

[英] 拜伦等 著
熊兵娇 译

英语书信日记精粹

本书收录英美名家书信和日记数十篇，皆为“自白式表达”和“个性化书写”，保存了特定时代的社会真貌。

Selected English Letters and Diaries
with Chinese Translation

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前言

书信、日记比之散文、诗歌，语言更趋于琐碎、平实，且通常无太多新奇。无论中外，在历史长河中沉淀并流传至今的书信日记可谓汗牛充栋，其中也不乏语言轻巧灵动、思想深刻隽永的佳作。

书信日记皆为“自白式表达”和“个性化书写”。不同的是，书信有其表达的对象，而日记只是自说自话。然二者皆是作者私人生活与内心世界“最直接的物质见证”。作为一种“内心自白式”的表述，毫无疑问，书信日记可以满足读者窥人隐秘、探人私怀的好奇心。

书信日记表述的大多是作者的所思、所感、所见、所闻，且多为他（她）们社会生活的真实记录，从而镌刻了时代社会的印迹，保存了特定时代的社会真貌。书信日记，尤其是名人名家的书信日记，既可为一般读者提供阅读与欣赏的文本，使其获得审美愉悦，领悟人生真谛，也可为研究者提供第一手资料，帮助他们更深入地认识作者与其所处的社会与时代。显然，书信日记的文学价值和史料价值是不容低估的。作为一种尝试，我们选译了这本《英语书信日记精粹》，其主要目的便在于此。

在选译书信作品时主要参考以下几点：第一，作者的影响力；第二，语言的文学性和思想性；第三，时间跨度；第四，作者的活动领域，如文学、政治、哲学、科学都有涉及。在选译日记作品时也大致遵循以上几点，但更注重作品本身的教化与启发意义；另外，有多篇日记涉及军事战争。此外，在选译时，尽量回避已经翻译出版的作品，尽管有少量篇什直接从国内业已出版的翻译集子中进行挑选，但确实是因为认为它们仍有重新翻译的意义与必

要性。还需要说明的是，在选择原作时主要围绕英语国家作品（以英美为主），只有个别篇什是从英语转译，如列夫·托尔斯泰的日记。

本书选译书信、日记共 45 篇，以英汉对照的形式呈现。上篇书信向读者介绍切斯特菲尔德伯爵、富兰克林、杰斐逊、林肯、拜伦、济慈、雪莱、庞德、爱默生、勃朗特、狄更斯、萨克雷、菲茨杰拉德、康拉德等著名政治家、诗人、小说家写给亲人、友人或同行的信函，展示人伦之常情，世态之众象。下篇日记则向读者介绍威廉姆斯、克莱伦、菲格森、佩皮斯、司各特、托尔斯泰、伍尔曼、纪斯伯格、魏特琳、惠特尼、戈登、利德尔、斯塔布洛、沃霍尔等著名军事家、作家、传教士、宗教家、探险家、教育家、艺人的日记，展示作者个人之思想动向、生活经历与杂感。这些书信、日记，文笔清新凝练，语言优美亲切，既给人以美的享受，又让人感同身受。可以说，每篇书信或日记都是一篇优美的散文，是一种曼妙的性灵文字，充满了经验智慧与思想洞见。

本书选译的书信、日记原作在文字编排上尽量和选集保持一致，个别单词有明显的拼写错误，我在文中做了更正；另外，还有个别自觉意义含混不清、逻辑混乱的句子，我只好省去不译，在此必须向读者致以歉意。翻译时我们力求译文通顺、畅达，同时也尽量做到忠实于原作，忠实于作者的写作风格与特点。为了使读者更好地理解原文，我就文中出现的较难的单词标注了发音、词性和词义，这样也可一般为读者积累必要的阅读词汇。除了标注难词，我还就文中的关键词，主要涉及文化专有项（包括人物、地点等），以及作者的写作背景等做了注解。

本书能够完成与出版，首先要感谢中国书籍出版社编辑部主任李立云，谢谢她一直以来给予我的关心与支持；同时，感谢编辑宋然的不辞辛苦与细心仔细。另外，我要感谢我的学生赖晓玲，她一丝不苟地完成了本书多篇英文原作的电脑输入和校对工作。

由于个人能力和水平有限，译文中难免存有误读与误译，期待广大读者不吝批评与指正。

译者
2015 年夏

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书信篇

To Edward Raven

Roger Ascham
(January 20, 1551)

13 Octob. We took a fair barge, with goodly glass windows, with seats of fir, as close as any house, we knew not whether it went or stood. Rhene is such a river that now I do not marvel that the poets make rivers gods. Rhene at Spires having a farther course to run into the ocean sea than is the space **betwixt** Dover and Barwick is broader over a great deal than is Thames at Greenwich when it is calm weather. The Rhene runs fast and yet as smooth as the sea water stands in a vessel.

