



German granny sent down after career of crime 德國祖母級慣竊終於失風被關

After a life of crime stretching back 53 years, a **light-fingered** 70-year-old German woman was finally behind bars after pickpocketing a woman 10 years her senior at the bus stop, police said.

The pensioner, not named by police, first came to the attention of authorities in December 1956 and, during a **prolific** career of pilfering, had 55 criminal cases brought against her, none of which resulted in a jail term.

Age did not seem to dampen her thieving zeal, however. She was charged 17 times this year alone for a series of **petty** robberies, including at the nursing home where she resides.

"It was especially dangerous when the 70-year-old had to go into hospital for treatment. During her stay, cash, wallets and medical equipment would regularly vanish from other patients' rooms," the police said.

After the incident at the bus stop, the authorities "had enough — and prosecutors issued an arrest warrant," police in Aschaffenburg in Bavaria said.

"The investigating judge decided not to **pussyfoot** around any longer and put the pensioner, who has two suspended sentences of eight and 10 months, behind bars," the statement said.

"The case shows that age alone does not protect people from prison," it added.

(AFP)

德國警方表示，一名行竊了五十三年的七十歲女慣竊，在公車站扒竊一位比她年長十歲的婦人後，終於被關入獄。

當局第一次注意到這名領老人年金的婦人（警方未透露其姓名）是在一九五六年十二月，一生活竊無數的她，被刑事起訴五十五次，但從未被判入獄。

然而，她對偷竊的熱忱並未隨著年齡增長而減退。光是今年，她就被控犯下十七起小竊案，行竊之處包括她居住的安養院。

警方表示：「這名七十歲婦人到醫院接受治療時尤其危險。她住院期間，其他病房的現金、錢包和醫療設備常憑空消失。」

巴伐利亞邦阿夏芬堡警方表示，巴士站行竊案發生後，當局「實在忍無可忍——檢察官因此發出拘捕令」。

該聲明指出：「調查該案件的法官決定不再瞻前顧後，把這名領養老金的婦人送進監獄；她已有兩個分別為八個月和十個月的緩刑。」

聲明中也提到：「這個案例告訴我們，高齡不是免蹲牢房的保護傘。」

(法新社/翻譯：袁星豐)

Above: Police officers enter the Carolinum school in Ansbach, Germany, on Sept. 17, 2009.

PHOTO: EPA

上圖：九月十七日，德國安斯巴赫市警方進入卡洛利能學校。

照片：歐新社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **prolific** /prəˈlɪfɪk/ adj.

多產的 (duo1 chan3 de5)

例：The artist enjoyed his most prolific period in the late 1930s.
(一九三〇年代後期是這藝術家最多產的階段。)

2. **petty** /ˈpetr/ adj.

瑣碎的 (suo3 sui4 de5)

例：There's been a rise in petty crime over the past six months.
(過去半年來，小型犯罪率有攀升的現象。)

3. **pussyfoot** /ˈpʊsi,fʊt/ v.

瞻前顧後 (zhan1 qian2 gu4 hou4)

例：It's time to stop pussyfooting around and just tell her what you think.
(是停止裹足不前，告訴你你真實想法的時候了。)

LANGUAGE POINT 重要片語

light-fingered
扒手

Somebody who is **light-fingered** is prone to stealing. The term is usually used for minor theft, especially pickpocketing.

Examples: "A **light-fingered** intruder made off with a necklace that had been left on the mantelpiece," or "Keep an eye on your stuff when you go to the night market — that place is full of **light-fingered** thieves."

若說某人是「light-fingered」，就表示此人有偷竊的傾向。這個片語指的通常是較輕微的竊盜，尤指扒錢包。

例如：「一個小偷闖進我家，偷走一條放在壁爐台上的項鍊」，或是「去夜市時要留意隨身物品——那裡有很多扒手」。