



Selected Readings in English and American Prose

英美散文选读

主编 蒋坚松 陈 惠



湖南师范大学出版社
Hunan Normal University Press



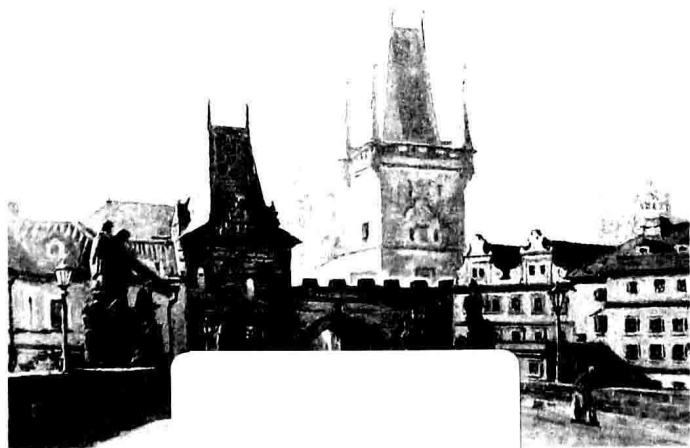
Selected Readings in English and American Prose

英美散文选读

主编 蒋坚松 陈 惠

编著 (按汉语拼音顺序)

陈 惠 陈可培 黄健人 蒋坚松
李冀宏 李兰生 潘利锋 舒奇志
唐德根 杨革新



湖南师范大学出版社
Hunan Normal University Press

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

英美散文选读 / 蒋坚松, 陈惠主编. —修订版. —长沙: 湖南师范大学出版社, 2014. 1

ISBN 978 - 7 - 5648 - 1541 - 7

I. ①英… II. ①蒋… ②陈… III. ①英语—阅读教学—高等学校—教材 ②散文集—英国 ③散文集—美国 IV. ①H319.4: I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2014) 第 018334 号

英美散文选读

主 编: 蒋坚松 陈 惠

◇策划组稿: 李 阳

◇责任编辑: 刘 霞 李 阳

◇责任校对: 李永芳

◇出版发行: 湖南师范大学出版社

地址/长沙市岳麓山 邮编/410081

电话/0731. 88853867 88872751 传真/0731. 88872636

网址/http: //press. hunnu. edu. cn

◇经销: 新华书店

◇印刷: 长沙市宏发印刷有限公司

◇开本: 710 mm × 1000 mm 1/16

◇印张: 23. 25

◇字数: 450 千字

◇版次: 2014 年 2 月第 1 版 2014 年 2 月第 1 次印刷

◇书号: ISBN 978 - 7 - 5648 - 1541 - 7

◇定价: 46. 00 元

凡购本书, 如有缺页、倒页、脱页, 由本社发行部调换

本社购书热线: (0731) 88872256 88872636

投稿热线: (0731) 88872256 13975805626 E-mail: lykeithe@163. com

前 言

散文(prose)就广义而言,泛指不属于韵文(verse)的书面和口头作品;狭义的散文,则多指那种刻意为之,具有若干文学品质的文字,如随笔之类。英语散文通常有一些共同特点。首先,它没有贯穿始终的、有规则的韵律(rhythm)。虽然好的散文往往有某种节奏或韵律,但不能像分析诗歌韵律那样去分析(scan)。其次,它所表达的意思或思想必须铺陈为文,必须有篇章和逻辑上的关联。简单的词语的堆砌或意思的罗列不成其为散文。第三,它具有一定的风格(style),而且这种风格因人而异。从根本上说,有多少人写散文,就有多少种风格,即使是同一作者,其不同形式和内容的作品也可能呈现不同的风格。第四,它常常通过词语的选择和句子的变化来使行文丰富多彩。概言之,散文“都需达到某些共同要求,如都应首先把内容说清楚;也有一些共同的问题,如都有文风问题,而一种体裁的文风改进了也会提高整体散文的质量”。(王佐良·英国散文的流变·北京:商务印书馆,1998,第1页)一个把内容说清楚,一个有某种风格,这大体上概括了散文的要素。至于风格,虽然不同时代有不同的标准,但“清楚”(clarity)总是好的文风的第一要义。