From Colen this day we went to Bonna, the bishop's town, the country about Rhene here is plain and lonely. We were drawn up Rhene by horses. Little villages stand by Rhene side, and as the barge came by, six or seven children, some still naked, some in their shirts, of the bigness of Peter Ailand, would run by usual on the sands, singing **psalms**, and would ring and sing with us half a mile, whilst they had some money.

We came late to Bonn at eight of the clock; our men came afore with our horse; we could not be let into the town, no more than they do at Calise, after an hour. We stood cold at the gate a whole hour. At last we were **fain**, lord and lady, to lie in our barge all night, where I sat in my lady's side-saddle, leaning my head to a malle, better lodged than a dozen of my fellows.

14 Octob. We sailed to Brousik; 15 miles afore we come to Bonn begin the vines and hills keeping in Rhene on both sides for the space of five or six days' journey as we made them almost to Mayence, like the hills that compass Halifax about, but far branter up, as though the rocks did cover you like a **pentice** (pent-house); on the Rhene side all this journey be pathways where horse and man go commonly a yard broad, so fair that no weather can make it **foul**; if you look upwards ye are afraid the rocks will fall on your head; if you look downwards ye are afraid to **tumble** into

致爱德华·雷文

罗杰·阿希姆

(1551年1月20日)

betwixt

[bi'twɪkst] *prep.*

在…之间，由…
到…

psalm

[sɑ:m] *n.*

圣歌，圣诗

fain

[feɪn] *adj.*

勉强的，不得
不的

pentice

[ˈpɛntɪs] *n.*

遮棚，屋顶房间

foul

[faʊl] *adj.*

令人不愉快的，
糟透了

tumble

[ˈtʌmbl] *v.*

突然摔倒

十月十三日。我们搭乘一艘豪华游艇，美丽透亮的玻璃窗，杉木制作的坐凳，像房子一般舒适宽敞。我们无法感知，它是在向前行驶，还是停留在原地。恰是莱茵河^①此刻让我对诗人赋河流以神性丝毫不感到讶异。当风和日丽、风平浪静之时，斯派司的莱茵河，流入海洋的所经之路比从多佛^②到巴维克^③之间的距离更为遥远，它比格林威治的泰晤士河^④更加辽阔。莱茵河水流湍急，然而有时又如船中盛水，徐缓平静。

是日，我们从科隆到达“主教之城”波恩，莱茵河流经的这片土地，朴素无华，孤寂沉静。至莱茵河畔，马停步不前。莱茵河岸边伫立着很多小村庄，当游艇从旁驶过，可以见到六七个孩子，有的光着身子，有的穿着衬衣。他们像往常一样在沙滩上奔跑，唱着赞美皮特·艾兰德之伟大的颂歌，与我们一起歌唱，一起奏乐，走了半英里的路，还赚到了一些钱。

晚至八时我们才抵达波恩，随行人员和马匹走在前头。一个小时过去了，我们仍无法进城，就如那些在卡莱斯的人一样的遭遇，在城门口站了整整一个小时，浑身打着冷战。最后，无论贵族还是贵族夫人，勉强在游艇里过夜，我就坐在贵族夫人的马横鞍上，头斜靠着旅行箱，处境胜过我的十几位同行者。

十月十四日。我们乘船抵达布鲁斯克，前面十五英里就是波恩，大约五六天的行程。此处可见莱茵河两岸，藤蔓丛生，山脉连绵。大致走了同样多的路程，我们到达了美因茨，它就像哈利法克斯^⑤一样，四面被包围于崇山峻岭之中，只是更加凶险鬼魅，岩石就像遮棚，把你的头脸遮盖。在莱茵河畔，马和人沿途需经过只有一码宽的小道，风景如此动人，无论雨雪阴晴，都会让人有心旷神怡之感。你若抬头看天，会担心岩石落在头上；若



Rhene, and if your horse founder it is not seven to six that ye shall miss falling into Rhene, there be many times stairs down into Rhene that men may come from their boats and walk on his bank, as we did every day four or five miles at once, plucking grapes not with our hands but with our mouths if we **list**.

