Nanci Santos, "Entry on: Ducktales (Series) by Carl Barks, Jymn Magon", peer-reviewed by Susan Deacy and Elżbieta Olechowska. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/148. Entry version as of July 12, 2026.

Carl Barks , Jymn Magon

Ducktales (Series)

United States (1987)

TAGS: Ancient Temples Aphrodite Argonauts Atlantis Circe Colossus of Rhodes Cupid Dragons Golden Fleece Harpies Homer Jason Odysseus / Ulysses Odyssey Olympus Sirens Vulcan

Ducktales Series Poster, under creative commons copyright (accessed: August 17, 2018).

General information	
Title of the work	Ducktales (Series)
Studio/Production Company	Walt Disney Television Animation
Country of the First Edition	United States of America
Country/countries of popularity	Worldwide
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	1987
First Edition Details	Originally aired between September 18, 1987 – November 28, 1990.
Running time	23 minutes per episode, 100 episodes in total over 4 seasons
Format	VHS
Date of the First DVD or VHS	1988–1990 (VHS: United States), 1992–1993 (VHS: UK, Australia and New Zealand), November 8, 2005 – November 13, 2007 (DVD, with a special one on 11th September 2018. The DVD was re-released in 2013. All DVDs have had a Region 1 and Region 2 release)
Available Onllne	Disneylife.com (accessed: August 17, 2018). Season one was also briefly available through streaming services such as Amazon Prime and Netflix.

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Awards	Daytime Emmy Awards; 1989 – Outstanding Animated Programming (for Programming One Hour or More) – "Super Ducktales"; 1990 – Oustanding Film Sound Editing – Rich Harrison, Charlie King and Rick Hinson. Nominated: Daytime Emmy Awards; 1988 – Outstanding Animated Programming; 1989 – Outstanding Animated Programming; Listed as 18th best show in IGN's Top 100 Best Animated TV Shows; Ranked 1st in WatchMojo.com's Top Animated Disney Series.
Genre	Animated television programs, Fantasy fiction, Humor, Television series
Target Audience	Crossover (The target audience of the series is for children of all ages and adults, and thus, the show was given a U rating by the BBFC when released on VHS)
Author of the Entry	Nanci Santos, University of Roehampton, nancisantos@hotmail.co.uk
Peer-reviewer of the Entry	Susan Deacy, University of Roehampton, s.deacy@roehampton.ac.uk Elżbieta Olechowska, University of Warsaw, elzbieta.olechowska@gmail.com

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Creators

Carls Barks, under creative commons licence (accessed: July 4, 2018).

Carl Barks , 1901 - 2000
(Artist)

Carl Barks, also known as "The Duck Man", was an American cartoonist from Oregon. He first began working for Disney Studios in 1935 as an "inbetweener". He soon became a story writer for Disney, debuting as the story writer for the Donald Duck haircut scene in *Modern Inventions* (1937). After leaving Disney for Western Publishing, he created the character Scrooge McDuck, also known as Uncle Scrooge, in 1947. Barks was also responsible for the creation of the various other inhabitants of Duckburg, who featured in the *Ducktales* series. Throughout his career, Barks received many awards, the most notable being when he became one of the first people to be inducted into the Will Eisner Award Hall of Fame in 1987. He was also given a Duckster Award in 1971 by the Walt Disney Company.

Bio prepared by Nanci Santos, University of Roehampton, nancisantos@hotmail.co.uk

Jymn Magon from his official website, under

Jymn Magon , b. 1949
(Artist)

Jymn Magon is an animator from Michigan, born on 7th December 1949. He began his career working for Walt Disney Productions in 1984 as a senior creative manager for TV shows including *Ducktales*, *Adventures of Gummi Bears* (1986–1989), and *The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh* (1988–1991). In 1993, he left Disney to become a freelancer and became involved in works such as *House of Mouse* (writer, 2001–2002), and *A Goofy Movie* (screenplay and story, 1995). He can be found through his website (accessed: June 27, 2018).

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creative commons licence (accessed: June 28, 2018).

