



留住精彩

世界名著精选精读

1

*WONDERFULNESS OF RETENTION—
FEATURED INTENSIVE READING OF
THE SELECTED WORLD MASTERWORKS*


李延林 主编

The Scarlet Letter / 红 字 / Nathaniel Hawthorne

Gone With the Wind / 飘 / Margaret Mitchell

Oliver Twist / 雾都孤儿 / Charles Dickens

Wuthering Heights / 呼啸山庄 / Emily Brontë



英汉对照

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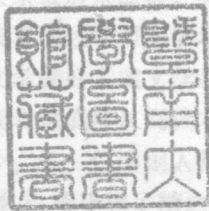
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序

《留住精彩——世界名著精选精读》系列丛书即将出版,世界图书出版公司做了一件很有意义的事。该系列丛书的主编及其编写组的全体成员长期在高校从事教学与科研工作,这套丛书的出版无疑是他们在教学与科研领域所做的一件值得称道的事,可喜可贺!

《留住精彩——世界名著精选精读》系列丛书共有四册,每一册涵盖四部文学作品,其中每部文学作品备受全世界读者的青睐,所涉及的内容有“作者链接”,包括作者的教育与经历、写作风格、其作品的评论与影响;接着便是“作品介绍”、与作品相关的“故事梗概”及作品中的“精彩片段与赏析”,从整体上突出了内容的完整性以及思维的连贯性,其表述形式无论是在宏观上还是微观上都别具一格、匠心独具;读者每次读后,定会有新的感受、新的感想、新的收获。

全套丛书采用了英汉对照的表述模式,这说明此套丛书的编写者们至少有这样的考量:首先,该套丛书具有目的性与针对性,具有很大的读者群。从高层次上讲,它的读者有高等院校的师生、科研院所的研究工作者、中等学校的教师;从中等层次上讲,它的读者有自学者、英语爱好者,因此它既适合读者专门来研读,将它用作文学欣赏课或文化素质课的教材,也适合他们利用业余时间或者节假日甚至茶余饭后来品读。其次,它的出发点很明确,给人以新思维、新启迪,编者们希望读者通过学习能够培养开阔人文精神、文学兴趣,从而造就出一批双语水平高的文学爱好者或文学新人。这充分体现了广大编写者们的用心良苦。因此,每一位读者都能够从阅读本套丛书中获益。

如今,每一位中国人都深切感受到了在全球经济一体化形势下我国经济的快速发展,也感受到了随之而来的经济大潮给人们带来的影响与冲击。在这种大潮的影响与冲击下,许多人在把目光投向经济效益好、投资少、回报高的赚钱行业,就高等院校而言,更多的大学生在关注工科或热门学科的学习,种种迹象表明他们中的许多人在慢慢疏远文科的学习,尤其是疏远文科中文学课程的学习,这种现象必须引起我们高度重视与关注并予以克服。诚然,一国的经济必须得到迅速而又稳健的发展,目的是通过经济的发展促进综合国力的增强,但综合国力的增强也不是孤立的,它受着多种因素的制约,其中人文环境是必不可少的,所以说在发展经济、增强综合国力的同时千万不要忘了使人文社会科学与之同步、协

调地发展,否则人文社会科学的发展会相对滞后,会出现其在上社会上得不到应有的尊重,继而受到冷落,甚至慢慢地淡出人们的视线,从而使一国经济得以繁荣、国力得以增强所需的人文色彩减弱或缺失,甚至丧失引导人类与社会进步、发展的动力。

社会的发展离不开发达的科学技术支撑下的经济繁荣,同样离不开人文社会科学的发展,因此在此前提下的社会发展是一种多元化的发展,社会发展的成果是一种多元化发展的结果。“人类的文明,社会的进步,个人的修养,每时每刻都离不开文学,文学既是人类文明的产物,又反过来促进人类文明。这也正是为什么人类社会经历了几千年风雨,中间无论怎样改朝换代,文学始终没有泯灭的道理。”《留住精彩——世界名著精选精读》多少可以引导读者接近文学,这也正是我们当今社会所特别需要的,我为她的出版呐喊助威!

