


外教社中国文化汉外对照丛书



英译中国现代散文选(四)
SELECTED MODERN CHINESE ESSAYS 4

张培基 译注 · Rendered into English by Zhang Peiji
汉英对照 · Annotated Bilingual Edition

 上海外语教育出版社
外教社 SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS
www.sflep.com

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SFLEP Bilingual Chinese Culture Series

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英译中国现代散文选. 4/ 张培基译注.
—上海: 上海外语教育出版社, 2012
(外教社中国文化汉外对照丛书)

ISBN 978-7-5446-2428-2

I. 英… II. 张… III. ①汉语—英语—对照读物 ②散文集—中国—现代 IV. H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2011) 第 159976 号

出版发行: 上海外语教育出版社

(上海外国语大学内) 邮编: 200083

电 话: 021-65425300 (总机)

电子邮箱: bookinfo@sflep.com.cn

网 址: <http://www.sflep.com.cn> <http://www.sflep.com>

责任编辑: 李 欣

印 刷: 上海华业装璜印刷厂有限公司
开 本: 700×1000 1/16 印张 17.5 字数 225 千字
版 次: 2012 年 1 月第 1 版 2012 年 1 月第 1 次印刷
印 数: 5 000 册

书 号: ISBN 978-7-5446-2428-2 / I · 0192
定 价: 37.00 元

本版图书如有印装质量问题, 可向本社调换

编 辑 说 明

《英译中国现代散文选》(四)仍是作者自编自译的汉英对照读本。与前三集相同,书中各篇均附作者与作品的简介以及有关译文的详细注释。

本书编排仍以遴选的散文家的生年为序。

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白马湖^①之冬

◎ 夏丏尊

在我过去四十余年的生涯中，冬的情味尝得最深刻的^②，要算十年前初移居白马湖的时候了。十年以来，白马湖已成了一个小村落，当我移居的时候，还是一片荒野。春晖中学的新建筑巍然矗立于湖的那一面，湖的这一面的山脚下是小小的几间新平屋^③，住着我和刘君心如两家。此外两三里内没有人烟。一家人于阴历十一月下旬从热闹的杭州移居这荒凉的山野，宛如投身于极带中^④。

那里的风，差不多日日有的，呼呼作响，好像虎吼。屋宇虽系新建，构造却极粗率，风从门窗隙缝中来，分外尖削，把门缝窗隙厚厚地用纸糊了，椽缝中却仍有透入。风刮得厉害的时候，天未夜就把大门关上，全家吃毕夜饭即睡入被窝里，静听寒风的怒号，湖水的澎湃。靠山的小后轩，算是我的书斋，在全屋子中风最少的一间，我常把头上的罗宋帽拉得低低地，在洋灯下工作至夜深。松涛如吼，霜月当窗，饥鼠吱吱在承尘上奔窜^⑤。我于这种时候深感到萧瑟的诗趣，常独自拨划着炉灰，不肯就睡，把自己拟诸山水画中的人物，作种种幽邈的遐想。

现在白马湖到处都是树木了，当时尚一株树木都未种^⑥。月亮与太阳都是整个儿的，从上山起直要照到下山为止。太阳好的时候，只要不刮风，那真和暖得不像冬天。一家人都坐在庭间曝日，甚至于吃午饭也在屋外，像夏天的晚饭一样。日光晒到哪里，就把椅凳移到哪里，忽然寒风来了，只好逃难似地各自带了椅凳逃入室中，急急把门关上。在平常的日子，风来大概在下午快要傍晚的时候，半夜即息。

至于大风寒，那是整日夜狂吼，要二三日才止的。最严寒的几天，泥地看去惨白如水门汀^⑦，山色冻得发紫而黯，湖波泛深蓝色。

下雪原是我所不憎厌的，下雪的日子，室内分外明亮，晚上差不多不用燃灯^⑧。远山积雪足供半个月的观看，举头即可从窗中望见。可是究竟是南方，每冬下雪不过一二次。我在那里所日常领略的冬的情味，几乎都从风来。白马湖的所以多风，可以说有着地理上的原因。那里环湖都是山，而北首却有一个半里阔的空隙，好似故意张了袋口欢迎风来的样子。白马湖的山水和普通的风景区相差不远，唯有风却与别的地方不同。风的多和大，凡是到过那里的人都知道的。风在冬季的感觉中，自古占着重要的因素，而白马湖的风尤其特别。

