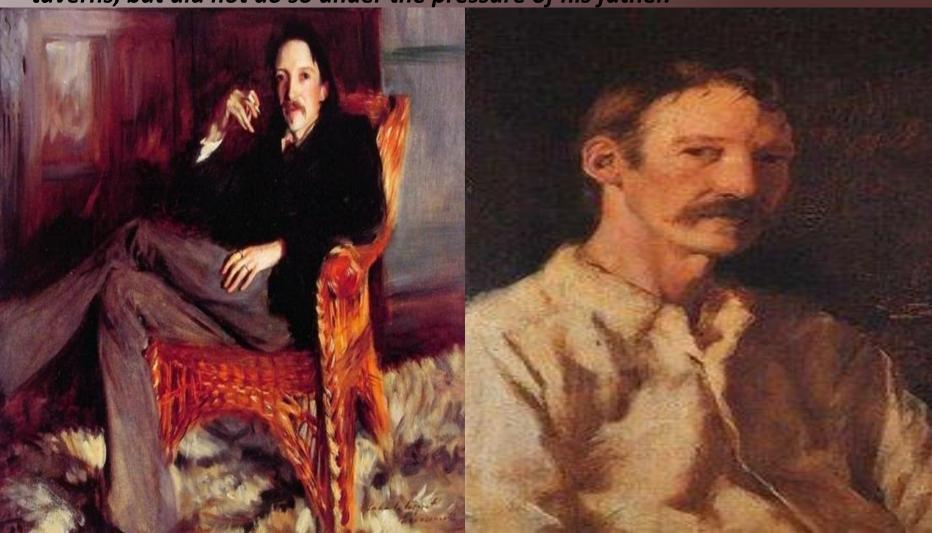


Stevenson was born on November 13, 1850 in Edinburgh, to a family of an engineer, a specialist in lighthouses. Secondary education in the Edinburgh Academy, Higher - University of Edinburgh, where he first studied to be an engineer, received in 1871 for his work "A new kind of flashing light for lighthouses" silver medal at the competition of the Scottish Academy, but then went to law school, graduating in 1875. After receiving the baptismal name of Robert Louis Balfour, 18-year-old refused to Balfour (mother's maiden name) in its name, but also changed the way of writing with Lewis to Louis. It is said that the conservative Thomas Stevenson disliked liberal named Lewis and decided to write the name of his son (whom the family almost never called Robert) in French, but to say in English

More three years ill croup, which led to serious consequences. According to most biographers Stevenson suffered severe form of pulmonary tuberculosis (according to EN Caldwell, refers to the opinion of doctors who treated or examined the writer, - serious illness of the bronchi).

As a young man wanted to marry Kate Drummond, the singer of the night

taverns, but did not do so under the pressure of his father.



Back in Edinburgh, Stevenson has produced a book of essays "Journey inside the country" (1878). The year before, he had published in the journal "Temple Bar" his first work of fiction - the story "Overnight François Villon." In 1878, again while in France, Stevenson writes united one hero cycles of short stories "The Suicide Club" and "Diamond Raja" which from June to October, entitled "Modern thousand and one nights" prints in "London" magazine. Four years later, a series of short stories (under the name "New Thousand and One Nights") manage to publish a separate book .

Finish the story of Prince Florizel (Florizel, Prince of Bohemia, - incidentally, one of the heroes of "Winter's Tale" by Shakespeare), Stevenson made one more trip - to the place where the guerrilla war waged French Protestants. In June 1879 he published the book "Travels with a donkey" (donkey taschivshy luggage, was his only companion). At the beginning of the XX century, this book young writers called "Journey to Sidney Colvin," not endorsing it as a close friend of the late Stevenson was preparing to publish a four-volume edition of the letters of the latter, who has subjected this censorship.

In August 1879 Stevenson received a letter from California Fanny Osbourne. This letter has not been preserved; it is assumed that it is informed about his serious illness. Arriving in San Francisco, he did not find there Fanny; exhausted a long and difficult journey to the writer had to go to Monterey, where she moved. May 19, 1880 Stevenson married in San Francisco with Fanny, who managed to divorce her husband. In August, together with her and her children, he sailed from New York to Liverpool. On the ship, Stevenson wrote essays, compiled a book "Amateur Emigrant," and came back and created a novel "The House on the Dunes".

Stevenson died on December 3, 1894 from a stroke on the island of Upolu in Samoa. C in the morning until the evening, he wrote, "Weir Germiston ", reaching almost to the middle. Then he went into the living room, trying to entertain his wife, who was in a gloomy mood. Gathered dining, Stevenson brought a bottle of burgundy. Suddenly he grabbed his head and shouted: "What's wrong with me," By the beginning of the ninth he was no longer alive. Samoans who called Stevenson Tuzitaloy ( "storyteller", the writer told them, for example, the story of Satan's bottle, the reflected then in the fairy tale of the collection "Evening Talks on the island"), raised him, covered by the British flag on the top of the mountain Weah, where He buried [. The tomb is preserved, rectangular concrete over her headstone.



