

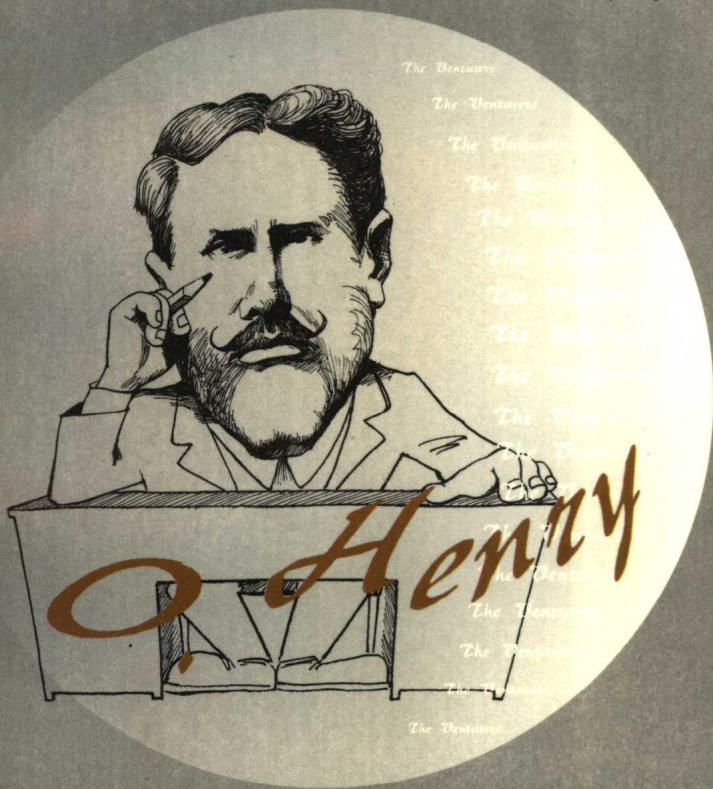
美国著名作家名篇选注之 · 3 ·

冒险家

○ Henry

欧·亨利集

李玮 主编



北京大学出版社

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北 京

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前 言

当前我国正在大步走向世界,学好外国语、了解他国的文化和人民就显得十分重要了。根据经验,我们认为读些外国文学原作是达到这一目的的一种有效手段,因为作为讲述生活体验的文学不但具有丰富的文化、历史和心理内涵,而且还显示出语言的千变万化。这就是我们编注美国作家短篇故事系列读物的动机。

本系列选注的是 19 世纪后半叶到 20 世纪初的四位现实主义作家的作品。按写作年代排列第一册是马克·吐温集,第二册是杰克·伦敦集,第三册是欧·亨利集,第四册是亨利·詹姆斯集。选文标准是能够反映作者各个创作时期的代表性文章。

本系列适于大学英语专业二年级以上的学生或具有全国大学英语四级以上水平的读者。每页原文后附脚注,列出超四级考试词汇表的单词及其发音、词性和在文章中的意思。全文后附尾注,对超出四级水平的难句、短语、俚语等加以说明和举例。各篇选文前附有该故事梗概和特点介绍。每集开头处附该作家简介,以飨爱好文学的读者。

各集的作家简介和文前说明均由编者撰写,参加注释工作的如一集中有一人以上的情况则在每篇篇尾写明注释者姓名。

本系列既可用做泛读材料,也可供自学之用。希望这套读物能使读者受益并能得到读者欢迎。

如有错误和疏漏,欢迎批评指正。

李淑言

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欧·亨利简介

(一)

