



My letters which pass through the post office either of this country or of England being all opened, I sent through that channel only such as are very indifferent in their nature. This is not the best way to express the sentiments of the heart to you. The breathings of a pure affection would be profaned by the eyes of a common man. I have therefore written you a private conveyance. I wrote to you so long ago as the 19th of this month by a gentleman who was going to London for charity. But this is not yet gone. Hence the delay of which you express yourself so fully sensible. I am sorry to hear that by the post, I should trouble you too often; for I am never happy but when I am writing to you. I am sure it is but in imagination. We have had incessant rain since your departure. This weather and your journey as well as that you have had an uncomfortable journey. The same has prevented us from being able to give you any account of your friends here. This voyage to Fontainebleau will probably send the Comte de Morny, the Comte de Brehan to America. Dangeville promised to visit me, but has not done it yet. I should like to have some times to take family soup with me, and entertain me with anecdotes of the last and thirty years. I am sure that you are the mind of man which can make the Bastille and Dingoas of Vincennes your own. You know this was for making four verses on Mlle. De Pompadour. But I think you told me you did not know the verses. They were these:

美国总统 情书精选 50封

The 50 Selected Love Letters between U.S. Presidents and Their Beloveds

英 汉 对 照

刘植荣/编译

江西出版集团·江西人民出版社



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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

美国总统情书精选 50 封:英汉对照 / 刘植荣编译. —南昌:江西人民出版社, 2008.1

ISBN 978-7-210-03753-8

I. 美... II. 刘... III. ①英语—汉语—对照读物②书信集—美国 IV. H319.4: I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2007) 第 195344 号

美国总统情书精选 50 封

刘植荣 编译

江西人民出版社出版发行

江西梦达彩色印务有限公司印刷 新华书店经销

2008年1月第1版 2008年1月第1次印刷

开本:880毫米×1230毫米 1/36 印张:8.125 字数:181千

ISBN 978-7-210-03753-8 定价:20.00元

江西人民出版社 地址:南昌市三经路47号附1号
邮政编码:330006 传真:6898827 电话:6898893(发行部)

网址:www.jxp-ph.com

E-mail:jxp-ph@tom.com web@jxp-ph.com

(赣人版图书凡属印刷、装订错误,请随时向承印厂调换)

 前言

我翻译的《美国 20 世纪经典演讲 100 篇》出版后,江西人民出版社希望我继续编译《美国总统情书精选 50 封》和《世界上最动人的情书 50 封》两个集子,并很快把原文材料带给了我。我在感谢该社对我信任的同时,也惴惴不安起来:一是我在国外工作繁忙,很难静下心来细心揣摩情书的每句话;二是非洲资讯落后,很难找到相关的参考资料,遇到把握不准的词句无法查考。但我还是硬着头皮编译了出来,唯恐译文贻笑大方,恳请读者对本书中的错误给予指正。

既然是“总统情书”,当然包括总统写给别人的情书和别人写给总统的情书。本书收录的 30 位美国总统的 50 封情书,展示了这些总统们在追求政治抱负的同时鲜为人知的人生另一面。他们有的爱得明明白白、刻骨铭心、轰轰烈烈如大海波涛汹涌;有的爱得若隐若现、缠绵悱恻、典雅含蓄如小溪流水潺潺。在电话、短信、即时通讯流行的今天,读者可从鸿雁传情这种方式品味爱的另一番滋味。

为了让读者接触到原汁原味的英文,本书对原英文手稿未进行任何删节,连拼写和语法错误也未进行校正,请读者在阅读时注意辨别。书中“[]”中的内容是原信件中遗漏、编辑时补充的内容,“[…]”表示此处手稿无法辨认。

刘植荣

2007 年 10 月于亚的斯亚贝巴

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美国总统
情书精选
50封



“你不在家，我感到很遗憾”^①

玛莎·华盛顿^②

写给

乔治·华盛顿^③

我最亲爱的：

从你信中得知你已平安到达，我甚是快慰。目前，我们大家一切安好。这里总是下雨，很潮湿。你不能像我期望的那样尽快回家，我感到很遗憾。我希望我妹妹不要来得太早，因为五月份的气候比四月份更宜人。其他情况在我上次给你的信中已说明，目前一切如故，就此搁笔。

挚爱于你的

玛莎·华盛顿

1767年3月30日

①这是玛莎·华盛顿写给在威廉斯堡出席下议院会议的丈夫的信，也是迄今所能搜集到的玛莎写给华盛顿的唯一一封信。

②1731—1802，1750年与丹尼尔·帕克·卡斯蒂斯结婚，丈夫死后，1759年1月6日与乔治·华盛顿结婚。

③1732—1799，在美国独立战争期间出任大陆军总司令，美国第一任总统（1789—1797年）。

“I Am Sorry You will Not Be at Home”

Martha Washington

To

George Washington

March 30, 1767

My Dearest

It was with very great pleasure I see in your letter that you got safely down. We are all very well at this time but it still is rainy and wet. I am sorry you will not be at home soon as I expected you. I had rather my sister would not come up so soon as May would be much pleasanter time than April. We wrote you last post as I have nothing new to tell you I must conclude myself.

Your most affectionate,

Martha Washington



“秋天我就能平安回到你身旁”^①

乔治·华盛顿

写给

玛莎·华盛顿

我最亲爱的：

我现在坐下来给你写信，告诉你一个让我牵肠挂肚的话题——当我想到这会给你带来不安时，这个话题在我的心头越发沉重。大陆会议已经决定，要我立即赶赴波士顿，指挥捍卫美国事业的所有军队^②。请相信我，亲爱的帕特丝^③，我郑重地向你保证，迄今为止，我为避免被任命为总司令已尽心竭力。一是因为我舍不得离开你和家人；二是因为我认为这是一个艰巨的嘱托，以我目前的能力尚不能胜任；三是我在家与你厮守一个月所享受的真正快乐与幸福，会远远超过我离乡背井七十七四十九年所寄期的。然而，命运安排我投身这项事业，我认为我接受

①这是乔治·华盛顿接受美国大陆军总司令的任命后，写给妻子玛莎的信。

②1775年6月，华盛顿被第二次大陆会议推选为大陆军总司令。

③乔治·华盛顿对妻子的称呼。

“I Shall Return Safe to You in the Fall”

George Washington

To

Martha Washington

Philadelphia June 18, 1775

My dearest,

I am now set down to write you on a subject which fills me with inexpressible concern—and this concern is greatly aggravated and increased, when I reflect upon the uneasiness I know it will give you. I has been determined in Congress that the whole Army raised for the defence of the American Cause shall be put under my care, and that it is necessary for me to proceed immediately to Boston to take upon me the command of it. You may believe me my dear Patcy, when I assure you, in the most solemn manner, that, so far from seeking this appointment I have used every endeavour in my power to avoid it, not only from my unwillingness to part with you and the family, but from a consciousness of its being a trust too great for my capacity and that I should enjoy more real happiness and felicity in one month with you, at home than I have the most distant prospect of reaping abroad, if my stay were to be Seven times Seven years.

George Washington To Martha Washington  4—5