

CZ0506: 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

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1) INTRO JIMMY, JOSH & RACHEL

@jfwong - @JoshLeeKwai @WachelReeks - @CommandCast

It's the final podcast episode of 2022! Time to look back at the past year and discuss the ups, the downs and everything in between. Plus, we're also going to talk about what we're hoping to see in 2023. BUT FIRST:

****CARD KINGDOM** **ULTRAPRO #1** **PATREON: TYLER OWENS****

2) MAIN TOPIC: **YEAR IN REVIEW 2022**

Let's start with a recap of the major set and card releases this year:

(Graphic timeline with the set release schedule)

2022 PRODUCT RELEASE RECAP

<p>1. INNISTRAD: DOUBLE FEATURE (January 28) <i>Combined Midnight Hunt and Crimson Vow into a single draftable format.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduced Silver Screen Foils	<p>2. KAMIGAWA: NEON DYNASTY (February 18) <i>Returned to Kamigawa 1,000 years later</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduced Neon Ink● 2 Commander Decks: Modified & Vehicles	<p>3. STREETS OF NEW CAPENNA (April 29) <i>'20s-inspired gangster set featuring 5 crime families: Obscura, Riveteers, Brokers, Maestros, Cabaretti</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduced gilded foils● 5 Commander Decks
<p>4. COMMANDER LEGENDS: BATTLE FOR BALDUR'S GATE (June 10) <i>D&D-themed, draftable Commander set</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Stepped on by 2X2● 4 Commander Decks: Party, Horrors, Dragons, Cast from Exile	<p>5. DOUBLE MASTERS 2022 (July 8) <i>Much needed reprint set, also called "cEDH Masters"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● High price point● 4pks in Collector Box● Great draft format	<p>6. DOMINARIA UNITED (September 9) <i>A return to Dominaria with some familiar names and places</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Legends cards in Collect packs● Stained glass treatment● First Jumpstart tied to a set● 2 Commander Decks - 5C and Legendary tribal

<p>7. UNFINITY (October 7) An un-set. Now with eternal-legal cards!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acorn cards replaced silver border cards • Galaxy foils • Stickers 	<p>8. UNIVERSES BEYOND: WARHAMMER 40K (October 7) 4 Commander decks with 40K-themed new cards and new art.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surge foils • Collector's Edition Commander Decks • Release delayed on top of Unfinity. 	<p>9. THE BROTHERS' WAR (November 18) A return to an old conflict between two brothers with affinities for artifacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transformers Cards • Serialized Printings • Schematic Printings • 2 Commander Decks: Urza, Mishra
<p>10. 30TH ANNIVERSARY ED. (November 28) A Collector's Edition set with a very high price point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received terribly 	<p>11. JUMPSTART 2022 (December 2) Another Jumpstart product with some solid reprints and brand new Commanders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anime printings 	<p>12. STARTER COMMANDER DECKS (December 22) 5 Commander decks designed for new Commander players</p>

Question: Wizards released more products than ever before, but a few of them weren't "sets" as we've traditionally understood them. **WHAT IS CONSIDERED "A SET"?**

Double Feature? 40K? Starter Commander Decks? 30th Anniversary Edition? Jumpstart 2022?

Question: What was your **FAVORITE SET OF THE YEAR?**

Well, it wasn't the 30th Anniversary product! Talk about that later.

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

- 8 more traditional sets this year (excluding Double Feature, 40K, Starter decks, 30th Ed.) which is on par for the last few years. 2021 had 7. 2020 had 8.
- Feels like more because of all the Commander-specific products.

(the following should be a full screen graphic):

NUMBER OF COMMANDER PRECONS (BY YEAR)

9 IN 2020

15 IN 2021

■ IN 2022

(the following should be a full screen graphic):

NUMBER OF NEW COMMANDERS (BY YEAR)

192 IN 2020

193 IN 2021

■■■■ IN 2022*

**Includes acorn Commanders in Unfinity*

(the following should be a full screen graphic):

NUMBER OF NEW CARDS (BY YEAR)

1,219 IN 2020

1,823 IN 2021

■■■■ IN 2022

(the following should be a full screen graphic):

NEW CARDS THAT ARE COMMANDERS (BY YEAR)

15.8% IN 2020

10.6% IN 2021

■■■■ IN 2022

(2020 and 2022 are markedly higher, likely because of their Commander Legends sets)

THE MORE, THE MERRIER

Question: That's a huge amount of new Commanders! What do you think? Do all the new Commanders help deck builders? Or do you think we're getting into decision paralysis territory?

