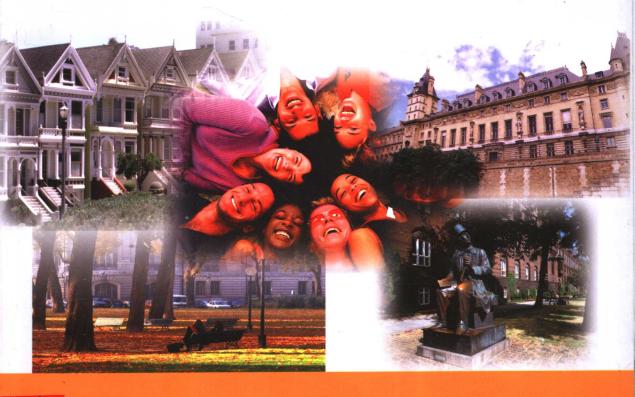
## 世界名校及留学

### 指南

谢艳明 主编

Guide to World Famous Universities





# 世界名校及留学 指南

谢艳明 主编

Guide to World Famous Universities



#### 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

世界名校及留学指南/谢艳明主编.一开封:河南 大学出版社, 2005.10

(全球化思维英语指导丛书)

ISBN 7-81091-425-1

Ⅰ.世... Ⅱ.谢... Ⅲ.①英语...对照读物一英、 汉②高等学校一世界一指南③留学牛教育一世界一指 南 IV. H319.4:G

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2005) 第 125603 号

书 名 世界名校及留学指南

主 编 谢艳明

责任编辑 薛巧玲

责任印制 王 慧

责任校对 苏 婷

装帧设计 马 龙

出 版 河南大学出版社

地址:河南省开封市明伦街 85 号

电话: 0378 - 2864669(事业部)

网址: www. hupress. com

邮编: 475001

0378 - 2825001(营销部)

E-mail: bangong@ hupress.com

经 销 河南省新华书店

排 版 河南第一新华印刷厂

印 刷 河南第一新华印刷厂

版 次 2005年10月第1版

本 787mm×1092mm 1/16

字 数 257 千字

印 次 2005年10月第1次印刷

印张 14.75

印 数 1-3000 册

ISBN 7 - 81091 - 425 - 1/H · 140

定 价 26.80 元

#### 前言

信息高速公路将人们之间的距离拉得越来越近,地球变成了一个村庄,各个国家、各个民族都是这个村庄里的一员,全球化将我们每一个人都无情地卷了进去。为了迎接这个时代的挑战,我们首先要培养"全球化思维",用全球化的思想观念来审视这个世界,思索我们的人生。

全球化像初升的太阳,是个无可争辩、无可回避的事实。21 世纪将由全球化所主宰,就像20 世纪被工业化所主宰一样。不同之点是:工业化革命花了100 年时间才分出胜利者和失败者,就是所谓的工业国家和欠发达国家,而这一过程在全球化进程中只需要20 年就足够了。世界经济论坛主席施瓦布说过:"这种新的全球化经济发展的驱动力将会使那些没有充分利用这种驱动力的人或企业受到惩罚。"

在席卷整个世界的全球化浪潮中,我们要么会从中受益,要么会受到它的惩罚。因而,我们的思维要放眼全球,认清国际形势,看看整个世界的样子,理解不同民族的风俗习惯和文化,了解高等教育的发展水平和方向。为此,我们编写了这套《"全球化思维"英语指导丛书》,试图将整个世界的结构、景点、风俗、文化和高等教育呈现给读者。丛书首批出版 4 册,分别是《国际组织及机构指南》、《世界名胜及旅游指南》、《世界名校及留学指南》和《世界文化及风俗指南》。

《国际组织及机构指南》为您介绍 40 多个世界上有重大影响的组织和机构,如联合国、世界贸易组织、世界银行、国际标准化组织、国际奥委会、国际刑警组织等等,它们在政治上、经济上、文化上、体育上和国际安全方面领导或保护着整个世界。本书介绍它们的组织形式和历史发展,给您一个了解世界的窗口。

