cultures, which are different from theirs, are limited or confined to a small number of individuals, cultural awareness was the preserve of a few. However, in today's world globalization, everyone needs some level of cultural awareness.

As culture influences every aspect of people's lives — from the way they dress to the way they communicate — they do need to develop some intercultural competence to become successful intercultural communicators both at home and abroad. They should be able to interact both effectively and in a way that is acceptable to others in their contacts with people from different cultural backgrounds.

At the proposal of China Ocean University Press and the exhortation of other friends, Li Yun, my former MA student, and I decided to write a book to familiarize learners with different aspects of cultures and enable them with cultural or intercultural competence. Since the scale of a book could not be spacious enough to embrace all our ideas in relation to the complex immensity of cultures, we decided to focus on some cultural issues which learners might find most interesting.

This bilingual book contains different cultural anecdotes. It is like a mosaic graphics made of many small "stones", each slightly different in shape and colour, which together created a unified design. Seen at close range, only the individuality of the stones is apparent. But to pull away to see it, identifiable patterns will emerge. Therefore, in reading this book, different cultural aspects should be observed and relevant features perceived. Only in this way, can a clear cross cultural panorama be obtained when the varied parts are viewed together.

The book aims to reflect the wide interests of intercultural studies, ranging from cultural shock to nonverbal communications, from cultural facts to sub-cultural facts. It can be used both as a reader for intermediate and advanced English learners and as a supplementary book of case study for classroom-based intercultural courses. As such it will be of great help to the learners who take interest in aspects of different cultures.

*CHANG Zonglin*  
Ocean University of China  
December, 2007





## 写在前面

不同文化背景的人在社会交往中，遵从各自不同的文化规则、习惯，拥有各异的期望值。不同的思维和行为方式影响着人们的交际模式。不仅各个国家之间，甚至在地区之间，人们的成长背景、受教育程度以及文化环境可谓千差万别。人们从自己的“文化视角”出发，以各自特有的假想和态度观察世界。如果人们较少地接触与自身文化差异甚大的异域文化，或这种交流仅仅局限于异域文化中的少数个体，人们就容易因此而缺乏文化意识。然而，在当今世界全球化进程中，具备一定的文化意识是不可或缺的。

由于文化触及到人们生活的方方面面——从穿衣打扮到互相交往的方式，为了在海内外的文化交往中获得成功，人们的确需要培养和发展自身的跨文化交际能力，不仅能够进行有效的交际，而且在同来自于不同文化背景的人们接触和交流时，采用的交际方式应该让对方欣然接受。

由中国海洋大学出版社提议，在朋友们的诚恳鼓励下，我和我的硕士生毕业生李云决定编写一本文化方面的书，旨在使学习者熟悉文化

所涵盖的各个方面，以培养其文化意识和跨文化交际能力。因篇幅所限，此书不可能囊括文化研究的纷繁复杂、浩瀚无垠的所有方面，因此，我们以兴趣为出发点，只侧重于一些寓教于乐的文化个例。

本书采用英汉对照的方式，讲述了众多趣味盎然的文化逸事。它就如同一幅五彩斑斓而结构完整的马赛克图案，由许多形状和颜色有着些微差异的小“石块”镶嵌而成。从近处观察，每个小“石块”独成一体；将视线拉远，一幅完整的图案尽显眼底。因此，通过阅读本书，读者可以体验到文化的众多不同方面，同时了解相关的文化特征。只有这样，将文化的不同部分组合起来，才能看到一幅清晰的文化全景。

该书旨在反映跨文化研究的宽泛领域，涉及范围较广。从文化冲击到非言语交流，从文化现实到非主流文化的现状。读者对象为中高级英语学习者，同时本书可以作为课堂跨文化教学个案研究的补充书籍。诚望此书对致力于文化研究的学习者带来裨益。

