

英语

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借来的狂欢 英美节日文化

主编 石洛祥



重庆大学出版社

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内 容 提 要

本书为“英语校园文化丛书”之一,主题为英美节日文化。全书共12个单元,以时间为主线,精选了英美国家一年中的12个重要节日,每单元以介绍节日概况导入为,再详细讲述节日起源,挖掘节日背后的文化差异内涵,并编排了相关的交际活动,提供知识拓展链接。在语言知识方面,本书注入大量的生词,并注有中文解释,有助于读者扩大词汇量。同时在每个单元配有相应的中国节日文化和西方节日文化的对比,学习者在学习国外节日文化的同时也增强了对中国节日文化的了解。本书供英语爱好者阅读使用,也可作为大学生课外学习参考用书。

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编者的话

近年来,高校的英语校园文化氛围日益浓厚,不论是人气旺盛的英语角、唇枪舌剑的英语演讲辩论、丰富多彩的西方节日体验活动还是经典再现的英语戏剧排演,都吸引了大量的校园英语爱好者,既为他们展示自我、碰撞心灵拓展了空间,也为他们通过“学相伴,用相随”来提高英语水平提供了机会。

许多专家认为,这种英语校园文化的打造有助于营建良好的人文环境,有助于弥补英语课堂教学课时的不足,有助于学生锻炼英语的实际运用能力,也有助于培养学生的英语兴趣和爱好。总之,通过英语“走出课堂,走进生活”,让枯燥的英语学习转化成充满乐趣和颇具吸引力的自愿活动,英语校园文化也就成了和谐校园文化不可分割的一部分。

但是,这种英语校园文化的打造和校园英语文化环境的建设是一个全面综合的工程,也是一项任重道远的工作。因为这种隐形英语教学体系不像日常英语课堂教学那样具有明确的大纲要求和规范的课程体系,因此,更需要某种引导和规范,这种引导和规范主要依赖于物质情境和文化情境的构建,依赖于学生主体作用和教师辅助作用的配合,但也同样依赖于学校之间在校园文化打造方面的经验交流和成果共享。

重庆大学出版社推出的这套“英语校园文化”丛书,就是为了推动这种经验交流和成果共享。丛书作者都是在引导英语校园文化构建方面成绩斐然并在各自方向上颇有心得的专家。因此,这些凝聚了他们心得的成果一定能帮助读者更好地融入英语校园文化中。

这套丛书第一批推出5本,分别是:《雄辩如我——怎样用英语演讲与辩论》《借来的狂欢——英美节日文化》《他乡有故知——如何与老外打交道》《Wallflower的精彩——自言自语练英语》和《聚光灯下的精彩——怎样排练英语戏剧》,从这些书名就可以看出,丛书涉及的都是英语校园文化

的热点和读者们最需要引导的领域。

相信这套丛书能够帮助读者事半功倍地塑造健康、积极向上、富有生机活力的校园英语文化环境。

编 者

2011 年 1 月

前言

“节日”的“节”最初在汉字中是指植物的叶与枝交接的部位,正如《周易·说卦传》中所言,“其于木也,为坚多节”。动物的骨骼衔接处也叫节——骨节,依次引申出的一年中的节日则具有关键而特定的意义。现代社会由于生活节奏的加快,节日已成为人们生活的一个重要组成部分,它们是人们一年繁忙工作中的一个个点缀,生活因此而丰富多彩。日历上如果没有了节日,我们的生活会突然变得没有了期待,我们的日子会变得单调、沉闷。节日也是一种文化的浓缩,正因为有了一个个丰富多彩的节日,才绘成了人类历史中一幅幅美丽动人的“年画”,我们年复一年地穿越着春夏秋冬,也经历着每一个节日带来的快乐。

一个民族的文化决定了它们的节日,就像保守的中国文化里不会有狂欢节一样。文化与节日如同水与鱼的关系,文化滋养着节日,节日则承载着文化的内涵,二者密不可分。

西方节日文化与中国的节日文化一样,有着悠久的历史,承载着西方文化遗产,它作为西方文化的一个重要组成部分,在很大程度上承载着西方国家民族的历史及其文化渊源,节日在每一个民族发展的历史进程中又形成各自不同的风俗习惯。因此,透过西方的节日文化及其习俗,大学生们可以更充分地认识西方各民族的历史与文化,有助于加强与西方各国各民族的沟通与了解,同时通过审视和比较自己的民族节日,从而增强民族文化意识、培养文化鉴赏力、增强大学生对自己民族文化的自豪感,进而增强跨文化交际与对话的能力。