《英美散文选读》2004年8月初版,修订版根据初版的使用情况做了较大的增补和修订。除了个别书写、标点、格式之类的技术性细节(mechanics)的补正外,主要做了以下

工作:1. 补全了兰母的“Dream Children”一文,增加了斯威夫特“A Modest Proposal”一文节选的长度。2. 增加了5篇“可选读物”,以满足使用者的不同需要。3. 增加了“批评方法一览”、“书评样本”两个附录。4. “测试样卷”增加了一道英译汉的题目。因为阅读理解是欣赏和评论文学作品的前提,而翻译是检查阅读理解能力最直接、最准确的方法,更不用说翻译能力本身也是一种重要的能力。5. 第2单元的“文学术语”增加了“Irony, Sarcasm, Satire”的对比;第18单元的“文学术语”改为“Narrator”和“Point of view”。6. 增加或修改了部分选文的注释、思考题或讨论题。

为了方便读者,我们还打算推出选文的中译文。

《英美散文选读》(修订版)中的散文,包括随笔、书信、小说、传记、讲演、宣言、科普,乃至书籍评点,文学批评,小说理论,批评理论,语文学专论。其作者有散文家,也有小说家、诗人、哲学家、历史学家、政治家、数学家、物理学家、医生、文论家、语文学家、文体学家,或者以上种种兼为散文家;其年代上起17世纪初期,下至20世纪后期。这些文章都具备上面提到的散文的特点。散文涵盖面之宽,作者之众,用途之广,形式之多样,可见一斑。

本书共18个单元,外加“可选读物”5篇。每个单元分“作品选读”、“文学知识”、“补充阅读”、“研究指南”6个部分。书末有6个附录。

“作品选读”部分介绍每个单元所选的第一个作者,包括“作家简介”、“选文”、“题解”、“注释”、“思考题”。

“文学知识”部分包括“评论与批评”和“文学术语”。“评论与批评”选取和“作品选读”部分所选作家有关的评论和批评文字,以帮助加深对该作家或其作品的理解。“文学术语”选取常见的文学术语加以解释,有必要时对可能混淆的术语作出区分。

“补充阅读”部分包括“选文”、“注释”(含作者介绍)、“思考题”。这一部分的选文的作者大致与“作品选读”部分选文的作者同时代,或者选文的题材或内容有某些相近之处。设置这一部分的目的,一是为了扩大阅读面,二是为了

对不同作者的思想或风格进行比较。

“研究指南”部分包括“拓展阅读”、“参考书目(和网站)”、“讨论题”。本部分提供“作品选读”部分所选作家写的、推荐进一步阅读的作品的简介,与该作家有关的参考书目(和网站),以及与作家和选文有关的讨论题。

“可选读物”可根据需要作为补充材料选用,或者用来替换 18 个单元中的选文。

本教材的编写,旨在提高学生对英美散文的理解和鉴赏能力,英语思维和表达能力,以及英美文学的素养。与同类教材相比,它有以下特点:

一、在选材上突出“精”、“新”二字。为此,选文以经典作家的名篇为主,也有经典作家不常被选的作品,还有不为人所熟知的现当代作家的佳作。

二、按国别(先英后美)和年代编排。

三、每个单元编排两个作家,既有利于拓宽学生的视野,又便于进行比较或对比。

四、文本阅读与文学知识的学习相结合,以利于培养对作品的评判性阅读和写作能力。

五、编写的文字以英文为主,中、英文并举。各单元的“作家简介”,第二篇选文的“注释”,所有的“思考题”、“讨论题”,均为英文。“题解”和“拓展阅读”的作品介绍为中文。第一篇选文的“注释”中、英文并用(英文是对原文的解释,中文是对原文的翻译,两者不对应)。适当使用中文,一是为了让使用者在必要时更便捷、更明确地了解有关信息,二是为了使书的面孔有所变化,读起来不致太沉闷,三是对用汉语写简介或赏析性的文字有某种提示作用。