The grapes grow on the **brant** rocks so wonderfully that ye will marvel how men dare climb up to them, and yet so plentifully, that it is not only a marvel where men be found to labour it, but also almost where men dwell that drink it. Seven or eight days' journey ye cannot cast your sight over the compass of vines. And surely this wine of Rhene is so good, so natural, so temperate, so ever like itself, as can be wished for man's use. I was afraid when I came out of England to miss beer; but I am more afraid when I shall come into England, that I cannot lack this wine.

It is wonder to see how many castles stand on the tops of these rocks unwinnable. The three **bishops** electors, Colen, Trevers and Mayence; be the princes almost of whole Rhene. The landgrave hath goodly castles upon Rhene which the emperor cannot get. The **palatine** of Rhene is also a great lord on this river, and hath his name of a castle standing in the midst of Rhene on a rock. There be also goodly isles in Rhene, so full of walnut trees that they cannot be spent with eating, but they make **vile** of them. In some of these isles stand fair abbeyes and nunneries wonderfully pleasant. The stones that hang so high over Rhene be very much of that stone that you use to write on in tables; every poor man's house there is covered with them.

list

[list] *v.*

想要, 喜欢

brant

[brænt] *adj.*

陡峭的, 陡直的

bishop

[ˈbɪʃəp] *n.*

(基督教的) 主教

palatine

[ˈpælətəɪn] *n.*

巴拉丁伯爵

vile

[vɪl] *adj.*

不足道的, 无价值的

低头看地, 又怕一脚不慎, 跌入莱茵河里。若是马被绊倒, 十之八九可能掉进莱茵河。这样一头扎进莱茵河的概率, 比乘船抵达, 或岸边行走, 要大得多, 尽管人们一天一次走四五英里。若想采摘葡萄, 无需动手, 只要张嘴就行。

葡萄长在悬崖峭壁上, 美丽壮观。你定会觉得不可思议, 人们怎么敢攀爬采摘, 而且摘下如此多的葡萄。让人惊叹的不只是看到人们这样不辞辛劳采摘葡萄, 而且这里的居民还会酿制葡萄酒。七八天的行程尚不够用以饱览满山遍野的葡萄树。毋庸置疑, 莱茵河的葡萄酒, 味美醇正, 自然温和, 颇似莱茵河, 这亦是人们梦寐以求的享受。我担心, 一旦离开英格兰, 我就会思念啤酒; 而更担心的是, 一旦走进英格兰, 我就不能没有这种葡萄酒。

人们惊奇地发现, 多少屹立于山巅的城堡都无法喝到葡萄酒, 无论是三个主教选民区——科隆、特佛茨和美因茨, 还是几乎整个莱茵河段的那些君主。莱茵河的伯爵领主有很多富丽的城堡, 即便是君王也比不上。莱茵河的巴拉丁伯爵就是这里的大贵族, 他拥有以自己姓名命名的城堡, 屹立在莱茵河中游的一块岩石上。莱茵河段还有很多风光旖旎的小岛, 尽管核桃树蓊郁葱茏, 却不可食用, 因此不足称道。在这些小岛上, 还有很多格调雅致的寺院和修道院, 令人悦目赏心。那些高悬于莱茵河段之上的石头, 酷似你书桌上那块用来刻字的石头, 那里的穷苦人家都用这种石头来建造屋顶。

To William Temple

Dorothy Osborne

Sir,

You say I **abuse** you; and Jane says you abuse me when you say you are not **melancholy**: which is to be believed? Neither, I think; for I could not have said so positively (as it seems she did) that I should not be in town till my brother came back: he was not gone when she **writ**, nor is not yet; and if my brother Peyton had come before his going, I had spoiled her prediction. But now it cannot be; he goes on Monday or Tuesday at farthest. I hope you did truly with me, too, in saying that you are not melancholy (though she does not believe it). I am thought so, many times, when I am not at all guilty on't. How often do I sit in company a whole day, and when they are gone am not able to give an account of six words that was said, and many times could be so much better pleased with the entertainment my own thoughts give me, that 'tis all I can do to be so civil as not to let them see they trouble me. This may be your disease. However, remember you have promised me to be careful of yourself, and that if I secure what you have **entrusted** me with, you will answer for the rest. Be this our **bargain** then; and look that you give me as good an account of one as I shall give you of t'other. In earnest I was strangely vexed to see myself forced to disappoint you so, and felt your trouble and my own too. How often I have wished myself with you, though but for a day, for an hour: I would have given all the time I am to spend here for it with all my heart.

