

PPGMAT 阅读高频原文[至 2018 年 9 月]

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1. 恐龙灭绝的原因研究

Until the 1980s, most scientists believed that noncatastrophic geological processes caused the extinction of dinosaurs that occurred approximately 66 million years ago, at the end of the Cretaceous period. Geologists argued that a dramatic drop in sea level coincided with the extinction of the dinosaurs and could have caused the climatic changes that resulted in this extinction as well as the extinction of many ocean species.

This view was seriously challenged in the 1980s by the discovery of large amounts of iridium in a layer of clay deposited at the end of the Cretaceous period. Because iridium is extremely rare in rocks on the Earth's surface but common in meteorites, researchers theorized that it was the impact of a large meteorite that dramatically changed the earth's climate and thus triggered the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Currently available evidence, however, offers more support for a new theory, the volcanic-eruption theory. A vast eruption of lava in India coincided with the extinctions that occurred at the end of the Cretaceous period, and the release of carbon dioxide from this episode of volcanism could have caused the climatic change responsible for the demise of the dinosaurs. Such outpourings of lava are caused by instability in the lowest layer of the Earth's mantle, located just above the Earth's core. As the rock that constitutes this layer is heated by the Earth's core, it becomes less dense and portions of it eventually escape upward as blobs or molten rock, called "diapirs (diapir: [地]底辟, 挤入构造)," that can, under certain circumstances, erupt violently through the Earth's crust.

Moreover, the volcanic-eruption theory, like the impact theory, accounts for the presence of iridium in sedimentary deposits; it also explains matters that the meteorite-impact theory does not. Although iridium is extremely rare on the Earth's surface, the lower regions of the Earth's mantle have roughly the same composition as meteorites and contain large amounts of iridium, which in the case of a diapir eruption would probably be emitted as iridium hexafluoride, a gas that would disperse more uniformly in the atmosphere than the iridium-containing matter thrown out from a meteorite impact. In addition, the volcanic-eruption theory may explain why the end of the Cretaceous period was marked by a gradual change in sea level. Fossil records indicate that for several hundred thousand years prior to the relatively sudden



disappearance of the dinosaurs, the level of the sea gradually fell, causing many marine organisms to die out. This change in sea level might well have been the result of a distortion in the Earth's surface that resulted from the movement of diapirs upward toward the Earth's crust, and the more cataclysmic extinction of the dinosaurs could have resulted from the explosive volcanism that occurred as material from the diapirs erupted onto the Earth's surface.

1. The passage suggests that during the 1980s researchers found meteorite impact a convincing explanation for the extinction of dinosaurs, in part because

- (A) earlier theories had failed to account for the gradual extinction of many ocean species at the end of the Cretaceous period
- (B) geologists had, up until that time, underestimated the amount of carbon dioxide that would be released during an episode of explosive volcanism
- (C) a meteorite could have served as a source of the iridium found in a layer of clay deposited at the end of the Cretaceous period
- (D) no theory relying on purely geological processes had, up until that time, explained the cause of the precipitous drop in sea level that occurred at the end of the Cretaceous period (C)
- (E) the impact of a large meteorite could have resulted in the release of enough carbon dioxide to cause global climatic change

答案： C

2. According to the passage, the lower regions of the Earth's mantle are characterized by

- (A) a composition similar to that of meteorites
- (B) the absence of elements found in rocks on the Earth's crust
- (C) a greater stability than that of the upper regions
- (D) the presence of large amounts of carbon dioxide (A)
- (E) a uniformly lower density than that of the upper regions

答案： A

3. It can be inferred from the passage that which one of the following was true of the lava that erupted in India at the end of the Cretaceous period?

- (A) It contained less carbon dioxide than did the meteorites that were striking the Earth's surface during that period.



- (B) It was more dense than the molten rock, located just above the Earth's core.
- (C) It released enough iridium hexafluoride into the atmosphere to change the Earth's climate dramatically.
- (D) It was richer in iridium than rocks usually found on the Earth's surface.

(D)

- (E) It was richer in iridium than were the meteorites that were striking the Earth's surface during that period.

