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101 American Customs 美国风俗101则

Harry Collis (美) 编 著
Joe Kohl (美) 插 图



外语教学与研究出版社
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写在前面

为什么美国人说“cross my heart and hope to die”？为什么他们喜欢握手？为什么给男孩穿蓝色的衣服，给女孩穿粉红色的衣服？为什么在婚礼上要朝新郎、新娘洒大米？《美国风俗 101 则》帮你找出这些风俗习惯的背景和缘由。

本书按照主题划分为 8 篇——“特殊场合”、“求爱和婚姻”、“肢体语言”、“享受美食！”、“家庭生活”、“让我们好好乐一乐！”、“快乐假日”、“美国的偶像”——从美国生活的方方面面告诉你各种风俗的来龙去脉，帮助你深入了解美国的语言和文化。

本书在介绍每则风俗时，不仅配有中英文讲解，让你读得通透；还有绝妙的漫画，让你笑得痛快；此外更有生活实景举例，给你全英文情境的真实体验——当然，你也会在及时出现的方括号里，找到你需要的帮助。

致 谢

我要向我的妻子凯瑟琳，致以深深的谢意。感谢她的耐心和对进行该项目所给予的理解。

我特别要感谢我的孙子亚当·杰里森和我的女儿丹尼丝·杰里森。感谢他们为文稿中的叙述和对话做了很好的补充。

我也非常感谢我的同事苏珊·拉金博士。感谢她在本书一些脚本的写作过程中发挥了重要的作用。

我也要向我的英语学院院长苏珊·彭都，我的合作者丽莎·贝尔致以深深的谢意，感谢她们长期以来的大力支持和深刻、尖锐的批评建议。

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Part 1

Those Special Occasions

第一篇 特殊场合



1 A Visit from the Stork



鹤鸟上门

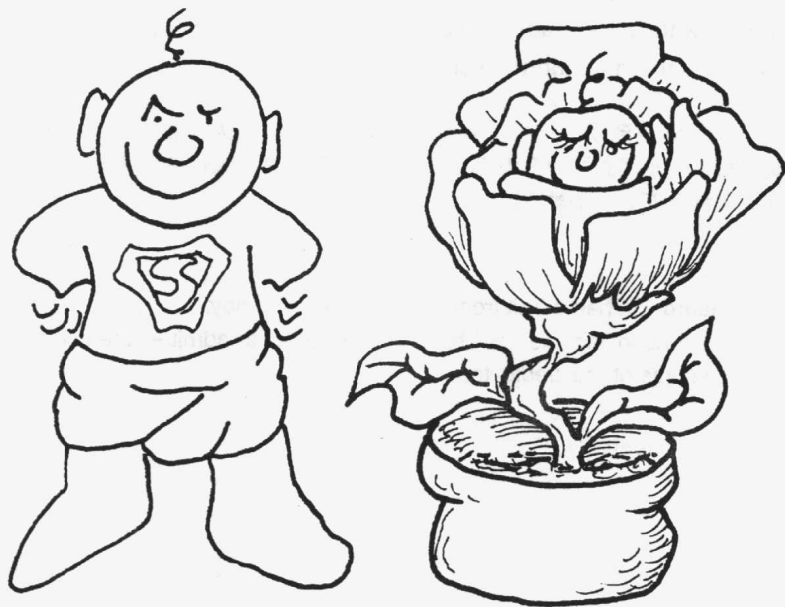
Several factors contributed to the belief in the stork as the bringer of babies. People watched the stork take care in making its home, and they noted how out of devotion it returned to the same spot each year. Also, the storks love water, and tradition held that it was in watery places that the souls of the unborn children dwelt.

有几个因素导致了人们相信鹤能让家庭增添人丁。人们看到鹤用心地筑巢，而且每年都忠诚地回到同一个地点。此外，鹤很喜欢水，人们在传统上认为，未出生孩子的灵魂就在有水的地方。

A: Hi, Al. Heard you had a visit from the stork the other day.

B: Sure did! A bouncing [*healthy*] baby boy! I've got to admit — the doctor deserves some of the credit, too.

2 Blue Is for Boys— Pink Is for Girls



蓝色用于男孩， 粉红色用于女孩

Since all babies look alike, boys are usually dressed in blue and girls in pink simply to identify the sex. In ancient times, girl babies were regarded as inferior to boy babies, so the color blue, which was believed to have the power to ward off evil spirits, was reserved exclusively for the boys. The color pink was introduced for baby girls in accordance with a legendary European tradition that suggested girls were born inside a pink rose.