近十几年来,随着中国改革开放的深入、经济全球化过程的加剧,中国正处于跨越式大发展的历史阶段,同时也是传统与现代对接、中西文化再次交会的特殊时代。英美文化强势对我国产生了深远的影响,中国传统文化受到前所未有的挑战。各种英美洋节日更是长驱直入,撞击着国民脆弱的心理。到处是庆祝洋节日的景象,有些节日被盲目地移植过来,明显偏离了它们的宗教和文化内涵,以一种异样、甚至曲解了的形式庆祝着,国人

却乐此不疲;而我国有着几千年文化底蕴的传统节日则倍受冷落,甚至有被遗忘的危险。因此,通过学习英美国家的节日文化,大学生可以了解这些节日的历史渊源、庆祝方式及其独特的宗教和文化内涵,增强对西方文化的固有弊端更直接、更清醒的认识,从而对近一百年来一向自我贬低以迎合西方文化的文化自贱心理进行反思。当代大学生需要增强这样的文化鉴赏能力与意识:中华民族如果要在世界民族群中确立自己的地位,就必须有自己的文化本体、文化价值观的文化立场。21世纪的大学生不能在全球化的进程中迷失了自己,丧失了自己的民族特色。如果这样,那将是民族的灾难,因为“只有民族的才是世界的”。而民族的传统节日作为民族文化的重要遗产,在当代社会具有传承文明的重要功用。

本书以时间先后为序,精选了英美国家一年当中的12个重要节日。关于每个节日的介绍包括该节日的起源、历史发展与演变和对今天的影响等方面。生词采用文中夹注的形式,便于学生自学时阅读;从节日的庆祝方式、礼仪的传承,到独特习俗的传播,力求全面、形象地介绍英美节日所蕴涵的文化内涵与习俗内容;同时链接了相关的中国传统节日或其他相关内容,帮助当代中国大学生有对比、有鉴别地了解西方的节日文化。这在全球化的今天,既有助于扼制盲目崇拜洋节日的不良趋势,也有助于培养大学生对祖国优秀传统文化的民族自豪感,为我们展开中西方文化交流与对话、为积极参与人类现代文化共构作出贡献。

本书每个单元由四大部分组成:第一部分为导入,主要以歌曲、电影剪辑、演讲、诗歌、名画等形式引入本单元的节日主题,并简要介绍本单元节日的概况;第二部分为正文,是该节日的详细介绍,并配以图片,对于正文中出现的生词,我们给出了汉语意思,方便学生阅读与欣赏;第三部分主要是挖掘节日习俗背后的文化差异内涵,我们编排了相关的交际用语和交际活动,比如:如何表达祝愿、如何送礼、如何布置装饰物等;第四部分为相关链接,我们主要编写了与本单元节日相关的内容,或者是与中国对应的节日的介绍与评价,以增强学生对祖国传统文化的了解与欣赏。

本书以文字介绍为主,并配以歌曲、图片和电影剪辑等内容。在编排体例上,力求行文活泼,形式多样,字体颜色丰富。本书可供不同层次的英语爱好者作自学读本或课外学习参考,也可供非英语专业低年级大学生作选修课本使用。

2011年2月

编者

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Chapter

1

New Year's Day

新 年

新年,是一个世界各国都庆祝的节日。人们举办各种形式的庆祝活动来欢送旧的一年,迎接新的开始。在中国,我们称新年为元旦,即“初始的日子”,也就是新年的第一天,以此来区分中国的农历新年“春节”。“新年”虽然没有圣诞节或者农历除夕隆重,却也是一个特殊的节日,各国人民在这一天尽情地释放自己,享受一年最后的时光。世界各地庆祝新年的方式有很多共同之处,比如大家欢聚一堂,开通宵派对,当指针移向午夜 12 点钟时,大伙一起倒数计时(countdown to midnight)等庆祝习俗。下面我们就一起看一下世界各主要国家的新年吧!

