

POKEHUDD MAGAZINE

#1 FEBRUARY 2022

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**INSIGHT INTO A NEW UK
GRADING COMPANY**

**PLUS A BIG
ANNOUNCEMENT**

**INTERVIEW WITH
ZERA.ORAGIRLS**



WELCOME TO

POKEHUDD MAGAZINE

In this first issue I'll be taking a look at the journey PCG (Pocket Card Grading) have taken to get their UK Grading company started.

This month's guest interview was the amazing zera.oragirls. She will be the first person to answer the 15 set questions I'll be asking someone from the community each month.

There's a look at the latest English Pokémon set Brilliant Stars, due to release on the 25th February 2022.

Plus some promotions from a short list of my favourite companies within the community.



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ANNOUNCEMENT



I'm very excited to announce my first print collaboration with PCG (Pocket Card Grading). Each print will feature popular trainers from the Kanto region. There will be 5 colour versions of each card available, along with one limited sketch version. All cards will be encased by PCG and will feature my logo on the label.

DUE TO RELEASE: 1ST MARCH 2022
pocketcardgrading.co.uk

STARTING A UK GRADING COMPANY

I've been following the progress of the UK grading company PCG (Pocket Card Grading) for around a year now. Many of you may know that I reached out to them and offered to help with their database. I also entered a label design into their public competition. My label design ultimately ended up winning the competition and since that point we have been working together to get the database ready for launch. I asked the team at Pocket Card Grading if they would be willing to share some information on their journey to this point and they agreed.



Our journey only started because we wanted to make smart looking displays for our cards, after a bit of searching we found some simple PSA style slabs on alibaba.com that would do the job nicely.

Unfortunately we couldn't justify the minimum order quantity, so we decided to shelf the idea - until January 1st 2021, when we (Glen & George) had a talk about our dissatisfaction with PSA overall & the lack of a decent grading option based in the UK, which led to us placing the minimum order of slabs and introducing ourselves to the Pokémon community on Instagram!

We had a great few months brainstorming with the community, sending prototype designs to people and gauging overall feedback on what everybody expects and frankly downright deserve when grading our beloved cards.

To our dismay, we noticed a few other companies popping up doing the same thing - 'not to worry' we said, as they are copying PSA's grading methods too, while we are bringing something new to the table, our grading scale was built from the ground up, doing away with decade old standards that we (and others in the community) felt didn't fully show the full potential of the graded cards.



Then all hell broke loose when PSA temporarily shut their doors, we stopped counting the grading companies that popped up after 10 of them repeated the 'Chinese psa slab' + either Beckett or PSA carbon copy scale. This was the final nail in the coffin for us, our grading scale means nothing if we don't stand out from this sea of clones - we didn't want to fall into that same look, we needed a new slab that was eye catching, and when standing side by side the big graders, visually improves the card.

Meanwhile in our personal lives, Glen was saving up for his wedding and his first house, and George just found out the he and his partner were expecting a baby.

This was a turning point, do we cut our losses and focus on our lives, or see this passion project through to completion? After a serious discussion, we delegated financial responsibility and continued on. Months went by, we hired 3d designers, plastic specialists and ultrasonic/microscopic join designers to make our vision come to life, as well as having a community competition to decide what our label will look like (well done Pokehudd!)

Just after a year since embarking on this journey, we finally took our first submissions on the 26th of January 2022. we've made countless new friends, awesome collaborations, and can't wait to see what the future holds.

Keep collecting! - PCG

Pocket Card Grading



pocketcardgrading.co.uk



[pcg_uk](https://www.instagram.com/pcg_uk)



[PocketCardGrading](https://www.facebook.com/PocketCardGrading)



[Pocket Card Grading](https://www.youtube.com/PocketCardGrading)

ZERA.ORGIRLS

I'd like to say a big thank you to the amazing zera.orgirls for being my first member of the community to answer the set list of questions I've put together.

What's your favourite TCG?

My favourite TCG is Pokémon. It's the only TCG that I collect currently & since Pokémon was released.

How long have you been collecting?

Been collecting since the beginning of course! 1998, of course with a couple breaks here and there.

Did you complete any major collecting goals last year?

To a certain extent yes, I finally completed a chase card being a Gold Star English Pikachu & with the help of yourself ([pokehudd](#)), managed to make a start on the goal of owning 1 of every artwork of Zeraora in a PSA 10, with adding 2 to the collection.

Do you have any collecting goals for this year?

My main goal for this year will be to fill the Zeraora binder. 12 pocket pages of the same artworks! Super exciting! Also adding more PSA 10 Zeras to the collection & finishing the English sealed Zeraora products.

What do you dislike about collecting?

There isn't much I dislike about Pokémon itself. One thing I will say, is the focus on "mainstream" Pokémon getting the attention over and over again in the TCG world. It would be nice to see the "forgotten" let's say; Pokémon get the spotlight. Like recently HonchKrow & Lumineon getting Alt Arts That to me was really nice to see.



What do you love about collecting?

What I love about collecting is the connections & friendships made along the way with trading, purchasing what not & when a goal finally gets completed. In both aspects, it's such a wonderful feeling building friendships, getting the opportunity to meet & speak to people who love what you love. Really is a heartwarming feeling. Also and I think everyone can relate, there's nothing like that feeling of seeing a goal you've been wanting to achieve come together & the build up to finishing that goal. Truly is a rewarding feeling.

