

STUDENTS' SINO-BRITISH WEEKLY

PRESS ATTACHE'S OFFICE, BRITISH EMBASSY, CHUNGKING.

Vol. I No. 47

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CN HUMOUR

(IT BELONGS TO THE WORLD AND TO EVERY AGE)

By Desmond MacCarthy

論 幽 默

Lately I have been thinking about humour. The English people are proud of their sense of humour: indeed, they so constantly dwell upon it as a prime virtue that being half Irish and so taking humour as a matter of course, I am sometimes inclined to wonder if they've as much as they suppose. About the most damaging thing that can be said of anybody of this country is that he or she has no sense of humour. That, I confess, has never seemed to me as a damning accusation. I have known many admirable people with little humour, and a great many poor creatures with plenty. I don't think I want everybody to have a sense of humour. It doesn't

近來我嘗想到幽默。英國人民以他們的幽默感自豪；的確，他們常常談論幽默認為它是最好的美德，談得太多了，因此，半個愛爾蘭人的我，把幽默看作當然的，往往要懷疑問：英國人是否有他們所想像的那麼多幽默感？在英國，最足以傷害人家的事情莫過於說他或她缺乏幽默感。這個，我得承認，對於我從來不像一個了不得的罪狀。我知道許多可欽佩的人物很少幽默，而極多的可憐虫倒有很多幽默。我不

suit everybody. I think I like Shelley all the better because he said he looked forward to the day of the last joke. But humour is a blessed faculty, especially in a world like ours. Humour at bottom is an easy way of coming to terms with pain and pettiness. If we can't get the better of life or our circumstances or our faults and failings, at any rate we can be superior enough to laugh at them. But you can't expect humour from everybody. You don't expect it from a man whose soul is on fire. Still, for ordinary purposes and ordinary people it is undoubtedly a boon and a blessing, and the nearest approach to magnanimity and greatness of mind to which most of us can attain. "The notion came into my head a day or two ago and has remained there 'on approval'" that men have always made and enjoyed

以為我要求人人有幽默感。浪漫派詩人雪萊說他期望最後的笑話的時日，我倒因此更喜歡這位詩人。但是幽默是一種幸福的秉賦，尤其是在我們這樣的世界。根本上幽默是人們與痛苦及偏狹妥協的簡易方法。我們縱不能克服生活，環境，或過錯與失敗，至少，我們可以有味領問世們要笑。但是你不能期望人人有幽默。你不期望一個靈魂燒得苦痛的人有幽默。可是為一般的目的與一般的人民，幽默無疑地是個恩賜，一種幸福，使我們差不多達到了我們大多數人可能得着的胸襟寬大的地步。

一兩天以前我腦子裏發生了這個觀念，一直留在腦際靜候我

the same kind of jokes no matter when they lived nor in which country they were born. At least they had many in common and that these did not necessarily bear the stamp of any nationality or period. I was aware that this notion might at first sight appear dubious, but please bear in mind that I was thinking of isolated jokes, not of books by men of genius. For such works of humorous imagination are like sponges which soak up the very life of a people or epoch.

Happening to read about Diogenes, the old Greek cynic, I realised two things simultaneously: firstly that it was evidently as a wit rather than as a philosopher that Diogenes had made his reputation, and secondly, that his jokes and retorts were surprisingly modern and fresh. Diogenes was a wit whose sayings evidently gained much from

可：我以為，不拘住在什麼時代，生在什麼國家，人們老是製造並欣賞了同樣的笑話。至少他們有許多共同的，而這些笑話並不必然地有國籍或時代底標記。我曉得，初看起來，這個觀念也許是可懷疑的，可是請你記着，我所想到的是不連貫的笑話，不是天才底整本的書。因為這種富於幽默想像的著作像海綿一般正吸受住一個民族或時代生命。

適逢讀到關於希臘老嘲笑家台阿幾尼的書，我同時明白了兩件事：第一，台阿幾尼之所以享大名，與其說因為他是哲學家，無寧說由於他是機智之士，這是顯而易見的；第二，他的笑話與機警的答覆是驚人地現代的而且新穎的台阿幾尼是一位機智之士

his own personality, and, too, from a showman's knack of presenting it, such as Bernard Shaw himself might envy. There must have been a fascinating intensity about this grizzly old creature which had added a savour of profundity to his savage rudeness. He was at once extraordinarily sincere and the play-actor of his own conception of himself.

