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西顿动物故事集

Wild Animals I Have Known

[加拿大] 欧内斯特·汤普森·西顿 著 彭萍 刘宇笑 译





世界首部自然动物小说集

美国童子军之父代表作 畅销百年经典文学,全球销量上亿册 双语名著无障碍阅读丛书



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出版前言。

多年以来,中译出版社有限公司(原中国对外翻 译出版有限公司) 凭借国内一流的翻译和出版实力及资 源,精心策划、出版了大批双语读物,在海内外读者中 和业界内产生了良好、深远的影响,形成了自己鲜明的 出版特色。 二十世纪八九十年代出版的英汉(汉英)对 照"一百从书"。声名远扬。成为一套最权威、最有特 色日又实用的双语读物,影响了一代又一代英语学习者 和中华传统文化研究者、爱好者: 还有"英若诚名剧译 从""中华传统文化精粹从书""美丽英文书系"。这些优 秀的双语读物,有的畅销,有的常销不衰反复再版,有 的被选为大学英语阅读教材, 受到广大读者的喜爱, 获 得了良好的社会效益和经济效益。"双语名著无障碍阅 读从书"是中译专门为中学生和英语学习者精心打造的 又一品牌, 是一个新的双语读物系列, 具有以下特点, 选题创新——该系列图书是国内第一套为中小学生量身 打造的双语名著读物, 所选篇目均为教育部颁布的语文 新课标必读书目,或为中学生以及同等文化水平的社会 读者喜闻乐见的世界名著,重新编译为英汉(汉英)对 照的双语读本。这些书既给青少年读者提供了成长过程

中不可或缺的精神食粮,又让他们领略到原著的精髓和 魅力,对他们更好地学习英文大有裨益;同时,丛书中 入选的《论语》《茶馆》《家》等汉英对照读物,亦是热 爱中国传统文化的中外读者所共知的经典名篇,能使读 者充分享受阅读经典的无限乐趣。 无障碍阅读——中学 生阅读世界文学名著的原著会遇到很多生词和文化难点。 针对这一情况,我们给每一本读物原文中的较难词汇和 不易理解之处都加上了注释,在内文的版式设计上也采 取英汉(或汉英)对照方式,扫清了学生阅读时的障碍。 优良品质——中译双语读物多年来在读者中享有良好口 碑,这得益于作者和出版者对于图书质量的不懈追求。 "双语名著无障碍阅读丛书"继承了中译双语读物的优 良传统——精选的篇目、优秀的译文、方便实用的注 解, 秉承着对每一个读者负责的精神, 竭力打诰精品图 书。 愿这套从书成为广大读者的良师益友, 愿读者在英 语学习和传统文化学习两方面都取得新的突破。

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Ernest Thompson Seton

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Preface

These Stories are true. Although I have left the strict line of historical truth in many places, the animals in this book were all real characters. They lived the lives I have **depicted**^①, and showed the stamp of **heroism**^② and **personality**^③ more strongly by far than it has been in the power of my pen to tell.

I believe that natural history has lost much by the **vague**[®] general treatment that is so common. What satisfaction would be derived from a ten-page sketch of the habits and customs of Man? How much more profitable it would be to devote that space to the life of some one great man. This is the principle I have endeavored to apply to my animals. The real personality of the individual, and his view of life are my theme, rather than the ways of the race in general, as viewed by a casual and hostile human eye.

This may sound **inconsistent**[®] in view of my having pieced together some of the characters, but that was made necessary by the **fragmentary**[®] nature of the records. There is, however, almost no **deviation**[®] from the truth in Lobo, Bingo, and the Mustang.

Lobo lived his wild romantic life from 1889 to 1894 in the Currumpaw region, as the **ranchmen**[®] know too well, and died, precisely as related, on January 31, 1894.

