

双语美文悦读馆

# 找回你的 生命礼物

(名人传记)

主编 执云 / 邓秋峰 译

SEEKING BACK YOUR LIFE GIFT

一种礼物，一段回忆，一种人生，一抹色彩。

光明日报出版社

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## 主编寄语

每一次的相遇都会发生一些故事，相遇可以是人，亦可是物。如伯牙之于子期、陆游之于唐婉、伯乐之于千里马，而人与好书的相遇，也定会携带醉人的故事。

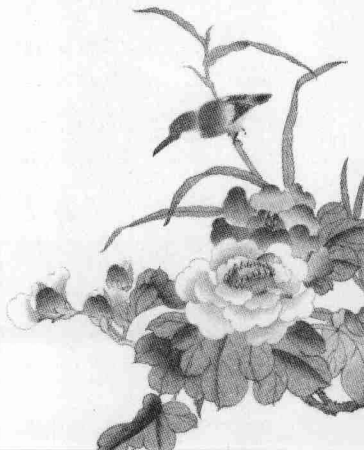
与一本好书相遇，如同十字路口寻获了地标，减少了些许的迷茫。

与一本好书相遇，如同都市尘嚣偶得了清茗，涤荡了几多的倦怠。

与一本好书相遇，如同夜深枯灯瞥见了后窗，增加了无限的遐思。

与一本好书相遇，如同历史遗迹发掘了珍宝，开拓了未知的视野。

每个人会与许多不同的好书相遇，这是人与物的牵绊，也是人与人的牵绊。每个人与好书相遇都在上演着各自不同的故事。当然你也不例外，现在你也与一本好书相遇了。这本书中有优美的英文及美丽的中文，她会给你山泉般甘甜的知识，待你畅游你未曾游览过的景致，而你又将与她上演怎样精彩的故事呢……





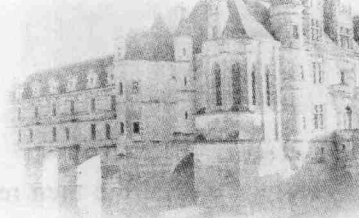
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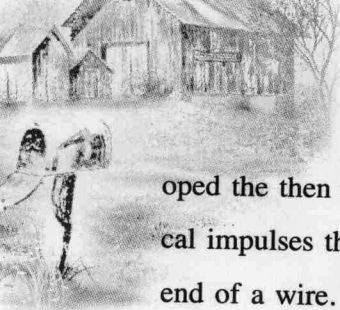
## Alexander Graham Bell

It is such a common occurrence that no one ever wonders from whence it came. But the telephone has a fascinating story behind it, one that could be entitled. "The Conquest of Solitude." It is the story of Alexander Graham Bell.

He was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 1847, the son of a man who was consumed, passionately consumed, with the workings of the human voice, how it is produced and used, and especially, in teaching the deaf how to use it. For in those days, you see, the deaf lived in permanent solitude. Not only could they not hear, they could not speak. After all, how could they pronounce words, they couldn't hear? Perhaps this obsession of the elder Bell was one of the reasons he married whom he did. For the woman who would give birth to the inventor of the telephone...was deaf!

Young Alexander Graham Bell grew up with his father's passions. In 1870, because of poor health, he migrated to Canada. It was not long before his success in teaching the deaf to speak brought him to the attention of a wealthy merchant in Boston who had a deaf daughter, Mabel. Would Mr. Bell please teach Mabel how to speak? Yes, he would, and did. And they fell in love. It was she who inspired him through many of the exhausting experiments. Who pulled him through the depression that often inflict those whose drive to succeed is so intense, while he devel-





oped the then remarkable instrument that transformed speech into electrical impulses that could then be converted back into human speech at the end of a wire. He had pierced yet another solitude, the one that up until then had denied human speech between people distant from one another. A year later, in 1877, he and Mabel were married. He later became an American citizen.

