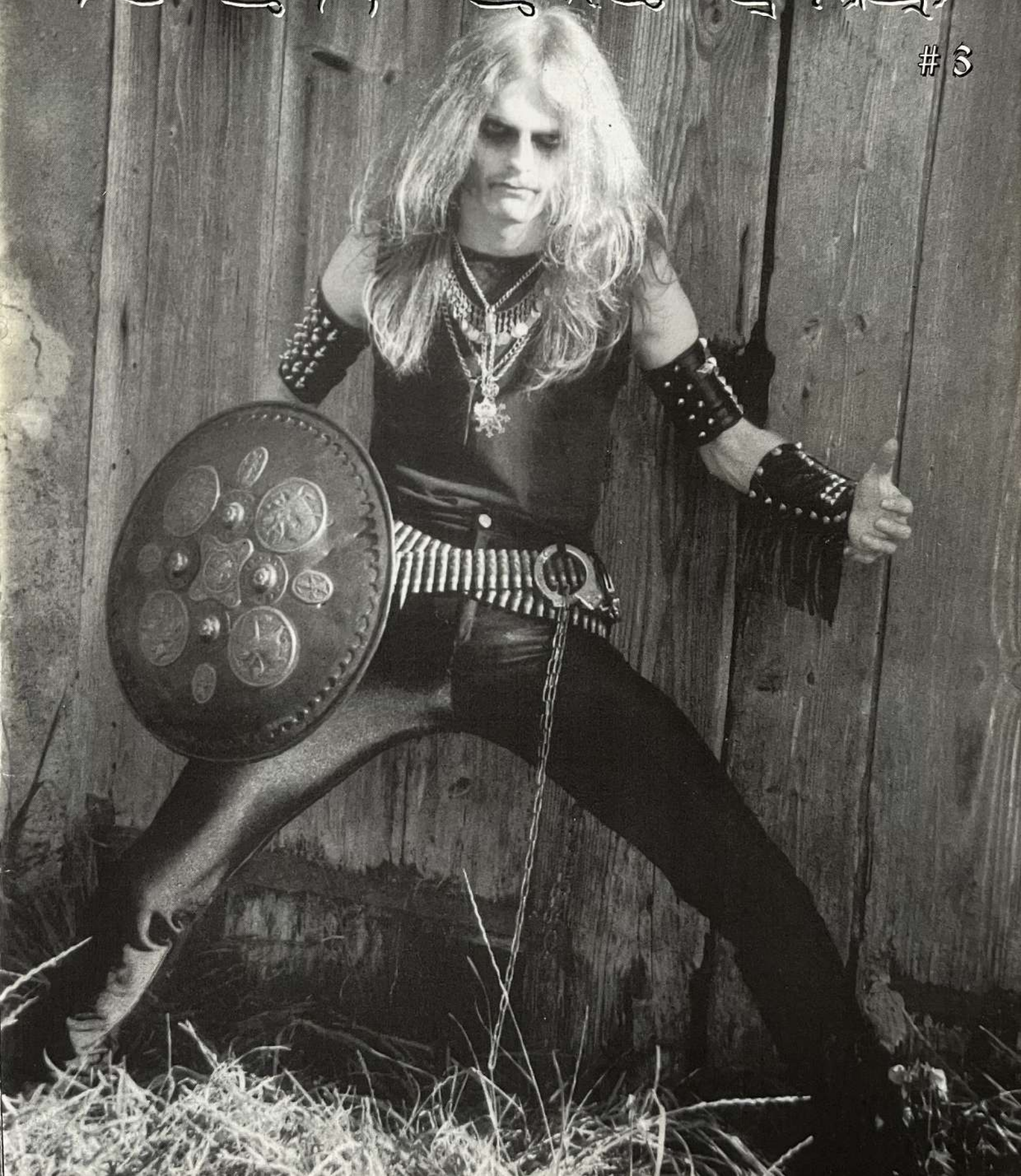


THE MAGAZINE OF THE BLACK METAL

3





The third of the storms has arrived...

...and I hope it will blow you away ! I don't want to bore you with too many words, so to make it short: Enjoy reading this issue and bang your head to the power of metal !!!

Cheers,
(...until issue four)

The editor

c/o Costa Stoios
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56812 Valwig / Mosel
Germany

(Please include IRC or \$ 1 for sure reply !!!)

Thanks and hello to the following creatures for their support: Everyone who has bought TALES OF THE MACABRE so far, Hübi ("Master of the Rasters"), Paul "Reaper" Watson, Frank Krynojewski ("Ride on the Wings of Sabbath"), Diabolical Slaughter (Usurper), Jane Black, King Wolle, Wicked Sado-Krötz, Opyros, Björn (Was machen die "Legions" ???), Lars, Jörg B., Christian Anderle, Infernal Kusch & Olli (Desaster), Svithjod, Kai S., Frank Stöver, Ian Harris (buy vinyl), "Necromayhem", Sami (Thy Serpent), Mörk, Blanca ("Sex, drinks and metal"), Zdenek, Ray, Diego Castro, etc. etc....

Sorry for those I might have forgotten (have mercy !!!).

Again I'd like to thank those bands/labels, who have sent me their stuff for review, etc., and thanks to the those individuals, who answered interviews/made suggestions for this issue.

Special thanks to: Russ Smith and Mark Mackey (you rule !), Eva Christ (part of layout) and Markus "Macky" Nick (for photos 'n' stuff)!!!

Thanks to all the distributors and especially private persons who helped me selling the magazines to the ones who were interested in it !!! Sorry for not listing the names, but there are too many...

But I certainly have to mention that Alan Gill (EUTHANASIA Distribution) has finally ripped me off as he still owes me money for 10 exemplars of my debutissue. Don't dare to face me, Alan !!! "Hell Chaosmaker" (from Clewone 'zine/Malaysia) has informed me that Nick Sia and Tommy Lim, who also run a label called "Dark Journey Records", are bootlegging CDs/demos and even zines. He's also told me that he has seen a xeroxed version of TALES OF THE MACABRE # 2 which got sold for \$ 7 (!!!). So be warned when those guys send out their lists and offer you any kind of stuff ! Such capitalistic assholes destroy our scene !!!!

The countries to where TALES OF THE MACABRE # 2 got sold...

Germany	304
Sweden	179
Finland	106
France	80
Norway	76
England	55
Austria	50
U.S.A.	47
Spain	32
Portugal	21
Australia	14
Singapore	10
Poland	7
Greece	6
Italy	5
Netherlands	5

Issue one is totally sold out, so please don't ask for it !!! About ten exemplars are only left of issue two, but if you are interested in it, please enclose an IRC for info first, ok ?

#2 includes 44 pages with stuff like **Cultus Sanguine, Asphyx, Summoning, Pazuzu, Burzum, Sigillum Diaboli, Sabaoth, Desaster, Aeternus, Mortis, Armoured Angel, Usurper, Cogumelo**, etc.

Three copies to: Malaysia, Paraguay and Belgium

Two copies to: Brazil, Switzerland, Colombia and Uruguay.

One copy to: Bolivia, Hungary, Russia, Japan, New Zealand, Thailand, Estonia, Mexico, Canada, Bulgaria, Ireland and Romania.

NEWS / UPDATE

Zephyrous (Gr.) will release their demo on CD format on IMPURE CREATIONS.

Satyricon's new guitarist is Nocturno Culto of **Darkthrone**, but I wonder if he is also going to join his new band when they go on European tour in April with **Dissection** and **Gorgoroth**.

Talking about **Gorgoroth**: Their second LP ("Dod") will be out when you read this. The only original member left is Infernus (g), but new members were found. New drummer now is Ex-**Immortal's** Erik.

Asphyx were declared as dead, but they rose from their grave to keep the death metal spirit alive. They will also tour in May with **Rotting Christ**, **Grave** and others.

German band **Ancient Ceremony** are almost ready to enter studio for their full length CD which should be entitled "Under the Moonlight we kiss". Expect some atmospheric melodic and guitarorientated death metal music.

A lot of things changed at the **Austrian Black Metal Syndicate: Summoning** are no longer member of this circle as they don't want to be in the same syndicate as **Trifixion**, their ex-drummer. This guy, although he once claimed to be anti-fascist, now plays (beside **Pervertum** and **Trifixion**) in **Werwolf** together with Michael Piesch of **LETHAL RECORDS**. This band's lyrics show some heavy fascistic tendencies, and some people say that **Trifixion** is only interested in making some quick bucks.... no matter with which kind of moral. The A.B.M.S. doesn't seem to be a strong union anyway, as there are bands permanently entering and leaving this circle. **Pervertum** lost their vocalist. **Pazuzu** is working on his new album, which should be out this year!

Coming back to **Summoning**: This Austrian duo is again busy with writing new songs for their third (!!!) album. 50% of the CD should already be finished, and it was told to me that their new stuff will be even more melodic than before. Expect some great stuff (once again).

The best Hellenic outfit **Rotting Christ** have left UNISOUND, because Mutilator and company weren't satisfied with their album's distribution. It seems as if the band has signed at CENTURY MEDIA now... By the way: Mutilator, the band's bassman, has opened a record store in Athens which should be dedicated to all kinds of metal. So if you are in Athens, then check it out !!!

Not only **Rotting Christ** have left UNISOUND but also **Mortuary Drape** kissed this label goodbye ! Those old Italian Black/Death Metallars now signed for a SplitCD (with **Sigh**) at SHIVADASHANA from Holland. But their next full-length album will be out on NAZGUL'S EYRIE PRODUCTIONS.

Melodic Black Metallars **Setherial** have released a CD on NAPALM Records as well as **Nastroid**. Irish **Primordial** also managed to release their LP/CD !

Sigillum Diaboli have changed their name into **Diaboli** for unknown reasons.

Norway's best death metal band **Aeternus** have released a MCD on a new Czech label (sorry, but I've forgotten the name).

Fans of exotic black/death metal the ruthless way listen up: SHIVADASHANA will release **Abhorer's** first full-length album !!! Also a full-length LP of **Impiety**, a band which features members of **Abhorer**, should be expected.

Gehenna have not only released their MCD "First Spell" (review see elsewhere), but also their first full-length LP/CD "Second Spell", which is the band's roughest but also most symphonic release so far !

Deaththrashers **Armoured Angel** entered the German stage as promised, but only for one gig unfortunately. However, I can't get rid of the feeling that most of you still haven't heard this Australian band yet, right ? Shame over you !!!

Those who are into **Hellhammer** can look forward to hear a band that is not only "in the vein" of those Swiss gods, but very **Hellhammer** (not **Celtic Frost**)- like. The band's name is still not known, but old Necromaniacs will recognize them when something will be released.

Martyrdom

"ESPECIALLY FOR THE OLD HEADBANGERS
AND THRASHERS"

After reading the sentence (which you can see above) on Martyrdom's A5 flyer, I really got interested in this Dutch band and I simply had to contact them, because there aren't too many bands around nowadays who have dedicated themselves to good old-fashioned black / thrash metal.

I was pretty excited when the band's second demotape "Sodomy and Crush" arrived in my mailbox... and I directly put it into my tape deck. Perhaps my expectations were a little bit too high, but in the beginning I wasn't too mad about Martyrdom's music... their style really sounded old-fashioned, but very unusual and strange, and I thought I would just review this demo for this issue, but not more. But as time went by I listened to it again and again, and I suddenly started to like this demo, ... it just took some time until I got used to this stuff.

To describe "Sodomy and Crush": It contains intro/outro, five own compositions and a cool coverversion of Venom's "Lady Lust". The demo itself is packed in a full-coloured cover with a picture, lyrics, etc. and looks pretty cool (except for the irritating cover). But coming to Martyrdom's music I've got to say that it is a mixture out of good 80s thrash and mainly Venom, sometimes a touch too simple but still cool. It has nothing to do with today's definition of black metal... songs like "Iron Thorns", "Return of the Bombs" and the title track carry typical 80s drum rhythms and guitar riffs, and even the vocalist uses a bit of his "own" voice (like Tom Araya, Cronos, Schmier, Warrior, etc. did... therefore they sound individual and are hard to copy). But especially the vocals were the most irritating element in Martyrdom's music when I listened to "Sodomy and Crush" the first time. René's voice sounds as if he wants to sound dirty and in the vein of Venom's Cronos, but it finally didn't work out too well. As already said, you'll (sooner or later) get used to it, but I have to say that there are some things to improve at the vocals. René "Cruelty" te Vogt introduces his attitude of the band as following: *I hate the whole trendy scene of today for normal discokids with 1000 shitbands like Biohazard etc., and all trendy death metal bands. I still live in the good old '80s when Metal was for real fans !!! That's one of the reasons why I started my one man band: Martyrdom!!! Especially for the old headbangers and thrashers! ... Alright, the history of the band: Before Martyrdom I played in other metalbands (1987: Frozen Hell, 1988: Bloody Aggression, 1989 Aggression, 1990 Obtruncation (all bands three members and dedicated to thrash), 1991 Obtruncation B.M., alone, black / thrash, and in 1992 Martyrdom, alone, thrash / black). In 1994 I released my first demotape "Blackstench" (sold out). All instruments were played by me. That's the reason why it turned out to be worse, but at the same time you can hear the old atmosphere and my influences of my youth: old Venom, Possessed, old Sodom, old Slayer, Destruction, etc. You've got to know that I'm sitting in a wheelchair... that's also a reason why my first tape was really bad. I hope that you don't hate it that I'm sitting in a wheelchair (Why should I? - ed.). Because "Blackstench"'s bad quality I used some persons from other bands to help me with the instruments on my second demo "Sodomy and Crush". Of course I wrote the songs for this tape again, because Martyrdom was and has to be a one-man band.' That's probably because "Cruelty" fears that anyone brings some modern influences into the band, ha ha. But anyway, I have great respect for René that he dedicates himself so much to metal although he is handicapped... I think that's a proof for me for how metal music can possess your bloody soul !!! Sorry that the photo quality isn't the best, but it's just the xeroxed picture from the flyer... it should give you a rough visual impression that Martyrdom look (and therefore also sound) different in comparisons to all those make-up wearing maniacs.*

Although Martyrdom's "Sodomy and Crush" demo isn't really a killer demo, I think that we should keep an eye on this "band" as it can probably grow to something more serious. I am waiting the follow-up for "Sodomy and Crush" and hope, that I am right with my prognoses! Those who are interested in "Sodomy and Crush" have to send \$8 (pretty expensive, René!) to the following address...

MARTYRDOM
René "Cruelty" te Vogt
Dankbaarsdijk 6
7152 EJ Eibergen
Holland

Martyrdom



Obsessed
by
"Cruelty"

ABIGAIL



Real metal quality from the land of the rising sun has always been pretty rare, and only a hand full of bands have got some international attention until now. But from the deepest underground of Tokyo a horde called **ABIGAIL** is getting stronger and stronger, and will probably soon be counted to Japan's leading forces. No, **ABIGAIL** aren't **King Diamond** clowns if anybody has wondered, they've just taken their bandname from the King's second album. These in spikes dressed three guys are nothing but a black metal band who like it very fast, primitive, and energetic !!!

After two more or less bad rehearsals demos ("Abigail" '92, "Blasphemy Night" '93) the first real convincing result was their in '94 released "Descending from a blackend sky", a five track 7inch which was picked up by quite a few and made the name spread around. I neither can't say that this band is original nor that they aren't joining any trends, but their simple music is cool, because of its raw and simple but effective structure... and that's what I like. The **ABIGAIL / Funeral Winds** Split CD is out on Colombian **WARMMASTER** since June, but I haven't heard it yet (where the hell is the vinyl version?), so I can't give you any details on that one. Some people say that their style sounds more ancient now... I wish this is true! Anyway, I got in touch with Yasuyuki, the band's chief, and of course I wanted to know what he thinks of their Split CD, especially of **Funeral Winds** who have often been accused of being fakes...! *Our split CD is out with Funeral Winds... They are good, but now I'm not in contact with them. WARMMASTER Records is a true underground label, and this release was very late, because they had money problems. I don't care... if you are interested in this Split CD, please send me \$ 20.* A proud price, this is another reason for me sticking to vinyl, it saves money! Yasuyuki (also known as "Barbatos") often mentions many (nearly forgotten) old bands as the influences for his simple music, so I wondered what is so fascinating at those old metal days? Yasuyuki again: *I'm influenced by old thrash / black metal bands, and I don't like complicated songs. Simple guitar riffs, fast drumming and heaviness, but I don't deny liking complicated songs. My favourite bands are Bulldozer, Sodom, N.M.E., Venom, Bathory. That's what got me into playing black metal, and I pursued similar cult bands.* If you really worship those old bands, then you can't be a 16-year old guy... all members of **ABIGAIL** are 24 years old if I have to believe them, but I think they don't look that old. But who cares? Lately I heard that they had the chance to play at a black metal gig, so I asked for details... Are there a lot of black metal fans in Japan by the way? ... *On 17th April 1995 we have played a gig with Sigh and Sabbath, it was great! Now black metal has become some popular music in Japan. Almost every fan used to ride a skateboard one year ago, ha ha, some Japanese trendbands as well!* Here you see the strength of music, how it can change personalities. Yasuyuki hadn't much to tell, perhaps he was a bit tired after rehearsing his fast songs or his job has suck all energy out of his body, we'll never know! At the end he added that **ABIGAIL** will probably change their style in future, but before this happens he wants to release their first full-length debut album called "Intercourse and Lust" in '96 if he manages to find a label until then. Let's just wait for the result and see if **ABIGAIL** deserve a place beside good Japanese bands like **Sigh**. But let's hope so...

Band contact: Barbatos, 59-7 Saiwai-Cho, Itabashi-Ku Tokyo 173, Japan

Do you like it old-fashioned when it comes to Black / Death Metal ? If yes, well, **Gospel of the Horns** from the land of kangaroos is probably something for you as they have some cool **Celtic Frost / Venom**- like guitariffs and rhythms included on their 4-song studiodemo "The Satanist's Dream". By mixing the old influences with modern black / death metal elements we can say that this band isn't just another outfit in the old vein as these four guys have created an original style. While the other four guys (with the instruments) were practising, Shane Transvaal D., the vocalist spent his time to do this interview with me...

First up I noticed that Side A is much stronger than the B-Side, am I the first person to tell you that? Why do the sides differ so strong from another?

You've made it hard for me to answer this question appropriately Costa as you have not made it clear as to what it is you mean by "side A is much stronger than side B". If you mean musically, then I disagree with you on that, but everyone is entitled to his / her own opinion (I enjoy the simple ancient sounding riffs and drumming of the A side - ed.) Of the two sides, I enjoy side B the most but overall, our newer material is far heavier and in turn, better, wait and see!

Let's hope that you are right with that. "Cold Endless Seasons of Darkness" and the titletrack sound quite ancient (VENOM meets FROST /HELLHAMMER and some thrash-elements), was this done on purpose ? Which bands have influenced "Hellbutcher" while writing the songs ?

Of course it was done on purpose, to sound like the way we do but once again, I disagree with you on the **Venom** part (...and what about the vocal part at the beginning of your second song and some of the drumrhythms ? -ed.). I can agree with the **Frost** and **Hellhammer** statement. It's not a manufactured sound we play, it is from our hearts, all of us with the exception of our drummer, **Vulture**, have grown-up listening to the older black metal bands, as well as older heavy metal and thrash bands. So, our sound reflects our taste in music. When pressed, **Hellbutcher** states he is not influenced by any bands but rather inspired by them, there is a vast difference between influenced and inspired. Those bands are: old **Blasphemy**, **Sodom**, **Piledriver** (the Norwegian or the old Canadian one ? -ed.), **Judas Priest** and the list goes on.

What has **GOSPEL OF THE HORNS** done before your demo was released ? And what has happened since the tape is out ?

The core of the band, **Paimon** and myself, formed this band over three years ago and have gone through a lot of line-ups to get the band as it stands today, (**Paimon** is now on Bass). Under a slightly different line-up we recorded a promo in MCMXCIV but it was never released. Since the demo was recorded, we have signed a deal for a MCD of the demo on **EINSTAND Records** of Italy (?? -ed.) and we are on the verge of signing for our debut LP / CD, titled at the moment: "Satanic Lust... the passion of the wicked".

There's never been such a big "poser" scene like the current "black metal" scene (beside the L.A. Glam scene of course), everyone's trying to be as evil as possible. What does "evil" mean to you, and how do you express this ?

Good question ! Evil to me means the darker side of my personality but I don't consider myself to evil as such, naturally I am a Satanist, so I lean towards all the darker things in life but I counter balance my feelings / emotions. In other words, I show both love and hate, there is no grey area in my emotions. How do I show my evil side, I really don't too often, if someone fucks with me, I'm going to strike out, but I prefer to stay in the dark in life, so I don't find much need to use my hatred all too often. I dislike the people who claim to be evil when in fact they're normal human beings, if there is such a thing ! I have no time for these insane fools but they are rather amusing, we may have many such people in our local scene, they're always good for a laugh.

What do you think is the main difference between the old black metal merchants and neo-black metal hordes ?

Intelligence !!! Though, not all newer black metal bands are low intelligence. And the same goes for the older black metal bands, they often only used satanism as a selling tool, take **Venom** for instance, a great band who I like and admire a lot, but lets face it, they were never truly what they claimed to be in their prime. Too many of the newer bands only play black metal now as they know it will sell due to it being the "flavour of the month" to use and old cliché (... and it's easier to play if you like it the old **Burzumic** way ! -ed.). In a year or two, they disappear and move onto the next trend or fade away altogether leaving no impact what-so-ever on the black metal scene. It happened to **Death Metal** and it will happen to black metal, only the true ones will survive and I know **Gospel of the Horns** will be there as our hearts are truly in it, it's not an image for us. Sure, I'm not saying we will be rich and famous, but that is not why we got into music in the first place.



Will there be more "ancient"-sounding songs in future or can't you say in which direction the new stuff will go?

"We will always be an older style sounding black metal band, as I've already stated, our music reflects our taste in music, so that is not going to change, perhaps we may "grow" as a band but essentially, we'll always remain an old style black metal band. Many assume that it is easy to play what we do, sure, it's not technical but it's from the heart and if it's not in your heart, it sounds false. It seems of late, there've been a few bands claiming to be influenced by the older bands but from what I've heard, it is not very obvious." **Australia's underground is getting stronger, but it never got too much international attention (also Australian thrash wasn't too famous although it was quite good).**

What do you think is the reason for this ?

Perhaps a continental problem ?

I think that is on the mend, a lot of great Australian bands are now starting to get noticed by the underground, which is very promising. Bands like **Sadistik Exekution**, **Armoured Angel** and **Hobbs' Angel of Death** have been known overseas now for a while but bands such as ourselves, **Bestial Warlust**, **Abyssic Hate** (they've signed to **HEAD NOT FOUND**), and **Samhain** are really getting noticed and all of us have or are about to release CDs, so that can only build a stronger scene here in our country. Our main problem is that we are situated quite far from Europe and we are not really able to play live there and promote ourselves more, but that's life, heh !

I would not leave this country for the life of me to advance my musical career !

Do you care about the Australian scene ?

"Fucking oath I do !!! No one likes shit in their backyard ! I keep an eye on the scene here to listen for up- and- coming bands and for shit ones. I am now a part of a **Black Metal Front** with some other members of black metal bands. I stress that we

are not a clown of the Norse Black Metal Circle, we don't "rule" other bands, we just help and promote the better bands and don't even worry or care about the ones we consider to be shit. We are no rulers and we don't intimidate non- black metal bands or such. As for the Australian black metal bands I recommend, they are: **Bestial Warlust**, **Destroyer 666**, **Abyssic Hate**, **Samhain**, **Spear of Longinus** (superfluous ! -ed), **Infinite Black** and **Oracle of the Void**. If anyone wishes to know more about any of these bands, write to me with an IRC. Do you have any imagination of how a perfect black/death metal show must look like ? How would your show look like if you had enough money to realize all your plans ?

"Well, the perfect line-up would be **Celtic Frost**, **Sodom**, **Kreator**, **Bathory**, **Venom** (all in their prime, mid'80s) as well as **Rotting Christ**, **Order From Chaos**, **Samhain** and **Gospel of the Horns**, this would take place in outside festival. For our own show, I'd like to have a huge back drop, 100's of candles, smoke, two half naked females at each side of the stages and tons of blood. We're working on it. I'd personally like to have a huge screen showing wild pictures of sex and violence. Ha ! Ha !

What do you think of **HOBBS' ANGEL OF DEATH's** return (on the album market) ?

"I haven't as yet heard their new CD, so I can't say what I think of their newer material, but it will be hard for them to top their classic first LP ! It's good to see **Hobbs** back again though."

Absolutely, and I'm very excited to hear their new album, too. Any chances for the fans to get rid of their cash at your address?

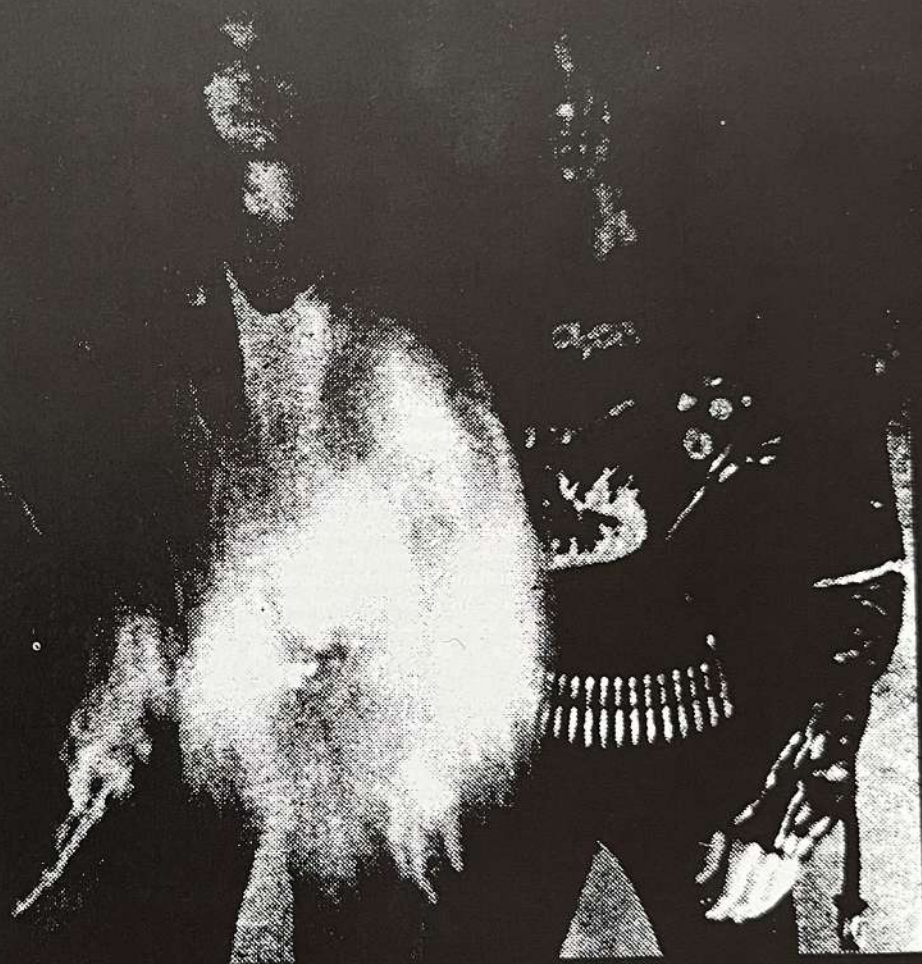
Plenty ! The demo is almost sold out, so hurry if you want a copy. It costs \$6 and if any orders do come after it is sold out, I'll tape it for them with our latest promo that will not be officially released. Write for info on our MCD and upcoming LP / CD, if you can, please include an IRC, you'll get a much quicker reply. Shirts out soon, too !

