

中英对照全译本  
英国文学卷

# 在中国屏风上

On a Chinese Screen

[英] 威廉·萨默塞特·毛姆 著

William Somerset Maugham

盛世教育西方名著翻译委员会 译



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## 前言

通过阅读文学名著学语言，是掌握英语的绝佳方法。既可接触原汁原味的英语，又能享受文学之美，一举两得，何乐不为？

对于喜欢阅读名著的读者，这是一个最好的时代，因为有成千上万的书可以选择；这又是一个不好的时代，因为在浩繁的卷帙中，很难找到适合自己的好书。

然而，你手中的这套丛书，值得你来信赖。

这套精选的中英对照名著全译丛书，未改编改写、未删节削减，且配有权威注释，部分书中还添加了精美插图。

要学语言、读好书，当读名著原文。如习武者切磋交流，同高手过招方能渐明其间奥妙，若一味在低端徘徊，终难登堂入室。积年流传的名著，就是书中“高手”。然而这个“高手”，却有真假之分。初读书时，常遇到一些挂了名著名家之名改写改编的版本，虽有助于了解基本情节，然而所得只是皮毛，你何曾真的就读过了那名著呢？一边是窖藏了50年的女儿红，一边是贴了女儿红标签的薄酒，那滋味，怎能一样？“朝闻道，夕死可矣。”人生短如朝露，当努力追求真正的美。

本套丛书的英文版本，是根据外文原版书精心挑选而来；对应的中文译文以直译为主，以方便中英文对照学习，译文经反复推敲，对忠实理解原著极有助益；在涉及重要文化习俗之处，添加了精当的注释，以解疑惑。

读过本套丛书的原文全译，相信你会得书之真意、语言之精髓。

送君“开卷有益”之书，愿成文采斐然之人。



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## 1. THE RISING OF THE CURTAIN

## 一. 幕布开启

YOU come to the row of hovels that leads to the gate of the city. They are built of dried mud and so dilapidated that you feel a breath of wind will lay them flat upon the dusty earth from which they have been made. A string of camels, heavily laden, steps warily past you. They wear the disdainful air of profiteers forced to traverse a world in which many people are not so rich as they. A little crowd, tattered in their blue clothes, is gathered about the gate and it scatters as a youth in a pointed cap gallops up on a Mongolian pony. A band of children are chasing a lame dog and they throw clods of mud at it. Two stout gentlemen in long black gowns of figured silk and silk jackets stand talking to one another. Each holds a little stick, perched on which, with a string attached to its leg, is a little bird. They have brought out their pets for an airing and in friendly fashion compare their merits. Now and then

你来到一排延伸至城门方向的茅草屋前。它们都是用土坯建成的，破旧不堪，让你觉得一阵风就能将之吹倒，变成泥土再回到原来的地面上。一队满载的骆驼慢慢经过你的身旁。它们满眼投机商人的不屑，似乎被强迫一般从这里穿行，因为这里很多人比他们穷困。一群穿着蓝色破烂衣服的人在城门口聚在一起。一个头戴尖顶帽子的青年人骑着一匹蒙古的矮马从远处飞奔过来，人群散开了。有些孩子正在追赶一只跛脚的狗，拿土块往它身上扔。身穿丝绸夹袄和黑色长袍的两位身材发福的老爷在路旁闲聊着。这两位老爷各自拿着一根棍子，栖息在棍子上的是一条腿被绑了绳子的小鸟。他们把宠物带出来，友好地互相交流着彼此鸟儿的不俗之处。鸟儿不时地在空中扑腾，可是绳子的长度限制了它们的飞行，很快鸟儿就回到棍子上。两位老爷微笑着，用温柔的眼神看着它们。粗野的男孩子们朝着外国人称，声音尖锐而鄙夷。城墙正

the birds give a flutter into the air, the length of the string, and return quickly to their perch. The two Chinese gentlemen, smiling, look at them with soft eyes. Rude boys cry out at the foreigner in a shrill and scornful voice. The city wall, crumbling, old and crenellated, looks like the city wall in an old picture of some Palestinian town of the Crusaders.