《世界名胜及旅游指南》简要描述世界上 50 个重要城市或景点,如伦敦、巴黎、纽约、东京、新加坡等等,这些城市和地区有着美丽的风景等着您去探访。在当前经济实力越来越强大的中国,人民的生活水平有了翻天覆地的变化,出境旅游成了时尚。出国旅游,了解世界,也是培养"全球化思

维"的一种方式。而在出去之前,阅读此书,预先了解一下世界上主要城市的美景和气候,这会大大方便您的出行。

《世界名校及留学指南》简要介绍世界上 41 所一流大学,如牛津大学、剑桥大学、哈佛大学、东京大学等等。知识已成为当今世界的主角,知识改变命运。许许多多的中国青年为了寻求最前沿的科技知识,远涉重洋到国外求学。如果您已经准备好了出国留学,您一定希望多多了解您要去的那所大学,或许您想去的大学就在本书之中。

《世界文化及风俗指南》生动有趣地介绍了世界各地的文化及其风俗习惯。全球化并不意味着各个民族不同的文化就要消失,取而代之以同化了的国际文化。恰恰相反,越是民族的越是世界的,不同地区的文化将继续保存发展下去,共同构成多样化的全球文化。所以,培养"全球化思维"就离不开文化和风俗的知识。

全套丛书采取英汉对照的方式呈现在读者面前,特别强调英语词汇的学习,因而我们对生词和难词作了注解,以方便读者阅读。我们还查阅了大量资料,对文中出现的知识点作了较为详细的注释,让读者了解更多的背景知识。本丛书语言精炼,非常贴近语言的最新发展,知识性、可读性和趣味性都很强,相信它对您的全球化思维大有裨益。

编者 2005年3月

### 目 录

1. University of Cambridge	( 1 <sup>1</sup>
2. University of Oxford 牛津大学 ······	
3. University of London 伦敦大学	
4. University of Edinburgh   爱丁堡大学	
5. Harvard University 哈佛大学	
6. Stanford University 斯坦福大学	
7. Yale University 耶鲁大学	(28)
8. University of California at Los Angeles	
加利福尼亚大学洛杉矶分校	(34)
9. Princeton University 普林斯顿大学	(39)
	(47)
12. Columbia University 哥伦比亚大学·····	(51)
13. University of Toronto 多伦多大学 ······	(58)
15. University of Helsinki 赫尔辛基大学 ······	(65)
16. University of Copenhagen 哥本哈根大学 ·····	(69)
18. University of Heidelberg 海德堡大学 ······	
	(82)
20. University of Frankfurt 法兰克福大学·······	
21. University of Zurich 苏黎世大学	
	(93)
23. Moscow University 莫斯科大学 ······	
24. Catholic University of Louvain 鲁汶大学	
25. University of Bologna 波洛尼亚大学(	
26. Stockholm University 斯德哥尔摩大学 ······(	
27. University of Oslo 奥斯陆大学(	114)

#### 世界名校及留学指南

28. University of Tokyo 东京大学	(118)
29. Waseda University 早稻田大学 ······	(122)
30. Keio University 庆应义塾大学	
31. Kyoto University 京都大学 ······	(132)
32. Korea University 高丽大学 ······	(136)
33. Seoul National University 国立汉城大学	(141)
34. National University of Singapore 新加坡国立大学	(146)
35. University of Hong Kong 香港大学	(152)
36. University of Cape Town 开普敦大学	(157)
37. University of the South Pacific 南太平洋大学	(162)
38. University of Auckland 奥克兰大学	(166)
39. University of Sydney 悉尼大学	(170)
40. University of Queensland 昆士兰大学	(174)
41. University of Melbourne 墨尔本大学	(177)
42. Personal Statement 如何撰写个人陈述	(182)
范例(医学专业)	(185)
范例二(新闻专业)	(188)
范例三(计算机专业)	(190)
范例四(人文专业)	(192)
范例五(英语专业)	(194)
43. Recommendation Letter 如何撰写推荐信 ······	(196)
范例一(法律专业)	(197)
范例二(英语专业)	(200)
范例三(理科专业)	(201)
范例四(工商管理专业)	(203)
范例五(医学专业)	(206)
44. 赴美留学指南	(207)
45. 赴加拿大留学指南	(215)
46. 赴英留学指南	(219)
47. 赴日本留学指南	(222)
48. 赴澳大利亚留学指南	(224)
49. 赴新西兰留学指南	(226)
后记	(229)

#### 1. University of Cambridge

#### 剑 桥 大 学

The mission of the University of Cambridge is to contribute to<sup>①</sup> society through the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence. Its core values are freedom of thought and

expression and freedom from discrimination<sup>2</sup>.

