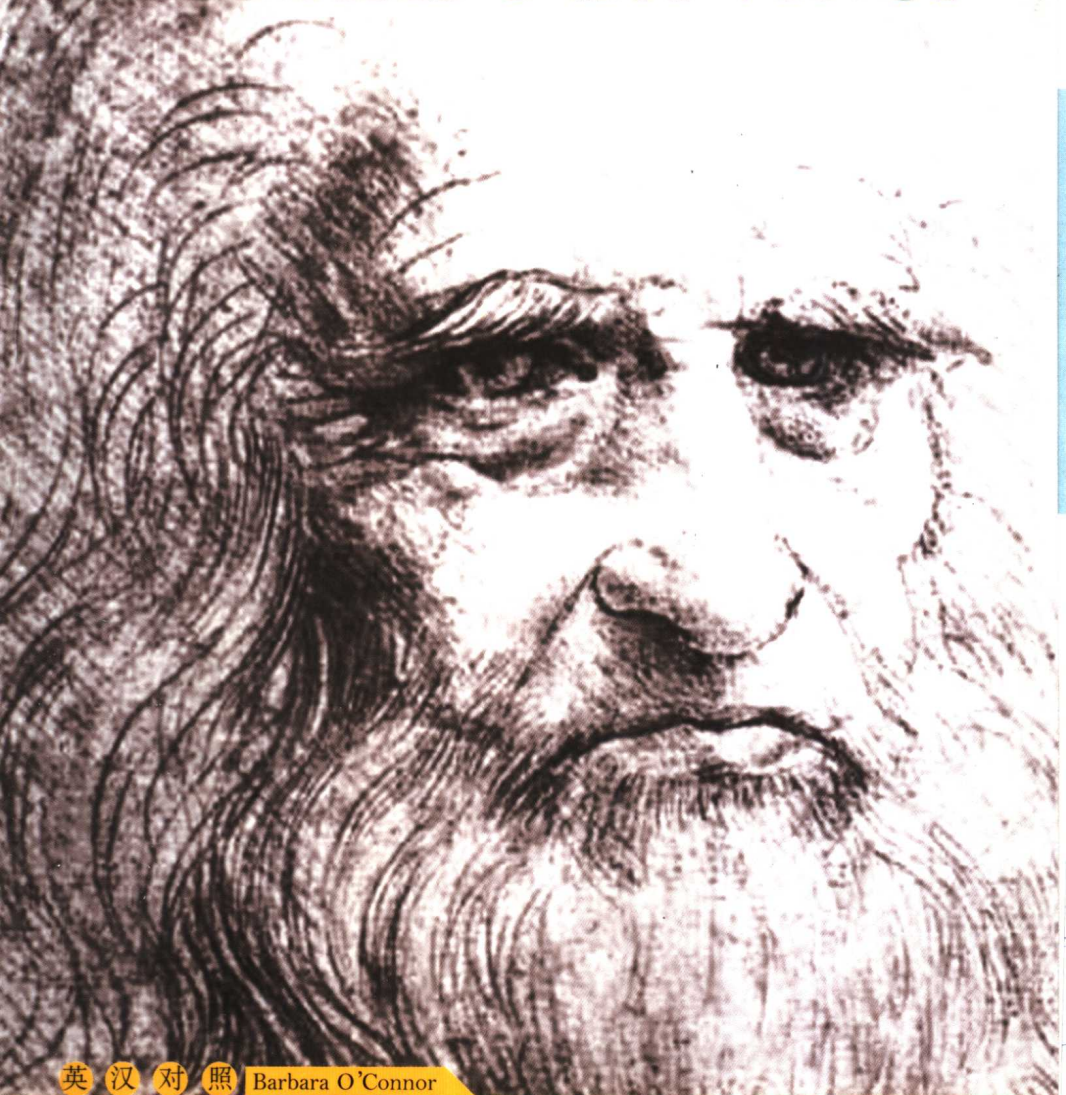


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# LEONARDO DA VINCI



英 汉 对 照 Barbara O'Connor

## 达·芬奇

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Barbara O'Connor

王乐译注



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*For Janet*

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# Biography 外教社 人物 传记 丛书

## 出版前言

曾经有人做了一项调查，拥有最多读者的书籍是传记。阅读一本优秀的人物传记，往往可以使人振作精神，奋发图强，尤其对于青少年，阅读传记更可以使他们建立起正确的人生坐标，从而开拓美好的未来。