编写《留住精彩——世界名著精选精读》系列丛书对于编写组的全体成员来说是一项较大的工程,他们付出的劳动也是很大的,是他们在经过调查研究后发现文学重要性的前提下开展的一种尝试性的编写工作,表现了知识分子对社会的关注和对文学事业的推崇。由于该套丛书是编写组的全体成员在该领域的一种新尝试,其中肯定会有不完美之处,但重要的是它正朝着让全民关注的文学事业进步与发展、以文学促进各项事业的发展、提高全民文学素养与水平的正确方向迈出了可喜的一步。

洋洋百余万字,远非此处千余百字所能描述的,个中的概括、宏旨、内涵、创意与创新及精彩之处还是留给广大的读者去品评、研读和挖掘吧。但我认为在使用的过程中定会有有待补充、修改之处,希望编写组一旦发现就加以补充、修改并臻以完善。我有幸先睹为快,欣喜之余,欣然提笔匆匆写下一孔之见,权且称作总序。

屠国元 | 中南大学外国语学院院长
教授、博士生导师

于中南大学通泰梅岭苑
2010年12月18日

前言

After all, tomorrow is another day. 毕竟,明天又是崭新的一天!《飘》

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife. 但凡拥有产业的单身汉总要娶位太太,这已经成为一条举世公认的真理。《傲慢与偏见》

将世界名著中的精彩名句及精彩片段留住,让更多的读者触摸文学,是编写《留住精彩——世界名著精选精读》这套丛书的主旨。《留住精彩——世界名著精选精读》丛书就好像是一套有关外国文学的“百家讲坛”,朴实无华、充实宽广。

多年来,笔者在教学与研究中一直都想编写一部涉及外国名著作者及其作品的书籍,因为笔者深知文学尤其是外国文学作品中有许多精彩与精华的东西在吸引着我们,更重要的是文学对人类的作用与贡献,即文学能培养一个人创新型思维模式,并给人以新启迪,引导人类社会及科学事业走向进步、发展与繁荣。

著名科学家钱学森先生生前不仅身体力行热爱并关注文学艺术事业,而且极力倡导并号召各行各业的人们热爱文学艺术与文学艺术事业。钱老认为文学艺术爱好者必定会获得一种进行科学创造与创新的启示,他曾经这样说过,自己在科学事业上的所得得益于对文学艺术的热爱与追求,以及从中得到的启示。

学习文学的人,从文学爱好者或追求者到走上文学之路或曰步入文学殿堂并成为专家,其学习都是从基础开始的。为此,笔者特地组织了部分热爱文学、关注文学事业的人士编写了《留住精彩——世界名著精选精读》系列丛书。该套丛书重点关注的是文学基础,因此它的出版无疑实现了多年来我们一直都在试图努力实现的愿望与梦想,从中我们也感到了欣慰与鼓舞。

《留住精彩——世界名著精选精读》系列丛书所涉及的著作都是世界名著,在文学领域颇受推崇,备受全世界广大读者的青睐。作为专门讨论文学名著作者及其作品精彩片段翻译与赏析的丛书,在编写的过程中,我们力求结合中国的实际,以各层次读者的需要与适应度为取舍,深入浅出,博采众长,虚心学习并广泛吸取以往许多专家学者在该领域中所取得的研究成果,以便能让读者根据自己的需要,借文学缜密而富有逻辑性的创造性思维模式,更全面地丰富自己的头脑,在相关学科领域获得发明、创新与创造性智慧的启蒙与启示。在此向这些文学领域的专家学者表示衷心的感谢和崇高的敬意,是他们的成果为我们所做的

工作打下了良好的基础。

《留住精彩——世界名著精选精读》丛书的内容涵盖有“作者链接”，对作者的家庭背景、教育与经历、写作风格、作品评论与影响娓娓道来；有“作品介绍”，分别从故事背景、作品影响、作品的改编等角度一一阐述；还有各部名著的“故事梗概”及“精彩片段与赏析”。在内容的安排上，全套书充分考虑了学习者在初级阶段与中级阶段的需求，采用英汉对照的方式，这样既可以让更广泛的读者能够读懂它们，完整地了解作家及其作品，又可以使读者增长文学知识，陶冶情操，不断拓宽视野，开扩思维，提高英语综合水平。

