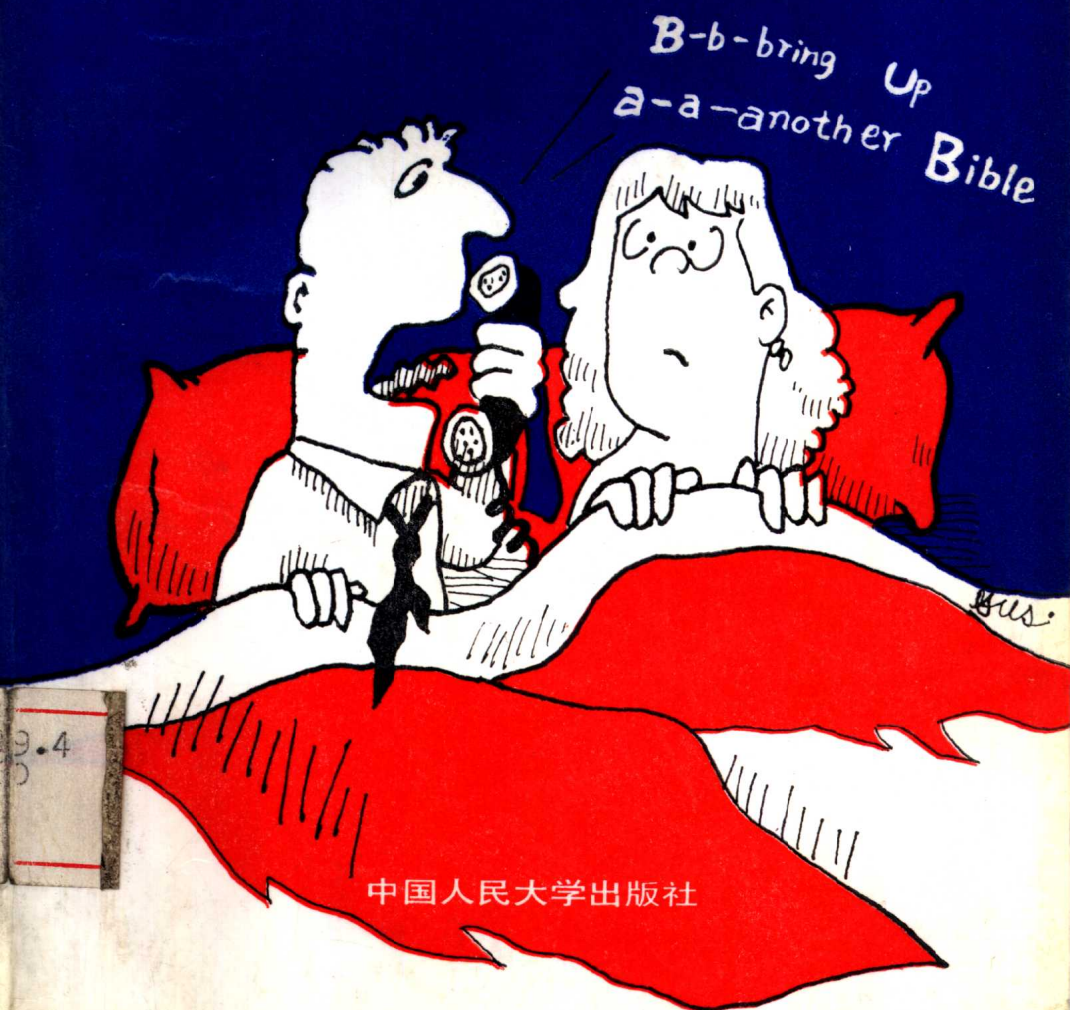


美国式幽默

英汉对照 李莫然 编著

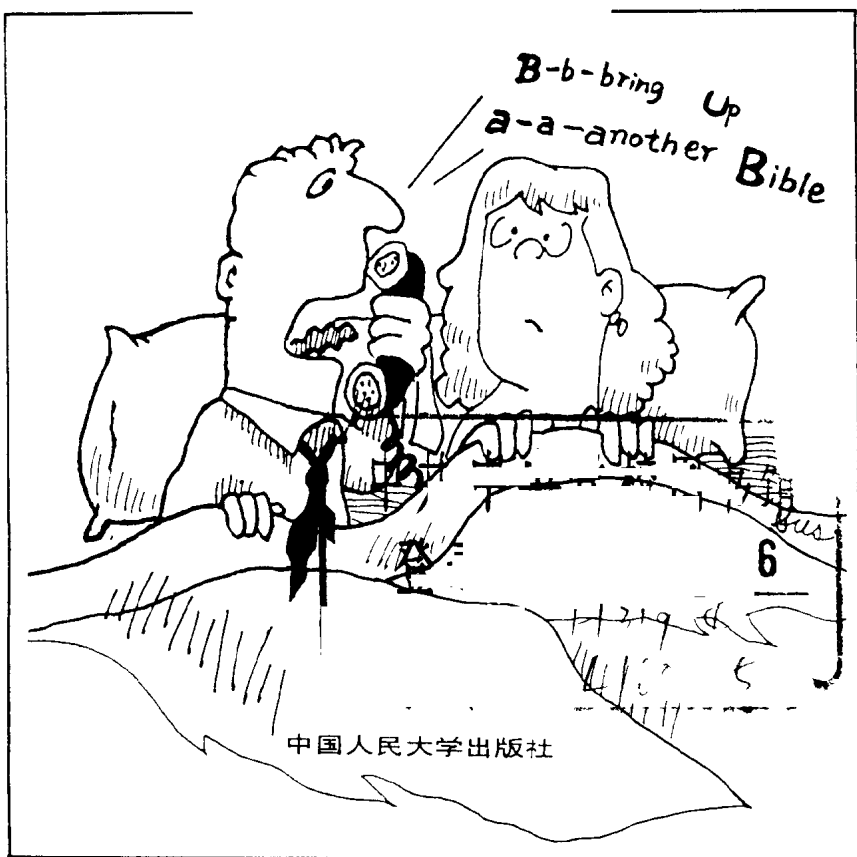
AMERICAN HUMOR



中国人民大学出版社

美国式幽默

英汉对照 李莫然 编著
庄宏哲 绘画



(京)新登字 156 号

英汉对照
American Humor

美国式幽默

李莫然 编著

庄宏哲 绘画

出版者：中国人民大学出版社

发行者：中国人民大学出版社

(北京海淀路 39 号 邮码 100872)

印刷者：北京市丰台区丰华印刷厂

经销者：新华书店总店北京发行所

开 本：850×1168 毫米 32 开

字 数：123 000

印 张：6 插页 1

版 次：1993 年 12 月第 1 版

印 次：1993 年 12 月第 1 次印刷

册 数：1—8 000

书 号：ISBN7-300-01829-7/H·93

定 价：4.50 元

FOREWORD

During his sojourn of over two decades in the U. S. A. , Father John Lee has accumulated a great many stories and jokes. However, even more precious than a stockpile of funny stories is the extraordinary sense of humor he has developed in the process, enabling him to seize upon the witticisms of others and to answer in kind. His quiet, yet dynamic, personality just thrives on the humorous quirks of people, things, and events likely to tickle the funny bone of others. Through his contacts with some of the leading comedians Stateside and the digesting of books about them (What a funny diet!), Father Lee has found his own way of mixing a cocktail of his original Chinese humor with that of the West; he was thus able to sense what sort of blend would appeal most to his Chinese students at the university where he teaches English. From telling his pupils these short stories to writing a booklet of them, there was but one step, and this is it!

Of course, to be really funny and to attain its maximum impact, a story ought to be dramatized, played out before a responsive audience, and a classroom atmosphere can be ideal for this approach. Still Father Lee dreamed his humor