上海外语教育出版社从美国乐勒出版集团引进的“外教社人物传记丛书”就是这样一套奉献给广大青少年朋友的优秀传记丛书。全套书共13册，人物包括美国开国元勋本杰明·富兰克林，著名黑人民权运动领袖马丁·路德·金，文豪莎士比亚，意大利文艺复兴巨匠达·芬奇，极具个人魅力的体育明星泰格·伍兹、穆罕默德·阿里、魔术师约翰逊，影视音乐界的巨星卓别林、史蒂文·斯皮尔伯格、玛丽莲·梦露、甲壳虫乐队，商界奇才比尔·盖茨，以及深受世人爱戴的戴安娜王妃等。阅读这些著名人物的传奇人生，可以帮助青少年朋友们了解西方不同时代的社会历史背景，更能够激励他们树立远大理想，以积极的态度直面人生的风雨。

这套传记丛书均由专门从事青少年文学创作的美国资深作家撰写，语言生动活泼，故事性强，引人入胜。外教社特邀一批在翻译方面颇有建树的年轻学者对丛书进行翻译和注释，希望英汉对照加注这一形式能更好地帮助读者学习英语，享受阅读。

这套丛书特别适合高中生和大学一二年级的学生阅读。我们相信它必将成为青少年朋友们学习英语、探求人生真谛的好伙伴！

上海外语教育出版社  
2005年6月

# 达·芬奇

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## 人 物 传 记 丛 书



# LEONARDO DA VINCI

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LEONARDO IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE WORLD'S greatest artists. His scientific discoveries and inventions amaze historians and scientists alike. We know of many of his achievements, but much of his life remains a mystery.

Leonardo lived over five hundred years ago, and there are few records about his life. The artist himself, however, kept thousands of

drawings, inventions, opinions, and notes. From his notes, we have learned much about his ideas and achievements. Unfortunately, his notes are not as complete as a person's daily

thoughts.

Leonardo da Vinci was written about by the artist, architect, and writer Giorgio Vasari. Vasari collected stories about Leonardo from his friends. His biography was published as part of a volume

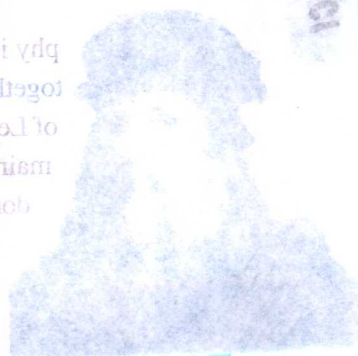


## Author's Note

### 作者的话

However, most modern historians believe the biography contains mistakes, incorrect information, and exaggerated legends.

Since the completion of Vasari's biography in 1568, biographers have tried to piece together a more accurate picture of the life of Leonardo da Vinci. However, with few remaining historical documents, biographers don't always agree on some of the facts surrounding this famous artist and scientist.



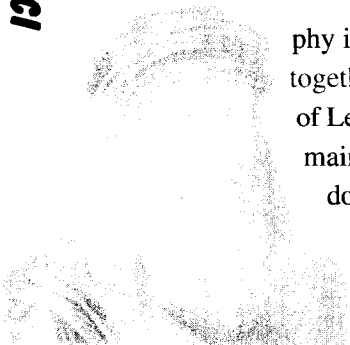


LEONARDO IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE WORLD'S greatest artists. His scientific discoveries and inventions amaze historians and scientists alike. We know of many of his achievements, but much of his life remains a mystery.