Bio prepared by Nanci Santos, University of Roehampton, nancisantos@hotmail.co.uk

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Additional information

Casting	The voice actors include: Alan Young as Scrooge McDuck, Russi Taylor as Huey, Louie and Dewey, and Tony Anselmo as Donald Duck.
Sequels, Prequels and Spin-offs	**Comic Books:** *Uncle Scrooge Comics* by Carls Barks; *Ducktales* (Gladstone) Comics; *Ducktales* (Disney) Comics; *Disney's Colossal Comics Collection* (Disney); *Uncle Scrooge* (Boom! Studio) Comics; *Ducktales* (Boom! Studio) Comics. **Video Games:** *Ducktales* Video game by Capcom; *Ducktales: The Quest for Gold* video gameby Incredible Technologies; *Ducktales Remastered* video game by WayForward Technologies (by Disney Interactive); *Disney Infinity* video game (level with *Ducktales* characters named '*Duck Universe*'); *Scrooge McDuck* character in *Kingdom Hearts* video game; *Ducktales: Scrooge's Loot* mobile game by Disney Mobile Studios. **Films and TV Series:** *Ducktales the Movie: Treasure of the Lost Lamp*, 1990 Film;

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Ducktales (2017 Reboot) TV Series;

Darkwing Duck TV Series;

Quack Pack TV Series;

Mighty Ducks TV Series.

Summary

Inspired by Carl Banks' 1947 Uncle Scrooge comics, *Ducktales* was created by Disney Studios to tell the adventures of Scrooge McDuck, Donald Duck and their three nephews: Huey, Dewey, and Louie. The series begins with Donald Duck being sent to the Navy and entrusting his three nephews to his uncle Scrooge. a billionaire who lives alone in his mansion in Duckburg. Upon being left with his great-nephews, Scrooge McDuck embarks on various adventures with them, occasionally featuring ancient history themes, especially in the following episodes:

Home Sweet Homer (Season 1, Episode 30)

Scrooge McDuck is looking at some of his classic books when Huey, Dewey and Louie arrive with a letter from Donald. Donald discusses how his time has been in the Navy and sends pictures of where he has been. In the background of one of the pictures, Scrooge spots the remains of "Colossus of Duckapopolis" (a reference to the statue "Colossus of Rhodes"), so Scrooge heads off in search of the remains. However, instead of the statue remains, they find themselves transported back in time to "Ithaquack", in 1100BC, when the spell the sorceress Circe was trying to cast upon "King Homer" goes wrong, due to her cat's interference.

It is noticeable that the main theme of the episode is Homer's *Odyssey*. The main characters find King Homer, and travel throughout the sea in search for Circe to undo her spell, thus enabling them to return to modern day. They come across "King Blowhard" (who is likely to be Aeolus)*. They also find the Sirens, much like Ulysses in the *Odyssey*, who stun Scrooge briefly. In a whirlpool, they encounter the mythical Scylla (or as this episode names her "Yuckalinda"), shortly before finally reaching Circe. After a struggle, they help King Homer to rescue his wife, Queen Ariel, and return to modern day.

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Much Ado about Scrooge (Season 1, Episode 23)

The townspeople of Duckburg are fleeing from Filler Brushbill, an incredibly persuasive door-to-door salesman. Despite their best efforts, Dewey lets him in and he attempts to sell them useless items. Amid getting rid of Brushbill's useless objects, Scrooge McDuck comes across his old copy of *Romeo and Juliet* by "William Drakespeare", where a note falls from inside that is revealed to be part of a lost play. So, the characters embark on a quest to find the remainder of the lost play. Even though this episode may not relate to Ancient History at first, as the episode progresses, Scrooge and his nephews come across a Roman leader and two Centurions. They later discover that they have landed on an island full of characters from Drakespeare's plays and thus the Roman army comes from "The Life and Death of Julius Caesar". The identity of the Roman leader is left unclear, however, as the credits merely mention "the Roman character", making it possible to either be Julius Caesar, Mark Anthony or Brutus.**

Aqua Ducks (Season 1, Episode 38)

As part of the series "Catch as Cash Can", Scrooge McDuck is competing against his rival, Flintheart Glomgold, to find out who is the richest man. The previous episode sees Scrooge McDuck's fortune sinking in the depths of the ocean, and so in this episode, Scrooge attempts to retrieve it. He encounters an underwater civilization which imprisons him and his companions, forcing them to work in a junkyard. This junkyard turns out to be in the lost city of Atlantis. Unfortunately, this is the only reference to Greek mythology in the episode as it focuses its attention on Scrooge and his competition with Glomgold.

