

英汉注释流行读物丛书

Celebrity Hall: Prime Ministers of the U.K.



名人殿堂

——英国首相篇

主 编：崔金凤



天津大学出版社
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总 序

在以英语为外语的学习环境中，阅读是最主要的语言输入方式，也是收集、贮存知识最基本而踏实的方法。复旦大学董亚芳教授曾在2003年1月的《外语界》上撰文阐述“重谈读与写（尤其是读）的重要性”。在这篇题为《我国英语教学应始终以读写为本》的文章里，董教授指出“广泛阅读及多读原著是学好外语不可或缺的条件”。文中还引用了国内英语界多位知名专家、学者对阅读重要性的阐述。这样看来，从某种意义上说，没有阅读就没有英语学习，学生要学好英语就必须广泛阅读，通过大量的语言输入，开阔眼界，扩展知识，更好地理解所学语言。由此可见，阅读训练依然刻不容缓。

谈到阅读，就要谈到阅读读物的选择。笔者主张，只要以“快乐”为目的即可。比如《名人殿堂》系列丛书就可以让读者在感应名人带来的震撼力的同时，达到“快乐阅（悦）读”的目的。我们知道，社会各行各业都会涌现出一些出类拔萃、鹤立鸡群的人物，这些人物就是我们要找的名人。这些人在出现时都会产生不同程度的影响，好像在平静如镜的湖面上投掷一枚石子，从此打破平静，涌起水花，成为一个个圆圈，然后不断地向四周扩散，这也许就是名人效应的道理所在吧。

《名人殿堂》系列丛书包括四个分册：《成功女性篇》、《英国首相篇》、《美国总统篇》和《足球先生篇》。书中所选择的人物无论是政治家、思想家，还是企业家、运动员，都是为我们所熟知或想要了解的。在领略他们人生的同时，许多情况下，或许我们暂时还不知会为自己带来什么，令自己得到什么，即使感受过颤动之后，留给自己的是一种莫名的感觉，但有谁会去怀疑这种感受不是快乐的呢！人的快乐是这样的，不需要思考，

也不需要理解为什么，更不需要寻找快乐的理由，需要的就是感受，就是得到快乐的满足，这才是欣赏的最高境界。不过，就此套书而言，我们不主张在书中探讨名人的功与过，我们只是让读者在欣赏名人的同时，对自身的英语水平有相应的提高，旨在如此。

由于编者经验不足，文中纰漏之处敬请广大读者批评斧正。

编者

2008年1月

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Robert Walpole



罗伯特·沃波尔

罗伯特·沃波尔，英国政治家，他是英国的第一任首相，又是英国内阁制的开创者。只是那时无论是内阁制度或是首相，还都没有明文规定，不为法律所承认。沃波尔也不能与现代的英国首相相提并论。他不是由大选根据在议员中占多数议席的政党党魁的身份出任首相，他也没有统领下议院议员的大多数。但作为首席财政大臣掌握国家政权 20 多年之久，他依靠自己的才华和权术博得王室的信赖，控制了下议院和内阁，其权之大俨然首相。

罗伯特·沃波尔是一名辉格党成员，执政期间，正值乔治一世和乔治二世统治时期。通常认为，沃波尔于 1721 年担任首席财务大臣时就开始了他的首相任期，但也有从 1730 年起一说。不管怎样，沃波尔在内阁中是一名无可非议的唯一领导者，直至 1742 年因失去议会的信任而辞职。在他执政时期，英国社会暂时获得和平与安定；工商业也得到了了一定的繁荣和发展。他的当权也使汉诺威王朝在英国的统治得到了巩固；英国的议会制度也有了一定的发展。所以说，他是 18 世纪初期英国很有成就的著名的资产阶级政治家。



abuse *n.* 辱骂

Walpole, first Earl of Orford, is considered to be Britain's first prime minister. However, Walpole would not have described himself as such. The title was originally a term of **abuse**, not status, and was not officially recognized until 1905.

Walpole did, however, have many of the responsibilities and duties of the modern office of prime minister. He gave the position of chief political minister new authority by winning the support of both King and Parliament. Walpole was also the first to live and work in 10 Downing Street.

earthy *adj.* 朴实的

He was a large man, with a direct and **earthy** manner, a colourful personality and a brilliant mind. The third son of a family of seventeen, he was educated at Eton and Cambridge, and inherited a country estate aged 24. With this wealth he gained the financial independence necessary to enter politics at the time.

In 1701 he became the Whig member of Parliament for Castle Rising, Norfolk. He proved himself an excellent speaker, and rose rapidly within the party.

