探险与传奇世界经典文学
双语必读系列丛书

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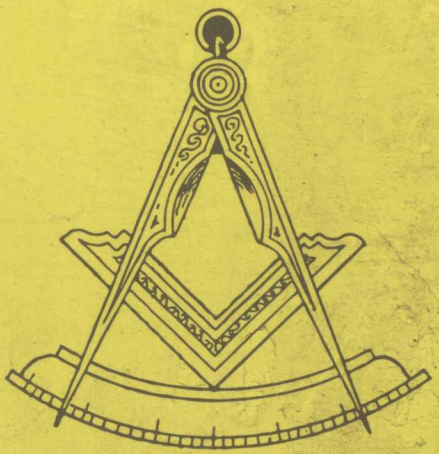
第三版
THIRD EDITION

时间机器
THE TIME MACHINE

CHINESE-ENGLISH 英汉对照 BILINGUAL EDITION



[英] 赫伯特·乔治·威尔斯 著 / 青闻 译注

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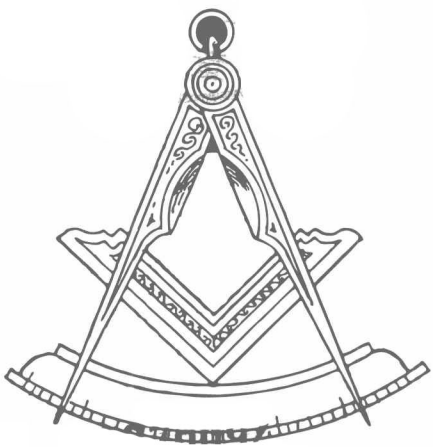

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机器。他乘着时间机器穿越80多万年的时空，抵达公元802701年，而展现在他面前的是一个谁都料想不到的可怕世界。这时的世界物产丰饶，人类分化成了两种截然不同的生物：一种是脆弱娇小的埃洛伊人，悠闲生活在地面上的豪华宫殿中，养尊处优，饱食终日，智力和体力退化；另一种是凶悍粗野、形如狐猴的莫洛克人，生活在黑暗的地下世界，整日在隆隆的机器旁劳动，养肥埃洛伊人供自己食用。时间旅行家逃离了那个年代，飞到了几千万年后，迎接他的又是一幅幅惊心动魄的景象。那时的世界满目疮痍，人类灭绝，只剩下白蝴蝶和巨型螃蟹。最后，他终于回到现在，将自己旅行的经历一一告诉了朋友们。不久以后，他又踏上了第二次时间之旅。这一次，他再也没有回来。留给我们的是一个永恒的不解之谜。

《时间机器》是一部巧夺天工的社会寓言，运用近乎恐怖的手法和错综复杂的情节展示了一个震撼人心的历险故事，开创了科幻小说的先河，同时也是世界科幻小说史上第一部以时间旅行为题材的作品。后世的有关时间旅行的科幻小说，无不直接或间接地受到它的启发和影响。通过《时间机器》，威尔斯还表达了对人类终极处境的关怀，拨动了亿万颗不安的心灵。

“探险与传奇世界经典文学双语必读系列”在翻译过程中得到了东华大学出版社沈衡先生的悉心指导，也得到了宰倩、张灵敏、张连亮、李丽枫、刘君武等同志的热情帮助，在此深表谢忱。

青 闰

2015年10月

导 读

“探险与传奇世界经典文学双语必读系列”包括《金银岛》、《所罗门王的宝藏》、《时间机器》、《布哈拉历险记》、《80 天环游地球》、《冠军的童年》和《鲁滨逊漂流记》，英汉对照，疑难词注解。

“探险与传奇世界经典文学双语必读系列”顾名思义是在我们营造的探险与传奇的文学氛围中领略大师经典，让你晓畅自如地穿行在英语世界的广阔天地中，采撷芬芳，咀嚼英华，潜移默化，分享知识带给你的快慰和力量。

在选材上，我们披沙拣金，尽可能多方位、多角度、多层面地体现探险与传奇的风姿与魅力；在翻译上，我们反复斟酌推敲，力求准确到位，传神达韵，让你体味到汉语言的博大精深和独特韵味；在设计上，我们追求精美韵致、别出心裁，让你一见倾心、爱不释手、一读难忘。