SECRET LAIR

In addition to all the products we've already talked about, there were tons of Secret Lair drops this year with hundreds of reprints and 8 unique Street Fighter cards. Other crossovers this year included Warhammer, Post Malone, Transformers, and Fortnite.

(the following should be a full screen graphic):

NUMBER OF SECRET LAIRS (BY YEAR)

26 IN 2020

46 IN 2021

■■■■ IN 2022

30TH ANNIVERSARY COUNTDOWN KIT

Not to be confused with the 30th Anniversary BETA Reprint product! This was the advent calendar thing. Wildly popular, but the ordering process was a disaster. Left many buyers without the product and others with a duplicate copy or even copies.

Question: What do you think about product drops with limited availability? What could they have done to improve this experience?

RELATED DISCUSSION TOPIC: **WHAT'S THE SKINNY ON RE-SKINS?**

- *The Stranger Things* cards were reskinned to be Magic-flavored this year with Universes Within (they appeared as Innistrad characters in SNC set boosters). What do we think about this? Is that a solution to those who don't care for mechanically unique cards being sold in Secret Lair's?
 - Eleven, the Mage (\$7.48) vs. Cecily Haunted Mage (\$0.17)
 - Will the Wise (\$4.32) vs. Wernog, Rider's Champion (\$0.26)
 - Chief Jim Hopper (\$2.94) vs. Sophina, Spearsage Deserter (\$0.22)
 - Mike, the Dungeon Master (\$2.82) vs. Othelm, Sigardian Outcast (\$0.26)
 - Max, the Daredevil (\$2.40) vs. Elmar, Ulvenwald Informant (\$0.17)
 - Lucas, the Sharpshooter (\$2.30) vs. Bjorna, Nightfall Alchemist (\$0.12)
 - Dustin, Gadget Genius (\$2.04) vs. Hargilde, Kindly Runechanter (\$0.19)

IS THERE TOO MUCH NEW PRODUCT?

I feel like we say this every year now, so let's just go ahead and say it. There's too much new product.

- *Has your relationship with product releases changed? What should players do to keep from burning out?*

THERE IS TOO MUCH NEW PRODUCT

- They aren't going to make less product. So the question becomes: *How do we react to it?*
- Commander is a social-based, eternal format. Our players don't have to keep up with everything. *Is there an upside to "too much product?"*

"BEST" NEW CARDS OF THE YEAR

All those new products were full of new cards! These are the cards we think were the most powerful this year.

(in no particular order)

- Displacer Kitten
- Boseiju, Who Endures (whole cycle, honestly) *Otwara
- Professional Face-Breaker
- Farewell
- An Offer You Can't Refuse
- Black Market Connections
- SNC Triome Cycle
- Archivist of Oghma
- Ledger Shredder
- Deep Gnome Terramancer
- Drumbellower
- Imposter Mech

MOST POWERFUL NEW COMMANDERS

We're looking at raw power levels here!

- Miiryum, Sentinel Wyrm
- Shorikai, Genesis Engine
- Isshin, Two Heavens As One
- Satoru Umezawa
- Go-Shintai of Life's Origin
- Jodah, the Unifier
- Evelyn, the Covetous
- Trazyn the Infinite
- Preston, the Vanisher

They seem to have gotten a handle on Commander power level. Nothing as generically powerful as previous years, and the combo-centric commanders are limited to a single color.

CARDS WE GOT WRONG

What were some cards we were incorrect about in our evaluations this year?

Jimmy - I feel like I over estimated Displacer Kitten as well as Archivist of Oghma / Deep Gnome Terramancer. It could be that my expectations were just too high.