The University of Cambridge is a loose confederation<sup>®</sup> of faculties, colleges, and other bodies. It works with a relatively small central administration, and with central governing and supervisory bodies consisting of the academic personnel of the faculties and colleges. An unusually large part of Cambridge's day-to-day administration is carried out by teaching staff on



behalf of their colleagues, and the University's legislative structure is in practice open to consultation<sup>®</sup> and participation.

To understand how the "Cambridge" structure operates, it helps to keep the historical origins in mind. The University was established in about 1209 to examine and to confer degrees. The first Colleges, each autonomous<sup>⑤</sup> and independent with its own governing body and charter, were established later, from 1284, principally to teach and house students at all levels.

Today, the Colleges are mainly concerned with the teaching of their undergraduates and the academic support of both graduate and undergraduate

① contribute to 有助于,为…做贡献

② discrimination [dis.krimi'neifən] n. 歧视,区别对待

③ confederation [kənˌfedəˈreiʃən] n. 联邦,联盟

④ consultation [ˌkənsəl'teifən] n. 协商,磋商,会商

⑤ autonomous [ɔɪ'tənəməs] adj. 自治的

students, and of scholars and research workers of outstanding merit. The University employs professors, readers, lecturers and other teaching and administrative staff who provide the formal teaching. The Colleges supplement<sup>①</sup> their teaching with supervisions, given by fellows or others appointed by the College, and each College also provides library and other learning resources exclusively for its own members.

Today, the University retains sole responsibility for examinations and for conferring<sup>®</sup> degrees. The Colleges, on the other hand, have responsibility for selecting, admitting and accommodating all undergraduate students, and a student cannot enter the University unless he or she also becomes a member of a College. However, the University lays down the admission qualifications for undergraduate students, and also has certain controls over the statutes of the individual colleges.

#### **Colleges**

There are 31 colleges in Cambridge. Three are for women (New Hall, Newnham and Lucy Cavendish) and two admit only graduates (Clare Hall and Darwin). Each College is an independent institution with its own property and income. The Colleges appoint their own staff and are responsible for selecting students, in accordance with University regulations. The teaching of students is shared between the Colleges and University departments. Degrees are awarded by the University.

Within each College, staff and students of all disciplines are brought together. This cross-fertilization has encouraged the free exchange of ideas. Trinity and St John's have also established science parks, providing facilities for students, and making a significant contribution to Cambridge as a center of innovation and technology.

#### Queens' College

First founded in 1448 by Margaret of Anjou, Queens' is fiercely proud of its

① supplement [ 'saplimant] v. 补充, 增补

② confer [kən'fəː] v. 授予, 赠予

③ in accordance with 按照

④ innovation [ inəu'veifən ] n. 改革, 创新

royal patronesses<sup>①</sup>, including its most recent, the late Queen Elizabeth's Mother. The history of the college, much like its architecture, is rich, complex and varied. The main College site sits astride<sup>②</sup> the River Cam, the two halves joined across the river by the famous Mathematical Bridge. This watery division can give visitors the impression of stepping across the bridge from the twentieth century to the fifteenth. Regardless of age of the buildings, the available space in College has been used to increase and improve facilities for the benefit of all members of the College. Even the famous medieval Old Hall is used for student concerts, parties, rehearsals<sup>③</sup> and dinners. Today the college has become one of the most modern and comfortable working Colleges in Cambridge without having lost any of the historical charm.

#### The Trinity College

The history of Trinity goes back to the reign of Henry VIII and most of its major buildings date from the 16th and 17th centuries. The beauty and size of Trinity's courts attract visitors from all over the world, but the College is also a thriving, modern community.

