

英汉对照

红茶坊名著欣赏

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*The Best Short Stories
of Mark Twain*

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前 言

中国英语学习者一直在被称为“考试文化”的怪圈中徘徊。虽然花费了大量的时间和精力,但许多英语学习者的英语能力只停留在应付各种考试的水平上,另有一些英语学习者甚至连考试都望而生畏,就更谈不上以英语为工具进行交际了。即使许多英语学习者通过了某种考试,其交际能力仍然有限,在很多场合他们仍会不知所措。

造成以上局面的主要原因在于许多英语学习者很少阅读文学作品,没有受西方文化的熏陶,对西方社会习俗及人文知识知之甚少。

语言是文化的载体。文学作品历来被誉为语言的经典。要想真正学好英语,就必须阅读优秀的文学作品。然而,由于受英语水平的影响和时间的限制,中国英语学习者很难欣赏英文文学原著,从而在某种程度上限制了英语学习者学习英语的积极性和英语水平的提高。

为了提高广大英语学习者的英语学习兴趣及社会文化修养,我们上海交通大学外语学院几名酷爱外国文学的教授、副教授精心遴选,编写了这套《红茶坊名著欣赏》。我们用简单而又不失原作风格的英语,配以文笔流畅的汉语译文,向读者展示了这几位世界顶级作家独具特色和风格的短篇小说的魅力,以期使读者在学习英语语言的同时熟悉其历史背景、政治演变、经济发展;了解其社会习俗、人文心理及价值观念;品味人生,增强自己对人生意义的感悟,提高文学修养和人文素质。

相信读者在读完本套丛书后,会心悦诚服地同意我们以上的观点!

编 译 者

2005年3月



Mark Twain

马克·吐温



The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County

加利维拉县有名的跳蛙



The £1,000,000 Bank-note

百万英镑



A Dog's Tale

狗的故事



A Curious Experience

稀奇的经历



Journalism in Tennessee

田纳西的新闻界



The Facts in the Great Beef Contract

大宗牛肉合同公案的真相

MARK TWAIN

(1835-1910)

The pattern of the life of Samuel Langhorne Clemens, or "Mark Twain", for seventy-five years was the pattern of America—from a frontier town to industrial cities, from riverboats to railroads, from an aggressive, a self-important boy toward a troubled and powerful man. He was a genius and romantic observer of that life. At the same time he had a strong suspicion that America was not the Promised Land. This difference between the dream and the reality provoked Clemens to adopt the critical weapons of the humorist.

Mark Twain spent his early life in the river town of Hannibal, Missouri, strategically located on the banks of the Mississippi. Before the Civil War, crowds of people arrived at the town before heading for the west. When he was twelve, his father died, and he was apprenticed to a printer. His schooling was brief, and at seventeen he left home and traveled in the southwest and west for the next fifteen years, working first as an traveling printer, then as a Mississippi River pilot, and as a miner, mine speculator and journalist in Nevada.

It was in Nevada that he first used the pen name, "Mark Twain", which spoke of his nostalgic love of the Mississippi River and his river life. "Mark twain!" was always a welcome river call meaning "two fathoms" and indicating that the water was deep enough for safe passage.

In Nevada, he dreamed of striking it rich. But he failed. Instead he supported himself by newspaper reporting, specializing in humorous feature stories. With the publication of his *Jumping Frog* story, now known as *The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*, the pen name "Mark Twain" soon attracted the national attention. In 1867, as a correspondent for the *Alta California*, Clemens set out for Europe and the Holy Land —Palestine, with stops in England, France, Italy, Greece and other countries. The journey resulted in *The Innocents Abroad* (1869), the sharp-tongued look at raw American travelers that soon became a best seller.

