



A VERY SHORT
VIEW OF ENGLISH
LITERATURE

一本书读懂

HUMANITIES IN ENGLISH

梁明◎编译

品历史知识，赏西方文化，
行艺术之旅，增人文涵养。

英国文学
ENGLISH
Literature



一堂丰富的人文英语课——现代人应该了解的西方历史、文化、艺术、风俗……

陕西师范大学出版总社有限公司

SHAANXI NORMAL UNIVERSITY GENERAL PUBLISHING HOUSE CO., LTD.





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Foreword

培养人文素质 成就国际通才

若想精通一门语言，没有对其文化背景的深入了解恐怕永远难登大雅之堂。在全球化日益成为国际主流的今天，英语作为西方文化头牌语言的重要性已日益凸显——今日世界，恐怕在地球上的任何角落人们都可以用英语问路、用英语聊天、用英语购物、用英语交友、用英语在跨文化间作深度交流——奔驰等国际性大公司的工作语言是英语，并购了IBM的联想公司也决定用英语作为工作语言。

正如许多西方人热切地想了解中国文化一样，中国的英语学习及爱好者对西方文化及人文的了解也处于热切的需求当中。是的，如果对西方的历史、文学、艺术、宗教、哲学没有一个最基本的了解，就连看好莱坞大片都会成为一个问题；而西方文化贡献给社会的普世价值恰恰是它深厚的人文传统及“民主、自由、博爱”等现代理念，不了解这些，则与任何稍有层次和品位的西方人的交流都将难以顺畅。

此外，国内的英语学习者如再停留在日常生活的 English In General 的层次上，必将难以适应深度沟通和交流的需要，因此，对专业英语及文化背景的深入了解和



学习将是提升英语能力的必由之路。有鉴于此，本套丛书为读者奉上原汁原味的人文阅读精华，其或选自原典正文、或选自专业教材、或选自网络热贴，由精研此业者掇菁撷华，辑录成册，希望能帮助读者在学习英语的同时又能品位西方文化的独特魅力。在辑录过程中，我们力求摒弃学校教育的僵硬和枯燥，代之以更加生动、更加全面的通识阅读范本。我们写历史，致力于拨开其厚重压抑而倾向于读者感兴趣的文化、建筑、艺术、风俗等人文知识；我们写文学，力求抛开一般文学史纲目划分的束缚而代之以切合各国风情又适合读者阅读的脉络。

读万卷书行万里路，在我们无法踏上万里之路以愉耳目的时候，我们可以用阅读来滋养心灵，拓展人生版图。于某一日午后，抛开世俗的纷扰，挑一静谧之处，一杯香茗，几卷书册，品文化，长知识，学英语，在书页和文字之间触摸大千世界的真谛，在阅读中将知识内化成自己的修养，人生至乐。

文化共语言同飞，思想与阅读共舞。让我们的目光穿越时光、穿越语言，在原汁原味的英语阅读中品位人类文明共有的人文素质、人文素养、人文情怀、人文理念……并在此过程中成就自己的文化修养及完美人生。

Contents

Chapter 1 The Embryo of English Literature

第一章 英国文学的开端

英格兰岛的早期居民凯尔特人和其他部族都没有留下书面文学作品，直到5世纪，原住北欧的盎格鲁、撒克逊和朱特三个部族侵入英国，才有史诗《贝奥武夫》流传下来。作为现存古英语文学中最古老的作品，其作者已不可考。

1. *Beowulf* 《贝奥武夫》/1
2. *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* 《盎格鲁—撒克逊编年史》/6
3. Geoffrey Chaucer 杰弗雷·乔叟 (约1343~1400) /11

Chapter 2 The Birth and Boom of English Literature

第二章 英国文学的诞生和繁荣

这一时期英国国力增强，尤其是1588年一举击败大陆强国西班牙“无敌舰队”，英国大国气象万千。同时，文化上以重新发现希腊、罗马的古典文化开始，出现了活动频繁、佳作竞出的文艺复兴局面，各种文学创作日趋繁荣。

1. Sir Thomas More 托马斯·莫尔 (1478~1535) /19
2. Edmund Spenser 埃德蒙·斯宾塞 (约1552~1599) /25
3. William Shakespeare 威廉·莎士比亚 (1564~1616) /34
4. Ben Jonson 本·琼森 (1572~1637) /42
5. Sir Philip Sidney 菲利普·锡德尼 (1554~1586) /48
6. Francis Bacon 弗朗西斯·培根 (1561~1626) /55