六、每个单元有“研究指南”,便于对所选作家作进一步研究。

《英美散文选读》(修订本)可供英语专业本科生高年级或研究生一年级一个学期的教学之用,教学内容和要求可根据课程性质(必修还是选修)、课时、教学目的、学生程度进行调整。比如,作本科生教材,可只选讲其中若干作家和选文,其余的内容布置为课外阅读。作研究生教材,可根据需要,按照“研究指南”提供的信息,增加若干材料,对现有

的材料也可进行取舍。本书也可作为有相当程度的英语爱好者的自学之用。

教材各编者分别承担了以下编写任务:李兰生,第1、4单元;李冀宏,第2、15单元;蒋坚松,第3、6、9、11、12、13单元;黄健人,第5、14单元;陈可培,第7、18单元;唐德根,第8单元;杨革新,第10单元;舒奇志,第16、17单元;陈惠,可选读物;潘利锋、蒋坚松,附录。

蒋坚松参与设计了全书的内容和体例,选编和撰写了各单元的“文学知识”部分,审阅、修改了全部书稿。蒋坚松和陈惠承担了修订版的全部工作。

本书的编写和出版离不开来自许多领导、同事、朋友的多方面的关心和支持,他们中间有湖南师范大学副校长白解红教授,湖南师范大学副校长蒋洪新教授,湖南师范大学外国语学院前院长黄振定教授,湖南师范大学外国语学院前院长宁一中教授,湖南师范大学出版社社长周玉波博士,湖南商学院外语系前副主任陈晓勇副教授。湖南师范大学出版社英文编辑李阳博士从教材的策划(本教材为该社“英美文学选读系列”教材之一),到书稿的编辑和付印,付出了巨大的辛劳,其敬业和求实精神,令人感佩。

本书的编写还得益于所参考和借鉴的众多书籍,已分别在各单元的参考书目和总参考书目中列出。书中摘引或选录的部分材料均已注明作者或出处,其版权属于有关的个人或机构,谨此对有关作者、编者和出版者致以诚挚的感谢。

限于我们的学识和水平,书中的错谬和疏漏之处在所难免,恳请读者、使用者批评指正。

蒋坚松 陈 惠
于湖南师范大学外国语学院

目 录

- 第 1 单元 弗兰西斯·培根/约翰·德莱顿/ 1
谈婚嫁与独身(培根)/ 2
(文学术语:Genre,Form)/ 5
论戏剧诗(莎士比亚与琼森之比较)(德莱顿)/ 6
- 第 2 单元 江纳生·斯威夫特/奥利弗·哥尔德斯密斯/ 12
一个允当可行的救时之策(斯威夫特)/ 13
(文学术语:Satire;Irony;Irony,Sarcasm,Satire)/ 23
黑衣人(哥尔德斯密斯)/ 25
- 第 3 单元 约瑟夫·艾迪生/理查德·斯梯尔/ 31
“旁观者”自述(艾迪生)/ 32
(文学术语:Prose,Essay)/ 39
“旁观者”俱乐部(斯梯尔)/ 41
- 第 4 单元 塞缪尔·约翰逊/托马斯·巴宾顿·麦考利/ 50
致吉斯菲尔德爵爷信(约翰逊)/ 51
(文学术语:Periodical Essay,Personal Essay)/ 55
塞缪尔·约翰逊(麦考利)/ 56
- 第 5 单元 查尔斯·兰姆/威廉·黑兹利特/ 62
梦幻中的孩子——一段奇想(兰姆)/ 63
(文学术语:Fiction,Drama)/ 69
谈平易风格(黑兹利特)/ 70
- 第 6 单元 罗伯特·路易斯·史蒂文森/阿尔弗雷德·乔治·加德纳/ 78
早年练笔的回忆(史蒂文森)/ 79
(文学术语:Verse,Poetry)/ 84
关于大字眼(加德纳)/ 85
- 第 7 单元 伯特伦德·罗素/阿尔弗雷德·诺思·怀特海德/ 93
怎样做老人(罗素)/ 94
(文学术语:Theme,Motif)/ 98
大学及其功能(怀特海德)/ 99