On February 2, 1870, the rough-edged westerner married a wealthy eastern lady, Olivia Langdon, which began thirty-four years of loving, extraordinarily close, companionship. In 1872, his favorite daughter, Susy, was born, and his second book *Roughing It*, which recounted his experiences in Nevada, was published. The family settled in Hartford, Connecticut, where Mark Twain met Charles Dudley Warner and William Dean Howells, the most influential literary critic of the day. His second book was followed by a successful lecture tour and a novel, *The Gilded Age* (1874), on which was collaborated with Warner. The name of the novel is still often used to describe the era of corrupt materialism followed the Civil War. In Howell's *Atlantic Monthly* Mark Twain recounted his experiences as a riverboat pilot in a series, "*Old Times on the Mississippi*", later called *Life on the Mississippi* (1883).

Mark Twain's first real novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and its sequel *The Adventures of Huckleberry*

Finn (1885) helped him become one of the greatest novelists America has ever produced, and the two novels were proclaimed the classics in the world's literature. They were both the nostalgic account of childhood, and the social and moral record and judgment of an epoch in American history.

Mark Twain was the first important writer to consistently use the American speech—America's rather than England's English. His humor, whether it was aimed at pure entertainment or at social satire, was irresistible. His realism and detail influenced many later American novelists. That was why Ernest Hemingway once said that "all modern American Literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*." And Mark Twain's closest friend, William Dean Howells said: "Emerson, Longfellow, Lowell, Holmes—I knew them all and all the rest of our sages, poets, seers, critics, humorists; they were like one another and like other literary men; but Clemens was sole, incomparable, the Lincoln of our Literature."

Mark Twain's later life was plagued by business disappointments and the deaths of loved ones, his oldest daughter, his wife and his youngest daughter. His work became even more sarcastic. *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889) was a biting satire set in the Middle Age; *Pudd'nhead Wilson* (1893) was an attack on racial discrimination. *The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg* (1900), which made troubled inquiries into the nature of man himself, was probably the best of his powerful pessimistic tales.

马克·吐温

(1835-1910)

塞缪尔·朗荷恩·克莱门斯(马克·吐温)的生活模式是典型的美国人的生活模式。在他七十五年的生命历程中,他从边疆小镇走到工业城市,抛弃航船改乘火车,从一个任性自负的少年成长为一个历经坎坷、叱咤风云的成年人。对于他所经历的生活,他是个天才的、浪漫的观察者,同时他又强烈地怀疑美国远远不是一片乐土。梦与现实之间的差距促使克莱门斯拿起了幽默家的批判之笔。

马克·吐温的童年和青少年时代是在密苏里州的一个河边小镇汉尼巴尔度过的,小镇位于密西西比河岸边,地理位置非常重要。南北战争之前人们蜂拥来到小镇,再由此出发前往西部。十二岁那年,父亲去世后,他成了一名印刷所学徒。他所受的教育很短暂,十七岁那年,他离开家乡开始在美国西南部和西部地区漫游。十五年间,他先后做过排字工人、密西西比河上的领航员,后来在内华达州,他还做过矿工、矿产投机商和新闻记者。

在内华达州,他第一次使用了“马克·吐温”这一饱含着他对密西西比河和逝去了的河上生活的怀恋之情的笔名。“两个标记!”这句话是船员们最爱听的,原意是“两英寻”(约四米),意味着水的深度是安全的,船可以通行。在内华达,他梦想着一夜致富,可是梦想破灭了。不过,他通过为报纸撰写稿件,尤其是他所擅长的幽默特写故事养活了自己。他的“跳蛙”故事,即现在所说的“加利维拉县有名的跳蛙”发表以后,“马克·吐温”这一笔名很快在美国引起广泛注意。1867年,克莱门斯以一家加利福尼亚报纸 Alta California 记者的身份踏上了前往欧洲和圣地——巴勒斯

