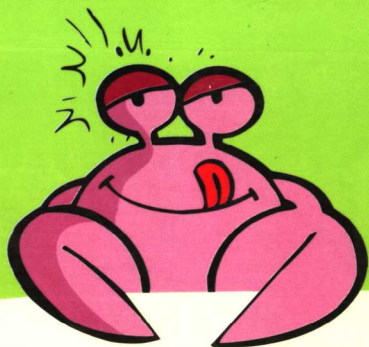




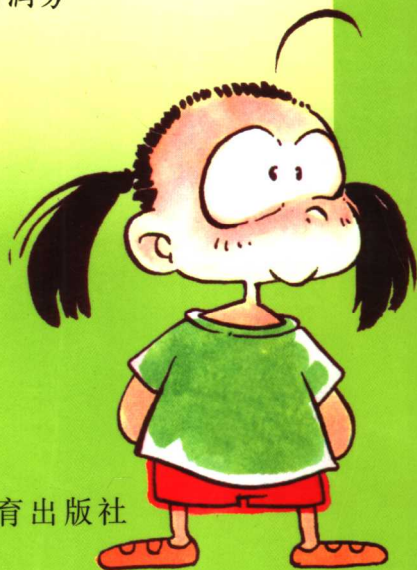
英語巧克力

英汉对照读物

英語典故

English Idioms

编著 何润芳



 湖北教育出版社



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序

要我为润芳君的新著作序,我欣然颌首。这是对我的看重,再则文如其人,为她的力作命笔,岂有婉拒之理。

词语典故是语言及文化的根本知识所在,也是当今跨文化研究的热点。能在这方面作些普及推广的工作,对提高人们的语言及文化知识素养,善莫大焉。卒读初稿,更如沐春风,倍感后生可佩。如下几点是值得一序的:

科学态度:词条的内容与例句皆有原著的出处,这也是此书质量的有力保证。难能可贵的是,当我将此书中的词条与手头的典故书进行对照时,竟难觅“天下文章一大抄”的踪影,这的确反映了作者在编撰上所下的功夫和科学的态度。

读者面广:此书只要相当于高中英语水平者,在汉语对照的帮助下,均能读懂,并从中汲取知识营养;即令是英语水平在6级以上者,也可从此书中获益匪浅,因为许多词条的字面含义与实际内容好像是风马牛不相及的,没有涉猎过的人是难以知道的。

注重实用:以人为本、替学习者着想是此书的特色之一。凡属读者在实际运用中可能遇到的疑难,书中均有说明,如:P.8 the rage (时尚)一条中,作者在此说明前面如加 all 则可一起被看作形容词,作表语或补语,P.20 butter somebody up(奉承某人)中概括了up的3种含义,P.38 get-at-able(够得着的)既讲了构词又着意指出了读音,P.74 the die is cast(木已成舟)既指出“骰子”的单、复数,也提到英国英语和美国英语的异同,等等。

知识性强:词条精悍,内含丰富,注注一项词条中含有两个或更多的词条,如P.14 Aunt Sally(众矢之的)中带出take pot shots(任意攻击);P.66(半斤八两)的两种英语说法;P.105 on tiptoe在不同语境中的3层含义等,而且都有例句说明。在不少词条中还介绍了一些必要的文化知识,如 P.26 cross one's fingers(祈求好运),哪几个手指交叉? 如何交叉? 都有具体说明;P.80 thumb a lift/ride(搭便车),手语如何表示、英美说法的差别等也有说明。

趣味盎然:词条富含科学性、趣味性与时代性,既有古色古香的闲雅,又有与时俱进的新潮,偶尔插入几则俚语、行话,不期然而然,读之每每令人释卷不得。如:P.84TT(滴酒不沾),竟然来自口吃的发音;P.65 shank's mare(步行)却是以腿为马;P.46 Jim Crow(对黑人的歧视),将两个词前后对调成Crow Jim却成了“对白人的歧视”……。

语言规范:书中英语大抵出自各类原著,其纯正性毋庸置疑,在汉译文中也不乏生花之笔触,如homely bits—老生常谈,superficial wisdom—小聪明,plunge into desperate and daring fortunes—铤而走险;又如P.93(“下饭菜”)的例句,不是按字面译为“作为酒吧侍女,厄玛是人们的‘下饭菜’。”而按深层次的含义译出,等等,都反映出扎实的语汇功底。

