

红山书局

名人风景线

[英汉双语]



Thomas Alva EDISON 爱迪生

Brian Williams (英) 著
江节明 译

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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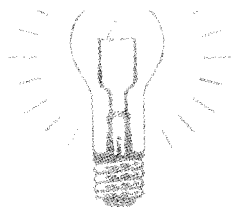
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北京 BEIJING

京权图字: 01 - 2005 - 1558

Thomas Alva Edison by Brian Williams

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

爱迪生 = Thomas Alva Edison / (英) 威廉姆斯 (Williams, B.) 著; 江节明译. — 北京: 外语教学与研究出版社, 2005.8

(名人风景线)

ISBN 7 - 5600 - 5054 - 9

I. 爱… II. ①威… ②江… III. 英语—对照读物, 传记—英、汉
IV. H319.4: K

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2005) 第 091394 号

出版人: 李朋义

责任编辑: 贺丹

封面设计: 高鹏

出版发行: 外语教学与研究出版社

社址: 北京市西三环北路 19 号 (100089)

网 址: <http://www.fltrp.com>

印 刷: 北京画中画印刷有限公司

开 本: 880 × 1230 1/32

印 张: 3.125

版 次: 2005 年 11 月第 1 版 2005 年 11 月第 1 次印刷

书 号: ISBN 7 - 5600 - 5054 - 9

定 价: 8.00 元

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如有印刷、装订质量问题出版社负责调换

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[英汉双语]

前言

这套书中的“名人”，是那些在各自的领域中创造出不平凡业绩的人。

他们是怎样进入这些领域的？

他们奋斗不已的源泉何在？

他们的成就对社会产生了什么影响？

他们又有着怎样的成长经历？

他们当中，有文豪，有发明家，还有旅行家，每一个人的故事，都是一道亮丽的“风景线”！

本套“名人风景线”丛书以英汉双语形式出现，书中附有大量的历史资料和珍贵照片。对于有一定难度的单词、短语，还添加了简要注释，适合有一定基础的英语学习者阅读。

The Man Who Made the Future

Switch on the light. Night turns into day. Now think of a few other ways in which we use electricity— television, computers, tools, gadgets, electric trains ... the list is enormous. We live in a “plugged in” world.

Edison's world

Not much more than 100 years ago, life was very different. There were steam trains, and steam engines in factories, but the power of steam couldn't provide light. At nightfall, it became very dark. Townspeople lit hissing gas lamps. In the countryside, smelly oil lanterns and flickering candles gave patches of light. Most people went to bed soon after it got dark.

Daily life was different, too. People did business and exchanged news by writing letters, because there were no telephones.

They entertained themselves by talking, playing games, reading, singing, and dancing. There were no radios, no stereos, no films, and no television.



When Edison was born, most people lit their homes by candles and oil lamps. After dark, they sat in pools of light, surrounded by flickering shadows and dark corners, as shown in this painting by Johannes Rosiere (1818-1901). Today most people use candles only when there is a power outage.

爱迪生生出的时候，大多数人家是用蜡烛和油灯照明的。天黑以后，一家人坐在烛光中，四周是摇曳的阴影和漆黑的角落，正如约翰尼斯·罗齐尔（1818-1901）这幅画所示。如今大多数人只是在断电时才使用蜡烛。