答案: D

4. In the passage, the author is primarily concerned with doing which one of the following?

- (A) describing three theories and explaining why the latest of these appears to be the best of the three
- (B) attacking the assumptions inherent in theories that until the 1980s had been largely accepted by geologists
- (C) outlining the inadequacies of three different explanations of the same phenomenon
- (D) providing concrete examples in support of the more general assertion that theories must often be revised in light of new evidence (A)
- (E) citing evidence that appears to confirm the skepticism of geologists regarding a view held prior to the 1980s

答案: A

5. The author implies that if the theory described in the third paragraph is true, which one of the following would have been true of iridium in the atmosphere at the end of the Cretaceous period?

- (A) Its level of concentration in the Earth's atmosphere would have been high due to a slow but steady increase in the atmospheric iridium that began in the early Cretaceous period.
- (B) Its concentration in the Earth's atmosphere would have increased due to the dramatic decrease in sea level that occurred during the Cretaceous period.
- (C) It would have been directly responsible for the extinction of many ocean species.
- (D) It would have been more uniformly dispersed than iridium whose source had been the impact of a meteorite on the Earth's surface. (D)



(E) It would have been more uniformly dispersed than iridium released into the atmosphere as a result of normal geological processes that occur on Earth.

答案: D

6. The passage supports which one of the following claims about the volcanic-eruption theory?

(A) It does not rely on assumptions concerning the temperature of molten rock at the lowest part of the Earth's mantle.

(B) It may explain what caused the gradual fall in sea level that occurred for hundreds of thousands of years prior to the more sudden disappearance of the dinosaurs.

(C) It bases its explanation on the occurrence of periods of increased volcanic activity similar to those shown to have caused earlier mass extinctions.

(D) It may explain the relative scarcity of iridium in rocks on the Earth's surface compared to its abundance in meteorites. (B)

(E) It accounts for the relatively uneven distribution of iridium in the layer of clay deposited at the end of the Cretaceous period.

答案:B

7. Which one of the following, if true, would cast the most doubt on the theory described in the last paragraph of the passage?

(A) Fragments of meteorites that have struck the Earth are examined and found to have only minuscule amounts of iridium hexafluoride trapped inside of them.

(B) Most volcanic eruptions in the geological history of the Earth have been similar in size to the one that occurred in India at the end of the Cretaceous period and have not been succeeded by periods of climatic change.

(C) There have been several periods in the geological history of the Earth, before and after the Cretaceous period, during which large numbers of marine species have perished.

(D) The frequency with which meteorites struck the Earth was higher at the end of the Cretaceous period than at the beginning of the period. (B)

(E) Marine species tend to be much more vulnerable to extinction when exposed to a dramatic and relatively sudden change in sea level than when they are exposed to a gradual change in sea level similar to the one that preceded the extinction of the dinosaurs.

答案: B



2.地核物质与地幔

The Origin of the Land under the Sea

(Scientific American Magazine @ February 2009)

Author: Peter B. Kelemen

Knowledge of the intense heat and pressure in the mantle led researchers to hypothesize in the late 1960s that ocean crust originates as tiny amounts of liquid rock known as melt—almost as though the solid rocks were “sweating.” Even a minuscule release of pressure (because of material rising from its original position) causes melt to form in microscopic pores deep within the mantle rock. Explaining how the rock sweat gets to the surface was more difficult. Melt is less dense than the mantle rocks in which it forms, so it will constantly try to migrate upward, toward regions of lower pressure. But what laboratory experiments revealed about the chemical composition of melt did not seem to match up with the composition of rock samples collected from the mid-ocean ridges, where erupted melt hardens. Using specialized equipment to heat and squeeze crystals from mantle rocks in the laboratory, investigators learned that the chemical composition of melt in the mantle varies depending on the depth at which it forms; the composition is controlled by an exchange of atoms between the melt and the minerals that make up the solid rock it passes through. The experiments revealed that as melt rises, it dissolves one kind of mineral, orthopyroxene, and precipitates, or leaves behind, another mineral, olivine. Researchers could thus infer that the higher in the mantle melt formed, the more orthopyroxene it would dissolve, and the more olivine it would leave behind. (melt 上升时, 溶解 Ort 产生 Oli, 所以 melt higher, 溶解的 Ort 越多, 产生的/留在身后的 Oli 也越多) Comparing these experimental findings with lava samples from the mid-ocean ridges revealed that almost all of them have the composition of melts that formed at depths greater than 45 kilometers. This conclusion spurred a lively debate about how melt is able to rise through tens of kilometers of overlying rock while preserving the composition appropriate for a greater depth. If melt rose slowly in small pores in the rock, as researchers suspected, it would be logical to assume that all melts would reflect the composition of the shallowest lowest part of the mantle, at 10 kilometers or less. Yet the composition of most mid-ocean ridge lava samples suggests their source melt migrated through the uppermost 45 kilometers of the mantle without dissolving any orthopyroxene from the surrounding rock.

