

刘 竞译注

世界名家
幽默作品精选

英汉对照

ENGLISH
ENTERTAINMENT

休闲英语

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IGS IS PIGS

猪总归是猪

Ellis Parker Butler

[美] 埃利斯·帕克·巴特勒 著

世界名家幽默作品精选

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前 言

埃利斯·帕克·巴特勒(Ellis Parker Butler)是20世纪初叶美国著名的幽默作家,于1869年12月5日在美国衣阿华州马斯卡廷出生,1937年9月13日在马萨诸塞州威廉斯维尔去世。

他的出生地马斯卡廷位于密西西比河边,在他出生时,他父亲和他祖父正在当地从事猪肉加工业,不久经营失败,他父亲就在一家公司充当簿记员,由于收入不多,又有八个子女要抚养,一家人生活得很苦。埃利斯因为是家里的长子,不得不很早就出去工作,高中只念了一年就辍学了,先后在当地的一些公司里当票据管理员和推销员达11年之久。在此期间他一直在写一些诗歌和幽默短篇小说。1897年 he 听 from 三位纽约编辑的劝告去纽约,在纽约,他一面担任两家行业报纸的编辑工作,一面继续从事幽默作品的写作。

巴特勒是一位勤奋的作家,他共写了32本书,绝大多数是短篇小说的集子。他的短篇小说一般都具有故事有趣、情节生动和描写细腻的特点,很受读者欢迎;但其中给人印象最深的、也是最著名的一篇则是《猪总归是猪》。这篇作品写于1905年,它在《美国杂志》上—发表立刻引起了轰动,第二年出版单行本获得了更大的成功。这篇作品使巴特勒声誉鹊起、跻身于美国著名的幽默作家之列,甚至在过了许多年,在巴特勒已经写出了许多成功的作品以后,人们一看到或听到他的名字仍然马上会首先联想到

他那篇《猪总归是猪》，仿佛这篇作品已经同他这个人结下了不解之缘。这种情况甚至引起了作者本人的反感，以致他有一次对此提出了抗议，说：“你们为什么老是我同《猪总归是猪》联在一起？”由此可见这篇作品给人印象之深。这篇作品已经成了美国幽默文学的名篇，一些谈论美国文学的著作，只要说到埃利斯·帕克·巴特勒，没有不提起这篇作品的。这种由一篇短篇小说造就一位知名作家并使他长久留在人们记忆中的现象在文学史上是十分罕见的。

美国著名的杂志主编雷·朗(曾主编《红皮书》(Red Book)和《世界》(Cosmopolitan)等杂志)把他在20年杂志主编生涯中遇到过的20篇最佳短篇小说汇编成书，其中包括海明威、毛姆、考布、多萝西·帕克等著名作家的作品，而收入本书的由巴特勒写的《函授侦探格布》也在其中。据雷·朗回忆说，他在收到这篇来稿之前已经许久没有这样笑过了。他给这篇小说改了个名字，在《红皮书》杂志上发表，并要求作者今后继续给他们写关于格布的故事。不料这样一来竟然一发而不可收拾，在读者的热烈要求下作者骑虎难下，不得不给《红皮书》和其他报刊一连写了格布的故事60余篇之多，其中有不少还改编成广播剧、电视剧和电影剧本。

巴特勒创造的另一个人物，点子大王“波特兰的珀金斯”，也深受读者喜爱。我们选用了三篇有关他的故事以飨读者，相信你也会喜欢他们。

译注者

1997年1月

Contents

目 录

Pigs is Pigs	2
--------------------	---

猪总归是猪

Philo Gubb, The Correspondence School

Detective	40
-----------------	----

函授侦探格布

Mr. Perkins of Portland	104
-------------------------------	-----

狗皮膏药

The Adventure of the Crimson Cord

.....	128
-------	-----

“绯索”之谜

The Adventure of the Princess of Pilliwink

.....	168
-------	-----

剧坛奇闻

PIGS IS PIGS *

Mike Flannery, the Westcote agent of the Interurban Express Company, leaned over the counter of the express office and shook his fist. Mr. Morehouse, angry and red, stood on the other side of the counter, trembling with rage. The argument had been long and heated, and at last Mr. Morehouse had talked himself speechless. The cause of the trouble stood on the counter between the two men. It was a soap box across the top of which were nailed a number of strips, forming a rough but serviceable cage. In it two spotted guinea-pigs^① were greedily eating lettuce leaves.

