

英语学习

2004年

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

E.L.L.

英国“贺岁片” *Love Actually*,
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长者与海?

从人权的角度看教育权

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雏菊的报复

无处不在的那个人

外语教学与研究出版社

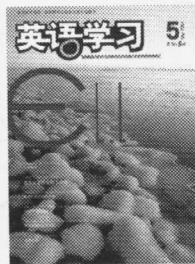
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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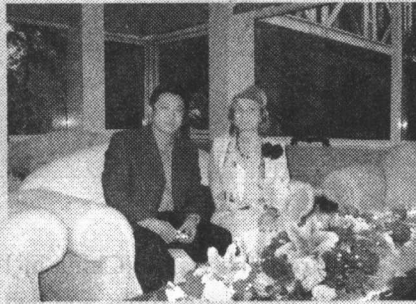
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亚历山大夫人在揭幕仪式上发言



本刊主编侯毅凌教授采访亚历山大夫人



英国驻华大使韩魁发先生

Speech by Christopher Hum, The British Ambassador 英国驻华大使韩魁发先生在揭幕仪式上的发言

Louis Alexander has made an outstanding contribution to English Language learning, and it is entirely fitting that we are here to honour him today with this statue. And I am delighted that Julia Alexander is able to be with us.

I can think of few better ways of promoting friendship and understanding among countries than by teaching and learning languages. It is more than simply memorising vocabulary and practising grammar — language skills open the door to another nation's culture and society. They are a way of reaching the heart of a country, and understanding how its citizens think, feel and express themselves.

The need for good language skills has never been greater. Over the last few decades, China's growing presence on the world stage and the globalisation of its society has stimulated an enormous appetite for language learning, especially in English. Today's gathering understands well that this is important for people from all walks of life: students, businesspeople, tourists, scientists, academics, and artists. It doesn't matter what your background is, a strong grasp of communication in another language will be a tremendous asset. I have noticed recently that many Beijing taxi-drivers are enthusiastically proving this point.

The Chinese government has made clear its commitment to English language teaching in China, particularly in the run-up to the 2008 Olympics. The Beijing city government wishes that 30% of citizens here should speak good English by the time of the Olympics. It is a sign

of how seriously English learning is taken that such determined efforts are being made.

Britain is the source of the English language, and we are a natural partner in its learning: The British Council, which is the Embassy's cultural and education section, is involved in a number of initiatives with the Ministry of Education. These involve seminars, workshops, and teacher training programmes. Teachers and schools form links and make friendships. Young people travel in both directions on summer schools and language courses. And there are British organisations, such as GAP and VSO, who send hundreds of young people each year to classrooms around the country as volunteers to help students practice their English with a native speaker.

But even the most brilliant teacher or the most dedicated student would not get very far without the help of a well-written textbook. Louis Alexander had a gift for writing in a style that engaged and captivated whole generations of English language learners in China, and around the world. *New Concept English* and *Follow Me* are two titles which will be instantly recognisable to almost any Chinese student. These are textbooks which have stood the test of time over several decades; a truly remarkable achievement.

This statue is a reminder of his contribution, and I'm sure will be a source of inspiration for those in this publishing house that continue his important work. It is another monument to Louis Alexander's achievement that, even now, his work is still able to help and encourage students all over the world. ■

Speech by Mr Li Pengyi, President of FLTRP



外语教学与研究出版社社长李朋义先生在揭幕仪式上的发言

First of all, please allow me to express my warmest welcome to all the distinguished guests on behalf of the Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press.

This is a significant occasion dedicated to the memory of Mr. Louis Alexander, the author who has cracked the linguistic code of the English language and made it learnable for millions of students worldwide through many of his works. His *New Concept English*, with its revolutionary pedagogic rationale, has proved to be a legendary and continual success in China.

My personal connection with *New Concept English* started 25 years ago, when I first began to learn the language, at the age of 23. We all know that learning a foreign language is a formidable challenge for adults. But *New Concept English* inspired my interest and built up my confidence. Even today I can still recite some passages I studied back then, though little did I expect that I would one day have the opportunity to work with the author himself.

In 1993, shortly after I took the responsibility as president of FLTRP, we made the proposal to Longman for co-publishing *New Concept English* in China. In 1995, FLTRP invited Mr. Louis Alexander for an academic visit to China and proposed to Longman for a revised edition of *New Concept English*. We invited Professor He Qixin to be the co-author of the new edition. *New Concept English New Edition* was successfully brought out in 1997, thanks to the hard work of Mr. Alexander and Professor He.

I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to accompany Mr. Alexander for more than ten days

during his visit to China in 1995. I listened to his lectures many times and had numerous discussions with him on the revision of *New Concept English*. This first contact initiated a friendship between us that was to deepen further as time went by. The better I got to know him, the greater respect I felt for Louis both as a man and as an author. I admire him for his strong sense of responsibility and impeccable professionalism. A scholar of profound learning and wisdom, he was yet so modest and tolerant. His sense of humour and respect for others made him an ideal friend one can ever dream of. We extended our range of cooperation as our friendship grew. When we met in London in April 2002, two months before he passed away, Louis was still thinking about English learners in China and making plans for our future cooperation. Our grief over his death has somewhat been alleviated by the fact that our friendship continues with Mrs Julia Alexander, who is in her own right a talented teacher and writer, and who has been carrying on the work Louis has left unfinished.

