

英汉对照

红茶坊名著欣赏

欧·亨利
短篇小说精选

*The Best Short Stories
of O. Henry*

田艳 编译

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前 言

中国英语学习者一直在被称为“考试文化”的怪圈中徘徊。虽然花费了大量的时间和精力,但许多英语学习者的英语能力只停留在应付各种考试的水平上,另有一些英语学习者甚至连考试都望而生畏,就更谈不上以英语为工具进行交际了。即使许多英语学习者通过了某种考试,其交际能力仍然有限,在很多场合他们仍会不知所措。

造成以上局面的主要原因在于许多英语学习者很少阅读文学作品,没有受西方文化的熏陶,对西方社会习俗及人文知识知之甚少。

语言是文化的载体。文学作品历来被誉为语言的经典。要想真正学好英语,就必须阅读优秀的文学作品。然而,由于受英语水平的影响和时间的限制,中国英语学习者很难欣赏英文文学原著,从而在某种程度上限制了英语学习者学习英语的积极性和英语水平的提高。

为了提高广大英语学习者的英语学习兴趣及社会文化修养,我们上海交通大学外语学院几名酷爱外国文学的教授、副教授特精心遴选、编写了这套《红茶坊名著欣赏》。我们用简单而又不失原作风格的英语,配以文笔流畅的汉语译文,向读者展示了这几位世界顶级作家独具特色和风格的短篇小说的魅力,以期读者在学习英语语言的同时熟悉其历史背景、政治演变、经济发展;了解其社会习俗、人文心理及价值观念;品味人生,增强自己对人生意义的感悟,提高文学修养和人文素质。

相信读者在读完本套丛书后,会心悦诚服地同意我们以上的观点!

编 译 者

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第三种配料

O. Henry

(1862-1910)

O. Henry was the pen name of the American short story writer William Sydney Porter, who was born in Greensboro, NC, in 1862. A productive writer in his later years, O. Henry wrote some 600 short stories which were published in 1917 in 14 volumes.

Porter was brought up by an aunt in Greensboro, where, at the age of fifteen, he went to work in an uncle's drugstore. Five years later he developed a cough which indicated the start of tuberculosis (肺炎). Because of his health, he was invited by friends to Austin, Texas, where he first worked as a druggist, later as a draftsman and finally as a teller in the First National Bank. He married in 1887 and his wife gave birth to a daughter in 1889. Porter supplemented (补贴) his work at the bank, a demanding but unfulfilling job, with work on a weekly humor paper he owned, called *The Rolling Stone*.

Because of the troubles that came one after the other, he resigned his post at the bank and left for Houston, where he worked for the *Houston Post*. It was at this time that he was ordered to come back to Austin to stand trial for embezzlement (挪用公款). It was presumed he would have been pardoned (赦免), because the shortage discovered in his accounts at the bank was likely due to bad bookkeeping rather than criminal intent.

However, while making a train connection from Houston to Austin for the trial, he decided to board a train heading in the other direction. Leaving his wife and child in Houston, he made his way to New Orleans, where he unloaded banana boats. He eventually ended up in Honduras(洪都拉斯) and South America consorting(勾结) with famous criminals; In fact, his travels were funded by the \$ 30,000 proceeds from a robbery committed by one of them. These two years on the run provided the initial fuel for his stories.

In 1897, after learning of his wife's serious illness, Henry returned to Austin knowing that it meant a prison term. His wife died that year, and in March of 1898 he was sentenced to five years in prison in Columbus, Ohio. During his term he began his serious writing. He'd used a score of pen names in his career to this point, but his favorite was borrowed from Orrin Henry, a prison guard.

After his release, he headed to New York City, where he worked as a journalist. The collection of colorful characters in his writing was enhanced by O. Henry's habit of wandering the streets and parks, talking to people of all conditions. He wrote sixty-five short stories in 1904 alone, and fifty the next year including *The Gift Of The Magi*. A remarkable feat in itself, his output is even more amazing considering that he worked under the influence—an average daily consumption of two quarts of whiskey. His one venture into theatre, *Lo*, written in 1909 was not a success. He remarried in 1907, but his bride was short-lived: he died penniless, of tuberculosis complicated by

alcoholism and diabetes (酒精中毒和糖尿病) on June 5, 1910 in New York City at the age of forty-seven.