G.O.T.H., P.O. Box 244, Kedron Q 4031, Australia, PH: +617-857-2293

THE TRUE MAYHEM

When it comes to responsibility for the 90s Black / Death Metal renaissance, one of the most important bands has to be MAYHEM. Their influences (spiritually and musically) on the entire scene are easy to recognise, and it is no secret that the deaths of both Dead and Euronymous made MAYHEM one of the most extreme bands in the history of music ever. Many people thought that "De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas", one of the darkest albums ever made, was destined to be the first but also last MAYHEM studio album, but they seem to be wrong.

"Hellhammer" (d) has managed to keep the band alive with the return of the old members "Maniac" (v), "Necrobutcher" (b) and a new guitarist. Of course there are a lot of questions to ask now as a new chapter has begun, so see what Hellhammer has to say...



First up please tell the readers how it came to 'reform' MAYHEM again and if it was difficult to assemble the old members 'Maniac' and 'Necrobutcher'? What were they doing before they joined again?

'Well, I would not exactly call it a "reform", because Mayhem were never splitted up after Euronymous' death. The plan was to continue only using Blackthorne on guitar. But what we hoped to be a one-year sentence for him actually turned out to be a nine-years imprisonment, so we quickly dropped that.'

'Anyway, I had asked Necrobutcher and Maniac before and they were totally into it. It's especially great to have Necrobutcher back in the ranks, because he actually formed the band in the beginning of 1984.'

Some people are very sceptical about reforming MAYHEM as they say that 'Euronymous was MAYHEM' and stuff like that as he did compose most of the music, but what's your opinion about such kind of thinking? Some people think you are doing this only to make some quick bucks...

'Oh yes, I heard it all before. Earlier, when Euronymous was around it was like "No Mayhem without Dead", "No Mayhem without Necrobutcher and Maniac", "Mayhem have not done anything in five years, so they're dead". I even remember me and Euronymous had a good laugh when we read in a zine "Mayhem (R.I.P.)". Well, about the

quote "Euronymous was Mayhem": What do you think Euronymous could accomplish all by himself? There would be no "Deathcrush", no "Live in Leipzig" and certainly no "De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas" where, for instance, I wrote half of the music. Mayhem was never one person, it was a concept...and still is. A lifestyle as well as a band. But I'm very much aware of those people, and the fact is that most of them not even knew Euronymous or Dead at all. So they can shut the fuck up!

Rumours say that you signed at german CENTURY MEDIA records....

'No, we have not signed to any label. CENTURY BLACK is only distributing "De Mysteriis..." under license from VOICES OF WONDER.' Relating to some letters it seems that the development of the 'new' MAYHEM goes very well, but what about new songs? Euronymous once said that he has a lot of new songmaterial written for the follow-up for 'De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas' LP...so do you know those riffs and (if yes) will you use it? Who's now taking care of songwriting by the way?

'I know that Blackthorne and Euronymous made some music together for a very short period of time, but for me they are lost and gone now. I asked Blackthorne in jail if he remembered how it sounded like, but according to him, it was only him that has written it.



Oh well, that's not really important, because I have heard that Thorns has been formed again behind the prison walls together with Faust, and I do understand that it might be very hard to gain inspiration musically while staring at a prison wall. Anyway, I wish them the best of luck. About songwriting: Mayhem as a unit will take care of that. Please tell me something about new MAYHEM material, and what kind of direction it is (please give me some songtitles if there are). Will you continue to play incredibly fast?

The new Mayhem material will speak for itself. I will continue to play incredibly fast, as you call it, and, musicwise it will be go in a more brutal and blacker direction. Most bands here in Norway are changing to a softer direction (except for Immortal and Darkthrone) and would probably end up playing sweet pop metal or something. Of course that will never happen to Mayhem as we are the true Black Metal band! Let the others follow the trend and become hopeless mellow shadows!

Talking about 'De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas': To me it's the best album from Norway so far, but a lot of people have problems with Attila's kind of vocals. Why didn't you use a 'usual' black metal vocalist (in the typical 'Quorthon-Rip-Off' vein)? Was it a part of the 'Anti-Trend' concept at MAYHEM?

If it was, it was only natural. You see, we don't follow any "Anti-trends". The reason for using Attila was only one, his voice. And for that reason he did not become a permanent member. About a lot of people having problems with the vocals: Why the hell should I bother? Whose idea was it to choose Attila as the vocalist for the album? Was 'Euronymous' a kind of dictator in MAYHEM or was he open for the other members' ideas?

It was me and Euronymous who decided to use Attila. I would not say that Euronymous was a sort of dictator. Although his kind of



selfishment annoyed us sometimes. But then again, perhaps our selfishment annoyed him also. But the fact is that Mayhem's ideas made a great impact, whether coming from me or Euronymous. Now Maniac is again MAYHEM's singer, but in old interviews it was said that Attila wanted to move to Norway in order to join MAYHEM as a permanent member! What went wrong (except for the death of Euronymous)?

He wanted to at first, but that did not last long. Nothing at all went wrong.

You have a very unknown but talented guitarist now namely Rune Eriksen, so could you please tell me something about him? How did you finally know that he would be the right person to do the guitars for your band?

Some years ago me and Rune Eriksen had some kind of a project band going on. It went nowhere fast, but we stayed in touch over the years. Concerning Mayhem, we did not want a wellknown guitarist to replace Euronymous. First, if we were to choose a wellknown prominent guitarist from a wellknown band, that guitarist would automatically bring some of his old band's trademarks into Mayhem. I did not want that to happen (good attitude! - ed.). Anyway, Rune Eriksen is just the right man for the job. It's just the way it is. What differs MAYHEM 1993 from today's MAYHEM (musically)? How does Maniac's voice sound nowadays?

Apart from obvious reasons, at the present day Mayhem sounds musically power, more brutal and faster than before. Maniac's voice is sounding just as cruel and highend as it did in 1987, but with more finesses.

What do you think of the 'Dawn Of The Black Hearts' Bootleg? You must be at least satisfied with the coverartwork as you originally wanted to use them for 'De Mysteriis...', right?

What's annoying me about all those bootlegs flying around is that totally uneducated bizniz-minded punks doing profits with our name. Dead's picture on the cover sure doesn't justify anything!

Beside that bootleg there's also a split record featuring MORBID / MAYHEM available (I think the edition is now very high as this LP/CD finally got repressed)...and I guess you're not happy with this release, are you? What would be the consequences for you to stop this bootlegjobs? Also I lately noticed that some bootlegshirts ('Deathcrush', 'Logo', etc...) are hitting the distro-lists, too,....

Well, what can I do about it? Apart from beating up the guilty ones if I ever meet them eye to eye. There's nothing much you can do, annoying as it is.

There are a lot of norwegian bands who behave like 'kings' after getting a bit of success, and they really enjoy when young kids follow them blind, but what do you think about young norwegian bands who behave very arrogantly? Do you care about Norway's scene at all?

I do not care about any scene.

You now joined forces at IMMORTAL to help them solving their drummer problems, but you are only in as a session drummer, aren't you? Is it difficult for you to dig into other bands' music, and how much time did it take you to play the IMMORTAL songs very well?

Immortal's songs came very natural to me. The drum structure is really very simple, but the speed, well, that's another thing. When every song is going as it is on "Battles in the North", playing live can be sort of, well, physically demanding. And my job in Immortal now is permanent.

Isn't it difficult for you to be in several bands? I mean, learning all the IMMORTAL songs and joining them on tour, rehearsing in Bergen, ...playing in your main band MAYHEM, but also being drummer of ARCTURUS? How much time do you spend into music in one day?

You must be 100% dedicated to what you do. Yes, I have three bands going on, but as different as the music is it satisfies me 90%. The last 10% goes to other music forms.

You're also trying to create your own label as you like to release some TORMENTOR songs, right? Are there any concrete plans for it and will you probably sign more bands in future?

No no, Samoth of Emperor is doing all that. I have nothing to do with this. I only handed Samoth the Tormentor advance.

On a MAYHEM rehearsaltape I noticed that you made a coverversion of CELTIC FROST's 'Into The Crypts Of Rays', but in a hellish fast version... Why did you choose to play especially that song and will you record it for an album?

That particular rehearsaltape is from before I joined (pre 1988). We have no plans to release that track. What we have done is that we recorded another Celtic Frost track called "Visual Aggression" to appear on a Celtic Frost -tribute CD from DWELL Records U.S.!

'Hellhammer' is definitely a great name for a drummer....whose idea was it to choose this name and was it because of the band 'HELLHAMMER'?

It was, yes, and when I joined Mayhem I found out that it's a shame that this particular name should vanish, so I quickly adopted it.

Besides Celtic Frost and Hellhammer are two of my absolute fave bands.'

It's no secret that you are one of the top drummer in the black / death metal scene, but do you have any favoured drummers you worship and you still are able to learn from (not only from the metal scene) ?

'Flattery is my weakness, hah. I Well, I can learn something from every drummer, regardless of the style he (or even she) plays. As I've said before Iron Maiden's Nicko McBrain is my all time fave. I've learned nearly as much watching and listening to him as I have from any teacher I've had.'

A question that might interest many young drummers: What kind of equipment do you use ?

'I use a Pearl CZX custom kit. Its 2, 22"x 18" bass drums. The toms are 8"x 8" - 10"x 10" - 12"x 12" - 13"x 13" - 14"x 14" - 16" x 16" and an additional 13" x 13" tom. A Grass 8" x 14" free floating snare, and some speciality snares. My cymbals are mostly Sabian.

A quick vadowan: 13" Fusionhats, 13" AAX Fusionhats, 14" Regularhats, 8" AA Splash, 10" HH Splash, 12" AAX Metal Splash, 16" HH Medium Crash, 16" HH Leopard Crash (x 2), 22" HH Leopard Ride, 14" AAX Minichinese, 18" Crash/Ride and 15" Crash, both from the handhammered double dragon series.

Pearl's hardware and DW Accelerator Pedals.'

Wow, a very detailed answer indeed, now all you young drummers know how the hammers of hell are built. A stupid question, but it really interests me: If bands like MANOWAR or SLAYER would ask you to join them, would you agree ? Do you have any fave bands you would love to play in (beside MAYHEM of course) ?

'No, I dont think so, because neighter band you mentioned have, or share my point of view. To work 100% in a band it has to be more to fit than just music.'

Your prognoses for the future of black / death / heavy metal music (if you have some slight ideas / imaginations) ?

'Really impossible to say !'

Do you still care about 'the true' underground which has often been discussed in the past couple of years ? By the way...do you still call your band 'the true' MAYHEM after those american MAYHEM ceased to exist ?

'We still are "the true Mayhem" !'

Dead's lyrics have always been very individual and well-done, but who's now going to take care about writing lyrics ? Are there still some unused lyrics by Dead available? How important are lyrics for you?

'To me, lyrics are not that important, but of course, if the music is ok and the lyrics suck, it is very obvious that the whole thing sucks. Maniac is now taking care of the lyrics, they're very much in the same vein as Dead's. Just as dark, in fact I'm very pleased with his lyrics for Mayhem. No lyrics of Dead are still unused.'

The frontcover of 'De Mysteriis...' shows the dome of Trondheim (the dome that Grishnackh wanted to blow as rumours said) ...Who was responsible for choosing this motif and why ?

'Mainly Euronymous. He wanted another picture at first, but later we all decided the one we used for "De Mysteriis...". The motive showcases our music, dark monumental and mysterious !'

To what kind of bands/music do you like to listen to when you're on your lonesome ? What is the most important thing for you in music : Technical abilities, intensity or just the whole heaviness /atmosphere ?

'It depends, not so much technical abilities as atmosphere is more important. In fact there are very few bands I like nowadays.'

Ok, to end this interview abruptly you simply can say some last words to all the sceptical ignorants who still think that MAYHEM's glorious age is over :

'Think again - losers !'

We'll see if Hellhammer's words will turn into reality or if the ignorants were right with their opinion, but I wish the band best of luck and I hope that they won't change the old attitude !!!!



KAWIR



'Atmospheric Black Metal based on ancient Greek cult and mythology' says the advert for KAWIR's 'Emmenides' 7"EP, and it's a good description for their style. Some of you probably know KAWIR from their split 7"EP with Japanese SIGH, but those you haven't heard of this Greek force should expect typical Greek sounding stuff which slips quite easily into your ears. If you don't like 7"inch releases, then this problem will soon be solved as KAWIR are just about to release their first CD...

...Well, our MCD / LP will be out in the beginning of 96 and it will contain five tracks (including ancient Greek hymns). A few titles are 'Ermis', 'Kabeipoi', 'Kathodos'... all the tracks will be written in ancient Greek lyrics and we are also thinking to change our name to ancient Greek Kawir - Kabeipoi. About the label we're closed to DARK SIDE Records.

Greek bands mostly follow the musical path of ROTTING CHRIST and all their sidebands, and so does KAWIR. Is this within your blood or is it because of ROTTING CHRIST's statues in Greece which forces you to work similar ?

'I think it's in our blood and that's why the greek scene is totally different from all the other ones.'

It's obvious that you're fascinated by Greece's ancient mythology, is it just because you of greek origin or do you think that ancient Greece has more to offer than other countries' mythologies ?

'First of all, I want to tell you that Kawir is a religious band, we are writing about our beliefs. All the members of Kawir worship the Hellenic Gods, the gods of light and darkness, Zeus the all-seeing. I also want to inform you that we send all the needed papers to European Community for a permission to re-open our temples, not as sight seeing attractions, but as they really are, holy places of worship. This of course means war with the Christians and we are ready. We want our gods back, I don't care about the others.'

You seem to take it very serious ! Do you think that the ancient spirit is still existing in Greece ? To me it seems as if the old values disappear...

'The old values disappeared because the Christians destroyed and killed our beliefs. However, now I see a small flame in darkness. Just wait for a few years...'

How came KAWIR into being ? And how was your music during the first time of your existence ?

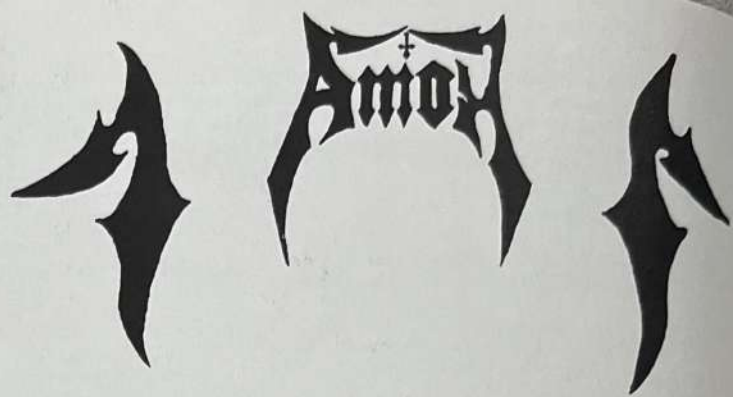
'I created Kawir in 1993. In the beginning I was working with session members, so we had no rehearsals or anything, because when I was ready to record they would just come to the studio and record. Now however, in 1995, we are a full membered band and there is a great possibility to do a few gigs after the release of our MCD / LP.' Why do you think is the greek sound so different from the middel- and north european one ?

'Most of the time, the sound of greek bands is the same because we don't have many studios and there are no choices. However, the result is pretty good, considering the available means.'

KAWIR
P.O. BOX 31232



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GREECE



If you thought that **MASTER'S HAMMER** is the only great metal force from Czech Republic, then you are wrong. Bands like **ROCC**, **TORR** and **AMON** are of course not as famous as Franta's band, but they are worth being checked out by all you headbangers, because all these bands have an own identity and bring us real dark music.

Let's take **AMON** as example: Formed in 1989, they've released three demos so far ("Realm of Evil" '90, "Book of Death" '91, "Call Thy Master" '92, all tapes have at least 7 songs included) and a six-song live-tape ("Alive in Hell") which was released some months ago. Their style is a sort of brutal dark death metal with deep rough sung (not puked !!!) vocals, and the coolest thing on "Call Thy Master" is that **ROCC**'s vocalist "Big Boss" does some great backing vocals which sound fuckin' amazing (especially when they are sung). The lyrics seem to be written in Czech language, and this sounds pretty good, even if I don't understand anything. Although the **AMON** guys have some difficulties with the English language, I managed to get an interview with bandleader and vocalist Robin "Br. Fe" Frcmár..



Why did it take you three years until you finally have released your fourth demo "Alive In Hell"? What all has happened at AMON during those three years?

'After the release of "Call Thy Master" it went a bit wrong with my band, because the bassist, Beauty Schmidt, was interested in his own project **Pink Chubby Cigar** (that's by the way a shitty name, isn't it? Why does somebody want to call his band "Cock"?) and he was completely absent because of the Seattle Grunge shit. His shitty clothes like for example a lila short trouser on stage made me tired, he left **Amon** on his own, so I needn't fire him. Therefore we looked for a bassist, plus our drummer had to join the army. After that we had about three different drummers, but nobody took their playing seriously. Last year Fan Medek has joined us as new bassist and Karl returned from the army. We wanted to record the "new" songs in Sommer'94, the studio date was already booked, etc., but then some personal problems appeared (divorce, than a suicide attempt, etc.) and everything went down the toilet. Everything was complicated for me, I had to move, I had no money, was permanently drunk and without work. This lasted until spring '85. I was the one to blame partly, but I was totally K.O. and I had no will to play or to do anything back then. Now I am already ok, I live alone, I have work and we play again, now and then. But back then I thought that my band and I were totally destroyed..'

AMON is not a new black metal band anymore as you are active since 1989, but you didn't manage to release an album yet. What is the reason for this? Didn't you really get any offers from record companies until now?

'Here in Czech Republik no company has interest in us. But Opyros from N.E.P. has contacted me and the "Call Thy Master" sessions should be out on CD soon, better said a split CD together with **Mortuary Drape** (Well, this was planned, but **Mortuary Drape** signed at **SHIVADARSHANA** for doing the split CD, see News section page 2 in this magazine, -cd.). We have the new already finished and N.E.P. want to make a full-length CD with us, next year. Czech labels have a strange policy in this sector, they only want bands which have released something before already, no newcomers. Well, it is really strange, but that's the way... Another problem here is that nobody wants to release Black Metal.'

Do you at least have any ideas for a LP / CD? If yes, what kind of ideas are these?

'For the CD we have made a concept story in the length of circa 25 minutes, and in addition to that some songs. It will be called "The Worship", it is a story of the medieval age, about shitty monks, etc. This consists of three songs, "The Worship", "Confrontation" and "In Love with Satan", these lyrics were written by one of my friends. To this I have made two songs, "Hell's Angels" and "Black Work", and now Lava, our axeman, has done one further song, with lyrics from me called "Zidák Knež", it's about a jewish priest. Well well, it will probably be interesting.'

You started with AMON before Black Metal became a big trend. What do you think of most of the new black metal bands? Do you take them seriously? Which ones belong to the strongest / weakest?

'Some mean it honestly, but for most people this is only a trendy thing. You know, here in Czech Republic especially a lot of young fans love Count Grishnackh and **Burzum**... Grishnackh is an idol and martyr for them, but nobody wants to know that the Count is an asshole... Well, his music is another thing, I know. By the way, I myself listen to **Burzum** at times, too... I better don't comment to the last part of your question, better not..'

How did the international Black Metal trend affect the Czech Republik? How is the development in your country?

'Ha ha, everyone loves **Burzum**... Development in Czech Republik? Hcy, we are still

a developing country, and in the musical sector this counts twice. People here, I mean the majority, don't buy demotapes from bands from outside, because the haven't the necessary money for it. Plus they don't know the foreign language, so I only know a couple of fans who write to addresses all over the world and collect tapes and CDs. Bands like **Countess**, **Barathrum**, **Cruachan**, I don't mean just the N.E.P. products but other ones, too, are totally unknown here and I believe that people here don't know any other bands but **Slayer**, **Sepultura** and **Burzum**. They are very conservative... In the last years they don't go to concerts, they prefer to sit drunk in bars or at home in front of the TV. I have a bad opinion about Czech fans, that's right.'

You used to be ROCC's vocalist in the late 80s, but you left them and formed AMON instead. What was the reason to leave ROCC and to form a band like AMON?

'Ha ha, I didn't leave **Root**. I was fired by **Big Boss**. Back then it really hurt me much, but it is good so. I want to go my own way. **Big Boss** is certainly a good guy and my friend, but on the other side he's a big tormentor and dictator in the band. **Root**, that is **HIM**, not the three others who are just statistas on stage. But he makes it very good, that's true. We see each other here and then in the bar, or when we played anywhere, and we don't talk about the past. My anger is already gone, ha ha, but back then I was really nevered by this thing.'

I suppose that your relationship to ROCC is quite good as "Big Boss" has finally done some vocalparts for AMON songs. Isn't there any competition-thoughts between both bands, and doesn't it make you a bit sad that ROCC has already made three albums while you are still in your demostatus?

'No, I'm not sad because of this. I only hope that our time will still come. You know, everything took very long time for me, no matter if it was the driver's license, the marriage or the first child, and I know that I have to wait for my first CD, too. I take it like this, we can say that we have a world wide status in the demo sector, and I'm happy about this. I am a modest undemanding human being. And my statistas in the band, too, ha ha..'

Why is ROCC such an isolated band? Don't they want international success?

'Well, this you have to ask at another address. **Big Boss** knows this better than me. By the way, could we talk about other things?

Yes, let's get back to AMON: What was the reason for you to play Black Metal? Which was the first black metal band you heard and liked?

'I have heard **Venom** for the first time in the early 80s. It was a bit faster than classical heavy metal, but very simple and rough. And in addition the lyrics, I always like things about death, Satan, darkness, etc., the books, movies and everything else. I have listened to **Black Sabbath** a lot back then, nowadays I do as well I have to say, and I was fascinated by songs like "Black Sabbath" and "Electric Funeral", etc., and when **Venom** came out I have collected their stuff from the very beginning. Their last records weren't that good as the old ones anymore, but this is of course another thing. Further bands which I like are **Celtic Frost**, better said **Frost** at **Hellhammer** ages.'

Has AMON ever played outside the Czech Republik? Please tell us something about your livephotos!

'No, we have only played in our country in have to admit, and we play only seldomly, about once in a month. Our livegigs are nothing special, I think, and they are a bit chaotic. But it depends on the chaotic organisation of livegigs here in Czech Republik. I noticed that your drummer is missing on the photo... was he just ill during the photo-session or has he left AMON?

'When we did this photo Karl has just been in the army. It only shows the core !!!

MASTER'S HAMMER is the most popular Czech band on the international market, but how is this in Czech Republic itself? Which are the leading / most popular bands?

Well, Master's Hammer don't play since quite a while, but I've heard that they are again doing some new material and are wanting to release a new CD in a foreign country. But here they are a bit dead I think. Of course they continue to live in the hearts of the black metal fans, but it is more like a legend, a mythos one could say.

Which changes have been coming up for the Czech metalscene since the communistic system belongs to the past? What has especially changed for **AEMON**?

Well, there are again problems with live-gigs through the church, etc. In times of the communistic era the situation was a bit different, I now say "better", ha ha, it sounds a bit strange now, but it is like this: Black Metal bands and everything like for example sects of Satan, rituals, etc. were prohibited. And what was prohibited was very interesting for fans and people who listened to metal back then. In those times there were 10 times as much people coming to the gigs in comparison with nowadays, because it was PROHIBITED. But on the other side there were some bad things, like for example the police visits at concerts, sometimes also at home, sometimes we had to go to the police office after a gig, I mean the criminal investigation department, well, it was a shitty time. Big Boss and I had always trouble with the police although we didn't anything... It was a school of life, I myself see this in this way today... Nowadays the fans are too lazy and too many fans are now interested in other musical directions like the Seattle-shit. Well, these fans weren't probably faithful black metal fans, only posers. And to the other question: Now we play even more seldomly than in the past, back then we have played about three times a month.

What kind of problems do you have with the christians because of your satanic / antichristian music? How strong is the church in your country?

Church in Czech Republic permanently causes problems. In Slovakia the situation is even worse as here, the pigs have prohibited a **Black Sabbath** concert in Bratislava, because **Black Sabbath** are a "satanic" band, ha ha ha. Tony Iommi and co. have invited the shitty bishop of Bratislava to the gig, personally I have to say, but he has refused this offer. Now the trend is a lot of fact articles about satanism in magazines and newspapers, but all deal with human sacrifices, drinking blood, murdered babies, etc. Ha ha, really interesting! Also Big Boss was on Czech TV a couple of times, and they talked about all those things, he has of course always said that this is NOT true, this shitty superstition, but it didn't help.

How do you manage it financially to keep a band like **AEMON** alive?

We all do work, therefore we haven't got any problems with this. Larva (guitar) is an electrician, his brother Karl works as a carpenter, I drive with a dustbin lorry and only our bassplayer is without work. He used to work as a bakerman. In this time it is impossible without a job, working is not really my hobby, but what can we do? The economic situation here in Czech Republic is worse.

For all readers who don't know **AEMON** yet, I want you, Roby, to explain them what they should expect when the name **AEMON** appears!

Ha ha, a piece of chaos, a piece of black metal music, but in a more interesting form. At least fans who know us always say this...! Hail Satan!