Recall how he went about Athens in daytime with a light lantern muttering that he was looking for a honest man. It's quite clear that he did not get on with Plato. As for Socrates, when some one asked him what he thought of Diogenes, he just croaked out one word—"Cracked!" Diogenes' dislike of Plato was no doubt largely due to the latter's superb serenity. It could not have been lessened by Plato's scoring off him in an encounter of wits

，他的名言，很顯然地從他的入格裏，並且從表現人格的方式，宛如一位長於佈置展覽者底奧妙裏，得了很多的價值，這種奧妙蕭伯納本人或許羨慕不置呢。這位可怕的老角色一定有一種迷人的熱烈，在他的野蠻的粗魯上，加添些深奧的意味。他非常誠懇，同時把他的「自我觀」表演出來。

你不妨回想起，他提了點燃的燈籠，白天裏在雅典城跑來跑去，口中喃喃地說他是尋找一位正人君子。很明白的他與柏拉圖，不是志同道合。至於蘇格拉底，當某人問他對於台阿幾尼的感想如何時，他只哇出了兩個字——「瘋癲！」台阿幾尼厭惡柏拉圖無疑地——大部分是由於柏氏超絕的寧靜。這種厭惡並沒有因兩

between them on at least one occasion, a humiliation which, by the way, rarely befell Diogenes. When one day, Plato's magnificent cloak slipped off his shoulders into the mud, the blazing-eyed old cynic proceeded to jump on it chanting, "Thus I tremble on the pride of Plato." "With greater pride, Diogenes" Plato replied; and that hit was a shrewd one.

Recall that tub of his. One can be pretty certain that the most gratifying moment of Diogenes' life was when Alexander visited the cynic in his tub and asked him what he could do for him, giving Diogenes the chance of saying "Kindly get out of my sunlight." He was by the way, a terrible heckler: "Courage, my lads, I descry land," was his disconcerting interruption of a reciter who had inadvertently turned to the end of his poem.

人有一次鬥智，他被柏氏痛加詆毀而為之減少，這次詆毀却是台阿幾尼很少遭遇過的侮辱。有一天，柏拉圖的華麗的大衣從肩頭溜到爛泥地上，這位目光炯炯的老嘲笑家趕去跳在大衣上，一面唱道：「我就是這樣踐踏柏拉圖的驕氣。」「用更大的驕氣，台阿幾尼，」柏拉圖答道；這個反擊是巧妙的一着。

你不妨回想起他的那個浴盆，隨便那一個人能夠十分相信：台阿幾尼一生最得意的時候是亞歷山大王拜訪躺在浴盆中這位嘲笑家，王問他可以為他効什麼勞，台阿幾尼趁機會說道，「客氣點，別遮着我的陽光。」並且他是一位可怕的慣以譏刺惱人者：「勇敢，我的孩子們，我望見陸地了，」一位誦詩者不經意地背完了詩的時候，他插了這句令人狼狽的話。

England and the English

THE RAILWAY STATION Conversations Overheard¹

1

A. : *Come along,² we are *only just in time for the train.³

B. : Oh, no, we're all right; it doesn't go out for another twenty minutes yet.

A. : I thought it went at 12:30.⁴

B. : No, not till 12:50!

A. : Oh, that's all right! Have you got the tickets?⁵

B. : No, let's go along to the *booking office.⁶ I want a few magazines and newspapers; so *we'll call at the bookstall on the way.⁷

A. : Yes, and I've left a bag in the cloakroom;⁸ I'll just *slip along⁹ there and reclaim¹⁰ it while you get the tickets and newspapers.

B. : *Right he!¹¹ I'll meet you outside the *luggage office¹² in ten minutes' time.

Now these ancient jokes made more than 2,000 years ago are still pointed to us, and I thought I would investigate the matter further by looking up specimens of humour from other bygone civilisations.

(To be continued)

這些二千年的笑話在我們今天看來還是鋒利的，我想對於這個問題進一步檢討，從別的古埃及的文明尋求幽默的範本。

Answers: 1. aides-de-camp. 2. attorney-generals. (attorneys-general also get a mark). 3. Brigadier-Generals. 4. courts-martial. 5. dormice. 6. [genera. 7. bacteria. 8. handfuls. 9. judge advocates. 10. menservants. 11. mongooses. 12. notaries public. 13. marquises. 14. Ottomans. 15. indices. 16. nemeses. 17. tables d'hote. 18. Talismans. 19. sons-in-laws. 20. teaspoonfuls.