在欢度新年的时候,有什么节日歌曲总会在你的耳边回响呢? 下面这首歌曲源远流长,相信你在很多场合都听过:

Auld Lang Syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and never brought to mind?

Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and days of auld lang syne?

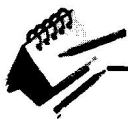
For auld lang syne, my dear
for auld lang syne

We'll take a cup of kindness yet
for auld lang syne.

Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and never brought to mind?

Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and days of auld lang syne?
And here's a hand, my trusty friend
and gie's a hand o'thine
We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet
for auld lang syne.

歌名的意思是“流逝的年华”(电影《魂断蓝桥》中的著名插曲),是18世纪苏格兰诗人罗伯特·彭斯(Robert Burns)根据当地父老口传记录下的。人们通常可以哼出歌曲的旋律,但大部分人只可唱出歌词的一小段。在很多西方国家,人们通常会在除夕夜演唱这首歌,象征送走旧年而迎接新年的来临,它的主调并没有中文版本那样感伤。而这首歌在很多亚洲地区的学校毕业礼或葬礼中被作为主题曲,象征告别或结束的情感,怀念过去,展望未来。有的根据原意译为《忆往日》《过去的时光》,在中国各地被普遍称为《友谊地久天长》。



I. Introduction to New Year's Day

The Origin of New Year

New Year is the world's most popularly celebrated festival. Perhaps, everybody would like to know how these celebrations began, from where it originated and why it is so important about the festival. Let's give you an insight to the origin of this grand event in a brief form.

The origin of New Year **dates back to** (始于…) the era of emperors. They thought of celebrating a special day which should **dot** (在…上打点) a day for beginning and end of the year. First New Year celebrations were noticed in Mesopotamia about 4,000 years ago. It was celebrated at the time of Equinox in mid-March by the Egyptians, Persians and Phoenicians while Greeks celebrated it on winter **solstice**

(至点)。

The Roman emperor Julius Caesar officially declared January 1st to be a New Year in 46 BC. Romans worshiped God Janus who had two faces, one looking forward and the other looking backward. The month of January was named after this Roman God and it gave an idea to the emperor to establish January as a gate to the New Year. It is said Caesar celebrated January 1st as new year's day by ordering the revolutionary Jewish forces to route back.

New Year's Eve

Celebrations for New Year begin from New Year's Eve on 31st December. This is the last day of the Gregorian calendar and the day before New Year's Day. The idea behind New Year's Eve celebration is to *bid adieu to* (向...告别) the year gone by and give a warm welcome to the coming year. Popular way of celebrating New Year's Eve is to party until the moment of the transition of the year at midnight.

Traditions of celebrating New Year's Eve vary in several parts of the world due to cultural variations. In most countries people cut cake as the clock strikes for midnight on New Year's Eve and open champagne bottles to express their joys. Given here is a brief description of some of the other most popular and interesting traditions of New Year's Eve celebrations.

A common image of New Year's Eve celebration is the incarnation of Father Time—the old year represented by an old bearded man wearing a sash across his chest with the previous year printed on it. This Father Time hands over his responsibilities to the Baby New Year—the personification of New Year represented by a baby wearing a sash with the New Year printed on it.

Inspired by an old Scottish tune, the song *Auld Lang Syne* (meaning “the good old days”) has become the National Anthem of New Year's Eve celebration. The song is traditionally sung at the

midnight on the New Year's Eve in almost all English speaking countries of the world. The lyrics to the song were written by the poet Robert Burns and published after his death in 1796.

In most parts of the world, people welcome the New Year by bursting noisy **firecrackers** (鞭炮). Some even fire celebratory gun-shots. The tradition emerged from an ancient belief that noise and fire helped to **dispel** (驱赶) evil spirits and bring good-luck.



Just as the clock strikes at midnight on New Year's Day, people start greeting "Happy New Year" to everyone around. At several places there is also a tradition to kiss one's beloved at midnight. It is said that kissing ensures affections and ties will continue all through the year. To dear ones staying in distant cities, greetings are sent over phone and New Year greeting cards.

Many countries take pride in their New Year's Eve celebrations; however, New Year's Eve of Times Square, Trafalgar Square and Sydney are most popular amongst them all.