Bingo was my dog from 1882 to 1888, in spite of interruptions[®], caused

- ① depict [di'pikt] a. 描绘
- ② heroism ['herəuiz(ə)m] n. 英雄主义
- ③ personality [pə:səˈnæliti]
 n. 人格
- ④ vague [veig] a. 模糊不清的

- ⑤ inconsistent [inkənˈsist(ə)nt] a. 不一致的
- ⑥ fragmentary ['frægm(ə)nt(ə)ri] a. 断断续续的
- ⑦ deviation [di:vi'eif(ə)n]
 n. 偏离
- ⑧ ranchman [ˈrɑːntʃmæn] n. 大农场工人
- ⑨ interruption [,intəˈrʌpʃən]n. 中断

这些都是真实的故事。虽然在有些地方,我忽略了 历史真相的严格界限,但书中的动物都是真实存在的。 我虽然描述了这些动物的生活,但它们表现出来的英雄 气概和个性远比我笔下的文字更加鲜活。

模糊不清的笼统描述随处可见,我认为这极大地损害了博物学。用十页纸简述人类的风俗习惯会令人满意吗?如果用这样的篇幅介绍某个伟人的生平,效果会好很多。描写动物时我遵循的原则是:主题放在个体的真实个性以及个体对待生命的态度上,而不是透过人类漫不经心、充满敌意的眼睛看到的某种动物的习性。

这看起来似乎与我的观点自相矛盾,因为我把有些 角色放在了一起。可是,记录本来就不完整,也只能如 此。尽管如此,关于罗伯、宾戈和野马的描述与事实几 乎一模一样。

牧场主们都知道,1889年至1894年期间,灰狼罗伯在克伦坡地区过着狂放的生活。根据这些牧场主的准确描述,罗伯死于1894年1月31日。

我在马尼托巴的朋友应该还记得, 1882年至 1888

by lengthy visits to New York, as my Manitoban friends will remember. And my old friend, the owner of Tan, will learn from these pages how his dog really died.

The Mustang lived not far from Lobo in the early nineties. The story is given strictly as it occurred, excepting that there is a dispute as to the manner of his death. According to some **testimony**^① he broke his neck in the **corral**^② that he was first taken to. Old Turkeytrack is where he cannot be consulted to settle it.

Wully is, in a sense, a **compound**[®] of two dogs; both were mongrels, of some collie blood, and were raised as sheep-dogs. The first part of Wully is given as it happened, after that it was known only that he became a **savage**[®], **treacherous**[®] sheep-killer. The details of the second part belong really to another, a similar yaller dog, who long lived the double-life—a faithful sheep-dog by day, and a **bloodthirsty**[®], treacherous monster by night. Such things are less rare than is supposed, and since writing these stories I have heard of another double-lived sheep-dog that added to its night amusements the crowning **barbarity**[®] of murdering the smaller dogs of the neighborhood. He had killed twenty, and hidden them in a sandpit, when discovered by his master. He died just as Wully did.

All told, I now have information of six of these Jekyll-Hyde dogs. In each case it happened to be a collie.

Redruff really lived in the Don Valley north of Toronto, and many of my companions will remember him. He was killed in 1889, between the Sugar Loaf and Castle Frank, by a creature whose name I have withheld[®], as it is the species, rather than the individual, that I wish to expose.

Silverspot, Raggylug, and Vixen are founded on real characters. Though I have ascribed to them the adventures of more than one of their kind, every incident in their biographies is from life.

The fact that these stories are true is the reason why all are tragic. The life of a wild animal always has a tragic end.

- ① testimony ['testimoni] n. 证词
- ② corral [kəˈrɑ:l] n. 牲畜栏
- ③ compound ['kompaund]
 n. 混合
- ④ savage [ˈsævidʒ] a. 野蛮的
- ⑤ treacherous ['tretf(ə)rəs]
 a. 危险的
- ⑥ bloodthirsty ['blʌd,θə:sti] a. 嗜血的
- ⑦ barbarity [bɑ:ˈbæriti] n. 残暴

