

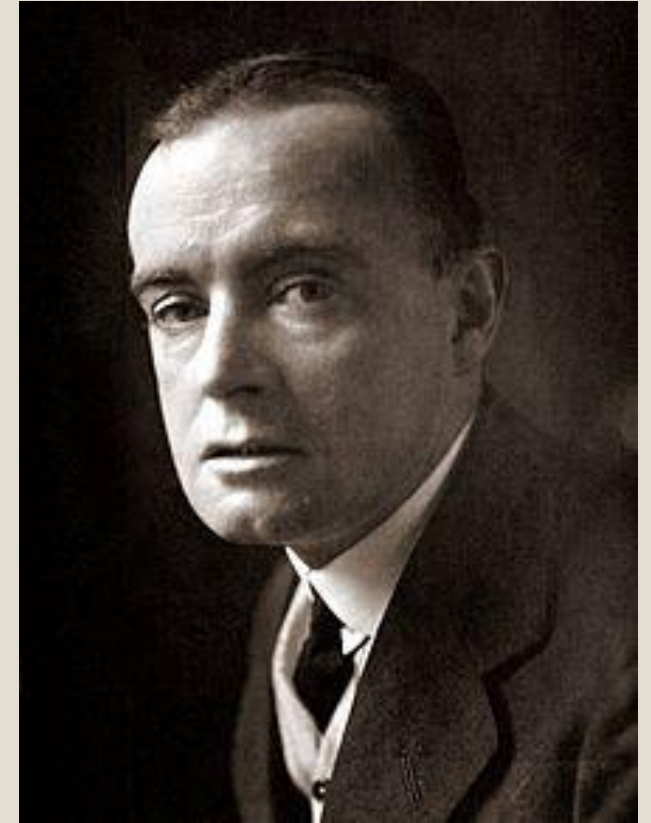


H.H.MUNRO «THE LUMBER ROOM»

By Kseniia Rodionova

biography

- **born** in Burma (now Myanmar) in 1870, H.H. Munro
- **worked** as a journalist before gaining fame as a short story writer
- under **the pen name** "Saki."
- **style** - a satirical commentary on Edwardian society and culture
- his **first book** *The Rise of the Russian Empire*



- After the death of Munro's mother, he was raised by aunts who frequently resorted to corporal punishment. It is said that they were most likely models for a few of his characters, notably *Sredni Vashtar*

The name 'Saki' is Farsi for 'cup-bearer', and is thought to be taken from either the ancient Persian poem *The Rubayat of Omar Khayyam* or possibly from the New World Saki monkey *Pitheciidae*, both being referred to in his acerbically witty and sometimes macabre stories.



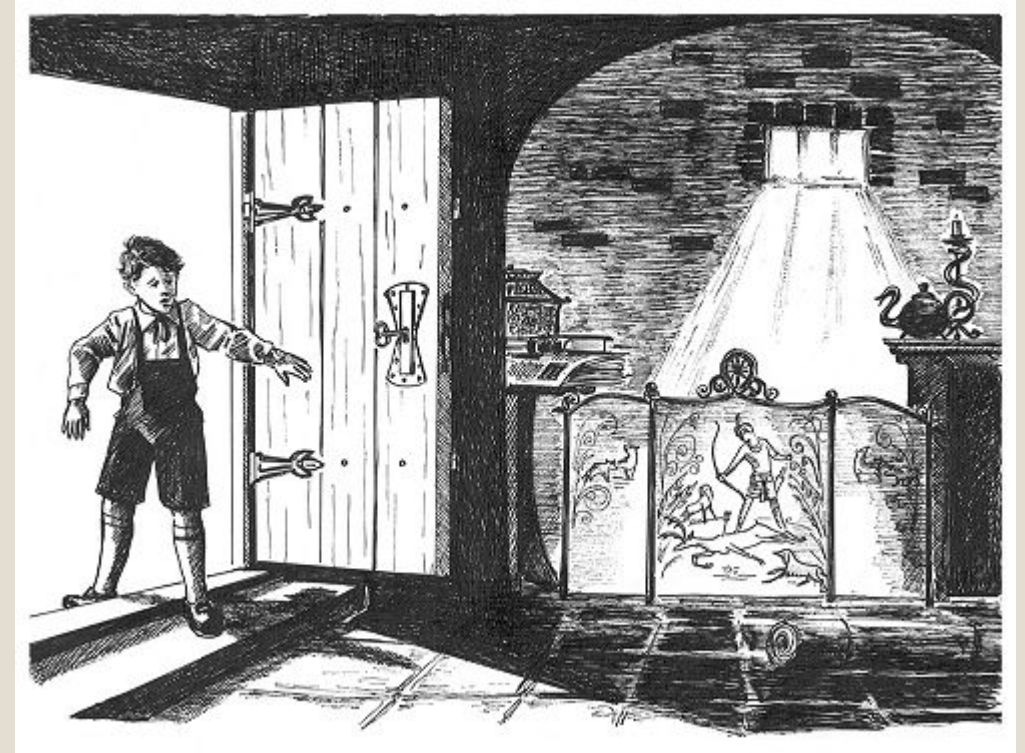
The Lumber Room

- It is a story of **an intelligent child** called Nicolas and **his tyrannical aunt** who is portrayed as a dumb wit, strict lady who is in charge of children. One day **she punished** him. Her idea of punishing was to send other children on an expedition while the child '**in disgrace should stay at home**'. That day Nicolas sneaked in the house from aunt's view and **entered the lumber room**.



The title of the text

- The large houses of the well-heeled of Britain commonly had much very old, well-built furniture in them, more than was to be used in every room at any given time. Every piece was made-to-order.
- The phrase "**lumber room**" is found in British fiction at least during the 19th century (e.g., Arthur Conan Doyle's 1891). Probably one of the most **evocative references** is the short story by "Saki" (H. H. Munro) called "**The Lumber Room**"



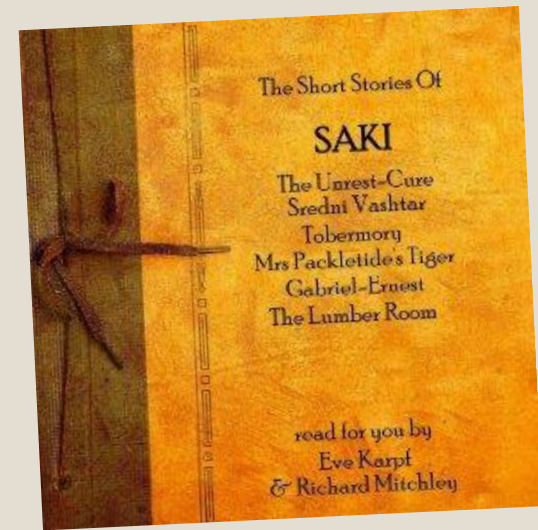
Main characters:

- **Aunt** – a tyrant, strict ways of nurture, «wise», religious
- **Nicolas** – a clever intelligent boy, a dreamer, «in disgrace»



Analysis

- A short story
- 3rd person narration through the eyes of Nicolas
- Ridiculous and skeptical tone of the text
- Stylistic devices depict the inner world of the main characters
- Paragraphs: the adults' world - the child's world - conflict



Main theme

- Connection with Munro's childhood
- The conflict between two generations
- The way of child-rearing
- Two worlds:
 - **Adults'** - boring, unimaginative, misunderstanding
 - **Childs'** – magic, imaginative, unusual
 - A parallel with the tapestry