**常宗林**

中国海洋大学

2007年12月



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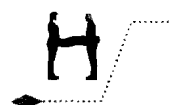
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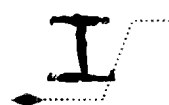
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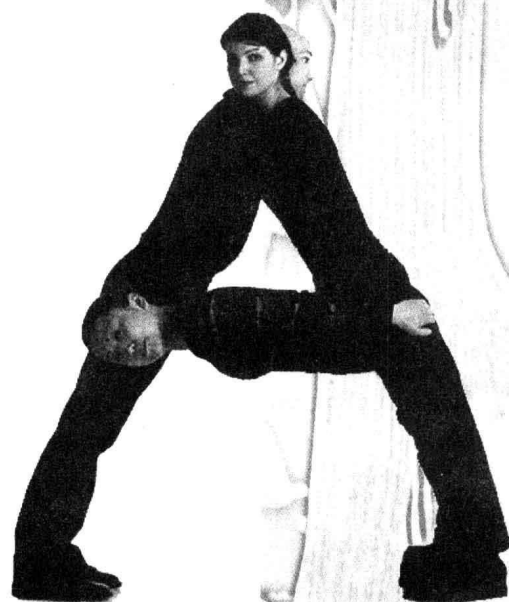


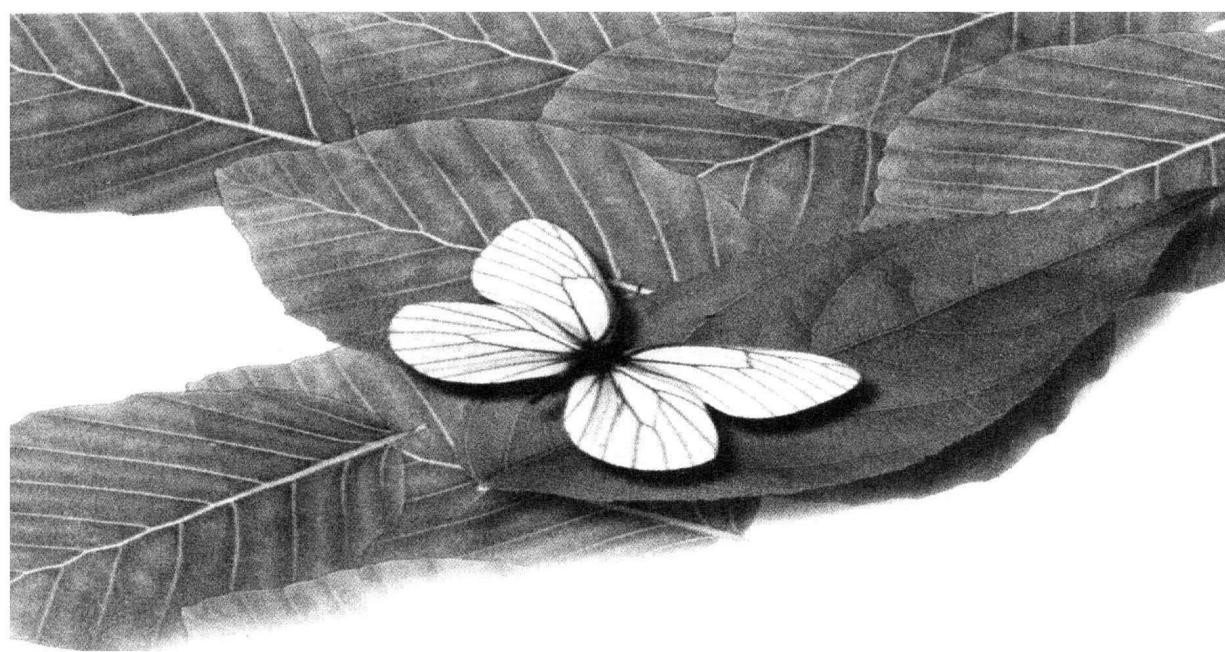
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## An Qing's Initial' Study Abroad

2



hen An Qing arrived from Qingdao just one month ago to study human resource management<sup>2</sup> at a university in Nottingham, she could not have been happier. She felt very excited to be in the land of her dreams, the place where she was planning to accomplish her goal of getting a B.A. degree.



An Qing knew that it would not be an easy job to have her study there, for her English was still not perfect, and she would have to have some preessional<sup>3</sup> English courses to prepare her for her academic program. She had lived in Qingdao all her life and had never been away from her family before, and she had many close friends that she would miss very much.

