

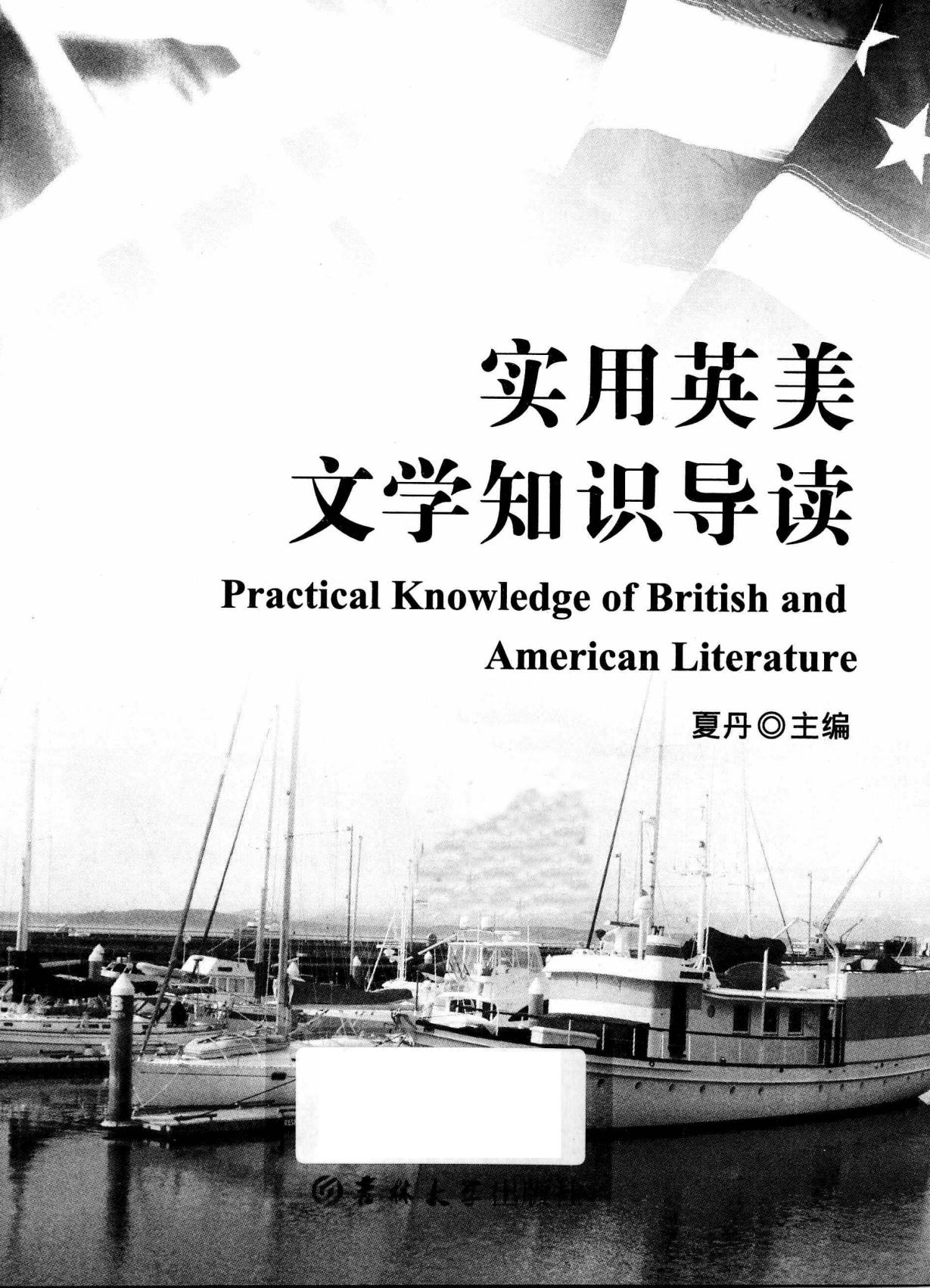
实用英美 文学知识导读

Practical Knowledge of British and
American Literature

夏丹 ◎ 主编



吉林大学出版社



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American Literature

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前言

大多数的文学爱好者，往往在幼年的时候，就对童话、诗歌等简单的文学形式心存难以割舍的情结。而当将文学作为一种爱好甚至是职业的年龄翩然而至，他们不仅仅研究、分析文学，更多的，他们赋予其尊重、欣赏和深藏的情怀。然而，随着我国高等教育应用型人才培养趋势的日趋突起，文学以及语言学这类研究方向已经不再让语言专业的学生趋之若鹜。然而，笔者认为，作为文化的重要表现形式之一，无论阳春白雪，还是下里巴人，文学都是生活不可或缺的重要部分。尤其对于大学生，特别是英语专业的大学生来说，掌握一定的文学常识是基本文化素质的一种体现。像维他命，缺了任何一种，都会有碍健康。