如果您是一位专业教师，本书中大量的中英文背景介绍可以为您充实备课教案；如果您是一位英语专业学生，本书是您学习外国文学、翻译课程、从事学术研究的好帮手；如果您是一位英语爱好者，原汁原味的原版英文、精彩的参考译文，既能一探世界名著的风采，又可提高英文水平；如果您是一位文学爱好者，本书是您陶冶情操、锤炼心智的精神食粮。此套丛书适合于热爱文学、英文翻译与文学创作的人们，包括在校的中学生、大学生，也包括如今已在各行各业工作的人们，特别是在从事研究工作或将要从事研究工作的教师以及自学青年。

该套丛书在编写的过程中得到了中南大学外国语学院院长、博士生导师、湖南省译协副会长屠国元教授的大力支持，同时屠教授还欣然为该套丛书作序，在此深表谢忱。也感谢广大的已研究出可供我们学习与借鉴的成果与启示的相关作者，还要感谢协同合作不畏严寒与酷暑、不断探索的各位编写者，是他们的协作和努力才使此套丛书得以顺利出版。

因编者才疏学浅，书中难免存在诸如翻译与赏析方面的错误，诚恳希望广大读者不吝赐教，以便我们在此套丛书再版时予以修正。

此套丛书为方便读者阅读、学习，还提供有电子书试读本，读者可自世图英语学习网 www.eb88k.com 下载，以便在电脑、手机等阅读器中阅读浏览。将世界名著随身带着走，赶快体验全新的阅读方式吧！

李廷林

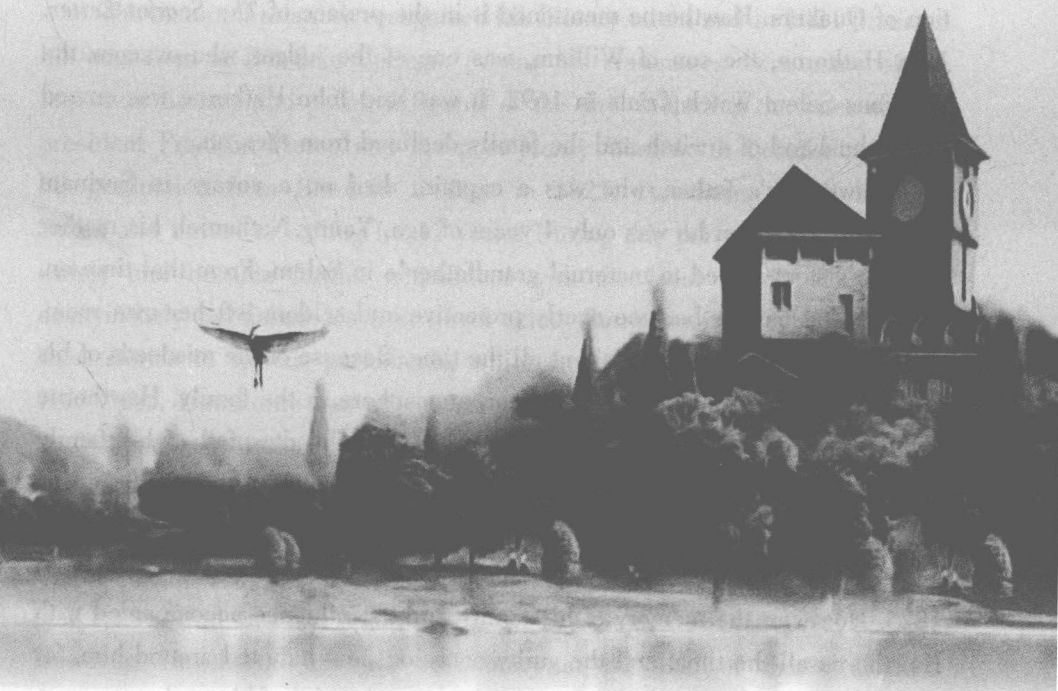
于中南大学梅岭村

2010年12月6日

The Scarlet Letter

红字

Nathaniel Hawthorne





A Brief Introduction to the Author

作者链接

Family Background 家庭背景

Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804–1864) is one of the most significant writers of the Romantic Period in America of the 19th century. He was born as Nathaniel Hathorne on July 4, 1804, in Salem, Massachusetts. Hawthorne was the descent of a long line of Puritan ancestors, and the social and economic status of his family was declining at his birth. Hawthorne's ancestor, William Hathorne, was one of the first settlers from England in 1630 and soon became one of the community's leaders, and he was merciless in his persecution of Quakers. Hawthorne mentioned it in the preface of *The Scarlet Letter*. John Hathorne, the son of William, was one of the judges who oversaw the notorious Salem Witch Trials in 1692. It was said John Hathorne was cursed by the husband of a witch and the family declined from then on.

