

汉英对照读本

中国文化历史故事

周谷城题



上海外语教育出版社

汉 英 对 照 读 本
A Chinese-English Bilingual Reader

中国文化历史故事

Highlights of Chinese Culture and History

朱一飞 叶盼云 池正杰 编 著

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上海外语教育出版社
Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press

中文审校 陈光磊

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上海外语教育出版社出版发行

(上海外国语学院内)

上海欧阳印刷厂印刷

新华书店上海发行所经销

开本 850×1168 1/32 18.875印张 418千字

1989年11月第1版 1989年11月第1次印刷

印数:1—2,500册

ISBN 7-81009-137-9/G·025

定价: 8.00 元

内 容 简 介

本书是汉英对照的汉语读本，又是中国古代文化的通俗读物。

本书大体上按照中华民族古代文化发展的历史线索，选择了政治、经济、哲学、文学、宗教、艺术、科技、医学、习俗和中外文化交流等方面的著名人物、重大事件和优美的传说，编撰成六十篇课文，大多是文化史上的生动故事，富有知识性和趣味性。课文后面，附有生词、专名和练习，以利阅读。部分课文配有照片和插图。英语译文明晰流畅。

本书可作为对外汉语和中国文化课的精读或泛读教材；也可作为国内中等学校和大专院校学生、英语业余爱好者、出国人员和外事工作者学习英语并向外国友人介绍中国古代文化的英语实用读本。

前 言

我们在国内国外进行对外汉语教学和文化交流的过程中，比较广泛地接触到世界各地的侨胞和外国友人，尤其是学习汉语的朋友，他们迫切希望得到一些既可学习汉语，又能较系统地了解中国文化的汉语普及教材和文化读物；我国广大外事工作者、出国进修与留学人员，在同外国友人的交往中，也希望有本通俗的中国文化的英语读本，以便学习并使用英语，向外国友人介绍中国文化。

为此，我们大体依照文化发展的历史线索，采用叙述故事的方法，力求运用生动平易的语言，简要地将中国古代上自黄帝炎帝，下至末代皇帝的数千年间政治、经济、军事、哲学、文学、宗教、艺术、科技、医学、习俗和中外文化交流等方面的著名人物、重大事件和优美传说，结撰成六十篇课文。为了帮助外国友人学好汉语，有利于他们复习、巩固已学的文化常识和汉语知识，我们在课文的后面，附有生词、专名与练习。同时，考虑到便于没有学过汉语的各国友人了解中国文化，以及中国同志学习并使用英语介绍祖国文化的需要，由复旦大学外文系主任孙骊教授担任本书主译。译文流利畅达。这也是一册通俗的中国文化英语读物。

本书课文由朱一飞、叶盼云撰稿，练习由池正杰等编写。英文部分由复旦大学孙骊、巫漪云、华钟尧、张国强翻译，最后由孙骊定稿。

我们的老师周谷城和胡裕树两位教授，欣然为本书题写书名和作序，陈光磊副教授审校了全书中文，我们把这看作是对我们的关怀与鼓励！

本书编写过程中，上海外国语学院朱威烈教授，还有上海医

科大学郑延年副教授,给了我们关心和帮助;我们参考了诸家有关论著;上海外语教育出版社为本书出版付出了辛勤的劳动。值此本书出版之际,谨一并致以深切的谢忱!

中国是个文明古国,文化历史悠久、内容丰富、形态多样,但本书限于篇幅,编撰时间又仓促,难免挂一漏万。不当之处,敬希读者和专家们指教。

编者

一九八七年四月十日

序 言

历史悠久、丰富多彩的中国文化,以其特有的魅力吸引着全世界。向世界各国人民介绍辉煌绚丽的中国文化;为世界各国学习汉语的人们,提供他们所需要的各种教材和读本,这是我们的责任。

朱一飞、叶盼云、池正杰三位同志编写的这本《中国文化历史故事》,正是在这个方面作出了他们自己的努力和贡献。

三位同志从事对外国学生的汉语和中国文化教学工作多年。他们在国外与国内的教学实践当中,了解到外国学生在具有一定的汉语水平之后,迫切希望进一步提高自己的汉语程度,希望比较系统地了解中国文化;为了满足外国学生的要求,他们三位编写了这册将学习汉语和了解中国文化相结合的读本。其中大部分课文,曾经在课堂教学中使用过,得到了学生的好评。我想,这一读本的出版,将会引起更多外国朋友的兴趣,也将受到国内读者广泛的欢迎。

这个读本,从汉语教学与中国文化的相关性着眼,大体按照中国文化发展的历史线索,使用生动的语言加以叙述,内容既简明扼要,又形成系统,知识容量也比较大,这就是本书的特色。复旦大学外文系主任孙骊教授等将全书译成了英语。译文流利畅达,使本书增色不少。

我过去也搞过对外汉语教学,为外国朋友编过教材,对其中甘苦有些体会。象这样一本书,看起来份量不很大,但是能够编得如此新颖而有特色,实在是不容易的事情。看到他们三位为发展对

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外汉语教学事业,献出了他们的成果,我是很高兴的,也就写上这些话作为这本书的序言。

胡裕树

一九八七年三月于复旦大学

About the Book

This book is a Chinese reader with an English version of the text. It is at the same time a popular bilingual reader of highlights of ancient Chinese culture.

The 60 stories included here are by and large arranged in the order of the historical development of ancient Chinese culture, touching on politics, economy, philosophy, literature, religion, art, science and technology, medicine, customs, cultural exchange between nations and what not. Most of them are interesting stories related to the cultural history of China, about famous historical figures, major events and interesting legends. Hence the book is a rich store of information with a high readability. To the text of the stories are appended a word list, a list of proper names and some exercises for use by learners of Chinese. Some of the stories are illustrated. The English translation is simple, clear and native-like.

