

HEP World's Classics

Natural History (VI)

自然史

第 6 卷

GEORGES-LOUIS LECLERC, COMTE DE BUFFON

TRANSLATED BY

JAMES SMITH BARR



HIGHER EDUCATION PRESS

© in this compilation Higher Education Press 2017

This edition first published in 1807 by The Proprietor

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

内容简介

布封是18世纪法国著名的博物学家和作家。他坚持以唯物主义的思想看待地球与生物的起源和发展,被誉为“和大自然一样伟大的天才”。《自然史》是一部博物志,书中以大量的科学观察为基础,从唯物主义的角度对自然界的各种现象做了详细的描述。书中提到的“物种可变”和“进化”的思想对当时的社会具有积极的启蒙作用,也对后来达尔文提出“物种起源”与“进化论”产生了深远影响。

《自然史》原著为法文,共44卷。本版为英国学者James Smith Barr在1797—1807年翻译出版的10卷册,是原著中最精华的部分,主要包括地球的理论、动物史、人类史、家畜驯养史,并简单介绍了矿物和植物等内容。本书可供生物学、生态学、地质学等专业的高校师生和相关科研人员以及博物爱好者阅读。

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

自然史. 第6卷 = Natural History (VI): 英文 /
(法)布封著. — 北京: 高等教育出版社, 2017.8
ISBN 978-7-04-048316-1

I. ①自… II. ①布… III. ①自然科学史—世界—英文
IV. ①N091

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2017) 第 194770 号

策划编辑 李冰洋 殷 鸽 责任编辑 殷 鸽 封面设计 张 志 责任印制 尤 静

出版发行	高等教育出版社	网 址	http://www.hep.edu.cn
社 址	北京市西城区德外大街4号		http://www.hep.com.cn
邮政编码	100120	网上订购	http://www.hepmall.com.cn
印 刷	涿州市星河印刷有限公司		http://www.hepmall.com
开 本	787mm × 1092mm 1/16		http://www.hepmall.cn
印 张	15	版 次	2017年8月第1版
字 数	243千字	印 次	2017年8月第1次印刷
购书热线	010-58581118	定 价	69.00元
咨询电话	400-810-0598		

本书如有缺页、倒页、脱页等质量问题,请到所购图书销售部门联系调换

版权所有 侵权必究
物料号 48316-00

Open and Read
Find Something Valuable

HEP World's Classics

There is a Chinese saying: "It is beneficial to open any book." It is even more fruitful to open and read classic books. The world is keeping on changing, but really fundamental and essential things stay the same since there is nothing new under the sun. Great ideas have been discovered and re-discovered, and they should be learnt and re-learnt. Classic books are our inheritance from all the previous generations and contain the best of knowledge and wisdom of all the people before us. They are timeless and universal. We cannot travel back in time, but we can converse with the originators of current theories through reading their books. Classic books have withstood the test of time. They are reliable and contain a wealth of original ideas. More importantly, they are also books which have not finished what they wanted or hoped to say. Consequently, they contain unearthed treasures and hidden seeds of new theories, which are waiting to be discovered. As it is often said: history is today. Proper understanding of the past work of giants is necessary to carry out properly the current and future researches and to make them to be a part of the history of science and mathematics. Reading classic books is not easy, but it is rewarding. Some modern interpretations and beautiful reformulations of the classics often miss the subtle and crucial points. Reading classics is also more than only accumulating knowledge, and the reader can learn from masters on how they asked questions, how they struggled to come up with new notions and theories to overcome problems, and answers to questions. Above all, probably the best reason to open classic books is the curiosity: what did people know, how did they express and communicate them, why did they do what they did? It can simply be fun!

This series of classic books by Higher Education Press contains a selection of best classic books in natural history, mathematics, physics, chemistry, information technology, geography, etc. from the past two thousand years. They contain masterpieces by the great people such Archimedes, Newton, Lavoisier, Dalton, Gauss, Darwin, Maxwell, and hence give a panorama of science and mathematics. They have been typeset in modern fonts for easier and more enjoyable reading. To help the reader understand difficult classics better, some volumes contain introductions and commentaries by experts. Though each classic book can stand in its own, reading them together will help the reader gain a bigger perspective of science and mathematics and understand better interconnection between seemingly unrelated topics and subjects.