Besides the authors' contribution, we cannot really talk about *New Concept English* without mentioning Pearson Longman, our long-term partner. As a matter of fact, *New Concept English New Edition*, specially tailored for Chinese students, could not have come into being without this partnership. Over the last few years, cooperation between our two organizations have developed even further, with the tremendous support and personal effort of Mr. T.C. Goh, president of Pearson Education Asia. Cooperative projects with Pearson currently account for nearly 60 percent of FLTRP's international business. The joint inauguration of the statue of Mr. Alexander and the present visit of Mr. Will Ethridge, Mr. T.C. Goh, Mr. Golden Hong, and Mrs. Julia Alexander to FLTRP have opened up a new era in the course of our cooperation. We have full confidence that Pearson-FLTRP cooperation will continue to develop at a steady and faster pace.

On this occasion, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the British Embassy. For many





years, FLTRP has maintained very good relationship of cooperation with the British Embassy and the British Council. The Embassy assisted the establishment of the China University English Speaking Association, with its head office at FLTRP. We also jointly publish Teaching English in China, a well-recognized academic journal among professionals. The British Embassy and British Council also offer generous support to the annual FLTRP Cup National English Debating Contest. Sir Christopher attended the grand final of this year's contest in April and personally presented awards to the winners. Such cooperation has greatly helped to promote English education in China.

In the face of an increasingly integrated global economy, China is developing ever closer ties with the rest of the world. English, as the most influential international language, is gradually turning from a special skill to a required qualification for more and more people in this country. Hundreds of thousands of Chinese students have drawn inspiration from *New Concept English*, the best-recognized classical English coursebook. And many more are bound to follow suit. We can already see the emerging of a *New Concept English* industry, inclusive of textbooks, supplementary materials, multi-media products, and training programmes. One indication of this possibility is the fact that we have sold 7 million copies of NEC in the past six years.

Louis had actually predicted the growth of this new industry and all we need to do is to materialize his far-sighted vision. We have already had discussions with Mr. Ethridge, Mr. Goh, Mrs. Alexander, and Professor He Qixin on the development of this new industry.

Louis Alexander has left us a priceless legacy, *New Concept English*. It is now up to us to tap the many potentials of the work. This, I believe, is one of the best ways to commemorate the great author. ■

It is my great honour to be here today to represent my husband, Louis Alexander. I wish he could have been with us today in person — though I have to say that he is probably not very far away from us now. He would have enjoyed the occasion, and would have embraced the honour and affection that it represents. He would have wished me to express, on his behalf, his delight in the bond between China, — and some very special friends in China, — and him.

Louis' first book, *Sixty Steps to Précis*, was published, near to his 30th birthday, in 1962. He wrote it because it seemed to him to be the answer to the problem. He was seeing classes of young people who had studied English daily for seven years, and who still could not write a meaningful sentence. He applied his intellect to the problem, and wrote a book. This was the pattern of his life. *Sixty Steps to Précis* contained the seed from which a mighty tree would grow.

This was the process that drove all his work. He would analyze what the learning task required. Then, by a formidable exercise of intellect, he would organize the task into a progressive series of manageable tasks. The student simply needed to complete each assignment and work steadily towards success.

Louis was also concerned with motivation. Did the learners like English speakers enough to want to learn their language? In *New Concept English*, he presented his answer. People are motivated by what makes them happy. Everyone enjoys a story. A good story engages our curiosity, our surprise, our feelings. It engages us through our shared humanity. Louis was a man of immense charm. He had a great sense of fun and a deep spring of personal happiness. *New Concept English* charms because it is serene. Like Louis himself, his characters are funny, fallible, kind, polite, innocent at heart — never unkind, immoral or rude. Louis' learners have always loved the author's voice. This voice is the true reflection of the man.

Speech by Mrs Julia Alexander

亚历山大夫人在揭幕仪式上的发言

In *New Concept English*, Louis developed his idea that there needed to be two syllabuses working together: there was the content syllabus — what was to be taught in terms of grammar and vocabulary — and the skills syllabus — what the learners needed to do with the language. This definition of a skills syllabus led to Louis' creating the modern course-book. The book is not just a source of information. It is a pedagogic tool. The principles that he established, of intelligible page layouts, that a Lesson in the book should match a lesson in class, that every Lesson be a process of synthesizing content and skills — these principles were truly a 'new concept'. It was a pedagogic revolution that has informed textbooks in every discipline — not just in English Language Teaching.