Leonardo lived over five hundred years ago, and there are very few documented facts about his life. The artist himself left behind few clues. During his lifetime, he kept thousands of pages of notes containing drawings, inventions, opinions, observations, and letters. From his notes, we have learned much about his ideas and accomplishments. Unfortunately, his notes reveal almost nothing about Leonardo as a person — his daily life, his personality, or his emotions.

The first biography of Leonardo da Vinci was written almost fifty years after his death by the artist, architect, and writer Giorgio Vasari! Vasari collected stories about Leonardo from Leonardo's former pupils and friends. His biography was published as part of a volume titled *Lives of the Painters, Sculptors and Architects*. It is a valuable description of Leonardo's life. However, most modern historians believe the biography contains mistakes, incorrect information, and exaggerated legends.

Since the completion of Vasari's biography in 1568, biographers have tried to piece together<sup>[1]</sup> a more accurate picture of the life of Leonardo da Vinci. However, with few remaining historical documents, biographers don't always agree on some of the facts surrounding this famous artist and scientist.





When researching information for this biography, it became obvious that much of what is published about Leonardo da Vinci is a patchwork of information. As a biographer, I have chosen to do my best to piece together the most accurate and complete portrait possible of a man whose life and work have inspired so many of us. I have also tried to tell the story of when a story about the man or his work was first told, or when a story about the man or his work was first told, or when a story about the man or his work was first told.

利奥纳多被公认为世界上最伟大的艺术家之一，他的科学发现和发明创造令历史学家和科学家们赞叹不已。尽管他的许多成就已为世人所熟知，但他的生活至今仍是一个谜。

利奥纳多生活在500多年前，有关他的生活记录少之又少，艺术家本人也没有为后人留下可供追溯的线索。他在一生中留下了数千张有关绘画、发明、观点、观察报告的手稿和信件。从手稿中，我们获得了很多有关他的思想和成就的信息。遗憾的是，在利奥纳多的手稿中，有关他日常生活、个性或是情感方面的信息却是觅无踪影。

利奥纳多·达·芬奇的第一部传记是由画家、建筑师兼作家的乔吉奥·瓦萨里在其谢世近50年后完成的。瓦萨里从利奥纳多生前的学生和朋友处搜集到一些素材并据此撰写了该传记，将其收录在《绘画、雕塑、建筑大师传》中出版。该传记对利奥纳多生活的描写显得十分有价值。然而，大多数当今的历史学家都认为传记中不乏有失偏颇的信息和夸大其词的传闻，甚至谬误也是俯拾即是。

自从瓦萨里于1568年完成该部传记以来，其他传记作家也一直试图对利奥纳多·达·芬奇的生活进行更为细致准确的描述。然而，由于历史资料的匮乏，他们往往不能就有关这位著名艺术家和科学家的一些事实达成一致。

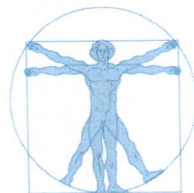
[1] piece together

拼合；拼凑

When researching information for this biography, it became obvious that much of what is published about Leonardo da Vinci is a patchwork<sup>(1)</sup> of recorded facts and educated guesses. As a biographer, I have chosen to include as much documented information as possible. I have also tried to inform the reader when a detail is uncertain or when a story about the artist may simply be a colorful legend passed down through the years. In doing this, my goal has been to paint the clearest portrait possible of a remarkable artist, scientist, and inventor.

