

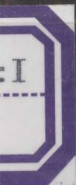


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*Appreciation of Famous British  
and American Poetry*

# 英美诗歌 名篇赏析

逯阳/主编





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# 前言

随着全球一体化进程的加快，文化在国际竞争中的作用日趋凸显，已成为世界各国综合国力较量的一个决定因素。提升文化软实力也成为助推中国梦实现的强大力量。要提升文化软实力，除了积极构建主流文化外，还要积极进行文化交流。英语学习者必须学习英美文化，并与中国文化进行深入比较，才能增强其对文化差异的敏感度和宽容度，才能在比较中实现自身文化的传承、创新、传播和提升。研读经典的英美文学作品是了解英美国家人文历史、民族文化、风俗习惯等的最佳途径。学习文学，广泛阅读优秀的文学作品，从中汲取营养，不仅能提升我们的文学修养和艺术情趣，还能培养我们高尚的品行、宽广的胸怀，帮助我们树立正确的人生观、世界观和价值观。

诗歌是文学殿堂中最耀眼的明珠，是语言世界里最夺目的宝石。英国文艺复兴时期的著名诗人、大学才子托马斯·纳什曾说过：“诗歌是百花之蜜，一切学问的精髓，智慧的本质，天使的语言。”纳什的名言，高度概括了诗歌的本质与功能，也体现了诗歌在文学中的重要地位。在英国文学史上，从民族史诗《贝奥武夫》算起，直到18世纪现代小说兴起以前，“诗歌”一直是“文学”的代名词。直到今天，人们也常用诗学来指代文学。所以同其他文学体裁相比，诗歌得到了最为充足的发展时空，积累了最为丰富的优秀作品。英美诗歌对于英语学习者的作用是戏剧、小说、散文等所无法比拟的。英美诗歌能够提供最真实、最原始的语言素材，它不但能让英语学习者从更深层次去理解英美文化元素，帮助学习者更加准确地把握这种语言；它还能用优美的诗歌意境及诗人感人的人生故事来熏陶和鼓舞读者，让读者品味人生，享受艺术，热爱生活。

本书是针对大学本科生提高诗歌素养而编写的一部教材，是在作者多年英美诗歌教学实践的基础上，经历了多年的完善和修改后形成的。通过诗歌名篇的赏析提高学生的语言和文化的双重感悟，进而提升语言的运用能力和跨文化交际能力是编写本书的根本出发点。本书选编了从中世纪到20世纪末600年间英美诗坛出现的最著名的54位诗人的120篇作品。考虑到课堂教学的需要，编者在诗歌选择上主要收录的都是短诗。为了能够使读者对所选作家、作品有一个较为全面、准确的理解，本书按照诗人来分章节，

一人一章，每一章均由“诗人简介”、“诗歌赏析”、“汉语译文”和“思考讨论”四个部分组成。其中的“诗歌赏析”部分又包含“诗歌原文”、“注释”和“评论”三个小部分。对一些多产的诗人，除了最重要的作品外，还选取了其他几篇作品供学生补充阅读。“诗人简介”涉及该诗人的生平及其在文学史上的地位、贡献、代表作品、艺术风格等；“注释”部分主要对所选篇目中的语言难点、文化背景等进行简明扼要的注解；“汉语译文”大多数为编者自译，个别著名的诗篇选用了前辈的通行译法（在译文后均已注明）。本书可以作为课堂教学之选，也可以供学生课外阅读和欣赏之需，还可以供诗歌爱好者平时诵读之用。除了英美诗歌两部分外，本书还设置了“术语表”，对学生了解英诗的基础知识也十分有帮助。本书特色鲜明，内容丰富，既易于教学，又系统专业，虽为大学英语学生选修课设计，也适合英语专业学生学习使用。

本书的编写旨在帮助学生了解英语语言文化的精华，同时也希望读者在了解了英美诗歌后能够积极进行中西诗歌比较和中西文化比较。通过比较，取长补短，促进中西文化的相互学习与相互交流，为实现世界的和平与共同繁荣做出自己的贡献。诚然，英美诗歌博大精深，远非这本书所能囊括。笔者殷切地希望这本书能对广大读者起到“尝脔知鼎”的作用，从而激发读者进一步学习英美诗歌的兴趣。倘若达到此目的，便是我最大的欣慰。

在本书的编写过程中，参阅了许多相关的书籍和资料。在此，笔者向相关著作的作者和出版单位表示衷心的感谢！同时，本书的出版还得到了大连理工大学出版社的大力支持，在此也表示感谢！由于水平有限，不妥之处在所难免，恳请读者、同仁及专家指正，以便今后继续努力改进。

逯阳

2013年8月

于大连外国语大学

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## 11

## Geoffrey Chaucer (1343—1400)

杰弗里·乔叟



## Introduction

Geoffrey Chaucer, Father of English Literature, is widely considered as the greatest English poet of the Middle Ages and was the first poet to have been buried in Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey. He was born in London into an affluent wine merchant family in 1343. Little is known about his early life and even less about his education. In 1359, Chaucer joined the English army's invasion of France during the Hundred Years' War (1337—1453) and was taken prisoner; King Edward III of England paid his ransom in 1360.



