

主编：朱亚军
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达尔文

**CHARLES
DARWIN**

ADRIAN DESMOND,
JAMES MOORE & JANET BROWNE

阿德里安·德斯蒙德 詹姆斯·穆尔 詹妮特·布朗 著 贾中恒 译注



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· 牛津名人传记丛书 ·
Very Interesting People



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写在前面的话

阅读是一种猎取，通过阅读，人们可猎取到不可或缺的精神食粮。有了它，人才会健康成长；阅读是一种咀嚼，通过阅读，人们可咀嚼隐匿于文字中的苦辣酸甜。有了它，人才能学会坚强；阅读是一种倾听，通过阅读，人们可倾听到亘古至今的不同声音。有了它，人才不会迷失方向；阅读是一种欣赏，通过阅读，人们可欣赏到前所未见的旖旎风光。有了它，人的生活才会充满阳光……

英语阅读除具有上述功效外，还有独特的一面，那就是强化语言基础、提升英语水平。然而，在浩若烟海的英语阅读材料中，有哪些适合你或是你的首选呢？恐怕不同的人依据不同的需求会有不同的回答。不过，有一点是共同的，即每位读者都会选择自认为好的英语阅读材料。那么，何谓好的英语阅读材料呢？我们认为，就一般情况而言，好的英语阅读材料应具备以下特点：

广博性

广博性决定了阅读者获取的知识量。换言之，没有广博的语料，人们就无法获取广博的知识。因此，英语阅读材料应尽量涉及多种话题，涵盖各方面知识。

权威性

权威性有两层含义：一是信息准确，有证可查，有史可考，绝非道听途说；二是语言地道，原汁

原味，读者能充分享受到“原生态”阅读的乐趣。

简明性

简明性首先体现在语料方面，内容要简明，取舍得当，真正将有意义的一面充分展示给读者。其次，语言表达要简明，做到言简意赅，无拖泥带水之嫌。

趣味性

趣味性是语言使用的最高境界，它能使阅读文本生动、有趣，令人爱不释卷、百看不厌。趣味性带给读者的是阅读享受，如同在明媚的春光里呼吸清新空气。

有鉴于此，并经大量市场调研，上海译文出版社与牛津大学出版社联袂推出了“牛津名人传记丛书”，从莎士比亚到丘吉尔，从达尔文到牛顿，囊括了英国历史上最重要、最具影响力的非凡人物，可谓群星璀璨。

我们相信，该套丛书的推出是广大英语学习者的福音，是广大文学爱好者的福音，是广大史学研究者的福音，更是广大中学生、大学生的福音。该套丛书带给读者朋友的不仅是精准的知识点和多彩的文化点，更有数不清的意外惊喜！

主 编

2008年6月

前 言

查尔斯·达尔文一生阅历丰富，学识广博，有关他的第一部传记就有3卷1200多页。他的儿子弗朗西斯也曾编撰过《查尔斯·达尔文的生平与书信》。直到今天，这部著作仍是达尔文传记写作的起点。我们的这本小册子，原本是为《牛津英国名人传记大辞典》编写的“查尔斯·达尔文”条目，但进入21世纪，它在达尔文研究方面仍有以下意义。

今天，有关达尔文的研究日益增多。达尔文作为“学识渊博的博物学家”，其兴趣和著作涉及很多学科。这些学科在今天都已成为完整的专业研究领域。史学家经过数十年深入研究，对达尔文科学研究事业的了解远远超过他的家人，现已出版了15卷《查尔斯·达尔文书信集》（还有17卷即将出版）；对达尔文本人的了解亦愈益深刻。我们三人研究达尔文的时间加起来近百年，这成为我们通力合作进行这一重大课题研究的基础。这本小册子就描绘这方面研究提供了综合图景。

我们的观点相辅相成、互补阙如。阿德里安·德斯蒙德专门研究维多利亚时代的化石观和19世纪30年代的进化政纲，并且对达尔文的老师、持有异端思想的罗伯特·葛兰特和后期改变自己的宗教信仰者托马斯·赫胥黎也颇有研究。詹姆斯·穆尔曾和德斯蒙德合著过《达尔文