欧·亨利(O. Henry 1862—1910)是美国短篇小说家威廉·西德尼·波特的笔名。1862年9月11日,波特出生在北卡罗来纳州的格林波罗。母亲与幼弟死后,当医生的父亲带着波特来与奶奶和婶婶一起生活。艾维丽娜婶婶成了他的老师,激发起他对文学的浓厚兴趣。博览群书与练习写作成了他生活的重点。17岁时在叔叔的药房做学徒的经历是他观察世人与生活的第一个窗口。20岁那年,波特来到得克萨斯,尝试过各种类型的工作。他先在墨西哥边境一个牧场工作,后在奥斯汀当图书管理员。1887年7月5日与A. E. 罗奇结婚后在得克萨斯土地局做了4年文书工作。接下来的4年,他在奥斯汀第一国家银行任出纳员。1894至1895年借钱买下一家文学杂志,改月刊为周刊,取名《滚石》。1895至1896年他成为休斯敦一家报纸的编辑兼每日专栏作家,写一些诙谐幽默的奇闻轶事。为支撑《滚石》的正常运作,他四处借钱,又从银行抽走一小笔资金,想渡过难关之后再归还。事发之后被起诉侵吞公款。假如那时他没有逃亡到洪都拉斯,也许可以免于刑事处罚。然而背井离乡1年后,波特回国为妻子奔丧时被捕入狱,刑期5年,因其良好表现,改为3年。正是这段特殊岁月造就了一位成熟的短篇小说大师。他以自己过往的经历及牢狱见闻为素材,创作了第一批故事,由一位朋友帮忙,以欧·亨利的笔名问世。从此,世人认识、喜爱并永远记住了短篇小说家欧·亨利及其作品,以至于他的真名实姓威廉·西德尼·波特渐渐地变得鲜为人知了。出狱后的波特于1902年春天来到纽约开始新生活,继续他的文学创作。从

1903年到1910年波特与《纽约世界》(New York World)签约,为每期的周日版写故事。可以这样说,纽约不仅是他人人生旅途中重要的一站和最终归宿,而且也是他文学创作生涯中很重要也很辉煌的一个阶段。在纽约居住期间,他写了140多个故事,他对形形色色的纽约人及其各式各样的生活所做的细致入微的观察、生动形象的描绘成为其创作画廊中独具风采的精品。纽约为他提供了创作大都市故事的深厚生活底蕴,使他比其他作家更好地抓住了城市生活的本质及普通人物的心态。作为一位十分多产的职业作家,欧·亨利在创作高峰时期,每周可写出一篇以上的故事。据统计,1903至1905年,120篇;1906年,19篇;1908年,29篇。然而过往的贫苦生活与那段牢狱经历以及不甚幸福的第二次婚姻是他心头的重负,于是,借酒浇愁、尽情挥霍、拼命写作成为他生命后期的主旋律。身体逐渐衰弱下去,1910年6月5日,波特死于肝硬化。

(二)

欧·亨利的短篇小说集在其生前一本本地迅速问世,即使在 他辞世之后仍有出版。按出版年代的先后顺序排列的书目如下:《财富与国王》(Cabbages and Kings),1904;《四百万》(The Four Million),1906;《装饰灯具》(The Trimmed Lamp),1907;《西部之心》(Heart of the West),1907;《城市之声》(The Voice of the City),1908;《善良的贪污者》(The Gentle Grafters),1908;《命运之路》(Roads of Destiny),1909;《选择》(Options),1909;《绝对公事》(Strictly Business),1910;《旋转木马》(Whirligigs),1910;《六与七》(Sixes and Sevens),1911;《滚石》(Rolling Stones),1912;《流浪儿》(Waifs and Strays),1917。

欧·亨利选择的故事背景具有明显的地域性:美国古老南方、美墨边境地带、大都市纽约,以及中南美洲。例如第一本故事集《财富与国王》就是描写拉美的冒险,而《四百万》、《装饰灯具》、《城市

之声》和《绝对公事》展现的却是纽约和纽约人的特色，《西部之心》和《善良的贪污者》是根据他在得克萨斯及监狱中的经历创作而成，《命运之路》和《选择》则载录了各种背景下发生的故事。