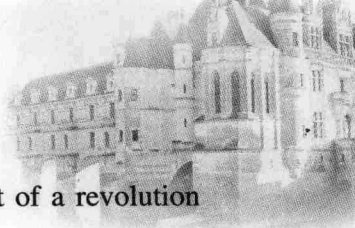
Oh, Alexander Graham Bell was showered with the praise of the world. Honors came to him from all the points of the compass. Yes, he would go on to other discoveries, many of them. But in his own view, he was most proud of his efforts to help the deaf.

So, when the government of France awarded him the Volta Prize for inventing the telephone, he combined this monetary award with the money he made from selling the patent on another invention to establish the Volta Bureau in Washington, D. C. . Its purpose was to fund research on deafness. Today, it is called the Alexander Graham Bell Association. Its role has been changed to providing the latest information to the deaf of the world on how best to cope with their disability.

Alexander Graham Bell died in 1922, Mabel five months later. She loved him that much. His name is likely to live as long as man recalls history. After all, there is this constant reminder of how he brought the human family into closer touch.

The first voice to travel over a wire was even a surprise for its inventor. Alexander Graham Bell. He was experimenting in his laboratory late one night, and quite by accident he succeeded in transmitting a message to his assistant in the next room. What Mr. Bell could not know at





the time was that that night in 1876 would mark the start of a revolution in communications.

At first, two iron wires connected each pair of telephones. Then switchboards brought phone wires into one location. Other inventions—the vacuum tube to amplify sound, and coaxial cables to link long distances on land and under the seas—greatly expanded phone service. Transistors replaced the old vacuum tubes, and by the 1960s communications satellites eliminated the necessity of landlines. Today, bundles of glass fibers carry calls on laser beams of light.

Many of these inventions – including sound motion pictures and stereo recording, along with 23,000 other patents—come from AT&T Bell Laboratories founded in 1925. John Davis is executive director of Bell Laboratories Consumer Products Division. He says, as we move into the 1990s, we can expect even greater flexibility in telecommunications.

It is hard to imagine a world without the telephone. Our lives have grown to depend on computers linked into phone lines to do our shopping, our banking, or helping us through a typical day work.

When you walk into your office, the first thing you do is to turn on the computer and pull up your electronic mail for the day. Of course, your electronic mail does not come in through the mailbox, but comes in through telephone lines. The nice thing is you can turn them around by simply forwarding back without having to worry about addressing or stamping or enveloping the information to the person that sent you the message.



## 词汇空间

**experiment** n. 实验, 试验

vi. (on, with) 做实验

**impulse** n. 冲动, 一时的念头; 推动, 驱使; 脉冲

**effort** n. 努力, 尝试; 努力的成果, 成就

**transmit** vt. 播送, 发射; 传送, 传递, 传染

**communication** n. 交流, 通讯;

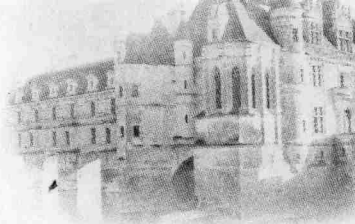
[ pl. ] 通信(或交通)工具

**typical** a. 典型的, 有代表性的

**electronic** a. 电子的

n. [ -s ] 电子学; 电子设备





## 亚历山大·格雷厄姆·贝尔

电话是如此平常，平常到没有人会去想它是怎样到来的。但是在它背后却有一个引人入胜的故事，名为“征服孤寂”。这就是亚历山大·格雷厄姆·贝尔的故事。

1847年，贝尔在苏格兰的爱丁堡市出生。他的父亲迷恋于对人类声音的研究：声音是如何产生的？又是如何作用的？如何才能教会失聪的人说话。因为那时，失聪者生活在永恒的孤寂之中。他们不仅听不见，而且也不会说话。毕竟，听不见的人又怎么能知道如何发声呢？也许，老贝尔的这一执著的爱好是促使他日后娶了他妻子的原因之一。因为后来生下电话发明者的那女子——是位聋人！

年轻的亚历山大·格雷厄姆·贝尔遗传了父亲执著的爱好。1870年，他由于健康状况欠佳移居加拿大。不久之后，他就成功地教会了聋人说话，这引起了波士顿一位富商的注意，他的女儿梅布尔就是位聋人。