New Concept English was published in 1967, and it swept the globe. It became the basis for training a generation of English Language teachers, from Chile to Uzbekistan. In China and elsewhere, *New Concept English* became the key to the door that opens on the English Language. In the last 30 years, millions of Chinese learners have studied *New Concept English*. Meanwhile, Louis continued to explore different ways of organizing the learning task. His work on syllabus in the 1970's led to the immensely influential *Threshold Level* for The Council of Europe, and to *Follow Me*. Then in the 1980's, Louis turned to writing reference books. The *Longman English Grammar* is the first rigorous description of English as a Foreign Language. He wrote it in answer to the question, Can you recommend a good English Grammar?

Every day of his life, Louis sat down and wrote at white heat. One of his guiding principles as a man and an author was that he would never write the same book twice. Each new publication was his considered view on some aspect of language teaching and learning. He was always seeking 'the

answer to the problem'. Throughout this time, he was also travelling worldwide, teaching, researching, lecturing — and making friends. And this brings us to China.

We had first come to China for a month in March 1981. In that month, we made many friends. Over the next 15 years, this connection developed steadily as a stable triangle: China, Louis and Longman. Longman — now part of Pearson Education — was the foremost educational publisher of the day, and as such, had partnerships with a number of academic publishers throughout China — as indeed Pearson Education does today. Of these, the most important were World Publishing of Shanghai, who first made *New Concept English* available in China, and The People's Education Press, publishers of *Junior English for China*, by Neville Grant and Louis for UNESCO. In the early 90's, we began discussions with Mr. Li Pengyi of the Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press. Mr. Li wanted to publish a new edition of *New Concept English*. While this work was going forward in collaboration with Professor He Qixin, FLTRP published many of Louis' other works as well, and the relationship flourished. Louis had a great gift for friendship. He was a loyal and affectionate friend. In Mr. Li, he met another such man. Their meetings in China and in London created a strong bond of mutual respect and confidence. They trusted each other to get things right. When *New Concept English New Edition* was published in 1997, Louis was delighted.

At the end of 1997, Louis discovered that he had leukemia (白血病). In spite of his illness, he went on working when he could, and the friendship he felt for our colleagues at FLTRP was a great source of satisfaction to him. It has been a great comfort to his family to know that he was so well understood, so well loved and so sincerely mourned here in Beijing.

I wish to thank Mr. Li Pengyi and the Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press on behalf of us all. I also thank Mr. Will Etheridge of Pearson Education U.S.A., and Mr. T.C. Goh of Pearson Education Asia for participating in this commemoration of a great author and a great man. ■





J: Julia Alexander

H: 《英语学习》主编侯毅凌教授

H: Today FLTRP has witnessed the unveiling ceremony of Mr. Alexander's statue. It is certainly an important event for you personally as his wife, as well as for all of us who have a great admiration for your late husband. I'm wondering what your reaction was to the idea of putting up a statue in China?

J: My first reaction was one of pure delight. I thought, well, it was well deserved. Mr. Li Pengyi, president of FLTRP, emailed me, um, back in, must be a year ago, and said he was thinking about putting up this statue, and what did I think about it? And I emailed back and said it was a fantastic idea! I think Louis would be thrilled, and the family would be thrilled, too. Then, in early 2003, he sent me some photographs of the statues outside the FLTRP building, and said, if I agreed, he would commission the same sculptor to do the statue of Louis. And I think the sculptor is obviously a master. So yes, I wrote back and said fine.

H: So it was Mr. Li Pengyi who first proposed the idea of doing the statue?

J: Yes, it was. He and Louis were great friends. The moment they met, they got on. I mean they

were both men with a great gift for friendship. And I suppose their friendship also had to do with their both being men who had encountered severe difficulties early in their lives, but who had achieved enormous things. It was a real mutual sympathy.

H: The dedication inscribed on the pedestal of the statue reads: "The man who cracked the linguistic code of the English language and made it learnable for millions of students worldwide through *New Concept English* and many other course books." I'm wondering who is the author of the dedication.

J: Well, in the course of conversation, I had said to Li Pengyi, "Louis cracked the linguistic code," and he picked it up. I was speaking privately, and at the time, I said a lot of other things about Louis too; but Li Pengyi picked up that phrase and put the dedication together. It expresses my view, but the words are his. Then he asked me what I thought of it for the dedication, and I just thought it was fantastic.

H: As wife and colleague, what would be your personal evaluation of Mr. Alexander's achievement?

J: He was a great man and he was a great author. If he had been an author of fiction, he would be a great author. He was born to write. But it suited him the way things turned out, that he turned out to be a linguistic author, because he loved writing, and he loved writing English language teaching materials. He loved to puzzle things out. And he was just fascinated by language. He worked very, very hard.

H: *New Concept English* has been such a success since its first publication in 1967 that it is really phenomenal and without comparison, at least in China. Could you tell us what inspired Mr. Alexander to write the book?

Interview with Mrs Julia Alexander

亚历山大夫人专访

J: Louis had intended to pursue a career in literature, I think. He studied English literature at London University and for a while at Cambridge too, and he was quite a poet. He was a published poet. He was also a great authority on Shakespeare, but it was poetry that he was particularly involved with. He thought poetry was so engrossing. And this was always in his mind. A part of his mind was always thinking about poetry. But when he did his Military Service, — it was 1954 — he was sent as a teacher to the Higher Education Centre of the British Army of the Rhine. And there, they had to get people who were going back into civilian life through their exams in a very short space of time. They had to get through Advanced Level English in six weeks. So he started to write syllabuses to get them through.