Everything had started off well for her. She liked Katrina, her roommate from Manchester, and her tutor helped her to choose one academic course that she could take along with her English courses. She did have a bit of trouble with the food in the university hall. It never tasted right to her. No matter what she tried, none of it was delicious. Several weeks went by before An Qing noticed that her clothes seemed loose, and she realized that she must have lost weight. But she was not really concerned. After all, being thin was what many young women wanted.



An Qing was not certain how she was doing with her study. Her English classes were small, and the teachers were kind and patient. Yet An Qing kept getting low grades on her quizzes, tests, and essays. The problem with her was that she

felt that her professors speak so fast that An Qing could rarely understand what they were telling her. An Qing hoped that her work was satisfactory, and she tried to listen carefully to the professors. Still, it was quite upsetting to her when during class in the second week of the term, one of the professors told An Qing that there has been a misunderstanding and the homework she did was not what the professor has assigned.

In the following month of her semester, An Qing began to feel extremely tired. She could hardly stay awake past ten o'clock at night, and in the morning, if she did not hear her alarm, she slept until eleven or twelve. Since all her classes were in the afternoon, it did not matter that much. Once her roommate asked her why she was sleepy all the time, but An Qing said that it probably was because she had to study so hard. "My

English classes take a lot work, and maybe that's why I'm tired," she told Katrina.

Actually, An Qing would have enjoyed going out more often and not just studying all the time, but nobody asked her. And she had not met any other Chinese students yet. As for getting to know some British students, it was not



that easy. One night when Katrina and two of her friends were talking in the room, An Qing came over to listen and try to take part in the conversation. But when they began describing their sexual activities with their boyfriends, An Qing got embarrassed and left the room. She was not used to such frank talk about sex. Her friends of her age had not talked like that in her country, and she did not feel comfortable listening. "It is obscene"<sup>4</sup> to talk about that," she thought.

4

Although her roommate continued to be friendly to An Qing after that, she rarely invited An Qing to join her group of friends. Once in while, An Qing thought about asking Katrina if she could come along when they all went out to clubs or parties on the weekends, but she hesitated to be so bold.



"Maybe she'll realize that I am alone and will invite me," An Qing thought.

But Katrina was caught up in her own world, and she did not pay much attention to her. An Qing tried once to tell Katrina how lonely she was, but Katrina seemed unsympathetic<sup>5</sup>. "There are a lot of activities you could become involved in or clubs to join. And

you just need to become more self-reliant,” Katrina told her.

By and by An Qing rarely left her room unless she had a class. She spent most of her time writing e-mails to her friends at home. “How I miss my friends and family,” she thought.

## ***Observations***



The experience of An Qing is known as a kind of “culture shock”<sup>6</sup>, which is the reaction she faces when confronted with<sup>7</sup> a new cultural environment. It is therefore necessary for her to be familiar with the cultural and social features of the host country as soon as possible. Before going to a new country, she should have tried to gain as much knowledge about the country as possible. Quite often in a community<sup>8</sup> of a different culture, one will encounter<sup>9</sup> things or ways of doing things that will seem confusing or down right wrong. It is important to keep an open mind to the experience and not to immediately place value on what one is observing. Sometimes, one’s quick judgments will close oneself off from the opportunity of experiencing a new culture.



An Qing could adapt herself gradually to<sup>10</sup> the new cultural environments by all kinds of means. For instance, she could move into a self-catering<sup>11</sup> student flat where she can cook herself. If she was in a state of deep depression and loneliness, she could go to the student-advising center and get some suggestions from the foreign student

adviser about how to adjust better to her new life. With their advice and her own efforts, she can soon be adapted to the new situation.





### New Words and Expressions

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1 initial: 最初的, 初始的                    | 6 culture shock: 文化冲击        |
| 2 human resource management:<br>人力资源管理 | 7 be confronted with: 面对, 遭遇 |
| 3 preessional: 预科的                     | 8 community: 社区              |
| 4 obscene: 淫秽的                         | 9 encounter: 遭遇              |
| 5 unsympathetic: 冷酷无情的;<br>缺乏同情心的      | 10 adapt oneself to: 使适用     |
|  | 12 self-catering: 自炊的        |

## 安青国外求学

### 的最初经历

6

安青于一个月前由青岛来到英国诺丁汉的一所大学求学,主修人力资源管理。刚刚踏上这片让她心驰神往的土地时,安青非常兴奋,心花怒放。安青满怀希望地筹划着自己美好的未来,她将在这里完成学业,取得学士学位。