You pass through the gateway into a narrow street lined with shops: many of them with their elegant lattice work, red and gold, and their elaborate carving, have a peculiar ruined magnificence, and you imagine that in their dark recesses are sold all manner of strange wares of the fabulous East. A great multitude surges along the uneven narrow footwalk or in the deep-set street; and coolies, bearing heavy loads, shout for way in short sharp cries. Hawkers with guttural sound call their wares.

And now at a sedate pace, drawn by a sleek mule, comes a Peking cart. Its hood is bright blue and its great wheels are studded with nails. The driver sits with dangling legs on a shaft. It is evening and the sun sets red behind the yellow, steep and

摇摇欲坠,年代久远带着雉堞的形状,看起来好似一幅古画上的巴勒斯坦城墙。

从城门进入,是一条两侧商铺林立的狭窄街道:其中很多商店都有精美的红色或者金色的格状结构,巧夺天工一般,散发着不一样的没落的壮丽。你似乎能够想象到黑暗的格子铺中,正出售着各种形式的神话一般的属于东方的奇特宝贝。熙熙攘攘的人群涌上凹凸不平的窄窄的人行道,或者挤在深深的小巷里;做苦力的人们扛着重物,用短促而尖锐的叫喊声使行人让路;小商贩们则用沙哑的叫卖声兜售他们的商品。

此时,一头毛色鲜亮的骡子踏着平稳的步伐拉着一辆北京车。亮蓝色的车棚,巨大的车轮上镶满了钉子。赶车人双腿悬空,坐在一侧的车辕上。黄昏降临,夕阳在一座金黄巍峨又独特的庙宇屋顶后面,将天空染得绯红。北京的马车悄悄

fantastic roof of a temple. The Peking cart, the blind in front drawn down, passes silently and you wonder who it is that sits cross-legged within. Perhaps it is a scholar, all the learning of the classics at his finger-ends, bound on a visit to a friend with whom he will exchange elaborate compliments and discuss the golden age of Tang and Sung which can return no more; perhaps it is a singing girl in splendid silks and richly embroidered coat, with jade in her black hair, summoned to a party so that she may sing a little song and exchange elegant repartee with young blades cultured enough to appreciate wit. The Peking cart disappears into the gathering darkness: it seems to carry all the mystery of the East.

经过你的身旁，车前的百叶窗是合上的，让你忍不住猜想是什么样的人坐在车里。或许是一位学者，博古通今，赶着拜访一位朋友。他们要促膝长谈，讨论唐宋时期无法再追回的黄金时代。或许是一名歌姬，穿着华丽丝绸的精美外衣，黑色的头发上戴着玉簪子。她此时被一场宴会召去，要在宴会上演唱小曲儿，并且要与洒脱不羁的那些公子王孙们优雅地应对。北京马车消失在了黑暗之中，它似乎承载着东方的所有神秘。

## 2. MY LADY'S PARLOUR

### 二. 女主人的客厅

'I really think I can make something of it,' she said.

She looked about her briskly, and the light of the creative imagination filled her eyes with brightness.

It was an old temple, a small one, in the city, which she had taken and was turning into a dwelling house. It had been built for a very holy monk by his admirers three hundred years before, and here in great piety, practising innumerable austerities, he had passed his declining days. For long after in memory of his virtue the faithful had come to worship, but in course of time funds had fallen very low and at last the two or three monks that remained were forced to leave. It was weather-beaten and the green tiles of the roof were overgrown with weeds. The raftered ceiling was still beautiful with its faded gold dragons on a faded red; but she did not like a dark ceiling, so she stretched a canvas across and papered it. Needing air and

