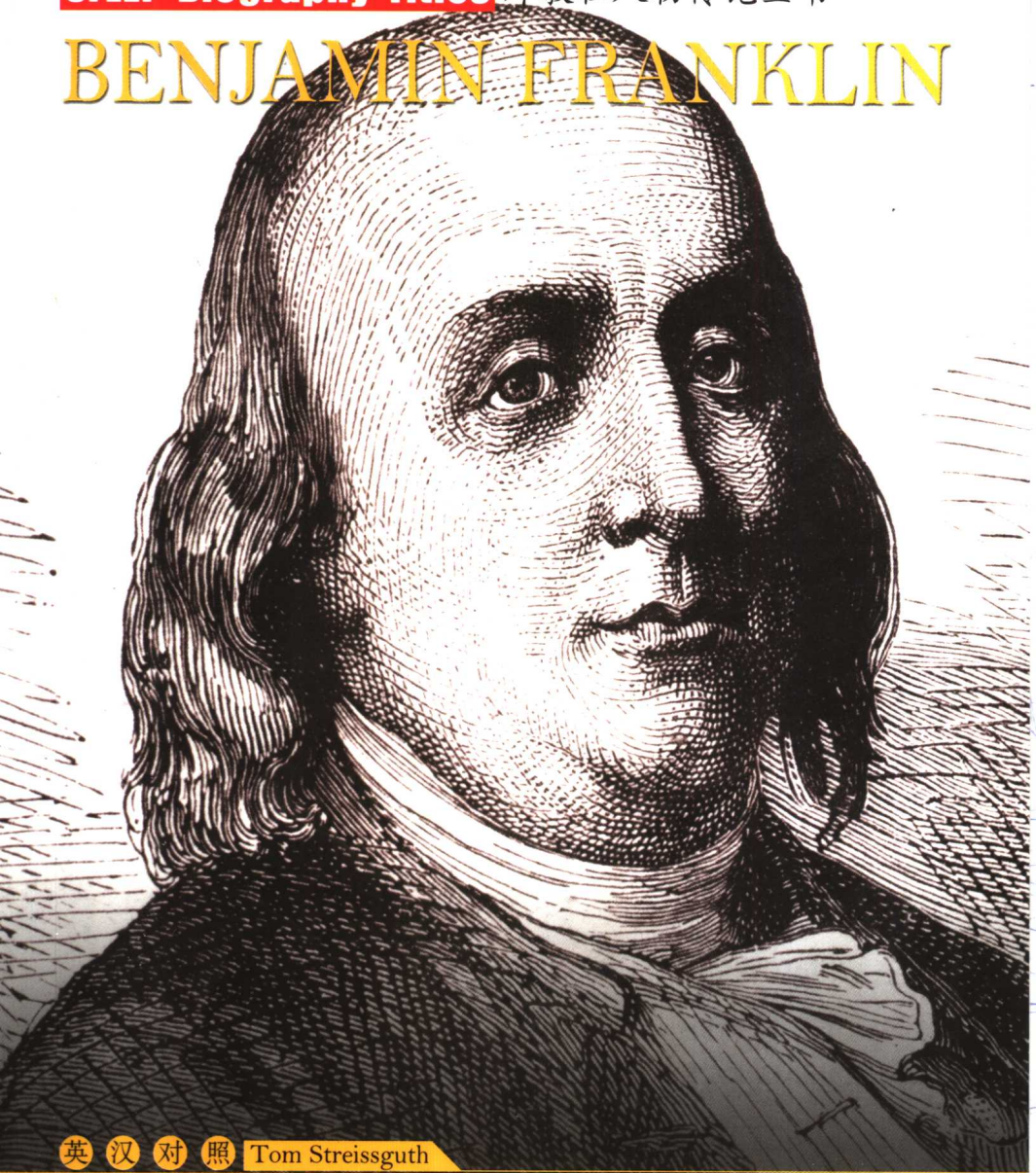


SFLEP Biography Titles 外教社人物传记丛书

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



英 汉 对 照 Tom Streissguth

本杰明·富兰克林



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陶 怡 译注



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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

