

刘 竞译注



休闲英语

ENGLISH

ENTERTAINMENT

英汉对照

世界名家

幽默作品精选

SELECTIONS FROM

THREE MEN

ON THE BUMMEL

# 《旅游趣谈》 选

Jerome K. Jerome

[英] 杰罗姆·克·杰罗姆 著

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北京·广州·上海·西安

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上海 世界图书出版公司出版发行

上海市延安西路 973 号 801 室

邮政编码 200050

江苏省无锡市锡沪印刷厂印刷

各地新华书店经销

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开本:787×960 1/32 印张:7.25 字数:145 000

1997 年 4 月第 1 版 1997 年 4 月第 1 次印刷

印数:1-20 000

ISBN 7-5062-3169-7/H·113

定价:8.00 元

## 前 言

杰罗姆·克拉普卡·杰罗姆(Jerome Klapka Jerome)是著名的英国幽默作家,1859年5月2日出生在英国斯塔福德郡的沃尔索尔镇,父亲是个小五金商人。杰罗姆在伦敦长大和受教育,14岁时他父亲去世,他不得不辍学谋生,先后干过铁路职员、小学教员、话剧演员和新闻记者;1885年开始写作生涯,1892年与友人合办幽默杂志《闲人》月刊并担任主编,又创办和主编《今日》周报,均获得很大成功。1927年他在英格兰旅行时突患脑溢血,于6月14日在北安普顿医院不治去世。

杰罗姆一生中写了大量的幽默作品,其中最著名的是小说《旅游笑史》和幽默小品集《闲人遐想录》。特别是《旅游笑史》于1889年一问世就在英国国内和国外大受欢迎,一百多年来它在世界各地受读者喜爱的程度历久不衰。

在《旅游笑史》获得巨大成功的鼓舞下,杰罗姆于1900年(即《旅游笑史》出版的11年后)又写出了它的姐妹篇《旅游趣谈》,同样深受读者喜爱。

在《旅游趣谈》(原书书名直译为《三人漫游记》)

这本书里，作者用与《旅游笑史》相同的笔法以三个年轻人去德国骑车旅游途中的经历为主线，穿插了他们耳闻目睹的许多趣事。杰罗姆以他善于捕捉生活中种种可笑的东西并用朴实无华的语言夹叙夹议地把它刻划得淋漓尽致的独特本领使书中充满了健康的笑料，给读者带来很大的艺术享受。

为了适应现代生活的快节奏，使读者能在较短的时间内欣赏到这本名著的精华，我们从中选取了12篇有头有尾、既能各自独立成篇又互相连贯的故事和幽默小品以飨幽默文学的同好。同时，为了保存作品的“原汁原味”，我们在文字上未作任何改动。

译注者

1996年12月

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## Yarn of the Ancient Mariner and the Inexperienced Yachtsman \*

‘What we want,’ said Harris, ‘is a change.’

‘You know what I mean,’ he said, ‘a complete change.’

The question was: What sort of a change?

Harris, as usual, was for the the sea. He said he knew a yacht, just the very thing—one that we could manage by ourselves; no skulking<sup>①</sup> lot of lubbers<sup>②</sup> loafing about, added to the expense and taking away the romance. Give him a handy boy, he would sail it himself. We knew that yacht, and we told him so; we had been on it with Harris before. It smells of bilge-water and greens to the exclusion of all other scents; no ordinary sea air can hope to head against it. So far as sense of smell is concerned, one might be spending a week in Limehouse Hole<sup>③</sup>. There is no place to get out of the

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\* 选自原书第一章;英文小标题是原有的。

① 混迹在其中的

② 没经验的笨拙水手

③ Limehouse 是伦敦东部的贫民区, hole 指肮脏狭窄的住所。

## 船长耍刁

“我们所需要的，”哈里斯说，“是改变一下环境。”

“你们知道我的意思，”他说，“我是说要有一个彻底的改变。”