would some day reach greater audiences. Radio and TV, however, were definitely out of the question he was warned in no uncertain terms, mainly because he shared the ordinary human being's aversion to commercials, I suppose; for like most of us, he thinks people have enough of one watch, personally can't stand fancy soaps and shampoos, and especially hates all sorts of medicine! His next best bet was therefore the printed word, together with illustrative cartoons, clearly an influence from the visual aids in the Department of Mass Communication where he teaches. In this way too, he could reach not only the English-speaking intelligentsia, but even the humor-starved masses often limited to reading Chinese, hence the accompanying translation.

Unlike that of most comedians, Father Lee's status in life, both as priest and as teacher, placed out-of-bounds extensive humorous sectors of people's daily lives and foibles that might have smacked of anything "improper or unbecoming". True to say, this painfully narrowed his field of humor, for as I am wont to say, several of the "aseptic" aspects of life are not all that funny, while some rather humorous angles are not always detergent-clean! This meant exercising some amount of discernment on his part in order to remain well within the bounds of "propriety" or "socially acceptable weaknesses". It meant keeping his gaze as elevated as the escha-tological level generally expected from a man of the cloth, and shying away from all scatological allusions.

Nevertheless, it is to be hoped that the stories and sketches, all approved by the FDA and presented here for immediate and harmless consumption, will surely make lively and entertaining reading. They will probably help you get quite a few good laughs and meanwhile keep you smiling despite the fact that you won't find here a solution to your problem of runaway inflation! For that problem, as in the case of a poor joke I daresay, you'll just have to keep on living with it and learn to grin and bear it!