创造未来的人

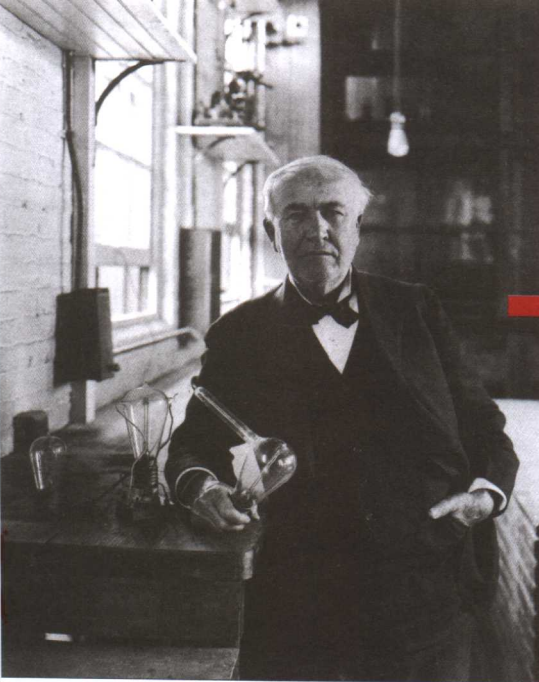
打开电灯开关，黑夜就变成了白昼。再想想还有哪些方面我们需要用电？有电视机、电脑、各种工具的电动装置、电车……可谓举不胜举。我们生活在一个“接通电的”世界。

爱迪生的世界

100多年以前，生活和现在大不相同。那时只有蒸汽火车和工厂里的蒸汽发动机，但蒸汽能并不能提供照明。夜幕降临，天色昏暗，城里人点起了嘶嘶作响的煤气灯。在乡间，人们使用气味难闻的油灯和闪烁的蜡烛，只能照亮有限的区域。人们大都天一黑就上床睡觉。

日常生活也迥然不同。人们通过信件进行商务活动和交流信息，因为那时没有电话，娱乐方式也只有聊天、玩游戏、读书以及唱歌跳舞。那时没有收音机，没有立体声音响，没有电影，也没有电视。

gadget *n.* (小) 装置
 enormous *a.* 庞大的
 plug *v.* 插上插头以接通电源
 hiss *v.* (沸水等) 嘶嘶作响
 flicker *a.* 闪烁的，摇曳的
 entertain *v.* 使娱乐
 stereo *n.* 立体声唱机
 outage *n.* 中断期



Edison proudly holds one of his early electric light bulbs. Inventing an instant, yet constant, source of light changed the way people lived and worked. By the time this photograph was taken, Edison was probably the most famous inventor in the world.

爱迪生很自豪地拿着他早期发明的电灯泡。即时且持续的光源的发明，改变了人们的生活和工作方式。在拍摄这张照片时，爱迪生可能已是全世界最著名的发明家了。

What Edison did

Thomas Edison gave the world electric light, sound recording, moving pictures— marvels that we now take for granted. In his lifetime, he came up with more than 1,000 inventions, or ideas for inventions. They included business aids, vote recorders, an electric pen, a talking doll, a magnetic “iron-finder”, better batteries, electric trains and cars, and even helicopters and concrete houses. He built the first electricity generating station, lit city streets, improved the telephone, and created one of the most successful businesses in the U.S. Some other inventors died poor and frustrated, but not Edison. Inventing made him rich and famous. People all over the world knew his name.

Edison was more than a dreamer; he was a practical engineer who turned ideas into money, often improving other people's inventions. Sometimes he failed, but not for lack of effort. All his life he was optimistic and determined, sometimes ruthless, always hard-working. His example inspired many Americans, and his research methods were copied the world over. In many ways, Edison helped to create the modern world.

爱迪生的发明

托马斯·爱迪生为世人发明了电灯、录音机和电影——这些我们如今已习以为常的奇妙之物。他一生有 1000 多种发明或发明的构思，其中包括商务助手、投票记录机、电笔、会说话的玩具娃娃、磁力“吸铁石”、性能更好的电池、电动火车和汽车，甚至直升飞机和混凝土房屋。他建造了第一座发电站，照亮了城市街道，改进了电话，创建了美国最成功的企业之一。其他一些发明家在穷困潦倒中死去，但爱迪生却不是。发明使他名利双收。全世界的人都知道他的名字。

爱迪生决不仅仅是个梦想家。他是个讲求实干的发明者，能把想法变成金钱，常常改善他人发明的东西。有时他也会失败，但不是由于他不努力。他一生乐观，意志坚定，有时冷酷无情，总是勤奋工作，他的事迹鼓舞着许多美国人，他的实验方法为全世界效仿。在许多方面，爱迪生帮助人们创造了现代世界。

marvel *n.* 奇妙的事物
 take for granted 想当然
 magnetic *a.* 磁性的
 generate *v.* 发电
 frustrate *v.* 使受挫折，令人
 沮丧
 ruthless *a.* 无情的

Early Life

Edison was born on February 11, 1847, in the small town of Milan, Ohio. At that time, the United States of America were not yet fully explored. The West was still wild, and many people were new arrivals.