欧·亨利擅长以片断式手法反映生活，展现各式命运变迁。作品中经常出现的主题包括：冒险中的发现与冒险之后的所得、都市生活、命运的逆转以及对人性的呼唤。这些主题或单一或多重组合作地体现在他的事故中，读者可以在本书选编的17篇故事中发现。从内容上来看，这17篇故事可以分为以下几类：走南闯北、探寻人生真谛的冒险游荡（《冒险家》、《咖啡馆里的世界公民》、《诗人与农夫》）；在都市丛林中谋生的城市猎手（《丛林中的婴儿》、《闪光的黄金》）；为爱情明争暗斗各出奇招的浪漫演绎（《埋藏的珍宝》、《弄巧成拙》、《没有故事的故事》、《艾基的春药》、《绝对公事》、《先锋》、《吝啬情人》）；为寻恋人四处飘泊的痴心汉（《带家具的房间》）与远走天涯隐匿海角的伤心郎（《莲花与漂流瓶》）；曼妙奇特的大都市风景线（《女孩与习惯》、《女孩与交易》）；还有以独特视角描绘出的市井百态（《一条黄狗的回忆》）。

欧·亨利自身复杂的人生阅历，以及他对生活中各色人等的观察使他笔下的芸芸众生具有来自生活、高于生活的艺术魅力：药房的伙计，银行的出纳，踉跄街角路边的混混，夜宿公园长凳的流浪汉，商店饭厅的顾客，廉价公寓的房东房客、商业圈与文艺圈的名流小卒，寻宝探密远航冒险之士。他以极富喜剧创作的幽默才能与丰富的想象力营造出这些人物在故事中所处的各种情景与面临的困境，表现他们的爱与恨、恐惧与贪欲等种种情感，灵巧地设计各种解决生存难题的方法，自然也包括了种种骗术。不过，即使是在描写社会负面现象时，他只是温和地加以嘲讽。

欧·亨利在谋篇布局方面堪称大师，他精于巧妙地设计诡异的情节，十分偏爱戏剧式反讽的运用。逆转(reversals)和出人意料的结尾(Surprising endings)几乎成为他短篇小说专属的标

志。逆转,即期待中的事件未能在预定轨道上运行,被一系列意外之事所替代,设计好的方案演变成令人啼笑皆非的另一种结局。我国读者对欧·亨利的这种创作风格与技巧不会感到陌生,这要归功于两篇脍炙人口的故事《麦琪的礼物》和《警察与赞美诗》。《警察与赞美诗》中的小偷苏比,在寒冬季节几次三番地故意闹事,以求进入监狱有个过冬的场所。然而不管他痴心不改地如何作案,(如:混吃混喝、投石砸窗、偷窃雨伞),却每每事与愿违。正当他在教堂铁栅栏外沐着月光,听着圣乐,决心痛改前非做个好人之际,被警察怀疑企图抢劫,带到法官处,被无辜地判刑入狱。正是这数次的计划受挫,情节发展脱离人物预设的轨道,引出一个始料不及的结局,从而产生了反讽式的戏剧效果。通观欧·亨利的短篇小说,几乎毫无例外地有这样奇巧的情节设计与结尾处理,让人掩卷之后回味再三。

欧·亨利还是一位语言大师,他能驾轻就熟地配合故事情节发展和人物性格特征,灵活使用双关、俚语、可笑的语误(malapropism)、诡辩之术以及自创新词,或褒或贬,或嘲或讽,或低调处理或夸张表达,风趣幽默,令人莞尔。

(三)

对于欧·亨利的作品,各方面的反映不一而足。一方面,他的故事拥有很大的市场,一经问世,立即成为流行时尚。其作品不仅刊登在 *Everybody's*, *McClure's*, *Munsey's* 这样的月刊上,而且也受到 *the Atlantic Monthly*, *the Bookman* 的注意与好评。一些严肃评论家赞誉欧·亨利是现代文学大师,可与莫泊桑相提并论。他的作品也曾一度成为评价其他短篇小说的规范。著名出版社 *Doubleday* 在 1919 年将其作品选为该年度最佳小说。另一方面,19 世纪 20 年代后期,经院派评论家则认为他笔下塑造的人物过于平淡、简单,故事情节过分依赖巧合与令人惊讶的结尾,写作范

式缺乏变化,宿命论人生观的哲理式过于概括。总之,仁者见仁,智者见智。对于一位作家及其作品,每位读者自然会有自己的心得体会。关于欧·亨利和他的故事,也是如此。就请大家由本书所选的17篇故事走入欧·亨利的文学世界,自己欣赏吧。

