

汉英对照

2

Selected Jokes
From Past
Chinese Dynasties

中国

历代笑话

精选



SINOLINGUA

• 汉英对照 •

中国历代笑话精选(二)

Selected Jokes from Past
Chinese Dynasties (II)

程钦华 编注 华蕊丹 翻译
缪印堂 叶蓉 方萌 绘图

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程钦华 编注

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（中国北京百万庄路24号）

邮政编码 100037

电话：（86）10-68994599 / 68326333

传真：（86）10-68326642

电子信箱：sinolingua@ihw.com.cn

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E-mail: sinolingua@ihw.com.cn

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出版者的话

生活离不开笑话，笑话也离不开生活。

数千年来，勤劳智慧的中国人民在创造了灿烂的古代文明的同时，给后人留下了又一笔丰厚的文化遗产——数以万计的历代笑话。它们或幽默，或讽刺，或诙谐，或辛辣；它们针砭流弊，讥讽陋习，启迪借鉴，弃恶扬善。它们植根于广阔的社会生活，因此枝叶繁茂，历久不衰。

今天我们从这些笑话中精选了数百篇，对文字内容进行了疏通修改，略加注释，配以插图，并附有英译文，辑为若干册，每册百篇左右，奉献给喜爱并希望了解中国历代笑话的中外读者，愿朋友们在笑声中多有收获。

Publisher's Note

Take jokes away from life and you take a good part of life away from man.

Throughout China's history the industrious and ingenious Chinese people, while creating a brilliant ancient civilization, have left succeeding generations a rich cultural heritage of tens of thousands of jokes, spanning many different dynasties. The jokes are humorous, sarcastic, witty, and pointed. They unmask corrupt and evil practices, ridicule the ugly and ignorant, and are generally relieving as well as enlightening. Rooted in society at large, they flourish and will always be with us.

We have selected several hundred well-known jokes and added footnotes, illustrations and English translations. Each of the several volumes contains around a hundred jokes. The book is dedicated to international readers fond of China and interested in understanding the country better. We hope these jokes from past Chinese dynasties will offer many amusing insights into the character of the Chinese people.

前 言

笑话，又称“民间趣事”或“滑稽故事”。笑话作为民间文学的一种形式，它与喜剧、漫画、相声堪称四个孪生兄弟，都是属于笑的艺术。

冬日围炉夜话，夏日纳凉闲聊，人们都爱讲、爱听笑话，自古皆然。追溯中国笑话的根，如果从先秦散文中富于哲理的、有趣的小故事算起，那么中国笑话的发展史迄今已有两千三、四百年了。中国第一本笑话集，是汉末邯郸淳编的《笑林》，它对后世笑话发展影响颇深。唐、宋以降，笑话集频频问世。尤其明、清两代，市民文学繁盛，文人搜集、整理和创作的笑话专集，更如雨后春笋，乃形成了中国笑话的黄金时代。其中如冯梦龙编撰的《广笑府》、《古今谭概》和清代游戏主人及程世爵分别辑编的《笑林广记》，影响较大。这些笑话，内容丰富而深刻，是一笔宝贵的文学遗产。

本书收入笑话百余篇，这些笑话中，有讽刺贪婪、吝啬的，有对人性中的弱点进行善意批评的，有表现人们的机巧和幽默的。篇幅虽短，却令人忍俊不禁。笑，使人胸怀豁达；笑，使人增长智慧。人们在开怀大笑之余，能从中省悟到蕴藏在笑中的丰富哲理，这对我们观察与思考问题，乃至做事待人，都会有许多有益的启迪。

Preface

Jokes, also known as folk anecdotes or funny stories, are a form of folk literature and, like comedies, cartoons and comic dialogues, belong to the art of laughter.

Sitting around a warm stove in winter or relaxing in a cool spot in summer, people love to crack jokes. Chinese jokes can be traced back to the anecdotal prose of the early Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.). The first collection of Chinese jokes was *Forest of Jokes*, compiled by Handan Chun at the end of the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.—A.D. 220), which exerted a profound influence on the later development of Chinese jokes. In the Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) dynasties jokes appeared one after the other, and in the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, when folk literature flourished, joke books, with jokes collected, arranged and written by literati, mushroomed, producing a golden age for the Chinese joke. The most famous and influential were *Extensive Records of Jokes and Commentary on Things Old and New*, compiled and edited by Feng Menglong, and *Whole Forest of Jokes*, compiled by Cheng Shijue. Rich, and profound, they have become a precious literary legacy.

This bilingual (Chinese-English) illustrated book includes more than a hundred jokes, selected from jokes through the ages. It is intended to serve as an interesting supplementary material for international readers studying Chinese. Some jokes satirize the greedy and mean, some gently criticize people's shortcomings and others show the wisdom and humour of the people. Laughter makes people happy and jokes enrich people's knowledge. Besides a good laugh, people will gain an insight into folk philosophy, beneficial to their study and work.

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