



世纪英语专业系列教材

普通高等教育“十一五”国家级规划教材

新编

英美概况教程 (第二版)

周叔麟 [美] C. W. Pollard June Almes 主编

A Survey of
the United Kingdom
and the United States
of America



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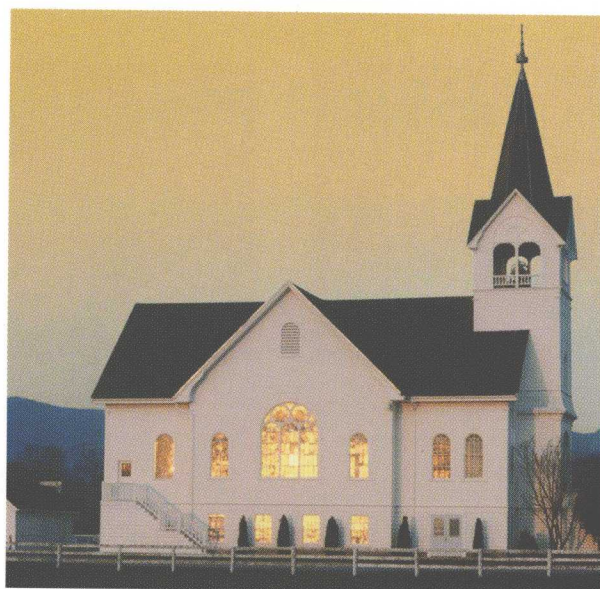
The Houses of Parliament



Big Ben



London



Church



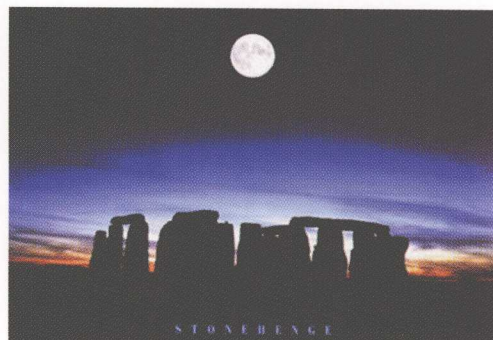
Rural Area



An England Suburb



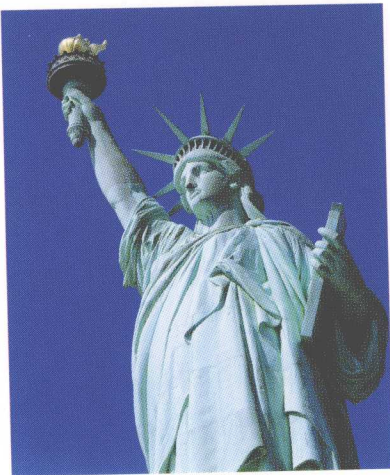
Palace Guards



The Stonehenge



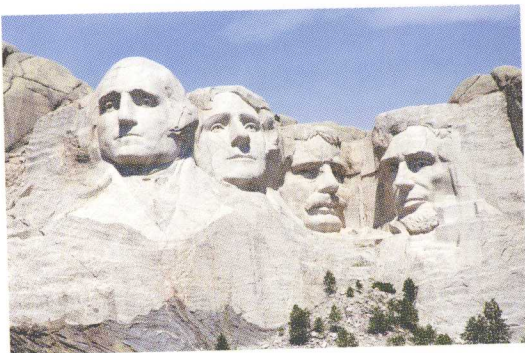
The White House



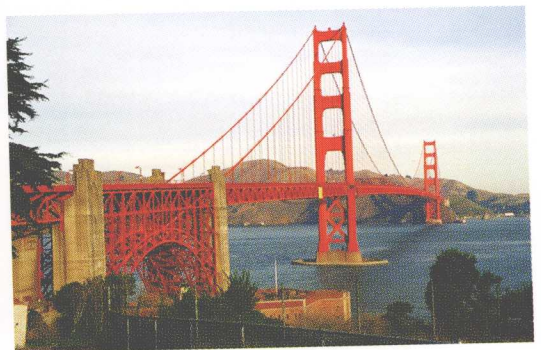
The Statue of Liberty



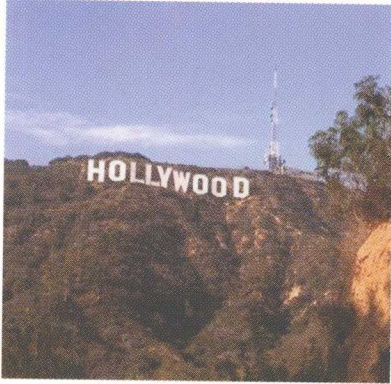
The Capitol



Mount Rushmore



The Golden Gate Bridge



Hollywood



A Midwestern House



Hiker



Baseball



School Bus

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总序

北京大学出版社自 2005 年以来已出版《语言与应用语言学知识系列读本》多种,为了配合第十一个五年计划,现又策划陆续出版《21 世纪英语专业系列教材》。这个重大举措势必受到英语专业广大教师和学生的欢迎。

作为英语教师,最让人揪心的莫过于听人说英语不是一个专业,只是一个工具。说这些话的领导和教师的用心是好的,为英语专业的毕业生将来找工作着想,因此要为英语专业的学生多多开设诸如新闻、法律、国际商务、经济、旅游等其他专业的课程。但事与愿违,英语专业的教师们很快发现,学生投入英语学习的时间少了,掌握英语专业课程知识甚微,即使对四个技能的掌握也并不比大学英语学生高明多少,而那个所谓的第二专业在有关专家的眼中只是学到些皮毛而已。

