英汉对照世界文学丛书 小国短篇小说集

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第三辑

S'TORIES FROM MANY LANDS

外国短篇小说集

(简写本)

[英] G.C.索恩利 改写 章 永 源 译

上海译文出版社

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译者的话

据老一辈学者们讲,根据他们的经验,学习英语的人,不论为什么目的而学英语,最好是除学习指定的课文(供精读的课文)外,还需要通过其他渠道,广泛阅读一些一般的英语读物,用广泛阅读来巩固和扩大逐渐增长的英语知识,然后再过渡到直接阅读英语资料(各种书刊原著),以及从事翻译。写作等等。

去年四月,在武汉召开的全国公共英语课教学经验交流会上,许多教师认为大专院校学生适当地阅读课外读物,是学好英语的一个关键,而目前国内这类书籍供不应求,因而吁请出版界注意组织这类稿件,以满足这方面的迫切需要。

在组织这类稿件的时候,我以为出版界是否要珍视多年来在我国行之有效的一个办法,即尽可能选用英美为外国人(指非英语国家的人)编写的简易读物或改写本,将它们加以注释或译成中文,以注释或对照读物的形式出版。其中英汉对照的一种,对读者阅读、理解和翻译的帮助较大,但由于英汉两种文字一起端出来,对编译者的要求较高,因而近些年一直是出书较少,似乎是应当优先考虑的一种。

为此,这里选译了朗门出版公司桥梁读物丛书 (The Bridge Series) 中的 «Stories From Many

Lands》。它是一本包括英、法、德、意、俄、西班牙、葡萄牙、比利时、澳大利亚和日本等十一个国家、二十四位著名作家的代表作的选集,内容虽经改写,但大都能保持原作的精华,饶有文学的趣味,特别是各篇英语地道,文字简洁,生词的分布均匀,词汇和常用句型的复现率高,有利于读者阅读和记忆,从学习语言的角度看来,这本书有实用的价值。

为什么本书称为桥梁读物呢?因为它对已有初级英语基础的外国人,可以起一种逐渐提高阅读能力和欣赏水平的作用,从阅读本书这一类改写本,进而涉猎原著。为此目的,编者索恩利(G.C.Thornley)博士编写本书依照了三项标准:第一,严格控制英语词汇,超出最常用3,000词范围的不多,书后所列生词不到350个,第二,稍稍压缩了各篇原作的一些篇幅,第三,对原作的章法结构一般较少变动。本书的英语特点如此,因而可以说,它对于我国中等程度学习英语的人,是一本比较理想的文学读物。

本书英汉对照,有利于读者理解原文,并进行两种文字的比较研究。篇首保留原书为每篇作者所写的简介,书后附有原书特为读者编制的词汇表。 个别费解的地方,在中译文下加了小注,供读者参考。

译文错误和不妥之处, 请读者批评指正。

1983年4月

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STORIES FROM MANY LANDS 外国短篇小说集

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When the sun went down

HENRY LAWSON

Henry Lawson (1867-1922) was a true Australian, whose writing has a direct appeal to the understanding and sympathy of the reader. When the Sun Went Down is a short story about a quarrel between two brothers who are miners. A disaster at the mine almost kills one of them, and does indirectly kill the other.

Jack Drew sat on the edge of the shaft, with his foot in th loop and one hand on the rope, ready to descend. His elder brother, Tom, stood at one end of the windlass and the third man at the other. Jack paused before swinging off, looked up at his brother, and suddenly held out his hand:

'You're not going to let the sun go down, are you, Tom?'

But Tom kept both hands on the handle of the windlass and said nothing.

'Lower away!'

They lowered him to the bottom, and Tom shouldered his pick in silence and walked off to the tent. He found the tin plate and other things set ready for him on the rough table. The tea was made, the potatoes ready; he sat down at the table but could not eat. His brother's quick temper had caused the quarrel that morning;

太阳落山的时候

[澳大利亚] **亨利·劳森**

亨利·劳森(1867—1922)是一位地道 的澳洲人,他的写作具有一种能直接使读 者理解和同情的吸引力。《太阳落山 的 时 候》是一个有关两位矿工兄弟之间争吵的 短篇故事。矿上一场灾难几乎使他们中间 的一个人丧生,同时间接造成了另一个人 的死亡。

杰克·德鲁坐在矿井的边沿,脚放在搭环上,一只手握着绳索,准备下去。他的哥哥汤姆站在绞车的一端,还有一个人站在另一端。杰克在吊下去以前停了停,望了望他的哥哥,忽然伸出手说:

"你不会等到太阳落山吧,是不是,汤姆?" 可是汤姆双手握住绞车的柄,什么话也没有说。 "摇下去!"

他们把杰克摇到坑底以后,汤姆默默地背起他的鹤嘴锄,走到帐棚。他发现那张简陋的桌上放着为他准备好的锡制碟子和一些其他东西。茶沏好了,土豆也煮熟了。他在桌旁坐下,可就是吃不下去。他弟弟的急躁脾气弄得那天早晨吵架,可是随后杰克

but then Jack had admitted that and apologized. Tom despised himself. He moved around anxiously and tried to smoke. He could not get Jack's last appeal out of his ears: 'You're not going to let the sun go down, are you, Tom?'