Admiralty Board
海军委员会

He was made a member of the **Admiralty Board**, Secretary of War and, in 1709, Treasurer of the Navy.

setback *n.* 挫折,
失败

There was a small **setback** in 1712, when the Whigs were in Opposition again. The ruling Tories had Walpole tried for accepting an illegal payment as Secretary of War. Found guilty, he spent six months imprisoned in the Tower of London.



Despite this, when the Whigs regained power, Walpole quickly rose to the positions of First Lord of the Treasury and **Chancellor of the Exchequer**. In 1717 he introduced the first sinking fund — in which a certain amount of government **revenue** was paid with the specific aim of redeeming the national debt — but when Charles Townshend (Walpole's brother-in-law) was dismissed, Walpole resigned. But in 1720 Walpole returned to the government as **Paymaster General**.

Walpole's career benefited from a government crisis in 1721, when thousands of people lost large amounts of money after the collapse of an investment scheme known as the **South Sea Bubble**. Having **bailed** out early, Walpole was **credited with financial know-how**.

Appointed as Chancellor of the Exchequer and First Lord of the Treasury for a second time, Walpole's powers as prime minister date from this point. Walpole was quickly successful, **neutralizing** dangerous opponents, reducing the national debt and **stabilising** prices and wages.

His great influence **stemmed** from his popularity with both King and people. He realised the importance of a closely involved, active role in the Commons to **consolidate** this power. It was also **alleged** that he effectively used bribery and corruption to retain the power he so relished.



Chancellor of the Exchequer 财政大臣

revenue *n.* 岁入, 税收

Paymaster General (英国财政部的) 主计长

South Sea Bubble 南海泡沫 (18世纪初英国殖民公司南海公司在南美进行股票投机的骗局)

bail *vt.* 准许保释
be credited with financial know-how 被认为有财政技能 (或诀窍)
neutralize *vt.* 使中立化

stabilise *vt.* 稳定

stem *vt.* 起源

consolidate *vt.* 巩固, 加强

allege *vt.* 断言, 声称



supersede *vt.* 代替, 取代

prominence *n.* 声望

butter up 巴结, 讨好

sycophancy *n.* 拍马, 谄媚

win sb. round 把某人争取过来

precarious *adj.* 不稳定的, 不安全的

elevate *vt.* 提升……的职位

the House of Lords (英国) 上议院

enquiry *n.* 调查

vulgar *adj.* 一般的, 庸俗的

Leningrad *n.* 列宁格勒 (前苏联城市)

After George I's death in 1727, Walpole was briefly **superseded** by King George II's favourite, Spencer Compton. He succeeded in returning to **prominence** by **buttering up** the King, and by consistently going further than Compton's own attempts at **sycophancy**.

King George II, now **won Walpole round**, made his prime minister a gift of 10 Downing Street, where he moved in 1735.

In 1739 Walpole's poor performance in a war against Spain reduced confidence in his ability to carry out his duties. A poor general election result in 1741 made his position even more **precarious**.

Walpole was forced to resign as prime minister in 1742, and was **elevated** to **the House of Lords**. An **enquiry** was launched into the distribution of secret service money under his premiership, alleging corruption. Fortunately for Walpole, the matter was never pursued. Poor health forced Walpole to retire in 1744, and he died in March 1745.

It is said that he had "a **vulgar** love of expense, without any true notions of magnificence; that he collected pictures, at immense cost, without either taste or love for the arts". He left the unusual legacy of an impressive collection of paintings, sold and now held in the Hermitage Museum, **Leningrad**.

2

Spencer Compton



斯潘塞·康普顿

斯潘塞·康普顿，英国第二任首相。他出生于沃里克郡。1698年进入英国的下议院，是辉格党成员，但懦弱无能，没有多大才干。实质上，他任首相只是填补空白。1725年被尊称为“斯潘塞·康普顿爵士”，1728年被尊称为“威尔明顿男爵”，1730年被尊称为“威尔明顿伯爵”。1742年就任首相，转年去世于伦敦。

在威尔明顿伯爵任首相期间，英国参加了奥地利帝位继承战争（1740—1748），从此开始了争夺海外殖民地的长期战争，主要针对法国。1743年，威尔明顿伯爵逝世，他一生未婚，死后财产传给了他的侄儿北汉普顿第五代伯爵。



earl *n.* 伯爵

style *n.* 称号, 称呼

Hon.=Honourable

adj. 尊敬的 (英国议员、伯爵以下的贵族子弟及高级官员的名字前用的尊称; 略作 Hon.)