"Do as you loike^②, then!" shouted Flannery, "pay for thim an' take thim, or don't pay for thim and leave thim be. Rules is^③ rules. Misther Morehouse, an' Mike Flannery's not goin' to be called down^④ fer breakin' of^⑤ thim."

* 本篇于1905年在《美国杂志》上首次发表。

① 这是一种通常用于科学实验或作为家庭宠物的小动物，它的原产地是南美洲，因此英语里把它叫作“guinea pig (几内亚猪)”并不恰当。在我国，它除了正式名称叫“豚鼠”以外，还有人俗称叫“荷兰猪”，这也同样不恰当，但由于本篇的故事情节主要是围绕着一个“猪”字展开的，所以这里的译名采用“荷兰猪”这个俗称。

② 故事中的弗兰纳里是爱尔兰人，说话带爱尔兰口音，本篇中有许多单词用特殊的拼写方法来表示弗兰纳里说话时的爱尔兰口音。这些单词按字母顺序排列计有：agin (against), agint (agent), anny (any), annyhow (anyhow), appytites (appetites), ate (eat), aten (eaten), childer (children), cints (cents), con-sign-ey (consignee), docther (doctor), domistic (domestic), expriss (express), fer (for), foive (five), frind (friend), git (get), hev (have), hippypottymuses (hippopotamuses), hould (hold), howiver (however), kebbages (cabbages), loike (like), mebbby (maybe), Misther (Mister), niver (never), nixt (next), plaze (please), prisint (present), Rooshun (Russian), sivin (seven), sivinteen (seventeen), soize (size), sur (sir), thim (them), thrick (trick), thurty (thirty), til (till), tind (tend), toime (time), twinty-foive (twenty-five), ut (it), veternairy (veterinary), wan (one), whativer (whatever), whin (when), wid (with), wud (would), ye (you), yer (your)。

猪总归是猪

市际快运公司在韦斯科特的经理人迈克·弗兰纳里从快运办事处的柜台里边探出身子,晃动着拳头。由于愤怒而脸涨得通红的莫尔豪斯先生站在柜台外边,在那里气得发抖,在长时间的激烈争论中莫尔豪斯先生话已说尽,一时无话可说。引起这场纠纷的东西就放在他们俩之间的柜台上。这是个肥皂箱子,顶上横钉了几根木条,形成了一个虽然粗陋却还可用的笼子。笼子里,两头身上带斑点的荷兰猪正在贪婪地吃着莴苣叶子。

“那你就看着办吧!”弗兰纳里大声说,“要末你付钱把它们取走,要末你别付钱,随它们去。规章总归是规章,莫尔豪斯先生,我迈克·弗兰纳里总不能让人说我破坏规章啊。”

③ 弗兰纳里说的话里常出现一些不合语法的情况,具体表现在以下几方面:(1)主谓语不一致(rules is rules, pigs is pigs, was they, clerks wants me to, they is pigs);(2)用动词的非谓语形式做谓语动词(I be in doubt, domestic they be);(3)用动词过去式代替过去分词(have their pulses took);(4)用形容词代替副词(eat as heartly as those dago pigs do; They near was the death of me);(5)助动词使用不当(them pigs do be in good health; what do them clerks be wanting to know);(6)否定词用词错误(Not!);和(7)句子文理不通(the consignee refuses to pay for one damn cabbage leaf and be hanged to me!). 这些情况说明弗兰纳里文化程度不高。

④ =scolded

⑤ 这个 of 是多余的

"But, you everlastingly stupid idiot!" shouted Mr. Morehouse, madly shaking a flimsy printed book beneath the agent's nose, "can't you read it here-in your own plain printed rates? 'Pets, domestic, Franklin to Westcote, if properly boxed, twenty-five cents each.'" He threw the book on the counter in disgust. "What more do you want? Aren't they pets? Aren't they domestic? Aren't they properly boxed? What?"

