● 英语注释读物・当代美国时尚文化丛书 2

美国百老汇与流行艺术

邵怀宇等/编注

北京大学出版社

Peking University Press

英语注释读物·当代美国时尚文化从书·2·

美国百老汇与流行艺术

主 编: 邵怀宇 包新宇

编注:侯俊琳 蓝 亭 宋 震 胡 讯

杜 若 阿 祥 苗凤凤

北京大学出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

美国百老汇与流行艺术/邵怀字等编注. 一北京:北京大学出版 社,2001.11

(当代美国时尚文化丛书,2/英语注释读物) ISBN 7-301-05286-3

I. 美… II. 邵… III. 英语 - 语言读物,艺术 IV. H319.4:J 中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2001)第 075131 号

书 名: 美国百老汇与流行艺术

著作责任者: 邵怀宇 等

责任编辑:游冠辉

标准书号: ISBN 7-301-05286-3/H·0680

出 版 者:北京大学出版社

地 址:北京市海淀区中关村北京大学校内 100871

网 址: http://cbs.pku.edu.cn/cbs.htm

电 话: 邮购部 62752019 发行部 62754140 编辑部 62752028

电子信箱: zpup@pup.pku.edu.cn gl@pup.pku.edu.cn

排 版 者: 华伦图文制作中心 62756343

印刷者.北京飞达印刷厂

发 行 者:北京大学出版社

经 销 者:新华书店

850×1168毫米 32 开本 6.75 印张 192 千字 2001 年 11 月第 1 版 2001 年 11 月第 1 次印刷

定 价: 10.00元

前 言

说到美国文化,人们首先会想到好菜坞大片、美国西部牛仔、百老汇、可口可乐、麦当娜、万宝路香烟、纽约世贸中心、迪斯尼、橄榄球,甚至于英特尔、微软,正因为这些流行元素象征着美国崇尚自由、积极豪放、绚丽多彩的鲜明的现代社会特征,因而它也代表着中国人心中大洋彼岸的那个超级大国的特色文化。

美国从大西洋到太平洋,差不多横跨整个北美洲大陆,另外还包括北极边缘的阿拉斯加州和赤道地区的夏威夷,然而,欧洲人常评价说这个富饶发达的国度没有文化,因为三百年前的美国还只是一片荒原,美国的历史短暂,没有欧亚那么多的人文古迹和遗产。甚至法国人嘲笑说,美国从欧洲买下教堂,给每一块石头标上号,然后拆下来运回美国再按照记号盖起来。

然而,文化不代表着古董,从最初的移民时代开始,美国人就在这块广大富庶的土地上不断接受着、融合着、发展着、创新着美国特色的新文化。如今的美国在戏剧、电影、舞蹈、音乐、建筑、绘画、雕塑、文学等多方面都已形成了自己的文化风格。每年纽约市林肯表演艺术中心和华盛顿哥伦比亚中心特区的肯尼迪中心则上演着各种歌剧、舞蹈、戏剧和交响乐等文化演出。美国作为世界文化的大熔炉,你差不多可以在这里找到世界上任何一种文化的影子。

这套(当代美国时尚文化丛书)则是我们从最新美国现刊以及 当前网站上挑选出来奉献给大家的一份原汁原味的英语文化读 物。这套丛书分美国好菜坞透视、美国音乐大观、美国百老汇舞 台、美国流行艺术、美国时尚潮流和美国旅游掠影六个篇章。在好 莱坞篇中,我们介绍了奥斯卡奖项,明星轶事,名导风采和各种电影资讯等。在音乐篇中,我们将去了解葛莱美颁奖典礼,迈克尔·杰克逊等巨星风采以及通俗音乐、古典音乐、乡村音乐、爵士音乐、世界音乐等各种流派最新动态。百老汇篇则全面展现美国最新戏剧动态,展现百老汇发展历史,展现美国戏剧重要剧目和著名戏剧人等。而在艺术篇中,我们可以了解当今美国绘画、建筑、陶瓷、壁画等艺术状况,领略美国大师风范,关注艺术博物馆命运等。在时尚篇中,让我们一起走近当今美国超级名模,了解时尚设计师的非凡人生,掌握纽约时尚周最新潮流信息。在旅游篇中,我们则介绍了许多美国现代大都市,自由女神,迪斯尼以及其他众多自然风光景点等。

随着中国的即将入世,美国也将离得我们越来越近,希望这套英语读物能让大家在一边学英语的同时对美国文化也有一个比较深入的了解。

邵怀宇 2001 年 10 月

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百老汇篇

.