Hawthorne's father, who was a captain, died on a voyage in Surinam Dutch Guinea when he was only 4 years of age. Young Nathaniel, his mother and two sisters moved to maternal grandfather's in Salem. From that time on, his widowed mother became overly protective and seldom left her own room, and his two sisters also kept silent all the time. Because of the misdeeds of his Puritan ancestors as well as the solemn atmosphere in the family, Hawthorne lived in solitude and seclusion. He believed that the downfall of his family just resulted from retribution. In order to differentiate himself from his notorious Puritan ancestors and get rid of the evil curse, Hawthorne added the letter W in his name shortly after his graduation from Bowdoin College in 1825. However, the memory of his family and its influence accompanied with Hawthorne all the time, and the guilty consciousness haunted around him, for which Hawthorne showed his idea of redemption in a lot of his works.

纳撒尼尔·霍桑 (1804–1864) 是 19 世纪浪漫主义文学时期美国最重要的作家之一。1804 年 7 月 4 日, 霍桑出生于马塞诸塞州塞勒姆镇一个具有清



教传统的世家，但他出世时家族已逐渐没落。霍桑的先祖威廉·哈桑 (William Hathorne) 是 1630 年首批英国移民之一，后来成为当地的行政长官，曾经残忍地迫害过教友会教徒。霍桑在其著作《红字》的序言中曾提到过此事。霍桑的另一位先祖，约翰·哈桑 (John Hathorne) 是 1692 年臭名昭著的“萨勒姆驱巫案”中的一位法官。据说约翰·哈桑受到了其中一个女巫丈夫的诅咒，家庭从此逐渐衰落。

霍桑的父亲是一名船长，在他 4 岁时死于南美的苏里南航行途中，于是年幼的霍桑和他的两个姐妹随母亲投靠萨莱姆镇上的外祖父。自那时起他的寡母性格发生了很大的变化，她很少离开自己的房间，姐妹们也是寡言少语。由于家族历史和家庭氛围的双重影响，霍桑性格内向，喜欢独处。他深信自己家族后来的没落是罪有应得，为了将自己与祖先区别开来，摆脱先祖恶迹的诅咒，霍桑在 1825 年从波多因学院毕业后不久便将家姓由哈桑改为霍桑。可事实上，家族记忆似胎记烙印在他身上，永难抹去，人生罪恶感似乎一生都萦绕于他的心头，因而在他的许多作品中都带有其祖先赎罪的想法。

Education and Career 教育与经历

The maternal relatives recognized his literary talent and in 1821 financed his education at Bowdoin College. Among his classmates were many of the important literary and political figures of the day, including the later elected president Franklin Pierce and the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. After his graduation from Bowdoin College in 1825, Hawthorne came back to Salem and turned to writing for 12 years. During this period of time, he read widely and became further acquainted with the local history. Hawthorne anonymously published his first novel titled *Fanshawe* in 1828 and several short stories in various periodicals, which he collected in 1837 as *Twice-Told Tales*. Hawthorne was offered an appointment as weigher and gauger at the Boston Custom House at a salary of \$1,500 a year in 1839.

Later, Hawthorne was greatly influenced by the Transcendentalism, and joined the Brook Farm with an investment for \$1,500 in 1841, which was a Utopian community founded by some high-minded intellectuals. His original plan was to find an ideal home for his fiancée, Sophia Peabody, and himself. However, Hawthorne left the community at the end of that year with disappointment. Though his stay there proved no more successful, the experience influenced him a lot and offered the source for his novel *The Blithedale Romance* later, which is the only work written in the first person,



describing the contemporary life. In 1842, Hawthorne married Sophia Peabody and moved to The Manse in Concord, the center of the transcendental movement for 3 years. He acquainted himself with some famous writers there, such as Emerson and Thoreau, and took a series of relevant activities about transcendentalism.