Chapter 3 English Literature in 17th and 18th Century

第三章 17~18世纪的英国文学

英国近代小说于这一时期发端, 18世纪相对稳定的社会环境也使得英国文学出现新的盛况, 写实小说、哥特小说相继兴起。

1. John Donne 约翰·多恩 (1572~1631) /65
2. Robert Herrick 罗伯特·赫里克 (1591~1674) /72
3. George Herbert 乔治·赫伯特 (1593~1633) /76
4. John Milton 约翰·弥尔顿 (1608~1674) /81
5. Henry Vaughan 亨利·沃恩 (1622~1695) /90
6. John Bunyan 约翰·班扬 (1628~1688) /95
7. John Dryden 约翰·德莱顿 (1631~1700) /106
8. Daniel Defoe 丹尼尔·笛福 (1660~1731) /114
9. Jonathan Swift 乔纳森·斯威夫特 (1667~1745) /121
10. Alexander Pope 亚历山大·蒲柏 (1688~1744) /125

Chapter 4 The Prosperity of the Victorian Age

第四章 维多利亚时期的文学繁荣景象

19世纪的英国文坛, 无论是在诗歌、散文还是小说方面都产生了为数众多的具有世界影响力的作家, 尤其是散文小说在整个19世纪更是盛况空前。

4.1 The Prosperity of Poem 诗歌的繁荣

1. Samuel Taylor Coleridge 塞缪尔·泰勒·柯勒律治 (1772~1834) /133
2. George Gordon Byron 乔治·戈登·拜伦 (1788~1824) /138
3. Percy Bysshe Shelley 珀西·比希·雪莱 (1792~1822) /143

4.2 The Prosperity of Prose 散文的繁荣

1. Thomas De Quincey 托马斯·德·昆西 (1785~1859) /148

4.3 The Prosperity of Novel 小说的繁荣

1. Jane Austen 简·奥斯汀 (1775~1817) /152

2. Charles Dickens 查尔斯·狄更斯 (1812~1870) /158
3. Arthur Conan Doyle 亚瑟·柯南·道尔 (1859~1930) /164

Chapter 5 English Nobel Laureates in Literature

第五章 英国诺贝尔文学奖得主

英国文坛历史悠久，历来多出大师，对世界文坛产生深远的影响，其中有不少人获得诺贝尔文学奖。

1. 1907年诺贝尔文学奖得主——约瑟夫·鲁德亚德·吉卜林 (Joseph Rudyard Kipling, 1865~1936) /171
2. 1925年诺贝尔文学奖得主——乔治·萧伯纳 (George Bernard Shaw, 1856~1950) /180
3. 2005年诺贝尔文学奖得主——哈罗德·品特 (Harold Pinter, 1930~2008) /188
4. 2007年诺贝尔文学奖得主——多丽丝·莱辛 (Doris Lessing, 1919~) /193

Chapter 6 English Top Best-selling Writers

第六章 英国现代畅销书作家

对世界文坛影响深远的英国文学迈进现代社会以后，虽然受到其他文学的冲击，但仍然出现了一些全球范围内的畅销书作家。其中最著名了莫过于 J·K·罗琳了。

1. Joanne Kathleen Rowling J·K·罗琳 (1966~) /201
2. Jacqueline Wilson 杰奎琳·威尔逊 (1945~) /207
3. Terry Pratchett 特里·普拉切特(1948~)/208
4. Enid Blyton 伊妮德·布莱顿 (1897~1968) /211



第一章 英国文学的开端



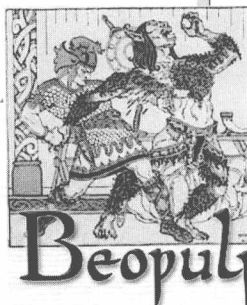
英格兰岛的早期居民凯尔特人和其他部族都没有留下书面文学作品，直到5世纪，原住北欧的盎格鲁、撒克逊和朱特三个部族侵入英国，才有史诗《贝奥武夫》流传下来。作为现存古英语文学中最古老的作品，其作者已不可考。

1. *Beowulf* 《贝奥武夫》

● A Brief Introduction of *Beowulf* 《贝奥武夫》简介

Beowulf is the conventional title of an Old English heroic epic poem consisting of 3182 alliterative long lines, set in Scandinavia, commonly cited as one of the most important works of Anglo-Saxon literature. It survives in a single manuscript known as the Nowell Codex. Its composition by an anonymous Anglo-Saxon poet is dated between the 8th and the early 11th century.