Trinity College was founded by Henry VII in 1546, combining Michaelhouse and King's Hall. Michaelhouse had existed since 1324; King's Hall had been established by Edward II in 1317.



Undergraduates of the 16th century included Francis Bacon, philosopher and statesman, and the Earl of Essex, a favorite of Elizabeth I. The poets George Herbert, Andrew Marvell and John Dryden were at Trinity in the 17th century. Isaac Newton, one of the greatest scientists, entered the College as an undergraduate in 1661 and remained at Trinity until 1696, by which time his most important mathematical and scientific work had

been completed. Byron, Thackeray, and Tennyson were Trinity undergraduates

① patroness ['peitranis] n. 女资助人, 女赞助者

② astride [əs'traid] adv. 跨着

③ rehearsal [ri'hə:səl] n. 排演, 演习

in the early part of the 19th century.

Famous figures associated with Trinity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries include James Clerk Maxwell, author of the theory of electromagnetism; J. J. Thomson and Ernest Rutherford, two of the pioneers of atomic physics; the historian G. M. Trevelyan; philosophers Bertrand Russell and Ludwig Wittgenstein; Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India; and the novelist Vladimir Nabokov.

Life at Trinity has changed greatly over the centuries but the strong academic tradition has been maintained. In science and economics, for example, Trinity has provided 31 Nobel Prize winners. Today the College is part of a forward-looking University renowned for the excellence of its teaching and research.

#### 【注释】

- 1. Francis Bacon:弗朗西斯·培根(1561—1626),英国哲学家、论说文作家、法理学家和政治家。
- 2. George Herbert: 乔治·赫伯特(1593—1633),英国玄学派诗人。他的作品以宗教为主题,以丰富的意象和创新的音步为特征。
- 3. Andrew Marvell:安德鲁·马韦尔(1621—1678),英国玄学派诗人,其讽刺性作品包括诗歌《致羞涩的情人》(1650年)和《爱的定义》(1681年)。
- 4. John Dryden:约翰·德莱顿(1631—1700),英国作家和桂冠诗人,是英王复辟时期文 学界的杰出人物。
- 5. Thackeray:威廉·梅克皮斯·萨克雷(1811—1863),英国作家,其代表作为《名利场》。
- 6. Tennyson: 艾尔弗雷德·丁尼生(1809—1892), 英国诗人, 其作品包括《悼念》(1850年)和《轻骑兵的责任》(1854年), 反映了维多利亚时期的情感和美学思想。1850年他获得桂冠诗人的称号。
- 7. Bertrand Russell: 贝特朗·罗素 (1872—1970), 英国哲学家、数学家、社会评论家和作家。他对于符号逻辑、逻辑实证论和数学的体论体系的发展有很深的影响。
- 8. Vladimir Nabokov: 弗拉基米尔・纳伯科夫(1899—1977), 俄裔美国诗人、短篇故事和小说家,以讽刺作品《洛利塔》(1955年)最为著名。

#### 【参考译文】

剑桥大学的使命就是通过追求最高国际优秀标准的教育、学习和研究 来为社会做贡献,它的核心价值观是思想和言论自由以及免于歧视的自由。

剑桥大学是系部、学院和其他机构的一个松散联盟,它的工作机制是一

个相对较小的中央行政机构,以及中央管理和监督机构,这些机构由各系部和学院的学术人士构成。剑桥大学异常庞大的日常行政管理是由教职工代表各自学院完成的,学校的立法结构实际上向协商和参与开放。

为了理解剑桥的结构是怎样运作的,最好要记住它的历史渊源。剑桥大学大约成立于 1209 年,当时是为了评审和授予学位。第一批自治的管理机构和章程独立的学院后来从 1284 年起陆续成立,主要是为了教育和管理各个层次的学生。

今天,学院主要涉及本科生的教学,给研究生、本科生、具有杰出成就的学者和研究人员提供学术支持。大学聘用教授、评阅人、讲师和其他教学行政人员来提供正常教学。学院任命督导员和其他人员进行监督,以加强教学。每个学院还提供专门向自己成员开放的图书馆和其他学习资源。

