

B E Y O N D



S T A R T R E K

The Card Collector's Guide to Television's Other Sci-Fi Adventures

By Doug Scoville with Frank Brevard

Ask the man on the street if he's ever seen science fiction on TV, and the most common response will be, "Sure, I've watched *Star Trek*." But over the years there have been dozens of sci-fi programs. If you don't believe us, check out the listings for cable's Sci-Fi Channel. Many of these shows—including some that didn't "live long and prosper," so to speak—have even been immortalized on trading cards. From *Lost in Space* to *Alien Nation*, from *Space: 1999* to *seaQuest OSV*, here's a look at the best—and worst—in small-screen sci-fi adventure.

Note: Prices are for NM sets.

THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN

Syndicated, 1952–1957

Superman/Clark Kent: George Reeves; *Lois Lane:* Phyllis Coates (1951–52), Noel Neill (1953–57); *Jimmy Olsen:* Jack Larson

Not science fiction, you say? Hey, the guy may be a superhero, but he's still a space alien. This low-budget TV series lasted only five years in its initial run, but it's lived a lot longer in reruns—and in Topps' "Superman TV" card series, still popular with older collectors.

Cards: 1965 Topps, "Superman TV," 66 cards, \$225
1965 Topps, "Superman TV (test issue)," 44 cards, \$3,000



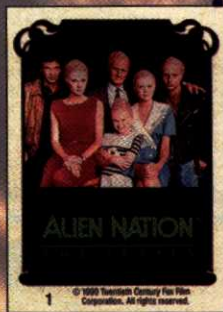
ALIEN NATION

Fox, 1989–1990

Matthew Sikes: Gary Graham; *George Francisco:* Eric Pierpoint

Remember this early Fox TV offering, based on the eponymous movie? Human detective Sikes was teamed with Francisco, an alien with a spotted, melon-shaped head. Despite its occasional preachiness, the show successfully developed a cult following in its single-season run.

Cards: 1990 FTCC, 60 cards, \$12



BABYLON 5

Syndicated, 1993 (pilot), 1994–present (weekly series)

Captain John Sheridan: Bruce Boxleitner
A lonely space station, the last great hope for peace in an uncertain universe. It may sound like *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, but the stories are more reminiscent of the original *Star Trek*—perhaps because several writers from the old *Trek* helped launch *Babylon*. *Déjà vu note:* The show's

cast initially included Bill Mumy of *Lost in Space* fame. **Cards:** 1995 Fleer Ultra, 120 cards, \$1.49 per pack



BATTLESTAR GALACTICA

ABC, 1978–1980

Adama: Lorne Green; *Apollo:* Richard Hatch; *Starbuck:* Dirk Benedict; *Boomer:* Herb Jefferson Jr.

Sort of a cross between *Star Wars* and *Bonanza*. It didn't last long, but it did introduce Lorne Greene to a generation that knew "Bonanza" only as a steak house chain. Maybe the show would have lasted longer if the producers hadn't dumped Apollo, Starbuck, Baltar, and the rest, and brought the *Battlestar* and its flying motorcycles to Earth in *Galactica 1980*.

Cards: 1978 Topps, 132 cards, 22 stickers, \$45
1978 Wonder Bread, 36 cards, \$20



THE BIONIC WOMAN

ABC, 1976; NBC, 1977-1978

Jaime Sommers: Lindsay Wagner;
Oscar Goldman: Richard Anderson;
Dr. Rudy Wells: Martin E. Brooks

Believe it or not, Lindsay Wagner actually won an Emmy (in 1977) as best dramatic actress for this series. The character first appeared on *The Six Million Dollar Man* when Sommers, Steve Austin's one-time fiancée, suffered a sky-diving accident. Doctors tried to save her by replacing her legs,

right arm, and ear with cybernetic super-prosthetics. At the end of the story, the character was left in a coma—but she proved so popular the

producers brought her back to life in her own series.

