

英汉对照

红茶坊名著欣赏

杰克·伦敦 短篇小说精选

*The Best Short Stories
of Jack London*

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,向读者展示了这几位世界顶级作家独具特色、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,提高自己的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

2005 年 3 月

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To the Man on the Trail

为赶路的人干杯

Jack London

(1876-1916)

Jack London was born in San Francisco of an unmarried mother of wealthy background, Flora Wellman. His father may have been William Chaney, a journalist, lawyer, and major figure in the development of American astrology (占星术). Because Flora was ill, Jack was raised at an early age by an ex-slave, Virginia Prentiss, who had a great influence on the boy while he grew up.

Late in 1876, Flora married John London, a partially disabled Civil War veteran(老兵). The family moved around the Bay area before settling in Oakland, where Jack completed grade school. Though the family was working class, it was not so poor as London's later accounts claimed.

When he was in his teens, the boy adopted the name of Jack. He worked at various hard labor jobs, pirated for oysters (偷捕牡蛎) on San Francisco Bay, served on a fish patrol(巡逻船) to capture poachers(偷捕者), sailed the Pacific on a sealing ship, joined Kelly's Army of unemployed working men, hoboed (流浪) around the country, and returned to attend high school at age 19. In the process, he got to know some ideas about socialism and was known as the Boy Socialist of Oakland for his street corner speech. He would run unsuccessfully several times on the socialist ticket as mayor. He read a lot of books, and consciously chose to become a writer to escape from the terrible life as a factory worker. He studied other writers and began to submit stories, jokes and poems to various

publications, mostly without success.

Spending the winter of 1897 in the Yukon provided the material for his first stories, which he began publishing in the *Overland Monthly* in 1899. From that point he was a very strict with himself and produced over fifty volumes of stories, novels and political essays. Although *The Call of the Wild* brought him lasting fame, many of his short stories deserve to be called classics, as does his critique (批判) of capitalism and poverty in *The People of the Abyss* (1903), and his stark discussion of alcoholism in *John Barleycorn* (1913). London's long voyage across the Pacific in a small boat provided material for books and stories about Polynesian (波利尼西亚) and Melanesian (美拉尼西亚) cultures.

London was among the most popular figures of his day, and he used this to support socialism, women's right to vote, and eventually, prohibition. He was among the first writers to work with the movie industry, and saw a number of his novels made into films. His novel *The Sea-Wolf* became the basis for the first full-length American movie. He was also one of the first celebrities to use his name for commercial products in advertising, including dress suits and grape juice.

Because he was self-educated, London's ideas lacked consistency (一致性) and precision. For example, he clearly accepted the Social Darwinism and scientific racism prevalent during his time. Although he supported women's right to vote and created some of the most independent and strong female characters in American fiction, he was patriarchal (大男子主义的) toward his two wives and two daughters. His socialism was fervent (狂热), but countered by his strong drive toward

individualism and capitalist success. These contradictory(矛盾的) themes in his life and writing make him a difficult figure to reduce to simple terms.

London often stated he wrote to support his Beauty Ranch in Glen Ellen. He brought to California techniques observed in Japan, and was very successful in animal farming.

London's first marriage (1900) was to Bess Maddern, with whom he had two daughters, Joan and Bess. In choosing her, he followed the guiding rules in the book he wrote together with Anna Strunsky, *The Kempton-Wace Letters*, that mates should be selected for good breeding, not love. Following an affair with "New Woman" Charmian Kittredge, he divorced Bess. In 1905 he married his "Mate Woman", who became the persona (原型) for many of his female characters and who joined him on his many travel ventures. He encouraged her own writing career, and she wrote three books concerning their life.

Often troubled by illnesses, during his thirties London developed kidney disease of unknown origin (原因不明的肾病). He died on November 22, 1916 on the ranch. Because his writings were translated in several dozen languages, he remains more widely read in some countries outside of the United States than in his home country. Study of his life and writings provides a case through which to examine the contradictions in the American character, along with key movements and ideas during the Progressive era(进步时代).