But how? (疑大概为狗狗第一段的背景内容)



In the early 1970s scientists proposed an answer: the melt must make the last leg of its upward journey along enormous cracks. Open cracks would allow the melt to rise so rapidly that it would not have time to interact with the surrounding rock, nor would melt in the core of the crack ever touch the sides. Although open cracks are not a natural feature of the upper mantle—the pressure is simply too great—some investigators suggested that the buoyant force of migrating melt might sometimes be enough to fracture the solid rock above, like an icebreaker ship forcing its way through polar pack ice. Adolphe Nicolas of the University of Montpellier in France and his colleagues discovered tantalizing evidence for such cracks while examining unusual rock formations called ophiolites. Typically, when oceanic crust gets old and cold, it becomes so dense that it sinks back into the mantle along deep trenches known as subduction zones, such as those that encircle the Pacific Ocean. Ophiolites, on the other hand, are thick sections of old seafloor and adjacent, underlying mantle that are thrust up onto continents when two of the planet's tectonic plates collide. A famous example, located in the Sultanate of Oman, was exposed during the ongoing collision of the Arabian and Eurasian plates. In this and other ophiolites, Nicolas's team found unusual, light-colored veins called dikes, which they interpreted as cracks in which melt had crystallized before reaching the seafloor. The problem with this interpretation was that the dikes are filled with rock that crystallized from a melt that formed in the uppermost reaches of the mantle, not below 45 kilometers, where most mid-ocean ridge lavas originate. In addition, the icebreaker scenario may not work well for the melting region under mid-ocean ridges: below about 10 kilometers, the hot mantle tends to flow like caramel left too long in the sun, rather than cracking easily.

To explain the ongoing mystery, I began working on an alternative hypothesis for lava transport in the melting region. In my dissertation in the late 1980s, I developed a chemical theory proposing that as rising melt dissolves orthopyroxene crystals, it precipitates a smaller amount of olivine, so that the net result is a greater volume of melt. Our calculations revealed how this dissolution process gradually enlarges the open spaces at the edges of solid crystals, creating larger pores and carving a more favorable pathway through which melt can flow. As the pores grow, they connect to form elongate channels. In turn, similar feedbacks drive the coalescence of several small tributaries to form larger channels. Indeed, our numerical models suggested that more than 90 percent of the melt is concentrated



into less than 10 percent of the available area. That means millions of microscopic threads of flowing melt may eventually feed into only a few dozen, high porosity channels 100 meters or more wide. Even in the widest channels, many crystals of the original mantle rock remain intact, congesting the channels and inhibiting movement of the fluid. That is why melt flows slowly, at only a few centimeters a year. Over time, however, so much melt passes through the channels that all the soluble orthopyroxene crystals dissolve away, leaving only crystals of olivine and other minerals that the melt is unable to dissolve. As a result, the composition of the melt within such channels can no longer adjust to decreasing pressure and instead records the depth at which it last “saw” an orthopyroxene crystal. One of the most important implications of this process, called focused porous flow, is that only the melt at the edges of channels dissolves orthopyroxene from the surrounding rock; melt within the inner part of the conduit can rise unadulterated.



3.中世纪的女性地位

The history of women's relationship with guilds needs further examination, but our evidence at hand suggests neither a great transition nor a medieval 'golden age'. The same is true of our final index of women's work – the history of women's wages between 1300 and 1700. Not all women worked for wages, to be sure, but sum paid to wage-earning women provide crucial measures of not only the perceived value of women's work but also women's earning power.