JLK - I got everything right! Lol - I dunno, I can't think of anything off the top of my head. I disagree with Jimmy, I still think Displacer Kitten and Deep Gnome Terramancer are nutso. Archivist is good but not insane but I feel that's what I thought about it originally. I don't remember you really gushing about it either Jimmy. Maybe I'm wrong.

Rachel - Jaheira's Respite, Seize the Spotlight, Aboleth Spawn

REPRINTS

There were a lot of really great reprints this year, including some reprints of Reserved List cards? But we'll get to that later.

CARDS WE ASKED FOR LAST YEAR

Dockside Extortionist, Jeska's Will, Smothering Tithe, Rhystic Study, Necropotence, Guardian Project, Sword of Feast and Famine, Vedalken Orrery, Triomes, Battlebond lands, All of the "Medallions" cycle

*****MIDROLL BREAK*****

TOP REPRINTS OF THE YEAR

What were the biggest reprints that they actually gave us this year? Note: We aren't going to count Secret Lair reprints here.

Methodology Notes: "top reprints" of the year, defined as cards worth \$10+ before the reprint announcement. We looked at the cheapest near mint copy available 2 months BEFORE reprint announcement, and then the same card now (12/8/2022). (Some reprints were omitted if not enough was released, ie Secret Lairs)

BALDUR'S GATE - TOP REPRINTS

- Battlebond lands went down **74.5%** on average
 - Morphic Pool \$28.40 → \$7.20 **74.6%**
 - Luxury Suite \$31.00 → \$6.00 **80.6%**
 - Sea of Clouds \$16.70 → \$4.90 **70.7%**
 - Spire Garden \$11.82 → \$4.30 **63.6%**
 - Bountiful Promenade \$20.00 → \$3.40 **83.0%**
- Kindred Discovery (\$24.64 → \$5.00) **79.7%** decrease
- Bramble Sovereign (\$19.13 → \$3.63) **81.1%** decrease
- Blade of Selves (\$31.20 → \$3.93) **87.4%** decrease

DOUBLE MASTERS 2022 - TOP REPRINTS

Rachel was not super high on Double Masters 2022 as a product. - Brutal draft story

- **21 Mythics** started above \$10. They went down **55.3%** on average
 - Imperial Seal (\$737.70 → \$66.00) **91.1%** decrease
 - Cavern of Souls (\$71.19 → \$52.83) **25.8%** decrease
 - Wrenn and Six (\$68.20 → \$51.38) **24.7%** decrease
 - Dockside Extortionist (\$70.26 → \$45.83) **34.8%** decrease
 - Mana Vault (\$81.18 → \$40.19) **50.5%** decrease
 - Mana Drain (\$43.08 → \$34.54) **19.8%** decrease
 - Kozilek Butcher of Truth (\$62.42 → \$26.52) **57.5%** decrease
 - Ulamog the Infinite Gyre (\$61.86 → \$23.78) **61.6%** decrease
 - Allosaurus Shepherd (\$46.68 → \$21.72) **46.5%** decrease
 - Bitterblossom (\$41.15 → \$21.49) **47.8%** decrease
 - Consecrated Sphinx (\$46.58 → \$18.89) **59.4%** decrease
 - Crucible of Worlds (\$34.61 → \$18.60) **46.3%** decrease
 - Food Chain (\$53.07 → \$18.23) **65.6%** decrease
 - Concordant Crossroads (\$38.09 → \$15.56) **59.1%** decrease
 - Seasoned Pyromancer (\$41.18 → \$14.62) **64.5%** decrease
 - Aurelia, the Warleader (\$25.91 → \$9.62) **62.9%** decrease
 - Dragonlord Dromoka (\$23.41 → \$7.19) **62.9%** decrease
 - Kaalia of the Vast (\$26.77 → \$6.53) **75.6%** decrease
 - Monastery Mentor (\$16.28 → \$7.02) **56.9%** decrease
 - Divine Visitation (\$11.72 → \$5.58) **52.4%** decrease
 - Thrumming Stone (\$49.66 → \$2.14) **95.6%** decrease