李 玮

莲花与漂流瓶

格迪是美国驻柯拉里奥岛的领事。他与女友艾达·佩恩关系破裂。为了报复,也为了寻求解脱,便自我放逐到柯拉里奥这个远离尘世的世界。他在充满热带风光及纯朴民风的小岛上过着宁静安闲的日子。一年过后,他在翻阅迟到数天的报纸时,发现了一则消息:艾达与金融界大亨托利维乘坐豪华游艇艾达里亚号旅行,并将于近日经过柯拉里奥岛。另据称,她将与托利维很快订婚。格迪读到这则消息时,自以为心情平静,似乎对他来说过去早已无所谓了。他正打算与当地富商伯纳德·布南宁干的女儿葆拉结婚,但一直没有向葆拉提出。沉思之间,他看见艾达里亚号驶过海岸。晚饭后散步时,格迪发现了一个漂流瓶。他忽然觉得瓶中的信与印章都像出自艾达之手。这是艾达的和解信?但这种和解方式岂不是太轻率了?格迪的心情紊乱起来,并未打开瓶子。当晚他向葆拉求婚。她的回答使他觉得幸福而满足,回家后便把瓶子扔回了海里。但第二天凌晨,瓦尔哈拉号的水手们却发现格迪在海中发疯般地追逐一个瓶子,而瓶子就在他将要得手的时候漂走了。水手们救起他时,他已精疲力尽,差点淹死。

看来,过去的生活经历始终印刻在他内心深处,时空的力量终究不能左右人的心灵。

The Lotus^① and the Bottle

Willard Geddie, consul^② for the United States in Coralio, was working leisurely on his yearly report. Goodwin, who had strolled in as he did daily for a smoke on the much coveted porch, had found him so absorbed in his work that he departed after roundly abusing the consul for his lack of hospitality^[1].

“I shall complain to the civil service department,” said Goodwin; —“or is it a department? —perhaps it’s only a theory. One gets neither civility nor service from you. You won’t talk; and you won’t set out anything to drink. What kind of a way is that of representing your government?”

Goodwin strolled out and across to the hotel to see if he could bully the quarantine^③ doctor into a game on Coralio’s solitary billiard table. His plans were completed for the interception of the fugitives^[2] from the capital; and now it was but a waiting game that he had to play.

The consul was interested in his report. He was only twenty-four; and he had not been in Coralio long enough for his enthusiasm to cool in the heat of the tropics — a paradox that may be allowed between Cancer^④ and Capricorn^⑤.

So many thousand bunches of bananas, so many thousand oranges and cocoanuts, so many ounces of gold dust, pounds of

① lotus [ˈləʊtəs] *n.* 莲花(喻安逸,安乐)

② consul [ˈkɒnsəl] *n.* 领事

③ quarantine [ˈkwɒrəntiːn] *n.* 检疫

④ Cancer [ˈkænsə] *n.* 北回归线

⑤ Capricorn [ˈkæprɪkɔːn] *n.* 南回归线

rubber, coffee, indigo^① and sarsaparilla^② — actually, exports were twenty percent greater than for the previous year!

A little thrill of satisfaction ran through the consul. Perhaps, he thought, the State Department, upon reading his introduction, would notice — and then he leaned back in his chair and laughed. He was getting as bad as the others. For the moment he had forgotten that Coralio was an insignificant town in an insignificant republic lying along the by-ways of a second-rate sea. He thought of Gregg, the quarantine doctor, who subscribed for the London *Lancet*, expecting to find it quoting his reports to the home Board of Health concerning the yellow fever germ. The consul knew that not one in fifty of his acquaintances in the States had ever heard of Coralio. He knew that two men, at any rate, would have to read his report — some underling^③ in the State Department and a compositor^④ in the Public Printing Office. Perhaps the typewriter would note the increase of commerce in Coralio, and speak of it, over the cheese and beer, to a friend.

He had just written: “Most unaccountable is the supineness^⑤ of the large exporters in the United States in permitting the French and German houses to practically control the trade interests of this rich and productive country” — when he heard the hoarse notes of a steamer’s siren.