我们推出的这套“探险与传奇世界经典文学双语必读系列”既有惊心动魄、缠绵悱恻的迷人故事，又有地道纯正、原汁原味的英语经典。同时，为了照顾多层次读者的阅读需求和欣赏品味，我们尽可能做到兼收并蓄、雅俗共赏。

《时间机器》是英国著名小说家赫伯特·乔治·威尔斯最成功、最杰出的代表作之一。小说以第一人称为叙事形式，逻辑缜密，充满悬念，对未来景物描写细致生动，人物心理刻画细腻深入。

故事讲的是时间旅行家发明了一种能在时间维度上任意驰骋的

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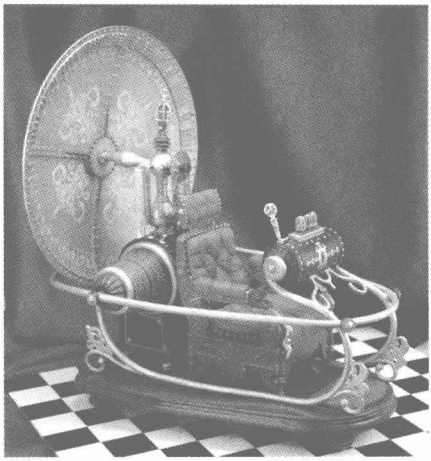

故事讲的是时间旅行家发明了一种能在时间维度上任意驰骋的机器。他乘着时间机器穿越80多万年的时空，抵达公元802701年，而展现在他面前的是一个谁都料想不到的可怕世界。时间旅行家历尽千难万险，逃离了那个年代，飞到了几千万年后，迎接他的又是一幅幅惊心动魄的景象。最后，他终于回到现在，将自己旅行的经历一一告诉了朋友们。不久以后，他又踏上了第二次时间之旅。这一次，他却再也没有回来。留给我们的是一个永恒的不解之谜。

Chapter 1

The Time Traveler was expounding a recondite① matter to us. His gray eyes shone and twinkled, and his usually pale face was flushed and animated②.

The fire burned brightly, and the soft radiance of the incandescent③ lights in the lilies of silver caught the bubbles that flashed and passed in our glasses.

Our chairs, being his patents④, embraced and caressed us rather than submitted to be sat upon, and there was that luxurious after-dinner atmosphere when thought roams gracefully free of the trammels⑤ of precision. And he put it to us in this way—marking the points with a lean forefinger—as we sat and lazily admired his earnestness over this new paradox (as we thought it) and his fecundity.

'You must follow me carefully. I shall have to controvert⑥ one or two ideas that are almost universally accepted. The geometry, for instance, they taught you at school is founded on a misconception.'

'Is not that rather a large thing to expect us to begin upon?' said Filby, an argumentative person with red hair.

---

① recondite *adj.* 深奥的；难解的
② animated *adj.* 活泼的；愉快的
③ incandescent *adj.* 白热的；白炽的
④ patent *n.* 专利权；专利品
⑤ trammels *n.* 束缚；障碍物
⑥ controvert *vt.* 议论；辩论

第一章

时间旅行家正在给我们详述一个深奥的问题，他的灰眼睛炯炯有神、闪闪发亮，平常苍白的脸色现在白里透红、生机勃勃。

炉火熊熊燃烧。白炽灯在银百合里发出的柔光，照在了我们玻璃杯里闪现、移动的泡沫上。

我们的椅子是他的专利品，与其说是让我们坐，不如说是拥抱、爱抚我们。丰盛的晚饭后的气氛非常舒适，思想不受束缚，从容驰骋。他就这样一边用瘦瘦的食指点着要点，一边向我们讲这个问题。我们都坐在那里，漫不经心地欣赏他在这个新悖论（我们这样认为）上的认真态度和丰富创意。

“你们必须仔细听我说。我必须反证一两个几乎公认的观点。比如，他们在学校里教你们的几何学就是建立在错觉之上的。”

“指望我们从这里开始听起，那不是太夸大了吗?”菲尔比说。他是一个喜欢辩论的红发人。

'I do not mean to ask you to accept anything without reasonable ground for it. You will soon admit as much as I need from you. You know of course that a mathematical line, a line of thickness NIL[①], has no real existence. They taught you that? Neither has a mathematical plane. These things are mere abstractions.'

