

## Lesson 14 A noble gangster

### 贵族歹徒

Listen to the tape then answer the question below.

听录音，然后回答以下问题。

How did Haywood make in times of peace?

There was a time when the owners of shops and businesses in Chicago had to pay large sums of money to gangsters in return for 'protection.' If the money was not paid promptly, the gangsters would quickly put a man out of business by destroying his shop. Obtaining 'protection money' is not a modern crime. As long ago as the fourteenth century, an Englishman, Sir John Hawkwood, made the remarkable discovery that people would rather pay large sums of money than have their life work destroyed by gangsters.

Six hundred years ago, Sir John Hawkwood arrived in Italy with a band of soldiers and settled near Florence. He soon made a name for himself and came to be known to the Italians as Giovanni Acuto. Whenever the Italian city-states were at war with each other, Hawkwood used to hire his soldiers to princes who were willing to pay the high price he demanded. In times of peace, when business was bad, Hawkwood and his men would march into a city-state and, after burning down a few farms, would offer to go away if protection money was paid to them. Hawkwood made large sums of money in this way. In spite of this, the Italians regarded him as a sort of hero. When he died at the age of eighty, the Florentines gave him a state funeral and had him pictured with as dedicated to the memory of 'the most valiant soldier and most notable leader, Signor Giovanni Hawkwood.'

### New words and expressions 生词和短语

gangster

n. 歹徒,强盗

Chicago

n. 芝加哥(美国城市)

protection

n. 保护

promptly

adv. 准时地

destroy

v. 毁掉;消灭

remarkable

adj. 不寻常的

band

n. 帮,团伙

Florence

n. 佛罗伦萨(意大利城市)

### 参考译文

曾经有一个时期,芝加哥的店主和商行的老板们不得不拿出大笔的钱给歹徒以换取"保护"。如果交款不及时,歹徒们就会很快捣毁他的商店,让他破产。榨取"保护金"并不是一种现代的罪恶行径。早在 14 世纪,英国人约翰·霍克伍德就有过非凡的发现:"人们情愿拿出大笔的钱,也不愿毕生的心血毁于歹徒之手。"

600 年前,约翰·霍克伍德爵士带着一队士兵来到意大利,在佛罗伦萨附近驻扎下来,很快

city-state

n. (古代)城邦

hire

v. 租出,雇给

prince

n. 君主,诸侯

Florentine

n. 佛罗伦萨人

funeral

n. 葬礼

dedicate

v. 奉献,题献给

memory

n. 纪念

valiant

adj. 英勇的

就出了名.意大利人叫他乔凡尼.阿库托.每次意大利各城邦之间打仗,霍克伍德把他的士兵雇佣给愿给他出高价的君主。和平时期,当生意萧条时,霍克伍德便带领士兵进入某个城邦,纵火烧毁一两个农场,然后提出,如向他们缴纳保护金,他们便主动撤离。霍克伍德用这种方法挣了大笔钱.尽管如此,意大利人还是把他视作某种英雄。他 80 岁那年死去时,佛罗伦萨人为他举行了国葬,并为他画像以纪念这位"骁勇无比的战士、杰出的领袖乔凡尼.阿库托先生."

## Lesson 22 By heart

### 熟记台词

Listen to the tape then answer the question below.

听录音, 然后回答以下问题。

视频: [点击这里收听课文录音](#)

Which actor read the letter in the end, the aristocrat or the gaoler?

Some plays are so successful that they run for years on end, In many ways, this is unfortunate for the poor actors who are required to go on repeating the same lines night after night. One would expect them to know their parts by heart and never have cause to falter. Yet this is not always the case.

A famous actor in a highly successful play was once cast in the role of an aristocrat who had been imprisoned in the Bastille for twenty years. In the last act, a gaoler would always come on to the stage with a letter which he would hand to the prisoner. Even though the noble was expected to read the letter at each performance, he always insisted that it should be written out in full.

One night, the gaoler decided to play a joke on his colleague to find out if, after so many performances, he had managed to learn the contents of the letter by heart. The curtain went up on the final act of the play and revealed the aristocrat sitting alone behind bars in his dark cell. Just then, the gaoler appeared with the precious letter in his hands. He entered the cell and presented the letter to the aristocrat. But the copy he gave him had not been written out in full as usual. It was simply a blank sheet of paper. The gaoler looked on eagerly, anxious to see if his fellow actor had at last learnt his lines. The noble stared at the blank sheet of paper for a few seconds. Then, squinting his eyes, he said: 'The light is dim. Read the letter to me'. And he promptly handed the sheet of paper to the gaoler. Finding that he could not remember a word of the letter either, the gaoler replied: 'The light is indeed dim, sire, I must get my glasses.' With this, he hurried off the stage. Much to the aristocrat's amusement, the gaoler returned a few moments later with a pair of glasses and the usual copy of the letter with he proceeded to read to the prisoner.

### New words and expressions 生词和短语

run (ran, run)

v. (戏剧, 电影等)连演, 连映

lines

n. (剧本中的)台词

part

n. 剧中的角色, 台词

falter

v. 支吾, 结巴说

cast (cast, cast)

v. 连派……扮演角色

role

n. 角色

aristocrat

n. 贵族

imprison

v. 关押

Bastille

n. 巴士底狱

gaoler  
n. 监狱长, 看守  
colleague  
n. 同事  
curtain  
n. (舞台上的)幕布  
reveal  
v. 使显露  
cell  
n. 单人监房, 监号

blank  
adj. 空白的  
squint  
v. 眯着(眼)看, 瞄  
dim  
adj. 昏暗  
sire  
n. (古用法)陛下  
proceed  
v. 继续进行

#### 参考译文

有些剧目十分成功,以致连续上演好几年。这样一来,可怜的演员们可倒霉了。因为他们需要一夜连着一夜地重复同样的台词。人们以为,这些演员一定会把台词背得烂熟,绝不会临场结巴的,但情况却并不总是这样。

有一位名演员曾在一出极为成功的剧目中扮演一个贵族角色,这个贵族已在巴士底狱被关押了 20 年。在最后一幕中,狱卒手持一封信上场,然后将信交给狱中那位贵族。尽管那个贵族每场戏都得念一遍那封信。但他还是坚持要求将信的全文写在信纸上。

一天晚上,狱卒决定与他的同事开一个玩笑,看看他反复演出这么多场之后,是否已将信的内容记熟了。大幕拉开,最后一幕戏开演,贵族独自一人坐在铁窗后阴暗的牢房里。这时狱卒上场,手里拿着那封珍贵的信。狱卒走进牢房,将信交给贵族。但这回狱卒给贵族的信没有像往常那样把全文写全,而是一张白纸。狱卒热切地观察着,急于想了解他的同事是否记熟了台词。贵族盯着纸看了几秒钟,然后,眼珠一转,说道:“光线太暗,请给我读一下这封信。”说完,他一下子把信递给狱卒。狱卒发现自己连一个字也记不住,于是便说:“陛下,这儿光线的确太暗了,我得去眼镜拿来。”他一边说着,一边匆匆下台。贵族感到非常好笑的是:一会儿工夫,狱卒重新登台,拿来一副眼镜以及平时使用的那封信,然后为那囚犯念了起来。