但是,安青很快意识到在这个陌生的国度求学并非易事。她的英语水平还有待提高,因此,为了能够顺利开始专业课程学习,她不得不参加一些预科课程学习。安青来英国之前,一直生活在青岛,从来没有离开过家,而且那里有许多让她十分想念和牵挂的好朋友。

开始,一切还算顺利。安青喜欢那个来自曼彻斯特的室友——凯瑞娜;她的导



师帮她选了一门专业课，同她的语言课程上课时间不冲突。但是，她实在不习惯吃学校食堂的饭，无论她吃什么，都觉得难以下咽。几周后，安青发现她的衣服变得宽松了，她意识到自己瘦了不少。但她毫不介意，毕竟拥有苗条的身材是众多女孩子的梦想。

令安青烦恼的是，她不知道怎样学习。她的英语课都是小班上课，老师耐心而且态度和善。但安青无论是小测验、考试还是论文写作，成绩一直都不好。问题在于，她觉得教授们讲课时语速太快，几乎听不懂他们讲的内容。安青想努力学习，提高成绩，她总是全神贯注地听教授讲课。但是，在该学期第二周的课堂上，一位教授还是告诉安青，她误解了教授的意思，其所做的作业并非教授布置的。安青非常担忧。

接下来的那个月，她开始感到精疲力竭。晚上10点后就困得睁不开眼；早上，如果闹钟不响，她能一直睡到十一二点。她的课全都安排在下午，因此，上午起这么晚也不碍事。有一次，室友问她，为什么总睡觉，她说，可能是学习太累了。“我的英语课课业负担很重，所以我总感觉很疲惫。”

其实，安青应该和同学们一起多出去散散心，不应该每时每刻都在学习。问题是没有同学邀请她。安青也不认识其他的中国留学生。而主动认识英国学生，对她来讲并非易事。一天晚上，凯瑞娜和两个朋友在房间聊天，安青走过去，试图加入她们的谈话。但是，当她们开始谈论和各自男朋友的性经历时，安青感觉非常尴尬，离开了房间，她根本无法接受这么公开地谈论性问题。在中国，安青的同龄人不会像她的英国同学这样毫不忌讳地谈论性问题，所以，她

感觉很尴尬。安青认为，谈论性是一件很淫秽的事情。

这件事后，安青的室友仍旧对她很友好，但却很少邀请安青加入她的朋友圈子一起聊天或出去游玩。但是，有一次，



安青想问凯瑞娜自己是否可以周末跟她们一起去俱乐部玩或一起参加同学聚会。但对是否应该直言不讳地去看凯瑞娜，安青犹豫不决。

“或许她会意识到我很孤独，会邀请我的。”安青想。

但是，凯瑞娜完全沉浸在自己的世界里，无暇顾及安青的感受。一次，安青试着告诉凯瑞娜自己孤独的感受，但凯瑞娜看起来并不同情安青。反而对安青说：“你可以参加各种各样的活动，也可以加入各种俱乐部。你应该再独立些。”

从那以后，安青除了上课外，几乎都待在宿舍里。她花了大量时间给家乡的朋友写电子邮件。安青默默地对自己说：“真想家，真想朋友们！”

## 评述



安青的经历其实是一种典型的“文化冲击”。当她面对一个新的文化环境时，她的这些经历是很自然的反应。对安青来说，她应该尽快地熟悉英国的文化和社会特征。其实，在她去一个新的国家之前，应该尽量多搜集有关这个国家的各方面知识。在一个不同文化社区里，人们极容易遇到一些令人困惑或无法接受的做事方式。这种情况下，保持宽容的心态很重要，不要急于对自己经历的事情做出评价。有时，武断的判断会将自己孤立起来，从而失去体验一种新文化的机会。

其实，安青可以通过很多途径让自己逐渐适应新的文化环境。比如，她可以搬到允许学生自己做饭的公寓，做自己可口的饭菜。如果她感到极度的沮丧和孤独，她可以到学生心理咨询中心，从留学生心理顾问那里得到些建议，用来帮助她尽快地适应新生活。有了这些建议，再加上她自己的努力，安青会很快适应新环境的。