

## Lesson 20 Pioneer pilots 飞行员的先驱

听录音，然后回答以下问题。

What was the name of the first plane to fly across the English Channel?

In 1908 Lord Northcliffe offered a prize of £ 1, 000 to the first man who would fly across the English Channel. Over a year passed before the first attempt was made. On July 19th, 1909, in the early morning, Hubert Latham took off from the French coast in his plane the 'Antoinette IV'. He had travelled only seven miles across the Channel when his engine failed and he was forced to land on the sea. The 'Antoinette' floated on the water until Latham was picked up by a ship.

Two days later, Louis Bleriot arrived near Calais with a plane called 'No. XI'. Bleriot had been making planes since 1905 and this was his latest model. A week before, he had completed a successful overland flight during which he covered twenty – six miles. Latham, however, did not give up easily. He, too, arrived near Calais on the same day with a new 'Antoinette'. It looked as if there would be an exciting race across the Channel. Both planes were going to take off on July 25th, but Latham failed to get up early enough. After making a short test flight at 4. a. m. , Bleriot set off half an hour later. His great flight lasted thirty – seven minutes. When he landed near Dover, the first person to greet him was a local policeman. Latham made 15 another attempt a week later and got within half a mile of Dover, but he was unlucky again. His engine failed and he landed on the sea for the second time.

### New Words and Expressions 生词和短语

pioneer(title) /'paɪə'niə/n. 先驱

Calais(1. 8) /'kæleɪ/n. 加来 (法国港市)

lord(1. 1) /lɔ:d/n. 对 (英国) 贵族的尊称; 勋爵

overland(1. 9) /'əʊvə'lænd/adj. 陆上的

### Notes on the text 课文注释

1 the English Channel, 英吉利海峡。

大西洋延伸的部分，长约 350 英里 (约 560 公里)，将英法两国的领土分开。

2 Over a year passed before the first attempt was made.

一年多时间之后，才有人进行第一次尝试。

3 pick up 此处作“ (从海里) 救起”解。

4 did not give up easily, 不轻易作罢。give up 当“放弃”讲。

5 It looked as if there would be an exciting race across the Channel. 看起来似乎有一场精彩的飞越英吉利海峡的比赛。as if 引导的从句作起系动词作用的 look 的表语，其中谓语动词 would be 表示与未来的事实不相符的虚拟结构。

6 got within half a mile of Dover, 到了离多佛不到半英里的地方。

7 Dover, 多佛港，是英吉利海峡的一个港口，对面是法国港口加来。多佛与加来相距 21 英里 (34 公里)，是英吉利海峡最窄的部分。

### 参考译文

1908 年，诺斯科克利夫勋爵拿出 1, 000 英镑，作为对第一个飞越英吉利海峡的人的奖励。然而一年多过去了才有人出来尝试。1909 年 7 月 19 日凌晨，休伯特·莱瑟姆驾驶“安特瓦奈特 4 号”飞机从法国海岸起飞，但他只在海峡上空飞行了 7 英里，引擎就发生了故障，他只好降落在海面上。“安特瓦奈特”号飞机在海上漂浮，后来有船经过，莱瑟姆方才获救。

两天之后，路易斯·布莱里奥驾驶一架名为“11 号”的飞机来到加来附近。布莱里奥从 1905 年

起便开始研制飞机，“11 号”飞机是他制作的最新型号。一周以前，他曾成功地进行了一次 26 英里的陆上飞行。但是莱瑟姆不肯轻易罢休。同一天，他驾驶一架新的“安特瓦奈特”号飞机来到了加来附近。看来会有一场激烈的飞越英吉利海峡的竞争。两架飞机都打算在 7 月 25 日起飞，但莱瑟姆那天起床晚了。布莱里奥凌晨 4 点 15 分作了一次短距离试飞，半小时后便正式出发了。他这次伟大的飞行持续了 37 分钟。当他在多佛着陆后，第一个迎接他的是当地一名警察。莱瑟姆一周以后也作了一次尝试，飞到了离多佛不到半英里的地方。这次他又遭厄运，因引擎故障第二次降落在海面上。

### Lessons24 A skeleton in the cupboard

We often read in novels how a seemingly respectable person or family has some terrible secret which has been concealed from strangers for years. The English language possesses a vivid saying to describe this sort of situation. The terrible secret is called 'a skeleton in the cupboard'. At some dramatic moment in the story, the terrible secret becomes known and a reputation is ruined. The reader's hair stands on end when he reads in the final pages of the novel that the heroine, a dear old lady who had always been so kind to everybody, had, in her youth, poisoned every one of her five husbands.