In the history of women's work between 1300 and 1700, then, these four measures – women's place within the family economy, the types of work pursued by women, women's roles within guilds and the wages paid to women – suggest that there was no great divide between medieval 'golden age' and an early-modern age of growing inactivity and exploitation. Change occurred, to be sure – the family economy lost its effectiveness in some economic sectors, women left some trades (such as brewing), guilds became generally more exclusive, female wage-earners competed more or less effectively for better wages. Yet, we must view these changes (and others) with a strong scepticism. First, many of the changes that occurred were of quite short duration. For example, it seems possible – from both extant evidence and economic theory – that the labour shortages of the decades that followed the Black Death improved the wage-earning potential of women. During the late fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries, wage differentials between unskilled and skilled labourers narrowed considerably, and since women's work' was generally unskilled work, its wages – together with wages for unskilled male labour – gained ground on skilled wages. At the same time, women might have been able to bargain more effectively not only for better pay but also for equal work paid at equal wages; most of our examples of equal pay for equal work come from these labour-short decades. But these changes were a short-term phenomenon, confined to the peculiar circumstances of a population ravaged by disease. For another example, many guild ordinances against women's work seem to have been prompted by adverse economic conditions and seem to have applied (if they ever had real effect at all) only to years of hard times. Hence, such ordinances were very common in London during the difficult years of the 1540s; they are rare before and rare thereafter. Changes such as these are very telling, for they indicate both the vulnerability of female workers and the economic usefulness of their occupational adaptability. We need to study these changes (and others) in more detail, but we also need to



remember that they proved to be ephemeral. They were small and temporary shifts, not transformations.

Second, even the most positive shifts affected only a tiny minority of women. Most of our evidence for an improvement in the working opportunities of women after the plague, for example, involves wage-earning women or women in urban locales. Yet only a very small proportion of women would have been able to take advantage of these short-term changes. Relatively few people (and even fewer than men) worked for wages in the later Middle Ages and relatively few people lived in towns. Moreover, even in the best of times and places, most women were unable to take advantage of new opportunities that were potentially theirs; most wage-earning women still worked in lower-paid female jobs, as did most urban women.

Third, these changes – as ephemeral and as limited as they were – must also be placed within a context of enduring continuities in the circumstances, status and experiences of women workers. As I have demonstrated from four perspectives, most women – in 1300 as in 1700 – sought to support themselves (and their families) through a variety of low-skilled, low-status, low-paid occupations. In the world of pre-industrial England, all people – men as well as women – worked hard, long and in difficult circumstance, but the working status of women – compared with that of men – was consistently lower: they received less training, they worked at less desirable tasks, they enjoyed less occupational stability and a weaker work identity, they received lower wages. This was as true in the best of times (as perhaps in some locales after the plague) as in the worst of time. We need to collect much more information about how women's work and women's wages shifted and altered within this framework of economic subordination, but the framework remained: there was no transformation.

In one sense, my argument with those who posit a great transition in women's work is a perceptual one. Scholars like Caroline Barron and Susan Cahn look at the 'glass' of women's economic activity in fifteenth-century England and see it as half full; I see the same 'glass' but I see it as half empty. My disagreement is, however, more substantial than merely a matter of perspective. For scholars who work within the paradigm of great transformation see women's work within an entirely different framework, a framework that best accommodates not small and temporary shifts but instead transformative and dramatic change. This framework suits well a liberal historiographic



tradition, for it implies that a 'golden age' for women – part of the relatively recent past of the West – can be easily recovered in the future without major structural changes. Within this framework, the Middle Ages – in which women worked within family economies that firmly subordinated their interests to those of their husbands, in which women's work was characteristically low status, low-skilled, and low-paid, in which women attained at best only very restricted access to guild life, and in which women worked for wages usually far below the wages paid to men – becomes a 'golden age', a 'paradise' which early-modern women lost.

guild (noun) = an association of skilled workers in the Middle Ages

ephemeral (adj) = lasting or used for only a short period of time

subordination (noun) = the act of treating somebody/something as less important than somebody/something else

