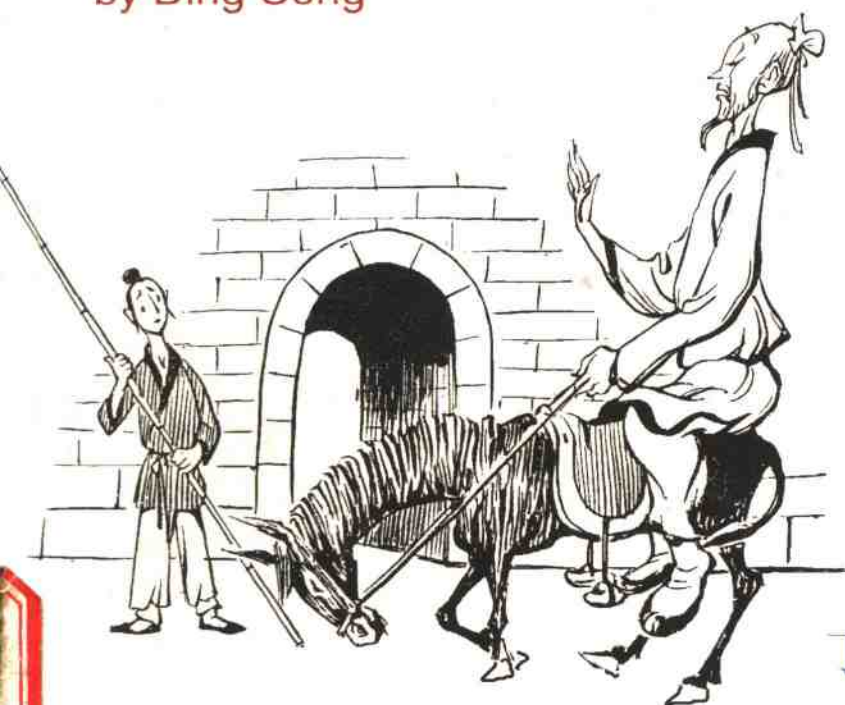


# One Hundred Ancient Chinese Jokes

Illustrated  
by Ding Cong



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## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

古趣今画:英汉对照/丁聪编绘.

—北京:外文出版社,1998

ISBN 7-119-01486-2

I. 古… II. 丁… III. 笑话—中国—古代—对照读物

—英、汉 IV. H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (97) 第 15282 号

责任编辑 程钦华

封面设计 唐 宇

## 古趣今画

丁 聪 编绘

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©外文出版社

外文出版社出版

(中国北京百万庄大街 24 号)

邮政编码 100037

北京外文印刷厂印刷

1998 年(20 开)第 1 版

1998 年第 1 版第 1 次印刷

(英汉)

ISBN 7-119-01486-2 /J·354(外)

定价: 19.80 元

## Editor's Note

Some people think that Chinese lack a sense of humor. This is not the case. Chinese culture abounds with humor: Jokes were collected and published in the dynasties of past ages. Ding Cong, a celebrated Chinese artist, has selected some of them and published in several collections with his illustrations. They were warmly received by readers: In response to his readers' request, he did illustrations for another collection of jokes under the name of *One Hundred Ancient Chinese Jokes*, which will be published by the Foreign Languages Press.

Though Ding Cong is eighty-two years old, he still calls himself Little Ding. This is because his father, a famous cartoonist was called Old Ding. Besides, in Chinese "Little Ding" means "a nobody." Although Ding Cong is a man of great reputation, he always considers himself a nobody.

Ding Cong's friends like to call him Little Ding not only because he became famous when he was young, but also because he maintains the innocent heart of a child. He is broad-minded, earnest and honest. Wherever he goes, there is hearty laughter. His works are the reflection of his personality.

Like most artists of his generation, Ding Cong led a vagrant life. He first published his works when he was a middle school student. At the age of 20, all he wanted was to fully develop his ability, but the Japanese invaded China in 1937, forcing him to leave his birth place Shanghai for the interior. Later on, due to oppression of intellectuals by the Kuomintang, he lived in exile in Hong Kong. After 1949, he wanted to get to work at his art, but the Anti-Rightist Movement in 1957 and the Cultural Revolution beginning from 1966 deprived him of his right to work and publish his drawings for 22 years. Though during much of that time he was exiled to rural areas as a physical laborer, he still managed to secretly draw quite a number of pictures. His constant optimism, humor and open mindedness, which helped him through these hard times, shines through in his drawings. Since his rehabilitation in 1979, Ding has produced a great number of art works, which were published in 20 albums.

The illustrations in this book can not only amuse readers but also inspire them to reflect on

the meaning of life and human relationships. Ding Cong's unique style, simple technique and beautiful lines are the result of a lifetime of practice.

In addition to cartoons, Ding Cong has also illustrated many literary works. He has produced exquisite plates that embellish the works of celebrated Chinese authors such as Lu Xun, Lao She and Mao Dun.