本杰明·富兰克林

目 录

- 一. 闻名遐迩的富兰克林博士..... 7
- 二. 创造自己的财富..... 29
- 三. 费城的富兰克林..... 51
- 四. 不列颠使命之行..... 71
- 五. 殖民地接踵而至的麻烦..... 85
- 六. 响彻世界的枪声..... 97
- 七. 为新生国工作..... 111



人 物 传 记 丛 书

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Contents

1. The Famous Doctor

Franklin 6

2. Making His Fortune 28

3. Franklin of Philadelphia 50

4. A Mission in Britain 70

5. More Trouble in the Colonies 84

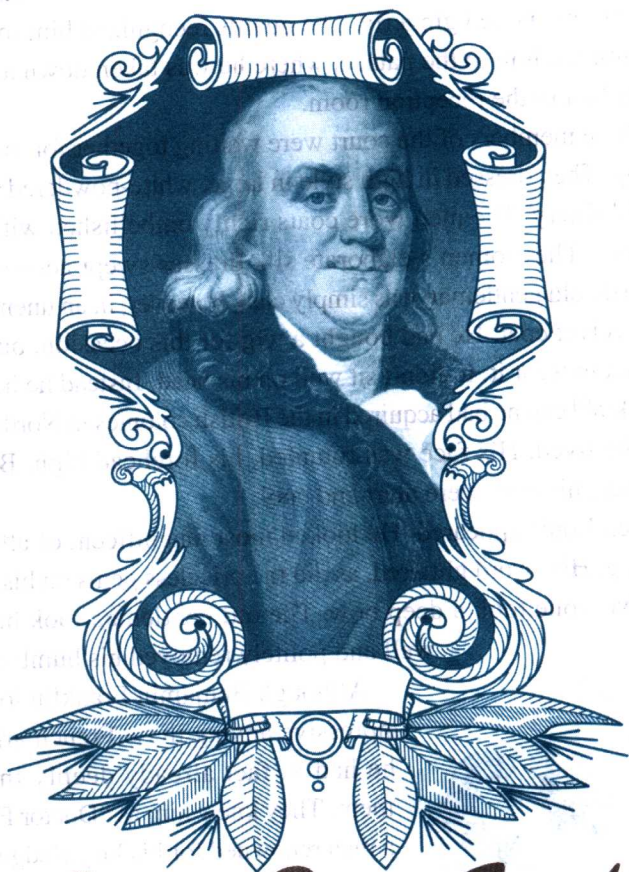
6. The Shots Heard 'Round the World 96

7. Working for a New Nation 110



CHAPTER ONE

闻名遐迩的 富兰克林博士



The Famous Doctor Franklin

ONE FEBRUARY DAY IN 1778, A HORSE-DRAWN COACH drew up to the immense iron gates of Versailles, the grand palace of Louis XVI, king of France. The palace guards stood smartly at attention as a portly^[1] old gentleman climbed down from the coach. At seventy-two, he moved gingerly. The guards recognized him immediately and admitted him to the palace, where he was taken down a seemingly endless hall to the reception room.

There members of the court were waiting together for the arrival of the king. They dressed in high style in large, white-powdered wigs^[2] and colorful finery. The men wore coats richly embellished with lace and gold trim. The women's elaborate silk dresses swept across the floor. The portly old gentleman was simply clad, however, in an unembroidered brown velvet coat. He had bought a wig for this occasion, but he'd decided not to wear it. It didn't sit well on his head. Instead he had donned a coonskin^[3] cap he had acquired in the British colonies in North America, where he lived. His face was rounded, his forehead high. Behind his spectacles, his eyes were alert and cool.

Then Louis appeared. He looked most magnificent of all, as befitted a king. His sword glittered, as did the priceless gems on his white fur robe. Everyone took a deep bow. The old gentleman took his bow as well and politely removed his humble cap.