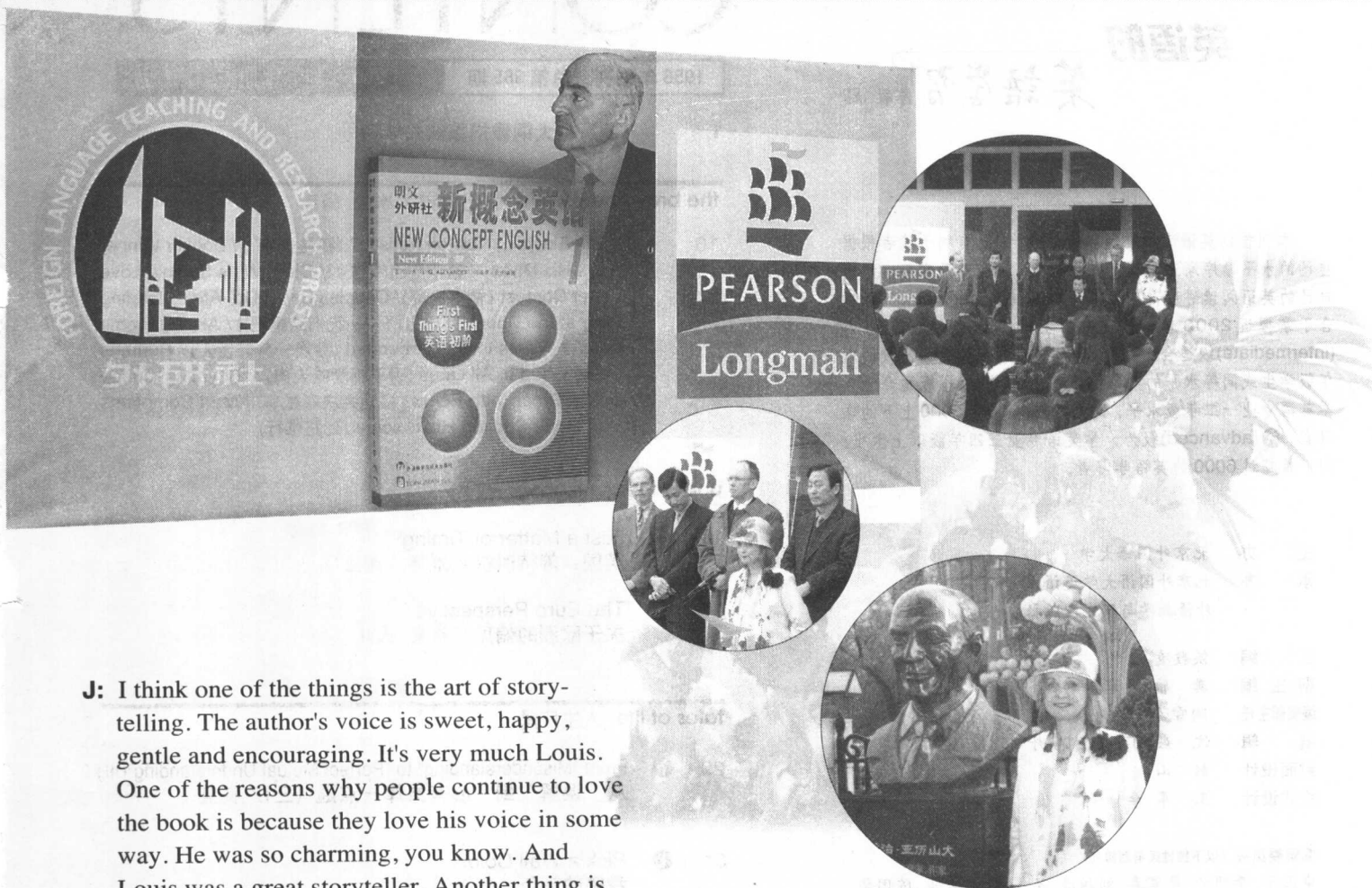
And he found that he could get them through the exam by creating the right teaching materials. He was very enthusiastic. He found he was a natural teacher. He loved the whole process. I think he had a very happy time in the Army: he learned German, he taught himself to touch-type, very fast and very accurately; and he discovered what he wanted to do in life. And then, when he came out of the army, he knew he didn't want to teach in England. Southern England was rather a miserable place in the 50's: everything was in short supply, including good weather! He really liked good weather. He had spent his childhood in Perth, Western Australia, and he missed the sunshine and the outdoor life. So he went to Athens to teach English as a Foreign Language. Within a year, he had become Head of the English Department in a school that took kids through