J.C. AEMON
"Dr. He" Robin Arcmár
Pošte Restante
602 00 Brno
Czech Republic

Robin "Dr. He" live on stage



Monaco is famous to be a place for rich bastards who don't want to pay too many taxes, but not for any kind of metal bands. So it's the first time I heard about a metallic force when the (quite stupid) name **Godkiller** crossed my eyes. It's a one man black metal band founded 1993, and their second demo "The Warlord", which includes 23 minutes of "total medieval holocaust - fast, epic and hateful" (to state their flyer), really satisfied my ears. Although this isn't a very famous band (yet), there are already rumours circulating that a full-length album will appear on French Embassy Records, and of course I had to ask "Duke Satancl", so the pseudonym of the guy behind **Godkiller**, if this rumour is true... I'm quite suprised you've heard about that. Anyway, yes, it is one of the proposals I've got, and one of the most interesting ones. Embassy Productions is a superior label. But there is also **Wounded Love** on which I should release a MCD scheduled for the beginning of 1996. So, whatever my choice is: Await soon the most cruel, the most destructive and most slaughter of **Godkiller**. Hail Satan! We'll see how cruel, destructive and slaughter-like it will be... but "The Warlord" was indeed a good messenger of good Black Metal in the Norwegian vein. And that brings me to my second question... **Godkiller** seems to be heavily influenced by Norwegian bands, the vocals are very **Burzum**-like as well as parts of the music, other parts remind me at **Enslaved** and **Satyricon**, etc... and with "Bren det Hvite Riket" there's even one song included with Norwegian lyrics. But isn't it a bit stupid to hail from Monaco, but sounding totally Norse? Duke Satancl: No, I'M NOT "totally" influenced by Norwegian. Yes, I have a song with Norwegian lyrics, and I regret having done this because it has been misunderstood. It was a kind of tribute to the whole old Scandinavian Black Metal scene with bands like **Bathory**, the true **Mayhem**... I didn't want to sing in another language just to sing in another language, nor I wanted to look like a Norwegian band, like most of the worms have believed it (I still believe it! -ed). Hailing from Monaco means nothing. Monaco is not a Black Metal place. What a lot of people don't understand is that the Black Metal sound comes mostly from **Bathory** (I mean shrill guitars, screaming voice...). It is a tradition, a CULT. So, it's not because the Norwegian keep this tradition alive, **Bchmoth** keeps this tradition alive as well as **Abigor**... but we are not sounding "Norwegian", we are sounding like **Bathory**, like the Norwegian bands are sounding like **Bathory**. I mean, ok, Greek bands don't have the so called "Norwegian" sound, but Greek bands are NOT black metal. They don't respect the tradition. My sound is influenced by **Bathory** and that's all. No more to say about this. Well well, I don't agree with him on most of his points of view... **Godkiller**'s music sounds more Norwegian than like **Bathory**, even if those Norwegian bands have some **Bathory**-roots in their music. But what finally matters (as always) is the musical quality, and **Godkiller** play their stuff very well, although it totally lacks of originality. But will **Godkiller** ever be continued as a one man act? Aren't there any good metal musicians around in Monaco? Duke Satancl again: **Godkiller** is, must be, and will be the word of only one Satan's soul. No one can step over the gate of the Kingdom of **Godkiller**. I, Duke Satancl, I am the godkiller. No one else has a place in me. I am **Godkiller**. I am Evil, I am 666. He seems to be the true incarnation of the lord of the abyss (...)! Anyway, if you are still hungry for well played and produced Medieval Black Metal in the Norwegian vein, then you shouldn't miss **Godkiller**'s "The Warlord", even if \$7 is not a cheap price! The tape comes with a good looking professional cover and a good sound... **GODKILLER**, c/o Benjamin Labarrere, 5 rue des Lilas, MC 98000 Monaco.

NO LOVE NO FUN NO TREAD NO PEACE NO LIFE



DARK REALM RECORDS
8133 FIRESTONE BLVD
DOWNEY, CA 90241
(310)923 -2599

Honesty finally pays out! **Sadistic Intent** has been a cool death metal underground act in the past with their "Impending Doom" **MCD** and the "Calm before the Storm" 7" inch, But when "Black Metal" really got big, this sadistic horde stroke with their deathliest release so far, a **MCD** called "Resurrection" which is nothing but a masterful manifest of dark death metal! Meanwhile the band are loading their weapons to strike with their very first full-length album "Second coming...of Darkness"!

Bay, first up please tell us something about the Mexican tour you did... any cool or shitty experiences?

'Apparently things did not go as planned, the bands that were originally supposed to go either flaked out or were unable to go for one reason or another. All I know is that **Sadistic Intent** went and spread the darkness to our Mexican bloodbrothers. The crowds in Mexico were brutal! They would raise their hands in the shape of claws as we performed. They are more into the dark lifestyle and are very dedicated to the underground scene. We played around with **Hexenhaus** (featuring Black Massith Ex-Synthesizers and effects for **Absu**), and a couple of other bands. We got along quite well with everyone. Basically it was one big party throughout the country of Mexico. As we consumed lots of alcohol and marijuana. Overall we had an enjoyable time down there.'

Your "Resurrection" MCD has really been a spectacular return of dark death metal the sadistic way, and you've got a lot of support because of this, didn't you? Did it finally pay out for you being not black metal like most of the other former death metal bands?

'Yes, things seem to be going great these days. We have gotten a lot of support and respect from the die-hards, especially those who have been involved for a few years now and can see the difference in extreme music. There are many black metallers of today that are ex-death metallers, so I don't understand all the shit talking. Or perhaps it's just all the newcomers who never got to experience the legendary era of the ancient ones. The thought of turning black never crossed our minds. We have been playing this style for years now and are not about to change just because it is the "in thing" right now. I don't care if we are the last ones on this fucking planet.'

"Second coming...of darkness", your upcoming CD (LP?), is in preperation, so how is that album going to sound, especially in comparison to "Resurrection"? Can we expect any special things on it?

' "The Second Coming... of Darkness" will surely be our best as I can already tell. This will be an album that you can listen to all the way through, not just the first and last songs. Don't you hate it when bands do that? Anyway, it will be in the same vein as "Resurrection" with some new ideas as well. It will contain a mixture of blast, slow atmospheric doom, thrash, dark death all blended together. We make sure that all of our songs flow. They are not just a bunch of riffs all stuck together and called a song. It is quite difficult to explain ones own music, it must be heard as everyone has their own interpretation. All I know is that our music has a lot of emotion (feeling). A lot of people don't understand music. It's not just a bunch of noise and growling. It is not easy to create, each song is special to us as it reflects ones own personality. That is why we don't like to rush when it comes to writing music. I like music that I can close my eyes to and see. I can't concentrate when people are talking and distracting me. I could care less what the band claims to be (death or black). That is why I like to get stoned, in this state of mind you can really feel the music (ha, that's what good old Jimi Hendrix did, too! - ed.). It takes me a step further into the music which makes it a more memorable experience. Of course, the music must be good also.

I just hope we get the right production, so you will be able to hear all the instruments come through the speakers. We will soon record a promo tape and shop it around to see if we could get a decent offer. We will not record it for **GOTHIC** anymore, because we don't think they can handle it. As far as anything special on it, I believe the whole thing will be special. At least for us it will be.'

You've a new drummer now who's got that special feel on the thrash beat (as you've written)... will he bring a change of sound into **SADISTIC INTENT's** music, especially on your CD?

'Our new drummer's name is Emilio Marquez. We have been very picky with who we chose to join the band. We did not want someone who was going to change our sound drastically, since this is what separates us from the rest. I'm sure there will be a slight change in style, but not as much as feeling goes. The big change is that Emilio has more power and can play longer on the blast beats.'

Death Metal seems to return (once again) in these days, the latest releases of **DEICIDE**, **MORBID ANGEL**, **LUCIFERION**, etc. prove this. But do you think that there's really a serious (not trendy!) market still existing for this kind of music when you look into the dark future? What do you think of those black metal guys who fight against death metal (there're still some of them around)?

'Well, I think as time passes things should improve. The trend truly hurt the death metal scene and it does not help much with all the idiots talking out of their ass. As far as the market goes for the future? As long as good bands keep coming out, it will continue. Brutal fucking bands (!) that are dark and have that special feel. I think things are slowly getting better in the underground, as the trend fades only the die-hards will remain.

There will always be people talking shit. Whether it is death or black. I don't give a shit what these people have to say, they mean nothing to me. A lot of today's black metallers are ex-death metallers, so I think it's mainly the new comers, they don't see (or hear) the difference. They are blind sheep followers. I like bands that can play their instruments. Death, black metal I don't care, as long as the music is dark and has feeling.'

L.A. was (is?) famous for a huge glam/poser scene (remember the mid 80s), but also for hardware like **SLAYER**, **DARK ANGEL**, **SADISTIC INTENT**, etc. How's the current situation in your "smoggy" town's scene?

'Smoggy. The glam / poser scene pretty much just faded out, or went underground. L.A. is a brutal city to live in. We have many gangs here. It's pretty fucked up and getting worse, I think we will have to move soon. The other day my neighbour was murdered. He was shot repeatedly inside his own home. Now I have had neighbours killed on both sides (fuck, you really have to move soon or you will probably be dead when "Second Coming... of Darkness" is out, and that would be horrible, wouldn't it? - ed.). As far as bands go, there are many here that are now getting into the dark lifestyle. The scene will surely flourish. Hail! to the Horde of Darkness under the Dark Realm!'

Please tell me something about your shop which you've taken over from Gothic Records? Am I allowed to ask if this is going to be in the style of Euronymous' "Helvette" shop?

'We were part of the record shop when it was called **GOTHIC**. Enrique did not want to continue with the shop, so he left to do the label under the same monicker. So we continued with the shop and changed the name to **DARK REALM** records. So it is not like we took over, we were always part of it. The shop, not the label! I have never seen photos of "HELVETTE", but from what I've read I'm sure it must have the same atmosphere, dark! Our walls are black, we have candle holders, incense burning black chandeliers, gargoyle statues, wall plaques, a tribute to the ancient ones wall, etc., we are here to help spread the scene in L.A.! We will convert them into the underground die-hards. Our mailing lists are growing daily. We will have a strong scene.'

I'd love to see your shop, it sounds really cool, but I think it will never happen as I'm not a friend of the U.S.A. (and especially not of a town like L.A., sorry). There are some rumours around that L.A. will not survive the 90s as a giant earthquake is going to lay your town into ashes. Your comment on this?

'Yes, they have been saying this for years "the big one is coming". It has not arrived yet. But I'm sure one day it will be here. If I will survive I cannot say (that would be one more reason for you to leave this town - ed.). Anyone who has experienced an earthquake knows that they can be brutal. They sound very evil as they creep their way through the ground. Not stopping at anything in their path. Very intense and unpredictable!'

At least the future for SADISTIC INTENT looks bright (if you ask me), so will there be some tour activities after your full length album strikes? What about invading the European countries?

'I hope so. If we get the support we deserve from a decent label we will surely be there. It would be great to perform in Europe, especially Germany since we get lots of support there.'

You are one of the bands who are very into the ancient death/thrash metal stuff of the 80s, and quite a lot of bands try (or claim) to be in the "old vein" without any success. Do you really think that a revival of death/thrash metal in the old vein is possible in these days? 'I think so, as far as image goes. But as far as being to create music in the old vein, there are only a few that can do it.'

SADISTIC INTENT is going to appear on DWELL RECORDS' tribute to CELTIC FROST compilation CD with the song "Return to the Eve", but do you really think that all the tribute things are good? Just take the VENOM, METALLICA, SLAYER, etc. tribute-CDs for example?

'Well, some are good, some just suck. I guess it depends on what bands appear on it. We wouldn't have done it if a bunch of shitty bands were going to appear on it. On this comp it will be Sadistic Intent, Grave, Mayhem, Emperor, Divine Eve, Enslaved, and others, it should be pretty interesting (Yes, the fans will buy this CD for sure, so that DWELL can easily make some extra-cash... -ed.). I have just found out that Tom G. Warrior has a new band and will also appear on this compilation (Yes, Apollyon's Sun covered "Babylon Fell"). Yeah, I know what you mean, it seems as everyone is doing a tribute to someone.'

The whole scene isn't as honest as it used to be, especially when the quite elitarian and arrogant "true" (...) black metal wave appeared. What were your most ridiculous experiences with black/death metal bands during the last couple of years?

'No, not exactly. The only thing that comes to mind are a couple of 'zines that said they could not feature us 'cause we are death metal. I don't need them (We all don't need them, do we? -ed.). They could stay in contact with their five friends for all I care. They would rather feature anything that claimed black metal. Yes, you are right. The underground is not as honest as it used to be. There will always be rip-offs. Nowadays there is large percentage of people involved. And with all the bullshit going on, things have not improved. Not only is there rip offs, I think another problem is all the false advertising by the record labels and bands themselves. Back in the old days when I read an ad that is what I got. How many times have you ordered something that was nothing like what the ad said? (It actually happened too often... -

ed.) Yeah, some look all fucking crazy and evil with all their gear on. Talking too much and making themselves sound good. But could they play? They might as well have written a book.'

Which are your five favoured death metal albums?

Possessed "Seven Churches", Destruction "Infernal Overkill", Venom "Black Metal", Celtic Frost "Morbid Tales", Slayer "Hell Awaits"...(* I can't forget Sodom "In the sign of evil").'

None of these mentioned albums is younger than 10 years, really not bad! It quite "trendy" nowadays to do hundreds of "sideprojects" (is it just because of the money?)...do members of SADISTIC INTENT also play in other bands?

'No!'

The "once so proud underground" is destroyed by the capitalistic spirit inside the metal scene, but still bands try to be "underground" with the help of getting more extreme (like being more satanic, having nazi attitudes, etc.). What do you think of this development and what is your concept (if there is any) in order to save the metal scene from being killed by money thirsty pigs /labels /bands?

'The scene must be controlled by the people who live the lifestyle and have the knowledge. I think these money hungry pigs will eventually move on. They are false, they are not truly into it, so it is not in their heart to stay. Though as long as there is still a market out there these pigs will exist. I think that the underground will split in half soon. You will have the die-hards in one and the trendy posers in another. I like it that the bands are getting more brutal and extreme. But there are certain things and attitudes that don't belong or have nothing to do with the underground. For instance, Nazism. To me the underground is for anyone and everyone who supports it. It is world wide that is why it is unique. These other idiots can write to each other like a bunch of dumb fucks. I think this will only go so far. So they can stick to themselves and look in the mirror and think of how great they are. FUNNY! As long as there are honest people, good bands, good 'zines, it will continue. But the views, music, etc. must be passed on to the future generations, so they will know. They have to know the history! If not it will truly become extinct and forgotten.'

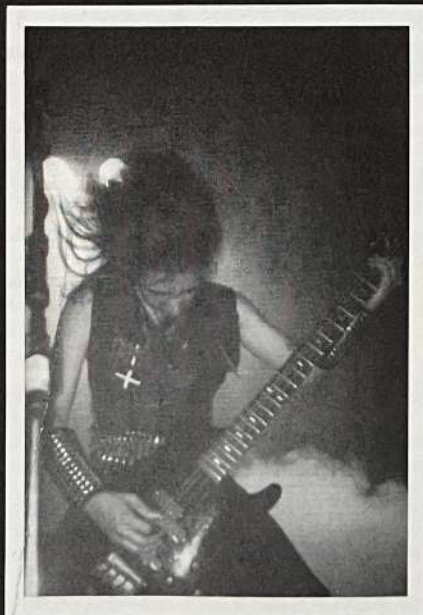
Can you imagine a life without music? What does metal mean to you?

'It would be quite strange. Music is my life, we all have dropped everything for it. We even have opened DARK REALM records for the sake of the people here in L.A. Our goals are to spread this music amongst the youth and polute their minds. We are not making money (it would be ok if you do as long as your attitude towards the underground is healthy - ed.), it all goes back into the shop so we can buy more merchandise. We do it, because we are die-hards for this scene. And we will keep doing it as long as we get support from the Hordes of Darkness (everyone on our mailing list). And of course make enough money to keep doing it.'

We've reached the end...

'Hail to you Costa for the great interview (hail to you for the interesting answers - ed.)! May you keep spreading TALES OF THE MACABRE throughout the underworld. And of course a salute to all the German death metallers. You guys are fucking brutal! Keep it dark! And remember in the end only death is real...'

There's nothing to ad but to watch out for this band's first full-length release, 'cause I can't get rid of the feeling that "Second coming..." is going to tear some wimpy souls to pieces !!!



COUNTESS



COUNTESS is definitely not everyone's cup of tea, but I got really impressed when I listened to their second CD "The Return of the Horned one" which is simple as fuck, but very very original and raw. This kind of Black Metal music is just based on a couple of riffs which make the whole result sound so primitive but effective. In addition to that there are the insane vocals of Orlok, who screams aggressively through the whole album. And this strange music hasn't been honoured at all by the underground people until now which is a shame if you ask me. Therefore I thought it was my job to take command and make an interview with Orlok, who's the only warrior behind COUNTESS, possible.

What has happened since "The Return of the Horned one"? Any new targets in sight?

Well, after the release of "The Return of the Horned one" I recorded the next album "Ad Maiorem Sathanae Gloriam" in January'95. One of the tracks from that album, "Wrath of Satan's Whore", was released as a cassette-EP together with four other new tracks in March'95. After that, I got a new guitar player and a new drummer and with them I did a short German tour in May'95, co-headlining with **Mortuary Drape** and supported by **Mayhemic Truth** and **Drowned**, which was pretty cool. After that tour the other members had to leave the band again and currently I'm working on material for the next album which is scheduled for release through **NAZGUL'S EYRIE Productions** somewhere in 1996. I will get a line-up together again soon as well so I can play after the release of "Ad Maiorem Sathanae Gloriam". The release date for that album in Samhain'95, which is pretty soon.

Yes, the album is out now! COUNTESS is fuckin' primitive but very original black metal, but why this strange style? I would say that it's nearly impossible to go more primitive at some parts....

If you think it's impossible to go more primitive you've probably never heard the first Countess album "The Gospel of the Horned one" (Well, no, I haven't heard it... ed!)...I like primitive music, both to listen to and to play. Primitive music appeals to primitive and basic instincts and I think it fits well in the whole concept behind the music. On the first two Countess albums, the primitive music is combined with a very primitive productions (four analog tracks) which makes them pretty unique in this age of overproduced albums. It gives them a certain purity in feel which people either seem to love or hate. However, I don't think there is any use in standing still and releasing albums which are the same. There is already a progression from "The Gospel..." to "The Return..." and this progression will continue. The third CD "Ad Maiorem Sathanae Gloriam" was recorded on sixteen digital tracks, so the sound is a lot more professional. The music of Countess will always remain simple and "primitive" in base, but there is space for progression nevertheless. On the second album there is a lot more variation and originality than on the first two and on the third one there is a little more melody. The new material for the fourth album I'm working on right now has more complex arrangements, but the basic style will remain.

What do you mean by "Orthodox Black Metal"?

Black metal the way it should be, primitive, raw, pure, dark, evil, brutal, satanic, vile, perverted, filthy, occult, sick, obscure with a lot of atmosphere. It doesn't mean, as it is sometimes misinterpreted, "unoriginal". Real Black Metal has always been original. All real Black Metal bands have their own identity and thus in this case originality is "orthodox". It is impossible to clone a real black metal band, even though so many try these days. But they don't really understand the music, so they copy the superficial characteristics like the face paint, inverted crosses, high guitar sound and high vocals, but their music lacks the soul of real black metal. I think this is also because most of these kids who try to play black metal these days have a grindcore or thrash or whatever background and have probably never even heard a heavy metal album (good point! - ed.) And black metal has of course developed out of heavy metal. I'm not saying that all these bands play bad music, but it is not and never will be black metal.

COUNTESS only exists of you, Orlok, right? Is this the reason why you used a drummachine instead of a drummer in flesh and blood, or do you prefer computer drums? Do you want other musicians to join COUNTESS?

Originally Countess was a real band, but after the recording of the first album the other members quit so I continued alone. I have had several line-ups since then but none of them really worked out, so I think I will continue working alone and I will use session musicians to play live. The reason why I used a drummachine on "The Return..." is that I had no time to look for a drummer and teach him all the songs, I do prefer a real drummer. Perhaps I will have a session drummer on future albums, but since I did "The Return..." I have become much more experienced in programming the drummachine. But of course a real drummer is better (when he's good, I'd prefer a drummachine over a bad drummer) and live I need a real drummer anyway.

NAZGUL'S EYRIE PRODUCTION is a very small label which doesn't promote their bands too well, or am I wrong? Are you satisfied with their work for you? How many times has your CD sold by the way?

I'm very satisfied with my deal with NAZGUL'S EYRIE PRODUCTIONS. First of all I don't have to take care of the business side anymore now and can concentrate on my music. And N.E.P. might be small, but the label is growing

and besides that I'd prefer a good small label over a bad big label. With N.E.P. I have total artistic freedom, I can record when, where and how I want and N.E.P. is also reliable which can't be said of all underground labels, sadly. It is true that there isn't too much promotion, but it is getting better. As for sales, at the moment I think "The Return..." has sold 900 copies, but the sales are increasing.

You used to play in a hell of bands, but how's the situation now? Is 13 Candles for example still active?

'No, at the moment I don't do anything outside Countess musically and I doubt that I ever again will, although you never know what might happen in the future of course. 13 Candles wasn't a band but a solo project, but since I do Countess on my own now there is not much need for another solo project, especially since 13 Candles was musically in the same direction as Countess anyway. Some good, old musical ideas from older bands and projects of mine that never got anywhere will surface in Countess every now and then.'

The black metal hype is calming down now, so where do you see Countess when the mass dying of all the young black metal bands begins? Do you think you'll still do this kind of music in about 4 - 5 years?

'I don't see why I shouldn't be still doing this kind of music in 4 - 5 years... I've always been into this kind of music and I always will be. Like I already mentioned before, my music will develop, it won't stay the way it is now for all eternity, but it will always remain Black Metal.'

What about THURISAZ Productions, your very own label? Can we expect anything new to be released?

'Actually I stopped doing THURISAZ Productions last year. It was taking far too much of my time and I wanted to be able to concentrate completely on Countess.'

Holland has an active black / death metal underground, but there seems to be a kind of trouble between bands like you, OCCULT, FUNERAL WOUNDS, etc....your comment?

'Well, I don't have any trouble with any Dutch band, at least not as far as I know... I do hear things every now and then of trouble between various bands, but I don't really care about it. I know quite a lot of Dutch bands of course, but I'm not really in a lot of contact with most of them.'

Your opinion on the often heard statement that "true black metal" can only be played in Scandinavia?

'Well, I don't know if this is a very often heard statement, I never heard it before actually (some bands say so... -ed.). I think it's a statement that shows an utter lack of any form of the vaguest possible intelligence. Where the hell did Venom come from? And Hellhammer!

Ha, good answer indeed! When I listened to Countess' music I wondered if BURZUM is your biggest influence? I'm asking this because of your simple music and extreme screamy vocals...if not, please name some of your inspirations you have.

'I really can't understand this comparison... I don't think I'm influenced by Burzum at all. The inspiration for my music comes from a lot of things, music I listen to, books I read, my own experiences, but mainly from within... musically my biggest influence is Venom, after that Bathory and Hellhammer and all other bands I listen to, like Manowar, Samael, Marillion with Fish, Rainbow with Dio, old Sodom, Uriah Heep with David Byron, Merciful Fate, Manilla Road, Cloven Hoof, Saint Vitus, Cirith Ungol, Angel Witch, Black Sabbath, Sorcerer from Sweden, old Candlemass, Sabbat from UK, Master's Hammer,

Iron Maiden, Snyper, Witchfynde, Poison from Germany, Brocas Helm, Tyrant (US), Dio, old Deep Purple, old Rush, Alastis, Mortuary Drape, Barathrum, Mercy, Judas Priest, old Celtic Frost, Hobbs' Angel of Death, Sarcophago, old Kreator, Ancient Rites, old Saxon, AC/DC with Bon Scott, old Accept, Infernal Majesty, old Destruction and more... I also listen to classical music a lot, like J.S. Bach, Wagner, Stravinsky, Beethoven, Vivaldi and more.'

Black Metal bands often try to be "old-fashioned", in the tradition of the black / death metal forefathers, but most bands don't keep the vinyl tradition alive, and so it is at Countess. Why no vinyl?

'Well, I would prefer LPs instead of CDs, but you have to be realistic. In Holland, for example, only one factory still presses LPs and they are more expensive than CDs by now (then I still can't understand why the CDs still are more expensive than LPs when you buy it... -ed.). And I think it's quite impossible to sell vinyl these days, almost everybody wants CDs. On my own label I did release a Hordes 7inch, limited to 500 numbered copies, which is out for a year now and it's still not sold out completely. At the moment N.E.P. is looking into the possibility of having some albums, including "The Return of the horned one", released as limited edition picture disc LPs. I don't know if that will work out, but I would really like to see Countess on vinyl. I would really like to see the two first CDs on a double LP with fold-out cover, but I don't think that will ever happen.'

If this happens, I'll surely buy one copy...and I guess some other vinylmaniacs, too. Talking about albums: What was the first metal record you picked up? Are there any albums you regret having bought?

'The first metal record I ever bought was "The Number of the Beast" (by Iron Maiden if anybody doesn't know - ed.) and I don't regret that. I'm usually pretty low on cash, so I only buy albums that I'm sure I won't regret buying. There is an album I regret buying however, that "Requiem" crap CD that was sadly released as a Bathory album. I just bought it without listening to it first, if I had listened first I wouldn't have bought it.'

Nature seems to be a big inspiration for many of today's black / pagan / I don't know what- metal bands, but this might be difficult for a Dutch band as Holland's nature isn't too interesting (no mountains, wide-forests, but a hell lot of people and fashions instead). Are you happy living in Holland? What do you think are the advantages / disadvantages of your country?

'Well, first of all there is some interesting nature in Holland. For example the beaches and the dunes, I often go out at night to walk over the beach and through the dunes and listen to the songs the sea sings. Nature is not really an important inspiration for my music however. I can see why these pagan metal bands are inspired by nature, but I don't really see why black metal bands should be inspired by nature. About living in Holland... well, I'm not happy here, but I don't think that has got anything to do with the country, I don't think I'd be happier anywhere else. Living in Holland will probably have some advantages and some disadvantages compared to the other countries, but in general I don't think life in Holland is that much different from life in Germany or other North West European countries.'

Well, to keep the tradition at an interview's end I give the last words to you...

'Thank you for this interview. Cum nihil omnia erat, iam in vacuo existitis. Ille eart, est eritque. Sibi nomines mille sunt. ILLUM ADORA !!!!!!!'

The fourth Countess album is already recorded and will be entitled "The Book of the Heretic". Await its arrival in Spring/Summer'96 !!!



