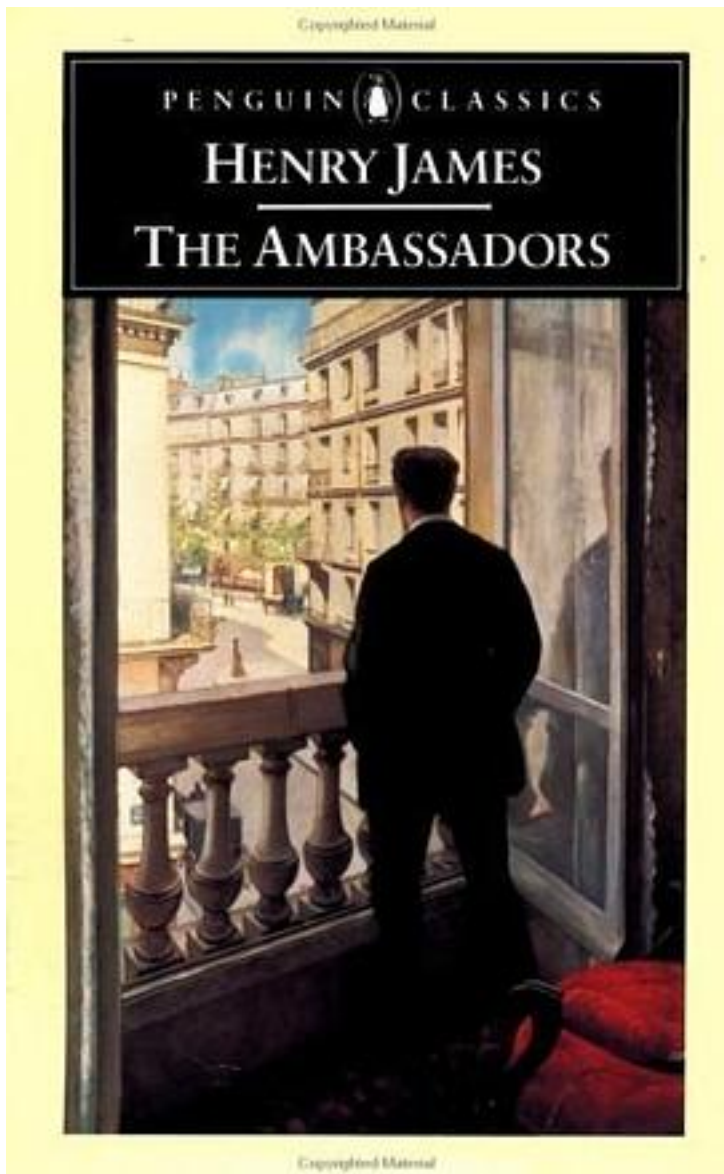


# The Ambassadors



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著者:Henry James

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The Ambassadors, which Henry James considered his best work, is the most exquisite refinement of his favorite theme: the collision of American innocence with European experience. This time, James recounts the continental journey of Louis Lambert Strether--a fiftysomething man of the world who has been dispatched abroad by a rich widow, Mrs. Newsome. His mission: to save her son Chadwick from the clutches of a wicked (i.e., European) woman, and to convince the prodigal to return to Woollett, Massachusetts. Instead, this all-American envoy finds Europe growing on him. Strether also becomes involved in a very Jamesian "relation" with the fascinating Miss Maria Gostrey, a fellow American and informal Sacajawea to her compatriots. Clearly Paris has "improved" Chad beyond recognition, and convincing him to return to the U.S. is going to be a very, very hard sell. Suspense, of course, is hardly James's stock-in-trade. But there is no more meticulous mapper of tone and atmosphere, nuance and implication. His hyper-refined characters are at their best in dialogue, particularly when they're exchanging morsels of gossip. Astute, funny, and relentlessly intelligent, James amply fulfills his own description of the novelist as a person upon whom nothing is lost. --Rhian Ellis --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

### 作者介绍:

Henry James married Mary Robertson Walsh and, on April 15, 1843, the novelist Henry James was born in New York. Months later, the family visited Europe for the first time. The trip was brief, and the family returned to spend the next ten years in New York. In 1855, the family set off again. This time they numbered four boys and one girl. They remained abroad for a few years, and the children went to a succession of schools in Switzerland, France, England, and Germany.

