

英语休闲阅读系列

陈媛媛 夏 萌 主编



湖北教育出版社
HUBEI EDUCATION PRESS

英语休闲阅读系列

体育竞技场

Sports
Field



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编者
夏萌 陈媛媛
钟文 王明静
夏令

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前言

在很多人看来,学习英语是繁琐和了无生趣的。比较基础的英语在老师的指导和敦促下,我们还能勉为其难地学一学,但想把自己的英语水平向“高深”方向发展——特别是在脱离了学校教育以后——往往“难于上青天”。

一切问题的根源在于你对正在学习的英语内容是否有兴趣。兴趣会让你的英语学习事半功倍;而缺乏兴趣使英语学习重归枯燥。

什么主题的英语材料能激起你的兴趣呢?怎样将你的兴趣点和英语学习结合起来呢?

如果你是体育迷:你时时为齐达内华丽的脚法和乔丹坚毅的眼神所折服;时时对 NBA 的挡拆防守和足球场上的反越位充满疑问……

如果你是影视迷:你欣赏汤姆·汉克斯的平凡中现卓越和布拉德·彼得的英俊中见率真;你赞叹 Titanic 场面的宏大和 Star War:Episode 1 构思的奇幻……

如果你是音乐迷:你喜欢伴着古典和现代舞曲翩翩起舞;你喜欢就着朋克和饶舌音乐浮一大白……

如果你同时还想学习地道的英文。

《英语休闲阅读》丛书(体育篇、影视篇、音乐篇三本)将满足你的愿望:得一闲暇,放下手中的报纸和鼠标,读一读这三本书,相信你在兴趣点和英语学习方面都会有所斩获。

编者

2005 年 6 月

目 录 CONTENTS

Chapter 1

General Sports 运动总论

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Development of Athletics | 1 |
| 运动的发展 | |
| 2. How Did the Olympic Games Get Started? | 4 |
| 奥运会是如何开始的? | |
| 3. The Olympic Games: Past and Present | 7 |
| 古今奥运会比较 | |
| 4. Dancing Beijing: 2008 Olympics Has Logo | 10 |
| 欢舞北京:2008 年奥运会会徽已定 | |
| 5. Sports and Games in Ancient India | 13 |
| 古印度的运动和比赛 | |
| 6. Amateur Competitions and History of Soccer | 17 |
| 足球的历史和业余联赛 | |

Chapter 2

Ball Games 球类运动

- | | |
|---|----|
| 7. American Football | 21 |
| 美式足球 | |
| 8. World-famous Soccer | 25 |
| 闻名于世的足球 | |
| 9. An Introduction to Basketball | 30 |
| 篮球简介 | |
| 10. Volleyball: America-originated | 33 |
| 排球:起源于美国 | |
| 11. Badminton: A Derivation from Tennis | 36 |
| 羽毛球:变体自网球 | |
| 12. Noble Sports—Tennis | 40 |
| 贵族运动——网球 | |
| 13. Noble Sports—Golf | 44 |
| 贵族运动——高尔夫球 | |

-
- | | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| 14. Table Tennis Popular in Asia | 47 |
| 乒乓球风靡亚洲 | |

Chapter 3

Track And Field 田径运动

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 15. History of Track and Field | 49 |
| 田径运动的历史 | |
| 16. Running Events | 52 |
| 跑类比赛 | |
| 17. Jumping Events | 55 |
| 跳跃比赛 | |
| 18. Throwing Events | 58 |
| 投掷比赛 | |
| 19. History of Swimming | 61 |
| 游泳的历史 | |

Chapter 4

Other Games 其他运动

- | | |
|--|----|
| 20. Diving, Difficulty or Stability? | 65 |
| 跳水, 难度还是稳定性更重要? | |
| 21. Peculiarly Spanish Sports—Bullfighting | 69 |
| 西班牙独有的运动——斗牛 | |

Chapter 5

Famous Sportsmen 运动名将

- | | |
|---|----|
| 22. Air Jordan—Michael Jordan | 73 |
| 飞人乔丹 | |
| 23. Chairman Yao: A Monster in the Middle | 79 |
| 姚明: 篮下巨无霸 | |

24. Too Sexy for His Shirt—Beckham	82
球衫不能承受之性感——贝克汉姆	
25. Tiger Woods	85
老虎伍兹	
26. Career Highlights and Personal Facts about Andre Agassi	90
阿加西的职业辉煌和个人资料	
27. Serena Williams	95
小威廉姆斯	
28. World Champion Deng Yaping	99
世界冠军邓亚萍	