2

C. : I'm glad you are coming on my train; we can travel together. Have you a "reserved seat"?¹³

D. : No; the train isn't very crowded and we'll get a seat quite easily. Here's a porter;¹⁴ he can put our bags in the "luggage van"¹⁵ and find us seats. Porter!

Porter: Yes, sir. You want these bags to go into the luggage van of the 12.50- Are the bags labelled,¹⁶ sir?

C. : Yes, there's a "tie-on label"¹⁷ on mine and a "stick-on label"¹⁸ on my friends. Get us two "corner seats"¹⁹ in a "first-class smoker."²⁰

Porter: Very good, sir. Better come along at once; the "train is filling up quickly."²¹ "Platform 14."²²

D. : Ah! here we are. How do you like to sit facing the engine²³ or with your back to it?

C. : "I don't mind either way,"²⁴ but if it's all the same to you "I'd prefer"²⁵ to sit the way the train is going.

D. : That will suit me perfectly. "I'm rather fussy about not sitting in a draught,"²⁶ so I prefer to sit with my back to the engine.

3

A. : Well, here we are, ready for the journey.

B. : Put this small bag on the rack²⁷ above your head, will you? I'll just go along the corridor²⁸ and see where the dining-car²⁹ is and "book for the first service;"³⁰ I'm hungry.

A. : Right; we shan't be long now, the "signal"³¹ is down and the guard³² is blowing his whistle. He's waving his flag. Now we're off.



YEAR IN, YEAR OUT.

年復一年

NOTES

1. 從旁聽來的.
2. 快來.
3. 恰巧及時趕上火車.
4. 十二點三十分.
5. (車)票.
6. 買票處.
7. 路過賣機的時候我們去看一看.
8. 外套室(會場, 劇場, 車站等內存放衣帽物件等之室).
9. =go.
10. 取.
11. 好呀!
12. 行李室.
13. 預定的座位.
14. 力夫.
15. 行李車.
16. 加上籤條.
17. 繫的籤條.
18. 粘貼的籤條.
19. 角落上的座位.
20. 可以抽煙的頭等車廂.
21. 車快坐滿了.
22. 十四號月台.
23. 火車頭.
24. 順坐或倒坐我都不介意.
25. = I would prefer, 我寧願.
26. 坐在不通風的地方我是有點不安的.
27. 網架.
28. (車上)走廊.
29. 餐車.
30. 預定第一次開餐.
31. (開車的)信號業已放下.
32. 管車人.

Although almost completely cut off from the rest of the world, Chinese educational authorities²⁷ were overcoming handicaps²⁸ and keeping pace with modern educational developments.²⁹ They were showing great determination to overcome the disabilities of isolation.³⁰ She hoped to see a greater interchange³¹ of students and teachers between China and Britain, for there was no shortage³² of Chinese students who wished to come to this country.

Answering a question on what the Chinese were

thinking of Britain's war effort, Miss Ward said they fully realised that Great Britain had mobilised³³ 100 per cent. for the war. She thought it was difficult for China, America or Russia, where manpower³⁴ was no problem, to realise the problems in a country where the total population was under 50,000,000.³⁵ Manpower was one of Britain's greatest problems, and in putting that aspect³⁶ of the matter to the Chinese she had met with a great deal of sympathetic understanding.³⁷

NOTES

1. 愛倫華德女士。
2. 讚揚。
3. 爲戰時勝利後和平時期各種問題之順利的解決起見。
4. 接觸。
5. =Member of Parliament 英國國會議員。
6. 旅行。
7. 阿富汗。
8. 伊朗。
9. 土耳其。
10. 通信。
11. 計劃。
12. 她所見的一切留下了深刻的印象。
13. 公眾生活，社會生活。
14. 蔣夫人之影響。
15. 有非常才能。
16. 貢獻。
17. 新的社會機構。
18. 對世界大事盡更大的努力。
19. 適應。
20. 戰時的中國教育制度。
21. 中國的論路區。
22. 自由中國。
23. 偉大。
24. 熱心。
25. 利用受大學教育的機會。
26. 預算中。
27. 國及世界未來之吉祥。
28. 教育當局。
29. 克服障礙。
30. 與近代教育之發展並進。
31. 因與外界隔離而感受的種種不便。
32. 交換。
33. 缺少。
34. 動員了。
35. 人力。
36. 全人口在五千萬以下。
37. 方面。
38. 簡明的了解。

EXERCISES IN ENGLISH NO. 23

1. Explain the sense of the verb Put:—

1. Can you put me up for the night?
2. At what hotel are you putting up?
3. I can't put up with her bad temper much longer.
4. You ought to put by some money for a rainy day.
5. Charles I. was put to death.
6. You will have to put it off till to-morrow.
7. There was no need to tell me, I soon put two and two together.
8. Put the things on the table.
9. The ship put in at Naples.
10. He put on his hat and went out.

