

福尔摩斯四大奇案

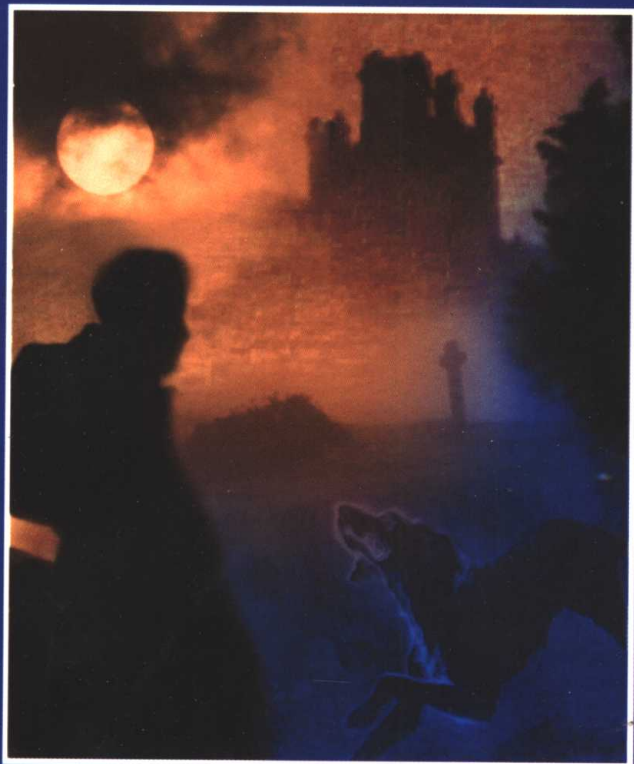
[英] 柯南道尔

巴斯克维尔猎犬

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

Arthur Conan Doyle

冯超 / 译 冯超 / 注释 张开 / 审订



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Arthur Conan Doyle

(柯南·道尔像)

前言

福尔摩斯是英国的柯南道尔(1859—1930)爵士于1887—1927年写作的一系列侦探小说的主人公。他头脑冷静,思维敏捷,逻辑严谨,行动迅速,善于从别人不易察觉的蛛丝马迹入手,综合比较,去伪存真,通过严密的推理或心理分析层层推进,将真相逐步抽剥出来,最终以戏剧性的惊诧完成整个案件。由此使他在世界范围内受到广泛的欢迎。福尔摩斯几乎已经成为严密推理的代名词,在中国也几乎是家喻户晓的人物。尽管其后有阿伽沙·克里斯蒂笔下的大侦探霍克尔·波罗等著名侦探的奋起直追,也仍然无法使福尔摩斯的声望受到丝毫影响。其成就更是使侦探小说的鼻祖埃德加·爱伦·坡(Edgar Allan Poe 1809—1849)和威尔基·柯林斯(Wilkie Collins, 1824—1889)黯然失色。

柯南道尔在青年时攻读医学,1885年获医学博士学位,1902年因为对当时英国在南非战争中的政策进行辩护而被封为爵士。但他对文学,尤其是侦探文学有着非常浓厚的兴趣,他仔细研究了埃德加·爱伦·坡等著名侦探小说作家的作品,并着手试着构思自己的侦探故事,于是就有了《血字的研究》。

《血字的研究》于1887年由沃德·洛克出版公司出版。《利平科特杂志》的编辑对这部小说很有兴趣,就约柯南道尔再写一篇福尔摩斯的故事。于是柯南道尔创作了《四签名》,当时是1890年。小说出版后即获得巨大成功,由此之后,柯南道尔一发不可收拾。他于1891年初弃医从文,专事写作,又连续创作了《波希米亚丑闻》、《红发会》、《分身案》、《博斯科姆比溪谷秘案》、《五个桔核》、《歪唇男人》、《银色马》等24个故事,陆续在《海滨杂志》上发表,后来又分别汇编成《冒险史》(1892)和《回忆录》(1894)出版,使福尔摩斯一跃成为英国文学里的著名人物。

尽管柯南道尔的要价成倍地增加,《海滨杂志》仍旧乐此不疲,对

他的要求慨然应允。但是,长时间同类题材的写作已经使柯南道尔感到厌倦,于是他在1894年让福尔摩斯堕入深渊中淹死,戏剧性地为福尔摩斯的侦探生涯划上了句号。

读者对福尔摩斯之死表示了极大的遗憾和愤慨,各种信电如雪片般飞到柯南道尔的办公桌上。有恳求、有谩骂,甚至人身威胁,目的只有一个——让福尔摩斯复活。但柯南道尔不为所动,直到1901年他听到一个朋友向他讲述的达特摩尔的传奇,突然灵光一闪,构思了一个古老家族遭到一只魔鬼猎犬追逐的神奇故事,这就是《巴斯克维尔猎犬》。1902年柯南道尔将《巴斯克维尔猎犬》作为福尔摩斯早期的探案故事出版,在读者群中引起了极大的震动,人们期待着福尔摩斯再次大显神通。于是,柯南道尔于1903年创作了《空屋》,让福尔摩斯死而复活,继续他的探案历程。在此之后柯南道尔又创作了《恐怖谷》(1915)、《最后的致意》(1917)和《新探案》(1927)三组故事。