- 第 8 单元 威廉·萨默塞特·毛姆/乔治·奥威尔/ 105
明晰,质朴,音调和谐(毛姆)/ 106
(文学术语:Style,Tone)/ 114
政治与英语(奥威尔)/ 115
- 第 9 单元 爱德华·摩根·福斯特/伊弗·阿姆斯特朗·理查兹/ 124
小说人物(福斯特)/ 125
(文学术语:Plot,Characterization)/ 137
四类意义(理查兹)/ 138
- 第 10 单元 弗吉尼亚·伍尔夫/约翰·鲍恩顿·普里斯特利/ 147
妇女的职业(伍尔夫)/ 148
(文学术语:Feminism,Stream of Consciousness)/ 157
在裁缝店里(普里斯特利)/ 158
- 第 11 单元 本杰明·富兰克林/托马斯·杰斐逊/ 166
自传(富兰克林)/ 167
(文学术语:Autobiography,Narrative)/ 176
独立宣言(杰斐逊)/ 177
- 第 12 单元 华盛顿·欧文/亚伯拉罕·林肯/ 184
作者自述(欧文)/ 185
(文学术语:Metaphor,Metonymy)/ 191
第二任就职演说词(林肯)/ 193
- 第 13 单元 拉尔夫·沃尔多·爱默生/亨利·大卫·梭罗/ 198
论美国学人(爱默生)/ 199
(文学术语:Paradox,Epigram)/ 205
沃尔登湖(梭罗)/ 206
- 第 14 单元 西尔维亚·普拉斯/朱迪思·维厄斯特/ 213
一个比较(普拉斯)/ 214
(文学术语:Allusion,Symbol)/ 218
书籍如何帮助决定了我的一生(维厄斯特)/ 219
- 第 15 单元 亨利·刘易斯·门肯/詹姆斯·鲍德温/ 228
美语的特点(门肯)/ 229
(文学术语:American Language,Philology)/ 236
土生子手记(鲍德温)/ 237

- 第 16 单元 艾尔文·布鲁克斯·怀特/爱德华·霍格兰德/ 244
 随笔作者(怀特)/ 245
 (文学术语: Criticism, Stylistics)/ 249
 我所思, 我的是(霍格兰德)/ 250
- 第 17 单元 琼·迪迪翁/刘易斯·托马斯/ 258
 回家(迪迪翁)/ 259
 (文学术语: Hyperbole, Understatement)/ 265
 谈克隆人(托马斯)/ 266
- 第 18 单元 兰斯顿·休斯/艾丽斯·沃克/ 274
 救赎(休斯)/ 275
 (文学术语: Narrator, Point of View)/ 279
 兄弟姐妹(沃克)/ 280

可选读物

1. 约翰姨父的农场(马克·吐温)/ 288
2. 洞开的落地窗(萨基)/ 295
3. 大数目与无穷数(乔治·伽莫夫)/ 299
4. 名词堆砌现象文(布鲁斯·普赖斯)/ 304
5. 明白易懂的道德层面(唐纳德·霍尔)/ 309

- 附录一 英语随笔的阅读和评析/ 317
- 附录二 随笔评析文章样本/ 328
- 附录三 文学测试的基本题型/ 338
- 附录四 《英美散文选读》测试样卷/ 347
- 附录五 批评方法一览/ 351
- 附录六 书评样本/ 355