In the poem, Beowulf, a hero of the Geats, battles three antagonists: Grendel, who has been attacking the resident



《贝奥武夫》

warriors of the mead hall of Hroðgar (the king of the Danes), Grendel's mother, and an unnamed dragon. The last battle takes place later in life, Beowulf now being king of the Geats. In the final battle, Beowulf is fatally wounded. After his death his retainers bury him in a tumulus in Geatland.

《贝奥武夫》，又译《贝奥武甫》，是完成于约750年左右的英雄叙事长诗，长达3182行。故事的舞台位于北欧的斯堪的纳维亚半岛。是以古英语记载的传说中最古老的一篇，在语言学方面也是相当珍贵的文献。《贝奥武夫》(*Beowulf*)乃现存古英文文学中最伟大之作，也是欧洲最早的方言史诗。现存的《贝奥武夫》唯一手稿，出于一个名叫诺埃尔的记员之手，成稿时间为十世纪早期。本诗原以西撒克逊方言写成，押头韵而不押尾韵，用双字隐喻而不用明喻。

本书讲述勇士贝奥武夫与怪物格伦德尔搏斗，使其断臂而死。怪物之母为子复仇，又被他追踪杀死。后来他做了国王，一次火龙来犯，他挺身斩龙，伤重而死。人民为他举行了隆重的葬礼。

虽然历史上并未证实确有贝奥武夫其人，但诗中所提及的许多其他人物与事迹却得到印证。《贝奥武夫》仅存的手稿现收藏于大英博物馆。

● The Main Content of *Beowulf* 主要内容

诗内容分为两部分：

第一部分描叙丹麦霍格国王(King Hrothgurs)宏伟的宫殿，在前后十二年中，半人半魔的妖怪格伦德尔(Grendel)每晚出没捉食霍格的战士。此时恰巧瑞典南部济兹(Geats)王子贝奥武夫率家臣来访，协助除害。国王当晚设宴款待，孰料妖怪格伦德尔又复出现，捉食一名济兹战士，贝奥武夫与之格斗，贝氏扭断其臂，妖怪落荒而逃，因受重伤致死。第二天晚上，格伦德尔的母亲前来为其子复仇，其后贝氏把她在一处湖泊的洞穴中杀死。

第二部分描叙贝奥武夫返国，被拥立为王，其前后五十年，举国大治。最后贝奥武夫以垂老之年，杀一喷火巨龙，但其个人亦因此而身受重

创，终于身死。诗末叙述其葬礼，并作挽歌。

● Selected Reading 名著选读——*Beowulf* 《贝奥武夫》

Part II 第二部分

WENT he forth to find at fall of night
that haughty house, and heed wherever
the Ring-Danes, outrevelled, to rest had gone.
Found within it the atheling band
asleep after feasting and fearless of sorrow,
of human hardship. Unhallowed wight,
grim and greedy, he grasped betimes,
wrathful, reckless, from resting-places,
thirty of the thanes, and thence he rushed
fain of his fell spoil, faring homeward,
laden with slaughter, his lair to seek.
Then at the dawning, as day was breaking,
the might of Grendel to men was known;
then after wassail was wail uplifted,
loud moan in the morn. The mighty chief,
atheling excellent, unblithe sat,
labored in woe for the loss of his thanes,
when once had been traced the trail of the fiend,
spirit accurst: too cruel that sorrow,
too long, too loathsome. Not late the respite;
with night returning, anew began
ruthless murder; he recked no whit,