此书的英译名最好是类似:A Book of... 因为我期待读到A Second/Third Book of…。

柴勉庵

2004年12月

Contents

目 录

1	A Catch in It 个中有蹊跷
1	A Dark Horse 黑马
2	A Bit Thick 太过分
2	A Doubting Thomas 怀疑一切的人
2	A Fisherman's Tale 夸大其词
3	A Flash in the Pan 昙花一现
3	A Fly on the Wheel 妄自尊大的人
3	A Man of Parts 有才华的人
4	A Penny for Your Thoughts 你呆呆地在想什么
4	A Rolling Stone 见异思迁的人
5	A Roman Holiday 欣赏别人受苦难的娱乐
5	A Run for One's Money 激烈的竞争
5	A Shot in the Dark 凭空猜想
6	A Walkover 举手之劳
6	A Whipping Boy 替罪羊
6	A White Day 吉日
7	A White Lie 善意的谎言
7	A White Night 不眠之夜
7	Add Insult to Injury 雪上加霜
8	Age Before Beauty 长者在先
8	The Rage 时尚
9	All This and Heaven Too 锦上添花
9	All Yours 请便吧
9	An Axe to Grind 另有所图
10	Apple - pie Order 井井有条

10	Apple of Discord 祸根
11	As Sure As Eggs Is Eggs 毫无疑问
12	As They Make Them ……到了家
12	At It 忙个不停
13	At Sea 困惑
13	At the Drop of a Hat 立即
14	Aunt Sally 众矢之的
14	Be - all and End - all 终极目的
15	Dress Oneself up to the Nine 盛装打扮
15	Be over the Moon 心花怒放
15	Be up a Gum Tree 进退两难
16	Beard the Lion 摸老虎屁股
16	Beggar Description 无法形容
17	Beside the Mark 不相关
17	Big Hand 长时间的热烈鼓掌
17	Birds of a Feather 一丘之貉
18	Bite off More Than One Can Chew 不自量力
19	Black Cattle 菜牛
19	Black Sheep 害群之马
19	Bread - and - butter Letter 感谢款待的信柬
20	Bring down the House 博得满堂喝彩
20	Hide One's Head in the Sand 逃避现实
20	Butter Somebody Up 奉承某人
21	Bye - byes 睡觉
21	Call over Coals 责备

22	Can't Say "Boo" to a Goose 胆怯得不敢开口
22	Cap in Hand 卑躬屈膝
22	Carry the Can 代人受过
23	Carry the Day 获胜
23	Cast One's Bread upon the Waters 真心行善不望报
24	Cheese It 住手
24	Chicken Feed 小意思
24	Under the Hammer 被拍卖
25	Come out in the Wash 水落石出
25	Cool One's Heels 久等
26	Come down to Earth 面对现实
26	Cross One's Fingers 祈求好运
27	Cry Wolf 发假警报
27	Cut the Knot 快刀斩乱麻
28	Cut No Ice 不起作用
28	Dead to the Wide 精疲力竭
29	Dirt Cheap 非常便宜
29	Do a Moonlight 夜半逃租
30	Do Somebody Proud 盛情款待
30	Do the Trick 有效
30	Dock 扣钱
31	Doll Up 打扮得花枝招展
31	Donkey's Ears 很久
32	Donkey Jacket 风雨衣
32	Down Under 澳新地区

32	Draw a Blank 一无所获
33	Drop Somebody a Line 给某人短信
33	Egghead 臭老九
34	Eyes Bigger Than One's Belly 眼宽肚窄
34	Fall on One's Feet/Legs 逢凶化吉
34	Fancy-free 无忧无虑
35	Feed the Kitty 集资
35	Fine Feathers Make Fine Birds 人靠衣装鸟靠羽
36	Flat Out 竭尽全力
36	Fly in the Ointment 美中不足
36	Follow Suit 亦步亦趋
37	Free Fight 混战
37	From the Word "Go" 从一开始
38	Get-at-able 够得着的
38	Get One's Goat 使某人恼怒
39	Gild the Lily 画蛇添足
39	Girl Friday 得力的女秘书
40	Go Like Hot Cakes 热销
40	Go the Way of All Flesh 逝世
40	Green-eyed Monster 嫉妒
41	Go to seed 走下坡路
41	Have a Rough Passage 历经磨难
42	Have a Screw Loose/Missing 低能
42	Have Green Fingers 有高超的园艺技能