One Vote For[®] Willson

Meredith Willson 所编的音乐喜剧(音乐人)(The Music Man)独具特色的"脚尖舞"给人留下了深刻的印象。更为难得的是,这部影片中还包含了许多寓意深刻的台词。其中有一幕,描写骗子艺术家希尔(Harold Hill) 教授如何设法骗得图书馆员玛丽雅的感情,而她总是寄望于模糊不清的未来,从不真正地面对现实。于是,希尔对她说:"你编织了很多的明天,而你将会得到很多空虚的昨天。"



Is there a Great American Novel? That is a silly conversation. Is there a Great American Musical? That is a less silly one. Obvious candidates include Oklahoma!, Guys and Dolls, and Carousel. But perhaps the strongest con-

① vote for:投票赞 成

- ②conversation:话题
- ③candidate:候选
- ④ carousel: 喧闹的 酒会



tender^⑤ is The Music Man, now in revival^⑥ on Broadway.

The creator of The Music Man was Meredith Willson, a versatile[®], happy, much-loved figure who died in 1984. His life story is just as American as his show. Born in 1902—"aught[®] two," his characters would say—he grew up in Mason City, Iowa[®], inspiration for the theatrical "River City, I-o-way." His father was a baker[®]; his great-grandfather had been one of the town's settlers[®]. Of his magnum opus[®], Willson would say, "I didn't have to make up anything. I simply remembered Mason City as closely as I could."

He was a kid who soaked up[®] everything musical. Any instrument he could get his hands on, he would play. He had the first mail-order flute[®] in town (shades of the Wells Fargo wagon[®]). One of his memoirs[®]—Willson was a marvelously graceful prose writer—is entitled And There Stood with My Piccolo. It is the book on which The Music Man is based. When he was 17, Willson struck out for the big city. New York, where he enrolled in the Institute of Musical Art, the forerunner to the Juilliard School (and, as it happens, the alma mater of Richard Rodgers). Meeting up with two of the musical titans of the age, he became flutist® for the John Philip Sousa Band and Arturo Toscanini's New York Philharmonic.

He then went to California, to conduct orchestras[®] and work in radio. He composed[®], arranged,

- ⑤contender:竞争 者
- ⑥revival:重演 ⑦versatile:多才多
- _ 艺的 __
- ⑧aught:零
- ⑨ Iowa: 爱荷华州 (美国中西部的 --州)
- ⑩baker:面包师, 面包工人
- ①settler:移民者, 殖民者
- ①magnum opus:巨著,杰作
- @soak up:吸收
- Offlute:长笛
- ¹³ wagon:四轮马 车,货车
- In memoir:回忆录
- ①marvelously:奇迹 般地
- ®graceful:优美的
- 19 prose:散文
- ②entitle:定名,命 名
- ②piccolo:短笛
- Østrike out:出发, 动身
- Ø enroll: 登记, 入 学
- ②forerunner:先驱 (者)
- ⊗alma mater: 母校
- 分 flutist: 横笛吹奏 者
- ②philharmonic:交响乐团
- ❷orchestra:管弦乐 队
- ②compose:创作, 合成

played, conducted—the classic jack-of-all-musical-trades. He worked as music director of Tallulah Bank head's Big Show, for which he wrote the most unBankheadian song "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You." ("Take a bow, Meredith," the rapacious old siren would say.) He composed scores for such films as The Great Dictator and The Little Foxes. He wrote a good deal of classical music, including two symphonies. And he was responsible for countless trifles, among them one that made it sort of big—"It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas."

After The Music Man, which appeared in 1957, Willson wrote two more musicals: The Unsinkable[®] Molly Brown (based on the life of the famed Titanic survivor and Here's Love (an adaptation® of Miracle® on 34th Street) After he was rich and famous, he retained the common touch, often returning to Mason City, where he presided over[®] the North Iowa Band Festival. When he died, his widow chose an obvious inscription for his tombstone : "The Music Man." President Reagan conferred on him the Medal of Freedom, posthumously. About 25 years before, President Kennedy had presented him with an award for civic activism (the word had a better connotation then). In 1999, the government issued a stamp in his honor. Willson was not only a talented fellow. but, by every account[®], an exceptionally good Joe-and this is reflected in his music.