“我真觉得自己可以改变一下它。”她说。

她迅速环顾下四周，眼神中散发出富有创造的想象力的光芒。

这里本是城内一个又旧又小的寺院，她买下后要将它变成住宅。三百年前，信徒们为了一位圣洁的高僧建造了它，高僧在此虔诚苦修，度过了生命的最后时光。长久以来，为了纪念他的美德，信徒们由笃信演变成了崇拜。不过随着时间的推移，庙宇也日渐破败，还剩下的两三个僧人最后也被迫离开了。长年累月的风吹雨打让庙宇屋顶的绿瓦上长满了杂草。天花板椽架上，褪色的朱红底上雕画的金龙也褪色了，可是仍然很美。不过她不喜欢深色的屋顶，所以用了一块帆布遮挡，还在上面糊上了一层纸。考虑到通风采光的需要，她在一面墙上开出两个大窗户。非常幸运的是，她手里有一些尺寸正合适的蓝色窗帘。她最喜欢的颜色就是蓝色，因为那是她眼睛的颜色。深

sunlight, she cut two large windows on one side. She very luckily had some blue curtains which were just the right size. Blue was her favourite colour: it brought out the colour of her eyes. Since the columns, great red sturdy columns, oppressed her a little she papered them with a very nice paper which did not look Chinese at all. She was lucky also with the paper with which she covered the walls. It was bought in a native shop, but really it might have come from Sandersons'; it was a very nice pink stripe and it made the place look cheerful at once. At the back was a recess in which had stood a great lacquer table and behind it an image of the Buddha in his eternal meditation. Here generations of believers had burned their tapers and prayed, some for this temporal benefit or that, some for release from the returning burden of earthly existence; and this seemed to her the very place for an American stove. She was obliged to buy her carpet in China, but she managed to get one that looked so like an Axminster that you would hardly know the difference. Of course, being hand-made, it had not

红色的柱子令人感觉到压抑,她就  
在上面糊了一层非常好看的纸,那  
些纸一点都不像中国制造的。她也  
很幸运可以用这种纸把四面的墙  
都糊上。纸是在一家本地的商店采  
买的,不过很可能来自桑德森。那  
是一种非常漂亮的粉红色条纹纸,  
经它一装饰,整个房间看起来明朗  
很多。在房间的后壁处有一个神  
龛,大漆香案摆放在前面,入定的  
佛像供奉在香案的后面。一代又  
一代的信徒们就在这里烧香拜佛,  
一些人祈求今生的恩泽,一些人祈求  
摆脱尘世的重负。然而在她眼中,  
这个地方最适合放置美国的壁炉。  
她不得不在中国购买地毯,但她设  
法买到了一条看起来很像艾克斯  
敏斯特的地毯,你几乎看不出有什  
么差别。当然,手工制作的地毯与  
真正的英国货相比,没那么平滑,  
但作为一个替代品绝对是相当好  
了。在一个离开中国去罗马任职的  
公使那里,她买到了一套特别精美  
的家具,上面罩着上海产的明亮的  
印花棉布罩。她收藏了很多相当不  
错的画作,再加上一些新婚礼品,  
还有她自己买的小玩意儿,经过她  
有品位的布置,房间看起来变得很  
是舒适。她需要一个屏风,可是在  
这里没有办法,她不得不买一个中  
国的屏风。不过,她说得很巧妙,

quite the smoothness of the English article, but it was a very decent substitute. She was able to buy a very nice lot of furniture from a member of the Legation who was leaving the country for a post in Rome, and she got a nice bright chintz from Shanghai to make loose covers with. Fortunately she had quite a number of pictures, wedding presents and some even that she had bought herself, for she was very artistic, and these gave the room a cosy look. She needed a screen, and here and there was no help for it, she had to buy a Chinese one, but, as she very cleverly said, you might perfectly well have a Chinese screen in England. She had a great many photographs, in silver frames, one of them of a Princess of Schleswig-Holstein, and one of the Queen of Sweden, both signed, and these she put on the grand piano, for they give a room an air of being lived in. Then, having finished, she surveyed her work with satisfaction.

‘Of course it doesn’t look like a room in London,’ she said, ‘but it might quite well be a room in some nice place in England, Cheltenham, say, or Tunbridge Wells.’