坦的旅程,沿途经过英国、法国、意大利、希腊等国。这次旅程造就了1869年出版的《傻瓜出国记》。这本游记对美国游客的鲁钝无知做了尖刻的嘲讽,很快成为一本畅销书。

1870年2月2日,这位毛毛糙糙的西部人娶了来自东部的富家小姐奥莉维亚·兰顿为妻,从此开始了他们三十四年亲密的相濡以沫的共同生活。1872年,他最喜爱的女儿苏茜出生。同年,他的第二本书《艰苦岁月》出版,书中记录的是他在内华达州的生活经历。他们一家人定居在康涅狄格州的哈特福德,在此,马克·吐温遇到了查理·达德利·华纳和当时美国评论界的风云人物威廉·迪恩·豪威尔斯。第二部书出版之后他进行了一次成功的巡回讲演,并与华纳合作写成小说《镀金时代》。该书名称至今仍被用来形容南北战争之后那个腐化的物质主义盛行的时代。在豪威尔斯主办的《大西洋月刊》上,马克·吐温以连载形式发表了“密西西比河上的过去时光”,后更名为《密西西比河上》(1883年),记述了他作为导航员的生活经历。

马克·吐温第一部真正意义上的小说《汤姆·索耶历险记》(1876年)和它的续篇《哈克贝里·费恩历险记》(1885年)使他成为美国最伟大的小说家之一。两部小说也成为世界文学中的经典之作,它们既是对童年生活留恋的追忆,同时也是对美国历史上的某个时代的社会和道德的记录与评判。

马克·吐温是第一位自始至终坚持使用美国本土话语——美式英语而不是英式英语写作的重要作家。他的幽默,不论是纯粹为了取乐,还是为了讥讽时弊,都有着令人难以抗拒的力量。他的现实主义和注重细节的文风影响了后来的许多美国小说家。难怪欧内斯特·海明威曾这样评论:“所有的现代美国文学都源自于马克·吐温的一部名叫《哈克贝里·费恩历险记》的书。”马克·吐温最亲密的朋友威廉·迪恩·豪威尔斯说,“爱默生、朗费罗、洛威尔、霍姆斯——这些人我非常了解,也了解我们这个时代其他的哲

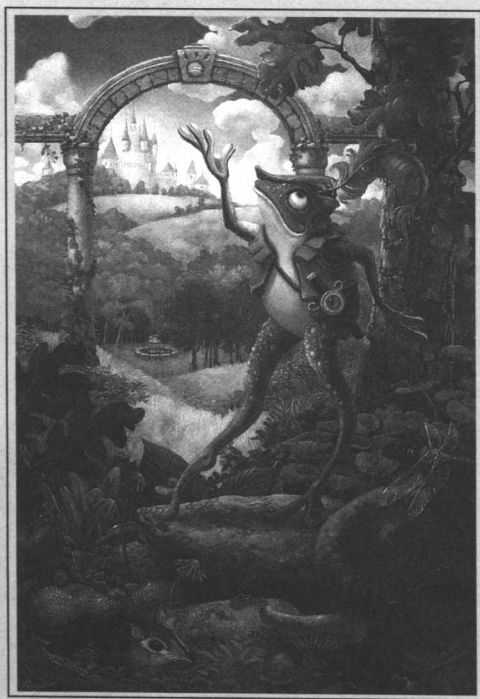
人、诗人、先知、评论家、幽默家；他们彼此相似，和别的文坛人士也没什么两样；但克莱门斯是独树一帜的，是无人可与之匹敌的，他是我国文学界的林肯。”

马克·吐温的后半生非常坎坷：商业投资屡遭失败，三位亲人——大女儿、妻子、小女儿先后离世。他的作品的讽刺意味越来越浓重。《亚瑟王朝廷里的康涅狄格州的美国人》(1889年)是一部以中世纪为背景的讽刺作品；《傻瓜威尔逊》(1893年)一书抨击了种族歧视；《败坏了哈德莱堡的人》(1900年)一书中马克·吐温忧心忡忡地探讨了人类的本性，可以说是他所有带有悲观色彩的故事中最具影响力的一部。