43	Have the Edge on 略胜一筹
43	Head and Shoulders above 大大超出
43	In Fine 简而言之
44	In One's Heart of Hearts 实际上
44	In Seventh Heaven 极为快乐
45	The Land of Nod 梦乡
45	It's the Thought that Counts 情意难得
46	Jam Tomorrow 明天的希望
46	Jane Crow 对妇女的歧视
46	Jekyll and Hyde 双重人格者
47	Job's Comforter 添愁的安慰者
47	Keep a Weather Eye Open 密切注意
48	Like a House on Fire 轻易地
48	Make a Pass 献殷勤
49	Make a Pile 赚钱
49	Make a Splash 惹人注目
49	Make Bricks without Straw 无米之炊
50	Make Fish of One and Flesh of Another 厚此薄彼
51	Make Hay of 毒打
51	Make Somebody's Day 使某人高兴
51	Mare's Nest 骗局
52	Mind One's P's and Q's 谨言慎行
52	Miss the Boat / Bus 坐失时机
53	Name the Day 择定吉日

53	Nest Egg 储备金
54	All There 头脑清醒
54	Not Know Somebody from Adam 完全不认识
54	On the Rack 受极大折磨
55	On the Rocks 濒于破产
55	Once in a Blue Moon 千载难逢
55	One's Ears Burn 耳朵发热
56	One's Good Deed for the Day 日行一善
56	One's Name Is Legion 其数甚多
57	One's Salad Days 开创之初
57	Out of the Wood 脱离险境
58	Par Excellence 出类拔萃
58	Pull One's Weight 干好本职
58	Put Somebody Through His Paces 测试某人能力
59	Raw Deal 虐待
59	Reach-me-down 别人穿过的旧衣服
60	Right Hand 得力助手
60	Root and Branch 彻底地
61	Round Number 约整数
61	Royal Road 坦途
61	Rub the Wrong Way 不小心冒犯
62	Rub the Right Way 抚慰
62	Rule the Roost 当家
63	Rubberneck 好事之徒
63	Salt of the Earth 社会中坚

63	Set by the Ears 挑拨离间
64	Say One's Piece 说出心声
64	See Red 火冒三丈
65	Shake the Dust off One's Feet 愤然离开
65	Shank's Mare 步行
65	Shilly - shally 犹豫不决
66	Short Commons 食不果腹
66	Show a Clean Pair of Heels 迅速逃离
67	Six of One and Half a Dozen of the Other 半斤八两
67	Six of the Best 一顿痛打
68	Slanging Match 互相谩骂
68	Spit and Polish 穷讲究
68	Straight from the Shoulder 直截了当
69	Smell a Rat 生疑
69	Smite Hip and Thigh 痛打
69	Steal a March 领先一步
70	Strike Oil 发横财
70	Swan Song 告别演出
70	Sweetness and Light 友善
71	Take the Bit in One's Teeth 我行我素
71	Tell That to the Marines 鬼才会相信
72	Ten to One 十拿九稳
72	Till the Cows Come Home 没完没了
72	Thank One's Lucky Stars 庆幸
73	The Back of Beyond 穷乡僻壤

74	The Devil to Pay 麻烦重重
74	The Die Is Cast 木已成舟
74	The Dog Days 三伏天
75	The Bag of Tricks 各种花招
75	The Mixture as Before 换汤不换药
76	The Powers That Be 掌权者
76	The Sport of Kings 赛马
76	The Straight and Narrow 正路
77	The White Feather 怯懦
77	The Year Dot 在遥远的过去
77	There's the Rub 难就难在这儿
78	Three Score years and Ten 一辈子
78	Tip Somebody Off 暗中通知某人
79	Toe the Line 服从
79	Turn the Other Cheek 甘受侮辱
79	Throw in One's Hand 甘拜下风
80	Throw in the Sponge 认输
80	Throw up the Cards 放弃
81	Thumb a Lift 搭便车
81	To a T 毫厘不爽
81	Blackball 投反对票
82	Tomfoolery 蠢事
82	Touch and Go 危急的形势
83	When One's Ship Comes Home 当某人发迹时
83	Wipe the Floor with Somebody 打得某人落花流水