传》(1991)，并再度于2006年合作撰写另外一本书：有关达尔文人类起源理论中反奴隶制思想。穆尔本人有物理学、神学和教会历史方面的背景，他曾就达尔文科学研究事业的社会、宗教背景、宗教界对达尔文理论的反应以及达尔文逝世后声誉的奠定发表过专著。詹妮特·布朗是生物史学家，研究达尔文植物学、达尔文的疾病和达尔文肖像，并出版过两卷本《查尔斯·达尔文传》(1995—2002)。

我们对达尔文的介绍，深深根植于他那个时代的社会、政治经济和宗教生活中，而不再像19、20世纪科学圣徒传那样将其奉为永恒的天才。虽然达尔文在英国家喻户晓，10英镑纸币上就印着他的头像，但他广泛的研究兴趣却鲜为人知。因此，我们探讨他的“贝格尔号”环球考察、藤壶和植物学研究、地质学研究和政见、神学和家庭背景，以此作为主导他一生致力于自然选择研究的基本脉络。达尔文的进化论巨著产生了深刻的社会影响力，并给号称“奇妙世纪”的维多利亚时代增添了如此多的奇迹。

阿德里安·德斯蒙德

詹姆斯·穆尔

詹妮特·布朗

2006年8月

作者简介

阿德里安·德斯蒙德：伦敦大学生物系名誉研究员，著有《进化论政纲》（1989）和两卷本《赫胥黎传》（1994—1997）。

詹姆斯·穆尔：英国函授大学科学史教授，著有《后达尔文主义论战》（1979）、《达尔文传奇》（1994），与阿德里安·德斯蒙德合著《达尔文传》（1991）。

詹妮特·布朗：哈佛大学科学史教授，著作包括两卷本《查尔斯·达尔文传》（1995—2002）和《物种起源传记》（2006）。

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Upbringing and education

1

Charles Robert Darwin (1809–1882), naturalist, geologist, and originator of the theory of natural selection, was born on 12 February 1809 at The Mount, Shrewsbury^①, the fifth child and second son of Robert Waring Darwin (1766–1848), Shrewsbury's principal physician, and Susannah Wedgwood (1765–1817). His sisters were Mari-
anne, Caroline, Susan, and Emily Catherine, his brother Erasmus Alvey. His grandfathers, the potter Josiah Wedgwood (1730–1795) and the evolutionist poet and physician Erasmus Darwin (1731–1802), were leading lights of the industrial revolution; his grandmothers were respectively Sarah Wedgwood (1734–1815) and Mary Howard (1740–1770). Charles's mother died in 1817, when he was eight, and in later life he had no distinct recollection of her beyond the 'black velvet gown'

① 舒兹伯利（英格兰西部城市）

she wore on her deathbed and her 'curiously constructed work-table' (*Autobiography*, 22). She was buried in St Chad's Church, Montford, near Shrewsbury, where Darwin's father also rests.

Childhood

Darwin's three older sisters took on maternal^① responsibility and he remembered his childhood with great affection. The nature of the relationship between father and son is disputed. Robert Waring Darwin was a talkative man of strong principles, freethinking, and an enthusiastic gardener. In later life Charles frequently referred to cherished medical and scientific opinions of his father, and he appreciated his father's powers of observation and intuitive understanding of human nature, qualities that enabled him to read 'the characters, and even the thoughts of those whom he saw even for a short time' (*Autobiography*, 32). Shrewd investments in canals and property made Dr Darwin prosperous, and through private mortgages^② and loans he kept a tight grip on^③ the financial affairs of several Shrewsbury families. He was also a noted philanthropist^④. With a large medical practice and many friends, his life as a whig^⑤ gentleman—physician

① 母亲的 ② 抵押 ③ 牢牢掌握 ④ 慈善家 ⑤ 辉格党 (18 及 19 世纪英国的政党, 维新党)

was comfortably full, varied, and respectable, even if some nephews and nieces felt him to be domineering^①.