Chapter 6

Teams And Games 团队和赛事

29. The Football World Cup	103
足球世界杯	
30. Top 10 Teams in NBA History	107
NBA 历史上的 10 支顶尖球队	
31. NBA—The History, Activities, WNBA and ABL	110
NBA——历史和比赛, WNBA 和 ABL	
32. German Juggernaut Does the Job	113
德国战车在行动	
33. 100-year-old Club—Manchester United	117
百年俱乐部——曼联	

Development of Athletics

Philosophy

Enshrined^① in the Objects of the IAAF Constitution is the strongest possible commitment to world-wide development of athletics. This, of course, is a huge and complex task. The challenge is to create the conditions under which as many athletes as possible can express their potential in competition and derive the maximum benefit from the sport in the country of each IAAF Member Federation.

The central principle of the IAAF's development philosophy is co-operation between the IAAF, its Member Federations and other partners. As each Member Federation is responsible for athletics within its country, it has a leading role in operating and developing the sport. The IAAF's contribution is to assist Member Federations in fulfilling this role as effectively as possible.

Strategy

The IAAF development strategy focuses on seven areas of activity which contribute to and are **indispensable**^② for the growth and strength of sport in any country.

Programme

Under the direction of the IAAF Development Commission, the IAAF Member Services Department, working closely with athletics experts around the world, is responsible for the design, **implementation**^③ and monitoring of a wide variety of activities to address the needs in the seven areas. These include:

The IAAF invests more than \$6 million annually in the Development programme. In addition, the IAAF works closely with other agencies throughout the world involved in development activities.

Regional Development Centres

The strongest sign of the IAAF commitment to development is its network of Regional Development Centres (RDCs). The main role of the RDCs is to function as a "branch office" of the IAAF supporting the work of the Member Federations and providing a **focal**^④ point for the programme of development actions in the areas they serve. The IAAF Member Services Department's role is the macro-management of the programme, while the RDCs are responsible for its micro-management. The activities of the RDCs include:

1. **enshrine** *vt.* 入庙祀奉, 铭记
2. **indispensable** *adj.* 不可缺少的, 绝对必要的
3. **implementation** *n.* 执行
4. **focal** *adj.* 焦点的

Regular communication with the Member Federations of their region.

High level courses and **seminars**® for coaches and technical officials.

Seminars and workshops for the other specialist personnel of Member Federations such as General Secretaries, competition organisers, sports medicine personnel, statisticians etc.

Co-ordination of grass root level courses for coaches, technical officials, etc. in the countries of their region.

Publication of regional technical bulletins and other materials.

Research projects.

Training camps for young athletes.

Presently the IAAF operates the following 9 RDCs: RDC Adelaide, Australia (serving Oceania). RDC Beijing, China (serving East Asia). RDC Cairo, Egypt (serving Arabic-speaking Africa and Asia). RDC Dakar, Senegal (serving French-speaking Africa). RDC Jakarta, Indonesia (serving South and south-east Asia). RDC Moscow, Russia (serving Europe and central Asian countries). RDC Nairobi, Kenya (serving English-speaking Africa). RDC Salinas, Puerto Rico (serving Central America and the Caribbean). RDC Santa Fe, Argentina (serving South America).

5. **seminar** *n.* 研讨会

6. **establish** *vt.* 建立, 设立

7. **essential** *adj.* 必需的, 基本的

Coaching

To carry out their work effectively coaches need proper education and training. The IAAF has **established**® a world-wide Coaches Education and Certification System (CECS), featuring basic level courses taught in each country as well as advanced courses staged at the IAAF's RDCs.

Officiating

Technical Officials are **essential**® for the conduct of competitions. The IAAF has developed a Technical Officials Education and Certification System (TOECS), featuring basic levels courses taught in each country as well as more advanced courses taught at the IAAF RDCs.

The IAAF High Performance Training Centres

The IAAF High Performance Training Centres (HPTC) provide a centre of excellence for the training and development of international class athletes and coaches. The Centres are managed and supervised under IAAF control.

The first HPTC was opened by the IAAF in 1997. Since then, the IAAF has opened HPTC's in several Areas

around the world: notably in Africa, Asia, South America, NACAC (North America, Central America and Caribbean) and **Oceania**[®].