from the age of 4 to the age of 18. It was the best school in Athens, and had some brilliant kids. It was sending kids to British and American universities, so they needed to reach a really high level in English. He thought that the available teaching materials were pretty awful, and there was no continuity from one year to another. He hated the waste of time between classes and grades. He wanted an integrated programme that would take the kids from year to year without losing time. That just wasn't available in the stuff that was published in those days. So he decided to write the materials himself. And then a publisher heard what he was doing and came along to see, and it was Longman. They asked him to go back to England to write full time. So he went back to England. His first wife, Athina, whom he had met and married in Greece, and the two kids, who were just babies then, they all went back to Haslemere, where his parents had lived since 1945. Longman paid him an advance to finance his first three years. And he sat down and wrote *New Concept English*. The process of writing within the language constraints of a structural syllabus is very much akin to writing poetry, in the sense that, in poetry, you know, you try to say what you really mean. You have to discard anything that is extraneous and go straight to the things that matter, within as few words as possible. In a structural syllabus, you have to make sense, and be as interesting and truthful as you can, when you only have a few words and structures to play with. So Louis became an author of English language textbooks. It just happened.

H: What do you think is the key element for the long-standing success of *New Concept English* from your professional point of view as a linguist yourself? Actually I myself got seriously interested in English because of the book back in 1980 and it was really an eye-opener for me at the time.



Inauguration of the Statue of Louis G. Alexander



J: I think one of the things is the art of storytelling. The author's voice is sweet, happy, gentle and encouraging. It's very much Louis. One of the reasons why people continue to love the book is because they love his voice in some way. He was so charming, you know. And Louis was a great storyteller. Another thing is layout. I rather regret that many people have missed the point. A lot of stuff that is being produced now is careless about page layouts. For instance, you get one word at the bottom of the page and the learner has to turn over to get the rest of the sentence. I think that is not very good. It's bad editing. I rather regret the kind of crowded pages, very busy layouts that make it difficult for students to concentrate, and so cannot hold the students' attention. I think it's a misunderstanding to think that people want to study English through books that look like magazines. I think that having a tidy mind is easier if you get a tidy page. You need to be calm to learn. I think the service to the learner is to conceive the book as an artifact, and to be orderly in your approach to syllabus design and book design together. The effort involved in organizing the materials doesn't show. On the surface, it looks quite easy. I think that's good.

H: As a language teacher-trainer, what do you think of English language teaching in China?

J: English language teaching in China has undergone a revolution. It has gone forward in leaps and bounds. People have become really fluent! The number of fluent speakers there are now is really dramatic. I think that it's a very exciting time to be in China. Every time I come back to China, it seems to change almost beyond recognition. I think it's great! I love Beijing. I always had a soft spot for Beijing, ever since we first came here. We made friends here and we loved them. I love the way the country is so confident now. I'm very privileged to be here and I'm very much looking forward to coming here again, to be able to celebrate our connection in the future. ■

适合人人学习

英语的

英语学习

陈毅 题

本刊首创英语读物难度等级划分,它既有利于读者根据自己的水平循序渐进地提高英语水平,又有助于学习者把握自己的英语阅读进度,扩展有关知识。B (beginning) 级适合于掌握近 2000 单词的高中学生及广大英语学习者。I (intermediate) 级适合于拥有 3000 左右词汇的普通高校的低年级学生或同等水平的英语学习者。C (college) 级适合于大学英语专业一二年级水平,词汇量在 4000 至 5000 上下的学习者。A (advanced) 级为大学英语专业三四年级以上水平,词汇量超过 6000 的英语学习者。

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(江苏宿迁 陈云): 从孩提时代起我就在父亲的影响下开始接触《英语学习》, 它陪伴我从高中、大学、研究生一路走过来, 让我了解外面的精彩世界。看一看这十几年订的《英语学习》, 内容一天比一天精彩, 真是一本令人百读不厌、常看常新的杂志。

每到“年尾接年头”的时候, ELL 的编辑们就格外忙, 总结一年的得失, 看看来年有哪些地方需要改进、调整; 当然, 还有拆阅每到此时便激增的读者来信, 从读者的鼓励中吸取精神力量, 让我们的 ELL 更加精彩。

本年度 ELL 内容上作了一些调整, 从本期起, 杜子华主持的“好台词”栏目转移至《英语学习》系列读物之一的《阳光英语》中。不过杜子华又推出了新的栏目“子华书摘”, 与读者朋友们分享“读书”的感悟和“行动”的力量。

声 明

我编辑部每半年出版的《英语学习》合订本因内容丰富、便于收藏而深得读者青睐。近日, 国内某些图书市场中出现了盗版《英语学习》合订本, 盗版用纸粗糙、质量低劣, 不但严重损害了广大读者的利益, 也损害了《英语学习》的声誉。《英语学习》编辑部始终坚持为读者提供优质精神产品的出版方针, 绝不会出版质量如此低劣的书刊, 希望广大读者明辨真伪, 拒绝盗版。正版《英语学习》合订本为国际流行大 16 开本, 以与《英语学习》月刊相同的淡绿色环保视纸精印, 请读者们留意。同时我们也期望广大关爱《英语学习》的读者向我们举报有关盗版图书的线索, 你们的支持将令我们衷心感激。

为方便广大读者购买本刊合订本, 在此我们将编辑部收存的少量 2002 年 7—12 期及 2003 年 1—6 期合订本优惠出售, 读者可以汇款到本编辑部邮购。

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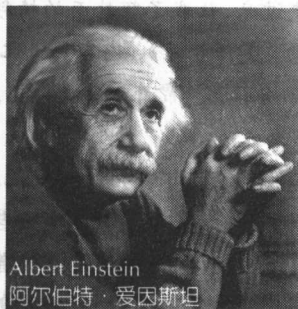
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《英语学习》编辑部

■冰尘 编译

孤独天才？

Were Einstein, Newton Autistic?



