

Final tallies for all the votes

Selecting *Eighth Edition* Wrapup

Aaron Forsythe, Content Manager

Monday, November 25, 2002

- 
- 



- [Aaron Forsythe, Content Manager Archive](#)

Well, it's time to wrap up our "[Selecting Eighth Edition](#)" promo. R&D is putting the finishing touches on the set, the editing department is giving it a good scrubbing, and all the flavor text and art choices made by those of you that participated in our polls are being dropped into place.

So let's go over everything that has happened over the past too-many months.

Individual Card Votes

The main draw of the promotion was the ability to select which one of a pair (or sometimes more) of cards would go into *Eighth Edition*, and which would be left on the sidelines. These were decisions that R&D was debating making themselves, but realized it would be more interesting to let the players decide instead. The winners:

- [Two-Headed Dragon](#) defeated [Crimson Hellkite](#)
- [Nekrataal](#) defeated [Dark Hatchling](#)
- [Rewind](#) defeated [Dismiss](#)
- [Ensnaring Bridge](#) defeated [Static Orb](#)
- [Noble Purpose](#) defeated [Orim's Prayer](#)
- [Birds of Paradise](#) and [Vine Trellis](#) defeated [Llanowar Elves](#) and [Utopia Tree](#)
- [Worship](#) defeated [Pariah](#) and [Kismet](#)
- [Obliterate](#) defeated [Jokulhaups](#)
- [Blood Moon](#) defeated [Dwarven Miner](#)
- [Natural Affinity](#) defeated [Nature's Revolt](#)
- [Yavimaya Enchantress](#) defeated [Rabid Wombat](#)
- [Glorious Anthem](#) defeated [Crusade](#)

Some of the votes were exciting and close, others were blowouts, and others were met with a level of chagrin from the players. (Many people lamented the Birds vs. Elves vote, but it perfectly illustrates the difficult decisions R&D makes every day.) And some of the results surprised even us--we all thought [Crusade](#) was a shoo-in!

Individual Art Votes

Running concurrently with the card votes were twelve votes that let players choose which of two illustrations would be used on some of the cards in the set. The winners:

- **Thorn Elemental:** [Urza's Destiny](#) defeated [Seventh Edition](#)
- **Angel of Mercy:** [Portal Second Age](#) defeated [Invasion](#)
- **Gravedigger:** [Tempest](#) defeated [Seventh Edition](#)
- **Telepathy:** [Urza's Saga](#) defeated [Seventh Edition](#)
- **Eastern Paladin:** [Urza's Saga](#) defeated [Seventh Edition](#); and
- **Western Paladin:** [Urza's Saga](#) defeated [Seventh Edition](#)
- **Spined Wurm:** [Stronghold](#) defeated [Seventh Edition](#)
- **Goblin Chariot:** [Seventh Edition](#) defeated [Starter 1999](#)
- **Steal Artifact:** [Seventh Edition](#) defeated [Fifth Edition](#)
- **Phyrexian Colossus:** [Seventh Edition](#) defeated [Urza's Saga](#)
- **Shatter:** [Tempest](#) defeated [Fifth Edition](#) and [Seventh Edition](#)
- **Trained Armodon:** [Tempest](#) defeated [Seventh Edition](#)
- **Boil:** [Tempest](#) defeated [Seventh Edition](#)

In most cases, players preferred the original card art to the reprint art, but in some instances (most notably [Phyrexian Colossus](#)), the newer art won.

Flavor Text Submissions/Votes

The next phase was flavor text. We accepted fan-submitted text for six cards (two of which had to be real-world material), and then our creative department pulled out the best submissions and put them to a popular vote. The vote winners will appear on the cards in *Eighth Edition*.