由于霍桑出众的文学天赋，1821 年他在亲戚资助下进入波多因学院，同学中包括许多重要的文学家和政治家，其中有后来当选为总统的富兰克林·皮尔斯与诗人朗费罗等。1825 年霍桑大学毕业后，回到塞勒姆镇，从事写作长达 12 年之久。在这段时间，霍桑广泛阅读各种书籍，对当地的历史也有了更深地了解。1828 年，霍桑匿名发表了第一部长篇小说《范肖》，随后在一些期刊上陆续出版短篇小说，并于 1837 年收入《重讲一遍的故事》一书中。霍桑曾于 1839 年任职波士顿海关计量员，年薪 1500 美元。

由于受到超验主义的影响，霍桑在 1841 年参加了超验主义者创办的乌托邦式公社——布鲁克农场，并投资了 1500 美元，目的是为他和他的未婚妻索菲娅·阿·皮博迪在此寻找一个家，但年底便失望地退出了该社。尽管霍桑的理想在此并未得到实现，但这一经历却对他有着重要的影响，为他后来的著作《福谷传奇》提供了素材，这也是霍桑唯一一部以第一人称描写当代生活的作品。霍桑于 1842 年与索菲娅结婚，并在其后的 3 年与妻子迁居超验主义哲学的基地——康考德镇，在那里他结识了作家爱默生、梭罗等人，并参加了一系列的相关活动。

Hawthorne returned to Salem, where he was appointed surveyor of the Salem Customs House in 1846. However, as a faithful Democrat, Hawthorne was dismissed from this post in June 1849 when the Whig Party returned to power. After that, Hawthorne devoted himself to his most famous novel, *The Scarlet Letter* (1850). In 1851, Hawthorne published another novel *The House of the Seven Gables*, which is describing how the misdeeds of the ancestors bring misfortunes to the offspring. The poet and critic James Russell Lowell said it was better than *The Scarlet Letter* and called it "the most valuable contribution to New England history that has been made". With Pierce's election as President, Hawthorne was rewarded with the position of the United States consul in Liverpool in 1853. In 1857, his appointment ended, and the Hawthorne family toured France and then stayed in Italy, where Hawthorne began to write his *The Marble Faun*, a novel which focused on the good and the evil. Hawthorne and his family returned to Concord in



1860, and he published *The Marble Faun* that year. He died in his sleep on May 19, 1864, in Plymouth, New Hampshire in the U.S. while on a tour with Pierce, leaving 4 unfinished works.

1846 年霍桑回到萨勒姆,担任萨勒姆海关检察官。1849 年 6 月,辉格党(现共和党前身)当权后,霍桑作为一名忠诚的民主党人士,便被新政府解除海关职务。此后,霍桑便致力于创作活动,写出了他最著名的长篇小说《红字》(1850)。第二年,霍桑又出版了另外一部著名的作品《带有七个尖角阁的房子》,这是一部描写祖先谋财害命,其罪孽殃及子孙的长篇小说。诗人兼评论家的洛厄尔·詹姆斯·罗素称这部作品比《红字》更为出色,是“对新英格兰历史所做的最有价值的贡献”。皮尔斯当选为美国总统后,霍桑于 1853 年被任命为驻英国利物浦的领事。1857 年任期结束后,霍桑连同家人去法国旅游,后侨居在意大利,并在那里开始创作讨论善恶问题的长篇小说《玉石雕像》。1860 年霍桑及其家人返回康科德并出版了《玉石雕像》。1864 年 5 月 19 日,霍桑在与皮尔斯结伴旅游途中,在美国新罕布什尔州普利茅斯去世。去世时,仍然留下 4 部未完成的著作。



Writing Style 写作风格



Hawthorne developed a new form of fiction—the romance in American literature. He claimed several times that the romance is radically different from the novel. In the prefaces of *The Scarlet Letter* and *The House of the Seven Gables*, Hawthorne defined what romance meant to him. According to Hawthorne's interpretation, romance is different from the realistic novels. The traditional realistic novels stress representations of the external world or human experiences with verisimilitude, but the romance is more concerned with “truths of the human heart”, which allows the author to deviate from reality in favor of imagination freely.