He turned and walked back and forth rapidly, frowning ferociously.

Suddenly he turned to Flannery, and forcing his voice to an artificial calmness spoke slowly but with intense sarcasm.

"Pets," he said. "P-e-t-s! Twenty-five cents each. There are two of them. One! Two! Two times twenty-five are fifty! Can you understand that? I offer you fifty cents."

Flannery reached for the book. He ran his hand through the pages and stopped at page sixty-four.

"An' I don't take fifty cints," he whispered in mockery. "Here's the rule for ut. 'Whin the agint be in anny doubt regardin' which of two rates applies to a shipment, he shall charge the larger.

“可是，你这个永远开不了窍的蠢货！”莫尔豪斯先生大声说，他手拿一本薄薄的印刷品在经理人的眼前发狂似地挥动着，“这是你们自己印得明明白白的价目表——就在这儿，难道你看不懂吗？‘家养宠物，富兰克林至韦斯科特，如装箱妥善，每头两角五分。’”他把那本小册子忿忿地摔在柜台上。“你还想要什么？它们是不是宠物？是不是家养的？是不是妥善装箱了？啊？”

他转过身去急速地来回走动，恶狠狠地紧皱着双眉。

突然他又转向弗兰纳里，用一种勉强克制的，不自然的平静声调说话；他一字一句说得很慢，但是话里带着强烈的讥刺。

“宠物，”他说。“宠——物！每头两毛五分。一共是两头。一头！两头！两毛五乘上二是五毛！这你能不能懂？我给你五毛钱。”

弗兰纳里伸手拿过那本小册子。他用手迅速翻动着书页，翻到第64页停了下来。

“五毛钱我可不能收，”他以嘲笑的口吻小声说。“这条规定在这儿呢。‘经理人遇有对某项托运货物于两种运价中当以何者为准无法确定时，应按较高

The consign-ey may file a claim for the overcharge. ' In this case, Misther Morehouse, I be in doubt. Pets thim^⑥ animals may be, an' domestic they be, but pigs I'm blame sure they do be, an' me^⑦ rules says plain as the nose on yer face. 'Pigs Franklin to Westcote, thirty cints each. ' An' Misther Morehouse, by me arithmetical knowledge two times thurty comes to sixty cints. "

Mr. Morehouse shook his head savagely. "Nonsense!" he shouted, "confounded nonsense, I tell you! Why, you poor ignorant foreigner, that rule means common pigs, domestic pigs, not guinea-pigs!"

Flannery was stubborn.

"Pigs is pigs," he declared firmly. "Guinea-pigs, or dago^⑧ pigs or Irish pigs is all the same to the Interurban Express Company an' to Mike Flannery. Th' nationality of the pig creates no difference^⑨ in the rate, Misther Morehouse! 'Twould be the same was they Dutch pigs^⑩ or Rooshun pigs. Mike Flannery," he added, "is here to tind to the expriss business and not to hould conversation wid dago pigs in sivinteen languages fer to^⑪ discover be they Chinese or Tipperary^⑫ by birth an'

⑥ (口语)=those

⑦ (方言)=my

⑧ 这个词是由人名 Diego 变化而来,本是对南欧人(包括意大利人、西班牙人和葡萄牙人)的一种蔑视的称呼,这里用作形容词。

⑨ 这是用词不当,应为"difference"。

⑩ 这才是真正的“荷兰猪”;但由于本篇中“荷兰猪”这个名称已被 guinea pig 占用,所以这里的“Dutch”在译文中不得不改取它的第二义,译为“德国的”。