Aladdin's Ring

Flavor Text Submission	Submitted By	Voting Results	
A good lamp will light your way. A good ring will clear it. --attributed to Aladdin's jeweler.	Pale Mage	1395	18.24%
In his hand lay the ring. And in the ring, lay Death.	Rolias Noom	1222	15.98%
When it was time to divide the spoils from the dungeon, they foolishly laughed at the young mage for choosing a humble ring.	Fred Cole	1045	13.66%
Who needs the other two wishes when I have this?	Zaphkiel	1011	13.22%
Crafted from desert sand/ Carved with desert wind/ Carrying a desert's death	John Johansen	871	11.39%
With power comes responsibility... Aladdin never was that responsible.	Andy Weisenfeld	652	8.53%
Aside from the smell of charred flesh, Aladdin rather liked his new ring.	Marissa	581	7.60%
With this ring I thee slay...	John Moxley	329	4.30%

It took the wizard years to obtain the famed treasure, but only seconds to reduce his enemies to sad remains.	Jens Mueller	287	3.75%
It grants all wishes of pain.	Eric Anderson	255	3.33%
Totals:		7648	100.00%

After going through editing, here is the quote as it will appear on the card:

"A good lamp will light your way. A good ring will clear it."
 —Nervan, royal jeweler

Nervan is the name of the jeweler that sold Aladdin the ring in *1001 Arabian Nights*. Ok, no it wasn't. We made it up.

Orcish Artillery

Flavor Text Submission	Submitted By	Voting Results	
So, they want to kill my men. Well, Two can play that game. --Orcish General	William Reed	2253	33.63%
Glok felt one glorious moment of pride just before he smashed the gate open with his face.	[Anonymous]	790	11.79%
To the orcs, stealth technology simply meant placing a gag over the mouth of the ammunition.	David Elkind	722	10.78%
The second most common cause of Orc death. Natural causes comes in 34th.	Toby Wachter	590	8.81%
This is going to hurt you a lot more than it hurts me... or was it the other way around?	Brian Fayce	496	7.40%
Now accepting donations of ammunition. Pots, pans, broken yard tools, naughty children, anything will do! --Orcish Council of War	[Anonymous]	419	6.25%
The artillery was an excellent device for judging distances by how long the ammunition screamed.	Wayne Mittlestead	417	6.22%
Fly like an eagle, fall like a rock.	Antti Salmi	417	6.22%
Further research confirms that the thin one not only are easier to tie and load up, but	Amanda	348	5.19%

also go higher and farther. --Orcish
Research Center (ORC)

All of a sudden, the pieces--the all-rock
diet, the "flying lessons"--fell together for Robert Butts 248 3.70%
Korgex. He screamed.

Totals: 6700 100.00%

Editing cleaned the quote up as such:

"So they want to kill my men? Well two can play at that game."
—General Khurzog

That's great stuff. General Khurzog was an Orc general from *Fallen Empires* flavor text, resurrected for duty on this card.

Persecute

Flavor Text Submission	Submitted By	Voting Results	
Of all the tyrannies on human kind / The worst is that which persecutes the mind. -- John Dryden, "The Hind and the Panther"	Rob Myers	1562	24.08%
"Some rise by sin, and some by virtue fall." - -William Shakespeare, Measure for Measure	Kelly Reid	1173	18.09%
"What is their hatred but a proof that I am speaking the truth? Hence has arisen the prejudice against me." --Plato, Apology	Scott A. (GoatLord)	1112	17.14%
"I'll be the judge, I'll be the jury,' said cunning old Fury, 'I'll try the whole cause, and condemn you to death.'" --Lewis Carroll, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Timothy Coates	1002	15.45%
"What other dungeon is so dark as one's own heart? What other jailer so inexorable as one's self?" --Nathaniel Hawthorne, The House of Seven Gables	Tiabeth	954	14.71%
"Is it decreed that one half of the flock should be the persecutor of the other?" --Marquis de Sade	Mary Van Tyne	443	6.83%
"At once as far as Angels kenn he views / The dismal Situation waste and wild, / A Dungeon horrible, on all sides round" --John Milton,	Don Lee	240	3.70%

Paradise Lost

Totals:

6486 100.00%

After finding a physical copy of the original source material, editing will be putting this version on the card:

"Of all the tyrannies on humane kind / The worst is that which persecutes the mind."