New Year's Eve of Times Square is the most popular New Year's Eve celebrations around the world. The event is noted for the famous ball drop atop One Times Square. Every year, thousands of people from across the world descend upon Times Square to experience this traditional event.

At Trafalgar Square in London, thousands of revelers throng the Square to welcome the New Year to the sound of Big Ben's famous chimes.

Sydney is said to be the world's preferred destination for New Year's Eve celebrations. Breathtaking firework display is said to be the major attraction that pull thousands of people to Sydney from all over the world. An estimated 80,000 firecrackers are shot from Sydney Harbor Bridge on the New Year's Eve, offering a truly stunning view. The other

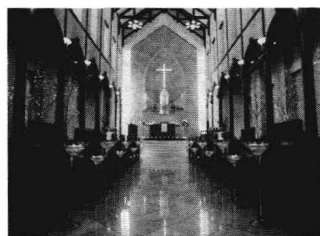
major attraction is The Harbor of Lights Parade. It is a delightful sight to watch cruise boats covered in fairy lights cruise the centre of the harbor all night.

New Year by Religions

◀ Christian New Year ▶

Christian or Gregorian New Year falls on January 1st. Countries following the Gregorian Calendar celebrate the New Year on this date. Gregorian Calendar is a modification of the Julian Calendar established by the Roman Emperor, Julius Caesar in 46 BC. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII of Rome abolished Julian Calendar as it was slightly long. Gradually Gregorian Calendar gained acceptance in several countries across the world as it created a balance between seasons and calendar.

New Year traditions create a sense of responsibility and also tie an emotional bond of togetherness, belief and faith. New Year traditions are being followed with immense devotion and joy by the people of Christian community. Tradition of New Year



Baby is used as a symbol of rebirth by many Christians. Image of a baby with New Year's banner is displayed at many houses.

New Year festivities are incomplete without singing the traditional *Auld Lang Syne*. People sing this song altogether on the New Year's Eve. Traditionally, it is thought one's fate is determined according to the type of food consumed on the first day of the year. People prepare auspicious meals and celebrate the New Year by eating black-eyed peas. Similar to this, the tradition of **first-footing** (第一位访客) is also practiced very seriously by Christians. The visitor should be a tall and dark-haired man.

New Year **ushers** (引座员) in the **festive** (喜庆的) spirit. People **splurge** (炫耀) in the New Year activities with fun and excitement. New

Year brings in happiness and so people make it a grand affair to welcome the coming year. New Year celebrations begin with the New Year's Eve. Christians attend balls, theme and private parties to celebrate the New Year. Party halls are booked in advance and there is rarely any place which is not hit by the parties. Festive music and songs rock the New Year parties. People dress up in their best clothes to celebrate the New Year. At the stroke of 12 at midnight, people make a lot of noise, hug, kisses and wish each other "Happy New Year".

New dawn is welcomed with open arms by the Christians. Even after partying all night, Christians don't delay to visit the church on the New Year's Day. They spend the day with family and friends, going to picnics, watching movies and having favorite meals.

◀ Hindu New Year ▶



Hindu (印度的) New Year is celebrated according to the Hindu Lunar Calendar. The popular name of the Hindu New Year is Vikram Samvat. In the Indian Calendar, seasons follow the sun, months follow the moon and days both sun and moon. This era of Vikram Samvat began in 57 BC. To correspond with the solar calendar, 57 years are subtracted from the Hindu Year. Thus, the New Year begins with the first day of Kartik Maas following Deepawali Amaavasya.

You might be curious about the history of Vikram Samvat. The origin of Hindu New Year relates to the legendary Hindu King Vikramaditya in 57 BC. According to the legend, King Gardabhilla (in 12th century Christian Era) abducted a nun by the name of Saraswati. She was the sister of the famous Jain monk Kalakacharya. The helpless monk sought help of the Saka ruler in Sakasthana to defeat Gardabhilla. He was defeated and captivated by the Saka King. Though later released, Gardabhilla retired to the forest where he was killed by a

tiger. His son, Vikramaditya (brought up in the forest) later invaded Ujjain and pushed out the Sakas. Thus, to celebrate this event, he **commemorated**(纪念) a new era called Vikram Samvat.