能否请贝尔先生教梅布尔说话呢？可以，他愿意教。他教了梅布尔，他们也相爱了。正是有了梅布尔的鼓励，贝尔才得以进行所有那些使人精疲力竭的实验，也正是有了梅布尔的帮助，他克服了不时产生的沮丧情绪——这种情绪常常困扰着一些通过工作而获取成功的人们——才使他得以研制出当时很了不起的一种工具。贝尔能够把人说的话转变为电脉冲，之后他又在金属丝的末端使之还原成人说的话。就这样他打破了另一种孤寂，那种在此之前令相距遥远的人一直无法通话的孤寂。一年之后，1877年，贝尔同梅布尔结为夫妻，他后来成为美国公民。

啊，全世界的赞美纷至沓来，荣誉来自四面八方。是的，他后来继续做出很多项发明。但对他本人来讲，帮助聋人所做的努力是最值得骄傲和



自豪的。

因此，当法国政府因为他发明了电话而授予他沃尔塔奖金时，他用这笔奖金再加上他通过出售另一项发明所得到的钱，在华盛顿建立起沃尔塔办事处，目的就是为医治耳聋提供资金。现如今这一机构称作“亚历山大·格雷厄姆·贝尔协会”，它的作用已变成向全世界的聋人提供如何最有效地应对耳聋的最新资料。

亚历山大·格雷厄姆·贝尔逝于1922年，5个月后，梅布尔也去世了，因为她太爱贝尔了。贝尔的名字可能会永存于世，一如人们对历史不灭的记忆。毕竟，有这样一件物品会经常提醒人们，是贝尔使人类大家庭彼此得以保持更密切的联系。

通过电线传送的第一个声音，甚至使它的发明者亚历山大·格雷厄姆·贝尔都感到惊讶。一天深夜，贝尔正在实验室里做实验，他偶然传递给隔壁房间助手的一个口信获得了成功。贝尔先生当时无法知道的是，1876年的那个夜晚将标志着通信革命的开始。

最初，每一对电话是用两根铁丝连接起来的。然后，交换台使电话线集中到一个地点。其他的发明——如放大声音的真空管和在陆地及海底连接长距离的同轴电缆——极大地扩展了电话服务。晶体管取代了真空管。到了20世纪60年代，通信卫星又消除了对地面线路的需要。如今，一束束玻璃纤维用激光传递人们彼此间的通话。

这些发明当中有许多项发明——包括有声电影和立体声录音，连同23,000项其他专利——都来自1925年创建的AT&T贝尔实验室。约翰·戴维斯是贝尔实验室消费产品部执行主任。他说，当我们进入20世纪90年代的时候，可以预计电信将具有更大的灵活性。

没有电话的世界很难想象会是什么样子。生活已变得要我们依靠把电脑同电话线相连才能去购物、去办理银行存款、取款手续，或去帮助我们完成一天的工作了。

当你走进办公室后，所做的第一件事就是打开电脑，提取出当天的电



子邮件。当然，你的电子信件不是通过邮箱送进来的，而是通过电话线输送进来的。这样的好处是，你只需要点击回复就能掉转方向把信息发给来信者，而不用去费心写地址，贴邮票，装信封了。

## 名言名言



A man can succeed at almost anything for which he has unlimited enthusiasm.

——C. M. Schwab

无论何事，只要对它有无限的热情你就能取得成功。

——C. M. 施瓦布



思路心语



## Leo Baekeland

In the opening scene of *The Graduate*, Benjamin Braddock (played by a young Dustin Hoffman) is awkwardly working an affluent Southern California crowd at a graduation party arranged for him by his parents when a family friend offers one of the century's most famous pieces of cinematic advice: "I just want to say one word to you. Just one word: plastics."