Although he is advanced in age, Ding Cong still works as hard as a young man. He wants to make up for lost time--and he's doing it!

Ding Cong is the chairman of the Art of Cartoon Committee of the Chinese Artists' Association.

## 编者的话

有人说中国人没有幽默感,其实不然。漫画家丁聪就认为中华民族自古以来就很富于幽默感,中国历代曾出版过很多这样的笑话选集。他择其中的一些配上图,很受读者的赞赏,乃至一版再版三版……在读者的要求下,他又画了上百幅,由北京外文出版社汇集出版,以飨读者。

丁聪现年八十二,但仍自称“小丁”,因为他父亲也是著名的漫画家,朋友们都叫他“老丁”,故丁聪只得屈就为“小丁”。此外,“丁”在中文里还有“人”的意思,小丁即小人物的意思,虽然他颇负盛名,但他终自认为自己是个小人物。

老朋友们至今仍叫他“小丁”,这不仅因为他少年成名,而且因为他“不失赤子之心”,为人坦荡、真诚、正直。他到哪里,爽朗的笑声就随他到哪里。他的作品风格,正反映了他本人的品性。

丁聪和他同代的大多数画家一样,一生颠沛流离。他在读中学时就开始发表漫画,当他20岁正想大有作为时,日本人侵略中国,他被迫离开出生地上海迁往内地;后来由于国民党对文化人的迫害,他又被迫流亡香港;1949年后,他正想好好地画点画,又被1957年的“反右”运动和1966年的“文化大革命”剥夺了长达22年的工作和发表作品的权利,放逐农村从事体力劳动。即使如此,他还是偷偷地画了不少画,表现出他一贯的乐观、幽默与豁达,特别是1979年平反后,他创作力之旺盛,作品数量之多,极为惊人。在这十几年中,他共出版了20多本画集。

丁聪为这本古代笑话集所作的插图,不仅有趣,而且发人深省。他的独特的风格、简洁的手法、优美的线条是长期艰苦探索的结果。

除了画漫画外,丁聪还画了大量的文学书籍的插图。他曾为中国著名作家鲁迅、老舍、茅盾等许多作家的很多书籍作过精美的插图。

丁聪虽已高龄,但仍像年轻人一样不舍昼夜,孜孜不倦地作画。他要把失去的时光弥补回来。他如是说,也是这样做。

丁聪现为中国美术家协会漫画艺术委员会主任。

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## Marriage by Kidnapping

There was an engagement between a poor man and a rich girl. The man's family was afraid that the bride's family would not let her go through with the marriage. Spurred on by his family, one day the man kidnapped his bride-to-be. But, in a rush, he grabbed his fiancée's younger sister by mistake.

The girl's family rushed out of the house and shouted, "You got the wrong one!"

However, the younger sister said, "Don't listen to them. You got the right one. Run quickly!"

—from *Funny Stories*

## 抢 婚

有婚家女富男贫，男家恐其赖婚也，择日率男抢女，误背小姨以出。女家追呼曰：“抢差了。”小姨在背上曰：“莫听他，不差不差，快走！”

《笑 府》



## Fowl Play

A guest visited a family from afar. Though the host had many chickens and ducks milling around his courtyard, he told his guest that he didn't dare to ask him to stay for dinner due to his shortage of suitable food for dinner. The guest instantly asked the host to lend him a knife to kill his riding horse so they could eat it for dinner.

The host asked, "Then, how can you ride home?"

The guest answered, "Just lend me one of your fowls to ride."

—from *Funny Stories*

## 不留客

客远来久坐，主家鸡鸭满庭，乃辞以家中乏物，不敢留饭。客即借刀欲杀己乘马治餐，主曰：“公如何回去呢？”客曰：“凭公于鸡鸭中借一只，我骑去便了。”

〈笑 府〉



## The Comfort of a Good Book

A scholar rented a room from a monastery to use for study. In fact, he played all around instead of studying. One afternoon, he suddenly came back and called the page boy to fetch him a book. At first, the page boy fetched the Liang Dynasty *Wenxuan*. He looked at the book and said, "Too low." Then, he brought the scholar the classic *History of the Han Dynasty*, but the answer was also "Too low." Finally, he brought a third famous classic, the *Records of the Historian*, but the answer was still "Too low."

A monk, very astonished by this, confronted the scholar, "Generally, if a person masters one of these great books in a lifetime he is considered well-learned. Why do you say these classics are low books?"

"I'm trying to find a book that's just the right height to use as a pillow," the scholar replied. "These are all too low."

—from *Rolling with Laughter*

## 书 低

一秀才赁僧房读书，惟事游玩而已，忽至午归房，呼童持书来。童持《文选》，视之曰：“低。”持《汉书》，视之曰：“低。”又持《史记》，视之曰：“低。”僧大诧曰：“此三书熟其一足称饱学，俱云低，何也？”试问之，乃取书作枕耳。

《笑 倒》