People light oil lamps and decorate the house with **auspicious**(吉祥的) flowers those with the color like pink, red, purple or yellow. Rangoli design is also an attractive part of New Year decorations. Indians get up early in the morning, take bath and wear new clothes. They bring home deities of Goddess Laxmi (Goddess of wealth) and Lord Ganesha. At the time of New Year, people exchange gifts and sweets with each other and consider this festival to be an auspicious time.

◀ Islamic New Year ▶

Islam has a lunar based calendar with 354 days. The New Year date also changes every year as the Islamic Calendar is 11 days shorter than the solar calendar. Maal Hijra or Islamic New Year is celebrated on the first day of Muharram (first Islamic month). The word Muharram also means respect. It is more of a cultural event than a New Year celebration. People welcome the New Year with peace and prayers.

New Year celebrated by Muslims is not a gala affair rather a quiet and sober celebration. People gather in mosques to offer special prayers. Muslims celebrate this day to **pay homage to**(向…表示敬意) Prophet Muhammad. The most important part is to tell the hijra (Muhammad's flight from Medina to Mecca). This story is also broadcast on radio. Maal Hijra or the Islamic New Year is spent in reflecting how one is leading his or her life and their own mortality.

Remembrance of Muharram has become an important day for the Shias. People enact the scenes of the Battle of Karbala in mosques. At some places, people **clad**(穿戴) in black dresses. They recite sorrowful poems in the memory of the martyrdom of Imran Hussain. Many males beat their chests or walk barefoot over the burning coal to remember the sufferings of Hussain. Loud cries of congregation can be heard which reflects their inability to save Hussain from the torture and brutalities.

New Year for Jewish people is the most important event. Month of September and October (according to the Gregorian calendar) are for welcoming the New Year. Everybody is in high spirits and mood of the festival. Festival celebrations begin with Rosh Hashanah and ends with Yom Kippur.

Good health, long life and prosperity for all is the New Year wish of every Jewish. On a grand New Year celebration lots of enthusiasm can be seen on the faces of Jewish people. There are many religious beliefs associated with the celebrations of New Year. It was on this day, God recreated fate of his creatures.

The origin of Jewish New Year can be traced from the holy Bible which has been celebrated over a thousand years. The Jewish New Year takes place in the month of Tishri that are months of September and October according to the Gregorian Calendar.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the two major festivals ritually performed during ten days celebrations. The day of Rosh Hashanah commemorates with lighting of candles. Family get-together is the common scene while celebrating Rosh Hashanah. People eat traditional food which includes apples dipped in honey reminding of all that is sweet in life and a piece of baked bread. Prayers play a very important role in the celebrations, and people recite prayers on this day.

People celebrate the closeness with God on the day of Yom Kippur. It is believed that God gives chance to his people to repent for their sins. People look back the passed year and plan for the next year. The day is followed by strict tradition of fasting.

On Yom Kippur, people eat a festive meal, take holy bath and give charity. In the course of festival, five prayers are offered to God.



II. Festival in Life

New Year around the World

Around the world, different cultures have their own traditions for welcoming the New Year. People in Moslem societies, for example, celebrate the New Year by wearing new clothes. Southeast Asians release birds and turtles to assure themselves good luck in the twelve months ahead. Jewish people consider the day holy, and hold a religious ceremony at a meal with special foods. Hindus of India leave shrines next to their beds, so they can see beautiful objects at the start of the New Year. The Japanese hang a rope of straw across the front of their houses to keep out evil spirits and bring happiness and good luck. They also have a good laugh as the year begins to get things started on a lucky note.

Whatever the custom, most of people feel the same sentiment. With a new year, people can expect a new life, wish each other good luck and promise to do better in the following year.

◀ New Year's Celebration in the U.S. ▶

In the United States, the federal holiday is January first, but Americans begin celebrating on December 31st. Sometimes people have masquerade balls, where guests dress up in costumes and cover their faces with masks. According to an old tradition, guests unmask at midnight.



At New Year's Eve parties across the United States on December 31st, many guests watch television as part of the festivities. Most of the television channels show Times Square in the heart of New York City. One minute before midnight, a lighted ball drops slowly from the top to