现在，一家僦居上海多日了，偶然于夜深人静时听到风声，大家就要提起白马湖来，说“白马湖不知今夜又刮得怎样厉害哩！”^⑨

Winter in White Horse Lake

© Xia Mianzun

I am now over forty, but it was not until ten years ago that I got a feel of what winter was really like soon after I had moved my residence to White Horse Lake, a place beyond my home town. Since then, however, it has grown into quite a village, but it was an expanse of wilderness at the time when I moved in. The new buildings of Chun Hui Middle School then stood tall on the other side of the Lake while on this side were several newly-built small one-storey houses tucked away at the foot of a mountain where lived two families separately, the family of mine and that of Liu Xinru. The neighborhood was totally unpopulated far and wide except for the two households. Having moved from Hangzhou to this desolate countryside late in the eleventh moon of the lunar year, we felt like getting bogged down in a polar region.

The wind there blew almost every day, howling like a tiger's roaring. The new houses were of poor quality, with a biting wind coming in through every chink in the doors and windows. And our efforts to have all the cracks sealed with paper nevertheless failed to stop it from breaking into the house. When it was very windy, all we could do was shut the front door before dark and go to bed after supper, listening quietly to the whistling of the sharp wind and the surging of the Lake waters. In the small rear-room close to the mountain, which, least affected by the wind, was my study, I often worked by the light of an oil lamp late into the night, with my woolen cap pulled down, while the pines were sighing in the wind, the white moon shining on the window, and hungry rats squeaking and scurrying in the neighborhood of the ceilings. Seized with a poetic mood

generated by the scene of bleakness, I would stay up late and sit alone poking the charcoal fire, imaging myself a figure in a traditional Chinese landscape painting and indulging in deep reveries.

White Horse Lake is now rich in vegetation while at that time it was totally treeless. When the sun shone bright on a windless day, it would be nice and warm. The whole family would then sit in the courtyard to bask in the sun, and even have lunch in the open air like we did in summer. Where there was sunshine, there we would move our chairs. When the cold wind came, however, we would scamper indoors like refugees, each carrying a chair or stool and hastily closing the doors behind us. The wind usually began to howl towards evening and lasted until midnight. In the case of a severe storm, it would rage for two to three days and nights on end. At the height of the bitter cold, the fields would for several days look deathly pale like cement, the mountains would turn dirty purple with cold, and the ripples of the Lake would be of a deep blue.

I had no aversion to snowfall because it very much brightened up my room, so much so that I could almost do without lamplight at night. The distant mountains would remain snow-capped for at least half a month — a scene I could easily enjoy from my window. However, it was a pity that, living in the south, we could have snowfall only once or twice each winter. Hence it was from the wind only that I could in my daily life get a taste of winter. White Horse Lake is windy for geographical reasons. The place is surrounded by mountains except in the north where there is a gap as wide as one fourth of a kilometer, like the wide open mouth of a bag, ready to accept the wind. It is the wind that differentiates White Horse Lake from other scenic spots. Anybody who has been to the place can tell how frequent and violent the wind is there. The wind has, since time immemorial, been an important factor in characterizing winter, particularly so in White Horse Lake.

Now it is quite a few days since I and my family moved to Shanghai. Whenever the wind blows in the stillness of the night, we will all mention White Horse Lake, saying, “White Horse Lake must be terribly windy tonight!”



夏丏尊(1886—1946),浙江上虞县人,我国著名文学家、教育家、出版家,著译颇丰,其作品《文心》、《文章作法》、《平屋杂文》、《爱的教育》等,在20世纪20—40年代的文坛,曾风行一时。1921年,他到家乡上虞白马湖的春晖中学教书,并在学校附近盖平房安家,自题室名为“平屋”。《白马湖之冬》一文是他后来移居上海时所写的名篇,文章回忆旧地故居,蕴含眷眷深情,用语平淡朴素,构思严谨周密。

注 释

①“白马湖”是湖名,也是地名,可用音译法或意译法分别译为 Bai Ma Lake 或 White Horse Lake。今意译之,取其醒目。

②“冬的情味尝得最深刻的……”可按“使我真正体会冬天的……”译为 I got a feel of what winter was really like, 其中 feel 是名词,作“体验”解。

③“湖的这一面的山脚下是小小的几间新平屋”译为 while on this side were several newly-built one-storey houses tucked away at the foot of a mountain, 其中“平屋”即“平房”,与 bungalow 不完全相同,故译 one-story houses; 又, tucked away 作“安置在……”、“隐藏在……”解,是译文中的增益成分,原文虽无其词而有其意。