It is all very well for such things to occur in fiction. To varying degrees, we all have secrets which we do not want even our closest friends to learn, but few of us have skeletons in the cupboard. The only person I know who has a skeleton in the cupboard is George Carlton, and he is very proud of the fact. George studied medicine in his youth. Instead of becoming a doctor, however, he became a successful writer of detective stories. I once spent an uncomfortable weekend which I shall never forget at his house. George showed me to the guestroom which, he said, was rarely used. He told me to unpack my things and then come down to dinner. After I had stacked my shirts and underclothes in two empty drawers, I decided to hang one of the two suits I had brought with me in the cupboard. I opened the cupboard door and then stood in front of it petrified. A skeleton was dangling before my eyes. The sudden movement of the door made it sway slightly and it gave me the impression that it was about to leap out at me. Dropping my suit, I dashed downstairs to tell George. This was worse than 'a terrible secret'; this was a real skeleton! But George was unsympathetic. 'Oh, that, ' he said with a smile as if he were talking about an old friend. 'That's Sebastian. You forget that I was a medical student once upon a time. '

### New Words and Expressions 生词和短语

skeleton (title) /'skelɪtən/ n. 骷髅

guestroom (1. 15) /'gest-rum/ n. (家庭中的) 来客住房

seemingly (1. 1) /'si:miŋli/ adv. 表面上地

respectable (1. 1) /ri'spektəbəl/ adj. 体面的，雅观的

unpack (1. 15) /ʌn'pæk/ vt. (从箱中) 取出

conceal (1. 2) /kən'si:l/ v. 隐藏，隐瞒

stack (1. 16) /stæk/ v. (整齐地) 堆放，排放

vivid (1. 3) /'vivid/ adj. 生动的

underclothes (1. 16) /'ʌndəkləʊðz/n. 内衣

dramatic (1. 5) /drə'mætɪk/ adj. 令人激动的，扣人心弦的

drawer (1. 16) /drɔ:/n. 抽屉

petrify (1. 18) /'petrɪfaɪ/v. 使惊呆

ruin (1. 6) /'ru:ɪn/ v. 毁坏

dangle (1. 18) /'dæŋɡəl/ v. 悬挂  
heroine (1. 8) /'herəuin/ n. 女主人公  
sway (1. 18) /swei/ v. 摇摆  
fiction (1. 10) /'fɪkʃən/ n. 小说  
unsympathetic (1. 21) /ʌn'sɪmpə'tetɪk/ adj. 不表同情的, 无动于衷的  
varying (1. 10) /'veəriɪŋ/ adj. 不同的  
medicine (1. 13) /'medɪsən/ n. 医学  
medical (1. 22) /'medɪkəl/ adj. 医学的

### Notes on the text 课文注释

- 1 A skeleton in the cupboard, 直译为“柜中骷髅”, 此系一成语, 作“家丑”解。
- 2 conceal sth. from sb. 作“对某人隐瞒某事”解。
- 3 The reader's hair stands on end, 读者感到毛骨悚然。
- 4 to varying degrees, 在不同程度上。
- 5 stood in front of it petrified, 站在柜前吓呆了。  
stand 此处表示处于某种状态, 起系动词的作用, 后面常接形容词、介词短语或过去分词, 表示主语处于某种状态中的特征, 可视作表语。
- 6 the impression that it was about to leap out...,  
that 引导的从句作 impression 的同位语。be about to do sth., 表示按照计划即将做的动作。

### 参考译文

在小说中, 我们经常读到一个表面上受人尊重的人物或家族, 却有着某种多年不为人所知的骇人听闻的秘密。英语中有一个生动的说法来形容这种情况。惊人的秘密被称作“柜中骷髅”。在小说的某个戏剧性时刻, 可怕的秘密泄漏出来, 接着便是某人的声誉扫地。当读者读到小说最后几页了解到书中女主人公, 那位一向待大家很好的可爱的老妇人年轻时一连毒死了她的 5 个丈夫时, 不禁会毛骨悚然。

这种事发生在小说中是无可非议的。尽管我们人人都有各种大小秘密, 连最亲密的朋友都不愿让他们知道, 但我们当中极少有人有柜中骷髅。我所认识的唯一的在柜中藏骷髅的人便是乔治·卡尔顿, 他甚至引以为自豪。乔治年轻时学过医, 然而, 他后来没当上医生, 却成了一位成功的侦探小说作家。有一次, 我在他家里度周末, 过得很不愉快。这事我永远不会忘记。乔治把我领进客房, 说这间房间很少使用。他让我打开行装后下楼吃饭。我将衬衫、内衣放进两个空抽屉里, 然后我想把随身带来的两套西服中的一套挂到大衣柜里去。我打开柜门, 站在柜门前一下子惊呆了。一具骷髅悬挂在眼前, 由于柜门突然打开, 它也随之轻微摇晃起来, 让我觉得它好像马上要跳出柜门朝我扑过来似的。我扔下西服冲下楼去告诉乔治。这是比“骇人听闻的秘密”更加惊人的东西, 这是一具真正的骷髅啊! 但乔治却无动于衷。“噢, 是它呀! 他笑着说道, 俨然在谈论一位老朋友。“那是塞巴斯蒂安。你忘了我以前是学医的了。”