You could not but have laughed if you had seen me last night. My brother and Mr. Gibson were talking by the fire; and I sat by, but as no part of the company. Amongst other things (which I did not at all mind), they fell into a discourse of flying; and both agreed it was very possible to

致威廉·汤朴^①

多萝西·奥斯本

先生：

你说我在蒙骗你；你说你并不悲伤，简说你这是在蒙骗我。我该信谁？我想我谁都不该信，因为我无法断言（似乎她就是这样），我要等我的弟弟回来才能到城里去。简给我写信的时候，他没走，还没准备动身。要是在他离开之前我的哥哥佩顿能回来，那她的预言就落空了。但照目前看不可能，他最迟要周一或周二出发。你说自己并不悲伤，希望你对我说的是实话（纵然她不相信），很多次她就这样说我，但我并不因此感到愧疚。我经常一整天和伙伴们相拥而坐，可等他们离开后，即使是他们说过的只言片语，我都无法复述。我从自己的所思所想中获得快乐，这样我就能尽力表现出我的彬彬有礼，而不至于让他们觉得给我添加了麻烦。这样做你可能会感到不快。但是，记住你答应过我，要好好照顾自己，如果你嘱托我的事情我一定办到，那么你也要信守承诺。这是我们的协定，我会给你详细汇报我的行踪，你也要。实话说，看到自己不得已而让你如此失望，我感到莫名地苦恼，这让我既感觉到你的忧虑，也感觉到自己的忧虑。我一直渴望能和你在一起，哪怕就是一天，一小时，我将用我整个的心，用我将在耗尽的一生，去和你相聚这一天，这一小时的时间。

你若见我昨晚的情形，一定会笑话我。我的哥哥和吉布森先生坐在炉火旁聊天，我也一旁坐着，却缄默不言。他们讨论了很多话题（我压根没在意），继而说到了飞行，两个人都认为，人类非常有可能找到可以像鸟一

abuse

[ə'bjuz] v.

[旧] 蒙骗

melancholy

['melənkəli] adj.

忧郁的，闷闷不乐的

writ

[古] write 的过去式

entrust

[in'trust] v.

嘱咐，嘱托

bargain

['bɑ:gən] n.

协定，交易



find out a way that people might fly like birds, and **despatch** their journeys: so I, that had not said a word all night, started up at that, and desired they would say a little more on't, for I had not marked the beginning; but instead of that, they both fell into so violent a laughing, that I should appear so much concerned in such an art; but they little knew of what use it might have been to me. Yet I saw you last night, but 'twas in a dream; and before I could say a word to you, or you to me, the disorder my joy to see you had put me into awakened me. Just now I was interrupted, too, and called away to entertain two dumb gentlemen; —you may imagine whether I was pleased to leave my writing to you for their company; —they have made such a tedious visit, too; and I am so tired with making of signs and **tokens** for everything I had to say. Good God! How do those that live with them always? They are brothers; and the eldest is a **baronet**, has a good estate, a wife and three or four children. He was my servant **heretofore**, and comes to see me still for old love's sake; but if he could have made me mistress of the world I could not have had him; and yet I'll swear he has nothing to be disliked in him but his want of tongue, which in a woman might have been a virtue.

I sent you a part of *Cyrus* last week, where you will meet with one Doralise in the story of Abradate and Panthée. The whole story is very good; but the humour makes the best part of it. I am of her opinion in most things that she says in her character of "L'honnest homme" that she is in search of, and her resolution of receiving no heart that had been offered to anybody else. Pray, tell me how you like her, and what fault you find in my Lady Carlisle's letter? **Methinks** the hand and the style both show her a great person, and 'tis writ in the way that's now affected by all that pretend to wit and good **breeding**; only, I am a little **scandalized** to confess that she uses that word faithful, —she that never knew how to be so in her life.

I have sent you my picture because you wished for it; but, pray, let it not presume to disturb my Lady Sunderland's. Put it in some corner where no eyes may find it out but yours, to whom it is only intended. 'Tis not a very good one, but the best I shall ever have drawn of me; for, as my Lady says, my time for pictures is past, and therefore I have always refused to