Many athletes have **benefited**[®] from time spent at these HPTC's and have improved their performances at world level as a result. Indeed, a number of HPTC-trained athletes have gone on to become medal winners at international competitions.

This success has led to many IAAF Member Federations **entrusting**[®] the advancement of their **elite**[®] athletes to these training centres.

The IAAF Accredited Training Centres

The IAAF system for the **Accreditation**[®] of Training Centres (ATC) has been developed in response to the growing demand for information about appropriate training centres.

The aim of the System is to assist the National Federations, Athletes and Coaches to make the right decisions regarding the suitability of a centre to meet their specific needs and requirements.

Only training centres that meet and accept the standardised **criteria**[®] proposed by the IAAF, which include high-quality facilities, support services and appropriate coaching, receive accreditation.

The classification of the centres is based upon technical criteria (including track & field facilities, accommodation, event **speciality**[®], coaches etc.).

The list of Accredited Training Centres is not exhaustive. The IAAF is currently establishing a worldwide ATC network.

8. **Oceania** *n.* 大洋洲

9. **benefit** *vi.* 受益

10. **entrust** *vt.* 委托

11. **elite** *n.* 精锐, 中坚分子

12. **accreditation** *n.* 委派, 鉴定合格

13. **criteria** *n.* 标准

14. **speciality** *n.* 特性, 特质

How Did the Olympic Games Get Started?

The ancient Olympic Games were primarily a part of a religious festival in honor of Zeus, the father of the Greek gods and goddesses. The festival and the games were held in Olympia, a rural **sanctuary**¹ site in the western **Peloponnesos**².

The Greeks that came to the Sanctuary of Zeus at Olympia shared the same religious beliefs and spoke the same language. The athletes were all male citizens of the city-states from every corner of the Greek world, coming from as far away as Iberia (Spain) in the west and the Black Sea (Turkey) in the east.

The sanctuary was named in **antiquity**³ after Mt. Olympus, the highest mountain in mainland Greece. In Greek mythology, Mt. Olympus was the home of the greatest of the Greek gods and goddesses.

The ancient Olympic Games began in the year 776 BC, when Koroibos, a cook from the nearby city of Elis, won the stadion race, a foot race 600 feet long. From 776 BC, the Games were held in Olympia every four years for almost 12 centuries. According to some literary traditions, this was the only athletic event of the games for the first 13 Olympic festivals or until 724 BC.

Contrary evidence, both literary and **archaeological**⁴, suggests that the games may have existed at Olympia much earlier than this date, perhaps as early as the 10th or 9th century BC.

The marathon was NOT an event of the ancient Olympic games. The marathon is a modern event that was first introduced in the Modern Olympic Games of 1896 in Athens, a race from Marathon northeast of Athens to the Olympic Stadium, a distance of 40 kilometers.

The race **commemorates**⁵ the run of Pheidippides, an ancient "day-runner" who carried the news of the Persian landing at Marathon of 490 B.C. to Sparta (a distance of 149 miles) in order to enlist help for the battle.

According to the fifth century BC ancient Greek historian Herodotus, Pheidippides delivered the news to the **Spartans**⁶ the next day.

The distance of the modern marathon was standardized as 26 miles 385 yards or 42.195 km. in 1908 when the Olympic Games were held in London. The distance was the exact measurement between Windsor Castle, the start of the race, and the finish line inside White City Stadium. Additional athletic events were gradually added until, by the 5th century BC, the religious festival

1. **sanctuary** *n.* 避难所

2. **peloponnesos** *n.* 伯罗奔尼撒半岛[希腊南部]

3. **antiquity** *n.* 古代

4. **archaeological** *adj.* 考古学的, 考古学上的

5. **commemorate** *vt.* 纪念

6. **Spartan** *n.* 斯巴达人

consisted of a five-day program. The athletic events included three foot races *stadion*, *diaulos* and *dolichos* as well as the **pentathlon**⁷ (5 contests: **discus**⁸, **javelin**⁹, long jump, wrestling, and foot race)

Additional events, both **equestrian**¹⁰ and for humans, were added throughout the course of the history of the Olympic Games.