霍桑是美国文学史上浪漫主义小说的开创者,他曾多次声明他写的不是小说,而是罗曼史。霍桑在其作品《红字》以及《七个尖角阁的房子》的前言中都曾提到过罗曼史的概念。在他看来,浪漫主义小说与现实主义小说是不同的,传统的现实主义小说侧重对客观世界以及人们生活经验的真实反映,而罗曼小说却更多地关注人们“心灵的真实”,也就为作者提供了自由发挥想象力的空间。

The themes in Hawthorne's works often center on the problems like sin, crime and punishment, and the most distinguished feature in his works lies in



the revealing of the internal darkness of human beings, which shows the influence of “original sin” he learned from Christianity. According to the belief of Christianity, “original sin” will pass on from generation to generation since Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit against the willing of God and were expelled from the Garden of Eden, and it refers to the sin that everyone is born with. In the eyes of the Puritans, God is almighty and righteous and man is sinful and evil. With the influence of such a kind of religion, Hawthorne believes that man is evil-natured and sinful. In his opinion, all the social problems, the conflicts between human beings and the crimes result from the “inherent evil” of human beings rather than the material life, and the “inherent evil” is the root of all misfortunes. Without doubt, Hawthorne is greatly influenced by the Calvinism of original sin, which is known as Hawthorne’s “black vision”.

At the same time, Hawthorne was influenced by the transcendentalism, which emphasizes the significance and dignity of the individual, and believes that the individual is the most important element in society. Because of the constant influence by the idea of inherent evil of Puritanism as well as the optimistic attitude of transcendentalism, Hawthorne shows his ambivalent attitude to human beings in his works, and the characters are always the mixture of evil and good, which makes the thoughts of the characters profound.

霍桑作品中的主题一般都集中于探讨罪恶、犯罪和惩罚等问题，揭示人类心灵深处的黑暗面成了他最重要的创作特征。这在很大程度上反映出基督教中“原罪”带给他的影响。基督教认为，自从亚当、夏娃在伊甸园违背上帝教导偷食禁果被逐出乐园之后，“原罪”代代相传，人类注定要背负与生俱来的罪孽。清教徒更是极力宣扬上帝是全能的、完美的，人类是罪恶的、卑劣的。在这一宗教思想的影响下，霍桑总是倾向于“人性恶”的论断。他认为，一切社会问题、人与人之间的矛盾、犯罪现象等的根源都不在社会物质生活中，而是世界上固有的一种“恶”造成的，“恶”是人的本性的自然组成部分，是一切不幸的根源。毫无疑问，霍桑深受加尔文教派关于与生俱来的堕落与原罪思想的影响，评论家称之为霍桑的“黑暗视角”。

与此同时，他受到超验主义思想的影响，即强调个人具有无上的意义和尊严，认为个人是社会最重要的元素。正是由于清教的人性本恶和超验哲学的人性本善的观念不停地影响着霍桑，他对人性的认识具有模棱两可的特性，因而其作品中的人物也成为善与恶的混合体，加深了作品人物的思想纬度。



Because of the Puritan tradition of his family and his unique life experience, Hawthorne shows an obvious intention for teaching in his works; however, he can't express his ideas freely to avoid the offense from the contemporary society and government. Therefore, he is adept at using elaborate symbolism to express his views. Taking *The Scarlet Letter* as an example, the meaning of the letter A undergoes an imperceptible change as Hester's moral development, and it has numerous interpretations. At first, it is a symbol of the shame "adultery", but then Hester changes it into "able" with her delicate embroideries for the townspeople, and finally, it signifies "angel" because of her generosity and kindness.

Furthermore, the names of the characters in the novel also have symbolic meanings. For example, Arthur Dimmesdale, a well-regarded young minister, whose initials are AD, standing for "adultery", which means that Arthur Dimmesdale is actually an adulter. Meanwhile, "Dim" means "dark and weak", and "dale" means "valley", so the name of the minister is actually a symbol of the "dim-interior". Another example is the name of Roger Chillingworth, in which "Chilling" comes from the word "chilly", meaning this man is a merciless avenger. There are lots of other examples with symbolic meanings in the novel, such as the scaffold, the wild rose-bush in front of the prison door as well as the forest, to mention just a few.

