

汉英对照

3

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(三)

Selected Jokes From Past Chinese Dynasties (III)

陈 懿 编注 于 岑 翻译
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华语教学出版社

北 京

SINOLINGUA BEIJING

责任编辑：蔡希勤

封面设计：李法明

图书在版编目（CIP）数据

中国历代笑话精选(3):汉英对照/陈懿编. -北京: 华语教学出版社,
1997.7

ISBN 7-80052-509-0

I. 中... II. 陈... III. ①对外汉语教学-语言读物, 笑话-汉、英 ②笑话-中国-对照读物-汉、英 IV. H195.5

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (1997) 第 04121 号

中国历代笑话精选（三）

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©华语教学出版社

华语教学出版社出版

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北京星月印刷厂印刷

中国国际图书贸易总公司发行

（中国北京车公庄西路 35 号）

北京邮政信箱第 399 号 邮政编码 100044

新华书店国内发行

1997 年（40 开）第一版

2000 年第二次印刷

（汉英）

ISBN 7-80052-509-0 / H·686（外）

定价：10.00 元

9—CE—2594PC

First Edition 1997

Second Printing 2000

ISBN 7-80052-509-0

Copyright 2000 by Sinolingua

Published by Sinolingua

24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing 100037, China

Tel: (86) 10-68994599 / 68326333

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Printed by Beijing Foreign Languages Printing House

Distributed by China International

Book Trading Corporation

35 Chegongzhuang Xilu, P.O. Box 399

Beijing 100044, China

Printed in the People's Republic of China

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 interested in China and its people. We hope these jokes from past Chinese dynasties will offer many amusing insights into the character of the Chinese people.

前 言

人需要幽默和欢笑，因为生活中既有明媚的春天，热烈的夏天，斑斓的秋天，也有凛冽的冬天。笑，是友爱的伴侣、健康的朋友、奋进的动力。会心的微笑、舒怀的大笑、轻蔑的冷笑，都能给人启迪：否定和嘲讽假恶丑，肯定和颂扬真善美。

笑话在我国典籍里出现得相当早，在先秦诸子散文和历史散文中就已经引用流传于民间的短小的笑话，来说明某一个道理。这些由劳动人民口头创作，依靠人民群众口耳相传的笑话，体现了世世代代劳动人民的生活感触和情绪倾向，闪烁着劳动人民的诙谐幽默和机智聪明之光。古代笑话无论是在思想内容上，还是在艺术手法上，都有着杰出的成就。它们丰富而深刻的思想内容，既为我们提供了认识社会的生动材料，又给我们以思想方法和工作方法上的各种启示；在艺术上为我们今天笑的艺术创作提供了可资借鉴的宝贵经验。

本集收入历代笑话九十九篇。读者将通过本书笑话中对无知的嘲讽，对愚昧的讥刺，对虚伪的揭露，对丑恶的鞭挞，多侧面地了解历史，理解今天，增强辨别真善美和假恶丑的能力，提高逻辑思维能力，学会运用语言艺术幽默地表现丰富多彩的生活。

Preface

Man needs humor and laughter just as nature is endowed with the four seasons. Laughter accompanies friends and health, and always elevates man's spirit. An understanding laugh, a happy laugh and a contemptuous laugh — each has a message, whether it is to ridicule and rebuke the false, evil and ugly, or to appreciate and praise the true, kind and beautiful.

Jokes appeared as early as 3,000 years ago in ancient Chinese records and prose writings as short, funny stories to illustrate a point of truth. These folk anecdotes were circulated and handed down from mouth to mouth, reflecting the experiences and sentiments of the people and sparkling with their resourcefulness and humor. They are remarkable either as folk literature or as an art — rich, deep and enlightening, a precious legacy for today's culture of laughter.

This bilingual illustrated book includes 99 jokes selected from a tradition which is centuries

old. Some satirize ignorance and meanness, and some expose hypocrisy and evil. They should make interesting reading for international students of the Chinese language who, while learning more of the language and savoring the humor, will gain an insight into Chinese ethics and folk philosophy, and be better able to understand Chinese people today.

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