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双语版



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总序

在激烈竞争的二十一世纪,具备广博的多学科综合知识并熟练掌握一门外语,尤其是英语,既是时代的要求,也是新世纪人才的成功基础。为此,我们隆重推出《休闲英语沙龙系列丛书》以满足渴望成功之士对知识的渴求和学习、运用英语的实际需要。

本丛书以学英语、长知识、贴近生活、寓学于乐为宗旨,经周密设计、精心编撰而成。内容涵盖了现代生活的方方面面,涉及了与此密切相关的诸多学科和行业,深入浅出而又不失风趣幽默地介绍了各方面的专业知识和逸闻趣事,集知识性、实用性、趣味性和可读性于一体,让读者在愉悦的环境中增长学识才干,在丰富的文化氛围中尽享个中乐趣,满怀豪情面对未来,笑迎新世纪的挑战。

愿本丛书伴您走向辉煌的明天。

编者

序

丰富多彩的生活也难免有令人既感无聊又觉无奈之时,因为人类社会和大自然的因子不可能为我们都化合成既充满愉悦又浸透意蕴的养料。那么,我们不妨走进由艺体之秀、科技教育、百科趣闻、名人故事、政治经济等所建构的知识时空,以一种平静的状态、坦然的心境、超拔的毅力和人的本质去阅读、领悟,乃至洞悉。如此,我们既能够内铸清除人间丑恶、抗击人类灾难的力量,又得以外化出超越自我和现实、具有人文气象和人格风采的英姿,也能使我们扩展眼界、开阔思维、燃亮希望、坦然生活。

编著



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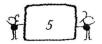
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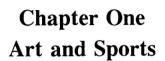
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第一章 艺体之秀

如果说艺术是一种想象与创造的美学,体育则是一种力量与和谐的美学。有了艺术,我们便能够在想象的美学中自由漫步,将创造的精神无限延伸;有了体育,我们则得以在力量的展示中获得人生的启示,把和谐当作美丽自己生命的涂料。但更为宏大的宗旨却在于:艺术之美与体育之美,造就了人类历史和我们个体生命历程能够在浩然的文明进程中独放的灿烂和风华,也更深沉地赋予了我们人类以本真的质地。就正如下面这些朴实的文章所诉诸于我们的。





1. The Past of the Olympic Games 奥运会史话

What were the original Olympic Games like? To find out, let's go back to ancient Greece in the spring of an Olympic year.

From the temple of the god Zeus at Olympia, three heralds are setting forth to invite Greek men to the Games, Each herald wears a crown of olive leaves and each carries a flaming torch.

As usual, some of the Greek states are at war with one another. But during the holy month of the Games all fighting will stop. It will be safe for any man to travel anywhere in Greece on this way to Olympia, in the little state of Elis. For the Games are a religious festival held to worship Zeus, and all who attend are under his protection. for the Greeks, Zeus was the father of mankind, god of the sky and the weather. In fact, Zeus was the god of most good things, but particularly of Olympic Games.

On the opening day of the festival, perhaps 30,000 visitors crowd the streets. Most of them are men, since there are no women athletes and women are not allowed to attend the games. There are no sports on this day. It belongs to Zeus. Of-



第一章 艺体之秀

Chapter One Art and Sports

ficials from every state in Greece move to his temple in a great procession. They carry offerings of gold and silver to lay before his throne.

Before Zeus, the athletes take a sacred oath. They promise to play fair in the sports, a promise that is part of the oath Olympic atheltes take today.

On the second morning of the festival, a great shout rises from the crowd in the stadium as the young athletes run out onto the field. Their naked bodies, rubbed with olive oil and burned by the sun, are as richly dark as bronze statues. The first event will be a foot race 607 feet in length, a distance called a station. Our word stadium comes from this term.

In the evening, after the sports, the visitors to Olympia will enjoy feasting, songs and speeches. They may do some business, too. For the festival is not only religious and athletic; at Olympia, keen minds from all over Greece exchange ideas. Philosophers argue before the public. Poets recite their verses. Sculptors take orders for statues. Statesmen make treaties. The place is also a market and a show, swarming with merchants, horse traders, jugglers and pickpockets.

The Games began in 776 B.C. They were started to celebrate a truce signed that year by two warring kings, one the king of Elis. The truce was holy because it was signed at Olympia, sacred to Zeus.

In the earliest Games, foot racing was the only sport and



第一章 艺体之西



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was over in one day. In time, other sports were added and the festival lasted several days.

Within the first hundred years, the pentathlon was added (In Greek, penta means "five"; athlon means "contest"). One of its contests was foot racing. The other four were wrestling, broad jumping, discus throwing and javelin throwing. These five covered almost every skill in the training for war given a Greek citizen of that time. His fighting would always be at close range.

When boxing was added to the Games, there was no boxing ring, nor were there any rounds. A boxer aimed at his opponent's ears rather than at his chin or nose. The match continued until one man was knocked out or lifted a hand to show defeat. Heavyweights nearly always won, since boxers were not classed by weight.