【英文考古整理】

Theory: the status of European women had dropped from 1300 to 1700. The women experienced from the "golden age" to the exploitation. Though the theory has not been entirely unchallenged, yet the theory still has some influences. There were three issues which showed that such transformation did happen: women's wage, the industry women worked in, and another one. And there were data to support the point of the theory. However, the author challenged the data with three flaws: the number of the investigated women, the scope of the investigated women, and another one. Thus, the author argues that the theory was superficial, and the data only explain the situation to a minority. The theory could not state that there had been such transformation in women's status.



4.The psychic distance paradox

by Shawna O'Grady , Henry W. Lane

It has been argued in the international business literature that companies begin the internationalization process in countries that are psychologically close before venturing to more distant countries [Johanson and Vahlne 1992]. If this description is accurate, then Canadian companies would be expected to begin in the United States which is not only the closest but also, in many ways, the most similar country to Canada. Indeed, evidence from the retail industry indicates that firms have followed this pattern.

The literature on the internationalization process describes the sequence of market entry that firms follow when internationalizing. This sequence reflects a gradual, learning through experience process. What is not explicit in the literature is why firms follow this pattern. Researchers have suggested that entering countries that are psychologically close reduces the level of uncertainty firms face in the new market [Johanson and Vahlne 1992]; and that psychologically close countries are easier for companies to learn about [Kogut and Singh 1988]. Such explanations seem logical and implicitly support the conclusion that beginning in psychologically close countries should improve a company's chances of success in these markets. Although the literature is not prescriptive, an unstated conclusion can be drawn from it linking sequence of entry to performance. There is an implicit assumption that psychologically close countries are more similar, and that similarity is easier for firms to manage than dissimilarity, thereby making it more likely that they will succeed in similar markets.

Although sequence of entry is an important consideration, we believe that one limitation of this literature is that it does not address how the perceived psychic distance¹ between countries affects the decision makers' choice of entry or the organization's ultimate performance in the new market. This research presents evidence demonstrating that starting the internationalization process by entering a country psychologically close to home may result in poor performance and, possibly, failure. We refer to this as the psychic distance paradox. Instead of psychologically close countries being easy to enter and to do business in, we argue that perceived similarity can cause decision makers to fail because they do not prepare for the differences. The failure lies in the managerial decision making aspect of the internationalization process, to which international business researchers have not paid enough attention [Johanson and Vahlne 1992]. In addition, even in psychologically close countries such as Canada and the United States, there may be significant



differences that can affect the ability of managers to conduct business. What appears on the surface to be psychically close may, in reality, be more distant than expected.

This research was exploratory in nature and focused on the performance of Canadian retail companies that entered the United States. With the American retail market worth more than \$1.5 trillion, there is a very powerful incentive for Canadian retailers to understand how to compete in this market. Consistent with internationalization theory, domestically successful companies entered a country that is not only the closest physically, but probably the most similar country to Canada. However, of the thirty-two Canadian retail companies that entered the United States market, almost 80% failed and only seven (22%) were continuing to function successfully [Evans, Lane and O'Grady 1992]. The high failure rate suggests that there may be a paradox, or inherent contradiction, within internationalization theory and the psychic distance concept, and that executives cannot always rely upon measures of psychic distance when making their internationalization decisions.

The purpose of this paper is to use the experience of Canadian retailers entering the United States to analyze the psychic distance concept in greater detail and to suggest some possible qualifications that could improve its use in research and practice. First, a summary of the psychic distance concept is presented, as well as the evidence in the literature positioning Canada and the United States as being culturally close. Next, the results from both clinical and questionnaire data show areas in which cultural and business differences manifested themselves, as well as empirical evidence of these cultural differences. Then, the paradox inherent in the psychic distance concept is explored, which explains how the perception of a country as having a small psychic distance from one's own can lead decision makers to a number of faulty assumptions, creating an inability to learn about that country. Some recommendations are provided to help companies learn in these situations. Finally, we explore the psychic distance concept in greater depth, and propose some qualifications to it. The results of this study suggest that the psychic distance concept is more complex than is generally recognized in the literature and should be explored more fully.