Although Benjamin Franklin looked unimpressive among these French aristocrats, he had in fact already deeply impressed them. They knew him as "Doctor Franklin," a man renowned for his knowledge of natural philosophy (as science was called). Franklin's experiments with electricity —





[1] portly 肥胖的；个头大的

[2] wigs 假发

[3] coonskin 浣熊毛皮

1778年2月的一天，一辆四轮大马车停在法国国王路易十六宏伟的宫殿——凡尔赛宫巨大的铁门前。当一个体态发福的老绅士从马车上下来时，宫殿的卫兵肃然而立。72岁的他行动非常小心。卫兵立刻认出了他，请他进入了宫殿。他被带领着穿过了一个好像看不到尽头的走廊来到了接待室。

在那里，宫廷的官员们正聚集在一起，等待着国王的到来。他们身着华服，头戴白色假发。绅士们身穿用大量花边和金边修饰的外套。女士们做工考究的丝制裙装拖曳在地面上。而那个体态发福的老绅士却衣着朴素，穿着一件无刺绣的棕色天鹅绒外套。为了出席这个场合，他曾特地买了一个假发。但他还是决定不戴它，因为那不适合他的头型。于是他便戴了一个浣熊皮的帽子，那是他在所居住的北美英殖民地购买的。他的脸圆圆的，额头高高的。眼镜后是警觉而冷静的双眼。

随后路易十六出现了。他的衣饰在众人中显得最为华丽，十分符合他国王的身份。他的配剑闪闪发光，就像他的白色裘毛礼袍上无价的宝石那样耀眼。每个人都深深地鞠了一躬。那个老绅士也鞠了一躬，同时彬彬有礼地脱去了他那寒碜的帽子。

虽然本杰明·富兰克林在这些法国贵族中间显得毫不起眼，但实际上他已经给他们留下了深刻的印象。他们都知道他就是“富兰克林博士”，以他在自然哲学（科学的旧称）方面的渊博知识而闻名遐迩。富兰克林的电学实验，尤其是他就闪电所进行的实验举

and especially with lightning — were known around the world. But it was not as a scientist that Franklin stood before the court. He was an ambassador, sent by American leaders who had begun a revolt against the rule of Great Britain.

Franklin had been living in a house between Versailles and Paris, the French capital. He had met as many important people as possible, encouraging them to send money, arms, and supplies to aid the American Revolution. He had also been negotiating two treaties that would make France an official ally of the colonists. France was a longtime rival of Great Britain. Both nations had built forts and established colonies in North America. Decades of war between the two had left the British in control of much of that continent.

Franklin's attire may have been calculated to remind the French that he was an emissary^[1] from the "New World," a place they romanticized as wild and pure. "His clothing was rustic, his bearing simple but dignified, his language direct, his hair unpowdered," wrote one French nobleman. "It was as though [he] had been brought by magic into our effeminate and slavish age."

France was astir^[2], wrote the same Frenchman, with "a universal love of liberty." Franklin seemed to embody this ideal. When diplomat John Adams stayed in Paris, he observed, "There was scarcely a peasant or a citizen ... who did not consider [Benjamin Franklin] a friend to human kind." Franklin himself wrote, "'Tis a common observation here, that our Cause is the Cause of all Mankind, and that we are fighting for their Liberty in defending our own."

If the Americans won their war, they would begin a democracy and no longer be ruled by King George III. It is possible that





世闻名。然而富兰克林并不是以一个科学家的身份出现在宫殿之中的。他是一位大使，受那些开始反叛英国殖民统治的美洲领导人的派遣而来。

富兰克林一直住在凡尔赛宫与法国首都巴黎之间的一所房子中。他竭尽可能会见了许多重要人物，鼓励他们出钱、武器和物资来援助美州的独立战争。他还一直在为两个条约进行磋商，这两个条约将使法国成为殖民地人民的官方同盟。长期以来法国一直是英国的对手。两个国家均在北美筑起了要塞并建立了殖民地。两国之间进行了几十年的战争，结果英国人控制了北美大陆的大部分。

富兰克林在穿着上颇费了一番心思，想借此来提醒法国人他是一名来自“新大陆”的使者。他们异想天开地认为“新大陆”是一个野蛮的原始大陆。一个法国贵族这样形容他，“他衣着简朴，举止朴素但威严，说话直截了当，头发没有涂脂抹粉。”“(他)就好像是通过魔术来到了我们这个柔弱的、盲从的时代。”

这个贵族还提到法国是一个“对自由充满热爱”的国家。富兰克林似乎就是这一理想的化身。外交官约翰·亚当斯在巴黎的时候评论道：“几乎没有一个农民或市民不认为(本杰明·富兰克林)是人类的朋友。”富兰克林自己也写道：“这已形成了共识，我们的事业是全人类的事业。在捍卫自身自由的同时，我们也在为全人类的自由而奋斗。”

如果美洲人民赢得了这场战争，他们将建立一个民主国家，而不再受国王乔治三世的统治。路易十六可能会想，如果美洲人民胜利了，其他君主是否会受

[1] emissary 使者
(尤指传递噩耗
或秘密者);密
使;间谍

[2] astir 动起来
(的);轰动起
来(的);骚动
起来(的)

Louis XVI wondered whether other monarchs might be threatened if the Americans succeeded. Certainly he questioned whether France could afford to invest in America's risky war. Regardless, Louis did sign the treaties on February 6, 1778. Franklin had won a major victory for the colonists.