今天,剑桥大学仍然保持着评审和授予学位的唯一职责,学院则负责挑选本科生、批准人学及供应膳宿,学生只有在成为学院一员之后才能进入大学。然而,大学为本科生制定了人学资格政策,对各个学院的规章制度也有一定的控制权。

#### 学院

剑桥大学有 31 个学院,其中三个为女子学院(即新豪尔学院、纽汉姆学院和露西卡文迪什学院),两个学院只招研究生(即克莱尔豪尔学院和达尔文学院)。每个学院都是一个独立的机构,有自己的财产和收入,有权任命自己的教职工,并按照大学的规章制度负责挑选学生。学生的教学工作由各学院和大学系部共同承担,学位由大学授予。

在每个学院内部,各个学科的教师和学生都会安排在一起,这种交叉取长补短的方式激励了思想的自由交流。三一学院和圣约翰学院还建立了科学公园,给学生提供设施,为剑桥大学作为技术创新中心做出重大贡献。

#### 女王学院

女王学院最初是由安茹的马格里特创立于 1448 年。它特别以自己的皇家女资助人为豪,包括伊丽莎白女王最近已故的母亲。学院的历史很像它的建筑一样丰富、复杂、多样。学院的主址横跨剑河,其两部分通过著名的数学大桥连接起来,这一河水相隔给游客一种走过大桥,就从 20 世纪步入 15 世纪的印象。不管建筑物年代多久远,学院里的可用空间已经被用来增添和改善设施,为学院的所有成员提供便利。甚至著名的中世纪古老大厅也被用于学生的音乐会、舞会、排练和用餐。今天,学院已经成为剑桥大学最现代、工作最舒适又没有丢失任何历史魅力的学院之一。

#### 三一学院

三一学院的历史要追溯到亨利八世的统治时期,它的多数主要建筑物 也要追溯到 16 世纪和 17 世纪。三一学院校园的美丽和规格吸引着来自世 界各地的游客,但是学院也是一个欣欣向荣的现代社区。

1546年,亨利八世将迈克尔楼和国王大厅合并起来组建了三一学院,迈克尔楼从1324年就已经存在了,而国王大厅是由爱德华二世在1317年建造的。

16 世纪的本科生包括哲学家兼政治家弗朗西斯·培根,他是埃塞克斯伯爵,伊丽莎白一世的宠臣。诗人乔治·赫伯特、安德鲁·马韦尔和约翰·德莱顿在 17 世纪的时候在这里就读。伟大的科学家艾萨克·牛顿自 1661年入学院就读之后,一直呆到 1696 年完成了自己最重要的数理研究工作为止。拜伦、萨克雷和丁尼生是三一学院 19 世纪前期的本科生。

19 世纪后期和 20 世纪早期与三一学院有联系的著名人物包括电磁场理论创始人詹姆斯·克拉克·麦克斯韦、原子物理的先驱约瑟夫·约翰·汤姆逊和欧内斯特·卢瑟福、历史学家乔治·麦考莱·特里威廉、哲学家贝特朗·罗素和路德维格·维特根施泰因、印度的第一任总理贾瓦哈拉尔·尼赫鲁,以及小说家弗拉基米尔·纳伯科夫。

几个世纪以来,三一学院的生活已经有了很大的改变,但是它浓郁的学术传统保留了下来。比如,在科学和经济学领域里,三一学院已经培养了31名诺贝尔奖获得者。今天,三一学院成了以卓越的教学和研究而闻名的前瞻性大学的一部分。

#### 2. University of Oxford

#### 牛 津 大 学

Oxford is a unique and historic institution. As the oldest English university, it lays claim to<sup>®</sup> eight centuries of continuous existence. There is no clear date of foundation, but teaching existed at Oxford in some form in 1096 and developed rapidly from 1167, when Henry II banned English students from

① lay claim to 要求, 主张, 自以为

attending the University of Paris.

In the 13th century, rioting between students and townspeople hastened the establishment of primitive halls of residence. These were succeeded by the first of Oxford's colleges, which began as medieval "halls of residence". University, Balliol and Merton Colleges, established between 1249 and 1264, were the oldest.