1928—1929年《福尔摩斯探案全集》分为两卷在英国出版。光阴流逝,几十年过去了,福尔摩斯的形象不但没有被光阴所磨损,反而越发的栩栩如生。《全集》在欧美乃至全世界被一版再版,其后又通过影视媒体使福尔摩斯更加广为人知,使他赢得了数不尽的崇拜者。各种信件纷纷发往虚构中的贝克街221号,以至于在一段时间里英国政府不得不专门设制了一个机构来接收处理这些信件。

福尔摩斯所以大受欢迎的一个主要原因,还是他那有血有肉的人物形象。他有着普通人的优点和缺点,乐观、正直、热情、勇敢,当然有时也很傲慢,尖刻和自以为是。他穿梭于伦敦多雾的大街小巷,出没于城镇和乡村,与三教九流各色人等来往接触,就如同是人们身边的某一个人一样。读者很容易就从心里接纳他,认可他,从而感到真实难忘。

柯南道尔在创作手法上也显示了非凡的功力。小说写得惊险、刺激,充满悬念,故事结构严谨,环环相扣而又扑朔迷离,读者的眼睛随着福尔摩斯的脚步逐渐走向事情的真相,那种云雾散尽,目标骤然清

嗜的喜悦使人爱不释手,欲罢不能。

福尔摩斯的职业特点使小说可以广泛地触及到当时英国社会的方方面面。道德沦丧、拜金主义、殖民问题、宗教纠纷、政界丑闻、集团犯罪、强盗肆虐、巧取豪夺……都在小说里得到了充分的反映,而最后案情的真象大白和罪犯的伏法也使人们渴望正义力量获胜的心理得到了某种程度上的满足。

总之,福尔摩斯的形象刻画得相当成功,他的许多探案手法至今仍是许多警校的研究课程。具有广泛的社会意义。中国是个侦探小说欠发达的国家。早先的公案小说有相似之处,但很少能深入人心,所以难以被人认同。将国外优秀的侦探作品引进国内还是很有必要的。一方面可以弥补国内侦探文学的不足,同时也可间接地带动国内同类题材的创作。

因此,我们从福尔摩斯众多的探案故事中选取了最著名的且具有代表意义的四个长篇,以英汉对照、双语注释的形式出版,奉献给读者,使读者朋友在领略原汁原味的侦探奇案的同时,提高自己的英语修养。因水平有限,失误难免,欢迎读者朋友的指正。

编者

1999年11月

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

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巴斯克维尔猎犬

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Chapter 1

Mr. Sherlock Holmes

Mr. Sherlock Holmes, who was usually very late in the mornings, save upon those not infrequent occasions when he was up all night, was seated at the breakfast table. I stood upon the hearth – rug^① and picked up the stick which our visitor had left behind him the night before. It was a fine, thick piece of wood, bulbous – headed^②, of the sort which is known as a “Penang^③ lawyer.” Just under the head was a broad silver band^④ nearly an inch across. “To James Mortimer, M.R.C.S., from his friends of the C.C.H.,” was engraved^⑤ upon it, with the date “1884.” It was just such a stick as the old – fashioned family practitioner^⑥ used to carry – dignified^⑦, solid, and reassuring^⑧.

“Well, Watson, what do you make of it?”

Holmes was sitting with his back to me, and I had given him no sign of my occupation.

“How did you know what I was doing? I believe you have eyes in the back of your head.”

“I have, at least, a well – polished^⑨, silver^⑩ – plated coffee – pot in front of me,” said he. “But, tell me, Watson, what do you make of our visitor’s stick? Since we have

①hearth - rug [hɑ:θ] n.

floor of a fireplace 炉床

②bulbous - headed adj.