Tom found himself glancing at the sun. It was less than two hours from sunset. He thought of the words of the old poet; the author didn't matter, but the words began to haunt him: 'Let not the sun go down upon your wath. Let not the sun go down upon your wrath.'

The line contains good advice; for quicktempered men are often the most sensitive, and when they let the sun go down on their wrath, that is likely to worry them in the night.

Tom started tho go to the mine, but checked himself, sat down, and tried to draw comfort from a pipe. He understood his brother thoroughly, but his brother never understood him—that was where the trouble was. Presently he began thinking how Jack would worry about the quarrel and have no enthusiasm for his work. Perhaps he was worrying now, down at the end of the damp dark passage.

Tom had almost made up his mind to go below again, on some excuse, when his friend shouted from the top of the shaft:

'Tom! Tom! For God's sake come here!'

Tom's heart gave a great thump, and he ran like the wind to the shaft. All the diggers within hearing were soon on the spot. They saw at a

已承认了脾气坏而且也已经道歉。汤姆自感惭愧, 焦急不安地走来走去,想要抽烟。但他无法摆脱紫 绕在他耳边的杰克刚才所作的呼吁:"你不会等到太 阳落山吧,是不是,汤姆?"

汤姆发觉自己正望着太阳。那时候离日落不到两小时了。他想起了古诗人的诗句,诗的作者倒无关紧要,但其诗句则开始使他忐忑不安;"不可含怒到日落。不可含怒到日落。①"

这诗句是金玉良言,因为脾气急躁的人往往最 敏感,要是他们在日落时还在发怒,那么在晚上就 可能会感到苦恼。

汤姆动身要到矿上去,但又停住脚,坐下来,想抽一袋烟舒口气。他是完全了解他弟弟的,可是他的弟弟从不了解他——这就是麻烦之所在。这时他开始想到杰克会怎样对这次争吵感到烦恼,会怎样对工作失去热情。或许杰克正在下面潮湿阴暗的巷道尽头烦闷着呢。

当汤姆几乎已打定主意,想找一借口,再度下 井的时候,他的朋友从矿井的上面发出了喊叫声,

"汤姆!汤姆!看在上帝面上,到这儿来呀!" 汤姆的心怦的一跳,象一阵风似地奔到矿井。 所有听见呼喊的矿工也都很快赶到了现场。他们一 眼就看出发生了甚么事情。在那种场地上挖井而不

① 语见 <圣经> <新约·以弗所书》第 4 章第 26 节。——译 者注

glance what had happened. It was madness to sink a shaft without wood at the sides in that sort of ground. The sides of the shaft were closing in!

Tom sprang forward and shouted through the crack: 'To the face, Jack! Run to the face! To the end of the passage! Run for your life!'

Tom turned to the diggers. 'To the old workings! Bring the tools. We'll dig him out.'

A few minutes later they were at the old shaft close by and were down in the old passage. Tom knew that they were quite close to the other part of the mine. He knelt in the damp clay before the face and worked like a madman. He refused to give his place to another, and only dropped one tool to use another. He reckoned that he had six, or perhaps eight, feet to drive, and he knew that the air would not last long in there, even if the roof had not already fallen and crushed his brother. Great drops of sweat stood out on Tom's forehead, and his breath came in deep sobs; but he still struck strong, savage blows into the clay before him, and the drive lengthened quickly. Once he paused a moment to listen, and then distinctly heard a sound as of a tool or stone being struck. Tack was safe!

Tom dug on until the clay suddenly fell away and left a hole about the size of a plate in the face before him.

'Thank God!' said a hoarse voice at the other side.

在井边用木料支撑,简直是发疯。矿井四周正在崩塌下来!

汤姆纵身向前,透过裂缝大声喊道:"到面上来, 杰克!跑到面上来!到巷道的出口来!快逃命呀!"

汤姆转身对矿工们说:"到老的巷道去!带着工具。咱们把他挖出来!"

几分钟后他们到了近旁的那个老的矿井,进入那个老的巷道。汤姆晓得他们已很靠近矿的另一部分。他跪在井面前方湿的泥土里,象疯子般地拚命挖掘,不肯让别人来替代他,只是扔掉一个工具,换上另一个工具。他估计还有六英尺或许八英尺要挖。他知道即使顶板还没有塌落,他的弟弟还没有被压死,那里的空气也不会再保持多久了。汤姆的前额上冒出大颗大颗的汗珠,呼吸发出深沉的呜咽声,可是他仍然用力朝他前面的泥土猛凿,被他凿开的地方很快扩大了。一次他停下来听了一听,清楚地听到一种象是用工具或石头敲击的声音。杰克还安全呀!

汤姆仍继续挖掘,直到泥土忽然松落下来,在 他前方工作面上露出一个象盘子那么大的洞。

"谢天谢地!"从另一边发出了嘶哑的话音。