There are two stories relating to the question of **nudity**¹¹ at the ancient Olympic Games. One story states that it was a runner from Megara, Orsippus or Orrhippos who, in 720 BC was the first to run naked in the 'stadion' race when he lost his shorts in the race. Another tradition is that it was the Spartans who introduced nudity to the Olympic Games in the 8th century BC as it was a Spartan tradition. It is not clear if the very first recorded victor at Olympia, Koroibos, who won the 'stadion' race in 776 B.C. wore shorts or not. It seems fairly clear that by the late 8th century nudity was common for the male contestants.

How we got from the Ancient Olympics to the Modern Games?

Although the ancient Games were staged in Olympia, Greece, from 776 BC through 393 AD, it took 1503 years for the Olympics to return. The first modern Olympics were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896. The man responsible for its rebirth was a Frenchman named Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who presented the idea in 1894. His original thought was to **unveil**¹² the modern Games in 1900 in his native Paris, but delegates from 34 countries were so **enthralled**¹³ with the concept that they convinced him to move the Games up to 1896 and have Athens serve as the first host.

The first Modern Winter Olympic games were held in 1924 in Chamonix, France. There was no winter Olympic festival in ancient.

Times:

The Modern Olympic flag of five linked rings, each with a primary color used in the flags of the nations competing in the games, was introduced in 1908. There is no ancient basis for this modern symbol.

The idea of the Olympic **torch**¹⁴ or Olympic Flame was first used in the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. The design of the Los Angeles stadium included a facility for a large flame. There was no torch **relay**¹⁵ in the ancient Olympic Games. There were known, however, torch relays in other ancient Greek athletic festivals including those held at Athens. The modern Olympic torch relay was first instituted at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.

The Olympic **Oath**¹⁶ was introduced in 1920.

Early Athletes: Amateurs or Professionals?

7. **pentathlon** *n.* 五项全能
8. **discus** *n.* 铁饼, 掷铁饼
9. **javelin** *n.* (投掷用的) 标枪
10. **equestrian** *adj.* 骑马的, 在马背上的
11. **nudity** *n.* 裸体, 赤裸
12. **unveil** *vt.* 揭幕, 揭开
13. **enthral** *vt.* 迷惑, 使……迷惑
14. **torch** *n.* 火把, 火炬
15. **relay** *n.* 传递, 驿马
16. **oath** *n.* 誓言, 宣誓

One of the things we'll hear argued about the modern Olympic Games is the question of amateurism (and professionalism) of athletes.

This was not a concern of the Greeks since ancient athletes regularly received prizes worth substantial amounts of money. In fact, the word athlete is an ancient Greek word that means "one who competes for a prize".

Our first glimpse of organized Greek athletics is in the 23rd book of Homer's *Iliad*, where Achilles organizes funeral games for his friend Patroklos who was killed during the Trojan War. In each of the eight events contested on the plain of Troy, material prizes are offered to each competitor, including **tripods**[®], **cauldrons**[®], valuable metal, oxen, and women.

Athletic prizes:

However, at the most prestigious athletic festivals (the Pan-Hellenic Festivals), the only prizes given were **wreaths**[®] of leaves: olive at Olympia, **laurel**[®] at Delphi, pine at Isthmia, and **parsley**[®] at Nemea.

According to Phlegon, a Roman author of the 2nd century AD, the wreath of olive leaves was instituted as the prize for victors at Olympia in 752 BC.

Material awards were routinely given as prizes at most of the athletic festival sites all over the Greek world. During the 8th, 7th, and 6th centuries BC, dozens of athletic events were established as parts of religious festivals honoring heroes, gods, or even victorious battles.

Athletes who won at any of these Pan-Hellenic games could be assured of great wealth when they returned home.

According to the Roman author Plutarch, an Olympic victor who was a citizen of Athens could expect to receive in the year 600 BC a cash award of 500 drachmas, a literal fortune. An Isthmian victor would receive 100 drachmas.

From an Athenian **inscription**[®] of the 5th century BC, we learn that Athenian Olympic victors received a free meal in the City Hall every day for the rest of their lives, a kind of early **pension**[®] plan.

Later, in the Hellenistic and Roman periods, pensions for athletes became more formalized and could actually be bought and sold.

This evidence suggests that there were no amateur athletes in ancient Greece, but there were no professional athletes either, for there was no distinction between the two categories, all were simply athletes.

