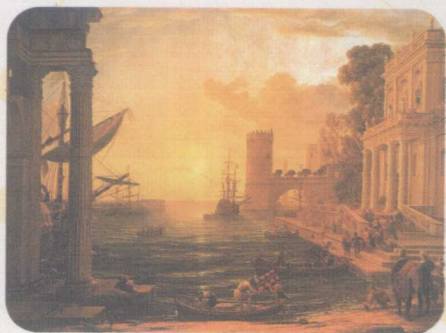


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The Selected Short Stories of Leacock
里柯克短篇小说精选

[加拿大] 里柯克 著
王勋 纪飞 等 编译



清华大学出版社



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内 容 简 介

本书精选了加拿大著名作家里柯克的幽默短篇小说 36 篇,其中包括《错失的机会》、《有钱人幸福吗?》、《越洋的朋友》、《消失的后院》、《卧车里的男人》、《我以为的幽默》和《巴黎的简单生活》等短篇小说经典名篇。它们被翻译成各种文字,影响了一代又一代世界各地的读者。

无论作为语言学习的课本,还是作为通俗的文学读本,这些经典名篇对当代中国的读者都将产生积极的影响。为了使读者能够了解英文故事概况,进而提高阅读速度和阅读水平,在每篇的开始部分增加了中文导读。

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斯蒂芬·巴特勒·里柯克(Stephen Butler Leacock, 1869—1944), 是加拿大第一位享有世界声誉的作家, 被誉为继马克·吐温之后世界上最受欢迎的幽默作家。

1869年12月30日, 里柯克出生在英格兰汉普郡的斯旺穆尔。1876年, 里柯克随父母移民加拿大; 1891年, 毕业于多伦多大学获学士学位。大学毕业后, 里柯克在中学做教师。1899年, 进入美国芝加哥大学攻读经济学与政治学, 1903年获政治经济学的哲学博士学位。博士毕业后, 进入加拿大麦吉尔大学任教, 先后担任政治学讲师、政治与历史学副教授、政治经济学教授, 之后还担任政治与经济学系主任等职。1944年3月28日, 里柯克在加拿大多伦多去世。

虽然里柯克是大学政治经济学专业的专职教授, 但使他名扬世界的却是其文学作品, 特别是幽默短篇小说。大学毕业后, 里柯克开始撰写幽默小品。1910年, 他出版了自己的第一部幽默小品集。之后, 他便笔耕不辍, 先后出版过幽默短篇小说、诗歌、剧本、传记以及文学理论书籍等, 其中影响最大的还是幽默小品, 他一生共出版过近30部幽默小品集。

本书精选了里柯克的36篇幽默短篇小说, 采用中文导读英文



版的形式出版。在中文导读中，我们尽力使其贴近原作的精髓，也尽可能保留原作的故事主线。我们希望能够编出为当代中国读者所喜爱的经典读本。读者在阅读英文故事之前，可以先阅读中文导读部分，这样有利于了解故事背景，从而加快阅读速度。我们相信，该经典著作的引进对加强当代中国读者，特别是青少年读者的人文修养是非常有帮助的。

本书主要内容由王勋、纪飞编译。参加本书故事素材搜集整理及编译工作的还有郑佳、刘乃亚、赵雪、熊金玉、李丽秀、熊红华、王婷婷、孟宪行、胡国平、李晓红、贡东兴、陈楠、邵舒丽、冯洁、王业伟、徐鑫、王晓旭、周丽萍、熊建国、徐平国、肖洁、王小红等。限于我们的科学、人文素养和英语水平，书中难免会有不当之处，衷心希望读者朋友批评指正。



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借钱之道

How to Borrow Money



——借钱有诀窍：狮子大开口

你曾经向别人借过十块钱，并保证好借好还吗？你曾经跟人开口借一百万那么多吗？要是你这么干过，你肯定会发现开口借的钱越多，拿到钱的可能性就越大。

我们来看一些借钱的场景吧！

THE PROCESS IS QUITE EASY, PROVIDED YOU BORROW ENOUGH

HAVE you ever, dear readers, had occasion to borrow money?