Albert Einstein and Isaac Newton were geniuses but British scientists believe they may have suffered from Asperger syndrome — a form of autism. The condition, first described by Viennese physician Hans Asperger in 1944, is a disorder that causes deficiencies in social and communication skills and obsessive interests. But it does not affect learning or intellect and many people with AS have exceptional talents or skills. Although it is impossible to make a definitive diagnosis in people who are dead, Simon Baron-Cohen of Cambridge University and Ioan James of Oxford University studied the personalities of Einstein and Newton to see if the two scientists had symptoms of AS. "Newton seems a classic case. He hardly spoke, was so engrossed in his work that he often forgot to eat, and was lukewarm or bad-tempered with the few friends he had," *New Scientist* magazine said. Baron-Cohen said Einstein was also a loner and as a child he repeated sentences obsessively. Although Einstein made friends and spoke out on political issues, Baron-Cohen suspects he showed signs of Asperger syndrome. "Passion, falling in love and standing up for justice are all perfectly compatible with Asperger syndrome," he told the weekly science magazine. "What most people with AS find difficult is casual chatting — they can't do small talk." But Glen Elliott, a

psychiatrist at the University of California, said geniuses can be socially inept and impatient with other people without being autistic. "Impatience with the intellectual slowness of others, narcissism and passion for one's mission in life might combine to make such an individual isolative and difficult," he told the magazine. Baron-Cohen said he hopes the research can improve understanding of Asperger syndrome and make life easier for people who suffer from the condition.

阿尔伯特·爱因斯坦和伊萨克·牛顿都是天才，但英国科学家们认为他们也可能患有埃斯伯格综合症——孤独症的一种形式。1944年，维也纳医生汉斯·埃斯伯格首次发现了这种病症，它是一种会导致社交困难及强迫性兴趣的精神异常。但是，这种病不会影响智力和学习，许多患者还具有特殊的天赋或才能。尽管对已故者进行确切诊断是件不可能的事情，但是剑桥大学的西蒙·巴龙-科恩以及牛津大学的伊翁·詹姆斯还是对爱因斯坦和牛顿的个性进行了分析，目的是确定他们是否患有埃斯伯格综合症。《新科学家》杂志说：“牛顿似乎是个典型病例。他几乎不说话，对工作痴迷到了经常忘记吃饭的地步。而对于仅有的几个朋友，他的态度既冷淡又暴戾。”巴龙-科恩说，爱因斯坦也是一个孤独的人，他小时候总是不由自主地重复一些句子。尽管爱因斯坦交了一些朋友，并在政治问题上畅所欲言，巴龙-科恩仍然怀疑他有埃斯伯格综合症的迹象。他对前述的科学周刊说：“激情、堕入爱河以及坚持正义与埃斯伯格综合症之间绝无矛盾之处，大部分患者的问题在于随意地谈天——他们不会闲聊。”但加利福尼亚大学的精神病学家格林·爱略特认为，天才本来就可能欠缺社交能力和对他人的耐性，不一定是因为孤独症。他对杂志说：“对他人智力迟钝的不耐烦、自恋以及对个人终生使命的激情，三者合一就可能使一个人变得孤立和难以相处。”巴龙-科恩说，他希望自己的研究能增进人们对埃斯伯格综合症的了解，并让罹患此病的人生活更加轻松。

Remarks: 所谓无与伦比，所谓盖世无双，其中都暗含一个“独”字——孤独可说是成为天才的必要条件（不是充分条件，而且代价不菲，所以大家不必急于自我陶醉）。

觉今是而昨非

Booker Winner Pays His Dues

The penitent Man Booker prize¹ winner DBC Pierre, aka² Peter Finlay, has made good his vow to begin to repay the artist he swindled out of his home. The colourful author of the comic novel *Vernon God Little*, which won the £ 50,000 prize from under the nose of Monica Ali's highly fancied *Brick Lane*³, has paid the first £ 3,000 instalment of the £ 42,000 he has agreed to repay Robert Lenton. The elderly American painter lost his home to Finlay, who confessed that he had "burned" the man who regarded him as his "best friend" to pay his drug and gambling debts. The moment he picked up the winner's cheque, a repentant Finlay, 42, said it would go straight to his creditors, adding that since so many had waited more than 15 years for their money he should pay double. Mr Lenton, who forgives Finlay, said the first tranche had arrived. "I am sure the rest will follow," he said. "I've talked to Peter and I think he has turned his life around. He wants to make it up to me by helping to find a market for my paintings." But Lenton's family are still furious with the man they accuse of destroying their father's health and leaving him penniless and destitute.