nominal *adj.* 挂名的, 名义上的

figurehead *n.* 挂名首脑, 傀儡

stopgap *adj.* 补缺的, 暂时的

House of Commons
下院, 下议院

Tory *n.* 托利党

pension *n.* 养老金, 抚恤金

patron *n.* 保护人, 庇护人

taking *n.* 取得, 获得

Walpole's successor, Spencer Compton, 1st **Earl** of Wilmington, was a British Whig statesman who served continuously in government from 1715 until his death. He had several **styles**: The **Hon.** Sir Spencer Compton (1725–1728), The Lord Wilmington (1728–1730), and The Earl of Wilmington (after 1730). He served as the **nominal** head of government from 1742 until his death in 1743, but was merely a **figurehead** for the true leader of the government. He served only a brief term in the highest political office, and is generally viewed as a **stopgap** prime minister.

Compton, the third son of the 3rd Earl of Northampton, was educated at St. Paul's and at Trinity College, Oxford, then was admitted into Middle Temple. He entered the **House of Commons** for the first time in 1698, representing Eye, Suffolk. Although his family were High **Tories**, he turned to the Whigs after a quarrel with his brother. In Parliament he soon stood out as prominent amongst the Whigs and began a partnership with Robert Walpole that would last for over forty years.

In 1707 he became Paymaster of **Pensions**, a post that he retained for the next six years despite leaving Parliament in 1710 when he disagreed with his **patron** Lord Cornwallis and the **taking** of office by a Tory government in that year. It is believed that the Tories retained him as they sought to maintain the support of the Compton family. In 1713 Compton



re-entered Parliament for East Grinstead and when the Whigs took power in 1715 he was hopeful for a high office but it did not come. Instead he became Treasurer to the Prince of Wales (later George II), and shortly afterwards was **unanimously** elected as **Speaker** of the House of Commons. He held this post from 1715 to 1727; one year after his appointment in that capacity, he was **invested a Privy Counsellor**. He maintained the role despite the split in the Whigs in 1717 in which he joined the Walpole-Townshend alliance and found himself in opposition to the government of the day. He managed to maintain his position through until 1720, when the split ended.

unanimously *adv.*
一致同意, 无异议地
speaker *n.* 发言人
invest *vt.* 授予
Privy Counsellor
枢密院官员

Compton had a reputation for being a **lax** Speaker, once telling an **MP** who complained of being interrupted, "No sir, you have a right to speak, but the House have a right to judge whether they will hear you."

lax *adj.* 不严肃的
MP (Member of Parliament 的缩写) 下院议员

When Walpole became the leading minister of the day in 1721 there was **speculation** about his future should George I pass away and be succeeded by his son, who was more favourably inclined towards Compton than Walpole and declared that he would replace the latter with the former on **accession**. In order to avoid this, Walpole sought to keep Compton on the margins of government, though he was appointed as Paymaster General from 1722 until 1730. In 1725, Compton entered Walpole's gov-

speculation *n.* 思索, 深思
accession *n.* 就任, 就职



accede *vi.* 就任

humiliation *n.* 羞辱, 蒙羞

peerage *n.* [总称] 贵族, 贵族爵位
baron *n.* 男爵

philanthropic *adj.* 有善心的

credentials *n.* 国书, 信任状

titular *adj.* 有名无实的

ernment as Lord Privy Seal and was also created a Knight of the Bath. In 1727, George II **acceded** and sought to bring about the change in leadership he had promised. However, Compton felt he was not up to the tasks of government and in particular proved unable to compete with Walpole's proposals for an allowance for the King. At a meeting between the three, Compton declared he was not up to the task of government. He maintained a hatred of Walpole for the **humiliation**.

In order to remove him from the Commons, Walpole raised Compton to the **peerage** as **Baron** Wilmington in 1728; two years later, he was created Earl of Wilmington and appointed Lord President of the Council. He became increasingly associated with those Whigs critical of Walpole but in Parliament generally stuck to the official line of the ministry. However, during the Excise Crisis of 1733, he failed to carry through a threat to resign. He served as Lord President until 1742.

He was involved in the creation of the Foundling Hospital in 1739, which was an orphanage for abandoned children. This charity became the capital's most fashionable way to prove one's **philanthropic credentials** and therefore had very notable board members, of whom Wilmington was one. In January 1742 he succeeded Walpole as First Lord of the Treasury and **titular** head of the Carteret Ministry, though the government was actually dominated by Lord



Carteret. Wilmington was by now in poor health and found that other appointments were made without consulting him. He remained in office until his death. Wilmington died in office in 1743, only a year and a half into his term. He died without issue, and therefore all his titles became **extinct** upon his death. The city of Wilmington is named in his honor.



extinct *adj.* 废除了的, 无合法继承人的