J HILLMÄNNENS

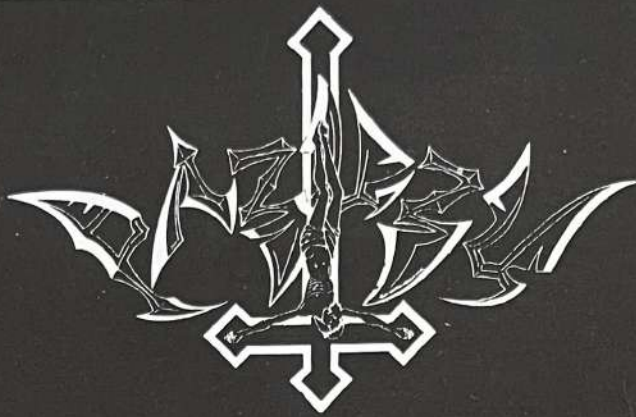
HUSTRA

SÖREN

Although we get almost buried with Northern Black Metal albums and demotapes there are sometimes still interesting new bands arriving from the unknown with good music in their back... one of those bands is Sohrin. Their promotape '95 (recorded in summer'94, including three songs) isn't the new revelation in Black metal, but their straight ahead, with rough sounding but still melodic riffs filled style causes a certain dark and powerful atmosphere. The vocals are a bit Grishnakh-like, you know, high distorted screams, and do fit to the whole music. But as those recordings are not the newest anymore I had to find out if Nattfursth, the man with the sore throat, is still satisfied with the on cassette banished result, and if new songmaterial is already written for Sohrin's next unholy attack... 'We are still satisfied with the work on promo'94. The production is probably a bit thin, but what the fuck it was recorded on a four track portia studio and without bassguitar. We have recently recorded a MLP / MCD in Mid August for the Swedish label "Arte De Occulta". This time we used a real studio, so the sound turned out really great. The music / lyrics is still in the supreme dark Sohrin - style, raw and melodic, with an obscure atmosphere. The LP version will be out at the end of '95, the CD version will follow within a few months after.' New albums of still unknown bands come out like mushrooms out of the ground, it's really unbelievable and surely fatal for the survival of the scene when too much (bad) releases are thrown on the market each month. So I hope that Sohrin were really ready enough to record something for a CD/LP-release, but I'm looking forward to hear the final result when it's out (if I can afford buying it... there're a lot of LPs to choose from!). Coming back to the band's promotape, it is really shit for me as a non-Swedish speaking person to take a look at the lyrics as Nattfursth writes them in Swedish language. Is the band only interested in Swedish people listening to Sohrin's lyrics... or wouldn't it be better to sing in English language as Nattfursth also sells his stuff to foreign people? He defends: 'No, I did not think it's better to write lyrics in English language. In my case, I for the first try to satisfy my own pleasures and feelings and then it is much easier to express them in Swedish or native language. But we will probably do some translations into English later, time will tell.' Yes, that would be a good idea... or probably not in case your lyrics suck, ha ha! Some bands even became famous without having real lyrics, remember old Xecutioner / Obituary. Before I left Nattfursth with his other mail I wanted to know what he thinks is Sohrin's strength in comparison to other bands...and his answer that 'It's very hard to answer this question, better you do.' lets me fall into my own trap as it's also hard for me to answer this ugly question. Perhaps it are the other bands...and the entire atmosphere that make their music strong, at least on their promotape, ...I don't know. The band's line-up now consist only of Eparygon (electric strings) and Nattfursth himself (chants and voice), for the MLP recording they used a session drummer. If some of you black metal junkies simply can't wait until the MLP / MCD appears, then you have to organise \$6 for the promotape, which is still available at...

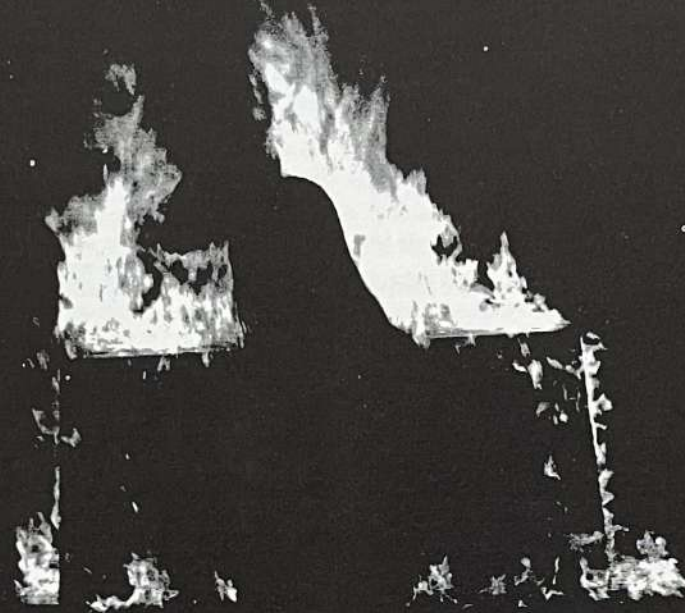
The Black Union of Sohrin, c/o Nattfursth, Ingelsgatan 18, 784 35 Borlänge, Sweden





EZURATE

There are luckily still bands around you have some 80s feeling in their music. 90210 from North-America is one of them. Their high-sounding Black Metal has some simple thrash roots (here: 90210, 90210 - rhythms,...) which sound pretty cool as I've heard on their advance tape for the upcoming demo. It includes songs with titles like "Trendkill", "Hellhorde Reigning", "Infernal Iron Legion", etc., and so raw and primitive as the titles sound, so primitive (but effective) is 90210's music. The vocals are a bit in the vein of the old whispering style of Holocausto (90210) and can be considered as quite typical neo black metal. But lately I received another demo-advancetape with new vocals (done by Warren of SABBATH Records, now the band's permanent singer who sounds a bit like 90210's Abbath). Tony (guitars) does also play in 90210 beside 90210, and their 4 song demo is a bit different from Tony's main band (apart from being inspired by ancient sounds). It's not as primitive, with more complicated drum rhythms and guitar riffs, even keyboards were used at some of the songs. By contacting Tony I had the chance to get info of two promising bands in one interview, but his answers weren't always too satisfying as you can read as following...



'In PAZUZU everything goes as planned. Darking Hails for Warren Window / SABBATH Records, Tomass T. / AUFGABE / DREARY CREATIONS. No split LP will be done.'

Not only you are into the thrash period, but also 90210, 90210, etc..., so I suppose that you know each other and unite at times to talk about and listen to the old stuff, right? What's so fascinating about all the old albums?

'Very seldom we do unite. Diabolical Slaughter (USURPER) and I speak daily. He is fascinated by an old death metal band - CELTIC FROST! Do you think that the U.S.A. will ever reach the metal status again which your country had in the 80s? Do you think that the new U.S. bands are worth walking at least in the shadows of the old american metalbands?'

'PAZUZU hails WHIPLASH, BATHYM, MASOCHIST, POSSESSED, PREACHER (Texas), DREAM DEATH! Fuck off Steven O'Malley / DESCENT mag (U.S.A.). You wrote some real stupid shit about an ex-Infernal Horde / PAZUZU drummer! I must acknowledge the many apologies from you during that single phone conversation. You Fucking Wimp!!! Stop your publication or I will kill you. I will plead "not guilty". I will cry "self defense". HA! HA! HA! HAIL PAZUZU!!!'

Until now I only heard the advance recording, but what can you tell us about the final result?

'Total Deth! Pure Cult! Raging and roaring! Killing Dethrash!' You seem to be a fan of tough bands from the 80s, right? But musically 90210 is still dominated by modern kind of playing (of course some old parts can't be denied, I must admit), so what is your source of inspiration for creating your songs?

'You are the very first to acclaim to us a modern playing style, Costa. Fuck off to all "Black Metal" created after 1992! All is fake, all is false! We've been nothing but Black Metal long before, during and after shitty Florida trend until '92! We are ripping through true Witching Metal! We were born of VENOM and BATHORY - DEATH METAL! HAIL PAZUZU!!!'

You still call your band 90210 although there are a couple of bands around with the same name, one of them already with an album out. Wouldn't it be clever to change your name to escape the problems?

'There is no problem, Costa!' Is 90210 just your sideband? What is the difference between the two bands you play in? Who are the other guys in 90210?

'EZURATE was another band of mine for 8-9 months during PAZUZU line-up changes. EZURATE remains only by the reign of the infernal PAZUZU Horde! HAIL PAZUZU!!!'

Are both your bands black metal? I ask this, because you are wearing a 90210 shirt (cool!) on the flyer for 90210, and you can't really say that "Rock'n'Roll" created evil music...

'I'm glad you like my RUNNING WILD shirt so much, but I've only been listening to them since 1990 or '91. Read the lyrics for the first two LPs and tell this is not evil music... BLACK METAL!!!'

Ha ha, I don't agree, but I accept your opinion. Every band waits for the day when they are able to hold their album in their hands, and I'm sure that this is your wish as well... Are there any ideas inside your head concerning a more professional release? What about a 90210 / 90210 split LP?

Well, this is a strange and stupid answer to my question, Tony. But it's of course your thing... However, what usually counts for us metal maniacs at the end is the music, and 90210 seems to be a band with good future perspectives, even if they haven't released professional sounding tapes yet. Perhaps they will do it soon (when the demo strikes!). There has also been talk of releasing a split 7" inch, but nothing's sure yet. For info write with an IRC, for the 90210 demo send \$4 (US) or \$5 (elsewhere) to...

TOM (DETHHEADS)



Covenant

Majestic Metal

A new star at the northern horizon is born with **Covenant**, a duo from Norway. Their majestic kind of black metal sounds quite typical Norwegian, but it has a proud character and noble feeling. A demo under the title (I?) should give us a rough imagination of what we should expect when "In Times before the Light", the band's debut album, will be unleashed upon the metal consuming maniacs. It was obviously that I had to start this short interview, which was done with Thanatos, with a question concerning the album....

"In Times before the Light" contains material written over the last two and a half years, together forming 10 songs of supreme majestism! Some "old" ones (including demo songs) and some "new" ones. Most of the music is in the same vein as our demo, only more noble and majestic.

The actual title "In Times before the Light" reflects upon absolute darkness, where thoughts like christianity / religion, good / evil did / does not exist... only pure darkness !!! This is our tribute to this darkness... may we meet some day! Why did you choose BLACK TOWER Records to release your album? I think they are a quite unknown label....

'Yes, BLACK TOWER Records is up till now pretty unknown, but that's probably because they've never released anything! Our album will be their first release, and by this we will help eachothers to get our names established. Besides... the deal we got was excellent!

Your music heavily reminds me at **Satyricon** just with the difference that you're more hymnic... which influences do you admit for your songwriting?

'Hm... difficult question! Well, I certainly don't agree with you that we sound like **Satyricon**, but it's pretty difficult to know one's influences. I guess I am influenced alot by classical music, but also books, weather, strange happenings, feelings, nightly landscapes, winter, etc. I will try to make **Covenant** as noble and majestic as possible, but still very dark and destroying. These are the most important musical factors in **Covenant**, and I think most of the "influence" comes from none others than my self!

Don't you think that it will be fatal to play "nordic-styled" metal? It's obvious that the normal listener will sooner or later lose his interest in a certain music that is played by hundreds of bands nowadays... Are there any ideas which should help **Covenant** survive the upcoming hard times (which will surely come) for northern black...?

'Ok... listen here now, and listen good! We play this music, because this is how we want **Covenant** to sound like, and not because this is what's 'popular' right now! This is what we want to do, and we couldn't care less whether the "normal" listener is interested or not. We play for ourselves, not for others (...it's a good attitude, of course, but this is a contradiction when you are releasing albums for other people! - ed.). But if someone likes us for what we are, hey... cool! But if no one does... well, fuck off! We wouldn't change our musical direction just to gain more listeners. "Fatal"? "Fatal" for the wallet is what you really mean. Besides, I don't think there will come a difficult time for "northern" black! Because, admit it: Norway has the best bands! ...and quality never goes out of style.'



Yes, there are some great norwegian bands around, but the number of worse bands in your country has increased also, you must admit. But of course I hope that you're right that "quality will never get out of style". Who really knows that in this chaotic world... But coming to the next question: What makes you so sure that your album will be one of the greatest releases from Norway ever? I mean, with this promise you have to compete with great albums like "De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas" by **Mayhem**, **Burzum**, **Immortal**, **Enslaved**, old **Darkthrone**, **Emperor**, etc....

'Well, I don't see this as a "competition" at all !!! We are not on a mission to create the "best" black metal album of all time! If it's good or not will be up to each individual listener to decide for themselves. But personally I think it's one of the best albums from Norway in a long time (I hope that you're right with this! - ed.), but if you don't... well, that's your problem! I don't care. I like it myself, and that's all I have to know.'

You're playing in a "mighty norse band" (as you call it on your flyer), but with "Thanatos" you use an old greek name of the "god of death", so why a hellemic name? Are you also interested in south-european mythologies?

'First of all..., if you had read our flyer more properly, you would see that these are the words of **Aasmund Jordal** of **BLACK TOWER Records**, and not ours. But anyway, the name **Thanatos** was chosen on a purely individual basis, and has nothing to do with the "concept" of **Covenant**. Just because I live in Norway, doesn't mean I can't be fascinated by other cultures / mythologies beside the norse one. Fuck off to narrowmindedness!'

Good point, really. Statements like that are quite rare in these days from norwegian people... Well, I guess that you are still not able to live from **Covenant** financially, so how are you able to survive?

'Ha ha! I live in my mom's house actually...! Yeah, it pretty much sucks, but I'll be getting some cash soon, and then I'll afford to get my own place. But I won't take some shitty job just to get money. I have other methods.'

As usual you get the chance at the end to tell something the readers what should have been told...

'Ah, cliché! (Yeah, of course, but cliché can sometimes be nice, too. - ed.) Thanks for this interview, finally some intelligent questions! Our demo can be ordered for 7 US\$ / 8 US\$ (world) / 50 NOK, until the end of time. Our album will be out in October on CD and lid. 500 Lps, with poster and sticker! Everyone may hail themselves if they think they deserve it.'

Thanatos, Box 4075, 2301 Hamar, Norway

In comparison to their Scandinavian neighbours Sweden and Norway, there aren't too much black / death metal bands coming from Finland. But if there are some, then those bands are (mostly) very interesting ones... and so is **Curse**. Their debutdemo "The Black Hordes" includes 4 songs of straight ahead black / death mayhem in the vein of **Beherit**, **Archgoat** and (old) **Impaled Nazarene**, not original, but good stuff to listen to. I asked Toni if he admits those influences for his music, being inspired by typical Finnish sounds... his comment! Well, there might be some **Beherit** / **Archgoat** influences, because we like both of them a lot. But I think we still have our own way... we don't like to copy anyone. I like a lot of bands like **Immortal**, **Barathrum**, **Equinox**, **Emperor**, **Mysticum**, etc., but we don't copy them.' Yes, you don't sound like those bands, but the above mentioned Finnish

CURSE

sound can't be denied, you can find typical fast rhythms and screamed vocals like **Impaled Nazarene**, and sometimes slower parts with growling vocals à la **Beherit** / **Archgoat** in your music. Staying in Finland the question "what's up in this country concerning the actual black / death metal scene" can't be avoided as there don't seem to be many new bands... Toni again! Black / death metal "scene" in Finland is really poor, and if some new bands show their faces and music... eh, they are usually shit. I don't blame anyone but that is it! Simple but clear answer. On the other side we could be happy that there are not as many bands coming from Finland than from

Norway, who of you is really able to listen to all the uncountable new bands? But what's going to happen at **Curse**... what about new songs?... I must say that I don't know. We will probably, record a new tape at the beginning of '96, but that's not 100% sure yet. New songs are faster and harder than the cassette EP-songs. I take care of singing now, so no growling "**Cannibal Corpse**" shit anymore! Oh, really? I think that this sounded cool and refreshing, not listening to screamy vocals all the time. A change will probably be a mistake, but you have to figure it out on your very own. The first edition of "The Black Horde" is sold out, but **DARK MOON** Production will soon make another edition. I think the price is \$ 5, but I can't guarantee it. As said before, not an original demo, but a cool one with good sound. **God Kainlulainen**, Autioie 3, 79480 Kangslamp 1, Finland

From The Darkside

hen it comes to great underground magazines we have to mention VOICES FROM THE DARKSIDE from Germany. In just a couple of years Frank, the chief of this mag, managed to release seven issues of supreme metallic art, and with every new issue the mag is getting thicker and thicker (# 7 had 84 printed pages !!!), and has developed to one of the best and most honest black'n' white zines in the world. Frank Stöver is active in the metal scene for more than a decade now (long before black or even death metal became a giant trend), so it was a honour for me to interview this experienced man as it was obvious that he had a lot of interesting things to say. To start the interview I went back to Frank's last station before he started VOICES FROM THE DARKSIDE....

What was the reason to stop the "VOICES FROM THE DARKSIDE column" in HORROR INFERNAL mag and to do a mag on your very own? Wasn't it easy to work for H.I.?

'Oh boy, here we go again... The main reason for me to stop working for HORROR INFERNAL magazine was probably the new publisher / editor: Uwe. He's a complete jerk and doesn't know anything about this music at all! He's just doing it to cash-in on advertising money and to get free CDs and tickets (Yeah, like the guy from LEGACY mag - ed.)! He tells the record companies lies when it comes to the quantity of mags he's printing, just to get more money for advertisements. By now, there's probably a lot of small fanzines that are doing better than he does, salewise! And HORROR INFERNAL used to be a mag with 20.000 copies (!!) before he took over... So, as you can see, it was always a pain in the ass to work with him and as far as my column in there goes, it was full of mistakes, wrong pictures, shortened features and so on and so on. Besides that, the response was so good, that I got buried in material and could easily have made the column a full magazine, instead of 2-4 pages every month... which I did by starting VOICES FROM THE DARKSIDE, the zine!

You belong to the kind of editors who work very intently on the magazine, I mean, you manage to release two over 70 A4 pages strong issues in just one year. There can't be anything else in your life beside VOICES, or am I wrong?

'In a way you are right! VOICES turned more or less into a full-time thing, which is pretty good on one hand, 'cause I'm unemployed for some years now and would bore myself to death if I wouldn't have something to do. But, it often really gets on my nerves as well, 'cause almost every day consists of the same activities: mail (a VERY BIG part), interviews, layout, typing, reviews, listening to demos, records, etc. But I guess you will know that yourself, won't you? (Well, I'm not working as fast as you do with the mag, but I know what you mean - ed.) When I started VOICES, I didn't really think that it would be accepted THAT fast. I mean, just look at the first issue... it was an average A5-size zine with not that good layout and just a few interviews and reviews... But it got a tremendous feedback!!! Every new issue that came out sold faster and got even more feedback, so right now I'm at a point where it's easy to sell 1000 in just about one month only (which happened with # 7).

So, it basically takes a lot of sparetime to get done with all that and that's what I dislike a bit... I'm absolutely dedicated to what I'm doing, but some days I am just bored of it all, 'cause it's getting too much, you know!! Even concerts are just a part of the whole thing by now and it happens pretty rarely that I'm impressed by any of the shows I go to... sad but true!
With the black metal trend came a lot of fascistic points of view into the scene, and you fight against such a development as everyone can read when getting his/her eyes on VOICES... Did you get any problems with people because of your attitude?

'Uhm... not really problems, but there are a few people that wrote in and were telling me that I get on their nerves with all my anti-fascism stuff, which I understand, 'cause it was never intended to become such a big part of VOICES. But there are so many zines and kids outthere that are not voicing their opinions, they just "feed" what those braindead bands tell in interviews and I'm not here to do the same. I mean I'm probably one of the oldest fanzine editors (when this issue hits the streets I might have turned 30 already!) and I'm not willing to accept anything! I can't stand it, you know!! I will continue to boycott those dickheads, although I hope that this stupid "trend" will pass away pretty soon, 'cause it mainly is about music, not politics, isn't it?

What about VOICES Productions? Are you intending to make it bigger, is anything planned?

'VOICES Productions is probably the section of VOICES that I'm the least dedicated to. It was just an idea when I heard these **Venom** covers that **Sigh** did. I wanted to do something with them as I was heavily into their versions. Also the **Master** demo... that came out on VOICES Productions, because Paul did send me the tapes without covers and I talked to him about doing a cover for them and put it out again on VOICES Productions which he agreed on. That's all! I mean, I was thinking about more releases in the future, but there's already so much stuff flooding on the market that it doesn't really make sense to come up with even more (it depends on what kind of stuff you intend to release - ed.).... Although I'm dealing with Rob Urbinati of Canadian **Sacrifice** at the moment. Perhaps I'll do his new project **Interzone** on VOICES which is fuckin' excellent! Great old stuff!
Let's really hope so! But talking about other great old stuff: You used to be the manager of DESTRUCTION in the mid 80's.... how did you get into those managing things? I mean, you are coming from the northern part of Germany and DESTRUCTION lived at the Swiss border...

'For the **Destruction** thing I have to go back in time even more, 'cause it all started in the beginning of the 80's when I used to do the fanclub for **ROADRUNNER** Records, who were just at the beginning of their career at that time. I was doing a Heavy Metal-fanclub and wrote to a lot of labels, asking them for info material on their bands... One day SPV contacted me, because they seemed to like what I was doing and told me about this new Dutch label that would need a helping hand when it comes to promotion. I was totally into the idea and got bombed with info and photos of the **ROADRUNNER** bands which were sent out to the fans who asked for it. I also put out a xeroxed fanclub zine which was called "Roadrunner Fan Club Metal Warriors". I had about 50 copies or something, nothing really serious, but the name kept spreading and I got material from bands that asked me for help. I listened to their stuff, reviewed it in the zine and passed on the good ones to **ROADRUNNER** and SPV. One of those tapes came

from **Destruction's** drummer Tommy. I freaked out on it, 'cause I never heard anything that brutal from a German band, so I offered them to do their fanclub exclusively. They agreed and I started to mail out tapes. SPV were the first to call me up, asking me for the band's phonenumber... The rest is history!

When they've been into the studio for "Sentence of Death" they called me up and asked me to become their managed instead, 'cause it "would look better" to have a management address printed on the sleeve... I had no idea what to do, but agreed. Within the next months I started to organise small gigs and interviews and kept sending out stuff for them. That's how it all started, ...everything was done over the phone.'

Please tell us some interesting experiences that you had during that time (like the DESTROY support for SLAYER's "Hell Awaits"-tour, parties, I don't know what...)...and what do you think of your "manager" time when you look back?

'As far as experiences go, I made a lot! I was about 18 then and didn't know anything about business at all. For me it was fun, but I remember how serious it can become when **Destruction** had to open-up for **Slayer** in Bremen / Germany on their first tour ever. I went there and thought it would be fun to hang out with them, see them play and all that, but the tourmanager was a professional one and freaked out on me, 'cause I didn't tell the band to get on stage in time and stuff like that... The introtape they used back then was "tested" and **Destruction** thought it would be time to get on stage, so they did and played the first song without the PA and lightshow... Luckily the guy at the mixing desk reacted and the show could be continued the way it should be, but don't remind me on the tourmanager's reaction afterwards... He yelled at me all the time...! As far as parties go, I only remember one very good, which was on new years eve in their hometown. They invited me to party with them and I went down there. Unexperienced as I was in terms of alcohol, I tried to compete with them when it comes to drinking, but I failed, because I puked very early and slept a lot. Even the next day I still felt drunken when I woke up... It was horrible! If you consider how I turned into the role of a manager, I think I did the best I could at that time, although I would do a lot better nowadays of course.'

DESTRUCTION are still alive but not comparable to their old period, but rumours are going around that they will reform the original line-up. Do you think that will come true and that their heart still beats for the old thing?

'Never heard about this rumour before, but to be honest with you, I doubt that it'll be the same if they ever get together again. I mean, they have developed as musicians as well as becoming older, so you can't bring back the old times, plus Tommy would never be in the band again as he and Schmier are only talking to eachother through their lawyers. So, it only would be the 2nd **Destruction** line-up and I have serious doubts that the old fans would like to have that back together again... **Destruction** was "Sentence of Death", "Infernal Overkill" and "Eternal Devastation" and that feeling is not there anymore, so I hope they WON'T do it!'

You belong to the sort of guys who are busy with writing for magazines since quite some time, so what do you think of the current situation in the "zine-underground"? Is the general quality better nowadays?

'Yeah, the quality of the zines is a lot better nowadays, but I think the majority of today's editors is lacking in the real spirit of this music. They

discovered the whole thing way too late and you can easily find out about it when you read their zines... Mostly they are pretty boring. They care too much about having a professional looking zine, with high glossy paper, full-colour cover and a lot of advertisements in it, instead of writing about interesting bands. The contents of most of the zines gets dedicated to the record companies and that's really sad... I prefer zines that try to be different... but they are hard to find unfortunately!

What was your first confrontation with "metal". Do you remember that time?

'Yeah, I do it very well. I visited my cousin when I was about 8 or 9 years-old and was totally fascinated by an old poster of **Kiss** he had in his room. They looked so great with the leather and the make-up and all that. Shortly after I got to see them on TV, they had a special about their first Germany tour and also showed some live-footage. I went to our local record store and bought **Kiss "Alive"** right away and was blown away! I was the biggest **Kiss** fan around, bought everything I could get about them and got to see them on stage in 1980 finally... my first concert ever! That show changed my life, 'cause **Iron Maiden** played as the support act (I'm feeling a lot of envy, Frank! -ed) and I started to buy their debut record as well. After that, everything that looked typical METAL was bought: **Saxon**, **Tygers of Pan Tang**, **Samson**, **Def Leppard**, **Judas Priest** etc. until **Metallica's "Kill 'Em All"** and **Venom's "Black Metal"** came out... That's when I got into really heavy music... Before **Kiss** I used to listen to **Sweet**, the band I thought of being pretty heavy for that particular time also.

What's different between the scene of the 80s and the 90s, especially between the bands, fans (their general behaviour and at concerts), the whole thing? Do you think that those two periods can be compared? By the way, which was the best "metal year" for you and why?

There's a big difference! In the 80s people were really hungry for metal in general and the shows were crowded because a lot of kids wanted to see all the bands for the first time! The fans went to the shows just to have a good time and see great bands. Nowadays people are often there just because they are bored with their everyday life and to meet friends. They often come to a show of bands they've already seen many times and are not that enthusiastic anymore. But the bands are often not that exciting anymore, too. My best year in terms of metal was probably in the mid-eighties sometime, when I saw **Venom**, **Metallica**, **Possessed**, **Destruction**, **Kreator**, **Voivod**, **Assassin**, **Celtic Frost**, ... those kind of bands for the first time!

They will never be replaceable by anything new, that's for sure! I also have hard times when I see really young kids at shows of death metal bands today, taking themselves verrrrry serious and posing like if they are the most evil ones around just because mommy gave them the money to let them buy a **Cannibal Corpse** Shirt or whatever... In the early years of metal, fans were accepting many bands the same way (just look at old photos of kids with denim jackets full of patches), today they are fighting each other... stupidity reigns!

What are your favoured albums if it's possible for you to make a selected choice? And are there any great old bands you know who never got the attention they deserved?

'My favourite records? Hmm... let's see: **Possessed "Seven Churches"**, **Venom "Black Metal"** & **"Welcome to Hell"**, **Destruction "Sentence of Death"**, **Celtic Frost** - everything up to **"To mega Therion"**, **Exciter "Violence and Force"**, **Slayer** - everything up to **"Reign in Blood"**, **Hellhammer "Apocalyptic Raids"**, **Kreator "Pleasure to Kill"**, and stuff like that! Stuff I used to grow up with and listened to again and again. That's something I really rarely do nowadays, 'cause most albums / demos do not impress me that much anymore... There's many older bands that should have become more successful, like **Infernal Majesty**, **Razor (YES! -ed)**, **Necrophagia**, **Slaughter**, **Sacrifice**... I can't think of them all now,



Frank Stöver
(Holding two cool mags, he he...)

but I think you got the point.'

Who's the one to blame that our current scene isn't as healthy as it used to be?

