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Macartney Mission's Visit to China and the Western Spread of Chinese Law

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Abstract: Macartney Mission's visit to China played an important role in the progress for the British understanding of and researching on Chinese legal knowledge. Before Macartney Mission's visit to China, the British understanding of Chinese law was relatively limited. However, owing to detailed examination on Chinese Law by the members of the mission and their introduction, the Westerners knew more in detail about Chinese Law including China's sentencing, judges and appointment system, prisons, the trial process, the selection of evidence, tax law, civil trial and so on. During his visit to China, Staunton (the son of vice envoy) took the chance to learn Chinese. After ten-year residence in China, he translated the "The Qing Dynasty Penal Code" into English which was the first exhaustive translation of the Code. This translation contributed to the British study of Chinese law and made the British become one of the tops among European countries in researching on Chinese law.

Key words: Macartney mission's visit to China; Chinese legal knowledge; Qing Law

观点选萃

文学经典中未知的魅力

黄守岗

湖北经济学院外国语学院黄守岗认为：关于文学经典的研究成果颇多，也相对全面，但大部分都集中在对作品主题、风格、叙事等角度的研读上，很少有研究从文学经典创作结构的角度来挖掘作品潜藏的深层意义。文学经典的要义除了“深奥”、“争论”、“不朽”等几个要素外，还应具备“未知”这一要义。文学经典的魅力不在于作品看似简单的表层结构部分，而在于潜藏在表层结构之下的未知部分。文学经典中潜藏的未知结构是文学作品能具备丰富阐释空间从而升华为经典的重要品质，也是一部经典作品为什么永远不会有“雅”与“俗”之争的重要原因。经典巨著《李尔王》就是一部典型的具备未知结构或双重结构的戏剧经典。

一部文学经典就是一个迷宫，在这个迷宫中潜藏着一个个有待读者去探索的未知。而这些双重的或未知的结构正是能让一部文学作品能成为经典的要义所在，也是经典作品为什么能长久不衰，永不过时的重要原因。笔者认为，只要善于细读与挖掘，对于《李尔王》的解读，一定还有着远不止于已被解析的两层结构。因此，现在提出重读经典不仅具备现实意义，也有着重要的方法论意义。我们有理由相信：对于包括《李尔王》在内的经典作品，目前所有研究之成果也许还只是冰山一角而已。

(马光 摘编)

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