2. Insert the prepositions:—

1. Previous—that, I was with a firm in Chungking.
2. Perhaps he will profit—my experience.
3. This will protect you—the cold.
4. What is the reason—the sudden change?
5. He recoiled—it in horror.
6. Has she recovered—her illness?
7. —what are you referring?
8. Will you please refrain—doing that?
9. Are you related—her?
10. She is pining—her native country.

3. Correct the following sentences:—

1. I was that hired, I laid down after lunch.
2. I have the intention staying in Kunming for good.
3. Is it possible to you that you give me a lesson?
4. He wanted to spend the less money as possible.
5. I had the pleasure to hear him sing.
6. He come down to breakfast without to comb his hair.
7. Will you let me to help you?
8. That is a mistake that I often do.

4. Make a list of jewellery and precious stones.

THE STUDENT'S SINO-BRITISH WEEKLY

**Notes On Exercise 22 And Answers
To Its Questions**

1. 1. good-looking: handsome, 漂亮.
2. To look forward to: to look into the future, 期望.
3. To look into: to examine (a matter) minutely, 仔細考查.
4. To overlook: to neglect, 忽略.
5. To look over: to read over, 瀏覽.
6. To look upon: to regard, 認為.
7. Look before you leap: Consider well before you act, 慮而後行.
8. To look between the line: to discern the hidden meaning, 尋味於字裏行間.
9. To look blank: to appear astonished or confused, 吃驚, 愕然.
10. To look out for: to search for, 搜尋.

2. 1. over. 2. with. 3. about. 4. to. 5. in. 6. to. 7. against. 8. of, in. 9. in, of. 10. over.

3. book—booklet eagle—eaglet hill—hillock
river—rivulet part—particle cigar—cigarette
lamb—lambkin.

4. In a post-office
Stamps
A stamped postcard
A stamped envelope
A book of stamps
To register a parcel
To send express
Postcards
Registered post

- In a bank
To cash a cheque
To pay in a cheque
Current account
Deposit account
To open an account
To close an account
To sign a cheque
Cheque book

ODDS AND ENDS

*Psychologists say the human brain's capacity is limitless,¹ and there have been several *notable cases² which *have gone far to prove their assertions.³

A Neapolitan⁴ called Arlinin, *for instance,⁵ could *recite over 15,000 lines of Dante⁶ without hesitation⁷ or a mistake.

Richard Porson, a *professor of Greek at Cambridge,⁸ was able to repeat *Milton's entire works.⁹

The French statesman,¹⁰ Leon Gambetta, *committed to memory¹¹ the whole of both *Victor Hugo¹² and the *Irish bard,¹³ Ossian.

Elijah, *Chief Rabbi of Lithuania,¹⁴ had an even *more capacious memory¹⁵ than this. He knew by heart not only the whole of the Bible,¹⁶ but 2,500 other books as well!

Even in youth it has been proved that the human brain has great *retentive powers.¹⁷ Recently, Gerald Carlton, an eleven-year-old boy memorised the names, addresses and numbers of the 5,000 subscribers¹⁸ in the *Shawnee (Oklahoma) Telephone Directory.¹⁹

A letter-box

A pillar-box

Air-mail

Collection

Delivery

A postal-order

Care of,

Etc

Bank pass-book

To overdraw

A stale cheque

Counterfoil

Savings bank

Please forward

Etc.

THE GAME OF PLURALS

Here are 20 words, all in the singular form, for which you are to give the plurals. Twelve correct answers is about average; anything over fifteen is excellent.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Aide-de-camp. | 11. Mongoose. |
| 2. Attorney-General. | 12. Notary Public. |
| 3. Brigadier-General. | 13. Marquis. |
| 4. Court-martial. | 14. Ottoman. |
| 5. Dormouse. | 15. Index. |
| 6. Genus. | 16. Nemesis. |
| 7. Bacterium. | 17. Table d'hote. |
| 8. Handful. | 18. Talisman. |
| 9. Judge Advocate. | 19. Son-in-law. |
| 10. Manservant. | 20. Teaspoonful. |

The son of Dr. Boris Sidis, an American professor, knew his alphabet by the time he was six months old.