Millions of moviegoers winced and smiled. The scene neatly captured their own late '60s ambivalence toward the ever more synthetic landscape of their times. They loved their cheap, easy-to-clean Formica countertops, but envied – and longed for the authentic touch and timelessness of marble and wood. The chord struck by that line in *The Graduate* under-scored how much had happened in the six decades since the summer of 1907, when Leo Baekeland made the laboratory breakthrough that would change the stuff our world is made of.

A Belgian – horn chemist – entrepreneur, Baekeland had a knack for spotting profitable opportunities. He scored his first success in the 1890s with his invention of Velox, an improved photographic paper that freed photographers from having to use sunlight for developing images. With Velox, they could rely on artificial light, which at the time usually meant gaslight but soon came to mean electric. It was a far more dependable and convenient way to work. In 1899 George Eastman, whose cameras and



developing services would make photography a household activity, bought full rights to Velox for the then astonishing sum of \$ 1 million.

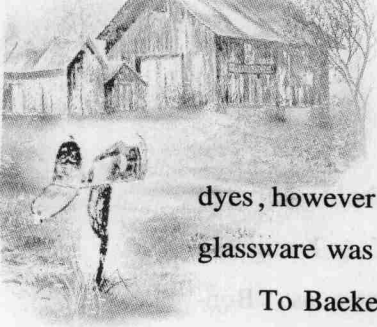
With that windfall, Baekeland, his wife Celina ( known as “ Bon-bon ” ) and two children moved to Snug Rock, a palatial estate north of Yonkers, N. Y. , over - looking the Hudson River. There, in a barn be converted into a lab, he began foraging for his next big hit. It wasn’ t long before the burgeoning electrical industry seemed to say just one word to him: insulators.

The initial tease for Baekeland—“ Doc Baekeland ” to many—was the rising cost of shellac. For centuries, the resinous secretions that Lacifer lacca beetles deposited on trees had provided a cottage industry in southern Asia, where peasants heated and filtered it to produce a varnish for coating and preserving wood products. Shellac also happened to be an effective electrical insulator. Early electrical workers used it as a coating to insulate coils, and molded it into stand - alone insulators by pressing together layers of shellac - impregnated paper.

When electrification began in earnest in the first years of the century, demand for shellac soon outstripped supply. Baekeland recognized a killer ap when he saw one. If only he could come up with a synthetic substitute for shellac.

Others nearly beat him to it. As early as 1872, German chemist Adolf Von Baeyer was investigating the recalcitrant residue that gathered in the bottom of glass - ware that had been host to reactions between phenol ( a turpentine - like solvent distilled from coal tar, which the gas - lighting industry produced in bulk ) and formalde - hyde ( an embalming fluid distilled from wood alcohol ). Von Baeyer set his sights on new synthetic





dyes, however, not insulators. To him, the ugly, insoluble gunk in his glassware was a sign of a dead end.

To Baekeland and others aiming to find commercial opportunities in the nascent electrical industry, that gunk was a signpost pointing toward something great. The challenge for Baekeland and his rivals was to find some set of conditions—some slippery ratio of ingredients and heat and pressure that would yield a more workable, shellac – like substance. Ideally it would be some – thing that would dissolve in solvents to make insulating varnishes and yet be as mold able as rubber.

Starting around 1904, Baekeland and an assistant began their search. Three years later, after filling laboratory books with page after page of failed experiments, Baekeland finally developed a material that he dubbed in his notebooks “Bakelite”. The key turned out to be his “bakelizer”, a heavy iron vessel that was part pressure cooker and part basement boiler. With it, he was able to control the formaldehyde and phenol reaction with more finesse than had anyone before him.

Initial heating of the phenol and formaldehyde ( in the presence of an acid or base to get the reaction going ) produced a shellac – like liquid good for coating surfaces like a varnish. Further heating turned the liquid into a pasty, gummier good. And when Baekeland put this stuff into the bakelizer, he was rewarded with a hard, translucent, infinitely moldable substance. In a word: plastic.

He filed patent applications and soon began leaking word of his invention to other chemists. In 1909 Baekeland un – veiled the world’s first fully synthetic plastic at a meeting of the New York chapter of the American Chemical Society. Would – be customers discovered it could be fash-