Edison's father, Samuel, a small-time businessman, had moved south from Canada in the 1830s. He and his wife Nancy, a teacher, settled in Milan. Three of the Edisons' first six children died young, and the oldest were teenagers when a seventh child was born in 1847. He was named Thomas Alva, but the family called him Al.

Since his brother and two sisters were much older, Al played mostly on his own. He found it hard to make friends because he did not hear well—the problem may have been caused by scarlet fever. By the time he was 12, he later recalled, he was “too deaf to hear birds sing”.

Childhood and changing times

As a child, Al learned how to fill oil lamps, chop firewood and feed the horse. He walked with his mother to the town stores and went to bed by candlelight as darkness and silence fell over the small town. Nothing much changed until he was 7, when the Edisons' lives were turned upside down. It was time for them to move.

In 1853, a new railroad bypassed their town. Trade followed the trains away from Milan, and its stores were hit hard. Samuel Edison, never successful in land and timber buying, decided it was time to move to a new life in Port Huron, Michigan.

早年生活



Like many other Americans in the mid-19th century, Samuel and Nancy Edison were trying to bring up a family and make a better life for themselves in a changing world. Nancy was interested in books and ideas, while Sam's thoughts drifted more towards new business ventures, which were seldom very successful.

像19世纪中叶其他许多美国人一样，塞缪尔和南希努力在这个动荡的世界养家糊口，改善生活。南希对读书很感兴趣并勤于思考，而赛缪尔想的更多是新的商业冒险，虽然他很少成功。

爱迪生于1847年2月11日出生在俄亥俄州一个叫米兰的小镇。那个时候，美国尚未完全开发。美国西部仍然是一片荒凉，许多人刚刚迁居进来。

爱迪生的父亲赛缪尔是个小商人，于19世纪30年代从加拿大南迁过来。他的妻子南希是位教师，随同他一起定居米兰。爱迪生夫妇的头六个孩子中，有三个夭折，第七个孩子于1847年降生，此时最大的孩子都已十多岁了。他的名字叫托马斯·艾尔瓦，但家人喊他艾尔。

由于哥哥和两个姐姐比他大许多，艾尔大部分时间只好一个人玩。他发现很难同人交朋友，因为他听力不好——这个毛病可能是猩红热造成的。他后来回忆说，到十二岁那年，他“耳朵聋得连鸟叫都听不见”。

童年和变化着的时代

很小的时候，艾尔就学会了怎样添灯油、劈柴和喂马。他和母亲步行到镇上的商店买东西。当暮色和沉寂降临小镇时又点着蜡烛上床睡觉。这种情况一直持续到艾尔七岁那年才有了变化，当时爱迪生一家的生活变得混乱不堪，因为他们必须搬家了。

1853年，一条铁路从他们所在的小镇旁经过，火车带走了米兰的顾客，当地的商店受到很大的冲击。赛缪尔·爱迪生一直都没能在土地和木材买卖上成功，于是他决定迁居到密歇根州的休伦港去开始新生活。

explore v. 探测，研究
teenager n. 青少年，十几岁的孩子
scarlet fever 猩红热
upside down 颠倒，乱七八糟，混乱



Al spent the first seven years of his life in this red brick house in Milan, Ohio. It was a comfortable but not luxurious home. Today the house where Edison was born is a museum.

艾尔一生最初的七年是在俄亥俄州米兰的这座红砖瓦房度过的。这是一个称不上豪华但却舒适的家。今天，爱迪生出生的这座房子成了博物馆。

The struggling schoolboy

At his new home, a small river port beside Lake Huron, Al went to school, but he did not do well in class. He could not hear well, and asked so many questions that the bad-tempered teacher told Mrs Edison that Al was "addled"—mixed up and no good. His father had always thought he was stupid.