5. Polynesians beat Columbus to the Americas

By Emma Young

Prehistoric Polynesians beat Europeans to the Americas, according to a new analysis of chicken bones.

The work provides the first firm evidence that ancient Polynesians voyaged as far as South America, and also strongly suggests that they were responsible for the introduction of chickens to the continent – a question that has been hotly debated for more than 30 years.

Chilean archaeologists working at the site of El Arenal-1, on the Arauco Peninsula in south-central Chile, discovered what they thought might be the first prehistoric chicken bones unearthed in the Americas. They asked Elizabeth Matisoo-Smith at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, and colleagues to investigate.

The group carbon-dated the bones and their DNA was analysed. The 50 chicken bones from at least five individual birds date from between 1321 and 1407 – 100 years or more before the arrival of Europeans.

Two-week journey

However, this date range does coincide with dates for the colonization of the easternmost islands of Polynesia, including Pitcairn and Easter Island.

And when the El Arenal chicken DNA was compared with chicken DNA from archaeological sites in Polynesia, the researchers found an identical match with prehistoric samples from Tonga and American Samoa, and a near identical match from Easter Island.

Easter Island is in eastern Polynesia, and so is a more likely launch spot for a voyage to South America, the researchers say. The journey would have taken less than two weeks, falling within the known range of Polynesian voyages around this time, says Matisoo-Smith.

First real evidence

Other researchers have found indirect evidence that Polynesians might have made it to the Americas before Europeans. “But this is the first concrete evidence – not something based on a similarity in the styles of artefacts or a linguistic similarity,” says Matisoo-Smith.

It is also the first clear evidence that the chicken was introduced before the Europeans arrived.

Genetic studies of modern South Americans have not uncovered any signs of Polynesian ancestry. But this is not surprising, says Matisoo-



Smith. Ancient Polynesians were great explorers, but tended to settle only in uninhabited islands.

It seems that if they found other people, they would usually turn around and go home, she says.



6.South African diamonds

Rough and tumble

A controversial bill to keep more rocks at home

Oct 27th 2005 | JOHANNESBURG

Timekeeper

CAN South Africa put more shine on the diamonds that it mines? It is the world's fourth-largest producer by value, with 12% of global output. Yet its cutting and polishing sector is small, employing about 2,000 people. Most of its stones get exported in rough form, to be cut in Belgium, China, India or Israel.

Now the government is keen to create jobs and add value to the country's diamond exports by boosting the local cutting and polishing industry, and by having more jewellery-makers at home. This seems like a good idea. But the way it is planning to go about it is raising eyebrows in the industry. A bill now before parliament includes provisions to set up a state diamond trader and exchange, which would manage imports and exports, buying a share of local production for the local cutting market. An export levy on rough diamonds is also being planned.

Critics also say that the private sector is doing a good job of buying and selling diamonds, and that the government should not meddle. De Beers, which extracts about 90% of South Africa's diamonds, says that more than nine out of ten carats produced locally are of relatively low value, in which South African buyers are not showing great interest. The mining giant points out that the mix of rough diamonds that get sold back in South Africa—after having been sorted and pooled in London by its Diamond Trading Company—are on average better and more expensive than those produced at home.

Small producers sell their production on local diamond exchanges, but most of it still does not get cut and polished in South Africa. The Chamber of Mines points out that labour costs are much lower in India or China. It estimates that, with a 15% export levy, less than 5% of the local production could be cut profitably at home.

The government is not convinced that this is indeed the case. It wants to make more diamonds available and monitor the local appetite for them. At this stage, the level of the export levy, and how much the state trader will actually buy, are still to be decided. The government is keen to have the bill passed



by early November. If it meets that deadline, it will be a rough and unpolished piece of legislation.

The mining industry argues that this is likely to hurt extraction and do little to develop the downstream diamond industry, which needs incentives such as tax breaks, rather than regulation, to flourish. Meanwhile, the export levy would hit diamond mining. The Chamber of Mines of South Africa reckons that the proposed law could create up to 1,000 jobs in cutting and polishing diamonds, but destroy 12,000 in mining them. Small diamond producers are likely to suffer most.