—John Dryden, *"The Hind and the Panther"*

Note that some of the original archaic spelling has been restored. For those interested, John Dryden was an English critic, playwright, and poet laureate that lived in the late 1600s, and was the most celebrated literary figure of the Restoration.

Verduran Enchantress

Flavor Text Submission	Submitted By	Voting Results	
Graceful? Yes. Beautiful? Absolutely. Harmless? Definitely not. --Fyndhorn elder	Seraph	1245	20.00%
There is a fine line between nature and magic, and the enchantress is the one who draws it.	Petey Gee	1075	17.27%
She rewards illusion with reality.	Daniel Lee	926	14.88%
All I ask for is a leaf. In return, I will give you a tree.	David Gionet	879	14.12%
The wind sings her name, while her foes scream it.	maverick2006	515	8.27%
She will show you many things, but few are within your reach.	Matt Robinson	459	7.37%
To one in tune with magic, wizards are not a threat, but rather a vein of power waiting to be tapped. -- Siren, Verduran mystic	Drew Johnston	442	7.10%
She could tell you how everything came to be. She could undo everything as well, if only she had a reason.	Matt Bettine	238	3.82%
A whip made of silk can still do harm.	Llanowar_Necromancer	233	3.74%
Her innocence is an illusion. If she had her way, the world would be	Neil Melville	212	3.41%

overrun with all manner of
 pernicious flora -- to the eventual
 extinction of humankind.

Totals: **6224 100.00%**

The quote as it will appear on the card:

"Graceful? Yes. Beautiful? Absolutely. Harmless? Definitely not."
 —Fyndhorn elder

The attribution to "Fyndhorn elder" was done by the editing department before the vote began.

Confiscate

Flavor Text Submission	Submitted By	Voting Results	
It is better to take what does not belong to you than to let it lie around neglected. --Mark Twain	Zach Efland	2234	40.56%
A wise general makes a point of foraging on the enemy. One cartload of the enemy's provisions is equivalent to twenty of one's own. --Sun Tzu, The Art of War	Ken Hubbard	1307	23.73%
Amongst so many borrowed things, I am glad if I can steal one, disguising and altering it for some new service. --Michel de Montaigne, "Of Physiognomy"	John Carter	423	7.68%
Is it not a saying in everyone's mouth, Possession is half of the law: that is, regardless of how the thing came into possession? But often possession is the whole of the law. --Herman Melville, Moby Dick	David Welsh	415	7.53%
An object in possession seldom retains the same charm that it had in pursuit. --Pliny the Younger, Letters	Jean-Louis Despres	345	6.26%
All that spirits desire, spirits attain. --Kahlil Gibran, "The Poet of Baalbek"	Adam Augusta	262	4.76%
Poverty wants some things, luxury many, avarice all. --Abraham Cowley, "Of Avarice"	David Warner	259	4.70%
No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for anyone else. --Charles	Matt Hay	209	3.79%

Dickens, Our Mutual Friend

I glory more in the cunning purchase of my wealth than in the glad possession, since I gain no common way. . . . --Ben Jonson, *Volpone* (1606)

Paul Pittman 54 0.98%

Totals: 5508 100.00%

As a fan of real-world flavor text, I must say I am tickled with this quote.

"It is better to take what does not belong to you than to let it lie around neglected."