'That is all right,' said the Psychologist. 'Nor, having only length, breadth, and thickness, can a cube have a real existence.'

'There I object,' said Filby. 'Of course a solid body may exist. All real things—'

'So most people think. But wait a moment. Can an instantaneous cube exist?'

'Don't follow you,' said Filby.

'Can a cube that does not last for any time at all, have a real existence?' Filby became pensive[②].

'Clearly,' the Time Traveler proceeded, 'any real body must have extension in FOUR directions: it must have Length, Breadth, Thickness, and—Duration. But through a natural infirmity of the flesh, which I will explain to you in a moment, we incline to overlook this fact. There are really four dimensions[③], three which we call the three planes of Space, and a fourth, Time. There is, however, a tendency to draw an unreal distinction between the former three dimensions and the latter, because it happens that our consciousness moves intermittently[④] in one direction along the latter from the beginning to the end of our lives.'

'That,' said a very young man, making spasmodic[⑤] efforts to relight his cigar over the lamp. 'that... very clear indeed.'

---

① nil *n.* 零
② pensive *adj.* 沉思的
③ dimension *n.* 维（数）；度（数）
④ intermittently *adv.* 间歇地
⑤ spasmodic *adj.* 间歇性的

“我不是请你们接受任何无稽之谈。你们很快就会承认我需要你们承认的东西。你们肯定知道，数学上的一条线，高度为零的一条线，其实根本不存在。他们是那样教的吧？数学上也没有平面。这些纯粹都是抽象的东西。”

“说得不错，”心理学家说。“只有长、宽、高的立方体，其实也无法存在。”

“我反对这种说法，”菲尔比说。“固体肯定可以存在。所有真实的东西——”

“多数人都这么认为。不过，等一会儿。一个瞬时立方体能存在吗？”

“不明白你的意思。”菲尔比说。

“一个根本没有持续时间的立方体能真正存在吗？”菲尔比陷入了沉思。

“显而易见，”时间旅行家接着说道，“任何真实的物体都必须向四个方向延伸：它必须有长度、宽度、高度和持续时间。但是，因为人体天生的缺陷（这一点我待会儿向你们解释），我们常常不注意这个事实。其实有四维空间，其中三维我们称为空间的三个平面，第四维就是时间。然而，有一种倾向认为，在前三维空间和后者之间要划上一条虚幻的区分线，因为我们的意识从生命开始到结束都是沿着时间的一个方向间歇运动。”

“这，”一个年轻人说着，痉挛似的尽力在灯上重新点燃雪茄。“这……确实非常清楚。”

'Now, it is very remarkable that this is so extensively overlooked,' continued the Time Traveler, with a slight accession① of cheerfulness. 'Really this is what is meant by the Fourth Dimension, though some people who talk about the Fourth Dimension do not know they mean it. It is only another way of looking at Time. There is no difference between time and any of the three dimensions of space except that our consciousness moves along it. But some foolish people have got hold of the wrong side of that idea. You have all heard what they have to say about this Fourth Dimension?'

'I have not,' said the Provincial Mayor.

'It is simply this. That Space, as our mathematicians have it, is spoken of as having three dimensions, which one may call Length, Breadth, and Thickness, and is always definable by reference to three planes, each at right angles to the others. But some philosophical people have been asking why three dimensions particularly—why not another direction at right angles to the other three? —and have even tried to construct a Four-Dimension geometry. Professor Simon Newcomb was expounding this to the New York Mathematical Society only a month or so ago. You know how on a flat surface, which has only two dimensions, we can represent a figure of a three-dimensional solid, and similarly they think that by models of three dimensions they could represent one of four—if they could master the perspective of the thing. See?'