问题在于是怎么样的一种改变？

哈里斯照例主张到海上去航行。他说他知道有一艘游艇正好合适——一艘可以由我们自己操纵的游艇，没有一批笨手笨脚的没经验的水手躲在里面游手好闲地混日子，那样一批人的存在既增加了开支又把那种浪漫的气氛破坏无余。只要给他一名身手敏捷的干杂活的见习水手，他就能亲自驾驶它。我们知道那艘游艇是怎么回事。于是我们就对他这样说了；我们以前曾经和哈里斯一起在它上面呆过。它净是舱底污水和青菜味儿，把所有的别的气味全都赶跑了；任何普通的海上空气都别想能招架得住它，这种气味给人的感受简直就跟在伦敦东区的肮脏狭窄的贫民窟里生活了一个星期似的。没有地方



rain; the saloon is ten feet by four, and half of that is taken up by a stove, which falls to pieces when you go to light it. You have to take your bath on deck, and the towel blows overboard just as you step out of the tub. Harris and the boy do all the interesting work—the <sup>拆</sup>tugging and the reefing, the letting her go and the heeling her over, and all that sort of thing—leaving George and myself to do the peeling of the potatoes and the washing up.

‘Very well, then,’ said Harris, ‘let’s take a proper yacht, with a skipper, and do the thing in style.’

That also I objected to. I know that skipper; his notion of yachting is to lie in what he calls the ‘offing’, where he can be well in touch with his wife and family, to say nothing of his favourite public-house.

Years ago, when I was young and inexperienced, I hired a yacht myself. Three things had combined to lead me into this foolishness: I had had a stroke of unexpected luck; Ethelbertha had expressed a yearning for sea air; and the very next morning, in taking up casually at the club a copy of the *Sportsman*, I had come across the following advertisement:

To YACHTSMEN. —Unique Opportunity. —  
‘Rogue’, 28-ton Yawl. —Owner, called away sud-

躲雨，船舱一共只有十英尺长，四英尺宽，倒让一个炉子占去了一半。而当你去生那个炉子的时候，它就成片地掉落。你只好在甲板上洗涤，而正当你跨出澡盆的时候，毛巾就被吹到海里去了。哈里斯和那名见习手包揽了所有那些有趣的活——张帆和收帆，任其随波逐流和使艇身倾斜等等所有诸如此类的事情——而乔治和我本人只剩下削土豆皮和干洗涤活的份儿。消费

“那末好吧，”哈里斯说，“那就让我们去弄一艘像样的游艇，带一个船长，把这件事办得排场一点。”

对此我也表示反对。我知道那个船长，他的驾驶游船的概念就是呆在他所谓的“海面”上，在那儿他可以同他的妻子和家人保持密切的接触，更不用说同他心爱的小酒馆了。

若干年前，在我还年轻和没有经验的时候，我自己也曾租用过一艘游艇。当时有三种情况凑在一起导致我干了这件蠢事：一是我意外地发了一笔小财；二是我妻子埃塞尔伯莎表示了对海上空气的渴望；三是就在第二天早晨我在俱乐部里漫不经心地拿起一份《运动爱好者》报的时候偶然看到了下面这则广告：

“游艇爱好者注意——千载难逢的机会。——‘胭脂号’，28吨小型帆船——船主人突然因事被叫

denly on business, is willing to let this superbly-fitted 'greyhound of the sea' for any period short or long. Two cabins and saloon; pianette, by Woffenkoff; new copper<sup>④</sup>. Terms, 10 guineas a week—Apply Pertwee & Co., 3A Bucklersbury.

It had seemed to me like the answer to a prayer. The 'new copper' did not interest me; what little washing<sup>⑤</sup> we might want could wait, I thought. But the 'pianette by Woffenkoff' sounded alluring. I pictured Ethelbertha playing in the evening—something with a chorus, in which, the crew, with a little training, might join—while our moving home bounded, 'greyhound-like', over the silvery billows.