由于霍桑的清教家庭背景以及他独特的生活经历,其作品中的说教意图非常明显;然而,为了避免冒犯社会和政教当局,他又不可能直抒心意。因此,他经常借助巧妙的象征手段来抒发自己的感想。以《红字》为例,小说中的字母“A”便是霍桑这种艺术特点的杰出运用。随着女主人公海丝特品行的发展,人们对它的内涵做出了多种解释。它最初的意义为“通奸”(adultery),后来海丝特凭借自己的双手为镇上的人们刺绣出精美的女红,镇上的人也都视她为一个“能干”(able)的人。而她的乐善好施,不求回报,又令人们觉得她如“天使”(angel)。

同时,小说中主人公的名字也是别具匠心。例如,受人尊敬的年轻牧师亚瑟·丁梅斯代尔(Arthur Dimmesdale)的两个首字母AD正好是“Adultery”(通奸)的前两个首字母,这实际上在暗示 Arthur Dimmesdale 是一个通奸者;同时,“Dim”的意思是“阴暗的,虚弱的”,“Dale”的意思是“山谷”,所以牧师的名字实际上是他“阴暗内心”的象征。又如,罗杰·齐灵渥斯(Roger Chillingworth),“chilling”源于“chilly”(寒意,冰冷,缺乏怜悯等),这也暗示了他是一个无情的复仇者。除此之外,小说中还有大量富有象征意义的事物,如刑台,监狱门前的野



蔷薇以及森林等。由于篇幅所限，这里就不一一详述。

Hawthorne is adept at revealing the inner conflicts and psychological movements of the characters, because the most important thing Hawthorne concerns himself about is the heart of human beings. In his opinion, the origin of evil is the human heart, therefore, the best way to reveal evil is from "truths of the human heart"; furthermore, the human behaviors resulted from the psychological movement, the description about the characters must be superficial without the exposure of the inner world. There are several chapters in *The Scarlet Letter* functioning as the characters' "interior monologue" (Chapters 5, 9 and 11), which reveal the complicated inner world of the characters. Therefore, Hawthorne's works are always called "psychological romance".

Last but not least, the supernatural element always plays an important role in Hawthorne's works, for which his works are enveloped in a mysterious religious atmosphere all the time. And furthermore, he keeps an obvious and strong teaching intention in his works, and his language is always full of obscurity and gloom.

霍桑作品的另一大特点是非常注重揭示人物的内心冲突和心理活动。一方面，霍桑最关心的是人的心灵。在他看来，人心是万恶之源，因而揭露人的“恶”的最佳方法便是从反映“心灵的真实”着手；另一方面，人的行为举止终有其心理依据，如不进行心理挖掘，人物只能停留在表象上，必然显得肤浅。《红字》中有许多章节描述了人物的“内心独白”，真实地勾勒出了人物复杂的内心世界（如第5章、第9章以及第11章）。因此，霍桑的作品也被称为“心灵罗曼史”。

最后，需要提到的一点是，霍桑的作品中经常描述到超自然因素，带有神秘的宗教气氛；他的作品说教意味浓厚，文字较为晦涩，基调阴郁。

Comment on the Author 评论与影响

Hawthorne is one of the best writers of American Romanticism in the 19th century. Although Hawthorne once said his works couldn't bring broad influences, he created a lot of remarkable works and established his own writing style. Herman Melville, his contemporary writer and the author of *Moby Dick*, even regarded him as an equal of Shakespeare in his critical article *Hawthorne and His Mosses* in 1850. Furthermore, Hawthorne helped to change the original



scheme of *Moby Dick*. Henry James, the famous American writer, also spoke highly of Hawthorne and said "Hawthorne's work will remain ... Among the men of imagination he will always have his niche." D. H. Lawrence called him "a blue-eyed darling"; although he "knew disagreeable things in his inner soul", he "was careful to send them out in disguise." Poe, his contemporary writer, in his review of *Twice-told Tales* in 1842, said Hawthorne's tales "belong to the highest region of art—an art subservient to genius of a very lofty order". Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner also gave high credit for Hawthorne and acknowledged that they learned much from him.