《贝奥武夫》
英国的一部英雄史
诗，是英国文学中
第一部重要作品。
它用古英语写成，
是继希腊、罗马史
诗之后欧洲最早的
一部用本民族语言
写成的史诗。



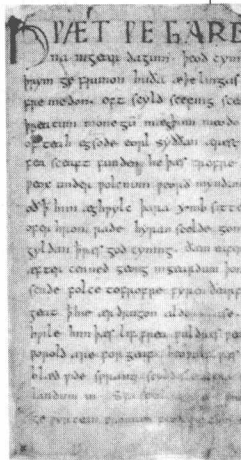
《贝奥武夫》插图



firm in his guilt, of the feud and crime.
They were easy to find who elsewhere sought
in room remote their rest at night,
bed in the bowers, when that bale was shown,
was seen in sooth, with surest token,—
the hall-thane's hate. Such held themselves
far and fast who the fiend outran!
Thus ruled unrighteous and raged his fill
one against all; until empty stood
that lordly building, and long it bode so.
Twelve years' tide the trouble he bore,
sovrán of Scyldings, sorrows in plenty,
boundless cares. There came unhidden
tidings true to the tribes of men,
in sorrowful songs, how ceaselessly Grendel
harassed Hrothgar, what hate he bore him,
what murder and massacre, many a year,
feud unfading, — refused consent
to deal with any of Daneland's earls,
make pact of peace, or compound for gold:
still less did the wise men ween to get
great fee for the feud from his fiendish hands.
But the evil one ambushed old and young
death-shadow dark, and dogged them still,
lured, or lurked in the livelong night
of misty moorlands: men may say not
where the haunts of these Hell-Runes be.
Such heaping of horrors the hater of men,

lonely roamer, wrought unceasing,
 harassings heavy. O'er Heorot he lorded,
 gold-bright hall, in gloomy nights;
 and ne'er could the prince approach his throne,
 — 'twas judgment of God, — or have joy in his hall.
 Sore was the sorrow to Scyldings'-friend,
 heart-rending misery. Many nobles
 sat assembled, and searched out counsel
 how it were best for bold-hearted men
 against harassing terror to try their hand.
 Whiles they vowed in their heathen fanes
 altar-offerings, asked with words
 that the slayer-of-souls would succor give them
 for the pain of their people. Their practice this,
 their heathen hope; 'twas Hell they thought of
 in mood of their mind. Almighty they knew not,
 Doomsman of Deeds and dreadful Lord,
 nor Heaven's-Helmet heeded they ever,
 Wielder-of-Wonder. — Woe for that man
 who in harm and hatred hailes his soul
 to fiery embraces; — nor favor nor change
 awaits he ever. But well for him
 that after death-day may draw to his Lord,
 and friendship find in the Father's arms!

《贝奥武夫》
 是迄今为止最古老的
 的英国民族史诗，
 与法国的《罗兰之
 歌》、德国的《尼
 伯龙根指环》并称
 为欧洲文学的三大
 英雄史诗。



《贝奥武夫》
 现存手稿

2. *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* 《盎格鲁—撒克逊编年史》

● A Brief Introduction Of *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* 简介

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle is a collection of annals in Old English chronicling¹ the history of the Anglo-Saxons. The annals were initially created late in the 9th century, probably in Wessex, during the reign of Alfred the Great. Multiple manuscript copies were made and distributed to monasteries² across England and were independently updated. In one case, the chronicle was still being actively updated in 1154.

The Chronicle is not unbiased: there are occasions when comparison with other medieval sources makes it clear that the scribes who wrote it omitted³ events or told one-sided versions of stories; there are also places where the different versions contradict each other. Taken as a whole, however, the Chronicle is the single most important historical source for the period in England between the departure of the Romans and the decades following the Norman Conquest. Much of the information given in the Chronicle is not recorded elsewhere. In addition, the manuscripts are



1.chronicling n. 编年史，年代记；记录 vt. 把……载入编年史

2. monasteries n. 修道院

3.omit v. 遗漏，省略

important sources for the history of the English language; in particular, the later Peterborough text is one of the earliest examples of Middle English in existence.

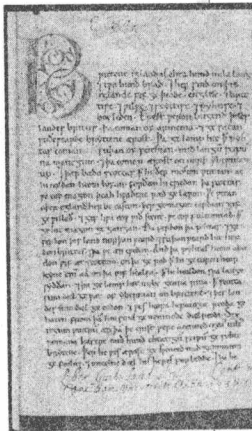
Nine manuscripts survive in whole or in part, though not all are of equal historical value and none of them is the original version. The oldest seems to have been started towards the end of Alfred's reign, while the most recent was written at Peterborough Abbey after a fire at that monastery in 1116. Almost all of the material in the chronicle is in the form of annals, by year; the earliest are dated at 60 BC, and historical material follows up to the year in which the chronicle was written, at which point contemporary records begin. These manuscripts collectively are known as the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*.