17. **tripod** *n.* 三角桌, 三角架

18. **cauldron** *n.* 大锅炉

19. **wreath** *n.* 花冠, 花圈

20. **laurel** *n.* [植] 月桂树, 桂冠

21. **parsley** *n.* [植] 欧芹

22. **inscription** *n.* 碑铭, 题字

23. **pension** *n.* 养老金, 退休金

The Olympic Games: Past and Present

Let the games begin

The first Olympic Games ever recorded took place in Olympia, Greece, in 776 BC. The Games became the greatest of all the Greek festivals and were held in honor of the Greek god **Zeus**^①. At first, the Games lasted only one day and consisted of a single running race. Eventually, the Games included several sports and lasted five days. The first day included worship, registration of athletes, and the taking of oaths by both competitors and officials. The next three days were mainly for competitions including various running races, wrestling, boxing, and pentathlon events. On the final day, prizes were given and thanksgiving sacrifices were made to the gods.

The winner of each sport was crowned with a **wreath**^② made of olive branches. The real "prize" was instant popularity. Winners were **idolized**^③ and became the subjects of many songs and stories. The athletes, and the Games in general, were **immortalized**^④ through paintings, statues, decorative pottery, coins, and literature.

The Games were held every four years. The four-year interval between them was called an **Olympiad**^⑤. The decline of the ancient Games started in the fifth century BC, when cities began to offer prizes of money to the victors. The Roman occupation of Greece and **consolidation**^⑥ of **Christianity**^⑦ further drove the Games away from their historic and religious origin. In 394 AD, the Roman Emperor Theodosius, who was Christian, banned all pagan festivals, including the Games.

100 years of renewed Olympic spirit

The Games were revived in 1896 due to the efforts of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, a French educator. De Coubertin's dream was to build a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport, and celebrating athletic talent through sincere, **impartial**^⑧, and fair competitions. The 1896 Games were held in Athens, Greece. Since their revival, the Games have also been held in Paris, France; London, England; Los Angeles, California; and Moscow, Soviet Union to name a few.

Today 100 years later, de Coubertin's dream is still a reality. Athletic sportsmanship will be upheld through the Olympic oath, which states: "In the name of all competitors, I promise that we will take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, in the true spirit of sportsmanship for the glory of sport and the honor of our teams." Athleticism will be reflected in the

1. **Zeus** *n.* [希神]宙斯

2. **wreath** *n.* 花圈, 花冠

3. **idolize** *vt.* 极端崇拜, 偶像化

4. **immortalize** *vt.* 使不灭, 使不朽

5. **Olympiad** *n.* (四年一次的) 奥林匹克世界运动大会

6. **consolidation** *n.* 巩固, 合并

7. **Christianity** *n.* 基督教

8. **impartial** *adj.* 公平的, 不偏不倚的

Olympic motto, "Citius, Altius, Fortius," which translates to "Swifter, Higher, and Stronger."

Ceremonies and symbols

The modern Olympic Games are held for more than two weeks every four years, and begin with the opening ceremony. The opening ceremony starts with the parade of nations, where athletes march into the Olympic stadium behind their country's **placard**[®] and flag. Greece always leads the parade, and the host country's team is always last. Next, the head of state of the host country declares the Games open, the Olympic flag is brought into the stadium, and the Olympic hymn is played. Finally, the Olympic flame is lit, doves are released to symbolize peace and the spirit of the Games, and the Olympic **oath**[®] is taken by a representative competitor.

One of the most widely recognized symbols of the Olympic Games is the torch. Torches were first used in the ancient Olympic Games to light the festival altar fire in **tribute**[®] to Zeus. Today, the Olympic torch is lighted in Olympia, Greece, four weeks prior to the games. The flame is then passed torch to torch in a relay from Olympia to the host city. Once the flame arrives, it's used to light the flame in the Olympic stadium **cauldron**[®], which burns throughout the Games. The Olympic flame is a symbol of the spirit, knowledge, and life of the world's nations.

The **interlocking**[®] Olympic rings were created in 1913 to symbolize the union of the five original major continents (Africa, America, Asia, Australia, and Europe) that competed in the Games. Each of the five rings is a different color — blue, yellow, black, green, and red, on a white background — and at least one of the colors is found on the national flag of every competing nation. The Olympic flag, which displays the Olympic rings, is passed from the mayor of the hosting city to the mayor of the next host city at the end of the Games. Cities, not countries or areas, are entrusted with the Games and are picked by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Olympic awards

Medals have been part of the Olympic Games since the 1896 Games in Athens, Greece. At that time, the winner received a silver medal, diploma, and a crown of olive branches. The runner-up received a bronze medal, diploma, and a crown of laurel branches. All other competitors received commemorative medals.