- **19 Rares** started above \$10. They went down **67.0%** on average
 - Force of Negation (58.92 → 26.86) **54.4%** decrease
 - Phyrexian Altar (80.55 → 25.72) **68.1%** decrease
 - Smothering Tithe (37.94 → 20.92) **44.9%** decrease
 - Sensei's Divining Top (47.45 → 17.91) **62.3%** decrease
 - Teferi's Protection (39.42 → 19.20) **51.3%** decrease
 - Damnation (26.81 → 15.26) **43.1%** decrease
 - City of Brass (27.64 → 10.02) **63.7%** decrease
 - Bloom Tender (31.93 → 8.31) **74.0%** decrease
 - Green Sun's Zenith (27.14 → 8.25) **69.6%** decrease
 - Aether Vial (22.52 → 7.76) **65.6%** decrease
 - Darksteel Plate (15.42 → 5.48) **64.5%** decrease
 - Vedalken Orrery (27.00 → 5.16) **80.9%** decrease
 - Oracle of Mul Daya (15.58 → 5.45) **65.0%** decrease
 - Assassin's Trophy (11.43 → 4.87) **56.9%** decrease
 - Forbidden Orchard (20.41 → 3.84) **81.2%** decrease
 - Supreme Verdict (10.13 → 2.88) **71.6%** decrease
 - Conqueror's Flail (19.88 → 3.00) **84.9%** decrease
 - Weathered Wayfarer (10.80 → 2.05) **81.0%** decrease
 - Privileged Position (22.17 → 2.07) **90.1%** decrease

COMMANDER PRODUCT - TOP REPRINTS

Card	Before Announcement	Current Price	Percent Decrease
Jeska's Will	\$16.90	\$11.00	34.9%
Shizo, Death's Storehouse	\$35.39	\$8.78	75.2%
Skullclamp*	\$11.28	\$4.70	58.3%
Expressive Iteration	\$3.86	\$2.37	38.6%
Bear Umbra	\$14.71	\$6.27	57.4%

*Skullclamp was in a CLB precon, a 40K precon, and a BRO precon

RETRO ARTIFACTS (The Brothers' War) - TOP REPRINTS

Were the Retro Artifacts successful in bringing down the prices on cards? Absolutely. (Granted, these prices likely haven't stabilized yet)

Card	Before Reprint Announcement	Current Price	Percent Decrease
Thorn of Amethyst	\$26.64	\$0.85	96.8%
Mox Amber	\$56.10	\$27.81	50.4%
Ashnod's Altar	\$10.39	\$5.05	51.4%
Unwinding Clock	\$16.55	\$2.59	84.4%

STANDARD SETS *More standard-legal reprints this year*

- Lilliana of the Veil (DMU) (\$56.42 → \$21.22) **62.4%** decrease
- Diabolic Intent (BRO) (\$32.59 → \$9.11) **72%** decrease
- Fauna Shaman (BRO) (\$11.64 → \$1.11) **90.5%** decrease
- Painful Quandary (BRO) (\$12.33 → \$0.80) **93.5%** decrease
- Pain Lands went down **62.0%** on average
 - Sulfurous Springs (DMU) (\$10.23 → \$3.18) **68.9%** decrease
 - Adarkar Wastes (DMU) (\$11.21 → \$2.67) **76.2%** decrease
 - Karplusan Forest (DMU) (\$6.56 → \$1.21) **81.6%** decrease
 - Shivan Reef (DMU) (\$3.84 → \$0.76) **80.2%** decrease
 - Yavimaya Coast (DMU) (\$0.40 → \$0.40) **negligible** decrease
 - Caves of Koilos (DMU) (\$0.54 → \$0.28) **negligible** decrease
 - Underground River (BRO) (\$9.85 → \$1.39) **85.9%** decrease
 - Brushland (BRO) (\$7.44 → \$0.93) **87.5%** decrease
 - Battlefield Forge (BRO) (\$1.84 → \$0.49) **73.4%** decrease
 - Llanowar Wastes (BRO) (\$1.62 → \$0.55) **66%** decrease

CARDS WE ASKED FOR LAST YEAR

Dockside Extortionist, Jeska's Will, Smothering Tithe, Rhystic Study, Necropotence, Guardian Project, Sword of Feast and Famine, Vedalken Orrery, Triomes, Battlebond lands, All of the "Medallions" cycle

MOST NEEDED REPRINTS IN 2023

What are the top reprints we want to see in the coming year?