O. Henry's popularity reached its height after his death. His writing was seen as straightforward and simple, written in the plain language of his readers. His stories may rely on a sameness of plot, but the sharp, unexpected twist at the end (as in *The Gift Of The Magi*) is still his distinctive trademark today. Critics have singled out O. Henry as one of the greatest American short story writers—describing him as a “writer’s writer” who also possesses universal appeal. A critic traveling early in the century fell into a conversation with a Midwest farmer. When asked if he ever read O. Henry, the farmer replied, “Professor, that’s literature; that’s REAL literature.”

欧·亨利

(1862-1910)

欧·亨利是美国短篇小说家威廉·西德尼·波特的笔名。他于1862年出生于美国北卡罗来纳州的格林斯堡(Greensboro)。他晚年是位多产作家,写了600多部短篇小说,于1917年分14卷出版。

波特从小由姨妈带大,15岁就开始在格林斯堡一个叔叔开的药店工作。五年之后,他咳嗽发展成为肺结核。因为身体状况不佳,被朋友邀请到了得克萨斯州的奥斯汀,在那里他先后做过药剂师、绘图员和第一国家银行出纳。他于1887年结婚,妻子在1889年生了一个女儿。为了贴补家用,他继续他那要求既高又没有成就感的银行出纳工作,但同时他还拥有自己的一份幽默杂志叫《滚石》。

由于银行的工作给他带来了无穷的麻烦,他辞了工作去了休斯敦,为休斯敦邮报工作。就在这段时间,他被奥斯汀方面传讯控告挪用公款。据推测,他会被赦免,因为他经手的账还没有做好,而没有犯罪企图。然而,在从休斯敦转车到奥斯汀受审的途中,他却上了开往另一方向的火车。把妻子和孩子撇在了休斯敦,他去了新奥尔良,在那里他靠给香蕉船卸货为生。最终他在洪都拉斯和南美结交了著名的犯罪团伙。事实上,他的旅费是由这伙罪犯的一次价值三万美元的抢劫的收益赞助的。而这两年的逃亡生活为他的短篇小说提供了最初的素材。

1897年当得知他的妻子病重的时候,他回到了奥斯汀,结果被捕。他的妻子不久就去世了。1898年3月他被判5年监禁,在俄亥俄州的哥伦布监狱坐牢。就是在这段时间里,他开始了严肃的创作。他用了许多笔名,但他最喜欢的笔名还是借用一个狱

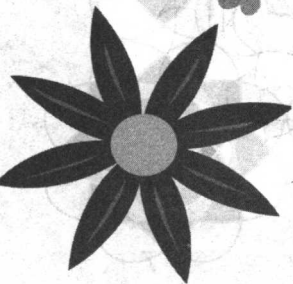
卒的名字，叫欧里·亨利。


他出狱后，去了纽约，在那里做了记者。他作品中那形形色色的人物与他习惯于在街上和公园里与各种各样的人聊天分不开。1904年一年里他就写了65部短篇小说，第二年又写了50部，其中包括《麦琦的礼物》。这些本身就是了不起的成就，但如果把他每天要喝两品脱威士忌考虑进去就更令人吃惊了。他于1909年尝试创作的戏剧《北美印第安人》并不很成功。他于1907年再次结婚，但他的新娘很短命。1910年6月5日47岁时，他死于肺结核并发酒精中毒和糖尿病，身无分文地在纽约离开了人间。

欧·亨利的名声在他去世后达到了顶峰。他的写作风格直截了当而且简洁，采用了读者的朴素的方言。他的故事可能依据同样的情节，但在末尾那尖锐、出乎意外的转折（像在《麦琦的礼物》里）今天仍然是他作品独特的标志。评论界认为欧·亨利是美国最伟大的短篇小书家之一，把他称为“作家的作家”，享誉全球。有一位评论家本世纪初在中西部旅行时，遇到了一位农夫。当农夫被问道是否读过欧·亨利的作品时，农夫回答说：“教授，那是文学，那是真正的文学。”