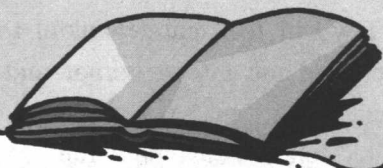
The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras
County

加利维拉县有名的跳蛙



作品导读

故事的主人公是个铁杆的赌徒，但作者将他描述得不仅不让人讨厌，反而让人感到亲切愉悦。他用跳蛙打赌输掉时，人们会替他感到遗憾，为他叫屈，而对那个以不正当手段赌赢的家伙，人们则会对他的自私冷酷嗤之以鼻。他养的那些小动物们也个个形象鲜活：那匹后发制人的老爷马、专咬对手后腿关节的小斗狗、那只身怀绝技、谦逊坦率却遭人暗算的跳蛙，甚至连那只尚未来得及出场的母牛都给人留下了深刻印象。



The Notorious^① Jumping Frog of Calaveras County

According to the request of a friend of mine, who wrote me from the East, I called on good-natured, talkative old Simon Wheeler, and asked him about my friend's friend, Leonidas W. Smiley, as requested to do, and I wrote down the result. I suspected secretly that Leonidas W. Smiley is a myth; that my friend never knew such a person; and that he only thought that if I asked old Wheeler about him, it would remind him of his Jim Smiley who has an ill fame, and he would go to work and bore me to death with some boring memories of him as long and as tedious as it should be useless to me. If that was the design, it succeeded.

I found Simon Wheeler dozing comfortably by the bar-room stove of the broken-down hotel in the decayed mining camp of Angel's, and I noticed that he was fat and baldheaded, and had an expression of pleasant gentleness and simplicity upon his peaceful face. He stood up, and gave me good day. I told him that a friend of mine had asked me to make some inquiries about an old friend of his boyhood named Leonidas W. Smiley—Rev^②. Leonidas W. Smiley, a young minister of the Gospel^③, who he had heard was once a resident of Angel's Camp. I added that if Mr. Wheeler could tell me anything about this Rev. Leonidas W. Smiley, I would feel quite thankful to him.

Simon Wheeler backed me into a corner and enclosed me there with his chair, and then sat down and reeled off the boring story which follows this paragraph. He never smiled, he never frowned, he never changed his voice from

加利维拉县有名的跳蛙



遵照一位朋友的嘱托,我前去拜访了那位和善但有点啰嗦的老先生西蒙·惠勒。我的这位朋友从东部写信给我,拜托我打探一下他的朋友留尼达·斯迈利的消息。我按照他的意思做了,而在下文中我所记述的就是此次拜访的结果。不过我到现在仍是满腹狐疑,总觉得这位所谓的留尼达·斯迈利纯属子虚乌有,而我的朋友也压根没结识过这么一个人;或许照他猜想,我若是向惠勒老先生问起留尼达·斯迈利这个人,必定会令他联想到他所熟悉的那位声名狼藉的吉姆·斯迈利,然后他便会开始他的工作,向我猛侃一通有关那个人的无聊琐事。而他那喋喋不休的唠叨,将不会对我打探那个人的消息起到任何帮助,却只会把我烦得死去活来。如果要是我的朋友果真这么设计的话,那他的诡计是得逞了。

找到西蒙·惠勒的时候,他正坐在已经衰败下去的安奇尔矿区里那座破旧客栈的酒吧间的火炉旁惬意地打着瞌睡。我注意到他体态肥胖,头顶已经发秃,面色安详宁静,表情和善朴实,让人感到亲切。听到动静他醒了过来,向我问好。我跟他说,我的一位朋友拜托我向他打听他孩提时代的一个亲密小伙伴的事,这人名叫留尼达·斯迈利——留尼达·斯迈利牧师,是位年轻的宣讲福音的牧师,我的朋友听人说他曾在安奇尔矿区市镇呆过一段时间。我还跟他说,如果他能告知一些有关这位留尼达·斯迈利牧师的事情,我将不胜感激。