"He seized the lightning from the sky, and the scepter from the tyrants," one Frenchman said of Franklin. But Franklin had once been a fiercely loyal subject of the British king. His earlier life held no sign that he would seize anything, in fact. He came from a humble working family — the Franklins of Ecton, England.

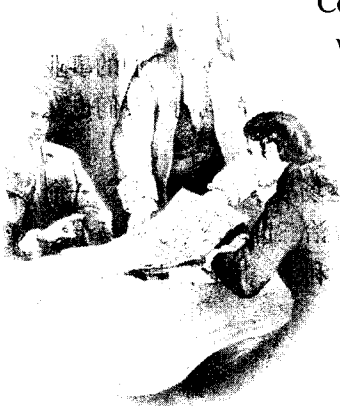
FROM THE OLD WORLD TO THE NEW

Franklin's ancestors had lived in Ecton for many generations. Like their fellow citizens, they were bound by law to remain in their homeland. After the discovery of the New World, however, England's leaders began to encourage citizens to emigrate to America. As colonists^[1], they could send lumber, furs, tobacco, silver, and gold back to the mother country.

In 1683 Benjamin's father, Josiah Franklin, took his family to the New World to seek his fortune. He and his wife, Anne, and their three children landed in the busy port city of Boston in Massachusetts Bay Colony. Josiah was a dyer of textiles, but dyers were not in demand in Boston. Josiah decided to become a chandler — a maker of candles and soap.

In 1688 Anne Franklin died after giving birth to her seventh child. Josiah then took a second wife, Abiah Folger. Their eighth child (Josiah's tenth boy) was born

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN





到威胁。他理所当然地会质疑法国能否负担得起在美洲的这场危险战争的投资。然而，不管怎样，路易十六在1778年2月6日签署了条约。富兰克林为殖民地赢得了重大的胜利。

一个法国人谈到富兰克林时说道，“他从天空抓到了闪电，从暴君手中夺回了权力。”但是，富兰克林曾经是英国国王忠诚的拥护者。事实上，他早期的生活经历中没有任何征兆显示他会夺得任何事物。他出生在一个贫寒的工人家庭——英格兰埃克顿的富兰克林家。

从旧大陆到新大陆

富兰克林家世代生活在埃克顿。同其他居民一样，他们被法律束缚在自己的家园中。但是，新大陆被发现之后，英国政府开始鼓励其居民移居美洲。作为殖民者，他们可以将木材、毛皮、烟草和金银运回祖国。

1683年本杰明的父亲，乔赛亚·富兰克林带领全家来到了新大陆，来寻求他们的致富之路。他和他的妻子安妮，以及他们的三个孩子到达了马萨诸塞湾殖民地繁忙的港口城市波士顿。乔赛亚是一个纺织品染匠，可波士顿并不需要染匠。乔赛亚于是决定要当一个蜡烛和肥皂制造商。

1688年安妮·富兰克林在产下第七个孩子之后去世了。乔赛亚又娶了第二个妻子，阿维亚·福杰。他们的第八个孩子（乔赛亚的第十个儿子）出生于1706

on January 17, 1706. They named him Benjamin after Josiah's brother, a devout^[1] Christian man. In all, Abiah had ten children.

Together with many of Josiah's children from his first marriage, the family crowded into a small house warmed with fireplaces and lit by candles. The house must have bustled with people and activity. For several years, Uncle Benjamin lived with them. As Josiah became a respected member of the community, many people, including Boston's leaders, came to the house to seek his advice. And Josiah always seemed to have guests for dinner. According to Benjamin, Josiah thought lively, adult conversation would "improve the minds of his children."