英国作家王尔德曾经说过：如今是这样的时代，看得太多而没有时间欣赏，写得太多而没有时间思想。《实用英美文学知识导读》这本书，正是基于这样的背景和情结下，孕育而生。参与编撰的，是一群爱好文学且才思细腻的热血青年。他们是文学教师、是青年学者、更是热爱生活的人。编撰本书的初衷，一是弥补我们在上学时没有有效文学参考书的缺憾，二是希望可以惠及所有对文学有兴趣的人群。本书的特点在于简洁明了，以学生笔记的形式，将英美文学中需要掌握的知识点



总结罗列，让有志于考研，考取英语专业八级或者是普通的文学爱好者从中获益，在读过本书之后将英美文学框架坚立于心。

本书共分两大部分，即英国文学部分和美国文学部分，每一部分结合主要内容配有图片和习题。更值得一提的是，参与编撰的同仁利用了大量的时间、精力、创造力和想象力，将小说体裁的作品制作成了简明的人物关系图，让没有读过原著的学习者一目了然。此外，在两个主要部分之后还有英美文学的自测题以及详细的答案，以便学习者做自我检测之用，可谓煞费苦心。

笔者自认不是个十分幸运的人。但是在本书编撰的过程中，我却真切感受到了幸福。家人的支持，朋友的帮助、同仁的协力、学生的期待，都成为我亦步亦趋却脚步坚毅的动力。感谢生命中出现的人，感谢此刻，手捧本书的你。

编者经验不足，疏漏之处在所难免，望诸君不吝指正。

编 者

二〇一二年六月于长春



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Part I

British Literature



Beowulf 《贝奥武甫》

I. Basic Information

- It was written at the beginning of the 18th century.
- It was discovered in 1705.
- The story took place at the beginning of the 6th century.
- It is of two parts, 3182 lines.



II. Synopsis

1. Part I: Beowulf fights against Gredel and his mother.
2. Part II: Beowulf fights against the Fire Dragon.

III. Writing Features

- alliteration;
- metaphor and understatement;
- mixture of pagan and Christian elements.

IV. Theme

This poem expresses primitive people's ideal of conquering the hostile forces of nature under a wise and mighty tribal leader.

V. Significance

- *Beowulf* is England's national epic.
- It reflects the features of the tribal society.
- It is the oldest poem in the English language.

VI. Literary Term

Epic—It is a long narrative poem telling about the deeds of a great hero and reflecting the values of the society from which it originated.



Geoffrey Chaucer 杰弗里·乔叟

I. Life Story (1340?—1400)

- He was born in London.
- He was appointed the controller of customs at London.
- He was buried in Westminster Abbey, “poet’s corner” .
- He is considered as “the father of English poetry” .



II. Main Works

1. French period (Translation: *Romance of the Rose* 《玫瑰传奇》)
2. Italian period (Adaptation: *The House of Fame* 《名誉堂》; *Troilus and Cressie* 《特洛斯与克雷西》)
3. English period (Creation: *The Canterbury Tales* 《坎特伯雷故事集》)

III. Writing Style and Significance

1. Writing Style

- iambic pentameter;
- London dialect;
- vivid and exact language;
- vigorous and swift poetry;
- easy and informal prose.

2. Significance

- He introduced from France and Italy the rhymed stanzas: the heroic couplet.
- He made London dialect the foundation of modern English language.
- He is a great satirist.



IV. Masterpiece: *The Canterbury Tales*

1. Synopsis

The story takes place on an April day. A group of English pilgrims meet outside a tavern in Southwark near London. They are going to pay their respects to the tomb of Saint Thomas Becket together with Harry Bailey, the innkeeper. These pilgrims are from all classes, and under the suggestion of the innkeeper, they agree to tell two stories on the way to Canterbury and another two on the way back. The winner will be the one who tells the best story.

The whole collection is composed of a General Prologue and 24 stories, in which vivid description of the characters of all walks of life is described.

2. Main Characters

- the Knight (the first story teller)
- the wife of Bath (the first female figure in British Literature)
- the Nun
- the Parson
- the Merchant

3. Evaluation

- It gives a true-to-life picture of the society.
- It affirms men and opposes the dogma of asceticism preached by church.
- It praised man's energy, intellect, wit and love.
- It exposes and satirizes the evils of his time.