Charles Darwin's childhood is mainly known from his own recollections, where he portrays himself as a simple, docile^②, and happy child, with a liking for long solitary walks. He showed an early habit of fabricating adventures to seek attention. In 1817 he went to a day school run by George Case, minister of the local Unitarian^③ chapel^④, where his mother (in keeping with her Wedgwood heritage) had taken him to services. At Shrewsbury School, which he attended as a boarder from 1818 to 1825, the teaching was narrow and classical. Darwin hated it and claimed that his daily facility in Latin verse was forgotten by the next morning. Later he recalled benefiting from little except private lessons in Euclid^⑤, although he did enjoy reading Shakespeare in private hours at school; at home he dabbled in chemistry in a small laboratory fitted up by his brother in an outhouse, but such science had no place in public schools, and when he repeated experiments in the dormitories he was publicly reprovved by the headmaster, Dr Samuel Butler, for wasting time. The boy was an inveterate^⑥ collector, of franks, seals, coins, birds' eggs,

① 专横的 ② 听话的 ③ [基督教]唯一神教派一派, 认为上帝系单一者, 反对三位一体的说法 ④ 小教堂 ⑤ 欧几里得, 古希腊数学家 ⑥ 成癖的

and minerals, and from early adolescence his passion became game shooting.

Edinburgh^①, 1825-1827

Robert Darwin intended both his sons to become physicians. Charles, unsuccessful at school, was removed in 1825, two years early, and spent the summer accompanying the doctor on his rounds. In the autumn he was sent with his brother Erasmus to Edinburgh University (1825-7), which offered the best medical education in Britain. Here English dissenters, barred from taking degrees at Oxford and Cambridge universities, kept abreast of^② continental work in the extramural^③ schools and studied a suite of new sciences. The Darwins had studied medicine here for three generations, and Erasmus Darwin's grandsons found easy entrée^④ to intellectual society. Leonard Horner took Charles to the Royal Society of Edinburgh^⑤, where he saw the novelist Sir Walter Scott. Diplomatic socializing with the professors, not least the elder Andrew Duncan, the octogenarian^⑥ joint professor^⑦ of the theory of physic (whose family vault contained the body of Darwin's uncle), preceded the term's work. However, after a diligent start,

① 爱丁堡 ② 跟上 ③ 课外的 ④ 进入 ⑤ 爱丁堡皇家学会 ⑥ 八十多岁的 ⑦ 联席教授

Darwin recoiled at the early mornings: anatomy^① disgusted him, and his letters home criticized the professors. Civic politics had allowed some to treat their academic posts as family property, and he was appalled at the case of the anatomist Alexander Monro tertius^②—the third generation to hold the seat. While the younger Andrew Duncan's winter lectures on *materia medica*^③ left Darwin with the enduring memory of spending 'a whole, cold, breakfastless hour on the properties of rhubarb^④' (*Correspondence*, 4.36), this probably said more about Darwin's youth and restlessness than about Duncan's abilities. Duncan was widely versed in European learning and at the forefront in teaching Augustin de Candolle's^⑤ 'natural system' of classification (it was Candolle who emphasized the 'war' among species, so important to Darwin later). Most of all, Darwin was sickened by surgery (this was before the introduction of anaesthesia^⑥), and he fled during an operation on a child in the Royal Infirmary^⑦. All of this determined him to forsake the dead house and dissection, a decision he would later on occasion regret.

There were diversions: Thomas Hope's theatrical chemistry classes, coastal walks, and bird stuffing