I took a cab and drove direct to 3A Bucklersbury. Mr Pertwee was an unpretentious-looking gentleman, who had an unostentatious office on the third floor. He showed me a picture in water-colours of the *Rogue* flying before the wind. The deck was at an angle of 95 to the ocean. In the picture no human beings were represented on the deck; I suppose they had slipped off. Indeed, I do not see how anyone could have kept on, unless nailed. I pointed out this disadvantage to the agent, who, however, explained to me that the picture represented the *Rogue* doubling something or other on the well-known occasion of her winning

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④ 用来煮沸换洗衣物的大铜锅

⑤ =the little washing that

去外地，愿将这艘装备精良的“海上灵”出租，租期长短悉听客便。二房舱及客室；小型立式钢琴，沃芬科夫制造；全新大铜锅。租金每周 10 几尼——请与巴克尔斯伯里 3 号甲的珀特威公司接洽。”

这在我看来不啻是天从人愿的事。我对那“全新大铜锅”并没有多大兴趣；我想，我们可能需要做的那点洗涤活可以留待以后再做。可是那“沃芬科夫制造的小型立式钢琴”听上去却颇具诱感力。我心里想象着埃塞尔伯莎在晚上弹琴的情景——她弹奏的是一首有合唱部分的曲子，船员们只要稍加训练就可以参加进来——而我们这个移动的家则“像灵”似的”在银色的波涛中上下翻腾、破浪前进。

我雇了一辆出租马车径直驶往巴克尔斯伯里 3 号甲。珀特威先生是一位看上去质朴谦逊的绅士，他在四楼有一间朴实无华的办公室。他给我看了一幅显示“胭脂号”乘风破浪的水彩画。那甲板与洋面成 95 度角。在那幅画里，甲板上没有任何人；我猜想他们都掉到海里去了。的确，我看不出怎么会有人能在那上面呆得住，除非是钉在那儿。我向那位代理人指出了这一缺点，可是他向我解释说，那幅画画的是“胭脂号”在它那次赢得梅德韦邀请赛银盾的著名赛

the Medway Challenge Shield. Mr Pertwee assumed that I knew all about the event, so that I did not like to ask any questions. Two specks near the frame of the picture, which at first I had taken for moths, represented, it appeared, the second and third winners in this celebrated race. A photograph of the yacht at anchor off Gravesend was less impressive, but suggested more stability. All answers to my inquiries being satisfactory, I took the thing for a fortnight. Mr Pertwee said it was fortunate I wanted it only for a fortnight—later on I came to agree with him—the time fitting in exactly with another hiring. Had I required it for three weeks he would have been compelled to refuse me.

The letting being thus arranged, Mr Pertwee asked me if I had a skipper in my eye. That I had not was also fortunate—things seemed to be turning out luckily for me all round—because Mr Pertwee felt sure I could not do better than keep on Mr Goyles, at present in charge — an excellent skipper, so Mr Pertwee assured me, a man who knew the sea as a man knows his own wife, and who had never lost a life.

It was still early in the day, and the yacht was lying off Harwich. I caught the ten forty-five from Liverpool Street, and by one o'clock was talking to Mr Goyles on deck. He was, a stout man, and had

事中正在绕过一个什么东西的情景。珀特威先生以为我对那次比赛了如指掌，于是我也就不便再提任何问题。那幅画的画框附近有两个小黑点，我起先以为那是两个飞蛾，原来却画的是那次著名的竞赛中的第二名和第三名优胜者。一张这艘游艇停泊在格雷夫森德附近的海面上的照片虽不那末令人印象深刻，但却使人有较大的稳定感。我提出的种种询问都得到了满意的解答，我便将此船租用两周。珀特威先生说，幸亏我只要租用两周（后来的事态发展使我对他这句话深有同感），时间上和另一个人的租用期刚好错开。假如我要求租用三周的话，他就会不得不回绝我了。

租用手续就此办妥以后，珀特威先生问我心目中是否有船长的合适人选。我没有，他说也幸亏没有——我似乎在无论哪方面总是很幸运——因为珀特威先生确信，最好的办法莫过于让那位目前在船上管事的戈伊尔斯先生留在船上了——珀特威先生向我保证说，戈伊尔斯先生是位出色的船长，是个熟悉大海就如同熟悉他自己的老婆一样的人，在他任职期间从没死过一个人。