1. Man Booker prize: 曼·布克图书奖, 为英国最具声望、奖金也最高的年度图书奖。彼得·芬雷获得了2003年的布克奖, DBC·皮埃尔是他的笔名。
2. aka: also known as的略写。
3. Monica Ali的小说*Brick Lane*也进入了2003年布克奖决选名单。*Brick Lane*是伦敦东部一个亚洲人聚集的餐饮商业区。

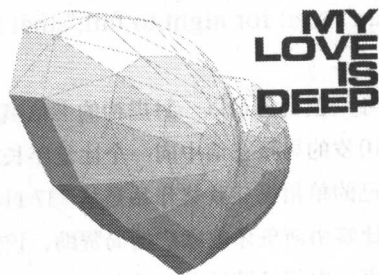
又名彼得·芬雷的曼·布克图书奖获得者DBC·皮埃尔幡然悔悟, 他实践了自己的诺言, 开始对曾被诈骗走居所的艺术家的进行补偿。经验丰富的皮埃尔是喜剧小说《弗农·上帝·利特尔》的作者, 该书从莫妮卡·阿里广受欢迎的《砖巷市集》眼皮底下夺走了奖额5万英镑的布克奖。他允诺赔偿罗伯特·伦顿4万2千英镑, 目前已支付了首期的3千英镑。年老的美国艺术家罗伯特·伦

顿被芬雷骗去了住所, 后者承认他为购买毒品及偿还赌债而“欺骗”了视自己为“知己”的伦顿。42岁的芬雷对自己的作为悔恨不已, 在拿到奖金支票时当即宣布会把这些钱直接还给债主。他还说, 许多人等他还债已经等了超过15年, 因此他应该双倍偿还。伦顿原谅了芬雷, 并说他已经收到了首期还款。“我相信剩余部分也会如期而至,”他说。“我跟彼得谈过, 我认为他已经改邪归正。他打算帮我的画找买主, 以此补偿以往的过失。”但伦顿的家人却仍然愤愤不平, 他们认为芬雷损坏了父亲的健康, 并令他一贫如洗。

Remarks: 浪子回头金不换, 能坦然面对过去确实难得。只是得奖才想起还钱, 未免有点“仓廪实而知礼节”的味道。

情书比赛

Clerk Wins Spain's Love Letter Contest



A Spanish civil servant has won a love letter contest with an imaginary missive in which a secret admirer aged 10 declares himself to the older girl of his dreams. The award announced from among 237 entries was sponsored by Spanish National Radio's bureau in Cuenca, a scenic town in central Spain which UNESCO has classified as a world cultural heritage site. The nationwide contest is in its 11th year, and the first prize carries a stipend of \$1,650. Bureau chief Jose Luis Munoz said the competition aimed to keep romance alive in an age in which cold, faceless technology rules. "With so many messages being written with cell phones, people hardly ever write love letters any

more," Munoz said from Cuenca. In the winning letter, penned by Rocio Diaz Gomez, a 36-year-old employee of Spain's environment ministry, a boy named David writes to Vanesa, two grades ahead of him in school, introducing himself — "You don't know me, but..." — and confiding that Christmas vacation without seeing her was torture. "I thought it would never end," David writes. "Wanting to go back to school is something I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy." Diaz Gomez said the letter was inspired by her young nephews. "I guess it's a question of listening to them and hearing how they think," she said. Munoz said that several years ago, in another category of the contest — love letters drawing on Cuenca's history — the winner was a letter simulating one from a 16th century Dominican monk carrying on an affair with a cloistered nun. They'd rendezvous in Cuenca's old quarter in secret underground passages. "My love, I can't wait for night to fall," that letter read.

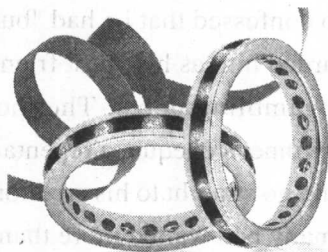
西班牙一位公务员以一封虚构的书信赢得了情书比赛，一个10岁的男孩在信中向一个比他年长的梦中女孩表白了自己的单相思。获奖作品是从237封参赛信件中选出的。比赛由西班牙国家广播局赞助，该局位于风景如画的西班牙中部城镇昆卡，后者已被联合国教科文组织列为世界文化遗产。这一全国性比赛已经举办到了第11届，第一名可获得1,650美元的津贴。广播局主管何塞·路易斯·慕诺斯说，比赛的目的是让浪漫在这个被冷酷、贫乏的科技所统治的时代里葆有青春。慕诺斯在昆卡说：“手机信息泛滥成灾，人们几乎再也不写情书了。”36岁的西班牙环境部职员罗西奥·迪亚斯·戈麦斯赢得了比赛，获奖作品是一个名叫大卫的男孩给比自己高两个年级的女孩瓦妮萨写的信。大卫在信中这样介绍自己——“你不认识我，但是……”，并把见不到她的圣诞假期描述为一场苦刑。“我觉得它长得没有尽头，”大卫写道。“返校的期待如此焦灼，对最可恨的敌人我也不会下这样的诅咒。”迪亚斯·戈麦斯说这封信的灵感来自她年幼的侄甥们。她说：“我想，关键是要去倾听他们的心声。”慕诺斯说，几年前的另一种情书比赛——以昆卡