Nancy Edison knew he wasn't and she took him out of school. She taught him at home, reading with him the plays of William Shakespeare and the writings of the ancient Greek philosophers. Al never wrote or spell well, however, nor was he good at math.

What Al was brilliant at was making things. His favourite reading at age 9 was a book of science experiments, and he persuaded his mother to let him set up a laboratory in his bedroom. There he often worked at night, by candlelight, dreaming. If only there was a way to turn night into day. A man could make his fortune

艰难的学校生活

新家在休伦湖旁的一个小河港边，艾尔在这里开始上学了，但他的学习成绩不好。他上课听不清，问了许多多的问题，脾气很坏的老师向爱迪生夫人说艾尔“很蠢”——糊里糊涂，一无是处。他的父亲也总是觉得他很笨。

南希·爱迪生知道他不笨。她将他从学校接出来，在家教他，同他一起阅读威廉·莎士比亚的戏剧和古希腊哲学家的著作。然而，艾尔字写得很差，拼写总出错，数学也学得不好。

艾尔非常擅长制作东西。9岁时他最爱读的书是一本关于科学实验的书，他说服妈妈允许他在卧室里建起一个实验室。在那里，他经常在夜里借着烛光工作，梦想着——如果能有办法让黑夜变成白天该多好啊！还能借此发财……

The steam engine

The Scottish engineer James Watt did not invent the steam engine, but his work in the 1760s and 1770s had turned a pumping engine that was not very efficient into a machine that could drive all kinds of machinery. The factories and mills of Edison's boyhood used steam power for all the jobs that were too tough for horsepower or human muscles. There were even steam plows on farms. Children like Edison built model steam engines the way children today build model cars or planes.

蒸汽机

苏格兰工程师詹姆斯·瓦特并没有发明蒸汽发动机，但是他在18世纪60年代和70年代将效率不高的抽水引擎改装成能驱动各种机械的机器。爱迪生童年时代的工厂和作坊都用蒸汽能来完成所有马力和人力难以完成的活。农业上甚至出现了蒸汽犁。与爱迪生一般大的孩子们制作出模型蒸汽机，就像今天的孩子制作模型汽车或飞机一样。

addled *a.* (思想等) 糊涂的
luxurious *a.* 奢侈的, 华贵的
efficient *a.* 效率高的
muscle *n.* 肌肉

Working the Railroad



This photograph of Al at the age of 14 shows a cheerful, confident young man, already in business on his own. Could anyone have predicted the fame that awaited this determined teenager?

艾尔14岁时的这张照片展示了一个欢乐的、充满自信的年轻人，他已经自己独立经商了。谁能料到这位意志坚定的少年将会成名？

Mrs Edison soon banished the young scientist and his smelly chemicals to the cellar. Neighbours watched nervously for new oddities and developments at the Edison place. Al rigged up a battery-powered telegraph, stringing wires from trees to a friend's house. He built miniature steam engines that hissed, rattled, and sometimes exploded!

To earn money for chemicals and spare parts, 10-year-old Al sold tickets to tourists who came to view Lake Huron from a rickety tower his father had built. He also sold vegetables grown by a friend, driving around town in the family's horse and cart to deliver them.

In business

In 1859 the new Grand Trunk Railroad linked Port Huron with Detroit. For Al, this was more than just the chance to ride a steam train every day. It was a business opportunity.

It was a three-hour train ride into Detroit. Young Al talked his way on board, selling newspapers, sweets, snacks, and other items to the passengers. He had to buy his own supplies, but he could keep all the money he made. The Edisons needed the money because Al's father's grain and timber business was not doing well. Many other children his age were working, and Al was delighted to be his own boss.