- Cyclonic Rift (\$35.92)
- Rhystic Study (\$33.63)
- Lotus Petal (\$20.71)
- Demonic Tutor (\$35.31)
- Ancient Tomb (\$64.22)
- Urborg, Tomb of Yawgmoth (\$34.20)
- Finale of Devastation (\$39.93)
- Fierce Guardianship (\$63.78)
- Deflecting Swat (\$54.50)
- Jeweled Lotus (\$105.08)
- Nykthos Shrine to Nyx (\$28.62)
- The Great Henge (\$58.31)
- The Meathook Massacre (\$45.18)
- All of the “Medallions” cycle (all over \$10)
- Anointed Procession (\$32.42)
- Parallel Lives (\$45.91) *The Judge Promo is listed cheaper than the nonfoil, Innistrad printing
- Doubling Season (\$84.68)

NO COMMANDER BANS / UNBANS:

We’ve had no bans or rules changes in the last 14 months. This is uncharacteristically long, but not overly. We usually go a year between major rules changes, bans or unbans.

- September 13, 2021 - Golos banned. Worldfire unbanned. (2 mos. since last rules change)
- July 21, 2021 - Hullbreacher banned. Clarification on Dungeons. (11 mos.)
- June 29, 2020 - Culturally insensitive cards banned in all formats. Commander “dies” update. (1 mo.)
- April 20, 2020 - Flash, Lutri ban. Clarification on Companion (9 mos.)
- July 8, 2019 - Iona, Paradox Engine banned. Painter’s Servant unbanned. (27 mos.)
- April 24, 2017 - Leovold banned. Protean Hulk unbanned. (15 mos.)
- January 18, 2016 - Prophet of Kruphix banned. Mulligan rules amended. Mana generation amended.

Question: **IS COMMANDER IN A HEALTHY PLACE?**

With all the new cards and players, it’s possible Commander is too turbulent to confidently ban or unban cards. To handle the changing Commander landscape, the RC has expanded.

EXPANSION OF THE RULES COMMITTEE

September 12, added Olivia Gobert-Hicks and Jim Lapage to the Rules Committee

- *What does a larger RC mean for the future of the format? How big is too big?*

RULES COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REVIEW

QUESTION: How would we rate the Rules Committee's performance in 2022? Good/bad/indifferent?

BIGGEST SUCCESSES OF THE YEAR

- **REPRINTS**
- **PRERELEASE TIMING**
 - (started with SNC, continued throughout the year)
- **PRECONS**
 - BRO, CLB, NEO Precons
 - 40K Commander Decks
 - Starter Commander Decks
- **COUNTDOWN KIT: PRODUCT**

BIGGEST WHIFFS OF THE YEAR

- **COUNTDOWN KIT: RELEASE**

Product was awesome. Why so limited?
- **INNISTRAD: DOUBLE FEATURE**
- **40K DELAY**
- **MAGIC'S NETFLIX SERIES**
 - June 2019 - Joe and Anthony Russo announced the show about Chandra, but they left early in the process. Now Jeff Cline
 - August 2021 - Netflix revealed 3D models of Gideon, announced release of late 2022
 - June 2022 - Not mentioned in Netflix's Geeked Week 2022
 - CURRENT: Release date between Summer 2023 and Easter 2024?
- **30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION** (*I promise we're going to talk about it. One more moment*)

BIGGEST CONTROVERSIES OF THE YEAR

- **ACQUISITIONS**
 - ChannelFireball acquired by TCGPlayer acquired by eBay
- **HASBRO STOCK DROP**
- **UN-CARDS IN ETERNAL FORMATS**
 - Stickers in Legacy??? OH NO! Acorn Stamps - Black Bordered, Oh my!
- **MAGIC 30 COSPLAYER PRIZE**
 - Best in Show: \$200 Gift Card to Joann Fabric + badge and hotel for upcoming event
- **30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION**

30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Ok. Let's do it. Let's talk about the 30th Anniversary Elephant in the room.