V. Literary Term

Heroic Couplet—It is a traditional form in English poetry, particularly for epic and narrative poetry. It corresponds to a two-line stanza in iambic pentameter.

VI. Exercises

1. Geoffrey Chaucer is called _____.
2. Chaucer greatly contributed to the founding of the English literary language, the basis of which was formed by the _____ dialect.
3. Chaucer's masterpiece is _____, which is a true-to-life picture of British society.



4. What are the three periods in Chaucer's writing career? Name one masterpiece in each period.

5. What is Chaucer's contribution to British Literature?

Keys:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. father of English poetry | 2. London |
| 3. <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> | 4. (omitted) |
| 5. (omitted) | |

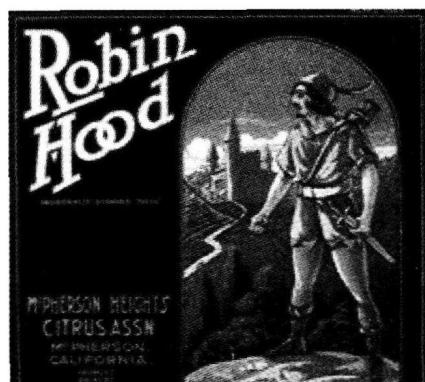
Poplar Ballads 民谣

I. Main Authors and Works:

1. Bishop Thomas Percy: *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry* 《古英诗遗产》
2. Langland: *The Vision of Piers, the Plowman* 《庄稼汉皮尔斯》

II. Main Subjects of Ballads:

- the struggle of young lovers against their feudal-minded families;
- the conflict between love and wealth;
- the cruelty of jealousy;
- the criticism of the civil war.



III. Ballads of Robin Hood

Robin Hood:

- a partly real and partly legendary figure;
- living under the greenwood tree;
- taking from the rich and gives to the poor;
- strong, brave, clever, tender-hearted and affectionate.

IV. Literary Term

Ballad—It is an anonymous narrative song that is preserved by oral transmission, usually in 4-line stanzas, with the second and fourth lines rhymed.



William Shakespeare 威廉·莎士比亚



I. Life Story (1564.4.23—1616.4.23)

- He was born at Stratford.
- In the school, he learned Latin grammar.
- At 18, he married Anne Hathaway, eight years his senior.
- He went to London in 1586, worked as an actor and also wrote plays.
- He died on his birthday and was buried in Stratford Church.

II. Main Works

- *Henry VI* 《亨利六世》
- *Richard III* 《理查三世》
- *The Taming of the Shrew* 《驯悍记》
- *Love's Labor's Lost* 《爱的徒劳》
- *Romeo and Juliet* 《罗密欧与茱丽叶》
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* 《仲夏夜之梦》
- *King John* 《约翰王》
- *The Merchant of Venice* 《威尼斯商人》
- *Henry IV* 《亨利四世》
- *Much Ado about Nothing* 《无事生非》
- *Henry V* 《亨利五世》
- *The Merry Wives of Windsor* 《温莎的风流娘们》
- *Julius Caesar* 《裘力斯·凯撒》
- *As you like it* 《皆大欢喜》
- *Twelfth Night* 《第十二夜》
- *Hamlet* 《哈姆雷特》
- *Troilus and Cressida* 《特洛伊罗斯与克瑞西达》



- *All's Well That Ends Well* 《终成眷属》
- *Measure for Measure* 《一报还一报》
- *Othello* 《奥塞罗》
- *King Lear* 《李尔王》
- *Macbeth* 《麦克白》
- *Antony and Cleopatra* 《安东尼与克莉奥佩特拉》
- *Timon of Athens* 《雅典的泰门》
- *The Winter's Tale* 《冬天的故事》
- *The Tempest* 《暴风雨》
- *Henry VIII* 《亨利八世》
- 154 sonnets 154首十四行诗

III. Writing Style and Significance

- His plays are poetical dramas.
- He uses blank verse, and he is skilled in many poetic forms: songs, sonnet, couplet and so on.
- He borrows his plots from Greek legends, Roman history, Italian stories and English chronicles.
- His historical plays describe the decaying of the old feudal nobility and the rising of the new Tudor monarchy.
- His comedies are concerned with the life and love of the young men and women.
- His tragedies depict the life-and-death struggle between the humanists.
- He is universally recognized as the summit of the English Renaissance and one of the greatest writers of the world.
- He is a great master of the English language.

IV. Masterpiece: *Hamlet*

1. Synopsis

It is set in Denmark. Gertrude, Queen of Denmark, widowed by the sudden death of the King, within two months marries the late King's brother Claudius, who becomes the new King. Hamlet, son of the late king, suspects