杰克·伦敦

(1876-1916)

杰克·伦敦生于旧金山，母亲名叫芙罗拉·威尔曼(Flora Wellman)，出身富贵，但杰克出生时芙罗拉并没有结婚。他的父亲可能是威廉·切尼(William Chaney)，他既是记者、律师，又是美国占星术发展的主要推动者。因为芙罗拉身体虚弱，杰克从小就由旧时的弗吉尼亚·普伦提斯(Virginia Prentiss)(她曾经是他家的奴隶)带大，并受到她的很大影响。

1876年，芙罗拉与一个在内战中伤残的老兵约翰·伦敦结婚。随后举家搬到了加州海湾地区，此后就在奥克兰定居。杰克在那读完了小学。虽然他的家庭属于工人阶级，但伦敦后来认为他的家并不是特别贫寒。

当他长到十几岁的时候，改名叫杰克。他干过各种各样的苦力活：在旧金山海湾偷捕牡蛎；在巡逻船上捉拿偷捕者；远航到太平洋，参加凯利的失业工人军队；在国内到处流浪，19岁回到家乡上了中学。在这期间，他接触了社会主义，并因他的街头演讲出色而被称为“奥克兰的社会主义男孩”。他几次以社会主义者的名义竞选市长却没有成功。他读了大量的书，并有意识地选择了当作家，以摆脱自己是一名工厂工人的悲惨命运。他开始研究其他作家，并开始给刊物投稿，其中有小说、幽默和诗歌等，但大多数都没有成功。

1897年冬天，他在育空河(Yukon)的经历给他的第一部系列小说提供了丰富的素材。1899年他开始在《大陆月刊》(Overland Monthly)上发表。从那以后，他要求自己非常严格，共创作了50多部短篇小说、长

篇小说和政论文章。虽然他的《荒野的呼唤》为他带来了经久不衰的名气,但他许多短篇小说堪称经典,像批判资本主义和贫穷的《深渊中的人们》(1903),也批评酗酒的《约翰·巴里克》(1913)等。伦敦乘小船在太平洋航行的经历为他的关于波利尼西亚和美拉尼西亚文化的小说和著作提供了素材。他在使夏威夷成为了旅游胜地方面起到了积极的作用。

伦敦是当时的名人之一。他将这用来支持社会主义运动、妇女争取选举权的运动和后来的禁酒法令。他是第一位与电影界合作的作家,并亲眼目睹了他的几部作品被搬上了银幕。他的《海狼》是美国第一部未经删节的电影脚本。他也是第一个使用自己的名字在包括时装和葡萄汁商品中做广告的名人。

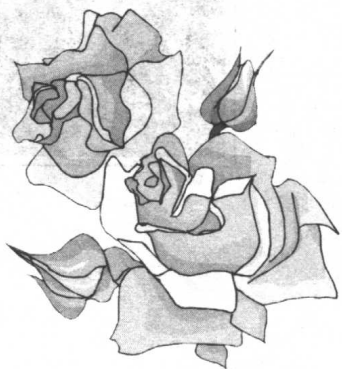
由于伦敦自学成才,因此他的想法缺少一致性和精确性。例如,他显然接受了当时盛行的社会达尔文主义和科学种族主义。虽然他支持妇女应拥有选举权,并在作品中创作了一些美国小说中堪称性格最独立、最刚强的妇女形象,但他对两个妻子和两个女儿却是大男子主义。他对社会主义很狂热,但却与他的个人主义和资本主义的成功相抵触。这些生活和写作中矛盾的主题使得人们很难用简单的字眼来描绘他。

杰克·伦敦经常说他写作是为了维持他在戈兰·爱伦(Glen Ellen)的美丽农场。他把日本的先进农业技术带到加州,并在畜牧饲养方面取得了成功。

伦敦的第一个妻子是贝斯·马登(Bess Maddern),他们是在1900年结婚的。婚后妻子给他生了两个女儿琼(Joan)和贝斯(Bess)。在选择妻子时,他奉行了他和安娜·斯拉斯基(Anna Strunsky)共同创作的小说*The Kempton-Wace Letters*中人物的信条:选择配偶应注重生育能力,而不是爱情。为了追求“新女人”查尔米娜·基特迪(Charmian Kittredge),他与贝斯离了婚。1905年,他娶了他的“另一半”,她成为他许多作品中女主人公的原型,同时也是他许多冒险经历的参与者。他鼓励她也从事

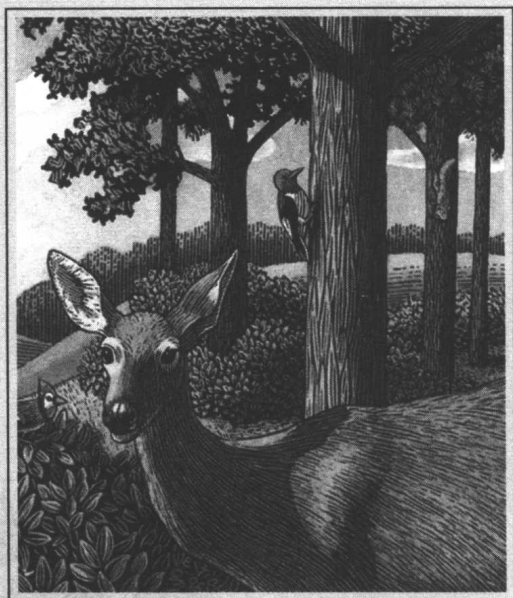
创作,后来她写了三本关于他们共同生活的书。

由于经常受病痛的折磨,三十岁时,伦敦得了一种原因不明的肾病,于1916年11月22日在他的农场去世。他的作品被翻译成为多种文字,因此在国外比在国内更为流传。对他生平和创作的学习为研究美国人矛盾性格及美国在进步时代的主要运动和思潮提供了素材。