ERNEST SORELLE

索凌云神父 序

羁居美国二十多载，李莫然神父积蓄了一大笔财产——故事与笑话。难得的是，李神父不是个守财奴，他既懂得赚取财富，又晓得如何去支配它，更舍得拿出宝藏来与大家分享。

任何一件令人拍案叫绝的轶闻趣事，都足以益发地增显李神父动静如度的特质。经由跟美国一些幽默大师交往，以及消化了相关的书籍（好可笑的食物），李神父取西用中地炒出一盘风味绝妙别无分号的什锦大菜。同样的，他也调配出恰当的佐料，很能对学生们的胃口。在课室中讲述这些笑话，乃至将其排印成书，其间不过只差那么一小步，现在这一小步总算是跨了出来。

说故事并不难。想说得活龙活现，非得有点本事才行。要想把笑话讲得精采，使得满堂击掌跺足，那更需要一等一的技巧。虽然课堂是个说笑话的理想场合，李神父总希望他的听众能够多些。广播和电视固然是传播的利器，李神父绝不将其纳入他个人的传播媒介，想必跟一般人一样，对商业广告过敏，抱着敬而远之的态度。李神父认为，人的意志无法抵抗那些华丽的香皂及诱人的洗发精，而又对七林八总的药品，更是无法消受。既然摒弃了两张强劲的王牌，李神父只

得下注于仅剩的法宝——白纸印黑字的书本。诚然一副大众传播系教授的姿态，李神父颇谙视觉媒体的特性，行文间插了许多漫画，加强了不少的传播效用。除了漫画，每篇故事也翻成了中文，以飨所有的老饕。

李神父跟大多数的幽默家不同。那些幽默大师能涉足于生活的各个层面，从中撷取令人捧腹的笑料。而身为一位神父及教师，李神父总得格外地小心行事，稍带色彩的言语似也不适从其而出。说真格的，幽默家被围于如此狭隘的天地中，实在是有些遗憾。我一直以为，清洁溜溜的生活中，不可能发生天大的鲜事，而意想不到的糗闻，却往往藏于不太卫生的角落里。李神父还真得花上一些心思来判别笑话的纯净度，才不致逾越了方圆。也就是说，他的眼界得始终保持一定的高度，避开所有暧昧的情境，以不失其为圣职人员的身分。

言归正传，希望这本小书推出后，真是能带给读者一丝活力与喜悦，纵使在字里行间找不出解决通货膨胀的妙方，但他总会惹你大笑几场，让你荡漾在欢乐的时光里。不管遇上什么样的麻烦，人都得活下去，好在是个人门口有方天，总会有苦尽甘来的时候。

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My heart felt thanks to a number of good friends, responsible for publication of this book. Heading the list is Reverend Ernest Sorelle, S. J. , Professor of Fu Jen Catholic University, who was kind enough to polish my "Chop Suey" English and to write a kind foreword. Miss. Connie Jordan, a popular teacher of Studio Classroom, was also generous with her help and words of encouragement. My gratitude also goes to Augustine Chuang for his delightful illustrative cartoons, as well as, Jennifer Chu, Edward Lee, Grace Yong and Grace Wong, for translating, sometimes untranslatable, text into elegant Chinese.

JOHN P. LEE

作者的话

acknowledgement

把英文搞通了，有百益而无一害；良药虽益身，却难入口。这本小书既然称不上是帖良药，当然不会苦口。静心品尝甘味，开心大笑三声，病痛从此不药而愈。

读了这本小书中的笑话，不仅能开怀畅心，更可从轻松中学到不少英语会话，对美国的风土人情有个概略的认识。为了收事半功倍之效，读这些故事之前，最好先把附注的单字短语及俚语俗话完全弄懂，千万不可先看中文译本，中文译本只可配合英文原稿照着念，以资辅助。

翻译这些话，多半用的是直译，期与原文相符。某些直译不出其精髓的，只得取其相似之点，予以意译，盼能巧传个中绝妙，博众一笑，大家开心。

笑话人听人爱，用它来学英文，虽不能说是苦中求乐，但也不失为学英语的捷径。这本小书若能给读者有所助益，它的伙伴们也将陆续跟大家照面，与君同乐。

李 莫 然

Table of Contents

目 录

1	I'M READING A BOOK	1
	力不从心	3
2	GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS	5
	一“念”之差	7
3	WHO GOT CONNED?	8
	谁被“坑”了	10
4	YOU'RE ASKING FOR IT	11
	人事不清	13
5	WHO HAS A BIGGER MOUTH?	14
	父母至上	16
6	YOU CAN'T BEAT A TEXAN	17
	德州佬——人大气傲	19
7	TROUBLE	20
	名不正，言不顺	22