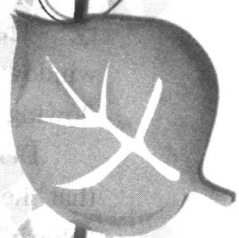



「作品 导读」





两个热爱艺术的年轻人在纽约相遇后，一下子被爱情所俘虏，并很快结了婚。婚后，酷爱绘画的丈夫去听昂贵的绘画课，憧憬着未来成为大画家；酷爱音乐的妻子也去上名师的音乐课，编织着成为音乐家的美梦。但由于学费昂贵，他们又无经济来源，浪漫的生活很快便戛然而止。妻子为了能让丈夫继续学习，牺牲自己去挣钱，虽然干的是体力活，但怕丈夫伤心，竟编造了一个美丽的谎言；谁知深爱着她的丈夫也不谋而合地做出了同样的牺牲。



A Service of Love

When one loves one's Art, no service seems too hard.

That is our premise^①. This story shall draw a conclusion from it, and show at the same time that the premise is incorrect. That will be a new thing in logic, and a feat^② in story-telling somewhat older than the great wall of China.

Joe came out of the flats of the Middle West, with a genius for pictorial art^③. At six he drew a picture of the town pump with a prominent^④ citizen passing it in a hurry. This picture was framed and hung in the drug store window of the town. At 20, he left for New York with a flowing tie and a capital tied up somewhat closer.

Delia was so good at music in a village in the South that her relatives collected enough money for her to go "North" and "finish". They could not see her f—, but that is our story.

Joe and Delia met in a studio where a number of art and music students had gathered to discuss Wagner^⑤, music, Rembrandt's^⑥ works, pictures, Waldteufel^⑦, wallpaper, Chopin^⑧ and Oolong^⑨.

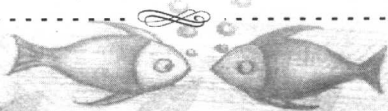
Joe and Delia fell in love with each other, and in a short time were married—for when one loves one's Art, no service seems too hard.

1. premise 前提

2. feat 技艺, 壮举

3. pictorial art 绘画艺术

4. prominent 卓越的, 显著的



爱的牺牲



当一个人热爱他的艺术时，就没有什么做不到的牺牲。

这是我们的前提。这篇故事将从中得出一个结论，同时证明这个前提是不正确的。从逻辑学的角度来看，这是一件新鲜事，但从文学的观点出发，却是一件比中国的万里长城还要古老的壮举。

乔来自中西部的公寓，浑身充满着绘画艺术的天赋。他6岁时就画了一幅镇上抽水机的画，抽水机旁边画了一个匆匆走过去的、有声望的居民。这件作品被配上画框，挂在镇上药房的橱窗里。20岁时，他来到纽约，系着一条飘逸的领带和一只紧贴身体，装满资金的荷包。

德丽雅生长在南方一个小村庄，她非常擅长音乐，以致亲戚们给她凑了一笔足够的款子，让她到北方去“深造”。他们没能看到她成——这就是我们要讲的故事。

乔和德丽雅在一个画室里见了面，许多研究艺术和音乐的学生经常聚在那里，讨论瓦格纳、音乐、伦勃朗的作品、绘画、瓦尔特杜弗、墙纸设计、肖邦、奥朗。

乔和德丽雅坠入爱河，并很快就结了婚——当一个人热爱他的艺术时，就没有什么做不到的牺牲。



-
5. Wagner 瓦格纳(1813-1883),德国作曲家,毕生致力于歌剧的改革与创新,作品有《漂泊的荷兰人》、《纽伦堡歌手》等。
 6. Rembrandt 伦勃朗(1606-1669),荷兰画家,擅长运用明暗对比,讲究构图的完美,尤其善于表现人物的神情和性格特征,作品有《夜巡》、《浪子回家》、《老人坐像》等。
 7. Waldteufel 瓦尔特杜弗(1837-1915),法国作曲家。
 8. Chopin 肖邦(1810-1849),波兰作曲家,钢琴家,1831年后定居法国。作品具有浪漫主义的本质和古典主义的特点,表现了本人及其祖国的悲剧性经历。
 9. Oolong 奥朗,中国乌龙茶。

Mr. and Mrs. Joe began housekeeping in a flat. It was a lonesome¹⁰ flat. And they were happy; for they had their Art, and they had each other. And my advice to the rich young man would be—sell all you have, and give it to the poor-doorkeeper for the special right of living in a flat with your Art and your Delia.

