

<<玛丽·雪莱>>

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## 前言

普通中国读者，包括英语专业的学生，对于英国文学的了解一般只限于个别经典作品，而对作家其人其事及其整个文学创作情况所知甚少。

其中部分的原因是文学史家们编写的英国文学史往往注重介绍作品的情节内容，对作家的生活经历、作品的具体创作过程着墨不多。

上海外语教育出版社从英国大英图书馆出版社（The British Library）引进出版“英国作家生平丛书”，弥补了这方面的缺憾。

该丛书以图文并茂的形式讲述莎士比亚等14位英国著名作家的生平故事，同时穿插介绍他们的作品，有助于充实读者对英国文学的认识。

英国文学源远流长，经历了长期复杂的发展演变过程。

在这个过程中，文学本体以外的各种现实的、历史的、政治的、文化的力量对文学发生着影响，而作家个体的独特生活遭遇也是造就文学杰作的一个重要因素。

“英国作家生平丛书”对14位名家的传记式介绍，充分展示了这一点。

戏剧方面，莎士比亚是英国文艺复兴时期最杰出的剧作家，他当过演员，其作品思想内容深刻、艺术表现手法精湛，历经几个世纪长演不衰。

诗歌方面，浪漫主义诗人华兹华斯、柯勒律治、拜伦、济慈的不同身世对他们的诗歌创作及艺术风格产生深刻影响；维多利亚时代诗人伊丽莎白·巴雷特和罗伯特·布朗宁的爱情故事是英国文坛的一段佳话。

小说方面，狄更斯是19世纪英国最伟大的小说家，他的许多小说以孤儿为主人公，这与作家童年时代的一段不幸经历有关；康拉德来自波兰，将自己奇特的身世背景和航海经历交融在字里行间；女作家奥斯丁、玛丽·雪莱、勃朗特姐妹、伍尔夫以女性特有的视角和敏锐的观察描摹人性与社会，思考妇女的生存状况，她们的小说无论在思想主题、题材表现方面，还是在叙述手法上，都有创新，对推动英国文学的发展作出了突出贡献。

“英国作家生平丛书”原版由大英图书馆出版社出版，体现出图书馆出版物的特点。

书中配有大量的插图，有些是珍贵的手稿，有些是罕见的照片，有些是博物馆或美术馆珍藏的油画和素描，让读者有幸一睹作家的风采，产生直观的感觉。

这些插图带有不同时代的印记，营造出浓厚的历史感。

丛书的作者均为专业领域里有着较深造诣的学者，对史料的掌握系统全面，他们用生动的语言娓娓讲述作家生平事迹，点评具体文学作品，书末还附有供读者进一步阅读的书单，推荐了有代表性的文献，对英语专业学生撰写课程论文或毕业论文很有帮助。

“英国作家生平丛书”内容有趣，插图精美，文字简洁，兼顾普及性和专业性，是学习和了解英国文学的良师益友。

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## 内容概要

Mary Shelley's authorship of the novel *Frankenstein* guaranteed her wide-spread renown, but her turbulent life and other literary works are equally fascinating. Born in 1797 to the writers Mary Wollstonecraft and William Godwin, she inherited her parents' passion for literature, social justice, and women's rights. At the age of just sixteen she ran away with Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, and was widowed by twenty-four. During their eight years together (living mainly in Italy), she was estranged from her family and sometimes from her husband, suffered periods of depression, and saw three of their four children die in infancy. Despite her troubles, Mary Shelley maintained a busy social life, including a complicated friendship with the poet Lord Byron. She also wrote journals, short stories, mythical dramas, and several novels, including *Frankenstein*. After her husband's death in 1822 she returned to England with her surviving son. She continued to write, both in order to earn a living and to satisfy her literary ambitions. She also produced major editions of her husband's poetry and prose.

Martin Garrett's engaging biography - extensively illustrated with original letters and manuscripts - captures the extraordinary life of Mary Shelley and the social circle in which she moved. The author also discusses some of Mary Shelley's lesser-known writings, long neglected but now the subject of continuing critical attention.

作者简介： Martin Garrett has written extensively on both nineteenth-century and Renaissance literature. His recent books include two titles in The British Library Writers' Lives series - *George Gordon, Lord Byron* (2000) and *Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Robert Browning* (2001) - and *Venic: A Cultural and Literary Companion* (Signal Books, 2001). He is also the author of *A Mary Shelley. Chronology*, (Palgrave Macmillan, 2001).

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书籍目录

Mary Godwin: 'bold, somewhat imperious, and active of mind''The irresistible wildness and sublimity of her feelings', 1814London and 'enshadowing thickets', 1814--1816Switzerland and 'the component parts of a creature', 1816Bath, Marlow and London, 1816-1818'Sorrow's most obscure abode':Italy, 1818-1819Pisa, San Terenzo and Genoa, 1820-1823Presumption and The Last Man,1823-1826'The genuine affections of the heart', 1826-1840Rambles and 'Unreserved directness', 1840-1851ChronologyFurther ReadingIndex

## 章节摘录

with her lost mother and estranged father . This sense might be extended if she could write something worthy of them and of her lover , of whose poetic genius she from the beginning had no doubt and who , she says in the Frankenstein introduction , was ' very anxious that I should prove myself worthy of my parentage , and enrol myself on the page of fame ' . Claire Clairmont too was keen to make her mark . In consequence , she wrote to Lord Byron , the most famous and fashionable poet of the day , in March or early April 1816 . She worked , in a series of letters , to whet his interest . She asked for advice on a possible acting career , described and then sent her manuscript novel , and carefully indicated her Shelley and Godwin links . Finally he agreed to meet her .

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