Higher Education Press has been the largest publisher in China. Besides the long tradition of providing high quality books for proper education and training of university and graduate students, she has also set out to provide research monographs and references books to people at all levels around the world. Higher Education Press considers it her duty to keep the world science and mathematics community informed of what has been achieved in their subjects in easy and accessible formats. This series of classic books is an integral part of this effort.

万物皆有道 自然最奇妙

—— 写于《自然史》发行时 (代序)

在已探知的星球中,唯地球有人类。人类社会和自然界构成了这颗星球的整个世界。人类来源于自然,依赖于自然,不断地探索自然,了解自己从何而来,向何而去?为什么在这万物共生的自然界中脱颖而出,成为这个世界的主宰?又怎样与这个世界大家庭和睦相处,适应客观发展?……只有了解过去,才能更好地认识现在;懂得了过去和现在,才能主动地面对未来。历史是最好的教科书,在《地球简史》《人类简史》《时间简史》等纷纷面世的当代,人们不由地把目光又投向 260 多年前就诞生了的《自然史》,这部洋洋数百万字的旷世巨著,开辟了科学史作的先河,它从行星到地球,从空气到海洋,从动物到人类,……天、地、生、人,无所不包,海、陆、空,面面俱到,是一部记述自然的百科全书。

书中全面论述了地球理论和地球历史,展现了风、火、水、潮、雷、震(地震)、光、热等各种自然现象;对人和生物的论述更是生动形象,丰富多彩。从生命的起源、器官的发育、青春期的特点,到机能的退化,直至死亡,把人类生息繁衍的过程讲得有声有色。对生物,特别是动物的描绘投下了重重笔墨,占据了大量篇幅,天上飞的,地上长的,野生的,驯养的,食肉的,食草的,大到熊、马,小至鼠、兔,畜、禽、鸟、兽,花、草、树、木,样样俱全,活灵活现,既有理性,又有情趣,好像无论哪种野性的动物都可以成为人类的宠物和朋友。法国著名思想家卢梭是这样评价的:“布封以异常平静而又悠然自得的语言歌颂了自然界中所有的重要物品,呈现出造物者的尊严与灵性。他具有那个世纪最美的文笔。”

万物皆有道,自然最奇妙。几乎所有涉及自然的事物都可以从《自然史》汲取营养,得到启示。读这类名著,既能增长知识,丰富阅历,又能赏心悦目,

闲情逸致。即使历史已过去了几百年，社会发生了巨变，也未失去这部历史巨著的价值和魅力。这就是一部不朽之作的历史地位。布封在书中提出“物种可变”和“进化”的思想，被生物进化论创始人达尔文称为“以现代科学眼光对待这个问题的第一人”。

哲语说，文如其人。《自然史》的作者布封，全名乔治·路易·勒克莱尔·布封 (Georges-Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon, 1707—1788)，如同他的不朽著作一样，也有一部不寻常的经历。他生于法国，自幼喜好自然科学，特别是数学。1728 年法律专业毕业后，又学了两年医学。20 岁时就先于牛顿发现了二项式定理；26 岁成为法兰西科学院机械部的助理研究员，翻译并出版了英国博物学者海尔斯的著作《植物生理与空气分析》和牛顿的《微积分术》；1739 年，32 岁的他转为法兰西科学院数学部的副研究员，并被任命为“巴黎皇家植物园及御书房”的总管；1753 年成为法兰西科学院院士。他用 40 年的时间写出了长达 36 卷的《自然史》，后又由他的学生整理出版了 8 卷，共 44 卷。此书一出版，就轰动了欧洲的学术界，各国很快有了译本。1777 年，法国政府给布封建了一座铜像，上面写着：“献给和大自然一样伟大的天才。”这是对布封的崇高评价。