英语专业的路在何方?有没有其他路可走?这是需要我们英语专业教师思索的问题。中央领导关于创新是一个民族的灵魂和要培养创新人才等的指示精神,让我们在层层迷雾中找到了航向。显然,培养学生具有自主学习能力和能进行创造性思维是我们更为重要的战略目标,使英语专业的人才更能适应 21 世纪的需要,迎接 21 世纪的挑战。

如今,北京大学出版社外语部的领导和编辑同志们,也从教材出版的视角探索英语专业的教材问题,从而为贯彻英语专业教学大纲做些有益的工作,为教师们开设大纲中所规定的必修、选修课程提供各种教材。《21 世纪英语专业系列教材》是普通高等教育“十一五”国家级规划教材和国家“十一五”重点出版规划项目《面向新世纪的立体化网络化英语学科建设丛书》的重要组成部分。这套系列教材要体现新世纪英语教学的自主化、协作化、模块化和超文本化,结合外语教材的具体情况,既要解决语言、教学内容、教学方法和教育技术的时代化,也要坚持弘扬以爱国主义为核心的民族精神。因此,今天北京大学出版社在大力提倡专业英语教学改革的基础上,编辑出版各种英语专业技能、英语专业知识和相关专业课程教材,以培养具有创新性思维的和具有实际工作能力的学生,充分体现了时代精神。

北京大学出版社的远见卓识,也反映了英语专业广大师生盼望已久的心愿。由北京大学等全国几十所院校具体组织力量,积极编写相关教材。这就是

说，这套教材是由一些高等院校有水平有经验的第一线教师们制定编写大纲，反复讨论，特别是考虑到在不同层次、不同背景学校之间取得平衡，避免了先前的教材或偏难或偏易的弊病。与此同时，一批知名专家教授参与策划和教材审定工作，保证了教材质量。

当然，这套系列教材出版只是初步实现了出版社和编者们的预期目标。为了获得更大效果，希望使用本系列教材的教师和同学不吝指教，及时将意见反馈给我们，使教材更加完善。

航道已经开通，我们有决心乘风破浪，奋勇前进！

胡壮麟
北京大学蓝旗营

Forward to the Second Edition

This revised edition follows the U. K. and the U. S. well into the twenty-first century. Authors and experts have updated all information, and some chapters have been thoroughly revised so that readers can picture the current condition of these two nations. The United States, particularly, changed significantly after 2001, and this book will help readers see the effect of these changes.

We regret the death of June Almes, whose deep commitment to Sino-American friendship helped to bring together the many scholars and experts who wrote the book. She also contributed as editor and expert. Fortunately, she lived long enough to revise her sections and to see the completed revisions for this work. May the scholarship and the friendships both flourish.

Preface

Yang Zhizhong

A Survey of the United Kingdom and the United States of America is a collection of articles written by American, British and Chinese professors in the related fields. It covers many topics including philosophy, history, geography, politics, economy, education, culture and society. While the information is authentic and up-to-date, the language, being tailored to the needs of learners of English, is easy to read, and even to remember. At the end of each chapter, there are questions offered for reflection or discussion, and notes provided for better understanding. When reading the chapters, learners can not only gain knowledge but improve their English proficiency.

I was privileged to be the first reader of the manuscripts, and in the course of reading them, I found myself benefiting from it. Therefore, I recommend without slightest hesitation or reservation this collection to lovers of English, learners of English and all those who wish to know more about the USA and Great Britain.

Foreword

The purpose of this survey of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America is to provide an overview of the geography, history, government, economy, sociology, culture and education of the two countries, as well as of the philosophical traditions that have shaped much of western thought, including that of the United Kingdom and the United States.

The textbook is designed to assist people studying the English language, people studying British or American literature and culture, people planning to study in or travel to the United Kingdom or the United States, or people planning to work with British or American people.

This book is the result of a unique Sino-British-American cooperative effort. Professor Zhou Shulin at Nanjing University as well as Professors C. W. Pollard and June Almes at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania were chief editors on the Chinese and American sides.

Each chapter was either written by or reviewed by a specialist in the field and contains up-to-date, factual material. Each chapter was written in standard English, using the vocabulary of the appropriate academic field.

Professors June Almes and C. W. Pollard wrote the philosophy chapter. Shen Peixin from Changsha University of Science and Technology wrote the UK geography chapter, and US geography chapter in consultation with Professor John Way of Lock Haven University. Judy Ochs, M. Ed. of the South Middleton School District and C. W. Pollard wrote the UK history chapter; Prof. Lawrence T. Farley of Lock Haven University described the UK and US Governments. Prof. Steven D. Soderlund of St. Olaf College wrote the British economy chapter, and Gillian Masemore, ex-London newspaper staff, and C. W. Pollard wrote the chapters on British culture and education. Zhou Shulin wrote the American history chapter. Prof. Philip Sprunger of Lycoming College wrote the chapter on the US economy. Professors Judy Brink and Renuka Biswas, both of Lock Haven University, wrote the chapters on US culture and society. Prof. Almes wrote the American education chapter.

We would like to extend our hearty thanks to Yang Zhizhong, President, College English Teaching and Research Association of China, Professor of Nanjing University, for writing the preface of the book and for his great concern and valuable advice about the writing and publishing of the book. Special thanks go to Xiao Li, Zhang Yiyun and Sang Xiaoli of Nanjing University for making notes for the book, and Shawn Smith for her editorial suggestions.



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