'Mainly everyone that is putting out records! I mean, there're way too many labels or wanna-be labels that are flowing on the market, plus there're too many idiots in the scene that are just doing it for money, mainly those who pretend to know everything when they write for big full-coloured shit magazines (we don't have to mention any names, do we!)! They take themselves more serious than the actual bands they write about. It's just getting too much of everything. Nobody can listen to all that! Take me, for example, I get everything for free, but I have tough times to listen to everything really in-depth... I wonder how people should know about good or bad bands if there are so many to choose from. Reviews in zines are sometimes a helping hand, but they are often far away from the truth. I hope the scene will collapse totally and start from zero again. With less of everything - may the good ones get what they really deserve and the crap should burn in hell, yezzz!

I guess that a lot of your old mates don't listen to metal anymore (in other words: they wimped out), right? What kind of feelings did you have when this happened?

'No, not really! Most of them just added other styles of music to the ordinary metal we all loved so much. Some turned into the hardcore direction, others discovered more commercial stuff or some even began to enjoy rap / hiphop (arrghh...this is wimp-out! Don't you remember **COMBAT's** motto in the mid eighties? "Ultimate revenge (for disco)" - ed.). But we often talk about the "good old times" of metal and pick up old albums... There's magic in the air when that happens 'cause everyone has a big smile on his face and a lot of good memories... That will ever be! Take the older generation, they used to grow up with **Led Zeppelin**, **Black Sabbath** and so on and they will still like them, no matter what is hip today (and gone tomorrow), you know!! It is a big part of your life! It formed you when you were younger!

Coming back to VOICES: You managed to publish seven issues in just a couple of years, and I guess that there will be more in future. But aren't there frustrating situations at times which make you think about stopping the mag, for example when bands don't answer interviews or fans disappoint you (especially at concerts)?

'Some of the frustrating moments I already covered

in your second question, but as far as interviews go that haven't been answered by bands... I don't really care, unless the band means a lot to me (mainly the old heroes of mine) - that can be frustrating indeed! If a newcomer band doesn't reply, there are still plenty of others who are willing to do so. And I don't really care for the fans at concerts... I mean, as I told you before, most of them don't mean anything to me. They are young kids and taking themselves way too serious, so I avoid to care about them. If they don't like VOICES, I don't care. The zine is for people who are looking for the old spirit that gets lost nowadays and if there's a feature about an old band in there, some of them even don't know the band... bad luck for them!

Are you already working on # 8? If yes, some details would be cool!

'Yep, # 8 is already in the making, but I won't tell you anything at this point of time as I hope to come up with a really special issue in terms of the contents. And as of yet, I'm not sure if anything will be possible, so I better do not talk about it already. The only thing I can tell right now is, the quality of the texts will be better as I use a computer for it now and I don't have to reduce my old typewriter stuff on a xerox machine over and over again. But don't worry, the feeling will stay the same, 'cause I'm not going to use it for layout and stuff, just for the typing to get a better printing quality! I hope to have it out early 1996 sometime.'

With all your experiences and metallic knowledge I want you to give the readers / fans some wise words for a better orientation in this quite with attitudes, releases, etc. overloaded scene!

'That's a tough closing one... The best thing to do often can be tapetrading. This way you get to hear a band quite early and you can already make up your mind whether you like them or not. And it's getting easier to select albums that way also, 'cause you are already aware of many names when albums finally come out. Don't let yourselves fool by reviews or hype, always check out the stuff on your own, and be true to yourself. If you like something - good, don't worry about the reactions of other who do NOT like it. Don't follow the masses, it will be a waste of money if you discover that you bought stuff you don't really like yourself...

Costa, thank you so much for giving me this opportunity! It's a real honour to get a feature in **TALES OF THE MACABRE** as I admire your work very much! Keep the spirit alive!

Thank you for your great answers... if everyone answers an interview like you do, then the general niveau / attitude in our scene would be much much better.

At the end I like to say that VOICES... # 8 is probably out when you read this, and I can guarantee you that especially fans of old bands get a stiff in their jeans when holding # 8 in their hands as interviews with **POISON**, **RAZOR**, **SACRIFICE**, etc. are intended to be included beside the actual bands. If you like to know some info, write to Frank with an IRC (or send \$5/\$6 directly to pre-order your copy as his mag is always sold out very quickly!).



From The Darkside

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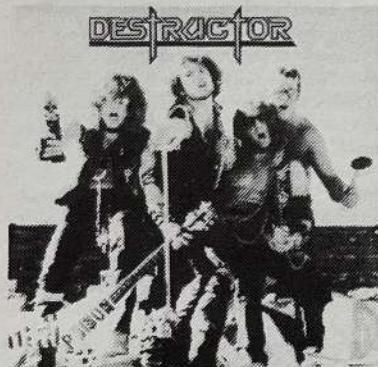
Forgotten Jewels

Classical metal albums you should never get out of your mind...

EXCITER - Unveiling the Wicked

(Music For Nations)

Canadian **Exciter** managed to strike with an album ("Heavy Metal Maniac") even before **Metallica's** highly celebrated 'Kill 'Em All'-LP was out, and the band has always be counted to the premier power/speed metal bands. "Unveiling the Wicked", **Exciter's** fourth record, is the most powerful one if you ask me, although it wasn't as fast as the band's previous released stuff plus the album suffered from a weak production (it was produced by the same asshole who ruined the sound on **Possessed's** "Beyond The Gates" LP). But the songs are really great, heavy metal with great pounding drums, totally screaming vocals (which are still original and uncopied until now) and, most important, phenomenal guitars (just listen to the godly soli, fuckin' excellent!). Songs like "Invasion / Waiting in the Dark", "Living Evil", "Brainstorm / Die in the Night" or "Mission Destroy" are an excellent proof for the 80s' metal bands being much better at their instruments, especially at the guitars, than the majority of today's bands. If you want to experience real heavy metal power, then you shouldn't miss this one here (the other **Exciter** LPs except for "O.T.T." are great, too). For unknown reasons "Unveiling the wicked" has been crushed by the critics, saying **Exciter** has wimped out and shit like that, and this had in my opinion some negative effects on the band's career. The last big success at **Exciter** were the Brazilian gigs anno '87 as supportact for **Venom**, who still were very famous in Brazil during that time. I don't know whether the band is still alive or not...the latest sign was the "Kill After Kill" album back in '92, which was a kind of 'Back to the Roots' album (in the vein of their in '84 released "Violence and Force" LP). It was a really hard to see **Exciter** being the opening act for the **Rage** tour in '92 (I guess), when the played in front of 150 people...



DESTRUCTOR "Maximum Destruction"
(Roadrunner)

Cleveland's answer to **Slayer** !!! Thrash Metal in the vein of old **Slayer** ("Show No Mercy"), just with the difference that **Destructor's** music was more based on rhythmic energy, although good guitarsoli aren't missing. This album was released in the beginning of 1986, but due to bad promotion the band didn't get too much attention in the scene. However, smasher like "Pounding Evil", "Iron Curtain", "Destructor", etc. are the kind of thrash metal which was very popular back in that time as nearly everybody was mad about **Slayer** !!! "Maximum Destruction" sadly was destined to be the only LP by this promising band, because their bassist Dave Holocaust was stabbed to death by an insane asshole on new year's eve 1987. This was **Destructor's** end, during a time when they were recording their follow-up LP which never saw the light of day (unfortunately). If you like old thrash, you simply have to get a copy of this forgotten jewel!

AVENGER "Blood Sports" / "Killer Elite"

(Neat Records/Roadrunner)

Heavy/Power Metal at its finest. These English rockers deliver us music that sounds like a bastard out of **Iron Maiden** and **Exciter** which hammers pretty heavy into your ears. Don't get shocked by the stupid front- and backcover, the music is really well-done. Nice! Also their second (and also last) album "Killer Elite" is cool and in the same direction with good guitarwork, etc. Real Power/Heavy Metal freaks should have their own copies of both LPs.

HOBBS' ANGEL OF DEATH

"House of Death"
(Steamhammer)

This Australian outfit has probably released the last real wicked thrash album it was the time (1988) when shitbands like **Anthrax**, **Helloween**, **Testament**, etc. have ruined the old rough thrash spirit and ruled the scene with their pseudoheavy music. That was the reason why "House of Death" hadn't been celebrated by the leading magazines, but to me this is one of the best thrash albums ever made. Straight ahead dark thrash in the vein of old **Slayer**, **Sodom** and **Venom** (exactly the influences which a lot of new black metalbands claim to have).... The songlyrics seemed to be quite cliché, just take a look at titles like "Lucifer's Domain", "Satan's Crusade", etc. BUT even if this seems to be unoriginal, **Hobbs'** music is (at least for me) way more evil than the stuff most of today's black metalbands play! Especially Peter Hobbs' vocals are more than just ugly...his hard but clear pronunciation of the words sounds great as well as the voice itself (young Tom Araya meets Tom Angelripper). Songs like "Crucifixion", "Marie Antoinette", etc. still beat the hell out of the amps and totally convince. **Hobbs'** have released a new album after 7 years of absence, and I'm very excited to hear it. When it's great (I hope so), then expect to read an interview with Peter Hobbs in TALES...# 4! All of you headbangers who still aren't familiar with "House of Death" should get a copy of it, especially as it gets sold for a few bucks only. The CD version contains two bonus tracks!

AGENT STEEL - Skeptics Apocalypse

(Roadrunner/Combat records)

With the "Speed Metal" wave came the dangerous **Agent Steel** (as they were called by **COMBAT**), probably the best Speed band ever. Their debut-LP was highly expected after the band released their debut-demo "144,000 gone", plus ex-members of **Abattoir** played in **Agent Steel**, and this album turned out to be one of the strongest in '85. Excellent rough sounding guitars (riffs that nearly every of today's black metal bands couldn't play), drums, bass and John Cyriis' vocals which sound like Bruce Dickinson's (at **Iron Maiden**-times), just a bit higher and theatrical at parts. Every song is sounding individual and present first class metal with guitarsoli which make real metallers' heart pound wilder, "Skeptics Apocalypse" is nothing but an unforgettable masterpiece of furious metal. The band got weaker with every new release (a 12"inch and an album followed), and suffered from many line-up changes, so that their career ended in '88. If you ever get the chance to grip this record, then make sure that you won't get your hands off it again (also the 12"inch "Mad-Locust Rising" is enjoyable and pretty rare). A lot of new bands were formed by Ex-**Agent Steel** members (like **Holy Terror**, **Evil Dead**, **Scepter**, **Pontius Pilatus**, etc.), but they all couldn't compete with the class of **Agent Steel's** debut-vinyl strike.



(Roadrunner / Viper Records)

Until today I can't really understand why a band like **Razor** never got too much attention in the metal underground, especially when I listen to "Executioner's Song", the band's second release (the first one was a mini-album called "Armed and Dangerous" which was limited to 1000 copies and is an ultra-rare jewel now). Back when this album was out (early 1985) they were described as **Motörhead** on speed because of Stace "Sheepdog" McLaren's rough voice, but musically the band was a mixture out of **Slayer** and traditional heavy metal with excellent guitarsoli, cool basslines and pounding drums. Killersongs like "Take This Torch", "Hot Metal", "Fast and Loud", etc. still overwhelm me and bring back a certain old cool feeling. The band's trademark was always Stace's piercing screams which haven't been imitated by any other band until now. **Razor** got harder (and more monotonous but still great) with every new album (they released three LPs in one year!), and the band didn't care about what all the critics said. Because of the massive **Razor**-boycott in most big magazines, the band got a certain cult status within some thrashers' heart. All **VIPER** / **ROADRUNNER** albums (three albums) and of course especially the MLP by **Razor** are hard to get nowadays, so open your eyes very wide for it.

THE UNSANE - Inverted Crosses

(New Renaissance)

This is not really a masterpiece, but an essential MLP for everyone into old **Slayer**. Songs like "The Godsend", "Clouds of Death" sound like simpler versions of Hannemann's / King's early songwriting. So if you ever see this piece of vinyl (also available on Picture Disc), why not checking it out?

OSTROGOTH

'Full Moon's Eyes'
(Mausoleum)

Friends of melodic but still heavy Power Metal have surely heard about **Ostrogoth** from Belgium, haven't you? This MLP (released in '84!) was the band's first step on vinyl as far as I know, followed by two LPs ("Ecstasy and Danger", "Too Hot"), but I think that "Full Moon's Eyes" was their best strike. Today their music might sound cliché, but on the contrary this is especially interesting, because this style can not be heard in the 90s anymore. Not everyone's cup of tea!

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UNPURE

UNPURE - an original but also a not too beloved band. After a couple of demotapes they released their debut CD which includes both new and old songs which could be described as northern sounding black metal, but with the difference that **UNPURE** have some strange rocky rhythms and riffs included in their music. It's something you have to hear a couple of times before you really get into it (that's the reason why some people find this band boring), but as long as there are people out there liking it (including me) I don't care. Like in **TALES OF THE SACRIFICE # 1** it was again Kolgrim (the grim person on the picture) who had to face my questions...

What did you think after holding the first **UNPURE** CD in your hands?

'The first reaction was: What happened to our cover??? But it felt great to release this one. I hope it will give the band more promotion than our demos did. Of course it would really feel better to release a LP version of the album, but in these days it's quite hard to find a good deal which includes LP versions. Although you're one of the older Swedish black metal bands nowadays, you didn't get too much attention until you signed at NAPALM... What do you think was the reason for this? Do you see **UNPURE** as a kind of "outsider band"?

'Our demos weren't printed in too many copies and we did not do too many flyers for them either. And we didn't work too much with promoting the band earlier, we thought it was better to work on the music and the band itself more, instead of promoting it. The music is absolutely the most important thing to us (It simply has to be when you are a "band" - ed). I don't know if **Unpure** is an outsider band, I don't give a fuck either. I just probably see **Unpure** as total idiots, they can kiss my bleeding ass.'

Well, I don't exactly know what Kolgrim means with that... Anyway, I must admit that it's not easy to get into **UNPURE**'s music when listening to it for the first time, so I can imagine that some album reviews haven't been too positive, right? How were the critics for your CD?

'Eehh, I haven't read any review of our album so far. Some people told me that the album is very good, etc., but I haven't seen or heard too many reactions. Perhaps you know more about this than we do.' Not really, but some people told me that "**UNPURE** is pure boring" and stuff like that. I think they should listen to your stuff again until they get used to

your style... But continuing to bore you with my questions: You had a second guitarist, but he left very soon. What was the reason and what about a new guitarist?

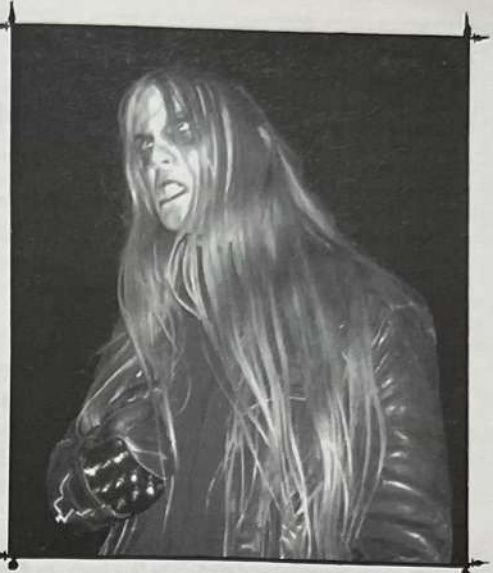
'We kind of kicked the last guitarist out, because he didn't seem to give **Unpure** very much intention as he should have done. He fucked up a bit. We are looking for two new guitarists, but it seems to be quite impossible to find any. But right now we will be joined by two session guitarists from another Swedish band. They will help out for the next recording and for gigs. But we need two guitarists to join us and who will devote their asses to the band.'

Black metal bands often talk about old bands / influences, but most bands do not have the ancient touch in their music as they claim to have. What about UNPURE's music? Do you intend to sound ancient or doesn't that matter when composing songs?

'We are very influenced by bands from the 80s, but we are aware of living in the 90s now, and we play our own crap. We don't intend to sound ancient (with some exceptions of course, hail **Celtic Frost** !!!)... (oh yeah, I heard this in your "A Forest Event" song which heavily sounds like "Circle of the Tyrants" - ed), we are a developing band. Our music comes quite naturally.'

There's still a lot of unreleased stuff existing like the one from '93... what will happen with it? I think that those songs like "Horny goats", etc. are really cool...

'Those unreleased recordings will stay unreleased. But we just might record some of those songs. Some will surely appear on albums if we still keep on releasing albums. Talking about "Horny Goats", I think this one will absolutely be re-recorded. Perhaps even for our second CD. We like those old songs and we will give them better versions and better chances to



rape the world with its disgust... Fuck, yeah...'

On one paper sheet I read the name "Pornostar Kolgrim" ... so does this mean that we can see your sexual activities on horny videos?

'You wish, huh ???...'

Ha, not really... it depends on who's your sexual partner, aarrghhh !!! I know that you're very interested in traditional heavy metal music like **HEAVY LOAD**, etc... will you ever write a real heavy metal song for **UNPURE** one day?

'I think we already do play real metal. But I wouldn't of course call it heavy metal. But we are highly influenced by it. So far we haven't any plans for doing a heavy metal song, but it could happen. The question is if it really would be released then... But it is highly possible that we could release some kind of heavy metal cover song. Just small plans at the moment...'

You're also a vinyl-lover, but your album is only sold on modern compact disc format. Doesn't that matter you? What about releasing your next stuff on vinyl?

'Yes, we surely wanted to release the album on vinyl, but it is very hard to find a good deal and we decided to accept it anyway. It will give us great promotion and probably this can lead to a fair LP deal later. We have signed for two CDs at NAPALM. So far we will release at least one more CD for them and after that we have no idea what's going to happen. Perhaps it would be time to find a good LP deal then.'

To end this interview please give me your imagination on how the general metal scene will develop until the year 2000?

'Homosexual Metal will be a big trend when we reach the year 2000. I've already seen it coming!'

You've probably already read something about **Empyrium** in other zines, but anyway: Their successful demo "Der wie ein Blitz vom Himmeln fiel..." (2 songs + intro/outro) contains slow, simple and atmospheric music which is based upon harmony instead of power. Why not? I think these two German guys did their job very well, even if the music is sometimes too dominated by the synth sounds (guitars are more in the background). But all in all it is music which will be liked by most of you readers in case you like to hear something that is way more atmospheric than **Gehenna's** MCD "First Spell". Apropos "First Spell": **Empyrium's** vocals are sounding like the ones on this MCD, so don't expect any nerve-wrecking oral tortures.

Like most of the other demobands also **Empyrium** got contacted by labels, and they finally decided to sign at **PROPHECY** Production. As this is a brandnew label I wondered how their contract is. Markus reveals this secret... 'Yes, we signed for one album (CD/lim. vinyl) with **PROPHECY** Prod. The contract we got from Martin is fuckin' great and fair. The album will be released with the title "...like an embers-red wintersunset". **PROPHECY** Prod. also print T-Shirts of **Empyrium** at the moment, so everyone interested should drop a line.' Yes, I saw this Shirt, and I must admit that it looks nice (black shirt, golden logo...noble!). Talking about the album, I wanted to know from Markus if it brings us a change of style or if they continued to use those heavy synth effects... Can he imagine his band writing atmospheric / hymnic music without the help of synths ??? ...There will be no radical style-changes in **Empyrium**



... We pretty much found our own style I think... as for the keyboard, it's still used as massive as before (a thing you don't like that much, right ???) (Well, I prefer a healthy balance between real instruments and synthetic sounds - ed.) or even more... Some of the new songs are very calm and some are more METAL. To the second part of the question: I could imagine **Empyrium** without synths but only if you pay us an Orchestra, Costa... Well, there's some Greek blood in my veins, but I'm certainly not Onassis, ha ha !!! Let's come to another term that is used quite often in these days, I'm talking about "paganism". Also **Empyrium** deal with pagan thoughts, but I asked myself if it's possible for a German to be really "pagan"? I mean, there were so many

different tribes marching through the country that a real origin is hard to find... Markus answers... 'It depends on what you mean with pagan. Of course it's absolutely ridiculous if somebody claims that he has pure Germanic blood in his veins. It's kind of impossible... On the other hand it's of course possible to be pagan nowadays if we talk about the ideology. Pagan/Heathen means "free from God, one with nature" to me, so...'

Well, at the end I just want to add that more than 500 copies have been sold of the demo, and it is still available (for 10 or 12 DM, I've forgotten the exact price). The recordings of the albums are finished and I guess that it'll be out pretty soon. For info write to...

Prophecy Prod., Postfach 1469, 54516 Wittlich, Germany

Nazgul's Eyrie Productions

Postfach 1122, 92656 Neustadt, Germany.

One of the most original but also most infamous labels must be NAZGUL'S EYRIE PRODUCTIONS (N.E.P.) from Germany. While labels like MISANTHROPY, MOONJOB, etc. received maximum attention within just a couple of months, N.E.P. still remained a small underground label up to this date. But Oppros, so the name of the chief behind this company, already released almost ten CDs until now, and all those CDs (except for probably Polish Behemoth) presented untypical and sometimes really strange music, in other words... all CDs have something what is missing at most labels' products: Originality! You can read about all the releases elsewhere in this issue, so I needn't describe and mention all the things that are out on N.E.P.! And due to this strange label concept I simply was forced to get in touch with Oppros for this issue's label interview. Of course the best thing to start this interview was to ask him about the past of N.E.P., how the idea came and how the concept looked like at the very beginning....



The idea of starting a label is actually quite old. I always have had the wish to do something for the music I indulge in, yet never had the financial opportunities to do so. It became more real when I got in contact with Eurononymous in early 1992. I still have great respect for him as we got to know each other quite well in the relatively short time I knew him. He was always complaining about money problems and as I have a quite well-paying job since a couple of years now, I came up with the idea of putting money into DEATHLIKE SILENCE Productions. We all know how the D.S.P. story ended and thus I decided to carry on myself anyways. I came into contact with Dawnfall more or less in the same time and they had this "Dominance of Darkness" tape ready and were looking for someone to release it as I liked it for its extremity I decided to release it on NAZGUL'S EYRIE PRODUCTIONS. The concept was (and still is) to release bands that are too extreme for any other label and who are at the same time something totally unique and have this kind of "ancient" approach; I guess you know what I mean? **Well, yes, I think I got the point! But as all your releases don't present usual music, ...I mean, especially bands like BARATHRUM, COUNTESS, etc. have an extreme style which only attracts some die-hard fans but not the majority of listeners.... does it pay out releasing such kind of stuff? I can't imagine this music making you wealthier...**

'Well, why should I thread a path that others have before me ?? I really don't care too much about the majority of listeners. They don't have to buy my releases either. But I knew that from the start and I did it anyways. To be honest, I really like the idea that most people hate what I'm doing. I'm 28 years-old now and in my time I've seen a couple of trends come and wither away yet, always those releases which were something special are those which are sought after in later times. For example Bulldozer: Everybody is desperately seeking for their first two albums but back then, when they have been released they got ripped apart in every review I read. The same goes for Bathory or Hellhammer and a lot of other acts which are highly acclaimed nowadays. To say it straight, it doesn't matter what people say NOW, what I want to achieve is not to make money (although there's nothing wrong with that) but to leave a mark in time. Of course N.E.P. is more or less an expansive hobby. It does however pay back my expenses.'

What is coming next on your label? Any new bands you're willing to sign?

My next releases are Barathrum's "Erie" CD and Countess "Ad Maiorem Sathanae Gloriam" CD which are both out since Samhain 1995 C.E., I guess there are already the reviews somewhere else in this mag !! (Of course, ha ha! -ed.) After that I will release a CD by Amon Goeth from Czech Republic ("Call Thy Master") still in this year, followed by CDs of Bifrost ("Wildfire"), Mortuary Drape, Drowned, Cruachan, Dawnfall which should all be out in the first half of 1996 C.E. New bands? Hmm, I'm still listening to a lot of demos of course, but it's really hard to find something original in a time when (almost) everybody is trying to imitate Norse acts. Which leads us to question Nr.4...'

Yes, I wondered why you don't sign stuff that sounds like typical Norwegian Black Metal? Don't you like that stuff?

'This is actually one of my favourite topics to talk about... I don't think that these days there is such thing as a Black Metal band in Norway !!! I mean, most kids don't know but those who follow the scene for longer than the last two years do know about the roots (or better: the LACK of roots...) in the so-called Norse scene. I consider it consulting that kids under 20 want to tell me about Real Black Metal. I was already collecting demos with that stuff when they were still soiling their pants....

"Popular style" ? Isn't that a proof for my theory ? (In these days of extreme commercialism, yes! -ed.) I extremely hate the idea of Black Metal being popular. It's a paradox to me. The idea behind black metal is to be the most extreme form of music thus is simply cannot be popular (I don't think you're right here, just remember how big Venom was and how many copies the Hellhammer MLP and the first Sodom MLP sold when it hit the shops, the critics laughed and called it the worst, but the fans loved it! But it wasn't a popular trend music! -ed.). Otherwise it's not REAL black metal. And so it is, just listen to all this stupid hardcore riffs in Norwegian pseudo black metal. They all think they are sooo great but they just created another trend. It started because people were fed up with the Sunlight or Morrissound productions, didn't it? I wonder how long it will take until people realise that it's just the same to record in Unisound or Grieghallen.... Just the names have changed, yet they are still as stupid as always. I do like Mayhem and some of the Darkthrone stuff, but all the rest? Bah! Forget it... By the way, why didn't you ask Mr. Vikernes about his old (well, 1991 C.E.) band Old Funeral?? When will people understand that it takes more than facepaint to play REAL Black Metal????'

The existence of NAZGUL'S EYRIE seems to be in "danger" according to some "death threats" which you got from the Austrian Circle of Hate... What's the reason for this, and what do you think about these "true black metal" people behind this circle?

'Well, I hardly think it as a "danger" to be honest. Why I got this masterpiece of German orthography, I have no clue, although I suspect it has to do with the Dawnfall CD. As you might know, Dawnfall are really hated by the German Black-Metal Mafia or the Teutonic Brotherhood or whatever they're called right now (by the way, why do they use an English name when they are sooo German ???), because they said that Absurd are dilentantic idiots, after they committed this heroic deed in 1993 C.E. ! As they are all "true" brothers they probably felt the need of adding something to it. But I don't really know and neither do I care. I can assure you they won't find me easy prey if they really have the guts to show up. Probably they even can't afford the train tickets anyways... About "true" (I prefer REAL...) people in general, I think there is only a very little number of those who really know what this music is all about. All the rest is childplay that will wither away within the next years so I guess it's useless to waste my energy on commenting their utter stupidities. Instead I will care for the few who deserve it.'

Although you are a big SLAUGHTER-fan you once said in one of your letters that the 80s weren't as strong as the 90s... why this? Don't you think the most 80s bands simply played better music and that the whole thing (scene) was more honest and underground?