- Did you like the product? Did you want the product?
- This was one of the most controversial and vitriol-inducing products of all time. What went wrong?
- It started a large discussion about the role of Collectors' Edition cards in our format (gold-bordered cards or cards with non-Magic backs), what do you think?

IS MAGIC GETTING MORE EXCLUSIVE?

- High price points at release: Double Masters 2022 (\$255 draft, \$228 4pk collector), Collectors' Edition 40K (\$115 ea.), 30th Anniversary Edition (\$1000)
- Wizards has added a tier of rarity beyond Rare and Mythic. The value is less in what cards you open and what printing it is.
 - Neon Ink Hidetsugu (the rarest, Red, is \$1500ish)
 - Legends cards (DMU)
 - Serialized artifacts (Most expensive is \$1,500 but many are \$300-\$500)
 - Shattered glass Transformers (most expensive are \$800-\$1000 for a foil, least is \$200)
- *How does the trend toward exclusivity affect players, if at all? What does it say about the future of the game? Does it make Magic more inaccessible as a whole?*

Switching gears - Ok that's it for the MTG discussion regarding this past 365 days. Now we're going to talk about how our content and our channel did in 2022.

GROUNDBREAKING GUESTS

- Jonathan Young, The Professor, Post Malone, Lexi McQueen, Marco from Cosmonaut Variety Hour, Sam from Rhystic Studies, Voxy, Jim Lapage, Olivia Gobert-Hicks, Rebell Son
 - Had more budget to bring guests on to Extra Turns.
- Question: What are each of our dream guests for 2023?

All credit to our Game Knightsteam Jake & Murph (directors and editors) Manson (editor) Arthur (new assistant editor) and our VFX team (Sam, Evan, Patrick). We had a ton of crazy and bigger-than-ever VFX this year.

- PLAY GAME KNIGHTS ANIMATION MONTAGE:

Big shouts to Ladee Danger for all of the amazing sets. Started the year with an eye-popping one for Neon Dynasty. Also did amazing stuff for Brothers War, New Capenna and the recent Phyrexian Themed episode.

- Tell story of Eric and Megan doing the water pump thing.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

ADVENTURERS WANTED

For CLB. Guests included Beth May, Anthony Burch and Matt Arnold from Dungeons & Daddies. Josephine McAdam and Jacob Bertrand. Danielle Radford. Directed by JLK & Jake. Written by Jamie and Jordan. VFX by Sam and Evan. Gaurav's idea to do the old-school VHS style he also edited it.

- Gelatinous Cube was done practically with Ballistics Gel.

KARNQUEST

Cool way to tell the story of DMU. Voxy, Jacob Bertrand and Arin Hanson (Game Grumps). Written by Jamie and Jordan. Edited by Gaurav.

BACKSEAT BROS

Actors Bryan Scamman (Mishra) and Ryon Thomas (Urza). We did this all with a projector on a giant screen behind the car. Jake and Jon Salmon figured that out.

GAME KNIGHTS LIVE

At Magic30 in Las Vegas.

MARVEL STRIKE FORCE

THE COMMAND ZONE IN 2023

- New Building
- GK Live: Philadelphia
- New Content Offering
- What would you like to see from us?

3) **TO THE LISTENERS:**

What were your favorite moments for Magic in 2022? What was your favorite set or product? What was your favorite piece of our content?

****CARD KINGDOM #2** **ULTRA PRO #2****

4) CLEAN-UP STEP

Big thanks to our amazing team here at The Command Zone! **Damen Lenz; Arthur Meadowcroft; Ladee Danger; Manson Leung; Craig Blanchette; Josh Murphy; Jake Boss; Patrick Nan; Jordan Pridgen; Sam Waldow; Gaurav Gulati; Jamie Block; Mitch Trafford; Evan Limberger; Gabriel Pozos; Megan Yip; and Eric Lem.**

-Shout out to **Geoffrey Palmer** for the living card animations (**@LivingCardsMTG**)