Cards: 1976 Donruss, 44 cards, \$35



BUCK ROGERS IN THE 25TH CENTURY

NBC, 1979-1981

Capt. William "Buck" Rogers: Gil Gerard;

Col. Wilma Deering:

Erin Gray;

Twiki (voice): Mel Blanc

With special effects remarkably similar to those seen on *Battlestar Galactica*, this tongue-in-cheek approach to the Buck Rogers story is pooh-poohed in serious sci-fi circles. Still, we'd bet most of those critics watched the show as religiously as we did when it first aired.

Cards: 1979 Topps, 88 cards, 22 stickers, \$15



DOCTOR WHO

BBC, 1962-1992

Syndicated (U.S.), 1973-present

The Doctor: William Hartnell, Patrick

Troughton, Jon Pertwee, Tom Baker, Peter

Davison, Colin Baker, Sylvester McCoy

That's right, good science-fiction TV actually existed outside the good ol' U.S.A. Sure, the special effects in the show's early years were pretty cheesy, the acting could be wooden, and some of the stories were trite, but at

its best, *Doctor Who* was charming, amusing, and thrilling.

Cards: Cornerstone, 1994-95

Series 1, 110 cards, \$12-15

Series 2, 100 cards, \$14-18



THE INCREDIBLE HULK

CBS, 1978-1982

Dr. David Bruce Banner: Bill Bixby;

The Hulk: Lou Ferrigno

It's *The Fugitive* meets *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. The result: Nothing like the comic book, which is probably why this show survived the axe that killed CBS's *Wonder Woman* and *Spider-Man* series.

Cards: 1979 Topps, 88 cards, 22 stickers, \$25



LAND OF THE GIANTS

ABC, 1968-1970

Capt. Steve Burton: Gary Conway;

Alexander Fitzhugh: Kurt Koszmar

If you've never heard of this one, picture *Gilligan's Island* without a sense of humor.

The premise: A suborbital plane carrying seven people—the captain, co-pilot, and stewardess, as well as a young heiress, an industrial tycoon, a master thief, and an orphaned boy—is damaged in a terrible storm and crashes in an unknown world peopled with giants. The "Little People" became hunted fugitives as they tried to fix their plane and return home.

Cards: 1968 Topps test issue, 55 cards, \$5,200

LOIS AND CLARK: THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN

ABC, 1993-present

Superman/Clark Kent: Dean Cain;

Lois Lane: Teri Hatcher

Once again, an alien is an alien, even if he does leave teenage girls drooling over their TV sets. This version of Supes' super adventures is known more for its snappy banter and sexy stars than adventurous stories.

Cards: 1995 SkyBox, 90 cards, \$12



LOST IN SPACE

CBS, 1965-1968

John Robinson: Guy Williams; **Maureen**

Robinson: June Lockhart; **Don West:** Mark

Goddard; **Zachary Smith:** Jonathan Harris;

Will Robinson: Bill Mummy; **The Robot:** Bob

May; **The Robot's voice:** Dick Tufeld

Ah, yes, the Space Family Robinson. This show had it all: a heroic family, an evil scientist, a gimmicky robot, and lots of lungs to scream at all the "Danger, danger!" Rumor has it there's a big-screen version in the works. *Nepotism note:* June Lockhart's real-life daughter, Anne, played Sheba on *Battlestar Galactica*.

Cards: 1966 Topps, 55 cards, \$525





TWIN SPACE TERRORS

THE OUTER LIMITS

ABC, 1963–1965

Creator: Leslie Stevens

This hour-long science-fiction anthology series resembled CBS's *Twilight Zone*, except that every episode ended with a moral provided by the same voice that advised us at the start of each episode, "We can control the horizontal. We can control the vertical." Who's we? Not Topps. They controlled only the trading cards.