Have you ever borrowed ten dollars under a rigorous promise of your word of honor as a Christian to pay it back on your next salary day? Have you ever borrowed as much as a million at a time?

If you have done these things, you cannot have failed to notice how much easier it is to borrow ten thousand dollars than ten, how much easier still to borrow a hundred thousand, and that when you

come at last to raising an international loan of a hundred million the thing loses all difficulty.

Here below are the little scenes that take place on the occasion of an ascending series of loans.

场 景 一

Tableau No.I

哈达普·琼斯来找他的朋友卡尼·史密斯借十块钱，并答应下月一号如数归还。

琼斯向史密斯请求借十块钱，表示下月一号一定还钱。琼斯反复说明自己最近过得很困难，等他发了薪水一定还。

史密斯抱怨说一次琼斯借了五块钱，结果过了几个月才还的。琼斯保证这次一定不会拖欠了。

这样的对话持续了半个小时以上，最后琼斯终于拿到了可怜的十块钱。

*T*he Scene in Which Hardup Jones Borrows Ten Dollars Till the First of Next Month from His Friend, Canny Smith

“Say, look here, old man, I was wondering whether perhaps you wouldn’t mind letting me have ten dollars till the end of the month—”

“Ten dollars’!”

“Oh, I could give it back all right, for dead sure, just the minute

I get my salary.”

“Ten dollars!!!”

“You see, I’ve got into an awful tangle—I owe seven and a half on my board, and she said yesterday she’d have to have it. And I couldn’t pay my laundry last week, so he said he wouldn’t leave it, and I got this cursed suit on the installment plan and they said they’d seize my trunk, and—”

“Say but Gol darn it, I lent you five dollars, don’t you remember, last November, and you swore you’d pay it back on the first and I never got it till away after New Year’s—”

“I know, I know. But this is absolutely sure. So help me, I’ll pay it right on the first, the minute I get my check.”

“Yes, but you won’t—”

“No, I swear I will—”

And after about half an hour of expostulations and protests of this sort, having pledged his soul, his body, and his honor, the borrower at last gets his ten dollars.

场 景 二

Tableau No.II

迈克杜夫先生到城里的银行借一千块钱。

开商店的迈克杜夫先生来银行借一千块钱，等客人们还了货款之后就还钱。

迈克杜夫先生被晾了半天才获准进去和经理商量。经理和迈克

杜夫是钓鱼的朋友，可是这会儿经理却摆出来一幅正儿八经的样子，让迈克杜夫签了很多字，发了很多誓，最后才把原本就打算借出的钱给了迈克杜夫。

The Scene in Which Mr McDuff of the McDuff

Hardware Store in Central City (pop. 3, 862) Borrows \$1,000 from the Local Bank

The second degree in borrowing is represented by this scene in which Mr. John McDuff, of McDuff Bros. Hardware Store (Everything in Hardware), calls on the local bank manager with a view to getting \$1,000 to carry the business forward for one month till the farmers' spring payments begin to come in.

Mr. McDuff is told by one of the (two) juniors in the bank to wait—the manager is engaged for the moment.

The manager in reality is in his inner office, sorting out trout flies. But he knows what McDuff wants and he means to make him wait for it and suffer for it.

When at last McDuff does get in, the manager is very cold and formal.

"Sit down, Mr. McDuff," he says. When they go fishing together, the manager always calls McDuff "John". But this is different. McDuff is here to borrow money. And borrowing money in Central City is a criminal act.

"I came in about that loan," says McDuff.

The manager looks into a ledger.

"You're overdrawn seventeen dollars right now," he says.

"I know, but I'll be getting my accounts in any time after the first."

Then follows a string of severe questions. What are McDuff's daily receipts? What is his overhead? What is his underfoot? Is he a churchgoer? Does he believe in a future life?