Is there anyone that inspires you within the hobby?

There's many people within the hobby & community who inspire me for many reasons. I love the devotion of some collectors who only collect what they love for example [shinynightfury](#) chasing his goals for the shining Pokémon in PSA 1-10 & [drvenusaur](#) for his absolute passion for everything green. They inspired me to remember to keep focused on my main goal which is wanting to achieve the biggest Zeraora collection. That with time and patient & hard work, the goal will all come together. Truly is amazing to be a part of their journeys & see what accomplishments they have achieved along the way. It's wonderful to be a part of! That and the kind hearted souls like [pokegirlrach](#) & [heyitsnicola](#). The woman who have nothing but kindness & positivity radiate from their IG. Inspires me to keep true to who I am & confident in what I post. I look up to these two so much & again, it's amazing seeing how much they have achieved & watch both their collections grow into what they are today.

Do you collect TCG's, play TCG's or both?

I have tried so many times to attempt to play The Pokémon TCG & the few times I have done I have enjoyed it! But I'd definitely say I'm more of a collector rather than a player.



Do you have an interesting story you would like to share from your time collecting?

An interesting story...haha I mean I can try? Before coming into the community & a while before, whenever Pokémon came up into a conversation (not that it happened many times as Pokémon in Jersey isn't as far as I'm aware of a big community) I would tell everyone I have a complete set of base, jungle, fossil & rocket. It was only within the last few years I had discovered that it wasn't in fact complete. When I was younger, the collection started with my dad, he was let's say more in control of the collection back when Base Jungle & Fossil were first released. So for years he told me, we have the complete sets...after years later and actually sitting down and flicking through the binders, discovered that in fact he had collected the sets in the Pokédex entry. So didn't follow the sets, but rather filled the binder in Pokédex order. Which I found hysterical at the time.

What's your favourite purchase, trade or sale you've completed?

My favourite purchase is without a doubt, the sealed Pikachu Poncho boxes. They're still sealed from when I purchased them a couple years back & I absolutely adore them! I doubt I'll ever open them.

If you had to choose graded cards or binders, which would it be?

I've always been more of a binder kinda collecting. I absolutely love flicking through the binder pages and admiring all the cards together, however in recent months I have started a bit of a graded collection also. But I guess to answer the question, I definitely feel I'd choose binder rather than graded.

Do you prefer Japanese, English or another Language and why?

I think the overall quality control of Japanese Cards are better than English. Especially in the recent sets from SWSH have shown us. Chilling Reign for example delivered some awful quality of card, however the Japanese Set Jet Black Geist, proved to outshine the English set. In general, I'd say Japanese is definitely better produced, however how my collection works, I tend to collect both Japanese & English. Especially when I like a certain card. I'll aim to get both, so I can have both Japanese & English in the collection.

Do you keep sealed products?

I keep certain sealed products yes. Currently it's just sealed Pikachu Products, Raichu, Meganium & Zeraora of course.

How many packs of card do you think you've opened in your time collecting?

...How many packs??? Collecting since 98, not sure I can actually put a number to it. Let's just say a lot.

What's your favourite memory as a collector?

Favourite memory as a collector. Does 2 count? My earliest memory and favorite one is when my little brother pulled the final card we needed to complete the set back when we were kids. It was a Dragonite Holo from Fossil & that was such a wonderful feeling. My most recently, is little Mini Z opening her only Jet Black Geist Booster box & pulled Mumma Z the Zeraora Alt Art. I'll never forget that moment.

THANKS AGAIN TO ZERA.ORAGIRLS

If you don't already follow her on instagram, please go ahead and check out her amazing content.

 [@zera.oragirls](https://www.instagram.com/zera.oragirls)



TAKING A LOOK AT THE LATEST POKEMON SET

UK RELEASE DATE: 25TH FEBRUARY 2022

It's been a hectic couple of years for collectors with a new set release every 2 – 3 months. With the frequency and size of the sets, it's becoming a real challenge to keep up. I'll be taking a look at the newest set Brilliant Styles due to release in the UK on 25th February 2022.

Brilliant Stars is our first look at the new mechanic VSTAR within a non-promo English set. It's also our first-time seeing Character Rare cards make an appearance since Cosmic Eclipse back in November 2019.

After a successful Japanese release of VMAX Climax (December 2021) and Star Birth (January 2022), there are a lot of cards to look forward to from those sets that will be making an appearance in Brilliant Stars. I'm going to pick out some of my favourites from the set.

From a collector's point of view, the amazing artwork we've grown to expect from alternate arts is very present in Brilliant Stars. The Charizard V reminds me of the Japanese Promo Charizard EX from September 2016. Charizard looks very happy to finally have that rematch.



VSTAR cards evolve from the corresponding V card, have more HP as well as more powerful attacks. Their strength comes from having VSTAR power attacks or abilities which players can only use once match.

Ever since Pokemon Sun & Moon's Cosmic Eclipse first introduced us to English Character Rare cards, I've been an avid collector of this niche. After seeing the amazing artwork released in VMAX Climax, I couldn't wait to see how the Character Rares would carry over to Brilliant Stars and future sets. Here's a look at some of the Character Rare cards we can expect from Pokemon Brilliant Stars.



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