参考书目/ 359

Contents

- Unit 1** **Francis Bacon/John Dryden/ 1**
Of Marriage and Single Life(Bacon)/ 2
(Literary Terms: Genre, Form)/ 5
An Essay of Dramatic Poesy [Shakespeare and
Ben Jonson Compared](Dryden)/ 6
- Unit 2** **Jonathan Swift/Oliver Goldsmith/ 12**
A Modest Proposal(Swift)/ 13
(Literary Terms: Satire; Irony; Irony, Sarcasm, Satire)/ 23
The Man in Black(Goldsmith)/ 25
- Unit 3** **Joseph Addison/Richard Steele/ 31**
The Spectator's Account of Himself(Addison)/ 32
(Literary Terms: Prose, Essay)/ 39
The Spectator's Club(Steele)/ 41
- Unit 4** **Samuel Johnson/Thomas Babington Macaulay/ 50**
Letter to Lord Chesterfield(Johnson)/ 51
(Literary Terms: Periodical Essay, Personal Essay)/ 55
Samuel Johnson(Macaulay)/ 56
- Unit 5** **Charles Lamb/William Hazlitt/ 62**
Dream Children: A Reverie(Lamb)/ 63
(Literary Terms: Fiction, Drama)/ 69
On Familiar Style(Hazlitt)/ 70
- Unit 6** **Robert Louis Stevenson/Alfred George Gardiner/ 78**
Early Efforts at Writing(Stevenson)/ 79
(Literary Terms: Verse, Poetry)/ 84
On Big Words(Gardiner)/ 85
- Unit 7** **Bertrand Russell/Alfred North Whitehead/ 93**
How to Grow Old(Russell)/94
(Literary Terms: Theme, Motif)/ 98

	Universities and Their Function(Whitehead)/ 99
Unit 8	William Somerset Maugham/George Orwell/ 105
	Lucidity, Simplicity, Euphony(Maugham)/ 106
	(Literary Terms: Style, Tone)/ 114
	Politics and the English Language(Orwell)/ 115
Unit 9	Edward Morgan Forster/ Ivor Armstrong Richards/ 124
	People(Forster)/ 125
	(Literary Terms: Plot, Characterization)/ 137
	The Four Kinds of Meaning(Richards)/ 138
Unit 10	Virginia Woolf/John Boynton Priestley/ 147
	Professions for Women(Woolf)/ 148
	(Literary Terms: Feminism, Stream of Consciousness)/ 157
	At the Tailors(Priestley)/ 158
Unit 11	Benjamin Franklin/Thomas Jefferson/ 166
	The Autobiography(Franklin)/ 167
	(Literary Terms: Autobiography, Narrative)/ 176
	The Declaration of Independence(Jefferson)/ 177
Unit 12	Washington Irving/Abraham Lincoln/ 184
	The Author's Account of Himself(Irving)/ 185
	(Literary Terms: Metaphor, Metonymy)/ 191
	Second Inaugural Address(Lincoln)/ 193
Unit 13	Ralph Waldo Emerson/Henry David Thoreau/ 198
	The American Scholar(Emerson)/ 199
	(Literary Terms: Paradox, Epigram)/ 205
	Walden(Thoreau)/ 206
Unit 14	Sylvia Plath/Judith Viorst/ 213
	A Comparison(Plath)/ 214
	(Literary Terms: Allusion, Symbol)/ 218
	How Books Helped Shape My Life(Viorst)/ 219
Unit 15	Henry Lewis Mencken/James Baldwin/ 228
	The Hall-Marks of American(Mencken)/ 229
	(Literary Terms: American Language, Philology)/ 236
	Notes of a Native Son(Baldwin)/ 237

- Unit 16** **Elwyn Brooks White/Edward Hoagland/** 244
 The Essayist(White)/ 245
 (Literary Terms: Criticism, Stylistics)/ 249
 What I Think, What I Am(Hoagland)/ 250
- Unit 17** **Joan Didion/Lewis Thomas/** 258
 On Going Home(Didion)/ 259
 (Literary Terms: Hyperbole, Understatement)/ 265
 On Cloning a Human Being(Thomas)/ 266
- Unit 18** **Langston Hughes/Alice Walker/** 274
 Salvation(Hughes)/ 275
 (Literary Terms: Narrator, Point of View)/ 279
 Brothers and Sisters(Walker)/ 280

Optional Readings

1. Uncle John's Farm(Mark Twain)/ 288
2. The Open Window(Saki)/ 295
3. Big Numbers and Infinities(George Gamow)/299
4. Noun Overuse Phenomenon Article(Bruce D. Price)/304
5. An Ethic of Clarity(Donald Hall)/309

- Appendix I** **Approaching an Essay: Guides for Reading and Writing/** 317
- Appendix II** **A Sample Theme on an Essay/** 328
- Appendix III** **Basic Types of Questions about Literature/** 338
- Appendix IV** **A Sample Test of *Selected Readings in English and American Prose*/** 347
- Appendix V** **Critical Approaches at a Glance/** 351
- Appendix VI** **A Sample Book Review/** 355