LEONARDO DA VINCI

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[1] patchwork 拼

凑的东西, 杂烩

当我在为本书搜集资料时, 我发现已经出版的很多有关利奥纳多·达·芬奇的  
书明显是对一些事实和推测的简单拼凑。作为一名传记作家, 我在写作中尽可能地收录已有的文献资料。同时, 在碰到细节不甚明朗, 或者有关艺术家的经历可能仅仅是一个流传多年的动人传说时, 我都尽可能地  
向读者说明情况。这样做的目的就是要为这位杰出的艺术家、科学家和发明家勾勒一幅最为清晰明了的肖像画。



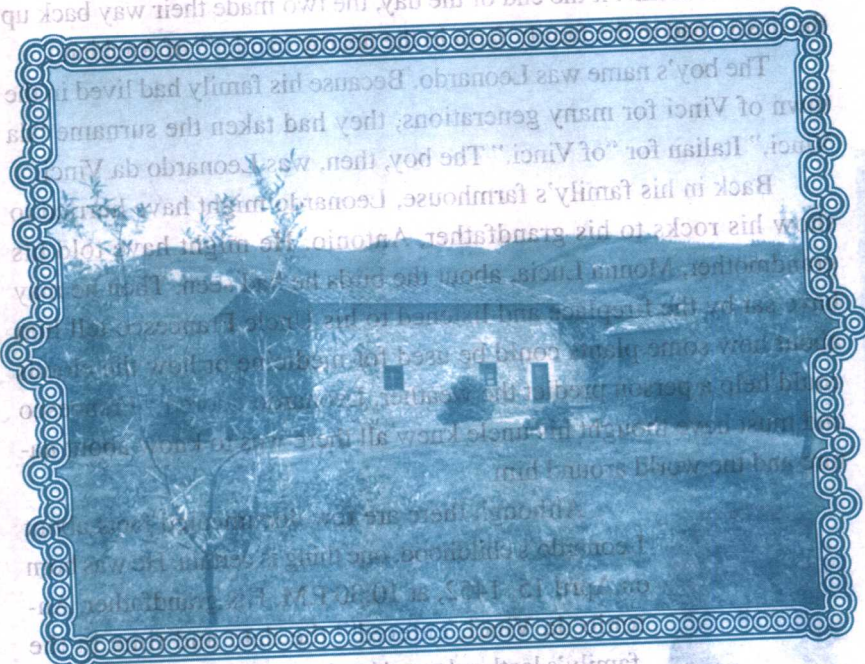
# *Chapter One*

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IN A PEACEFUL HILLSIDE IN ITALY, IN THE MIDDLE OF the 1400's, a young boy stood with his uncle among the tangled grapevines and olive trees. The boy was the village of Vinci, with its small stone houses huddled around an ancient castle. Below the castle, the boy's uncle pointed to the green Valley. The boy and his uncle had stepped from their rocks and plants to carry home. They might have stepped from the vineyards. Perhaps they just lay on their backs and watched the birds that flew above them. At the end of the day, the two made their way back up

# A Country Boy



family's leather-bound book when Leonardo was born in the village church. "There was born to me a grandson, the child of Ser Piero my son," he

乡村男孩

ON A PEACEFUL HILLSIDE IN ITALY IN THE MIDDLE OF the 1400s, a young boy strolled<sup>[1]</sup> with his uncle among the tangled grapevines and silvery-green olive trees. Above them was the village of Vinci, with its small stone houses huddled<sup>[2]</sup> around an ancient castle. Below them, the Arno River wound its way through the Tuscan Valley.

The boy and his uncle may have stopped to gather rocks and plants to carry home. They might have captured lizards in the vineyards. Perhaps they just lay on their backs in the wheat fields and studied the birds that flew above them. At the end of the day, the two made their way back up the dusty road to the family farm in the nearby hamlet<sup>[3]</sup> of Anchiano.

The boy's name was Leonardo. Because his family had lived in the town of Vinci for many generations, they had taken the surname "da Vinci," Italian for "of Vinci." The boy, then, was Leonardo da Vinci.

Back in his family's farmhouse, Leonardo might have hurried to show his rocks to his grandfather, Antonio. He might have told his grandmother, Monna Lucia, about the birds he had seen. Then he may have sat by the fireplace and listened to his Uncle Francesco tell him about how some plants could be used for medicine or how the clouds could help a person predict the weather. Leonardo adored<sup>[4]</sup> Francesco and must have thought his uncle knew all there was to know about nature and the world around him.

