

personal english



Character #32

Baron Munchausen

Baron Münchhausen is a fictional German nobleman created by the German writer **Rudolf Erich Raspe** in his **1785** book *Baron Munchausen's Narrative of his Marvellous Travels and Campaigns in Russia*. The character is loosely based on the actual historical figure of **Hieronymus Karl Friedrich, Freiherr von Münchhausen** (1720–1797), a nobleman who fought for the Russian Empire in the Russo-Turkish War of 1735–1739. Upon retiring in 1760, he became a minor celebrity within German aristocratic circles for telling outrageous tall tales based on his military career. Subsequent to coming across some of Münchhausen's stories, Raspe adapted them anonymously into literary form, first in **German** in the form of magazine pieces and then in **English** in the form of the 1785 novel. The fictional Baron's **feats of derring-do**, narrated in the first person, focus on his impossible achievements as a sportsman, soldier, and traveler. Intentionally **parodistic** and exaggerated, the stories play on the absurdity and inconsistency of Munchausen's claims, and contain an undercurrent of **social satire**. Raspe's book was a major international success and its main character has thenceforth inspired numerous memorials and museums, as well as several medical conditions and other related concepts which have been named after him, including **Munchausen syndrome**, the **Münchhausen trilemma**, and **Munchausen numbers**.



Click on the Pictures for Two **VIDEOS** on Baron Munchausen