He could read and write at two years, and had matriculated at Harvard²⁰ before he was eleven.

But the most remarkable child prodigy²¹ was undoubtedly the one born at Lubeck²² just over 200 years ago.

He learned several languages and a lot about world history and geography before he reached the age of four!

John Muir in Weekly Telegraph.

NOTES

1. 心理學家說人類的腦力無窮。 2. 有名的例子。 3. 確實證明了他們所說的。 4. 意大利 Naples 城的人。 5. 例如。 6. 背誦一萬五千行大詩人但丁(1265—1321)的著作。 7. 猶夷。 8. 劍橋大學的希臘文教授。 9. (英國詩人) 密爾敦(1608—1674)的全部作品。 10. 政治家，甘必大(1838—1882)。 11. 記熟。 12. 休傑，法國戲劇家，詩人及小說家(1802—1885)。 13. 愛爾蘭詩人。 14. 立陶宛國的大法師。 15. 更大的記憶力。 16. 聖經。 17. 記憶的能力。 18. 定。 19. 薩尼(在美國阿克何英州)公司電話簿。 20. 通過哈佛大學入學試驗。 21. 奇才。 22. 德國律克伯城。

NEWS AND VIEWS

1. 1940 and 1944—Some Comparisons

*Air commentators point out that in the greatest day of the *battle of Britain—September 15, 1940—the Luftwaffe sent out an estimated 500 aircraft whereas last Wednesday nearly 2,000 Allied aircraft made a great raid on Berlin.

The Nazis in their greatest raid lost at least 185 planes with which is compared 54 planes lost on Wednesday. It is also pointed out that the *R.A.F. lost only 25 of their *defending planes on September 15, 1940, whereas 125 Nazi defenders were shot down on Wednesday—83 by *fighter escorts,¹⁰ 43 by the bombers.

A further point to be noted¹¹ is that the Germans operated from bases only 100 miles or so from London¹² but the Fortresses had to fly 500 miles to Berlin.

2. What war Costs Britain

During recent weeks, Britain has been spending £15,000,000 a day on the war. This was announced in the *House of Commons today by *Sir John Anderson, Chancellor of the Exchequer.² He said, that the *average daily rate of war expenditure for the past *financial year was £13,500,000.

3. 12 Ships A Day

*Colonel Knox, U.S. Navy Secretary, said to *press correspondents here today (Washington, March 14) that the number of *ships in commission with the United States Navy had increased from 918 in January 1942 to 4,167 in January of this year. The Navy was still expanding, and under the present plan would reach its *maximum strength some time in 1945.

He concluded: "Every day this year 12 ships are expected to go into service with the United States Fleet."⁷

4. *Japan's Achilles Heel

Commenting on Colonel Frank Knox's statement that Japan's *shipping losses* during the war have now reached the great total of 8,000,000 tons, the *Liverpool Daily Post* asks: "How long at this rate* can Japan *carry on the war on so wide a front?"

"When hostilities* began," the newspaper states, "Japan's *mercantile marine* amounted roughly to 6,000,

000 tons. The extent to which she has developed her *ship-building capacity* is of course unknown, but her *annual output* has, *at various times,* been estimated at under 500,000 tons.

"Making the most generous allowance for increases* that her war effort has achieved, we can see that if the *rate of attrition,* indicated by Colonel Frank Knox's figures,* continues—and in fact it is almost certain to increase—her power to maintain her extensive front must be severely diminished.

NOTES

1. 1. 海軍評論家. 2. 不列顛之役(指一九四〇年法國失敗以後德國大轟炸英倫之戰). 3. 德國空軍. 4. 據估計的. 5. 飛機. 6. 將近二千架同盟國的飛機大炸柏林. 7. 納粹. 8. =Royal Air Force, 英國皇家空軍. 9. 防禦機. 10. 戰鬥保護機. 11. 注意. 12. 從僅僅離倫敦約百英里以外的基地出發作戰. 13. 空中堡壘.

2. 1. F議院. 2. 財產大臣約翰安得遜勳爵, 英國. 3. 平均每日戰費. 4. 會計年度.

3. 1. 納克斯上校美國海軍部長. 2. 新聞記者. 3. 美國海軍現役兵船. 4. 擴充. 5. 最高的力量. 6. 服役. 7. 艦隊.

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