霍桑被视为 19 世纪美国浪漫主义文学潮流中最出色的作家之一。霍桑曾非常谦虚地宣称他的作品不会引起广泛的观注，但事实却正好相反。霍桑创作了不少不朽的著作，并且创立了自己独具特色的写作风格。与他同时代的麦尔维尔（小说《白鲸》的作者）深受其影响，在他 1850 年的评论文章《霍桑和他的青苔》中甚至称霍桑与英国的莎士比亚不分伯仲；霍桑还改变了《白鲸》创作的初衷；著名小说家亨利·詹姆斯也高度赞扬霍桑说：“他的作品将永驻……他将在富于想象者的圣殿中永保其牌位。” D.H. 劳伦斯称他为“蓝眼睛的宝贝”，深信“灵魂中所隐藏的讨厌的东西”，而又能“小心地把它们伪装好送出来”。而爱伦·坡也在他为《重讲一遍的故事》所写的评论中盛赞霍桑的小说“属于艺术的最高境界”。作家海明威和福克纳也对霍桑给予了高度的评价，并承认霍桑对他们产生了深远的影响。

Introduction to the Novel

作品介绍

Background 故事背景

The setting of *The Scarlet Letter* is Boston in the 1650s, and the residents are the first generation of immigrants from England. They left England to avoid religious oppression and wanted to form their own communities in the New World. The Puritans stressed thrift, piety and sobriety, and they aimed at purging the Church of its ostentation and corruption. However, as time went on, the Puritan leaders did not tolerate religious beliefs that differed from theirs



and began to persecute those people. And furthermore, the Puritan's opposition to pleasure was ridiculous sometimes, they made laws about private morality as well as public behaviors and even suspected joy and laughter as symptoms of sin.

The author told us the material source for his masterpiece in the preface of the book: *The Customs House*. "One idle and rainy day", as the surveyor in the Customs House in Salem, the author found a small package from the heaped-up rubbish in the corner of the office. There was a piece of "much worn and faded" red cloth with the shape of a capital letter "A". When the author happened to place it on his breast, he experienced a sensation of burning heat. A small of dingy paper which twisted around the cloth explained the story. A woman named Hester Prynne, who lived in the late 17th century, was punished to wear a scarlet letter "A" on the breast because of adultery. This was the method to punish the offender according to New England doctrines at that time. The story touched the author so deeply that he created his masterpiece *The Scarlet Letter* with this source.

《红字》的故事背景是 1650 年前后的波士顿，当时的居民是来此定居的第一代英格兰移民。为了避免受到宗教迫害，他们离开英国来到新大陆，希望建立自己的新乐土。清教徒是一群注重勤劳、节俭、虔诚和节制的人。起初他们致力于净化教堂的仪式和腐败现象，后来却发展到对持有不同宗教信仰的人加以迫害。更有甚者，清教徒反对人们对快乐和艺术的追求到了近乎荒谬的地步，他们对人们的个人德行和公众行为都制定了法律，甚至认为欢笑是罪恶的象征。

作者在该书序言《海关》中讲述了故事的起源，当时他正任萨勒姆镇海关检察官。一个雨天，作者无所事事，意外在办公室的一个废弃文献堆里发现了一个小包裹。包裹内有一块很陈旧的形如大写字母 A 的丝绣红布。当作者偶然将它贴在胸前时，顿时感到一阵烧灼感。在红字上裹着一小卷灰暗的文件，解释了其中的故事：一位生活在 17 世纪后半叶的名为海丝特·白兰的女人，因犯通奸罪而被罚胸戴红字 "A"，此亦即新英格兰清教教义中处置罪犯的手段。这件事对作者产生了极大的触动，因而他信手将此拈来，然后大力发挥了一番，成就了《红字》。

It's unnecessary for us to discuss whether the material source the author claimed is true or not, but his delicate layout of story makes the readers feel a sense of historical reality and an air of authenticity. In fact, the law of Plymouth Colony in 1658 indeed defined the punishment for adultery: The individual would have to wear the letters AD "cut out in cloth and sowed on