References/ 359

第1单元/Unit 1

弗兰西斯·培根/Francis Bacon

约翰·德莱顿/John Dryden

作品选读

Selected Reading

◆ 作者简介/About the Author

Francis Bacon (1561—1626) was an English statesman, philosopher and essayist, who borrowed the genre of the *essai* from the French author Michel Montaigne but quite differed from him in both content and style. As a thinker, he formed a philosophy with such books as *Advancement of Learning* (1605), *Novum Organum* (1620), *De Augmentis Scientiarum* (1623) and *New Atlantis* (1627), whose scientific methodology, criticism of medieval scholastics, and classification of the branches of knowledge broadened the European mind.

Bacon was born in London and educated at Trinity College, Cambridge. His knowledge of Latin and “high” learning enabled him to serve in the court. He was successively appointed solicitor-general, attorney-general, lord keeper, and lord chancellor. Partly as a result of political conflicts and mainly due to his own deeds, he was charged with taking bribes, disqualified from Parliament, and excluded from the court. Thus ended his public life.

Though most of his writings were philosophical, Bacon also distinguished himself as an eloquent essayist. His *Essays*, containing fifty-eight short pieces of writing published in several editions from 1597 to 1625, ranked among the best prose works in English, with bright ideas and a collection of concise aphorisms. He invented an explicit, direct and terse prose style, which owed much to the

Latin author Seneca but distinctly his own, and exerted great influence on subsequent English writing.

◆ 选文/Selection

Of Marriage and Single Life

He that hath wife and children hath given hostages to fortune¹; for they are impediments to great enterprises, either of virtue or mischief. Certainly the best works, and of greatest merit for the public, have proceeded from the unmarried or childless men, which both in affection and means have married and endowed the public. Yet it were great reason that those that have children should have greatest care of future times, unto which they know they must transmit their dearest pledges. Some there are who, though they lead a single life, yet their thoughts do end with themselves, and account future times impertinences². Nay, there are some other that account wife and children but as bills of charges. Nay more, there are some foolish rich covetous men that take a pride in having no children, because they may be thought so much the richer. For perhaps they have heard some talk, “Such an one is a great rich man”, and another except to it, “Yea, but he hath a great charge of children”, as if it were an abatement to his riches. But the most ordinary cause of a single life is liberty, especially in certain self-pleasing and humorous³ minds, which are so sensible of every restraint, as they will go near to think their girdles and garters to be bonds and shackles. Unmarried men are best friends, best masters, best servants, but not always best subjects, for they are light to run away⁴, and almost all fugitives are of that condition. A single life doth well with churchmen, for charity will hardly water the ground where it must first fill a pool. It is indifferent⁵ for judges and magistrates, for if they be facile⁶ and corrupt, you shall have a servant five times worse than a wife. For soldiers, I find the generals commonly in their hortatives⁷ put men in mind of their wives and children; and I think the despising of marriage amongst the Turks maketh the vulgar⁸ soldier more base. Certainly wife and children are a kind of discipline of humanity; and single men, though they may be many times more charitable, because their means are less exhaust⁹, yet, on the other side, they are more cruel and hard-hearted (good to make severe inquisitors), because their tenderness is not so oft called upon. Grave natures, led by custom, and therefore constant, are commonly loving husbands, as was

said of Ulysses, *Vetulam suam praetulit immortalitati*¹⁰. Chaste women are often proud and froward, as presuming upon the merit of their chastity. It is one of the best bonds, both of chastity and obedience, in the wife if she think her husband wise, which she will never do if she find him jealous. Wives are young men's mistresses, companions for middle age, and old men's nurses, so as a man may have a quarrel to marry¹¹ when he will. But yet he was reputed one of the wise men¹² that made answer to the question when a man should marry: "A young man not yet, an elder man not at all." It is often seen that bad husbands have very good wives; whether it be that it raiseth the price of their husbands' kindness when it comes, or that the wives take a pride in their patience. But this never fails, if the bad husbands were of their own choosing, against their friends' consent; for then they will be sure to make good their own folly.

