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# 再 版 说 明

《英语背诵文选》原分四册先后出版,1988年出版了合订本,其精粹的选材、慎密的注释、译文与作者简介,深受广大读者喜爱,迄今已印刷了十四次。这次再版时,我们对前言与附录部分作了调整:原附于各分册的英汉对照的作者简介与词汇表经归纳整理后集中排在全书之后,便于读者查阅。为帮助读者掌握语音语调等朗诵技巧,特请外籍语音专家为全书配制录音。合订本共配有磁带四盘,由上海外语音像出版社录制发行。

《英语背诵文选》共四册,可供高等院校英语语音朗读课和 名著选读课作为教材,也可供具有高中英语水平的读者自学进 修之用。

我们认为,有一定英语基础的读者熟读和背诵短小精悍、文字优美的名作,有助于培养语感和打好泛读基础,对于提高英语的理解能力、写作能力与口头表达能力亦能起积极作用。

全书四册共八十篇,大多选自文艺复兴时期以来的英美文学名著,其体裁包括诗歌、散文、随笔、小品,亦收名人书信和演说。所选篇目的作者大多是读者所熟悉的人物,其中有不同时期主要流派和英美作家中的代表人物、历史上著名的政治家和科学家,间或有内容与文字均属佳作的佚名作者。自第二册起选收了若干篇有一定难度的文学作品,旨在使读者熟悉结构比较复杂的文句,并通过听录音模仿朗读,掌握长句的停顿、节奏与语调等朗读技巧。入选篇目力求在内容和观点上有益于培养读者的优美情操和高尚理想。

为了便于自学,每篇选文后均有注释与参考译文,书后附有 作者简介(英汉对照)与词汇表。此外,还请外国专家为全书配 制录音,供读者学习模仿。

本书由陈冠商、唐振邦、王楫组织编写,参加选材、注释、翻译和编译作者简介和词汇表工作的有王楫、范钜清、徐越庭、徐

栋良、蒋美陆、江治、唐力行、胡岳峰、方全、赵振、叶华年、周嘉栋、汪文珍、朱乃长等同志。第四册的题解、注释、参考译文和词 汇工作由王楫承担。谨在此向他们表示感谢。

限于水平,本书可能存在缺点,希望读者指正。

陈冠商 1983 年 10 月于上海

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# THE FIRST SNOW

The first snow came. How beautiful it was, falling so silently all day long, all night long, on the mountains, on the meadows, on the roots of the living, on the graves of the dead! All white save the river, that marked its course by a winding black line across the landscape; and the leafless trees, that against the leaden sky now revealed more fully the wonderful beauty and intricacies of their branches. What silence, too, came with the snow, and what seclusion! Every sound was muffled, every noise changed to something soft and musical. No more tramping hoofs, no more rattling wheels! Only the chiming of sleigh-bells, beating as swift and merrily as the hearts of children.

From Kavanagh by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

#### 注 释

- ① the living: 活着的人; the dead: 死去的人。形容词(有时是分词)前面加上定冠词 the 表示具有某一特性的一类人。
- ② All white = All was white, 省略句。
- ③ save:除……以外,介词。
- ④ marked its course: 标示出它所经过的路线。
- ⑤ against the leaden sky: 在铅灰色天空的衬托下。
- ⑥ intricacies: 这里指树枝的缠结交错。
- ⑦ was muffled: (声音)被压抑而变得低沉。
- 8 beating ... as the hearts of children = beating ... as the hearts of children beat, 这个被省略的 beat 作"(心脏的)搏动"解,前面那个 beating 指铃儿的碰击。

## 参考译文

### 初 雪

亨利·沃兹沃思·朗费罗

初雪飘临。多么美啊! 它整日整夜那么静静地飘着,落在 · 6 · 山岭上,落在草地上,落在世人的屋顶上,落在死者的坟墓上! 在一片白茫茫之中,只有河流在美丽的画面上划出一道曲曲弯 弯的黑线;还有那叶儿落净的树木,映衬着铅灰色的天空,此刻 更显得枝丫交错,姿态万千。初雪飘落时,是何等的宁谧,何等 的幽静!一切声响都趋沉寂,一切噪音都化作柔和的音乐。再 也听不见马蹄得得,再也听不见车轮辚辚!唯有雪橇的铃铛,奏 出和谐的乐声,那明快欢乐的节拍犹如孩子们心房的搏动。

(范钜清 译)



## THE HUMMING-BIRD

Of all animated beings this is the most elegant in form and the most brilliant in colors. The stone and metals polished by our arts are not comparable to this jewel of Nature. She has placed it least in size of the order of birds, "maxime miranda in minimis." Her masterpiece is this little humming-bird, and upon it she has heaped all the gifts which the other birds may only share. Lightness, rapidity, nimbleness, grace, and rich apparel all belong to this little favorite. The emerald, the ruby, and the topaz gleam upon its dress. It never soils them with the dust of earth, and in its aerial life scarcely touches the turf an instant. Always in the air, flying from flower to flower, it has their freshness as well as their brightness. It lives upon their nectar, and dwells only in the cli-

## PINES

he pine, placed nearly always among scenes disordered and desolate, brings into them all possible elements of order and precision. Lowland trees may lean to this side and that, though it is but a meadow breeze that bends them, or a bank of cowslips<sup>①</sup> from which their trunks lean aslope<sup>②</sup>. But let storm and avalanche do their worst<sup>③</sup>, and let the pine find only a ledge of vertical precipice to cling to, it will nevertheless grow straight. Thrust a rod from its last shoot down the stem; it shall point to the center of the earth as long as the tree lives. <sup>⑥</sup> It may be well also for lowland branches to reach hither and thither for what they need, and to take all kinds of irregular shape and extension. But the pine is trained to need nothing and endure everything. It is resolvedly whole, self-contained, desiring nothing but rightness, content with restricted completion. Tall or short, it will be straight.

From Modern Painters by John Ruskin