—Mark Twain, *More Maxims of Mark*

For the handful that don't know, Mark Twain (penname of Samuel Longhorne Clemens) was one of the great American authors of the nineteenth century. His most popular works include *Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Serra Angel

Flavor Text Submission	Submitted By	Voting Results	
When she flies above the good, they consider themselves blessed. When she flies above the wicked, they consider themselves dead.	Steve Sanislo	1078	16.31%
She is justice without words, and words can do her no justice.	Lewis Himelhoch	778	11.77%
Her beauty equals her strength. Her strength equals her will. Her will is limitless.	Louis Doan	747	11.30%
Those who are evil are called so because they destroy. Those who are good are called so for no different reason.	zeppelinrules	728	11.01%
The necromancer felt three things: a blinding light in his left eye, a feather's stroke on his left cheek, and a piercing blow in his left lung.	Carlos Corti	710	10.74%
Eternal vigilance, eternal grace.	J.T. Yull	651	9.85%
Don't fear justice. Fear me.	Kirk Jentoft	642	9.71%
Doom and deliverance can be brought by the same hand, scorn and compassion by the same lips.	Czulkang	470	7.11%
Born with honor, raised with valor,	Nick Lynn	403	6.10%

completed by vengeance.

Martyr of light, reaper of dark.

SerraSeraph

403

6.10%

Totals:

6610 100.00%

The last card up for submissions was the player-favorite Serra Angel. The winning quote will look like so:

When she flies above the good, they consider themselves blessed. When she flies above the wicked, they consider themselves dead.

To make sure your real name appears on the web whenever we use one of your submissions, update your user profile [here](#). Or else we'll call you stuff like "zeppelinrules" for the rest of your life.

Land Art Votes

Last week we put up the final piece of the *Eighth Edition* puzzle, the options for basic land art. And now that the votes are final, I'm sure John Avon is very proud. With 12 out of a possible 18 lands of his receiving enough votes to be included in the set (he only had two Plains up for consideration), it is clear that Avon is the most popular land artist ever. No other individual artist had more than one land voted into *Eighth Edition*.

The winning selections:

Plains



Seventh Edition
John Avon



Onslaught
Matthew Mitchell



Invasion
John Avon



Portal Second Age
Fred Fields

Islands



Invasion
John Avon



Seventh Edition
John Avon



Invasion
Tony Szczudlo



Mercadian Masques
Scott Bailey

Swamps



Mirage
Bob Eggleton



Urza's Saga
John Avon



Onslaught
Dan Frazier



Seventh Edition
Larry Elmore

Mountains



Fifth Edition
John Avon



Mirage
John Avon



Mirage
John Avon



Mercadian Masques
Rob Alexander

Forests



Invasion
John Avon



Portal
John Avon



Portal
John Avon



Onslaught
John Avon

The numeric vote tallies follow. Remember that each voter chose four of each land; if one piece got 6% of the total votes, that means 24% of the voters chose it.

Plains

Original Expansion (click to view art)	Artist	Voting Results	
Seventh Edition	John Avon	2080	10.56%
Onslaught	Matthew Mitchell	1861	9.45%
Invasion	John Avon	1815	9.22%
Portal Second Age	Fred Fields	1542	7.83%
Mirage	Tom Wänerstrand	1451	7.37%
Odyssey	Rob Alexander	1404	7.13%
Mirage	Tom Wänerstrand	1242	6.31%
Invasion	D. J. Cleland-Hura	1211	6.15%
Onslaught	Rob Alexander	1163	5.91%
Odyssey	Don Hazeltine	1054	5.35%
Seventh Edition	Rob Alexander	845	4.29%

Seventh Edition	Scott Bailey	816	4.14%
Odyssey	Alan Pollack	747	3.79%
Seventh Edition	Rob Alexander	660	3.35%
Mercadian Masques	Terry Springer	653	3.32%
Mercadian Masques	Dana Knutson	593	3.01%
Mercadian Masques	Scott Bailey	555	2.82%
Total		19692	100.00%