In 1366, Chaucer married Philipa de Roet, daughter of Sir Payne Roet and sister of John of Gaunt's third wife. This marriage marked the beginning of his public service. John of Gaunt was a powerful noble, Duke of Lancaster and son of King Edward. For the rest of his life, Chaucer held various positions in the court and in the King's service. Since he was fluent in French and Italian and conversant in Latin and other languages, Chaucer was given a life pension by the king, and began traveling abroad on diplomatic missions. During trips to Italy in 1372 and 1378, Chaucer got an opportunity to study the Renaissance at first hand. He discovered the works of Dante, Boccaccio, and Petrarch—each of which greatly influenced Chaucer's own literary endeavors. Chaucer was named Controller of Customs on wools, skins, and hides for the port of London in 1374, and continued in this post for twelve years.

In spite of his busy professional duties, Chaucer also managed to write a large number of poems. His early work, including the *Romaunt of the Rose* (1370) and *Saint Cecilia* (1373) is heavily influenced by love poetry of the French tradition. After his trips to Italy, Chaucer's period of Italian influence began, which includes transitional

works such as *Anelida and Arcite* (1379), *Parlement of Foules* (1382), and *Troilus and Criseyde* (1385). Chaucer established residence in Kent, where he was elected a justice of the peace and a member of Parliament in 1386. His wife died the following year. His period of artistic maturity is considered to begin at this time, marked by the writing of the General Prologue of *The Canterbury Tales*, which Chaucer continued to work on for many years—most likely until his death on October 25, 1400.

Among his many works, which include *The Book of the Duchess*, *The House of Fame*, *The Legend of Good Women* and *Troilus and Criseyde*, he is best known today for *The Canterbury Tales*. Chaucer is a crucial figure in developing Middle English, at a time when the dominant literary languages in England were French and Latin. Chaucer greatly increased the prestige of English as a literary language and extended the range of its poetic vocabulary and meters. He was the first English poet to use iambic pentameter, the seven-line stanza called “rhyme royal”, and the couplet later called “heroic”. Chaucer dominated the works of his 15th-century English followers and the so-called Scottish Chaucerians. For the Renaissance, he was the English Homer. Edmund Spenser paid tribute to him as his master; many of the plays of William Shakespeare show thorough assimilation of Chaucer’s comic spirit. Chaucer’s reputation has been securely established as the English poet best loved after Shakespeare for his wisdom, humor and humanity.

## Appreciation

### A Rondel<sup>1</sup> of Merciless Beauty

Your two great eyes will **slay**<sup>2</sup> me suddenly:  
Their beauty shakes me who was once **serene**<sup>3</sup>,  
Straight through my heart the wound is quick and **keen**<sup>4</sup>.  
Only your word will heal the injury  
To my hurt heart, while yet the wound is **clean**<sup>5</sup>—

Your two great eyes will slay me suddenly:

Their beauty shakes me who was once serene.  
 Upon my word, I tell you **faithfully**<sup>6</sup>  
 Through life and after death you are my queen,  
 For with my death the whole truth shall be seen.

Your two great eyes will slay me suddenly:  
 Their beauty shakes me who was once serene,  
 Straight through my heart the wound is quick and keen.

### Notes

1. rondel: a poem having 13 lines with two rhymes throughout.
2. slay: kill.
3. serene: unaffected by disturbance; calm and unruffled.
4. keen: having a fine, sharp cutting edge or point.
5. clean: fresh.
6. faithfully: loyally.

### Commentary

This poem was written in Middle English but here it is the modern version adapted by American poet Louis Atmel. The theme of this poem is that a beautiful woman is like a sharp knife, and she can hurt man without noticing. The poem is called a rondel because it borrowed the French rondel with the rhyme scheme of *abbab, ababb, abb*. During his lifetime, Chaucer helped to introduce a lot of French and Italian poetic forms to the English poetry. This poem is just one typical example.

### Translation

#### 无情美女回旋曲

你那迷人的大眼睛足以在瞬间摄住我的魂魄；  
 它们的美已夺走了我昔日的安宁，