Geddie laid down his pen and gathered his Panama hat and umbrella. By the sound he knew it to be the *Valhalla*, one of the line of fruit vessels plying^⑥ for the Vesuvius Company. Down to *niños* of five years, everyone in Coralio could name you each in-

-
- ① indigo [ˈɪndɪɡəʊ] *n.* 靛青
② sarsaparilla [ˌsɑːsəpəˈrɪlə] *n.* [植] 菝葜
③ underling [ˈʌndəlɪŋ] *n.* 下属
④ compositor [kəmˈpəzɪtə] *n.* 排字工人
⑤ supineness [sjuːˈpaɪnɪs] *n.* 懒散
⑥ ply [plaɪ] *v.* 定期往返

coming steamer by the note of her siren.

The consul sauntered by a roundabout, shaded way to the beach. By reason of long practice he gauged^① his stroll so accurately that by the time he arrived on the sandy shore the boat of the customs officials was rowing back from the steamer, which had been boarded and inspected according to the laws of Anchuria.

There is no harbor at Coralio. Vessels of the draught of the *Valhalla* must ride at anchor a mile from shore.^[3] When they take on fruit it is conveyed on lighters and freighter sloops^②. At Solitas, where there was a fine harbor, ships of many kinds were to be seen, but in the roadstead off Coralio scarcely any save the fruiterers paused. Now and then a tramp coaster, or a mysterious brig^③ from Spain, or a saucy French barque^④ would hang innocently for a few days in the offing^⑤. Then the custom-house crew would become doubly vigilant and wary. At night a sloop or two would be making strange trips in and out along the shore; and in the morning the stock of Three-Star Hennessey, wines and drygoods in Coralio would be found vastly increased. It has also been said that the customs officials jingled^⑥ more silver in the pockets of their red-striped trousers, and that the record books showed no increase in import duties received.

The customs boat and the *Valhalla* gig^⑦ reached the shore at the same time. When they grounded in the shallow water there was still five yards of rolling surf between them and dry sand. Then half-clothed Caribs dashed into the water, and

-
- ① gauge [geɪdʒ] v. 测量
 - ② sloop [slu:p] n. 单桅小帆船
 - ③ brig [brɪɡ] n. 方帆双桅船
 - ④ barque [bɑ:k] n. 三桅帆船
 - ⑤ offing [ˈɔ:fɪŋ] n. 离岸不太远的位置
 - ⑥ jingle [ˈdʒɪŋɡl] v. (硬币)发出叮铃声
 - ⑦ gig [gɪɡ] n. 轻便快艇

brought in on their backs the *Valhalla's* purser^① and the little native officials in their cotton undershirt blue trousers with red stripes, and flapping straw hats.

At college Geddie had been a treasure as a first-baseman. He now closed his umbrella, stuck it upright in the sand, and stooped, with his hands resting upon his knees. The purser, burlesquing the pitcher's contortions^[4], hurled at the consul the heavy roll of newspapers, tied with a string, that the steamer always brought for him. Geddie leaped high and caught the roll with a sounding "thwack^②." The loungers^③ on the beach—about a third of the population of the town—laughed and applauded delightedly. Every week they expected to see that roll of papers delivered and received in that same manner, and they were never disappointed. Innovations did not flourish in Coralio.

The consul re-hoisted his umbrella and walked back to the consulate.

This home of a great nation's representative was a wooden structure of two rooms, with a native-built gallery of poles, bamboo and nipa^④ palm running on three sides of it. One room was the official apartment, furnished chastely with a flat-top desk, a hammock, and three uncomfortable caneseated chairs. Engravings of the first and latest president of the country represented hung against the wall. The other room was the consul's living apartment.

It was eleven o'clock when he returned from the beach, and therefore breakfast time. Chanca, the Carib woman who cooked for him, was just serving the meal on the side of the gallery facing the sea—a spot famous as the coolest in Coralio. The breakfast consisted of shark's fin soup, stew of land crabs, breadfruit,

① purser [ˈpɜːsə] n. 事务长

② thwack = whack [hwæk] n. 重击声(如啪的一声)

③ lounge [ˈlaundʒə] n. 闲憩者

④ nipa [ˈni:pə] n. (植物) 聂帕桐