The Golden Fleecing (Season 1, Episode 41)

Launchpad McQuack, Scrooge McDuck and his nephews go on a journey to the Black Sea to take the Golden Fleece from Jason and the Argonauts. The story begins with Launchpad coming across "Harpies" – half women, half bird creatures – as he flies over the "Valley of the Mists". Upon hearing this, Scrooge decides to go to where Launchpad found the Harpies in the hope of finding the Golden Fleece. Once they reach Colchis, Launchpad is taken away by the Harpies and Scrooge and his nephews search for him. They eventually find him alongside a cave, where the fleece is protected by a dragon, but first they must

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find their way out of a maze. They do find the exit and the dragon, which they must fight to retrieve the fleece. They do so, however, in their escape, Launchpad is almost killed by the dragon and this prompts Scrooge into covering the dragon with the fleece, enabling their escape. Despite having some elements from the myth of the Golden Fleece, this version takes the Harpies, the Dragon and the cave and creates its own story.

Duck to the Future (Season 1, Episode 52)

Scrooge McDuck travels to the future, thanks to Magicka, to see how his company is doing. Upon landing in the future, he finds out his company is now called "McDuck and Magicka Industries" and it is now a company ran by Louie, Dewey, Huey and Magicka, which only focuses on exploiting people out of their money. He decides to change things, however is unable to do so. He visits old friends in the future, but they are unable to help him. This leaves him turning to Magicka as his last resort. He manages to convince her to come back to the present with him. However, they instead end up in various time periods, of which, one is in the Roman coliseum, right in front of a charging gladiator.

A Ducktales Valentine (Season 3, Episode 18)

This is a Valentine's special episode heavily featuring Greek and Roman mythology. Scrooge, his nephews, and Launchpad set off to find the lost temple of "Aphroducky", however the only treasure they come across are Cupid's golden arrows. Despite the disappointment, Scrooge decides to take them, angering Aphroducky and prompting her to appear at Scrooge's mansion. She is accidentally stung by one of the arrows and falls in love with Scrooge. Scrooge, later in the episode, is also stung with an arrow, falling in love with Aphroducky. It is up to the nephews to break the spell before Vulcan destroys them out of jealousy. This episode is relatively interesting in terms of Classical Antiquity. First, you have the gods from the lost temple, who live in Mount Olympus: Cupid, Aphrodite and Vulcan. It is interesting to note how they interchange the gods between their Greek and Roman equivalents. For example, they use the Greek mythological goddess Aphrodite, but then instead of using Hephaestus, they decided to use Vulcan, and the same with Cupid. This could perhaps be so that they fit jokes and gags better, such is the case with "Aphrodite". They are able to do a wordplay with it, creating "Aphroducky" whereas with her Roman equivalent "Venus" they may

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not have been as successful. The temple itself is also interesting. It contains statues of the gods mentioned as well as a box with a Greek inscription saying, "The greatest treasure" and once Scrooge opens the box, inside it says "φίλιος" and Scrooge says it means love.

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* Mulder, Casie, *Ducktales*, Cornell College, 2000, available at cornellcollege.edu (accessed August 17, 2018).

** Barat, Chris, "Ducktales Retrospective: Episode 31, 'Much Ado About Scrooge'", *News and Views*, available at newsandviewsbychrisbarat.blogspot.co.uk, April, 2013 (accessed August 17, 2018).

Analysis	This series is intended for children of all ages, and incorporates Ancient Greek and Roman references to varying degrees. The episode *Home Sweet Homer* focuses on the *Odyssey*, and the episode *A Ducktales Valentine* involves Aphrodite and Greek/Roman gods. *DuckTales* also has Classical influences through other episodes such as *Much Ado about Scrooge*, where Roman army appears. The series discusses topics familiar to children and include characters which children would easily recognise such as Homer, Cupid, Aphrodite, the golden fleece, and dragons.
Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Ancient Temples Aphrodite Argonauts Atlantis Circe Colossus of Rhodes Cupid Dragons Golden Fleece Harpies Homer Jason Odysseus / Ulysses Odyssey Olympus Sirens Vulcan
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Adventure Character traits Emotions Family Friendship Love Values

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Further Reading

Barat, Chris, "Ducktales Retrospective: Episode 31, 'Much Ado About Scrooge'", *News and Views*, available at newsandviewsbychrisbarat.blogspot.co.uk, April, 2013 (accessed August 17, 2018).

Earthman, Elise Ann, "The Siren Song That Keeps Us Coming Back: Multicultural Resources for Teaching Classical Mythology", *The English Journal* 86.6 (1997) 76–81.

Mulder, Casie, *Ducktales*, Cornell College, 2000, available at cornellcollege.edu (accessed August 17, 2018).

Addenda

Ducktales is a TV series based on the *Uncle Scrooge Comics* by Carl Barks (1901–2000).

It was developed by Jymn Magon (1949–) for Walt Disney Television Animation company.

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