8	LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD	23
	现代小红帽.....	25
9	MORONS AND THE EEL	26
	傻蛋行大恶.....	28
10	DRUNKEN-DRIVING TEST	29
	高空艺人.....	30
11	WOODEYE	31
	疑心生暗鬼.....	34
12	TOO MUCH SUGAR?	35
	捞本乎?	36
13	TIGHTWAD	37
	铁公鸡.....	40
14	WITH MY LUCK	41
	凭我的造化.....	43
15	GROUCHO'S FAVORITE JOKE	44
	疯人疯相.....	46
16	PRIVATE BEACH?	47
	作茧自缚.....	49
17	FERTILIZER	50
	不一样就是不一样.....	52

18	PIGEON EXPERT	53
	鸽子“专家”.....	55
19	NESE AND KEYS	56
	以牙还牙.....	58
20	FRANKNESS RUNS IN THE FAMILY	59
	有其父必有其子.....	61
21	BACK-SEAT DRIVER	62
	丈母娘,难侍候	64
22	JOKE ABOUT MARRIAGE	65
	肺腑之言.....	67
23	IS HE REALLY DRUNK?	68
	他真的醉了?	69
24	SEEING DOUBLE	70
	酒兴何时了.....	71
25	MIKE AND BRIDGET	72
	以其道——制其人.....	74
26	WHAT'S HEAVEN LIKE?	75
	天堂是什么样子?	77
27	WHICH IS WHICH?	78
	雌雄莫辨.....	79

28	THE MORON STORY	80
	聪明的傻瓜	82
29	THE REALISTIC SCARECROW	83
	稻草人,吓死人	85
30	THE OVERHEALTHY LIVER	86
	肝“强化”	87
31	BRING UP ANOTHER BIBLE	88
	化险为夷	91
32	THE PARSON AND THE FARMER	92
	有教无类	94
33	WE'D BETTER GET ON THE BALL	95
	天有不测风云	97
34	SOME TWIST	98
	阴错阳差	100
35	WHO WISHES TO GO TO HELL?	101
	赤子心	103
36	MR. D. AND MR. N.	104
	傻瓜行恶运	107
37	BELLY BUTTON	108
	步步高升	110

38	LIVE AND LEARN	111
	孜孜不倦	113
39	OVERPOLITENESS	114
	礼多人不怪	117
40	HOW'S MOTHER?	118
	学以致用	120
41	BISHOP SHEEN AND THE IRISHMAN	121
	棋逢对手	123
42	CHINESE ENGLISH	124
	洋泾浜	127
43	THAT'S ONE	128
	事不过三	130
44	SF. SF. SF. SF. SF. SF.	131
	打十二个字	133
45	CHICKEN CHOWMEIN	134
	“乔勉”与“抄面”	136
46	RAFFLE OFF A DEAD HORSE?	137
	神来之计	140
47	CHINESE INTERPRETATION OF GEORGE WASHINGTON CUTTING DOWN THE CHEERY TREE	141
	此情非彼情	144

48	THE SUN OR THE MOON?	145
	日月同光	147
49	BIG TIME DRINKER	148
	痛饮庆佳节	150
50	THE CONSISTENT CHINESE	151
	贯彻始终的中国人	153
51	BANK ROBBERS	154
	盗库者	155
52	WHAT KIND DO YOU WANT?	156
	任君选用	158
53	DANNY THOMAS, GENTILE OR JEW?	159
	以貌取人	161
54	TABLE MANNERS	162
	国民生活须知——食的礼仪	164
55	LETTERS FROM SUMMER CAMP	165
	夏令营来函	169
56	THE W. C. STORY	171
	始料未及	175



I'M READING A BOOK

Pat Brady drank like a fish. He got plastered every Saturday night. His wife Molly invariably gave him a hard time when he staggered home. One evening when celebrating the birthday of one of his drinking buddies, Pat got all boozed up and was feeling no pain. But, as he was having one for the road, he was still sober enough to remember that he had to face Molly when he got home. That worried him considerably because he knew only too well that when Molly took a sniff of his telltale breath, his goose would be cooked. Suddenly Pat began to grin as a bright idea flashed into his mind. "I got it," mumbled Pat to himself. "As soon as I get home, I am going to read a book. When Molly sees me reading, she won't suspect that I am drunk. That's what I'll do."

So Pat tiptoed into the house and sat in the living room quiet as a mouse, at least Pat thought he was. On hearing the racket, Molly hurried down from upstairs. She saw red as soon as she spotted what Pat was doing. "What do you think you're doing?" demanded the infuriated wife.

"I am reading a book, can't you see?" replied Pat