之运价收费。收件人则可就其被超收运费一事提出退款之书面要求。’在这件事上，莫尔豪斯先生，我是无法确定。这些畜牲也可能是宠物，而且还是家养的，可是猪呢，我完全能肯定它们确实是猪，而我这规章上说得清清楚楚，就像你脸上的眼睛鼻子一样清楚，“猪，富兰克林至韦斯科特，每头三角。”莫尔豪斯先生，按我这点算术知识来说，二三应该得六毛。”

莫尔豪斯先生一个劲地摇头。“乱弹琴！”他大声说，“我告诉你，这纯粹是瞎胡闹！噫，你这个可怜的、无知的外国佬，那条规定指的是普通的猪，是家猪，不是荷兰猪！”

弗兰纳里毫不动摇。

“猪总归是猪，”他固执地说。“不管是荷兰猪还是南欧猪还是爱尔兰猪，对市际快运公司和对迈克·弗兰纳里来说全都一样。决不会因为猪的国籍不同而在运价方面有什么差别的，莫尔豪斯先生！即使它们是德国猪或者俄国猪，那也是一样。我迈克·弗兰纳里，”他接着说，“上这儿来是料理快运业务的，不是来用 17 种语言同外国猪交谈，好搞清它们按出生地来说是中国籍的还是蒂珀雷里的。”

①（口语）=to；这是一种陈旧的用法，前面的“for”现在一般不用。

② 蒂珀雷里，爱尔兰的一个郡

nativity."

Mr. Morehouse hesitated. He bit his lip and then flung out his arms wildly.

"Very well!" he shouted, "you shall hear of this! Your president shall hear of this! It is an outrage! I have offered you fifty cents. You refuse it! Keep the pigs until you are ready to take the fifty cents, but, by George, sir, if one hair of those pigs' heads is harmed I will have the law on you!"

He turned and stalked out, slamming the door. Flannery carefully lifted the soap box from the counter and placed it in a corner. He was not worried. He felt the peace that comes to a faithful servant who has done his duty and done it well.

Mr. Morehouse went home raging. His boy, who had been awaiting the guinea-pigs, knew better than to ask him for them. He was a normal boy and therefore always had a guilty conscience when his father was angry. So the boy slipped quietly around the house. There is nothing so soothing to a guilty conscience as to be out of the path of the avenger.

Mr. Morehouse stormed into the house. "Where's the ink?" he shouted at his wife as soon

莫尔豪斯先生犹豫了，他咬了咬嘴唇，然后伸出双臂猛烈挥动。

“那好吧！”他大声说，“会教你知道知道的！会教你们的总经理知道的！真是岂有此理！我提出要给你五毛钱。你竟然不收！那你就把这两头猪留着，一直到你愿意收这五毛钱的时候为止；可是我发誓，先生，要是这两头猪的脑袋上损伤一根毫毛的话，我非让你尝尝法律的滋味不可！”

他转身大踏步走了出去，把门“砰”地一声关上。弗兰纳里从柜台上小心翼翼地捧起那个肥皂箱，把它放在一个角落里。他并不发怒。他就像一个忠心耿耿的仆人在尽了自己的职责而且是出色地尽了这种职责以后那样感到心安理得。

莫尔豪斯先生怒气冲天地回到了家。他儿子本来是一直在等待着那对荷兰猪的，见此情形也就不敢再问他要，免得自讨没趣。他是个正常的男孩子，因此当他父亲发火的时候他总是心虚。于是那孩子就悄悄地溜到屋子附近。对于一个心虚的人来说，最大的安慰莫过于躲开那找他算帐的人了。

莫尔豪斯先生冲进家门。

“墨水在哪儿？”他的脚刚踏进门槛他就大声问他的妻子。

as his foot was across the doorsill.