Less than a century later, Oxford had achieved eminence<sup>®</sup> in every field of learning, and won the praises of popes, kings and sages by



virtue of<sup>3</sup> its antiquity<sup>4</sup>, curriculum, doctrine and disciplinary<sup>5</sup> advantage. In 1355, Edward Ⅲ paid tribute to<sup>6</sup> the University for its invaluable contribution to learning; he also commented on the services rendered to the state by distinguished Oxford graduates.

Oxford early on became a center for lively controversy<sup>®</sup>, with scholars involved in religious and political disputes. John Wyclif, a 14th-century Master of Balliol, campaigned for a bible in the vernacular<sup>®</sup>, against the wishes of the papacy<sup>®</sup>. In 1530, Henry W forced the University to accept his divorce from Catherine of Aragon. During the Reformation in the 16th century, the Anglican churchmen Cranmer, Latimer and Ridley were tried for heresy<sup>®</sup> and burnt at the stake in Oxford.

In the late 17th century, the Oxford philosopher John Locke, suspected of

① hasten ['heisn] v. 促进, 加速

② eminence ['eminons] n. 卓越, 显赫, 著名

③ by virtue of 依靠, 由于

④ antiquity [æn'tikwiti] n. 古代, 古老

⑤ disciplinary ['disiplinari] adj. 学术的, 学科的, 训练的

⑥ pay tribute to 赞扬,颂扬

⑦ controversy ['kontrovo:si] n. 论争,辩论,论战

⑧ vernacular [vəˈnækjulə] adj. 本国的

⑨ papacy ['peipəsi] n. 罗马教皇

① heresy ['herəsi] n. 异端, 异教

treason<sup>①</sup>, was forced to flee the country. The 18th century was an era of scientific discovery and religious revival. Edmund Halley, Professor of Geometry, predicted the return of the comet that bears his name; John and Charles Wesley's prayer meetings laid the foundations of the Methodist Society.

The University assumed a leading role in the Victorian era, especially in religious controversy. From 1811 onwards the Oxford Movement sought to revitalize<sup>2</sup> the Catholic aspects of the Anglican Church. One of its leaders, John Henry Newman, became a Roman Catholic in 1845 and was later made a Cardinal. In 1860 the new University Museum was the site of a famous debate between Thomas Huxley, the champion of evolution, and Bishop Wilberforce.

From 1878, academic halls were established for women, who became members of the University in 1920. Since 1974, all but one of Oxford's 39 colleges have changed their statutes to admit both men and women. St Hilda's remains the only women's college.

In the years since the war, Oxford has added to its humanistic core a major new research capacity in the natural and applied sciences. In so doing, it has enhanced and strengthened its traditional role as a focus for learning and a forum<sup>3</sup> for intellectual debate.

At present, the university has 39 official Colleges of the University and 7 Permanent Private Halls.

#### New College

New College is one of the largest Oxford colleges, with some 400 undergraduates and nearly 200 graduates. It is, like all Oxford colleges, an autonomous, self-governing institution. The governing body consists of the Warden and Fellows, with both undergraduate and graduate students represented. Most Fellows of the College are both College Tutors and University Lecturers in the subjects which are taught here. Others are University Professors and Junior Research Fellows who do not engage in tutorial teaching.

New College is, of course, first and foremost an intellectual community.

① treason [ˈtriːzn] n. 叛逆,通敌,叛国罪

② revitalize [ri:'vaitəlaiz] v. 使恢复元气,使新生

③ forum ['fɔ:rəm] n. 论坛, 讨论会

Most Fellows are engaged in academic research as well as teaching, and many of them are world experts in their subject. The College is a place in which staff and students alike engage in a lively exchange of ideas. For all members of New College, the discussion not only with specialists in one's own field but also with experts in very different disciplines is an exciting and enriching one.

#### Green College

Green College brings together academic excellence and contemporary awareness, with a primary focus on human welfare in today's world. The College is dedicated to the needs of graduate students. It has a pre-eminence in clinical medicine, as directed by the College's founders, but its specialties have broadened considerably in recent years. Today it attracts the most talented students and researchers in all aspects of medicine, health, education, welfare, the environment and the social, behavioral and life sciences. The College was established in 1979 and named after its principal benefactors, Dr Cecil Green and his wife, Dr Ida Green. At the center of the College estate is the magnificent Radcliffe Observatory, built 200 years ago and inspired by the Tower of the Winds in Athens. Many regard the Observatory as one of Europe's most beautiful buildings.