After their return, the family settled in Newport, Rhode Island. Beginning in 1864, under the influence of W. D. Howells, James devoted his life to literature and began publishing criticism and short stories in 1865. His reputation began to grow in 1870, with his stories about the "American Girl," which he modeled on his cousin Minnie Temple — who died that same year at the age of twenty four. By 1875, he had decided to live abroad.

He planned to live in Paris, but, by 1876, James had settled in London, where he published his first novel, Roderick Hudson. James achieved fame and monetary success from Daisy Miller in 1878, and The Portrait of a Lady in 1881. In 1883, almost two years after his mother's death, the first collected edition of his works appeared in fourteen volumes.

James had success in travel writing, essays, and as a journalist, but his attempt to break into playwriting in the 1890s was humiliating. The audience booed James off the stage after a production of Guy Domville in January of 1895. He gave up drama and returned to fiction. During this year, he recorded the "germ" in his notebook that would become The Ambassadors.

James continued writing novels and traveling. He made an extensive tour of the United States in 1904 and 1905. He returned to London and found some success with plays until his health began to decline in 1909. He received two honorary degrees from Harvard in 1911 and Oxford in 1912. When the United States did not enter World War I, James registered his protest by becoming a British citizen in 1915. He died on February

28, 1916, in London but not before being awarded the Order of Merit by King George V. His ashes were eventually buried in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and a memorial plaque was placed in the Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey.

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标签

HenryJames

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长篇小说

美国文学

评论

他的唯美主义理论就是追求强烈的审美印象和人生体验，却忽略了背后蕴含的道德精神。佩特认为，艺术审美是生活的最高价值，主张要把生活当作艺术品，用艺术欣赏的态度看待生活。他认为生活的最高价值在于看，欣赏，获取印象。佩特的唯美主义思想中蕴含着深刻的道德精神，此与亨利·詹姆斯的艺术道德观相契合。小说表现了唯美主义精神如何使人从狭隘的道德体系中解放出来，并获得一种更高的道德观。对于佩特来说，优良的道德判断来自于对生活中具体情况的亲身体验和敏锐观察，而不是盲目地尊崇任何绝对而普遍的原则。这就是为什么佩特提倡观察和思考的人生，将无为的价值观作

为更高的道德的基础。这一思想可以追溯到约翰罗斯金。他强调对感官的教育，即训练和培养感官的敏锐度，提升为每个人的道德责任。人们应该通过艺术，唤起已经麻木死去的感官功能。

新年和Henry James的相性总算好了一点…对人心的洞察，最后的Then there we are真是神之一笔。

想继续看下去，语言牛爆了

end up in a larger person

语言受不鸟不能评论

the masterpiece of Henry Culture-Assassin James。读的是第二版，封面用了一张Émile Lambinet，第一版封面是第七章前的插图“from the Notre Dame”。上课没有讲到这个片段，但是我自己很喜欢的，The Portrait里面也有一个St. Peters片段。

在心理学书籍区旁读完了这本james自己最满意的一本书。太微妙。Strether只要一思考，就满满一副自我无敌的样子。欺骗与虚伪，含混与张力，以及James一心想要写好的戏剧....

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## 书评

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来源：<https://book.douban.com/review/9771496/>

为了自己的计算，奉命去拆散远在巴黎的富家公子不恰当的恋情并把他带回国。就是这么个故事，亨利詹姆斯以主角的心理为线索，构造了一个纵横交错的迷宫， ...

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“使节”，据说是20世纪百大英文小说位列27。作者Henry James算出身名门，自己就是从美国搬到欧洲路转粉的典型。我猜他多半把自己替入了主人公角色，把自己对欧洲无比崇爱之情硬塞个故事缅怀一下。500多页的小说，多少次出差都带着，一直读不完，还不够重死人。今天终于完成， ...

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虽然大多数人都离不开自己的家乡，就算是远离它故乡也深藏心中，古话说：落叶归根。就是这个意思，但总有些人是与众不同的，他们热爱另一块土地远超自己的故乡。作者是不是不好说，至少书中的查理是这样的人。小说内容极其简单，一个使节受托到欧洲去带回久居不归的青年回美国...

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