因为所有的婴儿看起来都一样，为了分辨他们的性别，所以人们通常给男孩儿穿上蓝色的衣服，给女孩儿穿上粉红色的衣服。在古代，人们认为女孩儿的地位比男孩儿低，所以被认为能够驱走恶魔的蓝色只能给男孩儿使用。给女孩儿穿粉红色的衣服，则是源于欧洲的一个传说，认为女孩儿出生于粉红色的玫瑰花之中。

A: What color are you going to paint the baby's room?

B: I'm not too sure. It all depends if we're having a boy or girl.

A: How about yellow? It's sunny and bright, and it'll fit a baby of either sex.

B: Good idea! And I won't have to repaint if we have twins — a girl for you and a boy for me.

3

Passing Out Cigars



分发雪茄

In primitive ceremonies an individual blessed with the arrival of a baby shared his fortune with the community, to avoid the envy of both his fellows and the gods. The smoke of a proud papa's pipe drifting toward the heavens was a sort of appeasement to the heavenly powers. Today's father's distribution of cigars to celebrate the arrival of a baby may be regarded as a modern variant of this ritual.

在原始的庆典仪式中，为了避免遭到同伴和神灵的嫉妒，喜得贵子的人应和公众一起分享增添人丁的快乐。那时，骄傲的父亲烟斗里飘出的烟雾升到天堂就是一种缓与众神嫉妒之心的手段。现在，当了父亲的人为了庆祝家里有小孩儿出生而给人们分发雪茄，这被认为是该仪式的现代演变。

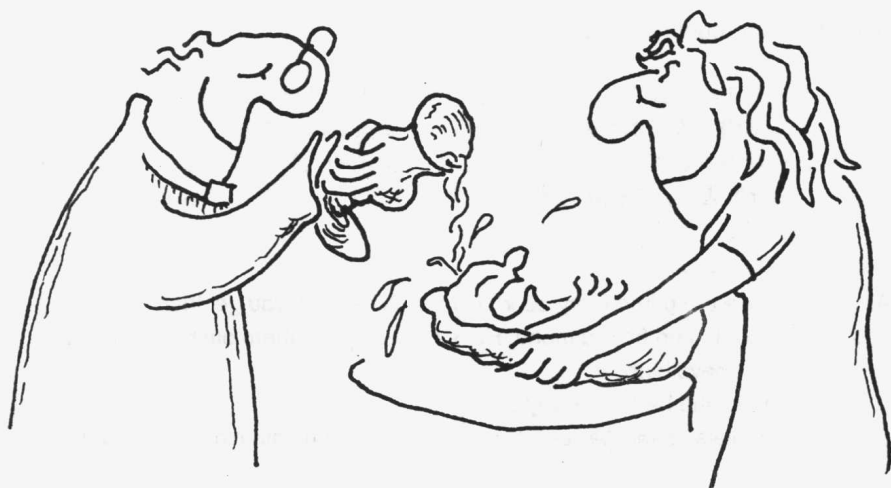
A: Wow! Those are prime [*very good*] cigars! Where did you get them?

B: Actually, I got them from a friend. He's been passing them out right and left.
His wife just gave birth.

A: Oh, what did she have — a boy or a girl?

B: She had triplets [*three babies at one birth*]! Why do you think I have so many cigars?

4 Baptism



洗礼式

From ancient times water served the dual purpose of purifying and protecting both mother and child from evil spirits. The Christian notion is that the water washes away original sin. Thus, in the Christian baptismal ceremony the child is either immersed in the baptismal basin (as in the Greek Orthodox ceremony) or sprinkled with holy water (as in the Catholic ceremony). The Christian baptism also includes the naming of the child, since during the baptismal rite the child is reborn into Christ.

从古代开始，水有两种作用，即净化婴儿和母亲以及保护他们免受恶魔的侵扰。基督教的教义指出水能洗去原罪。因而，在基督教的洗礼仪式上，孩子要么被浸泡在洗礼盆中（东正教仪式），要么被洒上圣水（天主教仪式）。在基督教洗礼仪式上还包括给孩子取名，因为在洗礼式上，孩子接受基督的洗礼而获得了重生。

A: Did you receive an invitation to the baptism of Todd's daughter?

B: Yup. It's this Sunday, right?

A: Right. And he's having a party afterward. Will you be coming?

B: Sure will. How could I ever pass up [*refuse*] those delicacies [*tasty food*] that his wife always prepares on occasions like this?

5 Singing Happy Birthday