即使在英格兰，能拥有一个中国屏风也是非常好的了。她有很多照片，用银色的相框装帧，其中一张是石勒苏益格-荷尔斯泰因公主，还有一张瑞典女王，两张照片都有签名。它们被放在大钢琴上，给房间增添了家的气氛。忙活完了这一切，她心满意足地环顾自己的杰作。

“当然，这里比起伦敦的一居室要逊色了些，”她说，“但是相比英格兰一些不错的地方的房子，比如切尔滕纳姆或者坦布里奇韦尔斯，这间屋子就相当不错了。”

## 3. THE MONGOL CHIEF

## 三. 蒙古首脑

HEAVEN knows from what mysterious distance he had come. He rode down the winding pathway from the high Mongolian plateau with the mountains, barren, stony and inaccessible, stretching on all sides, an impenetrable barrier; he rode down past the temple that guarded the head of the pass till he came to the old river bed which was the gateway into China. It was hedged in by the foothills brilliant under the morning sun, with sharp shadows; and the innumerable traffic of the centuries had formed on that stony floor a rough road. The air was keen and clear, the sky was blue. Here all the year round, from daybreak till sundown, passed an unending stream, camels in caravan bearing the brick tea to Urga seven hundred miles away and so to Siberia, long lines of wagons drawn by placid bullocks, and

天晓得他是从哪个神秘之处赶来的。他骑马奔驰在蒙古高原蜿蜒的小路，到处是高山，满目荒凉，遍地的砂石，四面八方的山峦将这里围成一道无法逾越的不毛之地。他驰经护卫在入关之处的城楼，一直到通往中国大门的古老河床处，才停了下来。在清晨的阳光下，被高耸的山麓掩映着。数百年来，不计其数的往来的商贩们把坚硬的河床踩踏得崎岖不平。蔚蓝的天空下，空气明亮而清澈。一年四季，从黎明初现到日落时分，这里都涌动着川流不息的商队。他们有的用骆驼驮着砖茶，从七百英里<sup>1</sup>外的库伦<sup>2</sup>赶往西伯利亚；还有老实的公牛们拉着长长的一队大车，以及粗壮的矮马拉着三三两两的小推车；相反的方向，大量的骆驼商队驮着皮毛赶往北京市场，加上长长的大车队伍。现在有马群经过，后面跟着一群羊。可是他并没有留意眼前的各种场景。他似乎没有注意

<sup>1</sup> 英制长度单位，1 英里等于 1609.344 米。

<sup>2</sup> 今呼和浩特。

little carts in twos and threes behind stout ponies; and in the contrary direction, into China, again camels in caravan bringing hides to the markets of Peking, and wagons in long procession. Now a mob of horses went by and then a flock of goats. But his eyes did not rest on the varied scene. He seemed not to notice that others were travelling the pass. He was accompanied by his henchmen, six or seven of them, somewhat bedraggled it is true, on sorry nags, but they had a truculent air. They ambled along in a slovenly bunch. He was dressed in a black silk coat and black silk trousers thrust into his long riding boots with their turned-up toes, and on his head he wore the high sable cap of his country. He held himself erect, riding a little ahead of his followers, proudly, and as he rode, his head high and his eyes steady, you wondered if he thought that down this pass in days gone by his ancestors had ridden, ridden down upon the fertile plain of China where rich cities lay ready to their looting.

到他人正在这条路上通行。陪同他的只有六七个随从，虽然明显感觉到人困马乏，可是神情中仍然透露出彪悍。他们有序而缓慢地前行。他穿着一件黑色的丝绸外套，黑色的丝绸裤子塞在他的长马靴里，靴子顶端高高翘起，头上戴着的是蒙古的高高的貂皮帽子。他笔直地骑在马上，骄傲地走在随从的前头。骑马奔行的时候，他将头高高昂起，眼神笃定。你会忍不住猜想他是否在追忆祖先当年顺着这条路进入中国时，在富庶的中原大地，富饶的城市中肆意掠夺的场景。