Traditionally, design and production of awards has been left to each host city. Gold medals were first introduced in 1908. Since 1928, the design of the medals has remained relatively consistent. Medals are awarded to

9. **placard** *n.* 布告, 标语
10. **oath** *n.* 誓言, 宣誓, 诅咒
11. **tribute** *n.* 贡品, 殷勤
12. **cauldron** *n.* (=caldron) 大锅炉
13. **interlocking** *adj.* 联锁的

the first (gold), second (silver), and third (bronze) place competitors in each event during the victory ceremonies. During the ceremony, the three competitors stand on a **tiered*** platform. The first-place finisher stands on the highest level in the center, the second-place finisher stands slightly lower and to the victor's right, and the third-place finisher stands even lower to the victor's left. Once the medals are given the competitors' names announced, the winner's national anthem is played, and the flags of all three countries are raised.

The Olympic Games officially end with the closing ceremony. The athletes again enter the Olympic stadium; but this time they enter as one large group, symbolizing the unity and friendship of the Games. The flag and placard carriers for each country enter the stadium in single file as in the opening ceremonies. The ceremony ends when the Olympic flag is passed to the mayor of the next host city, and the Games are pronounced closed.

Sports — past and present

Some Olympic sports, like running, boxing, javelin, and discus, have been part of the Games since ancient times. Other sports, like the equestrian events, are **modifications*** of past competitions (**chariot*** and horse racing). Still others are relatively new to the Olympic Games, such as basketball. At one time, no athletic events were included in the Olympic program. From 1912 to 1948, art categories (architecture, sculpture, painting, music, and literature) were official Olympic events.

The Games today

Today there are 37 major sport categories and over 200 medaled events for the Summer and Winter Olympic Games. Sports vary from **archery*** to **yachting***. The skills and training required for each sport are inspiring to people of all ages and nationalities, and athletes continue to draw nations together as they did in ancient Greece.

14. **tier** *vt.* 使造成递升排列,

使层叠

15. **modification** *n.* 修改, 修正

16. **chariot** *n.* 战车, 四轮马车

17. **archery** *n.* 箭术

18. **yachting** *n.* 游艇比赛

Dancing Beijing: 2008 Olympics Has Logo

The official Olympic **emblem**^① for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games was **unveiled**^② on August, 3rd, 2003 at a grand ceremony held in Temple of Heaven Park, a landmark scenic spot in Beijing.

The emblem, called “Dancing Beijing”, is in the style of a Chinese **seal**^③ with the traditional Chinese character “Jing” **rendered**^④ in a human-like form. It is one of the most eagerly anticipated Olympic-related designs to be created for China’s first-ever Olympic Games.

It was designed by Beijing Armstrong Visual Identity Corp and was selected from 1,985 designs contributed by designers from both China and overseas.

“The emblem of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games is a precious treasure which the people of China are dedicating to the Olympic Movement,” said Liu Qi, president of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the 29th **Olympiad**^⑤.

“The emblem offers a unique **integration**^⑥ of Oriental spirit and history and modern Olympic philosophy,” he added.

The unveiling took place at a huge gathering of more than 2,000 people, including government officials, entertainment **celebrities**^⑦ and sports stars etc.

People started to cheer as Hong Kong action star Jackie Chan and China’s four-time table tennis Olympic gold medal winner Deng Yaping walked in carrying a box containing a seal carved with the new Olympic emblem.

The crowd buzzed with excitement as Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress and Hein Verbruggen, chairman of the co-ordination commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the Beijing Games, unveiled the seal.

IOC President Jacques Rogge, sent a video message to celebrate the moment and gave high praise to the new emblem.

“In this emblem, I see the promise and potential of a New Beijing and a Great Olympics,” said Rogge.

Behind every symbol, there is a story. This is the story of a country opening its gates to the future, the story of a city reaching out to **embrace**^⑧ all humanity, the story of a people inviting the world to join their dance, experience

1. **emblem** *n.* 象征, 徽章
2. **unveil** *vt.* 使公诸于众, 揭幕
3. **seal** *n.* 印, 图章
4. **render** *vi.* 呈递, 表演
5. **Olympiad** *n.* (四年一次的) 奥林匹克世界运动大会
6. **integration** *n.* 综合
7. **celebrity** *n.* 名人, 名声
8. **embrace** *vt.* 拥抱