7.testimony 律师诗人

The first installment of Testimony was published in 1934 by the Objectivist Press, which had been started several years earlier to promote the views of poets including William Carlos Williams, Louis Zukofsky, George Oppen, and Reznikoff himself. They were believers in Objectivism, a short-lived but still influential offshoot of poetic Modernism, the early 20th-century assault by T. S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, and others on the Enlightenment-influenced poetics of their predecessors. For the Objectivists, the poem was an object, not a report by the poet of what he or she thought or felt. They rejected the emphasis by 19th-century Romantic poets like Wordsworth and Shelley on the poet's subjective experience of transcendent meaning as depicted through metaphor and symbol. (The title and opening line of Wordsworth's well-known poem about daffodils, "I wandered lonely as a cloud," is a good example of the tendencies that the Objectivists judged artificial and misleading.) The Objectivists believed that feeling and emotion should come through the choice of details and the sound and appearance of words on the page.

Reznikoff continued to work on Testimony throughout his life. In the 1960s, he published two new volumes (the first drawn from judicial opinions of 1885-1890, the second from opinions of 1891-1900); two additional volumes (1901-1910 and 1911-1915) were published after his death. In each of the later volumes, Reznikoff revised his art, reshaping the documentary material into syncopated lines of poetry.

The Negro was dead/when the doctors examined him," a characteristic poem begins: They found upon his belly bruises: he died, the doctors said, of peritonitis.

While the shift in form draws even more attention to the language (as in the isolation of "bruises" in the lines just quoted), the later editions employ the same third-person perspective, looking to the objective language of a judicial opinion, the words as words, rather than subjective experience or metaphor, for the emotional intensity of the poem. With its use of judicial opinions as the raw material of poetry, Testimony radically undercuts the traditional assumption that the poet works in a private sphere that is somehow separate from the pressures and pulls of the public domain. Not only is the poem an object, but it is an object taken from the workaday world that poets traditionally have viewed as unsuitable for poetry. Testimony never lets us forget that it is judicial opinions the poet is expounding.

Reznikoff's most important innovation and chief legacy to subsequent poets was this use of social speech, the public



language of lawyers, to further the Modernist project of drawing attention to the linguistic qualities of a poem. By juxtaposing the descriptions of fact—the underlying story—of one case after another, he created an emotionally powerful collage from the apparently impersonal language of judicial opinions, a collage that chronicles America's struggle with slavery and its emergence as a commercial and industrial power.



8. 《简爱》畅销的原因研究

Jane Eyre's currency as a literary referent perhaps helped to keep the novel in the public consciousness and certainly improved its sales throughout the 1850s. As late as 1864 a new novel by Amelia Edwards was said to "remind" the writer "strongly of Jane Eyre." "This announcement alone is a sufficient assurance for the interest of its pages." But the cultural and literary durability of Jane Eyre over the course of the decade can be explained not only as a reflection of the novel's cheapness and widespread availability as a reprint but as a result of the not uncommon conflation of Charlotte Brontë the person with Jane Eyre the literary character. In fact, I want to suggest that the novel's widespread popularity was entangled in this confusion, and that readers' identification with the "autobiographical" subject explains a great deal about the particularly powerful appeal of the novel in the United States. The confusion about the literary status of the novel, which was encouraged by its subtitle, "an Autobiography," reflects the unstable borders separating fiction, biography, and autobiography during this period. As Barbara Hochman has argued, the desire to identify the text with the author may be understood as a specific reading practice of the antebellum period. What she calls "reading for the author" or "friendly reading"—that is, a mode of reading in which "the idea of continuity between literary discourse and authorial presence" is a given—helps explain the identification of Jane with Charlotte. But there is more to the identification of Jane with Charlotte than a conventional assumption of authorial presence; the commingling of the two indicates a degree of closeness to books and to the process of reading that is at once specific to a female reader's experience of Jane Eyre and indicative of broader trends [End Page 121] in female culture that made the experience of books of all kinds particularly important instruments for the development of female subjectivity. The tension between the positive moral effects of reading and the potentially negative ones underlines the extent to which reading, domesticity, and femininity were in tension. And the onus was on books and their authors to demonstrate that the dangerously sympathetic modes of reading in which women engaged (a kind of sympathetic reading practice fueled by the ambiguous genre identification of various texts) be undertaken for moral purposes and with the edification of family, comfort, and the domestic sphere in mind.