Mrs. Morehouse jumped. guiltily. She never used ink. She had not seen the ink, nor moved the ink, nor thought of the ink, but her husband's tone convicted her of the guilt of having borne and reared a boy, and she knew that whenever her husband wanted anything in a loud voice the boy had been at it.

"I'll find Sammy," she said meekly.

When the ink was found Mr. Morehouse wrote rapidly, and he read the completed letter and smiled a triumphant smile.

"That will settle that crazy Irishman!" he exclaimed. "When they get that letter he will hunt another job, all right!"

A week later Mr. Morehouse received a long official envelope with the card of the Interurban Express Company in the upper left corner. He tore it open eagerly and drew out a sheet of paper. At the top it bore the number A6754. The letter was short. "Subject-Rateonguinea-pigs," it said, "Dr.^⑬

Sir—We are in receipt of your letter regarding rate on guinea-pigs between Franklin and Westcote, addressed to the president of this company.

⑬ Dear 的缩写。

莫尔豪斯太太吓了一跳，心里发慌。她从来不用墨水。她没看到那墨水，也没动过那墨水，也没想到过那墨水，可是她丈夫说话的语气却给她定了罪，那罪名就是生养和抚育了一个男孩。而且她知道，每当她丈夫大声喊着要什么东西的时候，准是那孩子又搞了什么鬼。

“我去把山米找来，”她低声下气地说。

墨水找到以后，莫尔豪斯先生奋笔疾书，他把那封写完的信看了一遍，脸上露出胜利的笑容。

“这下那个神经病的爱尔兰佬该老实了！”他得意洋洋地说。”在他们收到这封信以后，他非得另找工作不可！”

一个星期以后，莫尔豪斯先生收到一个左上角印有市际快运公司名称的长长的公事信封。他急切地撕开信封，从里面抽出一张信纸。在信纸的上方标有 A6754 的编号。信很简短。“事由：荷兰猪运价问题，”它写道，“亲爱的先生，您写给敝公司总经理的有关荷兰猪由富兰克林至韦斯科特的运价问题的信

All claims for overcharge should be addressed to the Claims Department."

Mr. Morehouse wrote to the Claims Department. He wrote six pages of choice sarcasm, vituperation and argument, and sent them to the Claims Department.

A few weeks later he received a reply from the Claims Department. Attached to it was his last letter.

"Dr. Sir," said the reply. "Your letter of the 16th inst^⑭, addressed to this Department, subject rate on guinea-pigs from Franklin to Westcote, rec'd^⑮. We have taken up the matter with our agent at Westcote, and his reply is attached herewith. He informs us that you refused to receive the consignment or to pay the charges. You have therefore no claim against this company, and your letter regarding the proper rate on the consignment should be addressed to our Tariff Department."

Mr. Morehouse wrote to the Tariff Department. He stated his case clearly, and gave his arguments in full, quoting a page or two from the encyclopedia to prove that guinea-pigs were not common pigs.

⑭ *instant* (本月) 的缩写

⑮ *received* 的缩写

我们已经收到。一切有关退还多收款项的要求均应向退赔科提出。”

莫尔豪斯先生给退赔科写了信，他把经过精心挑选的挖苦、骂人和辩理的词句写了六大张，把它们寄给了退赔科。

几个星期后，他接到了退赔科的回信。附在一起的是他上次写去的信。

“亲爱的先生，”这封回信说。“您本月 16 日写给敝科的有关从富兰克林至韦斯科特的荷兰猪运价问题的信收悉。我们已就此事向敝公司在韦斯科特的经理人进行了查询，现将他的答复附上。据他向我们报告，您既拒绝收货又不愿交费。因此您无权对敝公司提出退款要求，您有关这批托运货物的合适运价问题的信应寄交敝公司的运费科。”

莫尔豪斯先生又给运费科写信。他讲清了情况，充分说明了自己的论点，还从百科全书上摘引了一两页来证明荷兰猪并不是普通的猪。