Richard Scully, "Entry on: Doctor Who (Series, Season 9): The Time Monster by Paul Bernard, Terrance Dicks, Barry Letts, Robert Sloman", peer-reviewed by Elizabeth Hale and Daniel A. Nkemleke. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/92. Entry version as of November 15, 2026.

Paul Bernard , Terrance Dicks , Barry Letts , Robert Sloman

Doctor Who (Series, Season 9): The Time Monster

United Kingdom (1972)

TAGS: Atlantis





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General information	
Title of the work	Doctor Who (Series, Season 9): The Time Monster
Studio/Production Company	British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
Country of the First Edition	United Kingdom
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	1972
First Edition Details	Episode 1: May 20, 1972 – Episode 6: June 24, 1972.
Running time	150 min (6 episodes – 25 mins each)
Date of the First DVD or VHS	2001 (VHS release together with 'Colony in Space', 1971); March 29, 2010 (DVD [Region 2]; August 5, 2008 (iTunes)
Genre	Science fiction, Television series, Time-Slip Fantasy*
Target Audience	Crossover
Author of the Entry	Richard Scully, University of New England, rscully@une.edu.au
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Creators



Paul Bernard (Director)



Terrance Dicks

Script Editor



Barry Letts (Producer)



Robert Sloman , 1926 - 2005 (Actor, Screenwriter)

Robert Sloman (1926-2005) was an English actor who later worked as a screenwriter for television. Educated at Exeter University, he collaborated with *Doctor Who* producer Barry Letts on several classic stories for the series, including: *The Daemons* (1971), *The Time*

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Monster (1972), *The Green Death* (1973), and *Planet of the Spiders* (1974) – the latter being Jon Pertwee's final adventure as the Third Doctor, and Tom Baker's first (brief) appearance as the Fourth Doctor. His *Doctor Who* credits always contained strong moral messages, aimed at challenging adult viewers as well as the primary audience for the series - children. These included the nature of evil, the dangers of unethical scientific experimentation, spiritual awakening, and – most significantly – the problems of environmental degradation, pollution, and globalization. A planned serial drafted by Sloman eventually became *Day of the Daleks* (1972) – the first time the aliens had been seen since 1967's *The Evil of the Daleks*. Sloman also co-wrote the plays *The Golden Rivet* and *The Tinker*, for West End (London) theatres. The screenplay for *The Tinker* was then adapted to the feature film *The Wild and the Willing* (1962). Sloman also worked for fully 20 years at London's *Sunday Times* newspaper (1954-74), rising to the position of distribution manager for that major weekly. He then moved-on to become the wholesale distributor of all the London Sunday papers. He died, aged 79, at his home in Devon, in the south of England, in 2005.

Bio prepared by Richard Scully, University of New England, rscully@une.edu.au

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Additional information

Casting	Jon Pertwee – The Doctor, Katy Manning – Jo Grant, Nicholas Courtney – Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart, Richard Franklin – Captain Mike Yates, John Levene – Sergeant Benton, Roger Delgado – The Master, Marc Boyle – Kronos, Ingrid Bower – Face of Kronos, Ian Collier – Stuart Hyde, Catherine Howe – Dr Ruth Ingram, John Wyse – Dr Percival, Neville Barber – Dr Cook, Barry Ashton – Proctor, George Cormack – King Dalios, Ingrid Pitt – Queen Galleia, Donald Eccles – Krasis, Aidan Murphy – Hippias, Susan Penhaligon – Lakis, Derek Murcott – Crito, Michael Walker – Miseus, David Prowse – The Minotaur.

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Sequels, Prequels and Spin-offs	Dicks, Terrance, *Doctor Who – The Time Monster*, London: Target, 1986.

