

朗文英汉对照阶梯阅读丛书

第二级



A Christmas Carol

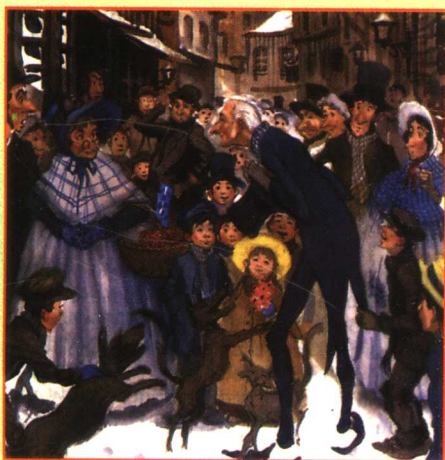
查尔斯·狄更斯原著

〔英〕D.K. 斯旺改写

王震 译

简 写 本

圣 诞 颂 歌



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朗文英

读丛书

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圣诞颂歌(简写本)

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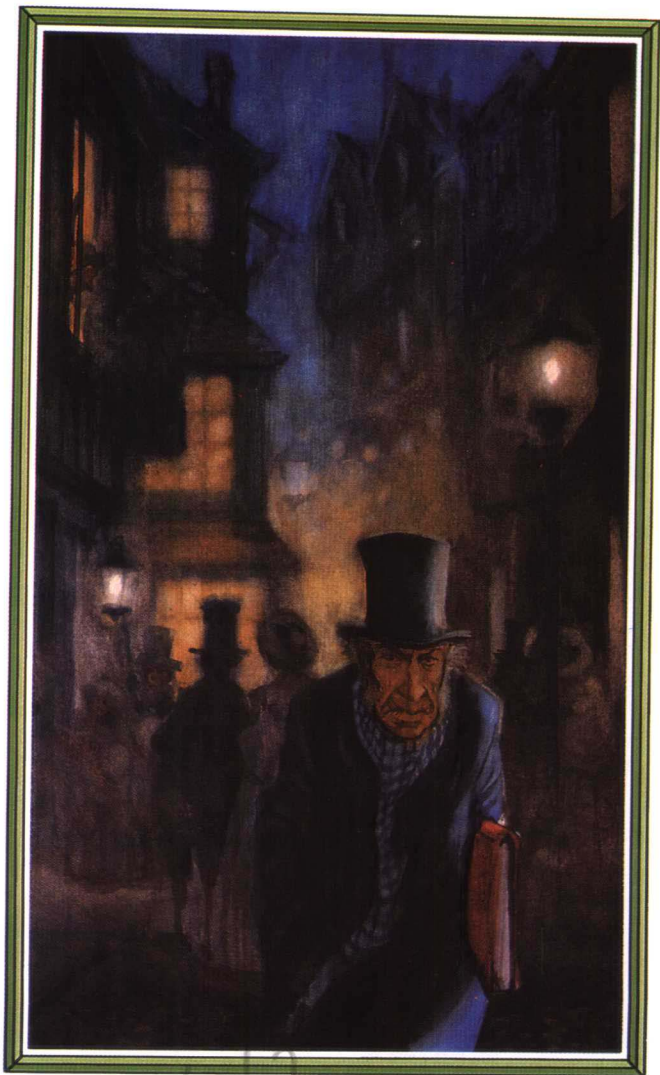
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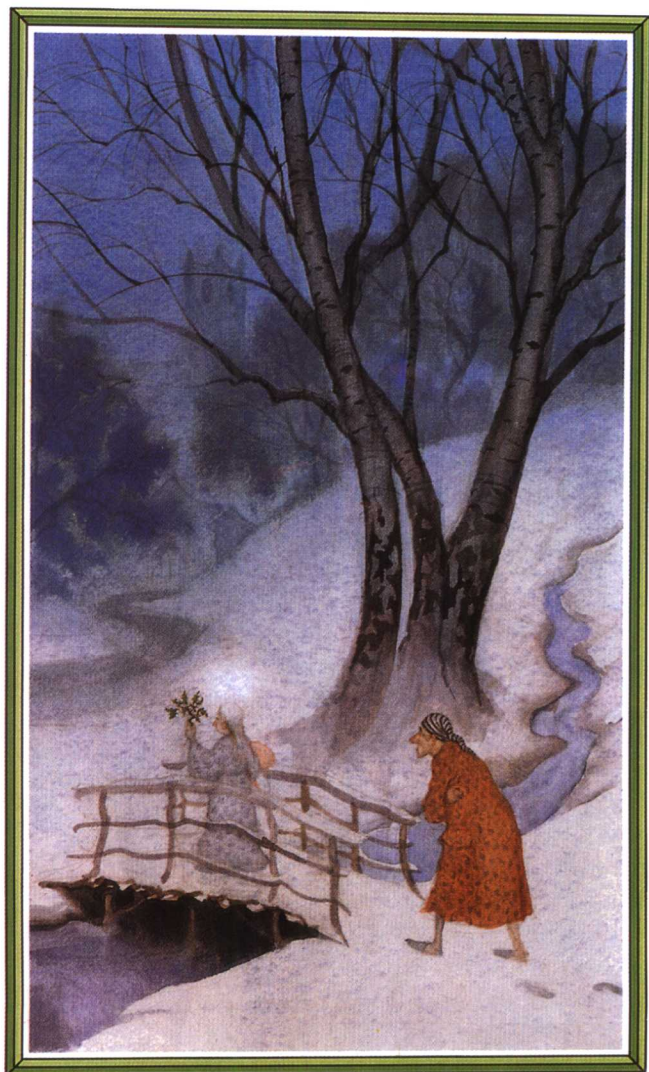
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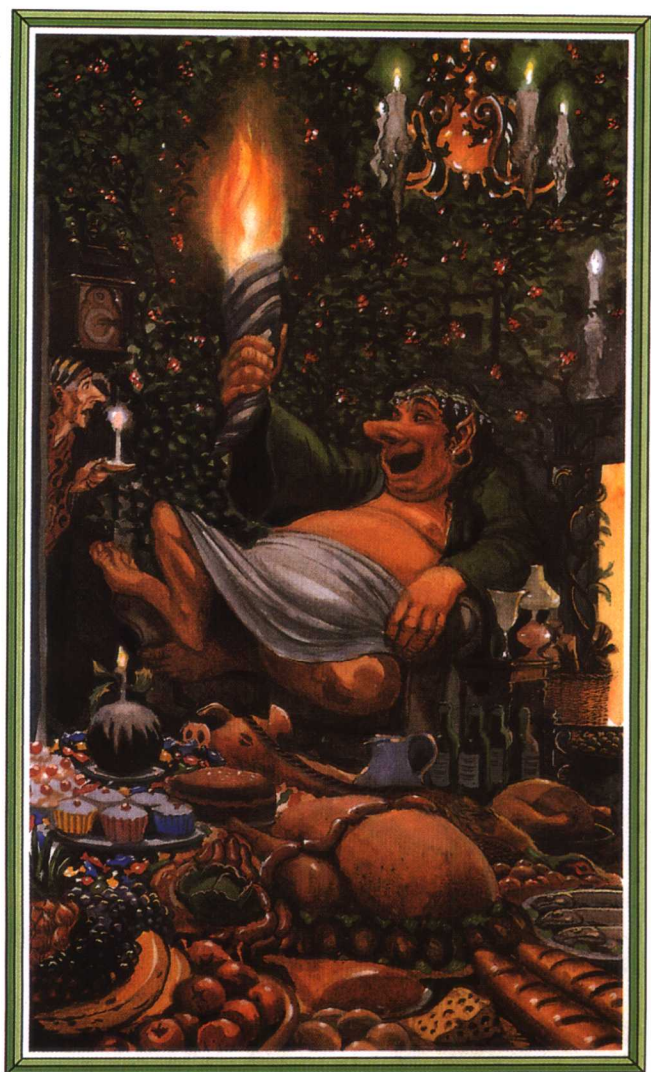
Scrooge

