

蘭博叢書 07



鰻魚 | 傳奇

Story of Eel

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The Tin Drum (German: *Die Blechtrommel*) is a 1959 novel by Günther Grass that has been adapted into a movie, which won the Academy Award for best Foreign Language in 1979. The story revolves around the life of a young boy in Germany and Poland during World War II, who decides never to grow up.

The well-established movie is often screened in German schools and consequently lots of people have seen it. Besides several grotesque scenes, most people won't forget the following in their lifetime. Men pull eel-filled horse heads onto the beach and the writhing eels are grabbed and put into sacks filled with dehydrating salt. A woman who walks by and observes that action is totally disgusted and immediately throws up.

That unique and memorable movie seemed to have quite an influence on the reputation of eels in the German society. People tend to assume that eels are 'disgusting carrion eaters' – even if they had been a popular edible fish since centuries. To our knowledge, there is no evidence that people have ever applied that 'fishing technique'.

Book contribution by Florian Stein for '*Story of eel*' (Tzeng 2012)
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(6) 死狗和鰻苗

這是發生在臺灣的真實故事，有一位漁民苦於捕不到鰻魚苗，於是到廟裡拜拜祈求神明保佑。隔天和往常一樣出海捕鰻魚苗，忽然發現一隻死狗隨潮水漂過來，心想將牠掩埋起來比較衛生，沒想到把狗屍體撈起來後，竟然從死狗體內跑出上千隻鰻魚苗，發了一筆意外之財。

在德國也發生類似的故事，德國一部家喻戶曉的電影「錫鼓 The Tin Drum」中有一幕場景，一個男人從水中撈起一個馬屍首，裡面竟然藏滿正在啃食腥臭腐屍的鰻魚，處理掉屍首後，就把鰻魚拿去餐廳大快朵頤（圖3.11.5），德國人對鰻魚的看法因此大受影響，但實際上沒有人用馬的屍首或死狗來捕鰻魚。



(a)



(b)

圖3.11.5 德國電影「錫鼓」的劇照。(a) 在沙灘上用鹽處理鰻魚，(b) 故事的主角（背著錫鼓的小孩）觀看大人處理鰻魚的過程。