'Yeah, Slaughter I know since 1985 when their second demo blew me out of my boots first. Well, I never said that the 80s weren't as strong as the 90s, I said that I can detect a lot of similarities between both eras. What I mean is that (at least among those people I'm with) there's this certain mood of things moving. Now and then there were some bands who were truly original and went their way and also a lot of crap bands who barely knew how to hold a guitar properly (this was only an exception in the 80s, nearly every debutLP had then had a certain good instrumental level, but nowadays there are a lot of amateurish bands around that are releasing CDs! - ed.). Those who read fanzines since 1985 already know that there certainly were fights between underground bands (Slaughter vs Death for example) and there was a lot of shit-talking, so I don't think there was much honesty back then (but the bands and fans weren't as infected by images / pseudogrim attitudes as it is the case now, no such "true"

behaviours ! -ed.). It certainly was LESS underground than today's scene (!!! Metal was less accepted back in the 80s as it is now ! People even laughed at **Metallica** who now are megastars ! -ed.); It wasn't a problem to buy almost everything in normal record stores and nobody cared about it (and today you can almost buy everything in big supermarkets - ed.). Nowadays you're more "commercial" when your releases are in a bigger mailorder already... I certainly do agree to the idea that you have to know about the glorious past of our music (and I mean NOT just **Bathory** and **Celtic Frost**...) to be able to understand.' **But staying at SLAUGHTER: Why don't you try to get the rights to release their legendary "Surrender or Die"-demo, the one you were talking about, on CD / LP format ? Wouldn't this be a cool idea, especially as most new metallers don't know too much of the old stuff anymore ?**

'Well, it certainly would be nice to have it on CD and LP but apart from the fact that it would be really hard to get these rights (if the mastertape still exists anyways...), I don't think that too much of today's kids care (They simply have to care as they can find the original version of "Tales of the Macabre" on it, ha ha ! -ed.). They just want this Norwegian pseudo music... and just to please myself ? Well, I do have it on DAT... For those who really care, most of the tracks are on the CD of "Strappado" (yes, most of the tracks, but I want them all ! -ed.), so it's up to them. It's certainly a pity that there are so many forgotten jewels, but for those who really care there are always ways, don't you agree ?

Yes, of course, but holding it on LP format would be ultimate,...at least for me ! You released two German CDs so far with DAWNFALL (R.I.P.) and THAR-NORR.... but will there be more German stuff ? You seem to be the only label (beside MERCILESS Records) which is interested in German hardware... What do you think about the German scene ?

'Well, first of all, **Dawnfall** are not R.I.P.; There will be a new CD during the first half of the coming year. Why there are no more German releases, I don't know, probably they are all to busy being "true" !!! I think the German scene has a lot of potential, it was proven in the 80s with bands like **Iron Angel**, **Poison** and others as you all know. Yet these days all originality seems to be lost as almost everybody tries to sound like their idols. There are very few German bands however who try to be themselves and not the new **Burzum** or whatever and those are the ones I'm looking for. I've already talked successfully about eals with **Drowned** and **Mayhemic Truth** (arrgh, you really want to sign this horde of posers ? -ed.) and I'm open to others as well as long as they are original. Further I think that most of the people in the German scene are just little punks who found themselves something new to shock their parents. That's probably the reason why there's so little originality as for just shocking it's enough to reproduce.'

Are you able to live from the work you invest in NAZGUL'S EYRIE ?

'No, certainly not, but that's not what I'm going for anyways. Luckily I do have a good (means well-paid) job that pays for my daily life and allows me to run such an expansive hobby as N.E.P. Personally I'm very happy about this as I don't have to make any commercial compromises and can release whatever I want (That's probably the difference between you and other labels, your

independence of the sales ! -ed.). If I only sell 100 copies of a certain CD, so be it. This is probably the most important thing about N.E.P. which makes it totally unique: I'm not responsible to anybody about sales or releases, I AM the label.'

Sounds very cool, and such attitudes deserve a certain respect ! But why no vinyl releases ? Do you really think that vinyl doesn't sell anymore ???

'Hmm, I have thought about vinyl myself a lot of times, but I'm not sure about it to be honest. Certainly, it would be very nice to have my releases as a real record, but it would be as expensive as a CD in production and selling price (say 25 DM) and I don't see enough people willing to pay that. Another difficulty is the length of my releases, there are a couple of CDs which are close or even beyond an hour playing time and you cannot put that on a record. There will however be a series of limited Picture Disc LPs done by FOLTER Records in near future to satisfy all the vinyl junkies. I could imagine this to be selling, we'll see, but actually I prefer to put money in new releases instead of putting it out in every way possible. Also it's a lot easier for me to handle as I'm very busy with what I'm already doing. However, if someone's interested in licensing my releases in vinyl form, I'd be happy to hear from him. Perhaps we could come to an agreement. I actually have offered this to two labels who still do vinyl, but all I've got was delays and excuses, so I guess they're not interested and I will certainly not start begging...'

How are the contacts to your bands ? Is it important for you what kind of guys are hiding behind the music ?

'Yes, of course it's very important for me to know the people behind ! Contacts are very important, I'm phoning about once a week with every band (which causes enormous phonebills), so I always know what's going on. I don't think I'd like this kind of business relationship that bigger labels have towards their bands. Before signing a band I usually travel to their place and meet them, thus I've been to the Netherlands quite a lot and also a lot of to other places. I will go to Portugal pretty soon to take a closer look onto Tanngrisir's new band **Ironsword** (you know, he's got kicked out of **Moonspell** for refusing to agree that Ares' phonebills are being payed with bandmoney, don't you ?) and I'm also thinking of some other possible travels. To know more about the internal N.E.P. affairs, I just want to refer to the fact that I'm still friend with my bands even after a release. Not every label could say that much I think...'

Really fair and honest treatment of the bands ! Your personal wishes for 1996 ?

'Hmmm, that's a difficult one, I certainly wish that people would find some other way to shock their beloved families, probably without insulting my favourite form of art. Most of my other wishes are a more personal nature, so I won't bother you with it. I'd like to see bands like **Angel Witch**, **Witchfynde**, **Cloven Hoof** or **Demon** live as those were the first Black Metal bands, even before anybody ever talked about **Venom**, a fact that is sadly forgotten as well.... It will remain a dream.

"yet all we see or seem

is but a dream within a dream..." (E.A. Poe.)"

FUNERARY CALL

Funerary Call are not a usual band. Their music is really weird black magical, with strange ritualistic sounds. It is based on infernal and obscure effects like sighing voices, slow drums, melancholic but also morbid keyboards and wicked vocals. Their second demo ("Damnation's Journey") features "six tracks of ritualistic hate...the blackest hymns of god's disgrace !" (to quote their flyer) and is a real interesting piece of dark music which is far beyond the trends. It's impossible to describe, you've got to hear this yourself, but be sure that you have to listen to it a couple of times until you get used to it ! As this band doesn't play ordinary black metal music I guess that they've received very different reactions from the metal people, right ? Impius Erga Deum, the guy who you can see on the picture, answers: 'So far all reactions have been very positive. Most people have commented that they find the music to be very dark and very original. I have had only one person so far who has received one of my demos and complained that he did not like due to the fact that it was too "strange" for him. I guess he was disappointed that we didn't sound like **Darkthrone** or **Emperor**.' Probably yes, as this is the music which sells best in these days... and exactly this has caused one question in my mind. Does **Funerary Call** play that weird stuff just to be "anti-trend" in the "trendy" black metal scene, or what has moved them to play that morbid ? ...! We play the style of music we do because we are trying to create one of the most truly darkest and perverse forms of music ever ! We are not specifically doing it to be "anti-trend"; this is the way our music turns out because this is the way we envision our sound. Fuck people ! Fuck trends ! Fuck everything ! I don't care about that shit !' So what about the term "Abruptum light" for **Funerary Call**'s style ?...No, I would not associate any term like that with **Funerary Call** at all. Is that supposed to be a joke !! Ha, probably yes, but it is also a little bit honestly meant.... you can't deny that **Abruptum** are one of the ultimate weird and perverse black bands existing (even if I don't like them too much), and that this is this Canadian band's goal as well, isn't it ? "Damnation's Journey" belongs to the more original demotapes, BUT it's not stuff for those who fear musical torture and like the easy way !!!

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Kari Rueslatten

Interview by Russ Smith (of



The sun slanted through my bedroom window, one sweet summer morning. Though not fully awake, I placed a CD into my deck, a CD that had appeared only moments earlier on my doorstep. Soon I was awoken, and bewitched, into alluring world of grandeur and gentility, a pure and mesmerising experience. It was a world borne from the soul of **Kari Rueslatten**, once a member of the well known Norwegian outfit, **The 3rd and the Mortal**. Now she has been freed of the shackles of that band and gathered together her own harvest of rich melodies. It is a chance for her voice to command the music more than ever before. Simple arrangements let the vocals soar with the whispering wind, an air of innocence and romance prevails. It is a rare experience in this day and age. I would suggest that it is an experience that is hard to resist.

Though this CD is only filled with basic demo recordings of her songs, I believe people should be forewarned of the coming glory of her music. Therefore I had to find out more about what lies behind this lady's music, her motivations and inspirations, plus the unravelling of her recent past. It is here where I started, with a question that must have become tiresome for her by now. What were the reasons for leaving **The 3rd and the Mortal** and pursuing a personal project? What is a matter of feeling restricted within that band?

*I left **The 3rd and the Mortal** for personal reasons. It was a really tough decision to make. I felt that I was leaving my family. We had done so much together, been through so much. But, at that moment, it was the only right thing to do.*

Ending up on my own, as I have never been before, because I have always been playing in bands of some kind, I found that I just could not quit music. So, I started to play instruments that I could comprehend, such as the piano and synthesiser, and so I started to think that maybe I really could do this, make music entirely on my own.

After her departure from the band, there were some heavy rumours surrounding her reasons for leaving. There was a lot of slander and allegations in the Norwegian press, concerning Nazi sympathies and other such ridiculous suggestions. I wondered if Kari thought that had helped or hindered her in the long run.

I think, and surely hope, that in the long run what counts is if the music is good or not. I definitely would not say that all promotion is good promotion. The worst of it is that people actually seem to believe that what the journalists say is true. Only the one who in the first place spoke the words can say whether the journalist twisted them or not. In most cases they do, is what I have experienced. They turn things around, so that they can make it sound the way they want it to. I think they call it freedom of speech...

Now let us concentrate on the present, the CD of demo recordings. It is obvious that the material is heavily centered on her voice. The music has a different feel to **The 3rd and the Mortal**'s material. Can Kari explain what she is trying to achieve with his material musically?

The music is definitely, as you say, much more based upon the vocal lines. I build the arrangements around the vocal lines. That comes very naturally, since I consider my voice as my main instrument. I am trying to create music that is warm, atmospheric, melancholic, but not depressive, and a bit up-beat

sometimes, too. I try to make music that is unique to myself, that comes from my heart and soul.

There is a strong folk influence in the sound. Whereabouts did those influences come from, has folk music been a long time love?

Yes, folk music has been a part of me for as long as I can remember. Folk music is both fine and pure, it is created by people who cared for the beautiful nature that surrounded them. It was musically built up on tones people had in them, not tones that can be found on the piano. The melodies were not written down, they were sung from one person to another, who each put some of their uniqueness into it before they gave it away. When I write music, I let myself be inspired deeply by those tones.

I saw from the CD inlay that Kari states that she is influenced by Norwegian nature when she writes her material. Certainly the material has a tranquil setting that is similar. So, how does Norwegian nature affect her songwriting? I see that she also lives in the city of Trondheim, so does she often get out into the countryside to breathe that atmosphere?

Even though Trondheim, the town in which I live, is the third biggest town in Norway, it is an incredibly small town compared to other towns. So I live approximately 5 kilometres away from the inner city of Trondheim, and still I can take ten steps and I will be out in the wilderness! People moan about how I handle living so far up north, where it is so cold all the time. Well, I guess that explains it.

I very much gather both strength and inspiration from walking out in the woods. It's so quiet, patient and understanding. At the same time it is majestic and filled with mysticism. Now isn't that most of what you need in life?

Well, you will find no arguments from this scribe! Mother nature's babes have strayed into their concrete wilderness and lost simplicity. But nature is not the only force that drives this music. I detect a heavy scent of romance in the lyrics and in the vocal delivery. Is that a reflection of her character, or is it simply to fit in with the style of music?

I would very much consider myself as a romantic person. I love the folk tales and stories about princesses in towers and castles, trolls and people who live underneath the earth, people of the night, and I must not forget the elves who enchant the living with the charm and beauty, solely in the dusk... well, in the end, kill them. The thing in the folk tales very often is the reason for people's unhappiness and disgrace, the reason why they kill themselves or others, is love. Now isn't that romantic?

Romantic, but tragic I would also say. But what about the main source of this romantic feel in the music, Kari's voice? I wondered if she had had any proper training to attain that purity, or if it was just a natural gift? When did she first start to realise the potential of her voice, and how does she look after it and keep it in shape?

I have always loved singing, and used to sing in a girl's choir for many years. When I was twelve years old, I did vocals in my first band (We used to do Scorpions-songs). Two years later I attended the local school of music for

DESTROYER 666



The flyer for "Six Songs With The Devil" looked pretty promising, so I sent my money (\$5) right to the band's address. When I heard the tape I was a bit disappointed, because I awaited thrash metal as they flyer has said. But after listening to those six songs (without the devil of course) again, I detected that DESTROYER 666 play some cool and satisfying with thrash infected death metal. Questions came up and I wrote them again for more details about this strange band. Still I don't know who is responsible for these answers, but I think it's not really necessary.... just read what they have to say!

You have drawn my attention with your flyer saying "thrash in the vein of ONSLAUGHT, DESTRUCTION, SARCOFAGO, etc.", but I think you are more death metal (SARCOFAGO meets BESTIAL WARLUST) with some thrash-influences here and there... Some old fans might be a bit disappointed after reading the flyer...

The flyer stated Evil Death Metal unashamedly played in the "vein" of etc. etc. Unfortunately today to be influenced usually means they've ripped the band off outright. The influences in Destroyer 666 should be obvious, but still slight. If anyone wants those bands they should gonna listen to their old records or one of the numerous rip off bands circulating these days (Destruction / Onslaught -rip off bands in these days !!! Are there any ??? -ed.). Personally for each band mentioned in the flyer I could point at a song of piece from hich a direct influence is obvious. As for the Bestial Warlust influences: I wrote most of the material for their first CD, so a comparison is unavoidable. But their new stuff "should" dispel any similarities.

The new fashion in black /death metal is using Nazi symbols, and I've also noticed that you use the "svastika" in your demosleeve, why? If you aren't into Nazism, don't you think it's quite stupid to use these symbols as they might irretate some fans?

The svastika holds meaning to me beyond the realms of the brainwashed masses. If fools got irritated, then it invariably means you're doing something right, doesn't it? (Fools, who probably like your music and think you're praising nazism might try to copy you, both your music and image,...so fools can cause trouble, everyone can be dangerous! And finally it doesn't matter if you get killed by a fool or intelligent person, is it? The result is the same anyway! -ed.) I can't find no use of the svastika throughout its long and varied history that displeases me enough to not use it. It also served another purpose, which was to make sure that any interested labels would not for "any" reason inflict censorship on my art. You're right, but when it comes to the german country, albums with svastikas on it won't see the light of day as it's simply prohibited to use such kind of symbols here... Talking about another subject: You aren't into all those evil (northern) black metal bands as I could read from your letter, right? What's the reason for this?

Not exactly, there's just too fucken many of these curts. It gets tiring seeing skinny kids carrying swords and axes, they look completely unable to swing any detrimental effect. There's only so many times you can read of their "spi-fi" (spiritual fiction) bullshit. If the soul of the whiteman really is black, then it means the wise of all centuries past are wrong, and these 18 year olds are right!!! The closest comparison I can find for these people is the hippy kids from 25 years ago, same bullshit, different colour. They said love, we say hate, they said peace, we say war, blah blah blah. They're perpetuating the same one sided lie christianity has pushed down our throats for the past 2000 years. Balance! Without it you will seek unnecessary enemies. And you will produce as many psycho fuck-ups as we have today!

Pretty unusual statements ibdded, but it sounds very interesting. Do you think that the thrash influence will increase in your new songwriting? Which kind of release will follow after "Six Songs for the Devil"?

Destroyer 666 have an LP / CD release within the next month on MODERN INVASION Records. There is some more thrash-orientated songs plus my real songwriting style shines through on a track called "Burning the veil of Falsehood" and some others.

That's another proof for today's phenomenon that new bands get their deals sooner as the fan can notice their bandnames... Any final declarations of war from a former bestial warlustseeking maniac?

The Death Metal Winds howl again!!!! Gospel of the Horns, Spear of Longinus, Bestial Warlust. Buy Vinyl!

Yeah, buy vinyl is a good sentence to end with. I don't know whether "Six Songs With the Devil" is still for sale or not as the band's debutalbum "Violence is the Prince of this World" is out now to shock the masses. I haven't heard it myself, but I believe that it will be a good death thrashing metal opus....

DESTROYER 666, P.O. Box 61, Gardenvale, VIC, 3185, Australia

more classical training of my voice. I have always been like "two sided", with rock bands on the one side, and more classical singing on the other.

A couple of years ago I finished my musical studies at the University of Trondheim. That was also the end of my regular voice training practising. It is nice to sing things of Mozart and Grieg, it is really a challenge. What I dislike is all the rules in classical music. You can not sing it totally the way you want to. Now I mostly sing music I made myself, and it is completely up to me to sing it the way I want.

The promo CD is just a very rough example, done on a 4 track, of what can be produced in future. What we need now is an explanation of how the material will change when they full arrangements of backing instruments have been added.

I will use more "real" instruments, such as grand piano, contrabass, flute, more acoustic instruments basically. I will also use a mixture between sampled drums and acoustic drums. I have a thousand ideas really. I just hope that some day I will get the opportunity to make them come true...

I think that day will come soon, as quality can't be ignored. What is interesting is how the material will be handled. So far Kari's involvement with the music scene has been mainly concentrated inside the so called underground / extreme music scene (outside Norway anyhow) I guess though that that will be pretty restrictive and she will want to move and reach out to as many different genres as possible. Would that be correct?

I think every artist's dream is to reach out to a wider audience and make a living out of their music. I guess the same goes for me. I hope the music I make now will appeal to a wider audience, but I still think that the people who liked what I did with The 3rd And The Mortal will not be disappointed either.

Well, I certainly wasn't disappointed, and I am sure that the majority of people out there won't be either. Anyone interested to sample the delights of this music now can order the demorecordings CD direct from Kari by sending NOK 150/US \$22 (includes postage) to Kari Productions, P.O. Box 1954 Moholt, 7002 Trondheim, Norway. Do yourself a flavour, open up your lives to elegance and charm and music from the heart and soul.

ENSLAVED

ENSLAVED BELONG TO ONE OF THE STRONGEST FORCES FROM THE LAND OF FJORDS, AND I SIMPLY HAD TO INTERVIEW THEM ON THEIR SUPPORT (!) TOUR FOR MARDUK (!!!). THIS INTERVIEW ISN'T THE NEWEST ANYMORE, BUT AS ENSLAVED HAVEN'T RELEASED ANYTHING NEW AFTER "FROST" I THINK IT STILL IS ACTUAL ENOUGH. IVAR, THE GUITARIST AND MAIN SONGWRITER, WAS THE VIKING I TALKED WITH....

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE IN YOUR OPINION BETWEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH EUROPEAN AUDIENCE WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR BEHAVIOUR?

'The middle and north European audience are nearly the same, they prefer to listen to the music.. In Spain for example it was quite a shock for us as the fans were very insane, that's probably because of the hot blood, but they also listen very carefully to the music and seemed to know it well, they go crazier. It were extreme changes in people from country to country, so if we weren't prepared for this we would have got a shock. (...) I feel glad when people say that it's great that we sing in our own language. Many bands don't dare to do it, because they think it sounds stupid... It's good for me, because I have a better mood of expression when using your own language, you can fully put your spirit into the music. About a cultural thing we had a shock tonight. Especially the German audience don't seem to know culture too well when we asked who the wargod is, they screamed out many stupid things. In Spain for example they all screamed it out... of course it was Wotan'

ENSLAVED ISN'T BLACK METAL, BUT YOU CAN'T DENY THAT YOU HAD YOUR PROFITS OUT OF THE NEW BLACK METAL WAVE... HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR BAND AMONG MOST OF TODAY'S SATANIC HORDES?

'We are great friends with old bands like **Darkthrone**, **Immortal**, **Satyricon** and **Emperor**, because we have been influenced from the same music, but not from the same views. They're satanists, we're into the viking stuff. I'm not too heavily into the scene, but I like contacts just because of the musical tastes.

When we started nobody believed in us, because of the viking stuff since '92...and now it gets more popular, and that's great. Now we're seeing the results of it! The first metal bands who came up with viking themes were **Swedish Heavy Load** and certainly **Manowar**, but most of today's metalheads make fun of those bands, even you made some fun of **Manowar** in **Slayer #10**, although your song "Fenris" is very influenced by **Manowar's** opener for their "Triumph of Steel" LP, especially the drumrhythm.

'Yes, I know that! **Manowar** is definitely one of my favoured bands, but I'm afraid of getting too mad on things, which isn't that good. We make fun of almost all things generally, people make fun of us. We have honour and if we take ourselves too serious we won't get anywhere. **Manowar** aren't reading **SLAYER** magazine anyway....'

IN THE OSMOSE INFO IT WAS SAID THAT YOU DON'T DEAL WITH POLICY, BUT DO YOU THINK THAT A LIFESTYLE ITSELF CAN BE A KIND OF POLICY?

'We don't deal with policy in the sense of the word...of course not having a political view is also a political view. I'm also interested, but I haven't found my right policy yet...most ideologies are just some policy in different packages, having the same aims.'



IS THERE ANYTHING BESIDE ENSLAVED?

'Two other projects...a metal band called **Ilüvatar** (meaning the highest god in sumerian). It's in the same direction as **Enslaved**, but not so fast. We are going to release a demotape soon, hopefully to get a record deal. It has a different concept, it's more magical with role-play (dealing with troll stuff).

And I have another project which is a non-metal band. I haven't found a name for it yet. I don't think any metalhead would appreciate that. It's piano/keyboard stuff inspired by classical music, very moody and depressive. It has a melancholic touch, and a girl with a beautiful voice will do the vocals. If someone would be interested in

depressive music, then check it out. **Enslaved** will always be my first band, our baby, as long as possible to realize the dream of the reason for starting **Enslaved**. MANY OF TODAY'S BANDS COMBINE PAGANISM WITH SATANISM, OFTEN THE TERM "PAGAN BLACK METAL" IS USED NOW...YOUR COMMENT?

'Five words: "I do not understand it!" But I respect it anyway.'

OFTEN RUMOURS ARE GOING AROUND ESPECIALLY CONCERNING NORWEGIAN BANDS, AND SOME KIDS MIGHT THINK THAT ENSLAVED ARE THE KIND OF BAND WHO HUNT AND TEAR BEARS IN DARK FORESTS AND STUFF LIKE THAT...

'Rumours will always exists concerning some bands, because you are a public person and you are in the spotlight, therefore it's easy to make rumours. We have a lot of respect for our fans!!!'

COULD YOU LIVE FROM ENSLAVED?

'I could live from **Enslaved**, the record sales, but I live from the social welfare. At the band one guy is working, the others are studying. I have a strong urge to learn, although I know that I can get a good job, but if **Enslaved** gets good

I fuck on good jobs! I'm studying English, German and French. I tried alot of stuff like maths, but it's better studying languages because you learn a lot of history. WE CAN SAY THAT ENSLAVED HAVE A KIND OF TRENDSETTER IN NORWAY FOR NEWER VIKING BANDS (LIKE **Einherjer**, **Ulver**, ETC.) AS YOU WERE THE FIRST ONE TO DO IT, SO DO YOU FEEL PROUD OR DO YOU THINK THAT CLOWNING IS A STUPID THING TO DO?

'It's really great as long as those bands don't jump on a trend. It's dangerous when they think it's something

new and have no idea what the meaning of this theme is when starting the band, then its only a big joke! New bands are really good, **Einherjer** sadly ceased to exist, and we hope to have great contacts in future. It makes all stronger...**Enslaved** can help talented bands, and they can help and bring **Enslaved** forth.'

WHAT ABOUT NEW MATERIAL FOR THE FOLLOW UP FOR "FROST"? TONIGHT YOU PLAYED A NEW SONG CALLED "VIKING METAL"...

'I have a lot of new material at home, but we'll see after the tour, after we've slept and got the alcohol out of our bodies. Then we go back to our rehearsalroom...and play on

ten!!! This time we'll work a bit longer, not just jumping into the studio. We polish the new stuff up before we are going to the studio again, more worked-out material, we want to get better and better! "Viking Metal" will be on the next album...'

YOU PRAISE THE OLD VIKING SPIRIT, BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT IT IS STILL ALIVE IN SCANDINAVIA?

'The viking spirit is still alive...some flames are left, because it's heavily rooted in the northern way of thinking or even further the european way of thinking. The metal people are today's vikings, because you have to fight to get anywhere you want. Living a metalstyle isn't easy.'

I THINK THAT SIGNING TO OSMOSE OPENED YOU A LOT OF DOORS, LIKE BETTER PROMOTION, TOURS, ETC. DOES "FROST" SELL BETTER THEN YOUR PREVIOUSLY RELEASED STUFF?

'The sales changed very much. **OSMOSE** is the first label doing real promotion for us, they for example pay the whole tour. People may call us as commercial as much as they want to, but 50% of the **OSMOSE** rumours are just because of envy.'

HOW OLD ARE THE MEMBERS OF ENSLAVED?

'I'm 18, the drummer is 21 and the vocalist is 22. A part of our biggest fans could be my father, it's great that we are a young band, we still have a lot of life in front of us to make everything better. In your youth you're more creative!'

- HORDANES LANDS (MLP)
- VINGNRI VELORI (CD)
- FROST (LP/CD)

That's for sure, I think you can experience many examples where bands had their best period during their early days (**Hellhammer**, **Exodus**, **Kreator**, **Metallica**, **Venom**, etc.).

Well, that was all I could get from the sympathetic guitarist as he had to take his well earned shower before **Marduk** were going to leave the stage again. If everything develops the way it should for **Enslaved**, then we can expect a fine new album in 1996. "Viking Metal" (the song) at least sounded very promising... Lately I heard that their drummer got fired, but I hope that this won't stop the band's way to success.

REVIEWS

Too many readers think I'm writing too many positive reviews, so the executioner's blade had to be sharpened as now mercy will be shown when something unsatisfying creeps into my ears.