Islands

Original Expansion (click to view art)	Artist	Voting Results	
Invasion	John Avon	1294	6.55%
Seventh Edition	John Avon	1289	6.52%
Invasion	Tony Szczudlo	1280	6.48%
Mercadian Masques	Scott Bailey	940	4.76%
Portal Second Age	John Avon	921	4.66%
Portal	Eric Peterson	832	4.21%
Mirage	Douglas Shuler	831	4.20%
Fifth Edition	J. W. Frost	823	4.16%
Portal Second Age	John Avon	772	3.91%
Invasion	Terese Nielsen	756	3.82%
Odyssey	Larry Elmore	686	3.47%
Fifth Edition	J. W. Frost	674	3.41%
Odyssey	Randy Elliott	639	3.23%
Onslaught	Matt Thompson	606	3.07%
Tempest	Randy Gallegos	563	2.85%
Mercadian Masques	Tony Szczudlo	514	2.60%
Portal	Eric Peterson	495	2.50%
Mirage	Douglas Shuler	478	2.42%
Onslaught	Randy Elliott	458	2.32%
Seventh Edition	Rob Alexander	411	2.08%
Onslaught	Bradley Williams	366	1.85%
Tempest	Randy Gallegos	352	1.78%

Odyssey	Alan Pollack	349	1.77%
Fifth Edition	J. W. Frost	329	1.66%
Tempest	Randy Gallegos	321	1.62%
Invasion	Darrell Riche	318	1.61%
Mercadian Masques	Terry Springer	307	1.55%
Seventh Edition	Scott Bailey	306	1.55%
Mirage	Douglas Shuler	302	1.53%
Seventh Edition	Tony Szczudlo	288	1.46%
Portal	Eric Peterson	256	1.30%
Mirage	Douglas Shuler	250	1.26%
Mercadian Masques	Scott Bailey	215	1.09%
Fifth Edition	J. W. Frost	209	1.06%
Tempest	Randy Gallegos	201	1.02%
Portal	Eric Peterson	135	0.68%
Total		19766	100.00%

Swamps

Original Expansion (click to view art)	Artist	Voting Results	
Mirage	Bob Eggleton	1816	9.36%
Urza's Saga	John Avon	1244	6.41%
Onslaught	Dan Frazier	1104	5.69%
Seventh Edition	Larry Elmore	1021	5.26%
Urza's Saga	John Avon	949	4.89%
Portal	Romas	773	3.99%
Seventh Edition	D.J. Cleland-Hura	766	3.95%
Invasion	Ron Spencer	750	3.87%
Urza's Saga	John Avon	676	3.49%
Portal	Romas	676	3.49%
Seventh Edition	Tony Szczudlo	645	3.33%
Odyssey	Alan Pollack	643	3.32%
Seventh Edition	Rob Alexander	610	3.14%
Urza's Saga	John Avon	583	3.01%

Fifth Edition	Andrew Robinson	539	2.78%
Odyssey	Rob Alexander	538	2.77%
Portal Second Age	Susan Van Camp	535	2.76%
Mercadian Masques	Rob Alexander	520	2.68%
Portal	Romas	476	2.45%
Invasion	Rob Alexander	461	2.38%
Portal Second Age	Susan Van Camp	445	2.29%
Tempest	Brom	436	2.25%
Invasion	Rob Alexander	408	2.10%
Invasion	Ron Spencer	394	2.03%
Portal	Romas	370	1.91%
Tempest	Brom	365	1.88%
Portal Second Age	Susan Van Camp	363	1.87%
Mercadian Masques	Rob Alexander	349	1.80%
Fifth Edition	Andrew Robinson	343	1.77%
Tempest	Brom	233	1.20%
Tempest	Brom	183	0.94%
Fifth Edition	Andrew Robinson	182	0.94%
Total		19396	100.00%

Mountains

Original Expansion (click to view art)	Artist	Voting Results	
Fifth Edition	John Avon	1263	6.55%
Mirage	John Avon	1032	5.35%
Mirage	John Avon	969	5.02%
Mercadian Masques	Rob Alexander	862	4.47%
Fifth Edition	John Avon	860	4.46%
Seventh Edition	John Avon	860	4.46%
Portal Second Age	Rob Alexander	834	4.32%
Odyssey	Tony Szczudlo	831	4.31%
Fifth Edition	John Avon	793	4.11%
Odyssey	Rob Alexander	719	3.73%