Summary

'The Time Monster' was typical of early-1970s *Doctor Who* (1963-1989; 2005-present) and its focus on a large regular supporting cast (the United Nations Intelligence Task Force – UNIT), Earth-bound alien invasions, and espionage themes. The story sees the Doctor (an alien 'Time Lord' from the Planet Gallifrey, in exile on 'present-day' Earth) and his companions (Jo Grant and the officers and men of UNIT) investigating strange time-travel experiments at Cambridge University, conducted by a 'Professor Thascalos' (actually, the Master – a renegade Time Lord and the Moriarty to the Doctor's Holmes). Through the use of a shard of crystal, the Master has awakened Kronos – and ancient alien Chronovore, who feeds on time itself – and whose arrival on earth several thousand years earlier was the catalyst for the destruction of Atlantis (dealt with previously in 1967's 'The Underwater Menace'). Following a battle between the Time Lords, the action shifts from present-day Earth to ancient Atlantis, where the Master has managed to entrance Queen Galleia, in an effort to retrieve the remainder of the crystal, so that he can gain control over Kronos and his enormous powers. The Doctor seeks to retrieve the crystal himself, guarded by the Minotaur. But in the meantime, the ageing King Dalios has been deposed by his wife, Galleia, and she and the Master imprison the Doctor and Jo Grant upon their return from the quest, seizing the crystal in order to summon Kronos. The Master soon finds that he cannot entirely control the Chronovore, and escapes, leaving the monster to rampage and destroy Atlantis (the very 'historical' events related earlier in the storyline now being fulfilled by the Doctor's involvement. The Doctor pursues the Master, and via some combat between the two Time Lords' TARDISes, triggers the final emancipation of Kronos. Grateful, the time monster reverses much of the destruction caused by his visit to present-day Earth (although Atlantis still lies, destroyed).

Analysis

'The Time Monster' is a key example of early 1970s British television entertainment. Watched by between 6 and 8 million viewers during its

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	six-week broadcast, the serial is a notable example of a science fiction appropriation of Classical myth, in imitation of the B-movies of the same period (and in reflexive tribute to the series' own mythology). The time travelling theme of the program was a handy device for justifying the incursion into mythical Atlantean history; and the Doctor and his companions serve as useful avatars for the young audience-members as they are introduced to and familiarised with the pseudo-historical and mythical context of the storyline (or, rather, reacquainted with matters with which they may have been familiar; with such themes only slowly being phased-out of British elementary-level schooling in the 1970s).
Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Atlantis
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Adventure Humour Intertextuality Travel
Further Reading	BBC Online, *Doctor Who – The Classic Series*: 'The Time Monster' [Archived website], at bbc.co.uk (accessed August 17, 2018) [comprises analysis and details from: Paul Cornell, Martin Day & Keith Topping, *The Discontinuity Guide*, 1995; David J. Howe & Stephen James Walker, *Doctor Who: The Television Companion*, 2003]. Harmes, Marcus K., *Doctor Who and the Art of Adaptation; Fifty Years of Storytelling*, Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014, esp. pp. 68 ff. Howe, David J. and Stephen James Walker, *Doctor Who: The Handbook: The Third Doctor*, London: Virgin Publishing, 1996. Howe, David J., Mark Stammers and Stephen James Walker, *Doctor Who: The Seventies*, London: Virgin Publishing, 1994.

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Keen, Anthony G., "It's about Tempus: Greece and Rome in “Classic” Doctor Who", in David C. Wright, Jr., and Allan W. Austin, eds., *Space and Time: Essays on Visions of History in Science Fiction and Fantasy Television*, Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2010, 100–115.

Keen, Anthony G., "Sideways Pompeii! The Use of Historical Period to Question the Doctor's Role in History", in Ross P. Garner, Melissa Beattie, and Una McCormack, eds., *Impossible Worlds, Impossible Things: Cultural Perspectives on* Doctor Who, Torchwood, *and* The Sarah Jane Adventures, Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars, 2010, 94–117.

Addenda

David Prowse – the actor who portrayed the Minotaur – is more well-known for his role in the iconic black suit as Darth Vader in the *Star Wars* series of films (1977–2016).

Recorded viewers:

Episode 1: 7.6 million

Episode 2: 7.4 million

Episode 3: 8.1 million

Episode 4: 7.6 million

Episode 5: 6.0 million

Episode 6: 7.6 million

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