'I think so,' murmured the Provincial Mayor. and, knitting his brows, he lapsed into an introspective② state, his lips moving as one who repeats mystic words.

'Yes, I think I see it now,' he said after some time, brightening in a quite transitory③ manner.

'Well, I do not mind telling you I have been at work upon this geometry of Four Dimensions for some time. Some of my results are curious. For instance, here is a portrait of a man at eight years old, another at fifteen,

---

① accession *n.* 添加；增加
② introspective *adj.* 内省的；反省的
③ transitory *adj.* 短暂的；转瞬即逝的

“现在，这一点普遍都受到忽视，所以非常值得注意。”时间旅行家继续说道，增加了一点高兴劲儿。“其实这就是第四维的含义，尽管有些谈论第四维的人并不知道他们说的就是这个意思。这只是看时间的另一种方式。时间和空间三维的任何一维之间根本没有差异，除了我们的意识是沿着时间向前运动。可是，有些愚蠢的人搞错了这个观点。你们都听过他们对第四维是怎么说的吗？”

“我没听过。”省辖市长说。

“的确是这样。我们数学家认为，空间有三维，可以称为长度、宽度和高度，而且总是通过每个都成直角的三个平面进行定义。可是，有些哲人一直问为什么偏偏是三维，为什么没有另一方向同其他三个方向形成直角呢？他们甚至试图建立四维几何。仅仅大约一个月前，西蒙·纽科姆教授还在向纽约数学学会详述这个问题。你们知道，我们可以在只有两维的平面上描绘一个三维立体图。同样，他们认为，只要他们能掌握透视画法，就能通过三维模型来表现四维的东西。明白吗？”

“我想是这样，”省辖市长咕哝道。他紧锁眉头，陷入了沉思，嘴唇翕动着，好像是重复神秘的话语。

“是的，我想我现在明白了。”过了一阵子，他说，脸上刹那间露出了喜色。

“呃，我不介意告诉你们，我从事这四维几何学已有一段时间了。我得出的一些结果非常奇特。比如，这是一个男人 8 岁时的一张肖像，

another at seventeen, another at twenty-three, and so on. All these are evidently sections, as it were, Three-Dimensional representations of his Four-Dimensioned being, which is a fixed and unalterable① thing.

'Scientific people,' proceeded the Time Traveler, after the pause required for the proper assimilation of this, 'know very well that Time is only a kind of Space. Here is a popular scientific diagram, a weather record. This line I trace with my finger shows the movement of the barometer②. Yesterday it was so high, yesterday night it fell, then this morning it rose again, and so gently upward to here. Surely the mercury did not trace this line in any of the dimensions of Space generally recognized. But certainly it traced such a line, and that line, therefore, we must conclude was along the Time-Dimension.'

'But,' said the Medical Man, staring hard at a coal in the fire, 'if Time is really only a fourth dimension of Space, why is it, and why has it always been, regarded as something different? And why cannot we move in Time as we move about in the other dimensions of Space?'

The Time Traveler smiled. 'Are you sure we can move freely in Space? Right and left we can go, backward and forward freely enough, and men always have done so. I admit we move freely in two dimensions. But how about up and down? Gravitation limits us there.'

'Not exactly,' said the Medical Man. 'There are balloons.'

'But before the balloons, save for spasmodic jumping and the inequalities of the surface, man had no freedom of vertical③ movement.'

'Still they could move a little up and down,' said the Medical Man.

'Easier, far easier down than up.'

'And you cannot move at all in Time, you cannot get away from the present moment.'

---

① unalterable *adj.* 不能变更的
② barometer *n.* 气压计
③ vertical *adj.* 垂直的；直立的

这是15岁时的一张肖像，这是17岁时的一张肖像，这是23岁时的一张肖像，等等。所有这些显然都是一个人的人生片段，可以说，是用三维表现出来的四维生命，是无法改变的固定东西。”

“懂科学的人，”时间旅行家停了一会儿，这段话需要大家适当消化。“非常清楚时间仅仅是一种空间。这是一张通俗的科学示图，是天气变化的一个记录。我用手指的这条线表明气压计的运行趋势。昨天白天升得很高，夜里又落了下去，今天早上又升了上来，就这样逐渐升到了这里。气压计里的水银肯定不是在公认的空间维度上勾画出这条线。不过，它确实勾画出了这条线。因此，我们必须断定，这条线是沿着时间维运行。”

