

名人传记10元丛书

英汉对照



CATHERINE PETERS

狄更斯

社会批判家的呐喊惊天动地

婚外热恋者的秘史扑朔迷离

披露一代文豪的成就与磨难

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致 谢

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尼先生的允许，书中大量
引用《查尔斯·狄更斯书
信集》(朝圣者版)，我谨表
示最衷心的感谢。



INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 1841 Edinburgh greeted a hero: the 29-year-old Charles Dickens. He was given the freedom of the city. Over 250 male guests attended one of several dinners held in his honour, with nearly as many women looking on from a gallery. When he went to the theatre, the audience, warned by the newspapers that 'Boz' would be present, crammed in to see him. As he entered, the orchestra struck up 'Charley is my Darling'.

This extraordinary popularity lasted his whole life. Dickens's creative genius was fully recognized, not by a select readership but by a mass audience. He was read by rich and poor, the newly literate and the highly educated: 'almost everybody whose letters and biography have come down to us has something to say about Dickens'.¹ What was the secret of his success?

He was of course a great entertainer, who could move from drama to comedy in a sentence, arousing

导

言

1841年夏天，爱丁堡迎来了一位英雄：29岁的查尔斯·狄更斯。他在这个城市备受欢迎，可以自由出入任何地方。人们为他举办了各种各样的宴会。一次，出席的男性嘉宾有250多人，还有同样多的妇女在楼座观看。事前，报界已公布说“博智”（狄更斯的笔名）将莅临该剧院。因此，当狄更斯前往的时候，观众便蜂拥而入，竞相一睹狄更斯的风采。当他进入剧院时，乐队立刻奏起“我亲爱的查理（查尔斯昵称）”。

这样非同寻常的声望伴随了狄更斯的整个一生。他天才的创造力不仅受到卓越的读者，而且受到广大听众的充分赞赏。不管是富翁还是穷人，也无论是粗通文墨者还是受过良好教育的人，“几乎所有的人在留给我们的信件或传记中，无不提到狄更斯。”那么，他成功的秘诀是什么呢？

他当然是一位杰出的艺术家。他可以点石成金，用一句话便使一出戏剧变成喜剧，激发起读者的情感和同

the emotions and engaging the sympathies of his readers. But he was concerned with the major issues of his times, and his criticisms, many of them still valid today, challenged his readers' consciences and intelligence. Dickens saw astonishing changes; during his lifetime Britain was transformed from a predominantly rural economy to a major industrial power. Transport, mass communications, education, legal and parliamentary structures, the treatment of the insane and criminals, the position of women, were all radically altered. Because of Dickens's immense popularity, he had an influence on the shaping of social policy. Politicians read him, and knew they had to take account of what he wrote.

If Dickens's novels were merely melodrama or fictionalized social commentary we should not read them today. He also had the gift of imaginative insight, a playwright's ear for dialogue and, above all, an ability to sum up a scene or a character in a wholly original but startlingly exact image. It is this invention and humour, the eye for the bizarre poetry of everyday life, which makes his writing live. His responses did not remain static. There are differences between his picaresque early novels, the



情心。然而，他也关注着那个时代的一些大事。他对社会的批判，曾使他的读者的良心和智慧都受到挑战，他的许多针砭至今仍然适用。狄更斯看到了社会正在发生惊人的变化。在他的有生之年，英国由一个以农业经济为主导的社会转变成了一个主要工业强国。这个时期，英国的交通、通讯、教育、法律和议会制度、对疯人和罪犯的处置、妇女的地位，都发生了巨大的变化。由于狄更斯的巨大声望，他对英国社会政策的形成是有一定影响的。政治家也读他的作品，而且知道他们必须认真考虑狄更斯所写的东西。

如果狄更斯的小说仅仅是一些内容夸张的情节或者是虚构的社会评论，我们今天就不应该读它们。他有着非同寻常的想象力和洞察力，有着剧作家一样灵敏的听觉，善于把握对话。最为突出的是，他对场景的描写和人物的刻画，颇具独创性，而且惟妙惟肖。正是这样一种创新和幽默，这样一种对日常生活的奇异而又充满诗意的眼光，使他的作品无比生动。当然，他对社会的反应并未停滞不前，他的作品风格也在不断变化，他的早期作品多为描写流浪汉的飘泊、冒险生活，中期作品描



increased complexity of his major middle period, and the dark intensity of his later work. But whether he is being funny or terrifying, realistic or wildly improbable, the energy of the writing remains compelling. The 'Dickens world' he created is like no other.

Dickens was not only a novelist. In his fifty-eight years he accomplished as much as three or four people combined. He wrote penetrating, investigative journalism. He was a meticulous editor who personally read and revised the contributions to his magazines, a talented amateur actor and a magnificent reader from his own work. He played an active part in charitable enterprises and welfare schemes. He walked 10 or 15 miles a day. Over 14,000 letters written in his own hand, some of them many pages long, are known to have survived: many more have disappeared.