- jack-of-all-musical-trades: 通晓各类音乐的人
- ①rapacious:贪婪的 ②siren:美女,妖妇
- ③symphony:交响 曲
- 到trifle:琐事,小事
- ③unsinkable:不会 下沉的
- 酚Titanic:泰坦尼 克
- ③survivor:生还者
- ⊗adaptation:改编,

 改写本
- ^{39 miracle}: 奇迹, 奇 事
- ④ preside over: 主 持
- ①widow:寡妇
- @inscription:题字, 碑铭
- ⊕confer on:授予, 赠与
- **⑤**posthumously:死 后地
- ❸connotation:内涵
- @ talented: 有才华 的
- ❷by every account:
 据大家所说



His two symphonies are almost as obscure as his hit show is familiar, but they can be heard on a disc from the Naxos label. The first is subtitled "A Symphony of San Francisco," and it was written in 1936 to commemorate[®] the thirtieth anniversary of that city's earthquake This is an impressive work, of a kind—as good as several of the pieces included in the New York Philharmonic's recent collection of American music. It is a frank example of "program music," telling a story of disaster and subsequent[®] rebirth. It is haunting, imaginative, tuneful[®]. and intelligently structured. As befits the product of a bandmaster , it makes particularly effective use of the brass[®] and woodwinds[®]. The work has an American robustness[®], an openness about it. It is also proudly celebratory, if a shade bombastic. And, like most everything that came from Willson's pen, it expresses a striking love of country.

Here is a taste of the explanatory notes that Willson wrote to accompany the piece: "Generally speaking, the first movement is intended to convey pioneer courage, loyalty[®], strength of purpose and freedom." The trumpet motive in the closing Allegro "is a call of defiance[®] to the very elements themselves that had the temerity[®] to dispute the spiritual[®] strength and courage of the golden city of the West." A little Rotarian[®], ves—but so what?

The Symphony No. 2, composed immediately

- ② obscure: 晦涩的,
 朦胧的
- ⑤ subtitle: 给 … 加 副标题
- ⑦ commemorate: 纪念
- 図anniversary: 周年 纪念
- ③subsequent:随之而来的
- Øtuneful:和谐的
- ⑤ intelligently: 聪明 地
- ֍bandmaster: 军乐 队或管乐首度 或指挥
- 切brass:铜管乐器
- ⊗woodwind:木管 乐器
- ᠑robustness:强壮, 粗野
- **Øbombastic:夸大** 的
- filloyalty:忠诚,忠 心
- Ødefiance:挑战
- Øtemerity:鲁莽
- Øspiritual:精神上 的
- ❸Rotarian:〈美〉扶 轮社的会员

after the first, bears the subtitle "The Missions® of California," and it is a tribute® to Father Junipero Serra, the "padre®-pioneer." This work, like its predecessor, is a little bombastic and hokey®, but it shows undeniable skill. The slow movement is gorgeously® lyrical®, a sort of sustained hymn®. The scherzo® is a pleasant depiction of the return of the swallows to San Juan Capistrano. From beginning to end, there is that distinctive® love, and optimism®, and gratitude, and joy-strange qualities for the 20th century. The pops conductor Arthur Fiedler used to speak of "first-rate second-rate music." The Willson symphonies may be described this way.

Furthermore, Willson shows both a knack® and an affection for all types of music and musical devices. Thus, in the Serra symphony, he throws in elements of Gregorian chant®. At the end of "Gary, Indiana," there is a little jig®, for the Irish Mrs. Paroo to dance to. This is charming, sure—but it is also fine craftsmanship®.

Willson had one masterpiece in him, and it will live as long as there is anything like musical theater. The Music Man (for which Willson also wrote the lyrics) is an astonishing creation. It came in a spurt of brilliance. It is shot through with originality, verve, and—why not go all the way? —genius. People love it, can't get enough of it, can't stop performing it—and they are not wrong. For closing in on a half-century now, The Music Man has been

- ⊗mission:使团,代 表团
- ⑦tribute: 贡品, 礼物
- 級padre:教士
- ⑩ hokey: 虚情假意的
- ⑦ gorgeously: 华美地,辉煌地
- ①lyrical:抒情的
- ⑦ hymn: 赞美诗, 圣歌
- Øscherzo:谐谑曲
- Ødistinctive:与众 不同的
- ⑦optimism:乐观主义
- %knack:诀窍
- ⑦ Gregorian chant: 格列高利圣咏
- ®jig:快步舞,快步舞曲
- ⑦ craftsmanship: 技能,技术
- ⊗ masterpiece:杰
 作,名著
- ® astonishing: 惊异的
- ⊗in a spurt of:进发
- ⊗originality: 创意, 新奇
- Øverve:气魄,神韵



performed continually, in every American city, town, and village, and in other parts of the world as well, not excluding Peking.

