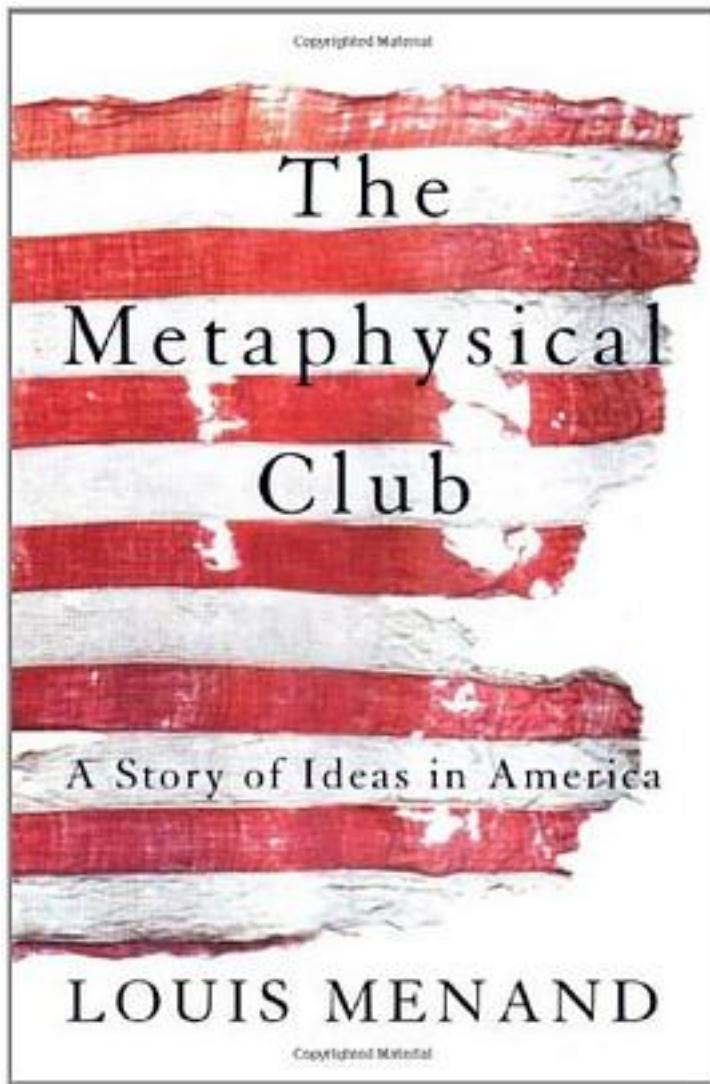


The Metaphysical Club



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著者:Louis Menand

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A riveting, original book about the creation of the modern American mind. The Metaphysical Club was an informal group that met in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1872, to talk about ideas. Its members included Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., founder of modern jurisprudence; William James, the father of modern American psychology; and Charles Sanders Peirce, logician, scientist, and the founder of semiotics. The Club was probably in existence for about nine months. No records were kept. The one thing we know that came out of it was an idea -- an idea about ideas. This book is the story of that idea. Holmes, James, and Peirce all believed that ideas are not things "out there" waiting to be discovered but are tools people invent -- like knives and forks and microchips -- to make their way in the world. They thought that ideas are produced not by individuals, but by groups of individuals -- that ideas are social. They do not develop according to some inner logic of their own but are entirely dependent -- like germs -- on their human carriers and environment. And they thought that the survival of any idea depends not on its immutability but on its adaptability. 'The Metaphysical Club' is written in the spirit of this idea about ideas. It is not a history of philosophy but an absorbing narrative about personalities and social history, a story about America. It begins with the American Civil War and ends with World War I. This is a book about the evolution of the American mind during the crucial period that formed the world we now inhabit.

作者介绍:

路易斯·梅南 (Louis Menand) 的《形而上学俱乐部》 (THE METAPHYSICAL CLUB) 记录的是1872年在麻省剑桥 (这里有著名的哈佛大学) 出现的一个哲学小团体，其中包括日后成为20世纪美国哲学代表的詹姆斯、皮尔斯和杜威。作者描述时相当聪明地将严肃的学院哲学、充满乐趣的传记，与美国历史相贯穿。是部有趣的哲学历史书。

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标签

历史

美国

思想史

思想观念史

实用主义

社会史

外国文学

英语

评论

文笔太好，对个性与观念的相互成就有深刻洞察力。三年前读的中文版，如今再读英文版，有两个段子我始终无法忘怀，一个是威廉詹姆士反反复复决定不下退休，纠结症晚期；另一个还是威廉詹姆士跟着艾里奥特做实验时干的活是给自己做尿验，一辈子对实验避之不及。噗哈哈，我好喜欢詹姆士这朵奇男子。。。

陆陆续续终于读完了。如果要给Cambridge或者哈佛一个礼物，Menand和他的主人公一起给予了最好的礼物。在战争的废墟上，是带着战争伤疤的知识分子重新给了一个国家前进的动力。有情有义也有理。

Not bad for a book on the history of philosophical ideas.

好棒

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书评

1. The Metaphysical Club是Pierce在John Hopkins University成立的； 2. 这本书还花了大量的篇幅记录著名的最高法院大法官Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr；

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