⑧ withheld [wið'held] ν. (withhold 的过去分词) 隐瞒 年,宾戈曾是我的爱犬,尽管因为我多次长时间在纽约 逗留,这种关系多次被打断。我的老朋友,也就是坦农 场的主人,可以从文中了解他的狗到底是怎么死的。

野马生活在十九世纪九十年代初期,距离罗伯所在的时代不远。除了野马的死亡方式尚存争议,这个故事严格按照实际情况进行讲述。根据有些讲述,野马首次被赶进畜栏时就折断了脖子。"老火鸡脚印"不知所踪,因此无法询问事实真相。

从某种意义来讲,巫利是两条狗的混合物。这两条狗都是杂种狗,带有柯利牧羊犬的部分血统,都被当作牧羊犬饲养。巫利故事的前半部分讲述的是真实事件,在那之后,只知道这条狗变成了一个残暴而奸诈的绵羊杀手。故事第二部分的细节来自另一真实的事件:一只与巫利相似的黄狗过着双重生活——白天是一条忠诚的牧羊犬,晚上变成一个残忍而阴险的怪兽。这种事情并不像人们想象得那么少,自从开始创作这些故事,我已经听说了另外一条过着双重生活的牧羊犬,它晚上为了取乐,极其凶残地杀死附近的小狗。被主人发现时,这条狗已经杀死了二十条小狗,把所有的尸体都藏在了一个沙坑里。这条狗的结局和巫利之死一模一样。

到现在,我一共听说过六条具有这种双重性格的狗, 恰好都是柯利牧羊犬。

红脖子真的生活在多伦多北部的唐河谷,我的很多同伴都还记得他。红脖子 1889 年被杀死,地点是塔糖山和弗兰克城堡之间,我隐去了凶手的名字,因为凶手是人类,而不是某一个体,这也是我想表达的内容。

银斑、锯齿耳和雌狐这些角色都是以真实的动物为 基础塑造的。虽然在描写的过程中,我把他们同类中多 个动物的冒险活动集中在他们身上,但他们在故事中的 每次遭遇都源自生活。

正因为真实, 所以这些故事都是悲剧。野生动物的

Such a collection of histories naturally suggests a common thought—a moral it would have been called in the last century. No doubt each different mind will find a moral to its taste, but I hope some will herein^① find emphasized a moral as old as Scripture—we and the beasts are kin. Man has nothing that the animals have not at least a vestige^② of, the animals have nothing that man does not in some degree share.

Since, then, the animals are creatures with wants and feelings differing in degree only from our own, they surely have their rights. This fact, now beginning to be recognized by the Caucasian world, was first **proclaimed**[®] by Moses and was emphasized by the Buddhist over 2,000 years ago.

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ERNEST THOMPSON SETON

- ① herein [hiər'in] ad. 于此
- ② vestige ['vestidʒ] n. 残余 部分,痕迹
- ③ proclaim [prəˈkleim] v. 宣布

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这样一本历史故事集,当然也表达了一种共同的思想——也就是上个世纪所说的道德寓意。毫无疑问,每个不同的心灵都将找到符合自己兴趣的寓意,不过我希望,有些人能通过这本故事集找到和《圣经》一样古老的重要寓意,即我们和动物是一家。人类所具有的一切或多或少都能在动物身上找到,动物所具有的一切也或多或少能在人类身上发现。

那么,既然动物也是拥有欲望和感情的生物,只是在程度上与我们不同而已,他们当然也拥有自己的权利。最早由摩西宣告的这一事实现在才开始得到白人世界的认可,而早在两千多年前,佛教徒就已经开始强调这一点。

欧内斯特・汤普森・西顿

Lobo, the King of Currumpaw

I

Currumpaw is a vast cattle range in northern New Mexico. It is a land of rich pastures^① and teeming flocks and herds^②, a land of rolling mesas and precious running waters that at length unite in the Currumpaw River, from which the whole region is named. And the king whose despotic^③ power was felt over its entire extent was an old gray wolf.