《自然史》原著为法文，这里出版的是英国学者 James Smith Barr 在 1797—1807 年翻译的英文版 10 卷册，选取的是原著中最精华的部分。发行这样的英文版高级作品、高级读物，就像外文书籍、外文刊物一样，自然面对的也是高水平的读者和馆藏者，希望他们既可以接近原汁原味地欣赏原著，感受自然的魅力，受到自然科学和文学艺术的熏陶，同时又能自然而然地提高英文素养和写作水平。在广大知识分子外语水平普遍提高的今天，这样的科学传播形式也许会受到越来越多读者的青睐。



中国科学院院士

中国科学院地质与地球物理研究所研究员

2017 年 6 月 25 日



Georges-Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon (1707—1788)

布封 (Georges-Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon, 1707—1788), 18 世纪法国著名的博物学家和作家。他坚持以唯物主义的思想看待地球与生物的起源和发展, 被誉为“和大自然一样伟大的天才”。

布封出生于法国蒙巴尔城的一个律师家庭, 自幼接受教会教育, 对自然科学始终有着浓厚的兴趣。1730 年, 大学毕业的布封结识了年轻的金斯顿公爵, 两人一起游历了法国南部、瑞士和意大利, 并在这位公爵的家庭教师的影响下开始研究博物学。1733 年, 布封进入法兰西科学院担任助理研究员, 1739 年, 成为巴黎皇家植物园园长, 1753 年, 当选为法兰西科学院院士。布封毕生从事博物学研究, 花费 40 年心血著成《自然史》这部煌煌巨著。《自然史》共 44 卷, 是一部博物志, 包括了地球史、人类史、动物史和矿物史等, 堪称百科全书式的巨著。书中提到的“物种可变”和“进化”的思想对当时的社会具有积极的启蒙作用, 也对后来达尔文提出“物种起源”与“进化论”产生了深远影响, 布封也因此被达尔文称为“以现代科学眼光对待这个问题的第一人”。

Barr's Buffon.

Buffon's Natural History.

CONTAINING
A THEORY OF THE EARTH,
A GENERAL
HISTORY OF MAN,
OF THE BRUTE CREATION, AND OF
VEGETABLES, MINERALS,
&c. &c.

FROM THE FRENCH.
WITH NOTES BY THE TRANSLATOR.
IN TEN VOLUMES.
VOL. VI.

London :

PRINTED FOR THE PROPRIETOR,
AND SOLD BY H. D. SYMONDS, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1807.

T. Gillet, Printer, Wild-Court.

CONTENTS
OF
THE SIXTH VOLUME.

Of Domestic Animals.

	<i>Page</i>
	<i>The Cat</i> 1
Chap. III.	<i>Of Wild Animals</i> 13
	<i>The Stag, or Red Deer</i> 18
	<i>The Fallow-Deer</i> 38
	<i>The Roe-buck</i> 43
	<i>The Hare</i> 53
	<i>The Rabbit</i> 63
Chap. IV.	<i>Of Carnivorous Animals</i> 69
	<i>The Wolf</i> 84
	<i>The Fox</i> 92
	<i>The Badger</i> 99

<i>The Otter</i>	103
<i>The Marten</i>	107
<i>The Pine-Weasel</i>	111
<i>The Polecat</i>	113
<i>The Ferret</i>	116
<i>The Weasel</i>	119
<i>The Ermine</i>	123
<i>The Grison</i>	125
<i>The Squirrel</i>	127
<i>The Rat</i>	131
<i>The Mouse</i>	136
<i>The Field-Mouse</i>	138
<i>The Water-Rat</i>	141
<i>The Campagnol</i>	142
<i>The Guinea-Pig</i>	144
<i>The Hedge-Hog</i>	147
<i>The Shrew-Mouse</i>	149
<i>The Water Shrew-Mouse</i>	151
<i>The Mole</i>	152
<i>The Bat</i>	156
<i>The Loir</i>	161
<i>The Lerot</i>	165

<i>The Dormouse</i>	166
<i>The Squirrel</i>	168
<i>The Alpine Marmot</i>	170
<i>The Bear</i>	175
<i>The Beaver</i>	185
<i>The Raccoon</i>	199
<i>The Coati</i>	204
<i>The Agouti</i>	207
<i>The Lion</i>	210

Directions for placing the Plates in the Sixth Volume.