《盎格鲁—撒克逊编年史》是一部记载公元前1世纪~12世纪英格兰历史的编年体汇编。这部编年史以古英语书写，大约在9世纪后半期的韦塞克斯 (Wessex) 出现之后由英格兰各地的修道院独立书写、抄录与保存，最晚的更新延续至1154年。

尽管编年史也有偏见，《盎格鲁—撒克逊编年史》在有些情况下就与其他中世纪的版本比较——很明显，作者省略了某些事件或叙述片面的版本；也有一些地方，不同的版本相互矛盾。但总的来看，此纪事是英国在罗马人撤离后和诺曼征服时期之间最重要的历史来源。纪事提供的大部分资料在其他地方没有记录。此外，该手稿是英语语言历史的重要来源，特别是后来的彼得伯勒文本是一个最早的中古英语的例子。

虽然九份手稿并不具有相同的历史价值，并且都不

从公元7、8世纪起，盎格鲁撒克逊各国已有人开始撰写编年史。但这些编年史都是地方性的。记载互有出入。英国统一后，需要有统一的历史记载。因此，阿尔弗雷德大帝组织大批学者，把各地编年史加以校订增删，汇编成这部编年史。



彼得伯勒纪事
初始页

是原版的，但都以完整或部分的形式保存至今。最古老的一份是从阿尔弗雷德统治的开始到结束的记载，最近的一份是1116年彼得伯勒大教堂火灾后的记载。几乎所有的材料都是以史册的形式记载的，以年为单位。其最早日期是公元前60年，在写编年史时，后面跟着历史材料，此时现代记录开始了。

● 现状

现有的编年史为九份彼此相关的手稿，皆为后来抄写的副本，其中[G]是[A]的抄本，不过前者系以拉丁文抄写。

版本	抄本名称	收藏地点	手稿
A	<i>The Parker Chronicle or The Winchester Chronicle</i>	剑桥大学圣体学院	MS. 173
B	<i>The Abingdon Chronicle I</i>	大英图书馆	Cotton MS. Tiberius A vi.
C	<i>The Abingdon Chronicle II</i>	大英图书馆	Cotton MS. Tiberius B i.
D	<i>The Worcester Chronicle</i>	大英图书馆	Cotton MS. Tiberius B iv.
E	<i>The Laud Chronicle or The Peterborough Chronicle</i>	博德利图书馆	MS Laud 636
F	<i>The Bilingual Canterbury Epitome</i>	大英图书馆	Cotton MS. Domitian A viii.
G或A2、W	A Copy of <i>The Winchester Chronicle</i>	大英图书馆	Cotton MS. Otho B xi., 2
H	<i>Cottonian Fragment</i>	大英图书馆	Cotton MS. Domitian A ix.
I	<i>An Easter Table Chronicle</i>	大英图书馆	Cotton MS. Caligula A xv.

● Selected Reading 选读

导读：本文选取的版本由牧师詹姆斯·英格拉姆 (Rev. James Ingram) 翻译。这个版本的文字主要基于普通人出版社 (Everyman Press, London, 1912) 1912年出版的名为《盎格鲁—撒克逊编年史》的书。

1~448

The island Britain is 800 miles long, and 200 miles broad. And there

The Embryo of English Literature

Chapter I

are in the island five nations; English, Welsh (or British) , Scottish, Pictish, and Latin. The first inhabitants were the Britons, who came from Armenia, and first peopled Britain southward. Then happened it, that the Picts came south from Scythia, with long ships, not many; and, landing first in the northern part of Ireland, they told the Scots that they must dwell there. But they would not give them leave; for the Scots told them that they could not all dwell there together; "But," said the Scots, "we can nevertheless give you advice. We know another island here to the east. There you may dwell, if you will; and whosoever withstandeth you, we will assist you, that you may gain it." Then went the Picts and entered this land northward. Southward the Britons possessed it, as we before said. And the Picts obtained wives of the Scots, on condition that they chose their kings always on the female side; which they have continued to do, so long since. And it happened, in the run of years, that some party of Scots went from Ireland into Britain, and acquired some portion of this land. Their leader was called Reoda, from whom they are named Dalreodi (or Dalreathians). Sixty winters ere that Christ was born, Caius Julius, emperor of the Romans, with eighty ships sought Britain. There he was first beaten in a dreadful fight, and lost a great part of his army. Then he let his army abide with the Scots, and went south into Gaul. There he gathered six hundred ships, with which he went back into Britain. When they first rushed together, Caesar's tribune, whose name was Labienus, was slain. Then took the Welsh sharp

本书是英国最著名的史书之一，也是中世纪早期西欧最重要的史学著作之一，是记载公元前50年至公元1154年英国历史的唯一史料，因此具有极高的历史学价值。