Benjamin loved to run in the streets of Boston and swim in the Charles River. One day, Benjamin led a group of boys in stealing some quarried stone intended for a new house. The boys then built a small wharf in a nearby marsh where they could stand and fish for minnows. Discovering this, their parents were furious. At first, Benjamin felt justified because the wharf was so "useful." Josiah "convinced me," Benjamin later wrote, "that nothing was useful which was not honest."

Another time, Benjamin decided that swimming in the ordinary way wasn't good enough. So he built a set of wooden paddles to help him swim faster. He also tied himself to a kite so that it could help to pull him across the river. These inventions showed that he was forming an important habit: closely observing the natural world.

While Benjamin could be exasperating^[2], his father was proud of his curiosity and intelligence. When Benjamin was eight, Josiah enrolled him in Boston Grammar School. It taught subjects such as Latin that helped boys prepare for professional careers. Josiah's other sons were learning ordinary trades. But Josiah was a member

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN





[1] devout 虔诚的

年1月17日。他们以乔赛亚兄弟——一个虔诚的基督教徒——的名字来命名本杰明。阿维亚总共生了10个孩子。

加上乔赛亚第一次婚姻为他留下的许多孩子，这个家庭拥挤地住在一个有着壁炉供暖和蜡烛照明的小房子内。这所房子内一定曾经是人声鼎沸、忙忙碌碌的。好几年本杰明叔叔也同他们住在一起。随着乔赛亚成为当地社区一位受人尊敬的人士，许多人都来到他的家中征求他的意见，这其中也包括波士顿的领袖人物。而乔赛亚也似乎总是有宾客来共进晚餐。据本杰明说，乔赛亚认为成人之间生动的交谈“有助于他孩子思维的发展”。

本杰明喜欢在波士顿的大街上奔跑，在查尔斯河中游泳。一天，本杰明领着一群孩子偷了一些为建新房而开采的石头。孩子们用这些石头在附近的沼泽地中建起了一个小码头，这样他们就能够站在上面钓米诺鱼。他们的父母发现这件事之后都非常气愤。开始时，本杰明觉得自己做得很对，因为那个码头是那么的“有用”。本杰明后来写道，乔赛亚“说服了我，使我认识到任何不诚实的东西都是没用的。”

[2] exasperating

使人极恼怒的，
使人发火的

有一次，本杰明觉得以通常的方式游泳还不够快，于是他造了一副木船桨来帮助他游得更快些。他还把自己绑到风筝上来渡河。这些发明说明了他正在形成细致地观察自然世界这个重要的习惯。

虽然本杰明能把人气得半死，但是他父亲仍然以他的好奇心和聪慧为骄傲。本杰明8岁时，乔赛亚把他送进了波士顿语法学校学习。那里所教授的诸如拉丁语之类的课程为孩子们将来的职业生涯奠定基础。乔赛亚的其他孩子那时正在学习普通的手艺。但是，乔

of a church that was similar to a modern Congregational^[1] church. He wanted Benjamin to become a minister. As he explained, guiding his tenth boy into the ministry was a way of tithing (giving onetenth of one's wealth to the church). Unfortunately, Benjamin was an unruly^[2] student. Josiah took him out of the school after just one year.

Josiah next enrolled Benjamin in a school led by George Brownell ("a then famous man," as Benjamin later wrote). And he began to reconsider Benjamin's future. To complete his son's education for the ministry, Josiah would eventually have to send Benjamin to college. Yet Josiah couldn't afford to do that. Besides, Benjamin didn't seem suited to the ministry. He wasn't devout like his Uncle Benjamin. To the contrary, he seemed to question everything. Josiah withdrew Benjamin from Brownell's school after Benjamin had received one more year of education.

Boston was then the largest town in North America, with nearly twelve thousand inhabitants. Sailing ships brought goods from Europe, the West Indies, and Africa into its harbor. They traded for New England products such as timber, fish, and rum, which they could sell in Great Britain. A man would always find plenty of customers for soap and candles in a town like this. Josiah decided Benjamin would join him in his own workshop, learning the trade of chandler.

LEARNING A TRADE

Ten-year-old Benjamin helped to make candles by filling molds with wicks and tallow (melted animal fat). He also helped prepare soap, boiling tallow with wood ashes in a cast-iron kettle. The work was hot, dirty, and boring. It didn't take him long to decide