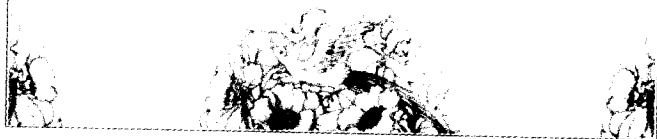
A 'pocket biography' can give only a flavour of Dickens. As he wrote to a critic of his novel *Barnaby Rudge*, 'the object is – not to tell everything, but to select the striking points and beat them into the page with a sledge-hammer'.² There are many excellent biographies and critical appraisals of his



写社会的复杂性，晚期作品则揭露社会的黑暗。但是，不管他所表现的是滑稽还是恐怖，现实还是虚幻，他的作品始终都充满力量，令人倾倒。他创造出来的“狄更斯世界”是独一无二的。

狄更斯不仅仅是一位小说家。在他 58 年的生命历程中，他取得了三四个人的合力才能取得的成就。他写过深刻的调查报告。他是一名细致入微的编辑，亲自阅读并修改投给他杂志的稿件。他是一名天才的业余演员，能把自己的作品朗诵得出神入化。他积极参与慈善及福利事业。他每天步行 10 到 15 英里。他亲手写过的信件中有 1.4 万多封至今尚存，有些长达数页，更多的则遗失了。

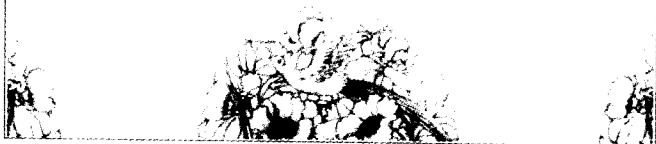
一本袖珍传记只能让我们对狄更斯有些许了解。正如他写给一个为他的小说《巴拿比·拉治》写评论的批评家所说：“目的并不在于将所有的东西统统讲出来，而是选择一些闪亮的要点并用大锤把它们敲打进书页里。”曾有过许多优秀的狄更斯传记或对其作品的评价，



work, some of them listed in the bibliography. Best of all, read Dickens himself. His novels have been a source of delight to me since I was ten years old. I shall go on reading them until I die.



有些已在后面的书目中罗列，但最好还是去读狄更斯的作品。自我 10 岁起，他的作品就是我快乐的源泉之一。我将继续阅读他的作品，直到我谢世。





Charles Dickens, by Samuel Laurence. (By courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London)

查尔斯·狄更斯，赛缪尔·劳伦斯绘。（承蒙伦敦国家肖像馆提供）



Charles Dickens's father, John Dickens. (Reproduced by courtesy of the Dickens House Museum, London)

查尔斯·狄更斯的父亲约翰·狄更斯。(承蒙伦敦狄更斯故居博物馆提供)



Charles Dickens's mother, Elizabeth Dickens. (Reproduced by courtesy of the Dickens House Museum, London)

查尔斯·狄更斯的母亲伊丽莎白·狄更斯。(承蒙伦敦狄更斯故居博物馆提供)



Catherine Dickens, at the time of her marriage. (Reproduced by courtesy of the Dickens House Museum, London)

结婚时的凯瑟琳·狄更斯。(承蒙伦敦狄更斯故居博物馆提供)



Mary Hogarth, Charles Dickens's 'angel' sister-in-law.
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Dickens House Museum, London)

玛丽·霍加斯——查尔斯·狄更斯的天使般小姨子。(承蒙伦敦狄更斯故居博物馆提供)



'My little housekeeper', Georgina Hogarth, c. 1850, by Augustus Egg.
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Dickens House Museum, London)

“我的小管家”——乔治娜·霍加斯，约 1850 年，奥古斯特·艾格绘。(承蒙伦敦狄更斯故居博物馆提供)

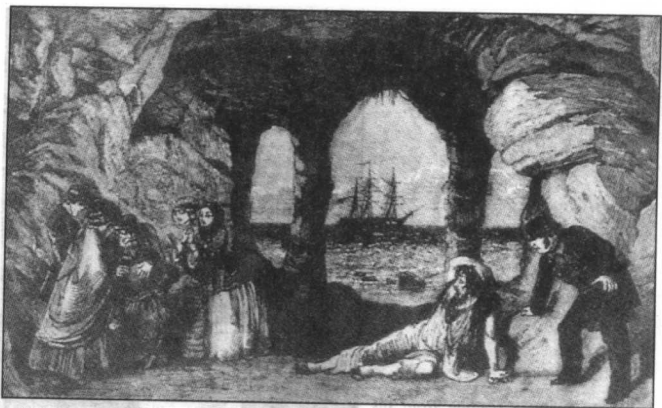


Charley, Mamie, Kate and Walter Dickens, 1842, by Daniel Maclise.
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Dickens House Museum, London)

查理、玛咪、凯特和沃尔特·狄更斯，1842年，丹尼尔·麦可利斯绘。
(承蒙伦敦狄更斯故居博物馆提供)



1842年，丹尼尔·麦可利斯绘。
查理·狄更斯、玛咪·狄更斯、凯特·狄更斯和沃尔特·狄更斯。
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Dickens as the dying hero in *The Frozen Deep*. (Reproduced by courtesy of the Dickens House Museum, London)

狄更斯在《冰天雪地》中扮演临死的英雄。(承蒙伦敦狄更斯故居博物馆提供)



Dickens's Last love, Nelly Ternan.
(v&A Picture Library)

狄更斯最后的恋人 奈莉·特南
(V 和 A 图书馆)