在西蒙·惠勒推推让让之下,我后退到一个角落里。他把椅子搬来横在我面前,坐定之后便滔滔不绝,给我讲述起这段文字之



1. Notorious 著名的,众所周知的;臭名昭著的,声名狼藉的
2. Rev. 是 Reverent 的缩写形式,用作对僧侣、牧师的尊称
3. Gospel (宗)(有关耶稣替世人赎罪、天国到来等的)福音;耶稣和使徒们的教诲

the gentle-flowing key to which he tuned his first sentence, he never revealed the slightest taste of enthusiasm; but all through the long and boring story there ran a mood of impressive earnestness and sincerity, which showed me clearly that, so far from his imagination that there was nothing ridiculous or funny about his story, he regarded it as a really important matter, and admired its two heroes as men who have a genius for dealing with things cleverly. I let him go on in his own way, and never interrupted him once.

“Rev. Leonidas W. H’m, Reverend Le—well, there was a fellow here once by the name of Jim Smiley, in the winter of 1849—or maybe it was the spring of 1850—I don’t remember exactly, somehow, but I think it was one or the other because I remember the big channel wasn’t finished when he first came to the camp; but anyway, he was the most curious man who always bet on anything that turned up you ever see, if he could get anybody to bet on the other side; and if he couldn’t he’d change sides. Any way that suited the other man would suit him—so long as he got a bet, he was satisfied. But still he was lucky, uncommonly lucky; he almost always came out winner. He was always ready and waiting for a chance; there couldn’t be nothing mentioned but that fellow would offer to bet on it, and you can take any side you please, as I was just telling you. If there was a horse-race, you’d find him excited or you’d find him penniless at the end of it; if there was a dog-fight, he’d bet on it; if there was a cat-fight, he’d bet on it; if there was a chicken-fight, he’d bet on it; why, if there were two birds sitting on a fence, he would bet you which one would fly first;

后的那个单调乏味的故事。他说故事时不仅脸上不露任何表情，声调嗓门也是一成不变，从头到尾保持着他开始说第一句话时的那种涓涓流水似的音调，讲述过程中也丝毫没有表现出激动难抑的样子；但是，在他没完没了讲述故事的时候，态度始终是认认真真、诚诚恳恳，这给我留下了深刻印象，也清楚地告诉我，在他看来，他讲的故事可没有什么荒唐可笑的地方，他认为这是件严肃的事情，而且他也很佩服故事里的两位主角，他们在耍手腕儿斗智方面可是数一数二的天才。于是我就让他随意地说下去，一次也没有打断过他。

“留尼达牧师，噢，留尼达牧——咳，我们这儿以前呢，有过一个叫吉姆·斯迈利的家伙，当时是一八四九年的冬天——要不就是一八五零年的春天——具体时间我有点记不清了，但我感觉不是前一个就是后一个，因为我记得他刚到我们这个镇子来的时候，那条大放水槽还没有完工呐；不过，可以这么说，他算是这一带最奇怪的人了。不论有个什么事，只要能找得到一个人跟他做对家，他就要和人家打赌；若是人家不愿意，他就跟对方交换，从相对的一边下赌。只要对方称心如意，他也就称心如意——不管怎么样，只要让他能打成赌，他就心满意足。即使是这样，他的运气也不错，而且是相当的不错；几乎每次打赌他都是赢家。他时刻待命，一门心思瞅机会打赌；无论人们提起一件什么事，那家伙就会跟人家提出拿这事打赌，而且正像我刚才说的，在哪一边下注随你挑。要是哪里有场赛马，比赛完了以后你就看吧，他要么欢天喜地，要么输得精光；若是哪里有斗狗，他就找人一赌高下；哪里斗猫，他要赌；哪里斗鸡，他也要赌；嗨，就是有两只鸟蹲在篱笆墙