How American is it? Totally, almost lustily. The show is set in 1912, five years before America's entry into the world war, a relatively innocent time. The place is Iowa, a very American state in a very American region. The show expresses not only love of country, but, more particularly, love of American music, as epitomized by the marching band. Carl King, who along with Sousa is the very idea of a band composer, was an Iowan. And Willson's "Seventy-six Trombones" is probably the last march to enter the permanent repertory.

The Unsinkable Meredith Willson, in 1942

The show begins with "Rock Island"—
"Whaddya talk! Whaddya talk!"—which is a
proto-rap. It is pure joy in rhythm and words,
dazzlingly brought off. We continue with
"Iowa Stubborn," sung by the people of River
City. In the current Broadway production, two
of them are made to look like the pair in Grant
Wood's American Gothic. The Music Man is
sometimes charged with being corny, but it is
in reality anti-corny. Willson ribs his home
folks, but gently, lovingly. Here is "Professor
Harold Hill," the con man from back East,
trying to frighten the community about the
well-being of its children: "Are certain words
creeping into their vocabulary? Words like

⊗lustily:精力充沛 地,强壮地

- ⊗ epitomize: 摘要, 概括
- Øtrombone:长号
- ⊗ repertory: 仓库, 戏目
- ❸rhythm:节奏,韵 律
- **⑨dazzlingly:**灿烂 地,耀眼地
- ^⑨ bring off: 使成功,完成
- ②stubborn:顽固地, 固执的
- 9 charge... with: 控告,指控
- **Scorny**: 乡下味的, **粗野**的
- Son man:骗子
- Ø community:社区, 公众
- ⊗creep into:潜,进

'swell'? Aha! And, 'So's your old man'!" The show has a broad liberality[®], as in its anticensorship[®] theme. It is warmly patriotic[®], and yet it has a little fun with the dumber sort of patriotism: "Remember the Maine, Plymouth Rock, and the Golden Rule!" It also has a dose of raciness[®], as when Professor Hill, in "The Sadder but Wiser Girl," confesses[®], "I hope and I pray for Hester to win just one more A!"

At every turn, music is exalted —in the piano teacher, the little girl taking lessons, the barbershop quartet, the evocation of the great composers, and, at the center of it all, the excitement over the coming boys' band. Professor Hill even issues the old but false bromide that singing is nothing more than "sustained speech." Willson sprinkles his score with jazz, ragtime, burlesque—the whole of our musical grab bag.

And there is hardly a shallow or pedestrian note. Willson puts on a clinic of melody, harmony, modulation, and rhythm (including "elegant syncopation"). "Pick a Little, Talk a Little" is a novelty number, but a novelty number of very high quality, especially as it merges with the barbershop quartet's "Good Night, Ladies." The slinky "Marian the Librarian" has that little chromatic motive that is one of the glories of the literature, instantly recognizable to just about all sentient Americans. "Shipoopi" is a ridiculous song—but then, it is meant to be.

- 贸liberality: 宽宏 大量
- anti-censorship: 反
 审查制度
- ⑩patriotic:爱国的
- raciness: 生动活 泼
- ⑩confess:承认,坦 白
- Mexalted:尊贵的
- lip barbershop: 男声 重唱的
- ⑩ quartet:四重奏, 四重唱
- @evocation:唤出, 唤起
- ⑩ bromide: 迂腐的想法
- ⑩ burlesque: 滑 稽 表演
- @grab bag:百宝囊
- ⑩ pedestrian: 呆板的, 通俗的
- 個harmony:和谐
- @modulation:抑扬
- ⑩syncopation:切分音舞曲
 - @slinky:轻飘的
- ⑩chromatic:彩色 的
- ⑩sentient:多愁善 感的
- ⑩ridiculous:荒谬 的,可笑的