Old Lobo, or the king, as the Mexicans called him, was the gigantic leader of a remarkable pack of gray wolves, that had ravaged the Currumpaw Valley for a number of years. All the shepherds and ranchmen knew him well, and, wherever he appeared with his trusty band, terror reigned supreme among the cattle, and wrath and despair among their owners. Old Lobo was a giant among wolves, and was cunning and strong in proportion to his size. His voice at night was well-known and easily distinguished from that of any of his fellows. An ordinary wolf might how half the night about the herdsman's bivouac without attracting more than a passing notice, but when the deep roar of the old king came booming down the canyon, the watcher bestirred himself and prepared to learn in the morning that fresh and serious inroads had been made among the herds.

克伦坡之王灰狼罗伯

- ① pasture ['pɑ:stʃə] n. 牧场
- ② herd [hə:d] n. 兽群
- ③ despotic [di'spotik] a. 暴虐的

④ reign [rein] v. 统治

- ⑤ bivouac ['bivuæk] n. 露营 地
- ⑥ canyon ['kænjən] n. 峡谷
- ⑦ bestir [bi'stə:] v. 激励

克伦坡是一个巨大的牧场,位于新墨西哥州北部。 这片富饶的高原上,牛羊成群,小山连绵起伏,珍贵 的溪水汇入克伦坡河,整个地区也因这条河而得名。 在这里,到处都能感受到牧场之王老灰狼暴君般的 威严。

老罗伯,也就是墨西哥人口中的狼王,是一群灰狼中高大的领袖,这些灰狼个个都非同凡响。他们多年来一直在克伦坡河谷为非作歹。所有的牧羊人和农场主都知道老罗伯,只要罗伯和他的同伙一出现,牛群中就弥漫着恐惧的气氛,牛的主人则愤怒而绝望。老罗伯是狼群中的巨人,体形硕大,身体强壮,非常狡猾。他夜里的嗥叫声远近闻名,很容易分辨出来。一般的狼即使在牧人的营地周围嚎叫半个晚上,也丝毫不会引人注意,可是当老狼王低沉的咆哮声开始在峡谷中回荡,牧人们都会心中一惊,准备好接受第二天一早畜群中的重大损失。

Old Lobo's band was but a small one. This I never quite understood, for usually, when a wolf rises to the position and power that he had, he attracts a numerous following. It may be that he had as many as he desired, or perhaps his **ferocious**^① temper prevented the increase of his pack. Certain is it that Lobo had only five followers during the latter part of his reign. Each of these, however, was a wolf of renown, most of them were above the ordinary size, one in particular, the second in command, was a **veritable**^② giant, but even he was far below the leader in size and prowess. Several of the band, besides the two leaders, were especially noted. One of those was a beautiful white wolf, that the Mexicans called Blanca; this was supposed to be a female, possibly Lobo's mate. Another was a yellow wolf of remarkable swiftness, which, according to current stories had, on several occasions, captured an **antelope**^③ for the pack.

It will be seen, then, that these wolves were thoroughly well-known to the cowboys and shepherds. They were frequently seen and oftener heard, and their lives were intimately associated with those of the cattlemen, who would so gladly have destroyed them. There was not a stockman on the Currumpaw who would not readily have given the value of many steers for the scalp of any one of Lobo's band, but they seemed to possess charmed lives, and defied all manner of devices to kill them. They **scorned** all hunters, **derided** all poisons, and continued, for at least five years, to exact their tribute from the Currumpaw ranchers to the extent, many said, of a cow each day. According to this estimate, therefore, the band had killed more than two thousand of the finest stock, for, as was only too well-known, they selected the best in every instance.

The old idea that a wolf was constantly in a starving state, and therefore ready to eat anything, was as far as possible from the truth in this case, for these freebooters were always sleek® and well-conditioned, and were in fact most fastidious® about what they ate. Any animal that had died from natural causes, or that was diseased or tainted, they would not touch, and they even rejected anything that had been killed by the stockmen. Their choice and daily food was the tenderer part of a freshly killed yearling® heifer®. An old bull or cow they disdained®,