“可是，”医生紧盯着炉火里的一块煤说。“如果时间确实仅仅是空间的第四维，它为什么总被认为是另一种东西呢？我们为什么不能在时间里像我们在空间的其他维度里那样活动呢？”

时间旅行家微微一笑。“你敢肯定我们能在空间中自由活动吗？我们可以左右前后自由活动，人们一向都是这样做的。我承认我们可以在两维中自由活动。可是，上下怎么样呢？地心引力限制了我们的活动。”

“不完全是，”医生说。“气球就可以。”

“可是，在气球之前，除了间歇性跳跃和路面不平外，人根本无法自由垂直运动。”

“然而，他们还是能稍微上下运动，”医生说。

“向下比向上容易，容易得多。”

“而你在时间里根本无法动，你无法从现在这一时刻中逃离。”

'My dear sir, that is just where you are wrong. That is just where the whole world has gone wrong. We are always getting away from the present moment. Our mental existences, which are immaterial and have no dimensions, are passing along the Time-Dimension with a uniform velocity① from the cradle to the grave. Just as we should travel down if we began our existence fifty miles above the earth's surface.'

'But the great difficulty is this,' interrupted the Psychologist. 'You can move about in all directions of Space, but you cannot move about in Time.'

'That is the germ of my great discovery. But you are wrong to say that we cannot move about in Time. For instance, if I am recalling an incident very vividly I go back to the instant of its occurrence: I become absent-minded, as you say. I jump back for a moment. Of course we have no means of staying back for any length of Time, any more than a savage② or an animal has of staying six feet above the ground. But a civilized man is better off than the savage in this respect. He can go up against gravitation in a balloon, and why should he not hope that ultimately he may be able to stop or accelerate his drift along the Time-Dimension, or even turn about and travel the other way?'

'Oh, this,' began Filby. 'is all—'

'Why not?' said the Time Traveler.

'It's against reason,' said Filby.

'What reason?' said the Time Traveler.

'You can show black is white by argument,' said Filby. 'but you will never convince me.'

'Possibly not,' said the Time Traveler. 'But now you begin to see the object of my investigations into the geometry of Four Dimensions. Long ago I had a vague inkling③ of a machine—'

'To travel through Time!' exclaimed the Very Young Man.

---

① velocity *n.* 速度；速率
② savage *n.* 原始的人；粗鲁的人
③ inkling *n.* 模糊概念

“我亲爱的先生，这正是你犯错的地方。这正是全世界犯错的地方。我们总是从现在这一时刻中逃离，我们的精神生活是非物质的，没有维度，从生到死沿着时间维匀速向前。这就像我们的生命从地表 50 英里的高空开始，我们就会向下降落那样。”

“可这就是那个大难点，”心理学家插话说。“你可以朝空间的任何一个方向运动，但你无法在时间里往返运动。”

“这就是我伟大发现的萌芽。可是，你说我们在时间里无法运动是错的。比如，如果我在栩栩如生地回忆一件事，就回到了它当初发生的那个时刻。就像你说的那样，我出神了。我暂时跳回了过去。当然，我们的身体无法退回过去的时间，就像一个野蛮人或一只动物无法呆在地面上方六英尺的空中一样。可是，文明人在这点上要比野蛮人状况好。他可以乘坐气球抵制地心引力。那他为什么就不可以指望自己最终能顺着时间维停止或加速运动、甚至逆向运动呢?”

“噢，这，”菲尔比开口道。“都是——”

“为什么不?”时间旅行家问。

“这不合理，”菲尔比说。

“什么理?”时间旅行家问。

“你可以通过辩论把黑的变成白的，”菲尔比说。“但你永远说服不了我。”

“也许不能，”时间旅行家说。“但现在你开始明白我研究四维几何学的目的了吧。很久以前，我就隐隐约约知道一种机器——”

“去穿越时间!”年轻人惊叫道。