① 解剖 ② 第三的 ③ 药理学 ④ 大黄，一种药用植物 ⑤ 奥古斯汀·德·堪多（1778—1841），瑞士植物学家 ⑥ 麻醉 ⑦ 英国皇家医院

lessons, a craft taught to Darwin by a freed slave from Guiana, John Edmonstone, in the university natural history museum. After hiking through Wales during the summer of 1826, inspired by Gilbert White's *Natural History of Selborne*^① which taught him to see birds as more than targets, he returned to Edinburgh. His interest in medicine gone, he joined the thriving student Plinian Society^②. Here he heard the tyros^③ talk on classification and cuckoos, and he even spoke himself. There was sometimes a frisson^④ in these basement meetings in 1826, generated by a handful of young radical freethinkers using a deterministic science against the Church of Scotland. Darwin was nominated for the Plinian by the anti-clerical phrenologist^⑤ William A. F. Browne, among others, and he petitioned^⑥ to join on 21 November 1826, the day that Browne announced that he would refute Charles Bell's *Anatomy and Physiology of Expression* (which argued that the human facial muscles were specially created to express mankind's unique emotions). Darwin joined a week later, with the Unitarian W. R. Greg, who read a paper on lower animals' possessing every human mental faculty. Darwin himself was on the council of the Plinian Society by 5 December 1826.

①《塞尔彭自然史》 ② 布里尼学会(一专注于博物学的学生团体) ③ 新手 ④ 惊颤 ⑤ 反教派骨相学家 ⑥ 请愿; 请求

Darwin's fascination for the local sea pens and sea mats^① on the Firth of Forth^② coast brought him briefly under the wing of his most influential mentor at Edinburgh, the physician and sponge expert Robert Edmond Grant, who guided Darwin's invertebrate studies in this rich North Sea environment. A Francophile^③ and friend of Étienne Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire^④, Grant was a deist^⑤ and materialist, and Darwin in old age recalled his bursting out with praise for the transformist Jean-Baptiste Lamarck. Indeed, Grant, like Lamarck, believed that the simple tissues of sponges and polyps^⑥ could elucidate^⑦ the primitive origin and primal function of complex human organs. Beneath Grant's stern crust Darwin found an enthusiast for this microscopic life, and Darwin made his own observations in March 1827 on the larvae^⑧ of molluscs^⑨, the sea mat *Flustra*^⑩, and sea pens, confirming Grant's belief that sponge and sea-mat larvae could swim by means of cilia. Grant pushed Darwin into consulting continental books, including Lamarck's *System of Invertebrate Animals*^⑪, to check his *Flustra* findings. From late 1826 Grant took Darwin to meetings of the Wernerian Natural History Society, to which, on 24 March 1827, Grant announced Darwin's discovery that the black bodies inside oyster shells

① 海鳃和藻苔虫 ② 福斯河（英国仅次于泰晤士河的内陆运河） ③ 亲法者 ④ 杰弗莱·圣-蒂莱尔（1772—1844），法国著名的比较解剖学家、动物学家 ⑤ 自然神论者 ⑥ 水螅虫 ⑦ 阐明；说明 ⑧ 幼虫 ⑨ 贝类 ⑩ 苔藓虫 ⑪ 《无脊椎动物系统》（法国生物学家拉马克代表作）

were the eggs of the skate leech^① *Pontobdella*^②. Three days later Darwin made his public début^③, presenting his findings on swimming *Flustra*^④ larvae and *Pontobdella* eggs before the Plinian Society.

Darwin had read his grandfather Erasmus's book on the evolutionary laws of life and health, *Zoonomia*^⑤. Grant approved of it and exposed the grandson to the latest ideas on transmutation^⑥, endorsing^⑦ Geoffroy's view that all animals showed a 'unity of plan'; from people to polyps, they shared similar organs that differed only in complexity. Thus life could be threaded into a chain, which for Grant represented a real blood line. His belief that the common origin of the plant and animal kingdoms lay just below the simplest algae and polyps, whose eggs were analogous to^⑧ the 'monads'^⑨, or elementary particles of living tissue, would provide a launch point for Darwin's own speculations a decade later. However, Grant's zoology was out of step with the safe taxonomic^⑩ preoccupations^⑪ of the age, and Darwin was exposed to the passions that such subversive^⑫ science aroused. Browne's talk on the material basis of mind at the 27 March 1827 Plinian meeting so inflamed listeners that Darwin's

① 水蛭 ② 蛭类 ③ 首次露面 ④ 苔藓虫属 ⑤ 《生理学》 ⑥ 变化, 演变 ⑦ 赞同 ⑧ 与…类似的 ⑨ 单细胞生物 ⑩ 分类学的 ⑪ 当务之急 ⑫ 颠覆性