People who live in the flat shall agree on my idea that theirs is the only true happiness. If a home is happy it cannot fit too close—let the dresser become a billiard¹¹ table; let the shelf above the fireplace turn to a rowing machine, the desk to a spare bed, the washstand¹² to a piano; let the four walls come together, if they will, so you and your Delia are between. But if home be the other kind, let it be wide and long—enter you at the Golden Gate¹³, hang your hat on Hatteras¹⁴, your cape on Cape Horn¹⁵ and go out by the Labrador¹⁶.

Joe was painting in the class of the great Magister—you know his fame. His fees are high; his lessons are light—his high-lights¹⁷ have brought him renown. Delia was studying under Rosenstock—you know his reputation as a disturber of the piano keys.

They were extremely happy as long as their money lasted. So is every—but I will not be cynical¹⁸. Their aims were very clear and defined. Joe was to become capable very soon of turning out pictures that old gentlemen with thick wallets would crowd into his studio to buy. Delia was to become familiar and then contemptuous¹⁹ with Music, so that when she saw the orchestra seats and boxes unsold she could have sore throat and lobster in a private dining-room and refuse to go on the stage.

乔夫妇在一套公寓里开始了家庭生活。那是一套寂静的公寓。他们很幸福,因为他们有自己的艺术,又有对方。我对富有的年轻人的忠告是——卖掉所有的东西,把钱施舍给贫穷的看门人以取得与你的艺术以及你的德丽雅一起住在公寓里的权利。

住在公寓里的人一定都赞成我的论断,他们的生活是惟一真正快乐的生活。只要家庭幸福,房间小点又有何妨——用梳妆台作撞球桌;用壁炉架作划船机;用桌子作临时床,用洗脸架作钢琴;如果可能的话,让四堵墙壁围拢过来,好让你和你的德丽雅呆在其中。可若是家庭不幸,随它怎么宽敞——你从金门进去,把帽子挂在哈得拉斯,把披肩挂在合恩角,然后穿过拉布拉多出去,也无济于事。

乔在伟大的马杰斯脱——各位都知道他的声望——的班上作画。他的学费昂贵;课程轻松——他的贵与松给他带来了声望。德丽雅在罗森斯托克指导下学习,各位也知道他是一位出了名的专找钢琴键盘麻烦的家伙。

只要钱没用完,他们的生活是极其幸福的。人人如此——算了吧,我不愿意说愤世嫉俗的话。他们的目标非常清楚明确。乔很快就会非常能干能有画问世,那些钱袋厚实的老先生们,就要争先恐后地涌进他的画室来抢购他的作品。德丽雅很快就能熟谙音乐,然后对它满不在乎,如果看到音乐厅里的座位和包厢还未坐满的话,她可以借口喉痛,在私人餐厅里吃龙虾而拒绝登台演出。



10. lonesome 寂寞的

11. billiard 撞球

12. washstand 洗脸架

13. Golden Gate 金门,美国加利福尼亚州圣弗朗西斯科湾的湾口,西通太平洋。

14. Hatteras 哈得拉斯,美国北卡罗来纳州海岸的海峡,与英语中的“帽架”谐音。

15. Cape Horn 合恩角,智利南端海峽,与英语“衣架”谐音。

16. Labrador 拉布拉多,哈得逊湾与圣劳伦斯湾之间的半岛,与英语“边门”谐音。

17. high-lights 原指“最精彩的部分”,此处指“学费昂贵,课程轻松”。

18. cynical 愤世嫉俗的,玩世不恭的

19. contemptuous 轻蔑的