Cards: 1964 Topps (Bubbles Inc.), 50 cards, \$550

PLANET OF THE APES

CBS, 1974

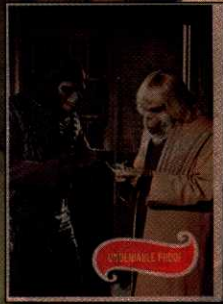
Galen: Roddy McDowall; **Alan Viridon:**

Ron Harper; **Pete Burke:** James Naughton;

Zaius: Booth Colman; **Urko:** Mark Lenard

You know the story: 20th century astronauts are hurled into a post-apocalyptic future where humans are seen as a threat by intelligent ape rulers. This short-lived attempt to carry the success of the motion picture series to the small screen...failed to do so.

Cards: 1975 Topps, "Planet of the Apes—TV," 66 cards, \$65



ROBOTECH

Syndicated, 1985–1987

The *RoboTech* cartoon was a conglomeration of three Japanese animated series, known in Japan as *Superdimensional Fortress Macross*, *Superdimensional Cavalry Southern Cross*, and *Genesis Climber Mospeada*. Originally, the shows were unrelated, but Carl Macek, who brought the series to the attention of U.S. distributor Harmony Gold, edited

them together. The move dismayed Japanimation purists, but helped the show reach a mass audience.

Cards: 1986 FTCC, 60 cards, \$15



SEAQUEST DSV

NBC, 1993–present

Capt. Nathan Bridger: Roy Scheider;

Lucas Wolenczak: Jonathan Brandis

Often described as "*Star Trek* undersea," this high-priced Spielbergian enterprise was panned by critics before it even aired. But the show has found enough of an audience to survive two seasons so far.

Cards: 1994 SkyBox, 100 cards, \$10



THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN

ABC, 1973 (monthly), 1974–1978 (weekly)

Col. Steve Austin: Lee Majors;

Oscar Goldman: Richard Anderson;

Dr. Rudy Wells: Alan Oppenheimer

(1973), Martin E. Brooks (1974–78)

This show was based on the novel *Cyborg*, by Martin Caidin. After being

seriously injured in a crash, astronaut Austin is reconstructed by the Office of Scientific Information. His legs, right arm, and left eye are replaced with synthetic nuclear-powered mechanisms, giving him superhuman abilities. For some reason, this was a *big* hit in the '70s. Then again, this is the decade of disco and the polyester leisure suit we're talking about.

Cards: 1975 Donruss, 66 cards, \$75

1974 Topps test issue, 55 cards, \$3,500

SPACE: 1999

ITC (syndicated), 1975–1977

Commander John Koenig: Martin Landau;

Dr. Helena Russell: Barbara Bain

This British-produced program boasted the presence of *Mission: Impossible* stars Landau and Bain in an attempt to cash in on the syndicated success of *Star Trek*. Though never a hit, the show had a cool premise: Earth's moon, knocked out of orbit by a radioactive explosion, wanders through space with 300 humans trapped

on its surface. And here's something equally cool: If you collect the entire Donruss card series, the backs form a giant 66-card puzzle.

Cards: 1976 Donruss, 66 cards, \$20

V
NBC, 1983 (mini-series), 1984–1986 (weekly series)

Mike Donovan: Marc Singer;

Dr. Julie Parrish: Faye Grant;

Diana: Jane Badler;

Ham Tyler: Michael Ironside;

Willie: Robert Englund

They looked like us...but they

were lizard people intent on

conquering the Earth and

turning all of humanity into

one giant entrée! The Visitors

appeared only two years after

Buck Rogers left the airwaves,

but their program was light years from that NBC series.

Cards: 1984 Fleer, 66 cards, \$15; 22 numerical stickers, \$20; 62 variation stickers, \$40



NOT BAD LOOKING FOR A LIZARD

'60S SCI-FI AND TERROR TV

This catch-all card series doesn't focus on any one program. Instead, it contains cards for many of the science fiction, anthology, and monster shows of the 1960s, including *The Twilight Zone*, *The Prisoner*, *The Time Tunnel*, *The Invaders*, and *Voyage to*



the Bottom of the Sea.

Cards: 1994 Fun Fax, 50 cards, \$25



24 • Austin looking for space