Seventh Edition	Rob Alexander	704	3.65%
Urza's Saga	John Avon	627	3.25%
Portal Second Age	Rob Alexander	544	2.82%
Odyssey	Franz Vohwinkel	537	2.78%
Odyssey	Anthony S. Waters	525	2.72%
Urza's Saga	John Avon	512	2.65%
Urza's Saga	John Avon	511	2.65%
Fifth Edition	John Avon	481	2.49%
Urza's Saga	John Avon	473	2.45%
Seventh Edition	D.J. Cleland-Hura	462	2.40%
Invasion	Jeff Miracola	462	2.40%
Mirage	John Avon	456	2.36%
Portal Second Age	Rob Alexander	444	2.30%
Portal	Brian Durfee	442	2.29%
Invasion	Matt Cavotta	423	2.19%
Invasion	Scott Bailey	369	1.91%
Mercadian Masques	Scott Bailey	325	1.68%
Portal	Brian Durfee	310	1.61%
Portal	Brian Durfee	268	1.39%
Mercadian Masques	Terry Springer	262	1.36%
Invasion	Glen Angus	258	1.34%
Portal	Brian Durfee	252	1.31%
Onslaught	Heather Hudson	243	1.26%
Seventh Edition	Rob Alexander	228	1.18%
Mercadian Masques	Dana Knutson	147	0.76%
Total		19288	100.00%

Forests

Original Expansion (click to view art)	Artist	Voting Results	
Invasion	John Avon	1698	8.83%
Portal	John Avon	1460	7.59%
Portal	John Avon	1392	7.24%

<u>Onslaught</u>	John Avon	1381	7.18%
<u>Onslaught</u>	John Avon	1175	6.11%
<u>Seventh Edition</u>	John Avon	1092	5.68%
<u>Portal Second Age</u>	Quinton Hoover	992	5.16%
<u>Seventh Edition</u>	D.J. Cleland-Hura	880	4.58%
<u>Sixth Edition</u>	John Avon	755	3.93%
<u>Sixth Edition</u>	Quinton Hoover	681	3.54%
<u>Sixth Edition</u>	John Avon	662	3.44%
<u>Invasion</u>	Alan Pollack	515	2.68%
<u>Odyssey</u>	Rob Alexander	502	2.61%
<u>Seventh Edition</u>	John Avon	489	2.54%
<u>Odyssey</u>	Larry Elmore	474	2.46%
<u>Urza's Saga</u>	Anthony S. Waters	460	2.39%
<u>Urza's Saga</u>	Anthony S. Waters	455	2.37%
<u>Onslaught</u>	John Matson	450	2.34%
<u>Invasion</u>	Glen Angus	436	2.27%
<u>Mercadian Masques</u>	Rob Alexander	432	2.25%
<u>Mercadian Masques</u>	Rob Alexander	421	2.19%
<u>Odyssey</u>	Tony Szczudlo	399	2.07%
<u>Mercadian Masques</u>	Donato Giancola	386	2.01%
<u>Urza's Saga</u>	Anthony S. Waters	383	1.99%
<u>Sixth Edition</u>	Quinton Hoover	351	1.83%
<u>Invasion</u>	Alan Pollack	319	1.66%
<u>Seventh Edition</u>	Rob Alexander	298	1.55%
<u>Urza's Saga</u>	Anthony S. Waters	294	1.53%
Total		19232	100.00%

And that, as they say, is that. We here at Wizards of the Coast thank you for your participation in this unique promotion, and we hope you'll enjoy the fruits of your labors when *Eighth Edition* is released next summer. [Nekrataal](#), Mark Twain, and John Avon--sounds like a hell of a set already! Remember to stay tuned to MagicTheGathering.com for more ways to influence the game you love.

Missed what was happening? Catch up with the "Selecting Eighth Edition" [archive](#).

Send questions and comments to editor@wizards.com.