顶端呈球状的 bulbous -

[ˈbʊlbəs] adj. of or having or like a bulb 似球茎的

③perring [ˈpɪnɜː] n. 槟榔(树)

④band [bænd] n. strap 带子

⑤engrave [ˈɪnˈɡreɪv] vt. cut or carve lines, words, designs, on a hard surface 雕刻线条(文字,图案于硬质面上)

⑥practitioner [ˈpræktɪtʃənə] n. one who practise a skill or an art 实习生

⑦dignified [ˈdɪɡnɪfaɪd] adj. having or showing dignity 可敬的

⑧reassuring [ˈriːəʃʊərɪŋ] adj. comforting 舒适的

⑨polish [ˈpɒlɪʃ] vt. make or become smooth and shiny by rubbing 磨光

⑩brace [ˈbreɪs] n. 白蜡

第一章

歇洛克·福尔摩斯先生

歇洛克·福尔摩斯先生除了经常彻夜不眠外,早晨一般都起得很晚。此时,他正坐在桌旁吃早餐,我从壁炉前的小地毯上捡起昨夜来访的客人遗留下的手杖,手杖制作精致而且坚实,顶端有个疙瘩,木料是出自一个叫槟榔屿的地方,名为檳榔木。紧靠顶端的部位有一圈很宽的银箍,大约有一英寸左右。上面刻着:“送给皇家外科医师协会会员杰姆斯·摩迪默,C.C.H.的朋友们赠”,另外还有日期“1884年”。这属于私人医生常用的那种旧式样的手杖,庄重、结实又很耐用。

“啊,华生,你看出什么问题了吗?”

福尔摩斯背对着我坐在那里,我并没有告诉他我正在干什么。

“你怎么知道我在干什么?我想你的后脑勺上一定长了眼睛吧。”

“至少我的眼前有一把明亮的镀银咖啡壶,”他说,“但是,你得告诉我,你对我这位客人的手杖有什么看法?”

been so unfortunate as to^① miss him and have no notion of his errand^②, this accidental souvenir^③ becomes of importance. Let me hear you reconstruct^④ the man by an examination of it."

"I think," said I, following as far as I could the methods of my companion^⑤, "that Dr. Mortimer is a successful, elderly medical man, well - esteemed^⑥ since those who know him give him this mark of their appreciation."

"Good!" said Holmes. "Excellent!"

"I think also that the probability is in favour of^⑦ his being a country practitioner who does a great deal of his visiting on foot^⑧."

"Why so?"

"Because this stick, though originally a very handsome one has been so knocked about that I can hardly imagine a town practitioner carrying it. The thick - iron ferrule^⑨ is worn down, so it is evident that he has done a great amount of walking with it."

"Perfectly sound!" said Holmes.

"And then again, there is the "friends of the C. C. H." I should guess that to be the Something Hunt, the local hunt to whose members he has possibly given some surgical^⑩ assistance, and which has made him a small presentation^⑪ in return."

"Really, Watson, you excel yourself," said Holmes, pushing back his chair and lighting a cigarette^⑫. "I am bound to say that in all the accounts which you have been so good

① so...as to 如此……
以至

② errand [ˈerənd] n.
short journey to take or get
sth, eg a message, goods
from a shop 差使

③ souvenir [ˌsu:vəˈviə] n.
keepsake 纪念品

④ reconstruct [ˌriːkənˈstrʌkt]
vt. construct again 重建

⑤ ...following as far as I
could the methods of my
companion. 我尽量学着
我同伴的思维方法

⑥ esteemed [isˈtiːmd]
adj. (正式用语) have a
high opinion of 尊敬的

⑦ be in favour of 偏爱

⑧ on foot 步行

⑨ ferrule [ˈferul] n. metal
ring or cap placed on the
end of a stick 铁皮包头

⑩ surgical [ˈsɜ:dʒɪkəl]
adj. of surgery 外科的

⑪ presentation [ˌprɪzən-
ˈteɪʃən] n. gift 礼物

⑫ cigarette [ˈsɪɡərit] n.
香烟

很遗憾我们没能遇到他,也不知道他
来这里的目的是什么,所以,这个意外
的纪念品就显得十分重要了。既然你
仔细观察了这柄手杖,那么就来描述
一下这个人吧。”

“我想,”我尽可能地仿照我这位
朋友的推理方法说,“别人送给他这件
礼物是用来表示敬意,由此看来摩迪
默是一位颇有成就,受人尊敬并且上
了些年纪的医生。”

“好,”福尔摩斯说,“好极了!”

“我想,他很可能是位乡村医生,
经常靠步行出诊。”

“为什么?”