#### 【注释】

- 1. John Wyclif:约翰·威克里夫(1328?—1384),英国神学家和宗教改革者,他反对圣经作为教皇权力的基础,抨击圣体论,由此激起新教改革运动。
- 2. Edmund Halley:埃德蒙·哈雷(1656—1742),英国天文学家,1705 年运用牛顿的运动 定律准确预测了一颗彗星的出现周期。
- 3. John Locke:约翰·洛克(1632-1704),英国哲学家,在《人类理智论》(1690年)中,他提出了经验论原则,他的《政府两记》(1690年)影响了《独立宣言》。
- 4. Thomas Huxley:托马斯・亨利・赫胥黎(1825—1895),英国生物学家,达尔文进化论的支持者。
- 5. Permanent Private Halls:准学院,也叫"永久性私人学堂",由各宗教教派创办。

#### 【参考译文】

牛津大学是一座独特的、具有历史意义的机构,它是英国最古老的大学,有8个世纪的连续办学历史。虽然没有确切的成立日期,但是1096年在牛津就存在某种形式的教学,从1167年亨利二世禁止英国学生上巴黎大

学起,牛津的教学活动得到飞速发展。

在13世纪,学生和市民之间的冲突加速了建立最初的常驻讲堂,作为中世纪"常驻讲堂"而开端的第一批牛津大学学院继承了这些,最古老的学院是建于1249年至1264年间的大学学院、贝列尔学院和默顿学院。

不到一个世纪之后,牛津大学在每个学习领域内取得了卓越的成就,并 因其悠久历史、课程、学说和学科优势得到了教皇、国王和圣人的赞扬。 1355年,爱德华三世赞扬了牛津大学为传递知识所做出的杰出贡献,他还赞 扬了优秀牛津毕业生为国家提供的服务。

早期,牛津大学成了活跃的学术争鸣中心,学者们参与了宗教和政治的辩论。14世纪的贝列尔学院教师约翰·威克里夫反对教皇的意愿,极力主张圣经本国论。1530年,亨利八世强迫大学接受他与阿拉贡的凯瑟琳离婚。在16世纪的宗教改革年代里,英国国教教士克兰麦、雷帝默和里得雷因为异端学说而受到审判,并被烧死在牛津大学火邢柱上。

17世纪后期,牛津哲学家约翰·洛克遭受叛国嫌疑,被迫流落异乡。 18世纪是一个科学发现和宗教复苏的年代,几何学教授埃德蒙·哈雷预测 了一颗彗星的回归,这颗彗星后来以他的名字命名;约翰·卫斯理和查尔 斯·卫斯理举行了祷告会,为卫理公会教派奠定了基础。

在维多利亚时代,牛津大学承担了领导角色,特别在宗教争论中。从 1811年起,牛津运动寻求复苏英国国教中的天主教,其中的一个领袖,约翰·亨利·纽曼于1845年皈依罗马天主教,后来成为红衣主教。1860年, 新落成的大学博物馆成了进化论拥护者托马斯·赫胥黎和威尔伯福斯主教举行著名辩论的场所。

1878年,为妇女设立了学术厅,1920年,妇女成了牛津大学的成员。从1974年起,牛津大学的39个学院大都改变了它们的规定——既接受男生,也接受女生,唯独圣西尔达学院仍然保持为女子学院。

战后的几年里,牛津大学在以人文为核心的基础上增加了自然科学和应用科学新的重大研究范畴。通过这种方式,它加强了作为传递知识中心和学术争鸣论坛的传统角色。

现在,牛津大学拥有39个正式学院和7个永久性私人学堂。

#### 新学院

新学院是牛津大学最大的学院之一,有大约 400 名本科生和近 200 名研究生。像所有的牛津学院一样,它是一个自治的、自我管理的机构,其管理机构由院长和院务委员以及研究生和本科生代表构成,多数院务委员既