在铁路上工作

爱迪生夫人没多久就将这位小科学家和他那些难闻的化学品赶进了地窖。邻居们紧张地观望着爱迪生家中这些新奇的东西及其进展。艾尔组装了一台以电池为动力的发报机，将电线从树上拉到一个朋友家。他还制造了一台嘶嘶作响的小型蒸汽机，它会发出砰砰的声音，有时还会爆炸！

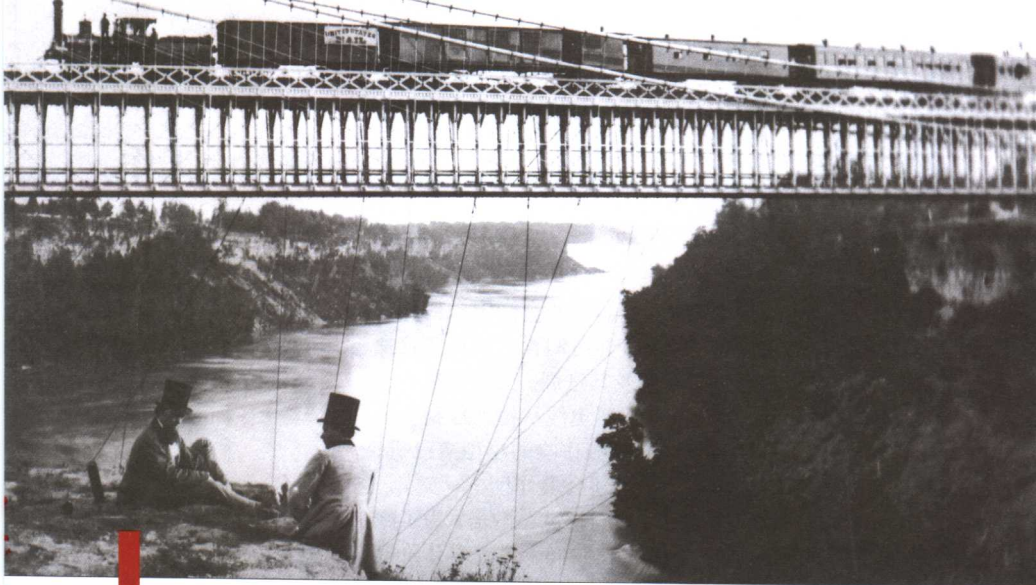
艾尔的父亲修建了一座摇摇欲坠的塔，为了赚钱买化学品和零件，十岁的艾尔向上塔观看休伦湖景色的游客收取门票。他还出售一个朋友种的蔬菜，赶着家里的马车满镇子去送菜。

经商

1859年，新的主干线铁路将休伦港与底特律连接起来了。对艾尔来说，这不仅仅是一个每天可以坐蒸汽火车的机会，而且还是一个商机。

乘火车到底特律需要三个小时。小艾尔在火车上一路吆喝着向乘客卖报纸、糖果、零食和其他物品。他得自己花钱进货，但他可以保留赚的钱。爱迪生一家需要钱，因为艾尔父亲的粮食和木材生意做得不好。其他许多与他同龄的孩子都在给别人打工，而艾尔则很高兴能自己做老板。

banish *v.* 禁止……出入；开除，赶走
 cellar *n.* 地窖，地下室
 oddity *n.* 奇特的东西
 rig *v.* 装配，装置
 miniature *a.* 小型的
 rattle *v.* 发咯咯声
 rickety *a.* 摇晃的，不牢靠的



The railroad gave Al his first business opportunity. The first steam railroad in the United States began in 1831. The US government encouraged railroad building to aid settlement of the West, and by 1869, tracks spanned the country from coast to coast. 铁路给艾尔带来了第一次商机。美国第一列蒸汽火车开始于1831年。美国政府鼓励铁路建设来帮助开拓西部，到1869年铁路连接了东西海岸，横跨全国。

He got on the morning train at 7:00 am, spent the day in Detroit, and came home on the 6:30 pm train. The train conductor agreed to let him set up his laboratory in the train's baggage car, so he could carry on experiments while the train waited in Detroit for the return trip.

Al also hung around the city telegraph office, talking to the operators as messages came clicking in and out across the wires. He was fascinated. This was an amazing new world waiting for him.