

英汉对照阅读丛书

杨晨
曹磊
译注

名人趣事



天津大学出版社

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前 言

说到名人，人们自然会联想到他们对社会、对世界、对人类产生的影响和做出的贡献，他们已经成为人们心目中崇拜的偶像。大凡成为名人的人，都有其辉煌的一面。而人们在了解了名人们引人注目的一面后，也会关注这些名人作为普通人的另一面，他们的喜怒哀乐，他们的志趣爱好，他们的趣事轶事……本书精心筛选了许多西方著名人物鲜为人知的趣事和传说，您在轻松阅读中，不仅可以品味到名人们的幽默诙谐、机智聪敏，还可以更深地体会到他们锲而不舍、执着追求的精神。在不知不觉之中，拉近与名人之间的距离。总之，我们希望本书通过对这些名人的某个生活侧面的描述，使您在会心一笑后，受到启迪，有所收获。

本书短小精悍，文章原汁原味，具有较强的可读性和趣味性，充分体现了轻松学英语的宗旨，是一本较好的课外读物。

编者水平有限，错误之处在所难免，敬请广大读者批评指正。

编 者

2003 年 4 月

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梭罗拒绝纳税

A Hat of Friendship

A year before Pearl Harbor, the American President Roosevelt sent Hopkins to England to arrange effective aid to the island country tired out by its war effort. This visit set in motion ⁽¹⁾ the "Lend-lease" ⁽²⁾ plan which was to play such a vital role in the war.

Churchill was quick to recognize the importance of the mission ⁽³⁾ of this ambassador, and learnt from him that isolationism ⁽⁴⁾ was strong in almost every sphere in America and this influence greatly hampered the policy making of the American government. To realize the American desire to aid Britain, the obstacles ⁽⁵⁾ put up by the isolationists must be removed first. And to remove the obstacles, American public opinion must be won over first. For this purpose, Churchill invited Hopkins to attend his cabinet ⁽⁶⁾ meetings. It was the first time in English history for a non-British politician to attend a cabinet meeting. It was an indication ⁽⁷⁾ of the special relationship between the two countries.

Soon afterwards Churchill made his international broadcast which was to have so great an influence on the public opinion in the United States. Churchill had entrusted Hopkins with the task of drafting ⁽⁸⁾ the speech, and this showed the wisdom ⁽⁹⁾ of Churchill in his choice as no one knew better

than Hopkins the psychology⁽¹⁰⁾ of the American people. He certainly knew what the Americans liked to hear.

The broadcast speech was an enormous success, especially that sentence: "Give us the tools and we will finish the job" which became so famous. At the time many Americans doubted the British people's ability to carry on with the war. To supply arms to a dying man would not only fail to save him but would court⁽¹¹⁾ disaster for oneself instead. This skepticism⁽¹²⁾ was the protective guard of the stronghold⁽¹³⁾ of the isolationists. Churchill's speech told the Americans what the British lacked in their struggle was not courage⁽¹⁴⁾ nor the will to fight on. What they lacked were weapons. With the needed weapons they could win the final victory.

The speech itself supplied those Americans opposed to isolationism with the weapon to launch⁽¹⁵⁾ an attack on isolationism. Finally the Lend-lease Act was passed, and war material of every kind, especially military equipment⁽¹⁶⁾, began to pour into Britain.

The English were naturally most pleased with Hopkins' visit. Also a personal friendship grew up between Churchill and Hopkins.

When Hopkins came to England, he was wearing an old hat which he had worn for years. When he was about to return home, he took the hat in his hand and stared at it for quite a while and finally decided to throw it away. When Churchill learnt about this he had a hat specially made with his initials⁽¹⁷⁾

A Hat of Friendship

"W.S.C" engraved⁽¹⁸⁾ on it and gave it to Hopkins as a present. Hopkins wore this hat back to the United States. This story of old hat for a new hat got circulated⁽¹⁹⁾ for quite a while.

语法难点注释

- (1) set in motion 启动
- (2) lend-lease 租借
- (3) mission *n.* 使命
- (4) isolationism *n.* 孤立主义
- (5) obstacle *n.* 障碍
- (6) cabinet *n.* 内阁
- (7) indication *n.* 表示
- (8) draft *v.* 起草
- (9) wisdom *n.* 智慧
- (10) psychology *n.* 心理
- (11) court *n.* 招惹(祸事等)
- (12) skepticism *n.* 怀疑论
- (13) stronghold *n.* 堡垒
- (14) courage *n.* 勇气
- (15) launch *v.* 发动
- (16) equipment *n.* 设备
- (17) initials *n.* 姓名中的大写字母
- (18) engrave *v.* 刻上
- (19) circulate *v.* 流传, 传播

呢帽传友谊

珍珠港事件的前一年，美国总统罗斯福派遣霍普金斯前往英国，安排有效地援助那个被战争拖得疲惫不堪的岛国的事宜。这便是在战争中具有重大意义的“租借法”的起由。

丘吉尔首相很快地领悟到了这位使者使命的重要性。而且从他那里了解到，严重的孤立主义存在于美国的各个领域，这严重地影响着美国政府的决策。要使美国援助英国的愿望成为现实，就必须排除孤立主义者设置的障碍。而要排除这种障碍必须首先动员美国舆论。为此，丘吉尔邀请霍普金斯出席了他主持的内阁会议。一位非英国籍的政治家出席内阁会议，这在英国历史上是头一回。它表明两国之间存在的特殊的关系。

此后不久，丘吉尔发表了旨在影响美国舆论的国际广播讲话。而这篇讲话的起草任务，丘吉尔交给了霍普金斯。这显示了丘吉尔的精明之处，因为没有人比霍普金斯更了解美国人的心理了。他确实知道美国人喜欢听什么。

广播讲话非常成功。尤其是“给我们工具，我们就可以做完工作”这句话成了名言。当时，不少美国人怀疑英国人是否还能打下去。向一个垂死的人提供武器，不但不能搭救他，反而会殃及自身。这种怀疑论正好是孤立主义者堡垒的保护层。丘吉尔的讲话告诉美国人，英国人在斗争中缺乏的不是勇气，也不是继续战斗下去的毅力，他们缺乏的是武器。有了需要的武器，他们就可以取得最后胜利。