Page 5,	Fig. 50, 51.
7,	Fig. 52, 53.
24,	Fig. 54, 55.
39,	Fig. 56, 57.
44,	Fig. 58, 59.
64,	Fig. 60, 61.
93,	Fig. 62, 63.
102,	Fig. 64, 65.
115,	Fig. 66, 67.
120,	Fig. 68, 69, 70, 71.
126,	Fig. 72, 73.
132,	Fig. 74, 75, 76, 77, 78.
145,	Fig. 79, 80, 81.
155,	Fig. 82, 83, 84, 85, 86.
160,	Fig. 87, 88, 89, 90, 91.
176,	Fig. 92, 93.
200,	Fig. 94, 95.
206,	Fig. 96, 97, 98.
216,	Fig. 99, 100.

BUFFON'S NATURAL HISTORY.

OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

THE CAT.

THE cat is a faithless domestic, and only kept through necessity to oppose to another domestic which incommodes us still more, and which we cannot drive away; for we pay no respect to those who, being fond of all beasts, keeps cats for amusement. Though these animals are gentle and frolicksome when young, yet they even then possess an innate cunning, and perverse disposition, which age increases, and which education only serves to conceal. They are naturally inclined to theft, and the best education only converts them into servile and flattering robbers; for they have the same address, subtilty, and inclination for mischief or rapine. Like all knaves they know how to conceal their intentions, to watch, wait, and choose opportunities for seizing their prey; to fly from punishment, and to remain away until the danger is over and they can return with safety. They readily conform to the habits of society, but never acquire its manners; they have only the appearance of attachment, as may be seen by the obliquity of their motions, and the duplicity of their looks; they never look in the face of those who treat them best and of whom they seem to be the most fond, but either through fear, or falsehood, they approach him by windings to seek for those caresses they have no pleasure in but only to flatter

those from whom they receive them. Very different from that faithful animal the dog, whose sentiments are all directed to the person of his master, the cat appears only to feel for himself, only to love conditionally, only to partake of society that he may abuse it; and by this disposition he has more affinity to man than the dog, who is all sincerity.

The form and temperament of the cat's body perfectly correspond with his disposition. He is handsome, light, adroit, cleanly, and voluptuous; he loves ease, and searches out the softest places for rest and repose. The cat is very amorous, and what is uncommon among animals, the female appears more ardent than the male; she seeks for and invites him, and by her loud cries announces the fury of her desires or rather the pressure of her wants; if he flies from or disdains her, she pursues, tears, and though their approaches are always accompanied with acute pain, she forces him to comply with her desires. This passion of the female continues nine or ten days, and commonly happens only twice a year in the spring and autumn, but sometimes three and even four times. They go with young 55 or 56 days, and they usually have from four to six at a litter. As the males are apt to devour their progeny, the females commonly conceal themselves when they litter, and if suspicious of a discovery, they carry their young ones away in their mouths and hide them in holes or inaccessible places. After suckling them a few weeks, the old one takes them mice or small birds, to accustom them to eat flesh; but by an unaccountable caprice, these very mothers so tender and careful, become sometimes so cruel and unnatural, as to devour their offspring themselves.

Young cats are gay, sprightly, and full of frolic, and would be very good amusement for children if nothing was to be feared from their claws. Their play however, though always light and agreeable, is never innocent, and soon turns into habitual mischief. As they can only exert their talents on small animals, they watch birds, mice, and rats with the greatest patience, which they seize with avidity, and without being taught, become more expert hunters than the best instructed dogs. Their dispositions being naturally averse to all restraint, they are incapable of a regular education; we are told however that the Greek monks of Cyprus* taught cats to hunt and destroy the serpents with

* Description of the Islands of the Archipelago. By Dapper p. 51.