9. Overuse of checks

Despite the growing availability and acceptance of electronic payment instruments—such as credit cards, debit cards, and automated clearinghouse (ACH) payments—by far the most popular noncash payment instrument used in the United States is the paper check. In 1995, approximately 80 percent of all noncash transactions were made by check (Bank for International Settlements, forthcoming). Furthermore, although use of electronic instruments has grown in the past several years, check use has grown as well: between 1987 and 1993, the average annual number of payments per capita increased by 26 payments for electronic instruments, but by 31 payments for checks (Humphrey, Pulley, and Vesala, forthcoming). Clearly, individuals and businesses are not rapidly shifting away from checks to electronic instruments.

The popularity of checks persists even though checks cost society more to produce and process than do electronic instruments. According to standard economic theory, that may be a sign that the market for payment instruments is not working properly. In general, in an efficient market, when competing goods are available and one costs society more, the prices of the goods will reflect the relative costs of the resources used to produce them, and the cheaper good will be substituted for the more expensive. In this way, society uses its resources to produce only the particular goods it wants in the particular amounts it wants. In other words, resources are used efficiently. When use does not shift to the cheaper good, either the goods are not close substitutes or the market has failed, and there is a potential role for a public authority to attempt to correct the failure.

Market failure is a commonly accepted view of what's happened in the market for payment instruments. According to this view, the users of checks are the check writers. And for those individuals and businesses, the private cost, or price, of using checks has been distorted by the value of check float, or the time between the writing and clearing of a check. During that time, of course, the funds can earn interest for the check writer rather than for the check receiver.

The size of this benefit is thought to have reduced the price of check use below the cost to society of producing and processing checks. Since individuals and businesses don't face that higher social cost, they continue to use checks despite the existence of other means of payment that are less costly to society. In short, checks are overused.



10.青年时期的作品风格对成名后的作品意义

The art of Tom Dent: notes on early evidence

Unless one is engaged in the task of writing a fairly comprehensive biography, the study of a writer rarely begins with attention to her or his juvenilia. A writer's early attempts to overcome various anxieties of influence, to master the intricacies of language, and to forge a distinctive voice are either dismissed or trivialized. This habit, or perhaps convention, precludes opportunities to inquire into the origins of the writer's ultimate achievement and power. Valid inquiries, of course, can be initiated at points other than the formative years. Nevertheless, our insights into the writer's style and aesthetic might be strengthened by trying to identify the literary origins of creative production. This procedure is especially germane in efforts to account for Tom Dent's importance as an African American writer and intellectual. The governing presupposition for these notes is a claim about quality in writing. The art or skill that makes good writing is a possession of value and an activity of mind that is never exactly, as Richard Wright accurately proposed in "Blueprint for Negro Writing," on the page. The art is in perspective. The page is a catalyst for the engagement of the reader's mind with that of the writer; they collaborate on a vision of reality, agreeing or disagreeing as the case might be. Thomas Covington Dent (or as he preferred, Tom Dent), a New Orleans writer best known for his work with Free Southern Theater and his extraordinarily popular play *Ritual Murder*, his electric mentorship of younger writers and artists, and his work in oral history that culminated in *Southern Journey* (1997), certainly had perspective in the sense that Richard Wright intended; Dent also had subtle political and historically analytic perspectives on African American cultures. These perspectives are richly manifested in Dent's fledgling work as a journalist, specifically from writing produced during his tenure as editor-in-chief of the *Maroon Tiger*, the Morehouse College newspaper, during 1951-52. His editorials in Volume 53, Numbers 1-6, provide early evidence of what we are beginning to understand about his orientation toward reality, his aesthetic preferences, his complex and historically grounded modes of thought and expression. This evidence, crucial for a full assessment of Dent's later work, marks Dent as a writer from the Black South who sought more than the vapors of fame.