To Build a Fire

生 火



作品导读

一个倔强的男人不相信人们所说的严寒,没有邀请同伴,只带一只狗在零下75度的雪地里行走,想调研来年开采木头的可能性。他自信地认为他会安全返回营地。可不幸的事发生了:当他午饭后小心翼翼前进的时候,一只脚却踩进了冰冷的河水中。虽然他成功地生起了一堆火,可离树太近,树梢上的雪因抖动塌下,扑灭了火。就在他想第二次生火的时候,极度的严寒使他的双手不听使唤。惊恐中他狂奔,但只可稍微暖和一下冻僵的身体,一停下来,四肢又僵硬了。他想杀掉与他同行的狗暖暖手再去生火,但却做不到。最后……



To Build a Fire

Day had broken cold and gray, when the man turned aside from the main Yukon^① trail^② and climbed the high earth-bank, where a dim and little-traveled trail led eastward through the fat pine forest. It was a steep bank, and he paused for breath at the top, excusing the act to himself by looking at his watch. It was nine o'clock. There was no sun nor hint of sun, though there was not a cloud in the sky. It was a clear day, and yet there seemed an indescribable^③ darkness over the face of things, a subtle gloom that made the day dark, and that was due to the absence of sun. This fact did not worry the man. He was used to the lack of sun. It had been days since he had seen the sun, and he knew that a few more days must pass before it would just peep above the skyline and dip immediately from view.

The man looked back along the way he had come. The Yukon lay a mile wide and was hidden under three feet of ice. On top of this ice were as many feet of snow. It was all pure white. North and south, as far as his eyes could see, it was unbroken white, except for a dark hairline that curved from around the pine-covered island to the south, and that curved away into the north, where it disappeared behind another pine-covered island. This dark hairline was the trail—the main trail—that led south five hundred miles to the Chilcoot Pass^④, Dyea^⑤, and salt water; and that led north seventy miles to Dawson^⑥, and still on to the north a thousand miles to Nulato^⑦, and finally to St. Michael^⑧ on Bering Sea^⑨, a thousand miles

生火

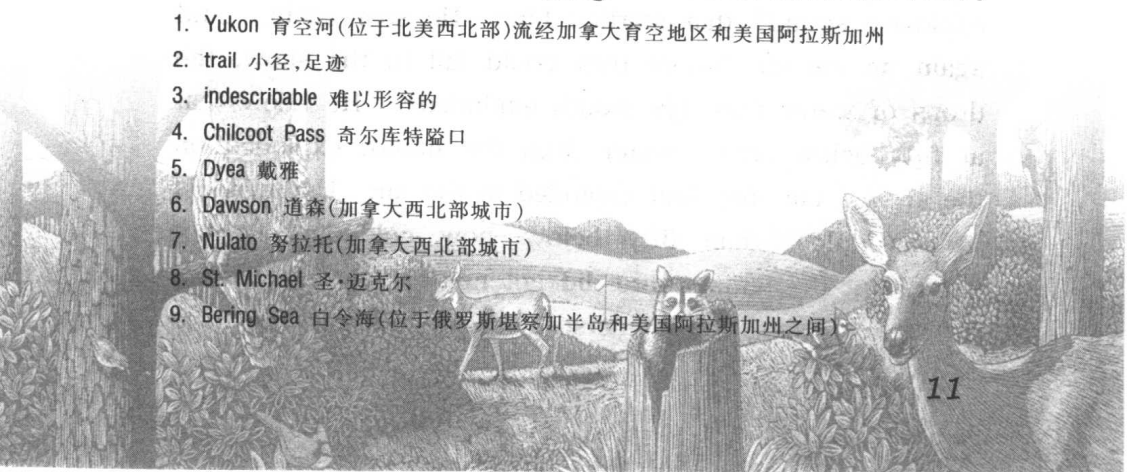


当那个人离开育空河主道,爬上高高的泥岸时天已破晓。天气又灰又冷。那里有一条阴暗的、人迹罕至的小路,穿过肥沃的松林,向东延伸。那是一堵陡峭的河岸,爬到上面时他借故看表,停下来喘了一会儿。9点了,天空虽然没有一片云,但也没有太阳,甚至连太阳的影子也没有。那是一个晴天,但万物仿佛被无法形容的黑色所笼罩,一层阴沉的灰暗使天色黑暗,这都是由于没有太阳的缘故。那个人对此并不担心,他已经习惯没有太阳了。他已多日不见太阳了,他知道几天之后太阳就会在地平线上窥视一下,然后立刻从视线中消失。