◆ 题解/About the Selection

《谈婚嫁与独身》("Of Marriage and Single Life")选自《随笔集》(*The Essays*)。该书由58篇短小的随笔构成,按照培根本人的意愿,本选文排在第8。国内的英国文学教材大多选择了《谈读书》("Of Studies")、《谈美》("Of Beauty")等篇目。其实,这些随笔每篇都可读,每篇都写得独到而精致,简练而发人深省,睿智的警句、饱含人生哲理的经验之谈随处可见。故此,它们成了英语散文中的精品。培根把自己驾轻就熟的拉丁语文风融合在自己的母语中,借他山之石创造了独树一帜的英语散文风格。

《谈婚嫁与独身》从正反两个方面,分别论述了婚姻与独身的利弊。一开篇培根就说:有妻室儿女之人往往顾虑太多,因而也就难以成大事;独身之人无牵无挂,逍遥自在,能成气候,能对社会做出大贡献。然而,也有一些独身者,成天只想着发财致富。这些人以单身为荣,把妻儿看成“账单”,惟恐付出太多会破了财。接着培根又说:独身者可以为挚友,当优秀的老爷,做最忠实的仆人,但却不能成为最好的臣民。当然,对于结了婚的人来说,妻室儿女常常可以磨炼人的性情。独身之人则不同,一方面,他们因为开销较少可能会慷慨许多,但是,在另一方面,由于不需要总是付出太多温情,所以他们的为人会更冷酷,心肠也会更硬。

与培根的其他随笔一样,《谈婚嫁与独身》中也不乏令人深思的警句。如:“有妻儿者实已向命运押了人质,从此难成大事,无论善恶。”(王佐良译)“妻子是年轻人的情人,中年人的伴侣,老年人的保姆。”“有些独身者,把妻儿当成了应付的账单。”这些警句在英语世界中成了家喻户晓的引语,被收录在面向普通读者的《牛津简明引用语词典》(*The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*)中,培根的随笔影响之广泛可见一斑。

◆ 注释/Notes

1. He that hath wife and children hath given hostages to fortune; that is, he has to act cautiously in order not to bring harm to the hostages (his wife and children). 此句王佐良译为:“有妻儿者实已向命运押了人质。”原文中的“hath”等于“has”。

2. impertinences; irrelevant concerns 不相干的事

3. humorous; capricious, odd, peevish 任性的, 怪僻的

4. light to run away; burdenless and free to run away 无牵累而易于逃亡

5. indifferent; of no importance 无所谓的, 无足轻重的

6. if they be facile; if they are easily influenced 假如他们容易被人左右的话。原文中的“be”在现代英语中等于“should be”。facile: easily influenced or persuaded, pliable (性格) 柔顺的, 易为人所左右的

7. hortatives; exhortations 激励语

8. vulgar; ordinary 普通的

9. exhaust; exhausted, drained 花光, 用光

10. *Vetulam suam praetulit immortalitati*: “He preferred his old wife to immortality.” This is what Cicero said of Ulysses, meaning Ulysses might have had immortality in the company of the nymph Calypso, but preferred to go back to his old wife Penelope. 此句引自古罗马著名演说家、政治家西塞罗 (M. T. Cicero, 106—43BC) 的《论演说家》(On the Orator) 第一章, 意思是“他(尤利西斯)对老妻的爱情胜过他对不朽的追求”。

11. a quarrel to marry; a reason or an excuse to marry 结婚的理由或借口

12. one of the wise men: 指米利都的泰勒斯 (Thales of Miletus, 640—550BC), 古希腊所谓“希腊七贤”(the Seven Sages of Greece) 之一, 以研究实体问题, 提出万物源于水而复归于水著称。

◆ 思考题/Study Questions

1. What is Bacon's role in the development of the essay in the history of English literature?

2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a married life according to Bacon?

3. Do you agree with Bacon on the problems of marriage and single life?

4. Paraphrase and comment on the following:

1) He that hath wife and children hath given hostages to fortune.

2) Unmarried men are best friends... of that condition.