④“宛如投身于极带中”译为 we felt like getting bogged down in a polar region, 其中“投身于”本可译为 being plunged into, 今译 getting bogged down in, 意思是“陷入……(困境)”,更切合原意。

⑤“饥鼠吱吱在承尘上奔窜”中的“承尘”作“天花板”解,全句可译为 hungry rats squeaking and scurrying in the neighbourhood of the ceilings (或 somewhere close to the ceilings)。

⑥“现在白马湖到处是树木了,当时尚一株树木都未种”译为 White Horse Lake is now rich in vegetation while at that time it was totally treeless, 其中 vegetation 指“植被”,是包括树木在内的植物总称。上半句也可译为 White Horse Lake is now well grown with trees, 或 Trees now grow everywhere in White Horse Lake, 或 White Horse Lake is now covered with trees 等。

⑦“惨白如水门汀”译为 *deathly pale like cement*，其中 *deathly* 也可改用 *deadly*, *ghastly* 等，意思均为“死人一般地”。

⑧“晚上差不多不用燃灯”译为 *I could almost do without lamplight at night*，其中 *do without* 是成语，作“没有……也行”解，也可换用另一同义成语 *dispense with*。

⑨“白马湖不知今夜又刮得怎样厉害哩！”意即“白马湖今夜想必又刮大风了！”，故译“*White Horse Lake must be terribly windy tonight!*”，其中 *must be* 意同“想必”，表示一种揣测。

八十一岁结婚

◎ 张恨水

金圣叹说过^①：“人生三十不仕，不当再仕，五十不娶，不当再娶。何则？用非其时也^②。”这一种说法，可代表中国人一般的普通思想。中国人的事业观^③，最羡慕“少年得志”，最伤感“大器晚成”。为了这个原因，便是有所成就的人，到了五十以上^④，便有退休的意思。六十七十的人若还在事业上努力，就有抽身不得的慨叹了^⑤。照人生上寿不过八十而言，为私人作一番打算，这种作风好像也有点道理。只是就事业的观点上说^⑥，就不对。因为越是有年纪的人，他的学识经验也就越丰富，大事业正需要这种人撑持。而且为人作事^⑦，也必须有个自信心。一老就觉得自己不行^⑧，那也透着我们生命力不强。扩而充之，整个民族如此，那是我们一种自馁精神，对民族兴衰大有关系。欧美人之成大事业总在晚年，恰与我们的观点相反。最近有两个老的行为，值得借鉴，正可和我们打一针兴奋剂^⑨。第一是美国务卿赫尔^⑩，以七十二岁之年，飞莫斯科开那全球注意的三国会议。第二是前英国首相劳合·乔治^⑪，八十一岁结婚。这可证明他们的生命力强，也可以证明他们精神毫不衰老。老了还活泼的干，不必退休去等死，这人生才有意味，才没枉过“吾生也有涯”的岁月^⑫。

现在我国的事业，多半在四五十岁的中年人手上。中年人干吧^⑬，我们的前途还遥远着呢！

Getting Married at 81

© *Zhang Henshui*

Jin Shengtān* says, “People over 30 should not become an official, and people over 50 should not get married. Why? Because otherwise they would be doing the wrong thing at the wrong time.” That is representative of the mentality of people at large in China. According to the Chinese outlook on life, it is most enviable “to achieve success in one’s early years” but most sorrowful “to fail to achieve it until one’s old age.” Hence, even a successful man will feel like going into retirement when he is on the wrong side of 50. And those who continue to work out of necessity in their sixties or seventies must bemoan their plight. However, considering that men seldom live up to the age of 80, their personal concerns may seem to be impeccable. But, from the standpoint of a worthy cause, they are wrong. Because the older one is, the more knowledgeable and experienced he is, and therefore the more indispensable he is to a great cause. Moreover, one should conduct oneself with self-confidence. Calling yourself a good-for-nothing on account of age manifests your lack of vitality. The same is true of a nation. Self-confidence has a lot to do with its rise and fall. Unlike us Chinese, Westerners usually go in for great undertakings in late life. The recent cases of two Western senior politicians set a good example for us and serve to give us a shot in the arm. One was 72-year-old US Secretary of State Cordell Hull, who went to Moscow to attend the 3-power conference in the limelight of the world. The other was former British

* Jin Shengtān (1608 — 1661), a native of Wuxian, Jiangsu Province, was a remarkable scholar in the early years of the Qing Dynasty, known for his creative thinking in literary criticism.