那个人回头朝他走过的地方看了一眼,育空河有一英里宽,被三英尺厚的冰层所覆盖,冰的上面是同样厚的积雪。积雪纯净洁白。南南北北,他触目可及之处完全是一片白色,只有一条极细的黑线,从遍布松树的丛林区蜿蜒向南,又迂回向北,消失在另一片松树林中。这极细的黑线是一条通道——主要通道——向南 500 英里可到戴雅的奇尔库特隘口,那里有盐水;向北 70 英里可到道森,再北上 1000 英里可到努拉托,最后再走 1500 多英里就是白令海的圣·迈克尔。



1. Yukon 育空河(位于北美西北部)流经加拿大育空地区和美国阿拉斯加州
2. trail 小径,足迹
3. indescribable 难以形容的
4. Chilcoot Pass 奇尔库特隘口
5. Dyea 戴雅
6. Dawson 道森(加拿大西北部城市)
7. Nulato 努拉托(加拿大西北部城市)
8. St. Michael 圣·迈克尔
9. Bering Sea 白令海(位于俄罗斯堪察加半岛和美国阿拉斯加州之间)



and half a thousand more.

But all this—the mysterious, far-reaching hairline trail, the absence of sun from the sky, the great cold, and the strangeness of it all—had no effect on the man. It was not because he was long used to it. He was a newcomer in the land, and this was his first winter. The trouble with him was that he was without imagination^⑩. He was quick and alert in the things of life, but only in the things, and not in their meanings. Fifty degrees below zero meant eighty degrees of frost. Such fact made him know that it was cold and uncomfortable, and that was all. It did not lead him to consider his weaknesses as a creature of temperature^⑪, and upon man's general weakness, able only to live within certain narrow limits of heat and cold; and from there on it did not lead him to thoughts of immortality^⑫ and man's place in the universe. Fifty degrees below zero stood for a bite of frost that hurt and that must be guarded against by the use of gloves, ear-coverings^⑬, warm boots, and thick socks. Fifty degrees below zero was to him just precisely fifty degrees below zero. That there should be anything more to it than that was a thought that never entered his head.

He spat^⑭ as he turned to go on. There was a sharp, explosive sound^⑮ that startled him. He spat again. And again, in the air, before they could fall to the snow, the drops of water from his mouth exploded^⑯. He knew that at fifty below zero, water from the mouth exploded on the snow, but they had exploded in the air. Undoubtedly it was colder than fifty below—how cold he did not know. But the temperature did not matter. He was headed for the old camp on Henderson Creek^⑰, where the boys

但这所有的一切——神秘的、伸展极远的毛细通道,没有太阳的天空,极度的严寒,和一切奇怪的事——对那个人毫无影响。并不是因为他早已习惯了这些。他是此地的新来者,而这又是他的第一个冬天。问题是他毫无想像力。对生活中的事物,他机警、灵活,但也只是对事物而已,与它们的意义无关。零下 50 度意味着冰点下 80 多度。这些事实使他感到天气寒冷、不舒服,仅此而已。这并未使他考虑自己是有一定体温的动物,因而脆弱,也并未使他想到人类普遍的弱点,只能活在冷热之间极小限度的范围内;他在这里联想不到想像中的不朽境界和人类在宇宙中的位置。零下 50 度对他来说只是使人冻伤的严寒,要用手套、耳套、暖和的靴子和厚袜子去抵御。零下 50 度对他来说就是零下 50 度。他从未想过此外还会有别的什么东西。

他回过头来继续前进时啐了一口。一个尖锐、爆炸似的破裂声把他吓了一跳。他再啐一口,那唾沫还没落到雪地上,就再次在空中炸开了。他知道零下 50 度时唾沫会在雪地上炸开,但唾沫却在空中炸开了。毫无疑问,现在比零下 50 度还要冷——究竟冷多少,他不知道。但气温高低并无关系。他要去亨得森河的老营地,

-
10. imagination 想像,想像力
 11. temperature 温度,体温
 12. immortality 不死,不朽,流芳百世
 13. ear-coverings 耳套
 14. spat (spit 的过去式)吐唾沫
 15. explosive sound 爆炸声
 16. explode 爆炸
 17. Henderson Creek 亨得森河