Although there are few documented facts about Leonardo's childhood, one thing is certain. He was born on April 15, 1452, at 10:30 P.M. His grandfather, Antonio da Vinci, entered<sup>[5]</sup> the date and time in the family's leather-bound book when Leonardo was baptized in the village church. "There was born to me a grandson, the child of Ser Piero my son," he





who witnessed the baptism. He did not, however, record the name of

15世纪中叶意大利一个平静的山坡上，一位少年正和他叔叔在错综盘结的葡萄藤和银绿色的橄榄树丛中漫步。他们身后便是芬奇村，矮小的石屋散布在一座古堡的四周。在他们脚下，阿尔诺河蜿蜒曲折地流过托斯卡纳山谷。

[1] strolled 散步，溜达，闲逛

[2] huddled 挤作一团；聚在一起

男孩和叔叔也许停下了脚步，捡拾一些石块和树枝准备带回家。他们可能在葡萄园里捕到了蜥蜴。也许他们就一直躺在麦田里遥望头顶掠过的飞鸟。日暮之际，他们沿着尘土飞扬的小路返回位于附近安伽阿尔诺小村的家。

[3] hamlet 村庄；〈英〉没有教堂的小村子

这个男孩名叫利奥纳多。因为他的家族在芬奇村已世居多年，他们便将“达·芬奇”作为自己的姓氏，也就是意大利语中“来自芬奇村”的意思。这个男孩就是利奥纳多·达·芬奇。

回到家中的农舍后，利奥纳多可能会急忙把石块儿拿给祖父安东尼奥看，他还会把看到的飞鸟说给祖母蒙娜·露西娅听。随后，他可能坐到壁炉前听弗朗西斯科叔叔跟他讲如何将植物制成药材，如何靠白云来预测天气状况。利奥纳多十分仰慕弗朗西斯科，认为叔叔对自然界和周围的一切都无所不知。

有关利奥纳多孩童时代的资料极其匮乏，但有一件事却是毋庸置疑的：他出生于1452年

4月15日晚上10时30分。祖父安东尼奥·达·芬奇将利奥纳多在村中教堂里接受洗礼的日子记录在皮制封面的家谱里。他这样写道：“上天赐给我一个孙子，我儿子塞·皮耶罗的

[4] adored 崇拜；敬慕；崇敬

[5] entered 把……记入（或编入……等）；登记，登录

wrote. Antonio also entered the names of the priest and the villagers who witnessed the baptism. He did not, however, record the name of Leonardo's mother, Caterina. She and Ser Piero were not married, so baby Leonardo was considered illegitimate. In those days, it was not unusual for the mother to be omitted from the family records if she had given birth to an illegitimate child.

Piero da Vinci's status as a wealthy notary allowed him to use the title "Ser" before his name. As a notary, Ser Piero prepared contracts and other legal documents for people who paid him well. Ser Piero was a stern and ambitious man whose career kept him in Florence, twenty miles away, and left little time for raising Leonardo. Caterina was most likely a peasant, not from the kind of reputable family that Ser Piero expected to marry into. Within months after his son's birth, Ser Piero married Albiera di Giovanni Amadori, the daughter of a Florentine notary. He must have considered Albiera a more suitable wife for a well-to-do<sup>[1]</sup> businessman like himself.

It seems likely that the infant Leonardo stayed with Caterina, close to his grandfather Antonio in Anchiano. He and Caterina may even have lived in a cottage provided for them by Leonardo's family. Later, however, possibly when Leonardo was about eighteen months old, the Da Vincis arranged for Caterina to marry a laborer nicknamed the Quarreler. After the marriage, Caterina went to live with her new husband in a nearby village. Young Leonardo was left with his aging grandparents, Antonio and Monna Lucia.

The elder Da Vincis took good care of Leonardo, but it was Ser Piero's younger brother, Francesco, who gave Leonardo the time and attention the small boy needed. Francesco was a gentle young man, content with his country lifestyle and satisfied with overseeing the family farm. He was happy to have