当时时间还早，而那艘游艇正停泊在哈里奇附近的海面上。我赶上了10点45分从利物浦街开出的那班车，到一点钟时我已经在甲板上同戈伊尔斯先生交谈了。他是个身材粗壮的人，带有一种慈父般

a fatherly way with him. I told him my idea, which was to take the outlying Dutch islands and then creep up to Norway. He said, ‘Aye aye®, sir,’ and appeared quite enthusiastic about the trip; said he should enjoy it himself. We came to the question of victualling, and he grew more enthusiastic. The amount of food suggested by Mr Goyles, I confess, surprised me. Had we been living in the days of Drake® and the Spanish Main®, I should have feared he was arranging for something illegal. However, he laughed in his fatherly way, and assured me we were not overdoing it. Anything left the crew would divide and take home with them—it seemed this was the custom. It appeared to me that I was providing for this crew for the winter, but I did not like to appear stingy, and said no more. The amount of drink required also surprised me. I arranged for what I thought we should need for ourselves, and then Mr Goyles spoke up for the crew. I must say that for him, he did think of his men.

‘We don’t want anything in the nature of an orgy, Mr Goyles,’ I suggested.

‘Orgy!’ replied Mr Goyles; ‘why they’ ll take that little drop in their tea.’

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⑥ (海员用语)=Yes

⑦ 德雷克(Francis Drake, 约 1540-1596),英国航海者和殖民者,曾从事奴隶贸易和海盗活动,对于他的海盗活动当时的英国女王伊丽莎白不仅在资金和装备上提供了帮助还参与了分赃。

⑧ 西班牙大陆美洲:遭到德雷克掠夺和洗劫的西班牙在南美洲殖民地。

的神气。我对他谈了我的想法，那就是绕过荷兰外围岛屿然后逐渐驶向挪威。他说，“是是，先生”，似乎对此行颇为热心；他说他本人会从中得到很大乐趣。在我们讨论到储备食品的问题时，他变得更加热情了。我承认，戈伊尔斯先生提议的食品数量令我吃惊。假如我们是生活在德雷克和西班牙大陆美洲的时代的话，我就会担心他是在为某种非法勾当作安排了。然而他却带着他那慈父般的神气笑了起来，并且向我保证说，我们做得并不过分。如果有什么东西剩下的话，船员们就会把它们瓜分掉拿回家去——似乎这是惯例。在我看来，这帮船员一冬天的食物供应都要由我包了，可是我不想显得吝啬，于是就没有再说什么。酒的需要量也令我吃惊。我只是准备了我认为我们自己会需要的数量，随后戈伊尔斯先生却替船员们说话了。我必须要为他说出这样一句话：他倒是真能为他手下的人着想。

“我们可不希望有纵酒狂欢那一类事情发生，戈伊尔斯先生，”我提出。

“纵酒狂欢！”戈伊尔斯先生回答说：“咳，他们也就是在他们的茶里掺上那末一点点罢了。”



He explained to me that his motto was: 'Get good men and treat them well.'

'They work better for you', said Mr Goyles; 'and they come again.'

Personally, I didn't feel I wanted them to come again. I was beginning to take a dislike to them before I had seen them; I regarded them as a greedy and guzzling crew. But Mr Goyles was so cheerfully emphatic, and I was so inexperienced, that again I let him have his way. He also promised that even in this department he would see to it personally that nothing was wasted.

I also left him to engage the crew. He said he could do the thing, and would, for me, with the help of two men and a boy. If he was alluding to the clearing up of the victuals and drink, I think he was making an underestimate; but possibly he may have been speaking of the sailing of the yacht.

I called at my tailors on the way home and ordered a yachting suit, with a white hat, which they promised to bustle up and have ready in time; and then I went home and told Ethelbertha all I had done. Her delight was clouded by only one reflection—would the dressmaker be able to finish a yachting costume for her in time? That is so like a woman.