BLAZEMETH - 'For Centuries Left Behind' (Abstract Emotions)

The info says that **Blazemeth** is "Spain's finest Black Metal act" and "...in the Norwegian vein" (Norwegian Black Metal from Spain? Sounds funny...), so these two 'selling points' had to be checked first. Well, **ABSTRACT EMOTIONS** are right that **Blazemeth** sound norwegian (a bit like old hymnic **Immortal** and a bit like **Satyricon**, filled with a lot of keyboards), but they're are (at least in my opinion) not Spain's finest Black Metal act (remember **Primigenium**). The point at **Blazemeth** is that they just sound like a clown band without having any exciting moments...it's just a product of pure trend. I can imagine that a certain number of fans will like this 22 minutes lasting MCD, but those who look for more than just another atmospheric black metal copy should save their money for other albums.



(Napalm Records)

Don't get irritated by the albumtitle, this CD has nothing to do with the band's third demotape. **Summoning** have chosen their best songs from the first two demos (which are still very unknown) and added some new tracks to this album, and the result is pretty good. The CD differs quite a lot from the demorecordings due to a better production, now you can hear all the fine details better (except for the vocals which were better on the demos). It's nordic sounding black metal with great, well-worked out melodies and cool atmospheres (sounding a bit medieval). Also you can here some spoken parts by **Pazuzu**, although the original demoversions featured more vocals which were done by him (why are the new versions different?). To me **Summoning** is Austria's best black metal outfit, just try to concentrate and you will hear all the fine elements in "Lugburz" which is an album that can easily compete with most Scandinavian releases.

SUMMONING "Minas Morgul" (Napalm)

You really can't say that most of the Austrian Black Metallers are lazy guys, just take **Abigor** and **Summoning** as examples. "Minas Morgul" is **Summoning's** second full-length album in just half a year, and the most astonishing thing is that the musical quality is always great. This oldest Austrian Black horde understands to compose memorable music with intelligent synths and guitariffs which transmit you into other dimensions. There's nothing to criticize at this wonderful release except for the drums which would have sounded better if they were real ones. Buy or die!

Ved Buens Ende "Written in Waters" (Misanthropy)

Although quite a lot of people praised this new Norwegian outfit, I am sure that their "Written in Waters" album won't make the band rich at all. Their strange experimental nordic metal stuff (with for metal untypical vocals) goes on my nerves, and I'm sure that this is not music for the majority of the headbanging masses. I like it when bands are original and good at their instruments, but it still has to be a pleasure when listening to their music. So I hope that this was **MISANTHROPY's** first and last disappointment.

MANDATORY SUICIDE / ABISMONEGRO (Heavy Metal Rock)

Although one of those two bands has chosen "Mandatory Suicide" as their bandname, they have absolutely nothing in common with **Slayer**. It's power metal with high vocals (à la **Metallica / Satan / Heathen**) and it's nice to listen to their five songs as this is something we seldomly hear in our "evil" times. Of course there are still things to improve, but fans of old school power metal should keep an eye on these guys, because potential is existing. **Abismonegro** are a touch harder, but their style sounds very strange. The reason for that seems to be obvious when you listen to their part of this SplitCD ... they've mixed too many different sounding styles into their six songs. Sometimes you hear bay area thrash parts, then **Iron Maiden**-like stuff, etc. etc.... Not my case at all (especially because of the vocalist). I'm quite convinced that most of you readers will not like this release too much, and it would be a waste of money if you buy this CD even if the first band sounds nice...



(Listenable Records)

This is the ultimate answer for those who think that true death metal the dark way is dead. With heavy loaded cannons **Luciferion** strikes after the quite satanic intro...and without mercy they present us their definition of satanic death metal in a total killing sound. Of course most of you will at once notice that **Luciferion** are absolutely sounding like **Morbid Angel** and **Deicide**, some parts even seem to be stolen, but I don't care at all as this album totally blows me away. The only point to criticize is the coverversion of **Sodom's** "Blasphemer" which could have been turned out a bit "deathlier" and meaner (where's the demonic laughter?). But beside that I can fully recommend you this album! BUY!!!

Tha-Norr "Wolfenzeitalter" (Nazgul's Eyrie Productions)

Although **Tha-Norr** seems to be just another corpsepaint wearing band, their black metal is a bit different from most of the other bands in that sector because of their primitive raw arrangements like simple drumrhythms and riffs. But generally seen it's just another simple-styled nordic sounding black horde (with high vocals and guitar sound), and you lose a bit of interest in this CD after a couple of songs, it's always in the same vein with little "AHA" effects. But on the other side I have to say that it's not very easy to convince with this kind of black metal in a time when hundreds of bands are playing a similar style, and I think it's no surprise when people get fed up with this stuff when they get too much of it.

HELSTAR "Multipes in Black" (Massacre)

It seems that this old american band will never surrender. This must be the fifth album now (if I'm right), and it's still U.S. power metal with a healthy amount of energy. Just the vocalist isn't too good, his high voice and his strong american accent I do not like too much. But it's cool to see **Helstar** still alive!

BARATHRUM "Hailstorm" (Nazgul's Eyrie Productions)

Demon's **Barathrum** always belonged to those kind of bands who were different to the usual black hordes. "Hailstorm" is so fuckin' extreme, they play doomy black metal with two bassguitars and only one six strings axe (which you can only hear in the background). And Demon's vocals sound as if they were recorded in a huge dungeon of torture, very extreme! He sounds like being a fusion out of **Holocausto (Beherit)** and **Kühne (Messiah)**, no usual black metal voice at all. Although there are some demosongs included on this CD they sound completely different in comparison to the original recordings. "Hailstorm" is an album for people who like untrendy music that sounds very dark and obscure, but it's not easy to get into it I must admit.



"A Pale Debilitating Autumn" (Imperator Music)

Who says that metal quality isn't available anymore in Germany should listen to this death metal raid. This CD's sound comes like an explosion (fuckin' well-produced), but **Pavor's** death metal is brutal and complex at the same time. That's probably the point where to criticize the band... by putting too much fine elements into the music the danger exists that you're going to destroy the whole creation. On the contrary it's cool to listen to some of the fine elements like the original style of the bassplayer, etc. ... They are all excellent musicians, and I really can say that "A Pale..." is a good release, but **Pavor** should try to compose songs which are easier to recognize.

FOUR WAYS TO MISERY (M.M.I.)

The four bands included are **Caesarean Section**, **Nyctophobic**, **Winter of Discontent** and **Croinchurn**. Brutality is guaranteed here, it's death / grind (and depressive deathdoom with **Winter of D.**) at its rawest, but very well played, so do not expect any dilentantish shit. Especially the first and the last mentioned bands are the best ones! Get this CD if you are looking for something explosive.



KRABATHOR "Lies"
(Morbid Records)

It seems as if the big death metal crisis is over... just take the new **Krabathor** album which contains first class death metal in the vein of early **Morbid Angel**, straight and brutal, but more melodic than the angels. "Lies" is a convincing result, and if you are into real death metal, then you shouldn't miss this fine Czech quality band

BURZUM

'Burzum / Aske'
(Misanthropy)

Originally released on Euronymous' DEATHLIKE SILENCE PRODUCTIONS you can finally get these great **Burzum** creations on one CD/Dolp re-released through MISANTHROPY Records. Back when "Burzum" was released I was completely astonished by this fuckin' primitive but original style, it was something totally different back then. MISANTHROPY has sadly dropped the original version of "A lost forgotten sad spirit" (which has been re-recorded for the "Aske" 12"inch), but this makes the original DSP-vinyls more worthier. Anyway, songs like "Black Spell of Destruction", "War", etc. simply belong into every good black metal collection.

In The Woods...

'Heart of the Ages'
(Misanthropy)

If you look for music that is original, atmospheric, calm, heavy, emotional, hymnic, aggressive, pagan, old- and new fashioned, etc. then this is the perfect release for you. "Heart of the Ages" is an album which people from different scenes will enjoy as **In the Woods...** don't fit into any categories (anymore). The only thing that reminds me at the band's successful demo "Isle of Men" are the faster parts (if we can say so) with the screaming kind of vocals, but generally it is a fact that **In The Woods...** are now more epic and hymnic than in the past. The sung vocals are a bit in the vein of American **Tyrant** (if anyone remembers), and sound quite individual in these days. Musicwise they are also different than most bands who carry some atmosphere and pagan feelings in their music. Well, what else should I say? I guess that most of you readers have already bought this album anyway, but those who still haven't shouldn't hesitate to check this superb Norwegian first class (non-black metal) creation.

LUSTFUL "The Almighty Facets"
(Cogumelo)

What do you expect from a band which hails from Brazil and releases their stuff on COGUMELO Records? Yes, sheer fast exotic death devastation which still seems to prevail in Brazil, even if black metal is popular and influencing the Brazilian fans in these days. **Lustful** would be better if they wouldn't have too much tempo and riff changes in their music. But their deathly stuff is cool, especially the ultrafast parts which sound bloody brutal!

Believe "Berserker"
(Napalm)

Former **Eminenz**-guitarist "Zwerg" returns back to business with his debut CD. Screamy vocals, computerdrums, strange guitars...very unusual stuff. It sounds like black dark wave metal, and it is not always easy to listen to it and it soon gets boring, so at the end it's something only for a few ones among you.

BEYOND NORTH
"The Dark is my Father"
(Imperator Music)

By mixing some epic **Bathory** elements with Death Metal you get a result like on "The Dark is my Father". Although this one man project (done by **Pavor's** drummer) sounds professional, it's not too convincing on the long run, there are too many changes in tempo and style... sometimes it sounds totally majestic (with acoustic guitars, choirs, sung vocals) and sometimes just brutal with a usual screamed voice. This CD is simply packed with too many ideas, so with less of all it would have turned out better.

On Thorns I Lay

"Sounds of beautiful Experience"
(Holy)

Usually we can always expect quality from a label like **HOLY** Records, but with this new band (formerly known as **Phlebotomy**) they've finally released something that isn't too extraordinary. It's harmonic metal with keyboards, but due to untypical arrangements / changes at parts and an irritating voice (spoken and growling) it sounds not well worked out yet, although the musicians are no dilettants at their instruments. Some parts are really good, other one in contrary are shit. Try again!

DIABOLOUS RISING
"Blood Vampirism and Sadism"
(Kron H)

Weird as always! Industrial meets black metal techno!! Still not my kind of music.



(Adipocere Records)

While the entire underground celebrated bands like **Graveland**, **Behemoth**, etc (when it comes to Poland's scene), another band namely **Christ Agony** developed to a great and serious act. Being different from most other Polish black metal bands, this trio has not sworn themselves to northern black metal (although there are some slight influences). **Christ Agony** do their own thing on their debut CD, they try to reach power through slower rhythms which sometimes remind me a bit at **Samael**, therefore you can imagine that it's quite dark and serious stuff. Also they produce some moody atmospheres with cool acoustic guitars and spoken parts, which add the final touch of darkness into **Christ Agony's** music. Just the last track "Abasatha Pagan" does not fit too well to this album as it differs a lot from the other tracks being very **Decide** alike. All in all a nice release which shows that **Christ Agony** have some kind of own identity which is important nowadays to survive among a countless number of competitors.

COUNTRESS

"Ad Majorem Satanar Gloriam"
(Nazgul's Eyrice Productions)

It's a typical **Countess** album, simple but effective stuff, but "Ad Majorem..." isn't as raw as "The Return of the Horned one" was. Anyway, **Orlok** once again managed to record some original Black Metal music which is more hymnic and slower now, and based on just a couple of simple melodies. Those who liked his previous released stuff will also get their pleasure with this new one, but those who aren't familiar with **Countess** yet should not expect another **Darkthrone** copy!!!

ZYKLON B "Blood Must be Shed"
(Malicious)

These Norwegian guys do not only mix raw Norwegian black metal with **Decide** sounds, no, they even release this MLP with a playing time that is also "in the vein of **Decide**". It's not bad music (it's pretty aggressive), but it's quite stupid to release a MCD / MLP with only about 11 minutes of music, isn't it?



"The Sun of Tiphareth"
(Osmose)

Although "True Northern Black Metal" originally was meant to be from Scandinavia, there are hundreds of non-scandinavian bands also playing that sort of music nowadays, even exotic bands started to play in that direction. But luckily it isn't the same with American blackmetals from **Absu**, as they have some old non-scandinavian influences in their music. I'm talking about trash here, because some of **Absu's** new songs sound like being inspired by old **Destruction** and old **Slayer**. This makes "The Sun of Tiphareth" a great album indeed. Check out the vinyl version as it is packed in a great gatefold cover with cool artwork!

HAEMORRHAGE 'Emetic Cult'
(Morbid Records)

Take a look at the album title and you'll know what **Haemorrhage** are about. Gory deathgrind (including slow parts as well) with very distorted (pukelike) vocals which are supported by high old **Napalm Death**-like screams. It's not bad, but it's not the kind of music which will make **MORBID** Records wealthier. This music doesn't have a real spirit in my opinion, therefore it's hard for me to review it.

DEMONIAC - Prepare for War
(Evil Omen Records)

Evil stuff from sunny New Zealand here with **Demoniac**! After a cool heroic intro (the same one as on **Saxon's** "Crusader" LP) the band's feast of "hellish metal" (as they call it) begins. Of course it is black metal, but **Demoniac's** style is quite original, for example you'll hear a **King Diamond**-like voice beside the usual scream one in the opening track. There are also slow and fast tracks included, sometimes a keyboard is added to the music, acoustic guitarparts can be heard as well, etc., so variety isn't a strange word for this band. Of course there are things that could have been better, but this is just a debutalbum...and all in all we can say that it's a good release. Besides a coverversion of **Bathory's** legendary "The Return of Darkness and Evil" there's even a New Zealandish folklore song which sounds very cool (remnds me a bit at Irish folk music). The playing time of hour (some bands like **Decide** make two albums out of that) guarantee that you get something for your money.

BEKETRE / VLAD TEPES

(Split CD by Embassy Productions)

Two of the "truest" French black metal forces assembled to make this split CD possible. The first one, **Beketre**, is extreme distorted black metal with dirty vocals (a bit like **Graveland**, just higher)... it all sounds pretty raw and wicked. It's absolutely not original, but a must for every extreme black metal lover. **Vlad Tepes** are not as extreme as **Beketre**, but their style sounds pretty raw, too. Some of their cool rehearsal songs were re-recorded for this split CD, so fans of ancient styled stuff will find their pleasure. Both bands managed to record eight (why not seven ???) blasphemous hymns, which haven't got a perfect sound. But this CD is for die-hard black metallers made only anyway, so who cares?

DEATH OR GLORY - Vol 1
(Heavy Metal Rock)

Triple Brazilian death attack... the first band, **Abscess**, is nothing but aggressive death. Five songs of old news, but it's good stuff. **Psychoneurosis**, the second outfit, seem to be attracted by the gory side of death metal, but it's not primitive stuff what they play. The vocals are even screamy at parts (almost black metal-like)... again old news, but cool! The last band is **Extorsion**, brutal, straight ahead death metal with vocals in the vein of **Order From Chaos** (not so rough though). These three bands deserve one common word for their music, and that is "brutal". You will decide if those bands receive death or glory. Death metal cultivators get 50 minutes (14 songs) of their favoured metal style.

SCUM NOISE "Chaotic Distree"
(Heavy Metal Rock)

Fast, mean and old fashioned punk / hardcore with weak vocals. It's not the kind of hardcore with which our proud ears get disturbed in these days, that's probably because **Noise Scum** are from Brazil and not another stupid U.S. band, but it's still nothing that fits into this mag.

DIMMU BORGIR "For all tid"
(No Colours)

When you judge the heaviness of a band by the amount of spikes, nails, etc. a musician is wearing, then **Dimmu Borgir** must definitely be one of the most extreme forces in metal business. But that's not the case, they're even softer as I thought! Their melodic Norwegian black metal sounds not dangerous at all, it is more hymnic music, especially when the synth appears and the vocals are sung (in a viking way, but it sounds a bit "wanna be-like"). Anyway, I can't deny that this is a nice album, but I don't know if you should support a stupid nazi label like **NO COLOURS**.



(Hammerheart Records)

A lot of people praised "Heirs of the Northstar", but I have my problems to share the same opinion with them. It's certainly not a bad product, but it isn't a great one either. Typical melodic northern black with nice ideas, but the vocals sound silly... and sometimes I can't get rid of the feeling that I've heard some of the riffs already in other bands' music. The atmospheric (with synth loaded) parts are the only parts where **Darkwoods Mr. Betrothed** (Ex-**Virgin's** **Cunt**) are really strong at, but the whole CD can be considered as average.

VOMITURITION - A Leftover
(Invasion Records)

You shouldn't get deceived by the dark 'n' mystical frontcover (a **Mortuary Drape** kind of monk reading an old book). **Vomiturition** don't play black metal. The first two songs represent fast'n' dark death metal the brutal way, but then the album starts getting groovy elements in the neo-**Entombed** vein which I totally hate. On the one hand the band's absolutely great when they play their raging death stuff, but on the other hand I feel totally sick of that groovy shit. And this makes "A Leftover" just an average compact disc.

GEHENNA 'First Spell'
(Head Not Found)

Instead of playing grim black metal **Gehenna** have chosen to play their black art in a majestic way. Due to the massive organ sounds in their songs we can say that "First Spell" (MCD) differs quite a lot from most of the other Norwegian releases, and is therefore absolutely recommendable for everyone who likes proud atmospheres.



(Malicious)

The fact that Fenriz of the once so mighty **Darkthrone** plays bassguitar on "Kronet til Konge" will probably guarantee a definite number of album sales. But **Dodheimgard** isn't a new cult band, it's just one hour of dirty standard black metal with harsh but not high vocals. Some drumrhythms sound interesting and the aggressive way of playing from start to finish give the album a special touch. However, it's just one of many new black metal releases...

Misanthrope

"1666...Carnival Bizzare"
(Holy)

What a positive surprise! I would lie if I say that this French outfit belonged to my favoured bands, but this new CD is way better than the previously released one, even if the band's style is still very complex. "1666..." is much better, memorable, intelligent and well-worked out with a lot of good ideas, and is filled with both atmospheres and energy...**Misanthrope** have finally created something that is not only interesting for friends of epic avantgarde metal. I'm sure that even after a couple of listening you will still find some undetected details here and there, and this makes the album worth the money if you ask me.

EXOCET "Confusion"
(Massacre)

Death /Thrash, filled with both interesting and boring parts, nothing special but at least brutal and well-played.

ENTHRONED
(Evil Omen)

Ordinary northern black metal (from Belgium) like we have already heard it many times before now. This album would be much better if they didn't use too much of those boring fast parts, because the slower rhythms sound powerful and convincing. The music itself is inspired by the first **Immortal** LP, but of course **Enthroned** can't reach the class of the original. I think there are better albums to invest your money in.

Usurper

"Diabolosis"
(Head Not found)

U.S. metal gets better and better with bands like **Usurper**. Those guys are addicted to old **Celtic Frost** and mix this influence with modern black / death elements... old fashioned riffs (and T.G. Warrior inspired vocals) meet modern drumtechnologies and studioproduction! The music is always very heavy and powerful, and "Diabolosis" is musically way better and professional than the "Visions From the Gods" demo, which was great as well. **Usurper** managed to capture the old feeling without losing some typical 90s sounds... and this makes this band original. This is definitely one of the heavier and more spectacular albums in 1995, so buy it now!!!

MONUMENTUM "In Absentia Christi"
(Misanthropy Records)

"In Absentia Christi" has been announced for several years now, an I really doubted that those Italian lazyguys will ever manage to record it. But here it is, the long awaited opus of **Monumentum**, originally scheduled to be released on Euryonmous' D.S.P., and the long time of waiting finally pays out. Although **Monumentum** are less metallic than they used to be we can say that "In Absentia Christi" is a very strong festival of gloomy, by metal influenced dark atmospheric goth. Beside a coverversion of "Fade to Grey" (a famous pophit of the 80s, you will recognize it) there is a new version of the demo/7inch classic "Nephtali" included, and especially this new version shows how **Monumentum** have changed their sound during their 7 years of absence, almost every detail changed! No old **Celtic Frost** influences can be heard anymore, only the **Christian Death** influence remained, and a bit of old **The Third** and **The Mortal** hides in **Monumentum** when the acoustic guitars appear. It's an impressive album, but it's not an album where to bang your head to.



"Subterranean"
(Wrong Again)

Still very guitarorientated but with even more melodies **In Flames** return with a MCD. But how the hell should I find the right words to describe this? Probably the term intense melodic / harmonic thrash / heavy metal, which is mixed with classical and modern elements, would fit! The guitarwork is awesome, and it reminds me a bit at old heroes like **Judas Priest** and **Iron Maiden**. If the band changes their screamy vocals into good melodic ones, then they would be a new hope for all traditional heavy metal fans. Great release anyway!

NIGHTFALL -Athenian Echoes
(Holy Records)

All the **Nightfall** releases in the past were good, but this new album is fantastic. It's a perfect example for the musical death metal quality that still is unexperienced in Greece. You get everything what your metallic soul needs, ... death metal from fast to slow, atmospheric / hymnic to aggressive, but always with great guitariffs and melodies. It's really a pleasure to listen to **HOLY Records** most expensive album! What else should I write in order to convince you? If "Athenian Echoes" would be available on vinyl, then I would say "Buy or die!"

NECROMANTIA
"Scarlet Evil, Witching Black"
(Osmose)

Nothing much has changed at **Necromantia**, it is still in the same vein with the same sound. The only big difference is that they aren't as experimental as before (although it's still original music), it's more typical Greek-styled now. Those who didn't like this band too much in the past will probably be suprised by this new from vampirism inspired opus. Good album with great synthwork, but the cliché-coverartwork is really horrible.



(Holy Records)

Let's hope that **Sceptic Flesh** will get more attention with this new album than they used to get in the past. They're more emotional now, but it's still proud death metal with a voice that sounds even more **Suffocation**-like than in the past. It's a brilliant album with great riffs / atmospheres and arrangements, and it's a piece of "dark romantical" music you shouldn't ignore. Fine!!!

FLEURETY "Min Tid Skal Komme"
(Misanthropy Records)

Those who remember my first issue have probably noticed that I was completely overwhelmed by **Fleurety's** demo "Black Snow" and their 7inch as this band had the most sharp vocals a human being can imagine. So I was of course looking forward to hearing "Min Tid Skal Komme"... Although They are much better at their instruments than in the past and the whole music is better arranged, more variable and well-thought, but their "originality" has decreased, especially as the vocals aren't incredibly high anymore and are usual black metal-like now. Some people think that this is better, but it's a question of taste. The music itself is more professional than it used to be, there are a lot fine details and riffs to experience, and even a beautiful female voice can be heard. The musical spectrum is very wide now at **Fleurety** (acoustic parts, cool bassparts, slow, fast, etc...). A good release, but the things that I once so adored at **Fleurety** are gone, so I'm just satisfied, but not happy with this album.



"Voice of Harmony"
(Wrong Again Records)

A new melodic Swedish sound has been developed during the last couple of years, and a lot of new bands have adopted this style which bands like **In Flames**, **Dissection**, **Miscreant**, etc. are playing. This means: Mostly fast melodic and well-played from thrash inspired metal with death / thrash vocals. And if you like this style you won't be disappointed with **Excretion**. The only thing that is different is the speed, because "Voice of Harmony" play their stuff quite fast (especially because of the drums) and this makes the album more furious. You can get this CD for 25 DM at the VOICES FROM THE DARKSIDE address!

PROVOCATION "Blind Patriot"
(Positive)

Grind /death with the difference that the vocals aren't so deep. Some rhythms remind me at **Carcass** (not bad), but generally seen it's just another ordinary album without any real highlights.



One With Darkness
(Holy Records)

There's nothing more to say than masterpiece for this debutCD. Dark doom (not death doom) isn't of course music for everyone, but what these three Swedish metalheads present on "One With Darkness" is at least for me fantastic. The danger always exists that doom metal soon gets boring, but this is not the case at **Tristitia**. It's dark but melodic doom, the whole music is very moody, filled with a lot of cool elements (like choirs, synths, acoustic guitars, etc.) and the most original thing must be the vocals which sound quite theatrical but very good. If you know **Pagan Rites'** "Hail Victory" 7inch, then you know what will expect you as Thomas sings for this band, too. Give them a chance, and be sure that this album sounds like no other one.

CRUACHAN "Tuatha Na Gael"
(Nazgul's Eyrie Productions)

Good stuff! **Cruachan** are the kind of band who sound completely pagan Irish folk but in a metallic disguise. On almost one hour you'll get original music which is filled with tones from mandolines, bouzoukis, flutes, uilleann pipes, etc., and especially this adds a special old feeling to this with screams filled pagan metal. Perhaps this CD gets a little bit boring after a while, but for a debut-album it's very strong and it has an individual touch.



"Nachthymnen"
(Napalm)

This is the third **Abigor** CD in within just one year. But as long as the music good we shouldn't care... It's again (of course) nordic styled black metal, but this time they haven't got as many fast parts as before, and especially this makes "Nachthymnen" the best **Abigor** release so far. They are very strong when the play their mid tempo parts, it has more atmosphere and feeling, and is a sign for the band's quality. Another great thing is the CD cover which looks just phenomenal. Finally a great Black Metal release!

MUTILATION
"Vampires of Black Imperial Blood"
(Drakkar Productions)

The headquarter of the Black Legions has arrived on the CD market... **Mutilation** is one of France's most extreme forces, both in image and music, and you will experience this when the sounds of "Vampires of..." creep into your deaf ears. Pure ugly Black Metal with an dirty sound and untypical guitariffs, all is a bit in the vein of **Graveland** / **Vlad Tepes**... The vocals sound very dirty, sometimes like **Graveland** (once again), sometimes like **Mayhem** ("Dead", especially at the second song when it comes to the vocalrhythm, which reminds me at the one from "Funeral Fog"). What else should I say? Die-hard Black metallers can raise a cup of blood to salute another unholy album.

BEHEMOTH

From the Pagan Vastlands
(Nazgul's Eyrie Productions)

Originally released as the second demo (through Pagan Records) these recordings are also available on CD now. It's black metal in the vein of old Immortal, just with the fine difference that Behemoth also use synths here and there. Best song must be the new version of "Summoning of the ancient ones" (original version is on their first demo), and of course I have to mention the cool conversion of Mayhem's "Deathcrush" which closes this 35 minutes lasting CD. The musical quality is too good just to be released on tape, but in comparison with other northern sounding black metal CDs/LPs it's standard stuff.

BEHEMOTH

"Sventenvith (Storming Near the Baltic)"
(Pagan Records)

Staying at Behemoth they once again attack with a new release. But for the first time they've created something more original, not being just a clown band of certain Norwegian bands. "Sventenvith" presents not only black metal, but also some folk/pagan influences (played with acoustic guitars) which sound excellent and add a special feeling to the whole result. Musically and also instrumentally the band has improved a lot, so you wouldn't be wrong to say that Behemoth is probably Poland's strongest black force. Other cool things at this CD is the playing time (45 minutes) and the original artwork of the booklet (made by French DARKARTS)... This is something worth the money.

GUT "Ordour of Torture"
(R.S. Records)

Sickos have another good reason to party. Gut have returned with their gory grindy death metal. Deep simple guitars, puke-like voice, etc... Although it's not bad I was pretty happy when the playing time (45 gory minutes) was over. This CD comes with parental advisory for both artwork and lyrics...