This book can serve as a reader of Chinese language or culture for either intensive or extensive use in teaching non-native-speakers. It can also be used by college or secondary-school students in China and by Chinese learners of English, whether they be spare-time learners or Chinese working or going to work in English-speaking countries, as a tool to help improve their ability in the use of English. It is also a vehicle through which English speakers may have glimpses of ancient Chinese culture.

Preface

In the course of teaching the Chinese language to non-native-speakers both in and out of China and in discussing with them questions in relation to Chinese culture, we have learned from many overseas Chinese and foreign friends, first of all from those who are learning the language, that they feel the need for a textbook that can serve not just the purpose of helping them acquire the Chinese language but that of providing a more or less systematic knowledge of Chinese culture, that is to say, a Chinese-language textbook that is at the same time a popular reader of the highlights of Chinese culture. On the other hand, large numbers of Chinese who for professional reasons are in constant contact with English speakers or who wish to go to English speaking countries for professional improvement have expressed the wish for a popular reader in English which may serve as a vehicle of Chinese culture so that they might use it both to improve their command of the English language and at the same time to acquaint their English speaking friends with facets of what can only vaguely be called Chinese culture.

To meet the above-mentioned needs, we have prepared here 60 short essays or stories dealing with various facets of Chinese culture, ranging from ancient Chinese politics, economy and military affairs to philosophy, literature, religion, art, science and technology, medicine, customs and conventions, cultural intercourse between the Chinese and foreigners

and what not, beginning from the two emperors of Huang and Yan and ending in the last of the long succession at the end of, say, five thousand years. By and large, the essays centre round famous historical figures, major historical events or popular legends. However, as a collection, the book may somehow provide an outline review of the historical development of Chinese culture, for it is historical order that is being used as a thread to string together, so to say, the 60 essays or stories. In terms of the language used, the essays are plain and unadorned but nevertheless vivid, written one and all in a narrative, story-telling style. In order to help English speakers to learn the Chinese language, a word list, a list of proper names and a set of exercises are appended to each story which can be of use in case they want to do revision work or to consolidate what they have learned about the target language or culture. For those who know no Chinese and for Chinese who wish to be able to talk about their own culture in English or to improve their proficiency in English, we have had the help of Professor Sun Li of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures of Fudan University in providing an English translation of the essays with the result that the book can also be used as a popular reader of Chinese culture in fluent, idiomatic English.

The text stories in this book were written by Zhu Yifei and Ye Panyun, the exercises by Chi Zhengjie. The English translation was done by Sun Li, Wu Yiyun, Hua Zhongyao and Zhang Guoqiang of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures of Fudan University with Sun Li responsible for the final version of the English text.

Professor Zhou Guchen and Professor Hu Yushu, who taught us in our college years, kindly agreed to inscribe the title and write the "Foreword" for the book; Associate Professor Chen Guanglei made many comments on the Chinese text—we gratefully regard their help with the writing of the book as a constant goad and encouragement to us.

In the course of writing this book, we have¹ received immense help from scholars working in several different institutions. Professor Zhu Weilie of the Shanghai International Studies University, and Associate Professor Zhen Yannian of the Shanghai Medical University have consistently given us advice. In the process of getting this book ready, we have benefited from various books and journals we have consulted, too many to be listed here. The publication of the book, further, would not be possible without the whole-hearted help of the Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press to whose cooperation we owe the book in its present form.

China is an ancient country with a civilization dating back to thousands of years ago. What we call Chinese culture is certainly too rich and too complicated a topic for a book of this size and scope. We have tried to include as much as we can, but necessarily there will be omissions. For this reason, we would like to invite readers and colleagues to comment on it.

The Writers
April 10, 1987

Foreword

Because of its long history and its wealth and colourfulness, Chinese culture has always held out exceptional attractions to the world. Hence it is our duty to acquaint people in other countries with Chinese culture in all its brilliance and magnificence. It is also our duty to provide learners of the Chinese language in various parts of the world with various types of readers and textbooks.

What Zhu Yifei, Ye Panyun and Chi Zhengjie have done in writing *Highlights of Chinese Culture and History* is an effort in this direction. It is a contribution on their part to the fulfilment of our common duties.

They have spent many years teaching Chinese language and culture to foreign students. In their teaching practice in China as well as in other countries, they have learned that non-native learners of Chinese, once they have learned something of the language, are eager to know more about Chinese culture, preferably presented in a systematic way, in addition to the continued improvement of their language ability. To meet the needs of these learners, they decided to write a textbook which can serve the dual purpose of teaching Chinese and providing information about Chinese culture. Some of the stories in the reader have already proved themselves in the classroom where they are very well received. I believe that the publication

of this book will arouse great interest among foreign friends and receive widespread support.

With the close relationship between teaching language and teaching culture as a point of departure, the stories in the present book follow by and large the order of the historical development of Chinese culture. In terms of the language used, they make vivid and interesting reading. In terms of content, they are characterised by brevity, pithiness, systematicity and informativeness. Professor Sun Li of the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department of Fudan University and his collaborators have provided learners with an English version of the stories, in language both vivid and smooth-reading, adding thus new colour to a textbook like this.

As one who has worked for years in the field of teaching Chinese to non-native speakers and writing textbooks for them, I have some idea of the joys and tribulations of work of this kind. A seemingly light tome like the present one is in fact no easy thing, considering its distinctiveness and innovativeness. Impressed by their dedication to the profession of teaching Chinese to non-native speakers and by the fruit of their devoted labour, I feel most happy to write this "Foreword", to share my ideas with them and with readers at large.

Hu Yushu
Fudan University
March 1987

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