历史为背景的情书比赛——的获奖作品是一封以一个16世纪多明我会修士的口气写下的情书。这个修士与一个修女发生了恋情，他们在昆卡旧城中的地道里幽会。信中写道：“我爱，我等不及夜幕降临。”

Remarks: 浪漫实在是没有效率，所以现实中我们更容易看到这样的句子：“漫长的等待如此焦灼，最坚强的我也无法忍受——我看我们还是算了吧。”

证已上门——我们结婚吧！

Couples Say "I Do" After Wedding Ring at the Door



Conservative Vietnam, alarmed by nearly a million unmarried cohabiting couples, is offering wedding licenses door to door to make it easier for people to tie the knot. Vietnam, with a population of 80 million, had an estimated 929,319 unmarried couples living together in 2002, according to a nationwide survey. So far this year, the "fast-track" mobile licensing and propaganda campaigns had persuaded 420,982 couples to get hitched, state media reported. "Cohabitation before marriage is totally unacceptable now and always will be," said Pham Thi Thuy Huong, from the non-government Vietnam Family Planning Association.

将近100万对未婚同居者令保守的越南惶恐不安，政府于是把结婚证送上家门，促使这些人赶紧结婚。根据全国性调查的结果，拥有8000万人口的越南在2002年有929,319对未婚同居者。官方媒体报道，到今年这个时候为止，“高速跑道”流动办证服务以及宣传活动已经劝服了其中420,982对喜结良缘。非官方组织越南计划生育

协会的范提苏洪说：“婚前同居现在是完全不能接受的事情，将来也不会得到认可。”

Remarks: 这证实了一件事情：婚姻对许多现代人来说只是一张纸，送上门来就拿着，不送上门呢——日子还是一样的地过。

涂炭一身警世人

Animal Rights Leader Wants to Be Barbecued



The leader of a prominent U.S.-based animal rights group said she had drawn up a will directing that her flesh be barbecued and her skin used to make leather products in protest at man's ill-treatment of animals. Ingrid Newkirk, 53, president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), said she had chosen to donate her body to her organization for use in a variety of startling protests. Newkirk also suggested her feet be removed and made into umbrella stands similar to those made from elephant feet that she had seen as a child. "I want to find ways to have my work live on when I'm gone and this has been my first idea. I will make a stir when I am long in the ground," Newkirk told reporters. A PETA spokesman said Newkirk held British and U.S. citizenship and a copy of her will would be kept in both countries. In the document she also suggests her liver be vacuum-packed and sent to France to be used in a campaign to persuade shoppers not to buy foie gras, made from the livers of ducks and

geese. "We are in the business of getting people to think about what happens to animals," she said. "When they go to the grocery store and buy foie gras in a tin, there is absolutely no thought of the geese. If my liver makes people talk about the issues then some good will come of it." Newkirk said she had not heard of anyone making similar arrangements in their will. "We hope it will start a trend," she said. But one body part listed in the will is not protest or animal related. It says a small part of her heart should be buried near the Hockenheim Formula One racing circuit in Germany, preferably near the Ferrari pits. "I love Formula One. I love Michael Schumacher, and I thought I would have a little bit of personal indulgence there," she said. "But it's not without a connection to animals because he actually signed a letter for us against experiments on monkeys in Germany."

美国一个著名动物权利保护组织的领袖说，她已经立下遗嘱，要求用她的遗体做烧烤并用她的皮来制作皮具，以此抗议人类对动物的不公对待。人道对待动物协会（PETA）会长、53岁的英格里德·纽刻尔克说，她决定将遗体捐给组织，俾之用于一系列惊人的抗议活动。纽刻尔克还建议把自己的脚砍下来做伞托，她在孩提时曾见过用象脚做成的同类物事。她对记者说：“我希望找出在身后继续工作的方法，而这是我的第一个念头。在长眠地下之时，我要引起轰动。”PETA的一位发言人说，纽刻尔克拥有英美两国国籍，其遗嘱副本将在两国保存。在遗嘱中，纽刻尔克还提议把自己的肝真空包装后送往法国，用于开展劝阻人们购买鹅肝酱的宣传活动，后者是由鹅鸭肝脏制成。“我们的职责是让人们思考动物的处境，”她说。“在去食品店买听装鹅肝酱的时候，他们肯定没有想到过鹅。如果我的肝能让人们谈论这个问题，那将会对此有所帮助。”纽刻尔克说她还没听说有谁在遗嘱中进行过类似的安排。“我们希望这会开风气之先，”她说。不过，遗嘱中也列出了一个与抗议或动物无关的遗体部分。其中写道，纽刻尔克的一小部分心脏将被葬在德国的霍根海姆一级方程式赛道附近，最好离法拉利修