“因为这根手杖以前是很漂亮的,
如今被磕碰得破旧不堪了,很难想像
一个城里的医生会用这样的手杖。下
端包的铁皮已经磨光了,显然他曾靠
它走过不少地方。”

“完全正确,”福尔摩斯说。

“还有,上面刻着:‘C.C.H 的朋友
们赠’。我看这可能是个猎人联谊会。
他也许给这个猎人会的成员治过伤,
所以他们送给他这件礼物来表示感
鸦。”

“华生,你跟以前可大不一样了。”
福尔摩斯一边说,一边把椅子向后推
了推,点上一支烟。“我不得不说,在

as to give of my own small achievements you have habitually underrated^① your own abilities. It may be that you are not yourself luminous^②, but you are a conductor of light. Some people without possessing genius have a remarkable power of stimulating^③ it. I confess, my dear fellow, that I am very much in your debt^④."

He had never said as much before, and I must admit that his words gave me keen pleasure, for I had often been piqued^⑤ by his indifference to my admiration and to the attempts which I had made to give publicity to his methods. I was proud, too, to think that I had so far mastered his system as to apply it in a way which earned his approval. He now took the stick from my hands and examined it for a few minutes with his naked eyes. Then with an expression of interest he laid down his cigarette, and carrying the cane to the window, he looked over it again with a convex^⑥ lens^⑦.

Interesting, though elementary^⑧," said he as he returned to his favourite corner of the settee^⑨. "There are certainly one or two indications upon the stick. It gives us the basis for several deductions."

"Has anything escaped me?" I asked with some self-importance^⑩. "I trust that here is nothing of consequence which I have overlooked^⑪?"

"I am afraid, my dear Watson, that most of your conclusions were erroneous^⑫."

When I said that you stimulated me I meant, to be

- ① underrate [ˈʌndəreɪt] vt.
place too low a value on 低估
- ② luminous [ˈluːmɪnəs] adj.
giving out light 发光的
- ③ stimulate [ˈstɪmjuleɪt] vt.
rouse 激发
- ④ I am very much in your debt. 我真是多亏了你
- ⑤ pique [ˈpiːk] vt stir the
curiosity of 激发
- ⑥ convex [ˈkɒnvex] adj.
with the surface curved like
the outside of a ball 凸起的
- ⑦ lens [lenz] n. 透镜
- ⑧ elementary [ˌeliˈmentəri]
adj simple 简单的
- ⑨ settee [ˈsetiː] n. 有扶手
和靠背的长椅
- ⑩ self-importance n. 自负
- ⑪ overlook [ˌəʊərlʊk] vt.
have a view of from a sur-
face 俯视
- ⑫ erroneous [ɪˈrɔːniəs]
adj. incorrect 错误的

你热心地把我的小小成就记录下来
的时候,你已经习惯了低估自己的能
力,也许你本身并不能发觉,但你是光
的传导者,有些人本身并不是天才,但
却有着很强的激发天才的能力。我得
承认,老伙伴,我真的非常感谢你。”

他以前从来没有说过这么多的
话,说实在的,他的话使我异常兴
奋。过去我很佩服他,并想推广他
的推理方法好使更多的人了解,但
他总是不以为然,这使我的自尊心
很受打击。而我现在竟然也学会了
他的方法,并且灵活运用,还得到了
他的称赞,一想起来就使我非常骄
傲。他把手杖从我手中接了过去,
很细致地审视了一会儿,然后兴致
勃勃地放下香烟,把手杖拿到窗前,
用放大镜仔细地观察起来。

“虽然简单,但很有意思,”他说
着就在他最喜爱的那张长椅的一端
坐了下来,“手杖上还有一两处线索
能够说明问题,它可以给我的推理
提供依据。”

“我还漏掉了什么线索吗?”我
有些自负地问道,“我相信还没有把
什么重要的东西忽略掉。”

“我亲爱的华生,恐怕你的推论
大部分是错误的。坦白地说,我说

frank, that in noting your fallacies^① I was occasionally guided towards the truth. Not that you are entirely wrong in this instance. The man is certainly a country practitioner. And he walks a good deal^②."

"Then I was right."

"To that extent."

"But that was all."

"No, no, my dear Watson, not all - by no means^③ all. I would suggest, for example, that a presentation^④ to a doctor is more likely to come from a hospital than from a hunt, and that when the initials "C. C." are placed before that hospital the words "Charing Cross^⑤" very naturally suggest themselves."

"You may be right."

"The probability lies in that direction^⑥. And if we take this as a working hypothesis^⑦ we have a fresh basis from which to start our construction of this unknown visitor."

"Well, then, supposing that "'C. C. H.'" does stand for "'Charing Cross Hospital,'" what further inferences^⑧ may we draw?"

"Do none suggest themselves? You know my methods. Apply them!"

"I can only think of the obvious conclusion that the man has practised in town before going to the country."

"I think that we might venture^⑨ a little farther than this^⑩. Look at it in this light. On what occasion would it be most