Chariot races and bare-back riding races were held in a big oval space called the hippodrome. (The word comes from the Greek hippos meaning "horse" and dromos meaning "running course.") The chariots raced for about nine miles—23 turns around two posts. At the first post was a sort of altar called the "horse-scarer." When several dozen four-horse chariots fought for position at the sharp turns, the horse-scarer added to the bloody confusion and to the delight of the spectators. In one race there were 40 accidents among the 41 chariots.

When the festival was over, winning athletes went home



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wearing the highest honor a Greek could winthe Olympic wreath of wild olive leaves. Each man's home state was prouder of his victory than of winning a war. His name and achivement were carved on stone. A record of every winner still exists.

The ancient Games were held every four years without a break for more than a thousand years.

译文

奥运会史话

最初的奥林匹克会是什么样子呢?为了究其渊源,我们不妨重温一下古希腊奥林匹克年春天的情景。

三位使者从奥林匹亚的宙斯神庙出发,去邀请希腊人参加运动会。每个人都头戴橄榄枝叶编成的花冠,手持燃烧的火把。

当时,希腊各城邦国总有一些处于交战状态。但是在举行 奥林匹克运动会的神圣月份里,一切战事都要停止。任何人,在 前往小块邦国伊利斯境内的奥林匹亚时,行经希腊的任何地方 都能安然无事,因为奥林匹克运动会是一个祭祀宙斯的宗教节 日,所有的参加者都受到宙斯的保佑。对希腊人来说,宙斯是人 类之父,是主宰天空和天气之神。实际上,宙斯是大多数美好事 物的守护神,特别是奥林匹克运动会的守护神。

节日开始的当天,大约有三万访客云集街头,其中大多数是男子,因为当时没有女运动员,不准女子参加运动。这一天是宙斯的祭祀日,不进行比赛活动,来自希腊各城邦国的官吏,浩浩荡荡地前往宙斯神庙。他们携带金银贡物,敬献于神座之前。



艺体之秀

Chapter One Art and Sports

在宙斯神像前,运动员庄严地宣誓。他们保证在运动中遵守规则。这个保证已成为今天奥运会运动员誓词的一部分。

节日的第二天早晨,年轻的运动员跑入竞技场时,观众席上欢呼声四起。运动员赤身裸体、由于涂抹了橄榄油,又经阳光曝晒,皮肤黧黑乌亮,犹如青铜雕像一般。比赛的第一个项目是赛跑,赛程是六百零七英尺,称作一个 station。我们英语词汇中的 stadium 就是从这个字来的。

晚间,运动项目结束后,奥林匹亚的宾客就尽情宴饮,欣赏演唱和演说。他们还可以进行一些商业活动,因为这不仅仅是一个宗教和体育的节日,聪明睿智的人们从希腊各地来到奥林匹亚交换意见,探讨问题;哲学家们在大庭广众之中进行辩论;诗人们朗诵自己的作品;雕塑家们承雕塑像;政治家们谈判缔约。这里还是一个市场和演艺场所:商人、马贩子、魔术师和扒手云集此地。

奥林匹克运动会始于公元前 776 年,是为了庆祝两个交战 国国王签订休战协定。其一方是伊利斯的国王。休战协定在祭 祀宙斯的奥林匹亚签订,因而是神圣的。

在最初的奥运会上,赛跑是惟一的比赛项目,一天内赛完。后来,又增加了其他项目,节日活动也就随着持续数日。

在最初的一百年内,增加了五项全能运动(即 Pentathlon,希腊语 Penta 是"五"的意思,athlon 作"比赛"讲),其中一项是赛跑,其他四项为摔跤、跳远、掷铁饼和掷标枪。这五项运动几乎包括了当时希腊公民所接受的军事训练的全部技能,因为那时的战斗是在近距离内进行的。

奥运会刚刚增加拳击比赛项目时,既没有拳击场,也不分回合。对手们不是对准下巴和鼻子出拳,而是猛击对方的耳朵。



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比赛一直进行到一方被击倒或者举起一只手表示认输为正。重量级选手几乎稳操胜券,因为当时拳击选手不按体重分级进行比赛。

战车赛和无鞍马赛在一个称为 hippodrome 的巨大的椭圆型空地上进行(希腊 hippos 作"马"解;dromos 作"赛跑场"讲)战车赛程约九英里,绕过两个界桩跑二十三圈。在第一个界桩处有一个高台,形似祭坛,称作"惊马台"。当几十辆四轮马拉的战车在急拐弯处挤撞抢行时,"惊马台"使血腥的混乱局面进一步加剧,而观众却因此更加兴高采烈。有一次战车赛,参赛的四十一辆战车中,竟有四十辆发生事故。

节日结束后,优胜的运动员荣归故乡。他们头戴野橄榄枝叶编成的奥林匹克花冠,这是希腊人们所能赢得的最高荣誉。每个优胜者的祖国比打赢一场战争更感到自豪。他们的名字和成就镌刻在石碑上。关于每个获胜者的材料,至今仍有案可查。

古代奥运会每四年举行一次,延续了一千多年,从未间断。

2. Surfing 冲浪运动

Surfing — the art of riding a wave on a pointed board — is the wildest, fastest natural water sport known to man. In recent years, it has developed into a major sport around the world, from Australia to South Africa. Husky Australians brave man-eating sharks to ride the green waves in Down Under; Ha-