83	Writ Large 显而易见的
84	Tom, Dick, and Harry 张三李四
84	TT 滴酒不沾
85	Up One's Street 在行
85	Wash One's Hands of 断绝关系
85	Whip Hand 优势
86	White Goods 大家电
86	White Hope 希望之星
87	Zero Hour 发动进攻
87	In Key with 与……一致
87	Stick to One's Last 心勿旁骛
88	A Leg up 鼓励; 支持
88	Have a Good Innings 享有高寿
89	For the High Jump 将受严惩
89	From the Housetops 公开地
89	Holy of Holies 最神圣的地方
90	Lock Horns 争辩犹酣
90	Hold One's Horses 稍等片刻
91	Reckon without One's Host 如意算盘
91	The Small Hours 凌晨时分
91	Heads I Win, Tails You Lose 横竖我都赢
92	Cross One's Heart and Hope to Die 发毒誓
92	Wear One's Heart on One's Sleeve 感情外露
92	Apple of Sodom 死海之果
93	Fair Game “下饭菜”

93	Go Great Guns 全力以赴
93	Before the Flood 很久以前
94	Stick to One's Guns 寸步不让
94	Let One's Hair Down 轻松一下
95	Not Turn a Hair 镇定自若
95	Hamlet without the Prince 群龙无首
95	A Golden Handshake 丰厚的离职金
96	Keep Something under One's Hat 保密
96	Touch One's Hat 表示尊重
96	Brass Hat 要人
97	Tooth and Nail 竭尽全力
97	Field Day 展示的机会
97	Put One's Foot in It 不得体
98	Play It by Ear 随机应变
98	Wet behind the Ears 乳臭未干
98	Go the Distance 自始至终
99	A Dog in the Manger 占着茅坑不拉屎的人
99	Get the Drop on 先发制人
100	On One's Uppers 一贫如洗
100	A Wet Blanket 令人扫兴的人或事
100	Wheels within Wheels 错综复杂的情况
101	A White Elephant 累赘
101	Blot One's Copybook 玷污自己的名声
102	Chew the Cud 深思熟虑
102	Every Inch 在各方面

102	Not Do a Hand's Turn 连手都不愿动
103	Household Word 家喻户晓的词语
103	The Young Idea 学生娃娃
103	Hide One's Light under the Bushel Basket 不露锋芒
104	Head over Ears 深陷其中
104	A Thorn in the Flesh/Sides 麻烦
105	On Tiptoe 踮着脚
105	By/With the Skin of One's Teeth 勉强
106	Give Somebody His Head 由某人自作主张
106	Like the Black Hole of Calcutta 闷热难耐
106	For the Sake of Thirty Silver Coins 见利忘义
107	I'm from Missouri 眼见为实
107	Eat/Live High on the Hog 生活富裕

A Catch in It

This metaphor is perhaps from fishing and hunting, both employing such hidden tricks as bait, trap, etc. aiming at a catch. The "catch" referred to is a hidden or tricky condition. And the phrase is used to refer to a concealed trick in an apparently generous and advantageous offer.

- If the goods are really they said to be, no firm could possibly afford to sell them at that price; there's a catch in it somewhere.
- The house is for sale very cheaply; there must be a catch in it somewhere.

A Dark Horse

This colloquial term was first used in horse race, referring to an unexpected winner previously supposed to have little chance. The word "dark" here has little to do with the colour of the coat or hair of the horse. It means hidden, secret, not easily understood, hard to make clear or obscure; therefore, the extended meaning of the term is of somebody, who is secretive or unusually reserved about his feelings, activities, plans, skills or ability.

- It seemed a funny thing to say, and especially after all these years. Of course, she always is a dark horse.

个中有蹊跷

这个比喻也许来自捕鱼或打猎,因为其中动用饵料、陷阱等机关,以期逮住猎物,catch就是指一种隐匿或狡猾的先决条件。本短语用以指表面的慷慨和让利背后暗藏的诡计。

□ 如果货物真像他们说的那样,没有哪家公司会以那个价格出售。其中定有猫腻。

□ 这房子准备以极为低廉的价格出售,这里面一定有些蹊跷。

黑马

这个口头词语最早用于赛马,指的是比赛中原本被认为不大可能获胜的马竟出人意料地成了胜利者。dark 在本词语中与马身上的毛色关系不大;它的意思是:隐藏的、秘密的、费解的、难以分清或无名的。所以黑马的引申意义是指对自己的情感、活动、打算、本领或能力讳莫如深或矜持缄默的人。

□ 说来也好笑,特别是过了这么多年。当然,她可一直是匹黑马。