斯克鲁奇 (参见第一章)

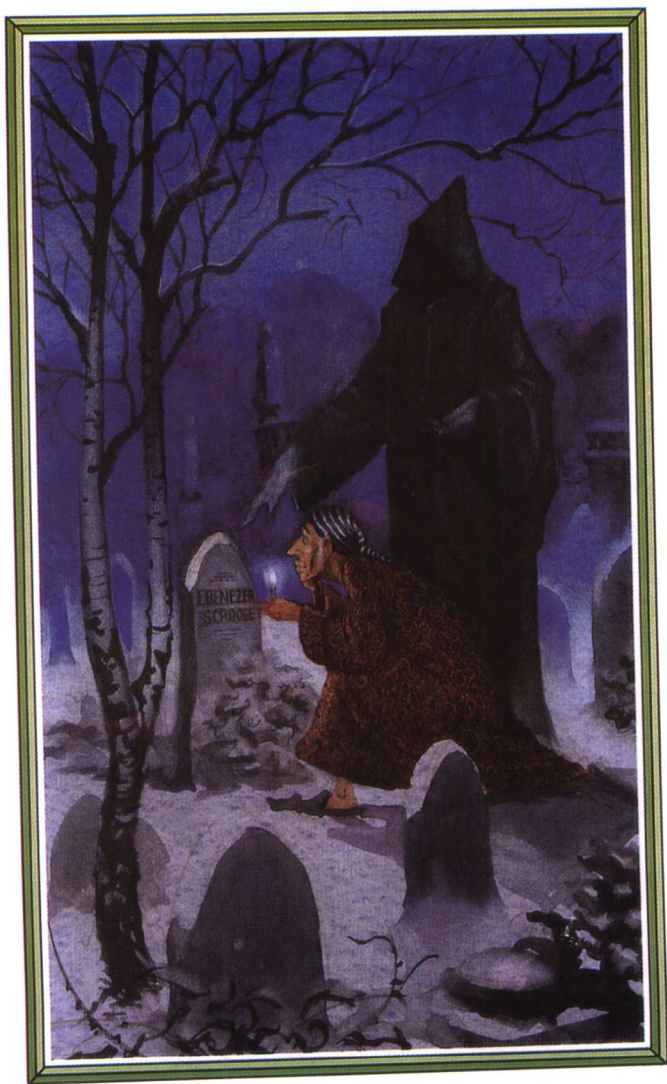


Scrooge goes with the Ghost of Christmas Past

斯克鲁奇与“过去圣诞节之灵”走在一起（参见第二章）



Scrooge sees the Ghost of Christmas Present in his room
斯克鲁奇在他房间里看见“现在的圣诞节精灵”（参见第三章）



The spirit shows Scrooge his own grave
精灵指给斯克鲁奇看他自己的坟墓 (参见第四章)

Introduction

Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens was born in 1812. He was thirty-one years old and already a very successful novelist when *A Christmas Carol* first appeared in 1843. By that time he had already written the *Pickwick Papers* (1836–37) and the novels *Oliver Twist* (1838), *Nicholas Nickleby* (1839) and *The Old Curiosity Shop* (1841). But it had not been easy for Dickens to become the best-selling writer in English in his time.

Charles was the son of a clerk in a government office. His father spent too much, and like Mr Micawber in Dickens's *David Copperfield* written in 1849, he was sent to prison because he owed money and could not pay it back. Caroline's husband in Chapter Four in this book is afraid of being sent to prison for owing money to a man without mercy. Sending a man to prison until he had paid the money he owed seems very silly to us today, but it was the law in Dickens's time. Perhaps Dickens's books helped to show the foolishness as well as the unkindness of such treatment, since Dickens could make his readers not only weep but laugh at foolishness. The result, for Charles Dickens himself, of his father's

前 言

查尔斯·狄更斯

查尔斯·狄更斯生于 1812 年。《圣诞颂歌》一书于 1843 年首次面世，那年狄更斯三十一岁，已是一位非常成功的小说家。当时他完成了《匹克威克外传》（1836—1837）、小说《雾都孤儿》（1838）、《尼古拉斯·尼克尔贝》（1839）和《老古玩店》（1841）的写作。然而，对于狄更斯来说，在他那个时代要成为一位英语畅销书作家并非易事。

查尔斯是一个政府部门办事员的儿子。他的父亲花钱无度，就像狄更斯在 1849 年写的《大卫·科波菲尔》中的那位米考波先生，终因负债无力偿还而被投进了监狱。在本书第四章中夏洛琳的丈夫因欠了一个心地冷酷的人的债而害怕被送进监狱。一个人不能还清欠债就得被送进监狱，这在我们今天看来是十分可笑的，但那却是狄更斯时代的法律。或许狄更斯的书有助于揭示这种做法的荒唐与刻薄，因为狄更斯能使他的读者不仅伤心抹泪，而且对这种愚蠢的行径发笑不已。不过，对于狄更斯自己来说，他父亲入狱的后果是十分不幸的。

imprisonment was very bad. He was twelve years old when his father went to prison, and Charles himself had to go to work. It was very unpleasant work, and the pay and conditions were very bad.

For us, Dickens's early troubles have meant stories by a writer who really knew poor people and the difficulty of their lives. He understood them, and his books probably did more than anything else to make life better for them.

After this book was printed and ready to be sold in time for Christmas 1843, the writer had a short Christmas holiday and enjoyed himself like Scrooge at Fred's party in the last chapter of this book. The book, in a red and gold hard cover, price five shillings (twenty-five pence), was a great success. By Christmas Eve the bookshops had sold six thousand copies, and orders were coming in from all parts of the country. Lord Jeffrey wrote to Dickens:

Blessings on your kind heart . . . you can be sure you have done more good by this little book, caused more kind feelings, and made more people give freely to help the poor and suffering than all the words in churches.

Unfortunately the price of five shillings was high for a book of the kind at that time, but the cost of printing and adding coloured drawings was high too, so the amount Dickens himself received was not great.