And at last even when the manager finally consents to lend the thousand dollars (he always meant to do it), he begins tagging on conditions:

"You'll have to get your partner to sign."

"All right."

"And you'd better get your wife to sign."

"All right."

"And your mother, she might as well sign too—"

There are more signatures on a country bank note for one month than on a Locarno treaty.

And at last McDuff, of Everything in Hardware, having pledged his receipts, his premises, his credit, his honor, his wife, and his mother gets away with the thousand dollars.

场 景 三

Tableau No.III

金融业的平波特先生一顿饭工夫就借到了一百万。

銀行



銀行行長親自送平波特先生出了門

平波特先生走进国家银行的行长室，被奉为上宾。

银行行长反复强调平波特先生想要多少钱都可以。平波特先生大方表示这次只要一百万。最后，银行行长亲自送平波特先生出了门。

当然，最阔气的借款还是国际借款。请看——

*H*ow Mr. P. O. Pingpoint, of the Great Financial House of Pingpoint, Pingpong and Company, New York and London, Borrows a Million Dollars before Lunch

Here the scene is laid in a fitting setting. Mr. Pingpoint is shown into the sumptuous head office of the president of the First National Bank.

“Ah, good morning,” says the president as he rises to greet Mr. Pingpoint, “I was expecting you. Our general manager told me that you were going to be good enough to call in. Won’t you take this larger chair?—you’ll find it easier.”

“Ah, thank you. You’re very comfortable here.”

“Yes, we rather think this a pleasant room. And our board room, we think, is even better. Won’t you let me show you our board room?”

“Oh, thanks, I’m afraid I hardly have the time. I just came in for a minute to complete our loan of a million dollars.”

“Yes, our executive Vice-President said that you are good enough to come to us. It is very kind of you, I’m sure.”

“Oh, not at all.”

“And you are quite sure that a million is all that you care to take? We shall be delighted, you know, if you will take a million and a half.”

“Oh, scarcely. A million, I think, will be ample just now; we can come back, of course, if we want more.”

“Oh, certainly, certainly.”

“And do you want us to give any security, or anything of that sort?”

“Oh, no, quite unnecessary.”

“And is there anything you want me to sign while I am here?”

“Oh, no, nothing, the clerks will attend to all that.”

“Well, thanks, then, clerks will attend to all that.”

“But won't you let me drive you up town? My car is just outside. Or, better still, if you are free, won't you come and eat some lunch with me at the club?”

“Well, thanks, yes, you're really extremely kind.”

And with this, quite painlessly and easily, the million dollars has changed hands.

But even that is not the last degree. Eclipsing that sort of thing, both in case and in splendor, is the international loan, as seen in—

场 景 四

Tableau No.IV

英国的罗斯坦阁下和法国的苏里斯子爵到美国借贷一亿美元。

纽约的报纸报道了两位大人每天的行程。他们参加了欢迎会和宗教仪式，会见了商业人士和政府代表，最后轻易地拿到了借款回国，并表示此行非常成功。

The Scenes Which Accompany the Flotation of an Anglo-French Loan in the American Market, of a Hundred Million Dollars, by the Right Hon. Samuel Rothstein of England and the Vicomte Batou Rouge de Chauve Souris of France

This occurrence is best followed as it appears in its triumphant progress in the American press.

NEW YORK, Friday—An enthusiastic reception was given yesterday to the Right Hon. Mr. Samuel Rothstein, of the British Cabinet, and to the Vicomte de Chauve Souris, French plenipotentiary, on their landing from the Stacquitania. It is understood that they will borrow \$100,000,000. The distinguished visitors expect to stay only a few days.

NEW YORK, Saturday—An elaborate reception was given last evening in the home of Mrs. Bildermont to the Right Hon. Samuel Rothstein and the Baron de Chauve Souris. It is understood that they are borrowing a hundred million dollars.

NEN YORK, Monday—The Baron de Chauve Souris and the Right Hon. Samuel Rothstein were notable figures in the Fifth Avenue church parade yesterday. It is understood that they will