他父亲进监狱时，他才十二岁，查尔斯不得不自己去工作谋生。工作非常不如意，报酬和环境都十分糟糕。

对于我们来说，狄更斯早年的种种不幸遭遇成了这位深切了解贫苦人民和他们生活艰辛的作家笔下的故事。他理解他们，他的作品可能比任何其他事物更能使他们的生活变得美好。

本书付印后，准备在 1843 年的圣诞之际出售，在此期间，作者度过了一个短短的圣诞假期，并像本书最后一章斯克鲁奇在聚会上那样过得十分愉快。这本书有着金红两色相间的精装封面，售价五先令（二十五便士），取得了极大的成功。到圣诞前夕，书店售出了六千册，而订单仍从全国各地不断涌来。杰弗里勋爵写信给狄更斯：

为你的善心祝福……阁下可以确信通过这部小书，你成就了诸多善事，引发了更多善意，甚至比教堂所有的说教更能令人对贫苦众生施与善举。

遗憾的是，对这类书来说，在当时卖五先令一本，价格高了些。然而，印刷和附加彩色插图的费用也是很高的，所以，狄更斯自己的收入就不多了。

Christmas in London in 1843

London in 1843 was a rather dirty town. The crowded houses were heated by coal fires (like Scrooge's office), and the smoke, mixed with low cloud, made fogs far worse than they are today. At the same time, if there was no fog and the smoke could rise, cold weather brought cleaner air – there were no cars, trucks or oil-fired engines – and snow was white and clean.

Before Christmas and on Christmas Day, people sang carols, joyful songs with words like:

God rest you merry, gentlemen . . .

or:

Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat,

Please put a penny in the old man's hat.

It was a time for giving. People gave presents to their children, and money and other help to the poor. Such help was needed because people had not yet learnt to make the care of the poor, the sick and the unfortunate a public duty. You have an example in this book of two gentlemen trying to get money from Scrooge, saying: "Many thousands are cold and have no food, and many have no home to go to."

Those who had enough money had a big family dinner after coming home from church. A Christmas dinner is described in this book: goose (or turkey for those with more money) with vegetables, followed by Christmas pudding.

1843 年伦敦的圣诞节

1843 年的伦敦是个颇为脏乱的城镇。拥挤不堪的住房靠烧煤的壁炉供暖（恰如斯克鲁奇的办公室那样）。而煤烟混和低垂的云层，造成的雾气远甚于今日。同时，倘若烟雾消散，烟气升腾而去，寒冷的气候倒能带来爽洁的空气——没有汽车、卡车和燃油引擎——积雪是洁白而干净的。

在圣诞前夕以及圣诞当日，人们唱起颂歌，欢乐的歌中有这样的词句：

上帝赐你欢乐，先生们 ……

或：

圣诞来临，鹅变肥了，

老头帽里，该放钱了。

这是一个施与的时节。人们把礼物送给孩子们，给穷人钱和其他的帮助。这样的帮助是必要的，因为人们还不懂得应该把关心穷人、病人和不幸的人作为一种公共义务。本书中有一个例子：有两位先生试图从斯克鲁奇那儿得到捐款，他们说：“成千上万的人受冻挨饿，许多人无家可归。”

那些生活富裕的人们从教堂回家后，要举行盛大的家庭宴会。书中是这样描绘圣诞宴会的：鹅肉（钱更多的人家用火鸡）加蔬菜，随后是圣诞布丁。

Contents

Introduction

1	Marley's ghost.....	2
2	The first of the three spirits	24
3	The second of the three spirits	44
4	The last of the three spirits	64
5	The end of it.....	82

目 录

前言

第一章 马利的幽灵 3

第二章 三个精灵中的第一个 25

第三章 三个精灵中的第二个 45

第四章 三个精灵中的最后一个 65

第五章 结局 83

圣 诞 颂 歌

(简写本)

Chapter 1

Marley's ghost

The names on the door of the office were SCROOGE AND MARLEY.

Marley was dead. He died seven years ago.

Scrooge never painted out Marley's name. There it was, years afterwards, on the office door: SCROOGE AND MARLEY. The business was known as Scrooge and Marley. Sometimes people who did not know the business called Scrooge "Scrooge", and sometimes they called him "Marley", but he answered to both names. He didn't mind what he was called.

He was a hard man with money, hard as stone. He was a secret man, friendless and alone. The coldness inside him froze his old face. His eyes were red. His thin lips were blue. You could see cold in his way of walking. He carried this coldness with him always, wherever he went. It made his office cold in the summer, and at Christmas time it was even colder.

No one ever stopped Scrooge in the street to say, "My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come and see me?" No poor people asked him for a penny. No children asked him, "What time is it?" No man or woman had ever asked him to tell them the way to a place. Even the blind men's dogs seemed to know him and, when they saw him coming, they pulled their