DEAD INFECTION "A chapter of accidents"
(Morbid Records)

Those you think that Gut are not fast or brutal enough, well, then fasten your seatbelts and blow your brain away with Dead Infection. It's ultrafast almost through the whole CD... and it's sometimes really astonishing to hear a drummer playing so extremely speedy without sounding chaotic. Like Gut, parental advisory for explicit artwork and lyrics.

ALGAJON



(Fullmoon Productions)

Black Metal from Sweden... but wait! This is not in the old Bathory vein, no, it's melodic stuff straight to the point which we are used from so many new Swedish bands now. But especially Algaion's simplicity is the band's strength, playing music you simply get used to. This kind of black metal doesn't sound "evil" at all if you ask me, but that doesn't matter much. This album is not bad, but also not a new jewel. If you see it at your local record (or should I say CD store?), then you should try to listen to it.

HELHEIM / NATTVINDENS GRAT
(Promotracks for CDs)

Two bands from Norway to be released on German SOLISTITIUM Records. Helheim (not to be compared with the ridiculous nazi horde with the same name) is fast black with high distorted guitars and extremely high vocals... quite typical Norwegian. The CD is going to be entitled "Jormundgard" and presents music which we are used since black metal became famous. Nattvindens Grat are much calmer than Helheim, and they've not dedicated themselves to black metal. It's more emotional stuff with pianosounds, leadguitars and sung vocals (à la new Beyond Dawn and Tristitia) which sound quite cliché. Female voices can also be heard, but the whole music doesn't sound very well-developed... it sounds as if Nattvindens Grat wanted to do more than they are really able to, but of course I must admit that playing such kind of music is more difficult than playing the ordinary black metal stuff. Their CD is going to be called "A bard Tale"... but I don't know when it will be out (same goes out for Helheim's release).



VINTERSEMESTRE "Jääver isaatana"
(M.M.I.)

Scandinavian stuff once again! It's of course Black Metal, but it's more melodic stuff with a lot of keyboardwork. Although it's good music, the listener gets a bit tired after a couple of songs, because the tempo (very fast) is nearly the same from start to finish, plus the vocalist sounds a bit boring. But if you are into symphonic music you should try this MCD (19 minutes).

OBTAINED ENSLAVEMENT
"Century of Sorrow"

Although it's again a Norse Black Metal band there's a bit of originality in Obtained Enslavement as their music is mostly fast, aggressive, but still with good melodies, and is not as much from old Bathory-inspired in comparison with most of the other Norwegian bands. All in all: It's powerful! And the high vocals are sounding as if they are coming from the abyss. Let's hope that their new album "WitchCraft" will be as good or even better than "Century of Sorrow".

KOROVA - A Kiss in the Charnel Fields
(Napalm Records)

Wow, a very complex and professional CD by this new Austrian band, especially when you think that this is just the debut-release. "Barok Black Metal" is the term which is used for Korova, and their music is really different from other bands' styles. The vocals are vanating during the whole album (sometimes screamy, sung, aggressive, melancholic, theatrical). Technical and simple, slow and fast parts can be heard as well as violines and keyboard elements, so you see that Korova's musical spectrum is very wide, I must admit. But although the album is made very professional I wouldn't fight in order to listen to it again...it's simply makes me nervous. But the band's variety/originality is probably their advantage in order to survive in this huge metal scene. Korova is certainly not everyone's cup of tea, but for some they might be a gift from heaven (or is it hell?).

GEHENNAH

(Primitive Art Records)

The CD cover shows a drunk metalhead lying beside his own puke, and in the innersleeve you can see four musicians in insane (funny) poses. So you see, Swedish Gehennah are a bit "different" than most of the other bands... and their aim seems to be obvious: They try to revive the wildness of the 80s, try to capture the old black / thrash metal feeling that seems to be lost in the 90s. And the musical result points in that direction, influences from Destruction, Venom, etc. can be heard, but there's still a big difference between Gehennah and the true old feeling... I think they want to sound more 80's-like than their favoured bands, and I think that "Hardrocker" has more punk riffs in the songs than real thrash/old black metal riffs if you know what I mean. Perhaps my negative words seem to sound devastating for Gehennah, but "Hardrocker", which contains 14 songs and a 12-pages strong booklet, isn't worse if you might have thought. But the music isn't as close to Venom, Destruction, Sodom, etc. as the label info says...

BARATHRUM "Eyrie"
(Nazgul's Eyrie Productions)

Yes, that's it! With albums like "Eyrie" the boundaries of Black metal are still undefined. Barathrum have already shown on their debutCD that they're not another Scandinavian sounding black metal band, and on "Eyrie" they continue their way just with the difference that they're not sounding as tortured and extreme as before. But this is a positive development, this new CD sounds still very original and wicked, it's a bombastic manifest of jetblack metal power in support of two bassguitars. 70 minutes is a damn long playing time, so give yourself a kick in your ass and at least try to get into Barathrum's music which blows the music of most of the other Scandinavian bands away when it comes to intensity. Bands like this one are important to keep our scene interesting!!!



"Spider's Lullaby"
(Massacre Records)

What else but first class heavy metal do you expect from an old metal warrior like King Diamond? He's one of the rare creatures who always knows to write excellent albums, I really haven't heard anything weak from the King yet. "Spider's Lullaby" is therefore another great album with great songs and lyrics. And the best thing is that Merciful Fate and King Diamond are still two different sounding bands although the King writes songs for both of them. You must be a fool if you miss this new album (it is also available on Picture disc which looks fantastic).

AT THE GATES - Slaughter of the Soul
(Earache)

For some people this is a cult band, but I never found my way to any of this band's albums, so I'm probably not the right person to review this one here when it comes to comparisons to the band's old stuff. Anyway, "Slaughter of the Soul" is a very strong release of straight forward Swedish Death / Thrash with screamy vocals. It all gets very easily into my ears and it great listening to all the fine and powerful guitariffs. With Grottesque, the pre-At the Gates band, this album hasn't anything to do at all. Those of you who've probably fallen too deep into the abyss of black metal should clear up their mind with this album, quality is guaranteed!



NAGLFAR "Vittra"
(Wrong Again Records)

"Vittra" is generally seen in the same vein as Excretion, but Naglfar have more variation in their music, and they have some black metal-like sounds here and there (also because of the higher vocals). It's a strong CD and shows that there's a lot of potential hiding in this band who also have adopted this new Swedish sound. Naglfar are still more outrageous and less thrashy in comparison to Dissection, and if you think that "Vittra" is just the band's debutCD, then we should suppose that Naglfar can grow to something mighty. Available for 25 DM at the VOICES FROM THE DARKSIDE address!

UNGOD - Advance for MCD

A new (M)CD of German Ungod, and as announced they've put some old thrash influences into their music. But their style is still dominated by black metal, although this MCD hasn't much to do with the band's debut album anymore. What I like at Ungod are the fast and simple but effective black/thrash riffs, which cause cool headbanging situations. If Ungod would even be more "thrashy" and less black metal (especially the vocals), then they would have a certain advantage towards other hordes in this huge metal scene. I hope that you, Schiekron, are reading this and will follow my advice!!!

UNDER BLACK CLOUDS "Dawn"
(Green Tree)

Intelligent fresh hardware which seems to be influenced by the (old and new) Swedish kind of death metal. But Under Black Clouds, a German outfit, are not a Rip Off band if anybody thought so, they have indeed their own face. Their rhythms vary on the whole CD and so do the riffs, but it all doesn't luckily sound chaotic. The vocals sound a bit like those of Hypocrisy and fit to this quite atmospheric but still powerful music. It's not the ultimate release, but for a debutCD this is very strong.

LET ME DREAM "My Dear Succubus"
(Adipocere)

Emotional death from Finland with several cool riffs and ideas, but on the other side with silly vocals (when they are sung) and too ordinary songs in the long run. It's finally a CD with both good and bad sides, so it's not something you have to kill anybody for in order to get it.

SOULGRIND: Ladit A.D. 1999...
(M.M.I.)

Better than the previous release "La Matanza" but still very hard to take is this new album from Finland's one man invasion Soulgrind. It's still nerve-wracking stuff (although it's more controlled now) as there are numerous different styles packed into 70 (!) minutes, reaching from heavy doom to industrial, from classic to black metal, from nice acoustic parts to sheerest chaotic explosions. And that's exactly my problem with this CD, this music demands too much attention and concentration from the listener and is therefore hard to recommend.

MORDETH "Lux In Tenebris"
(Heavy Metal Rock)

It is no secret that just being a good musician doesn't mean that the music itself is good, too. **Mordeth** are the kind of band who know how to play, but their (at parts) complicated death / thrash doesn't always make it easy for me to find some pleasure in their music. This really gets conscious when listening to the five bonus tracks (which are taken from the band's "Dimensions of Death" 7"inch back in '92). Back then they sounded like **Sarcophago** at "TNRI" times, you know, simple and fast music without any compromises, and it sounds very well. This musical contradiction on this CD makes it probably interesting, but if I were you I would only look for the 7"inch (in case it is still available, I don't know). "Lux In Tenebris" is also available on vinyl, but without those bonus tracks.

Ancient Rites
"Blasfemia Eternal"
(Mascot Music)

New label, new album, new perspectives! And I can say that this is the best stuff these three Belgian metallers have done so far! By mixing death / black and even old thrash elements, "Blasfemia Eternal" turned out to be an interesting album with many different faces (and a great coverartwork I must say). But it's mostly powerful stuff (thanks to the drums.... is "Witchhunter" playing on some parts ???) with cool guitariffs and different vocalstyles. And although **Ancient Rites'** music is more based on energy, the songs sound a bit more atmospheric than in the past. I hope that **Ancient Rites** will get what they deserve (and that means not being treated like shit by wimpbands like **Cradle of Filth** on their tour!), and I think they are a good alternative for black / death metallers who are a bit tired of all the Norse stuff.

CATHEDRAL "The Carnival Bizarre"
(Earache)

There's nothing wrong with copying the old **Black Sabbath** and **Trouble** style, but **Cathedral's** copy sounds a bit too wimpy. There are too many positive / party-like feelings in "The Carnival Bizarre", especially due to Lee Dorian's vocalstyle, and real "Doom" metal hasn't anything to do with fun, has it? The music itself is ok, it is very powerful at parts and lasts for almost one hour, but Lee sounds like Hetfield meets Ozzy meets any kind of L.A. poser... "Forest of Equilibrium" remains the only real enjoyable **Cathedral**-album, and if the band would be clever, than they'd look for a new vocalist now.

DISGRACE "Superhuman Dome"
(Morbid)

It's definitely a disgrace to see one of the most brutal and goriest death metal band wimping out that much. **Disgrace** now play a sort of groovy Rock / Hardcore which sounds wild 'n' powerful, I must admit, but if you into "metal", then you won't love this album. By the way, can we take such a band for serious ???

ALASTIS "...And Death Smiled!"
(Adipocere)

Still slow, but with more power in their music **Alastis**, one of the elder bands from Switzerland, have returned from the unknown. "...And Death Smiled" is quite different than "The Just Law", the band's debutalbum, they're more hymnic and enjoyable now, and the **Samael**-spirit isn't as strong as it used to be, but this time I think it's **Tiamat** who seem to have influenced **Alastis**. Creeping power is what makes "...And Death Smiled" an impressive and heavy album, although I expected more originality from a band like **Alastis**. It won't be a mistake to check this well-produced CD, trust me!

BURZUM "Filosofem"
(Misanthropy)

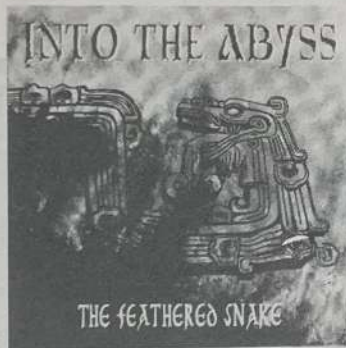
Grishnack's final strike for **Burzum**! "Filosofem" is the strangest of all his five releases, it's mostly slow stuff with electrified vocals (sounds a bit industrial-like), but you hear that this is the following album for "Hvis Lyset Tar Oss" as there are many parallels to detect like for example a calm (and far too long) song in the vein of "Leere", just a lot more boring and unspectacular. Although "Filosofem" seems to be the weakest **Burzum** album, there are again some real killer-guitariffs to detect which only could be composed by Grishnack. I guess that most of you will buy this album anyway, won't you ???

Akhenaton "Divine Symphonies"
(Advancetape from Adipocere)

When the musical class of symphonic **Emperor**, moody / mighty sounding movie-soundtracks (like **Dracula** or old cult western movies) and last (and least) **Fields of the Nephilim** collided, "Divine Symphonies" was born. Excellent!

MANGLED TORSOS 'Godless'
(Morbid Records)

Mangled Torsos play mostly slow death metal the simple way, sometimes very intense, melodic or groovy but sometimes also boring! There are both good and uninteresting songs included on "Godless", so I really can't say that this album is a strong release. I can say for example that the drums are great, but in contrary the voice sucks, it sounds a bit like the one of **Atrocity** ("Blut" LP). This is not a release most of you will miss.



(Glastnost)

"The Feathered Snake" is a good alternative for those metallers, who are looking for calm and non-metallic music which is still played on real instruments (no synth and computerdrum-shit). It's a mixture out of **The Cult** (rock elements, vocal-arrangements) and typical Gothic rock guitars with cool use of drums, delays, riffs, etc. Although I'm 100% into metal I must admit that **Into the Abyss** are a cool band worth to be checked out by you. A nice surprise!

HAGGARD "Have you seen..."

This is first quality progressive and technical but still controlled death metal. I can imagine that it was hard work to compose all those intelligent riffs, etc...., so people who like death metal on a technical high level (intrumentally inspired a bit by **Death**) should grap this nice CD. But as there are still a lot of people just supporting images instead of music I doubt if **Haggard** get the support they deserve.

VOND "Selvmord"
(Malicious)

"Vond" is earthly, **Mortiis** is unearthly" said **Mortiis** in #2, and he's absolutely right with this. **Vond** is more based on earthly sounds, and I think that **Mortiis** did his job very well. To make it short: "Selvmord" is great music to relax to when the atmosphere (candlelight, etc.) is right!

SWORDMASTER - Adv. for MCD

This MCD is completely different than the studio-rehearsal which I reviewed last issue. The duo has now put the old thrash spirit into their nordic black metal music, and I must say that it sounds pretty cool. Rough new-black metal meets old **Kreator** or something like that, and it's worth listening to. Especially the fast parts are full of power, just check out "Conspiracy" and you'll know what I mean. If **Swordmaster** aren't too lazy, we can expect a great full-length album.

AFTERMATH "Eyes of Tomorrow"
(Zoid Recordings)

After several years of existence this old power metal outfit manages to present their debut album. It's old (late 80s) and complex U.S. power metal with a more or less weak vocalist. But the music itself sounds very welldone, and fans of that old style will enjoy it, and especially the band's flexibility and most of the (acoustic) guitarparts are cool, but I'm afraid that this music will not attract most of you anymore... and I must admit that this isn't my favoured music, too.

DARK TRANQUILITY
"The Gallery"
(Osmose)

These skilled Finnish musicians kept the faith to their old style. It's again melodic but outrageous Speed Metal played on a high technical level... it's really amazing to listen to every single instrument. But sometimes it's all too hectic for my taste, and I prefer the slower parts which sound fantastic. If you always liked the old **Dark Tranquility** stuff, then you will fall in love with "The Gallery", too.

GODSEND "In the electric mist"
(Holy)

It's not a bad return of **Godsend**, but their old-fashioned doomrock generally sounds too non-metallic, it's even very hard to find any metal-like sounds in some of the songs. As most of the readers like music the heavy way I'm quite sure that you won't like this CD too much. As already said, it's not bad, but I'm afraid that this is music for people who are more into calm 70s-rock. Only the singer sounds quite modern, and I think that this especially sucks!

DESASTER

"A Touch of Medieval Darkness"
(Advancetape, to be released on Merciless)

During **Desaster's** 7 years of existence a lot of different sounding songs were created, which you finally can experience on this debut CD/LP. Beside their new songs/demosongs, which can be described as original guitarorientated black metal with great melodies, the band recorded two old songs from their time before their first demo was released ('93). And these two old songs ("Devil's Sword", "Porter of Hellgate") are totally in the old 80s thrash vein (like **Destruction**) and sound fuckin' cool. Just the vocals are done in the ordinary screamy vein and could be better. But to sum it all up: Every song has its own face, and that's something you seldomly find on albums nowadays, so especially foreign people should check out this album just to see that metallic quality from Germany is still existing.

INSANITY "Phobia"
(Heavy Metal Rock)

Have you ever heard of **Insanity**? Well, I haven't, and it seems that there're still a lot of bands still undetected on our globe. **Insanity** are another surprise to me, their straight ahead thrash (crossed with some death elements) pounds very easily into my head. Only the vocals were hard to take in the beginning, but they're ok if you get used to it. It's of course nothing special, but as long as the music is enjoyable, then it's ok, isn't it?

BIFROST "Pagan Reality"
(Nazgul's Eyrie Productions)

It is true that **Bifrost's** style can be considered as original, but "Pagan Reality", the band's debut CD, isn't musically too convincing. Their kind of pagan metal, which seems to be inspired by **Sabbat** (UK) and (when it comes to some rhythms) a little bit by **Manowar**, sounds cool, but the fast thrashy parts and the vocals don't blow me away at all. But good ideas are existing, so we should better wait for their upcoming CD "Wildfire" and hope that this one will be better.

K R U G

Hardcorethrash is the game **Krug** play, 'cause nobody told them the right way. It's music you readers won't like too much.

CLOTTED SYMMETRIC SEXUAL ORGAN "Nagrö Låuxes VIII"
(Morbid)

Groovy / puky / gory deathgrindrock (????) which drives me fuckin' insane. Only consumable after more than 10 Beers !!!

MASS PSYCHOSIS "Face"

If I have to listen to this CD three times, then I would find myself at a neurologist's surgery. Those American fellows have no problem with playing their instruments very well, but their musical style (a sort of death / thrash, etc.) is simply too confused and nerve wrecking. On one side I'm sure that this is no CD for the headbanging masses, but on the other side I guess that fans of technical stuff will like "Face".

ABSURD EXISTENCE "Angelwings"

And some good German metal finally: "Angelwings" is a professional release of harmonic death metal with well-arranged and intelligent guitars. I would call it as old **Crematory** (Ger) without keyboards, just with the difference that **Absurd Existence** are not that brutal. A very poitive thing is that the label sells this CD for not more than DM 20, so you get 55 minutes for a cheap price.



(Pussy God)

Maniac Butcher's motto ("No keyboards, no female vocals, only the dark storm!") is still the same, but they have changed their style very radically in comparison to their "The Incapable Carrion"-demo (review see elsewhere). This new tape (also available on MCD-format) "Barbarians" presents aggressive and powerful Black Metal with high (strong) vocals. It all sounds quite good and powerful, but I don't like it when bands change their style that much. However, this 6-track tape, which has a bombastic sound, will satisfy every black metallor, so why shouldn't you give those four trendy Czech butchers a listen? Tape version (with prof. printed cover, lyrics, etc.) costs \$6 at **Pussy God Records**, Radim Hora, Stroupecká 2144, 43801 Zatec, Czech Republic.

ABIGOR "Orkblut - The Retaliation"
(Napalm)

The music on this 25-minutes strong MCD is in the same vein as on the debut CD "Verwüstung", just with the difference that more medieval elements (like flutes, melody lines, etc.) can be heard now. Generally it's fast Black metal with melodic guitars. Good!

DAWNFALL "Dominance of Darkness"
(Nazgul's Eyrie Productions)

This on 500 copies limited CD is very hard to take because of its messy guitarsound... It's original but very primitive and raw stuff, and I'm sure that only few "Die-hard" black metallers will get their mental satisfaction when banging their head to this album. Extreme!!!

SVARTSYN

"Promotape for MLP"
(Ostris Productions)

Svartsyn is the new name for Incitatus, who were featured in TALES...#2 if you remember, but it was just a change of the name. Musically it is still in the same direction, one of the four songs is taken from the old Incitatus demo, and presents cold but still melodic doom metal (with bells) in the vein of slow Trouble (old) Cathedral. Just the voice (if it is not spoken) sounds black metal-like. It all sounds great and satisfying, and as there aren't too many good doom bands around I can say that Svartsyn belong to the strongest ones. This piece of vinyl costs just \$10 at: Osins Prod., Runden 9, 1930 Aurskog, Norway.

ARCTURUS "Aspera hiems symfonia"
(Ancient Lore Creations)

This is the first time I listen to this high-celebrated band, but they've already released a 7" and a MCD (on NOCTURNAL ART PROD., Samoth's label) which got sold for a price that was unashamedly over the top. And I think that people were right! Arcturus have their own sound and really know to play music that attracts most people. To describe it: You hear that this band hails from Norway, just imagine Black Metal crossed with Rock and symphonic sounds. Most of the riffs sound really great and so do the drums, who were played by Mayhem's Immortal's Hellhammer, but in a total different way in comparison to Hellhammer's main bands, it's more "rocky" if this is the right term. This CD only release brings again some cold winds from the North, but luckily with certain originality.

IMMOLATION "Here in After"
(Metal Blade)

Although I was never too mad about Immolation's debut LP "Dawn of Possession", I must admit that this new album has its interesting and overwhelming sides. It's still in the typical Immolation-way, but they are just better than in the past plus it's gone more original. Pure (technical) Death Metal which hammers into your skull!!! So at the end it's good to see that this band has survived throughout the years. Another thing I have to mention is the fantastic coverartwork, it's a continuation of their first album's cover.... that's something I like!!!



"Promo'95"

The Italian scene seems to get better and better with the years... This new band convinces with their technical but still enjoyable dark death metal. Two songs (plus one intro) will satisfy every headbanger who loves deathly overdoses which is played on a certain technical level. (\$5): Luca La Cara, c/o Fiorino, Via Mignogna 8, 74100 Taranto, Italy.

POCCOLUS "Promo'94"

This bandname you shouldn't forget, because this East European formation seems to be a cool one, even if this promo's sound isn't the hottest. Emotional dark metal, mostly slow and moody, very cool (reminds me at old Monumentum). Sorry, but I lost the fuckin' address.

LUNAR AURORA "A Wandering..."

Atmospheric Black Metal, of course Northern-styled, with vocals à la Emperor. Five songs of good quality and sound, but to me it's just another black metal demo the way we all have heard it before. \$8! Geppert Sabine, Am Mühlberg 34, 83093 Bad Endorf, Germany. Demo 2 is out!!!

Havorum

Havorum is a side project by an Elysian Fields member. This guy also seems to want his piece of the big black metal cake, and he tries to conquer the scene with his 8-song (!) demotape. But it's not too great I have to say, the vocals are ridiculous (is this the vocalist of Aufgabe?) and the music is just average. Also I can't get rid of the feeling that he used computerdrums on this tape as they are sometimes a touch too fast, almost Brazilian-like, ha ha. The music itself is a mixture of Greek and Northern Black Metal which is mostly played in a melodic but still aggressive vein. For those who are interested should send \$5.

Promo'95

It's the same musical Black Metal ritual, just the vocals have changed (luckily). This tape is better than the demo, and I heard that a Havorum CD will be released soon. Mike Katsikas, Post Restante, Nea Ionina, 14201 Athens, Greece

SAMHAIN (Australia) "Demo"

The band's parcel was in shreds when it arrived at my mail box... and the demotape was lost. So sorry guys, but it seems as if the bored postmen were playing frisbee (is this the right spelling?) with your package. By the way, during the last time a lot of stuff "got lost"... and we pay for it!

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IN ARTICULO MORTIS

You need more than a professional printed 2-coloured cover with photos and lyrics to release a good demo. There's nothing wrong with working professional, but the thing that should be professional first is the music, and that's actually not the case at **In Articulo Mortis**. Powerless simple black metal like we heard it before many times. Although this studiotape contains five songs with good intros I'm afraid to say that this band is no special gain for the underground. But those who won't believe my words send \$ 5 to: Baron Moloch, 54 lot St Jean, 84800 Ilse Sur Sorgue, France

VORNAT "The flame of Satan"

True Black Metal, dedicated to Fenriz and Count Grishnackh... well, well, which conclusions should we draw out of this ?? Musically it's in the style of the above mentioned persons' bands, but the sound on this tape is very poor, so that it's not a pleasure to listen to it. Perhaps next time they're able to convince with their new demo in case the sound is better. If you think a bad sound doesn't matter should send \$5: P.R., Munsaaarentie 19, 48300 Kotka, Finland.



"Frankenstein"

Malicious and well-played death metal in its purest form! **Rattler's** style is in the vein of **Deicide** **Cannibal Corpse**, very intense, dark and brutal. The tape contains only two tracks, but the playing time is quite long and beside that you can hear an excellent sound which makes this tape surely worth the money. All death bangers should give the infamous **Rattler** a chance by sending just \$ 4 for this in printed full-coloured cover packed tape, I guess you will enjoy it. Write to: Russian Creator, (Yakovlev), Viru 16 - 1 A, EE 0001 Tallinn, Estonia

LANDSCAPE "Drama"

Cool! This is straight ahead darkwave music (which luckily doesn't sound too plastical), combined with a **Katonia**-like voice. It wouldn't be a drama to check out these three dark atmospheric, but still harmonic songs, because it's a pleasure to listen to such simple and moody music. \$6 to: Landscape, Annelundsvägen 9C, 510 10 Horred, Sweden.

EISENWINTER "Deathwish"

Another non-metallic demo, but although this guy (Sir Grief) works with synths only, his arrangements are typical black metal-like with the fast computer (doublebass) drums, dark melody-lines, and his too distorted voice. Six symphonic songs are included and they can be considered as good and intelligent beside the vocals), and they can be yours for \$5. Brogie, in den Holeematten 2, 4102 Binningen, Switzerland

ROKKA "Varjoissa"

"First full Finnish singing Black Metal Horde" says **Horna's** flyer... so what? Does this make the music better ??? It's typical northern Black Metal, nothing more, nothing less. Just the vocals are not in the usual style, they're dirtier and more distorted, which finally sounds a bit pseudoevil. To quote the band's flyer "...this misanthropic black metal storm" is available for \$5. Horna, Sänkikatu 9, 53500 Lappeenranta Finland.

RAGNAROK "Beloved of the Raven God"

Finally a well-produced demo that is really impressive. Impressive, because **Ragnarok** know to rule their bloody instruments (fast riffing with godly soli, fine arrangements). It's pagan metal in its purest form, heavily inspired by folk music as you can experience old ages with your ears when listening to the songs, even if most of the stuff is not slow but midtempo. It's great original music, but the vocals are a bit over the top. They sound like a black metal voice being played at 45 RPM. It's not easy to find the right words for this music, but see this as the band's advantage. 9 hymns of paganism are on this professional demotape, and if you like to order it for the \$8, then you'll also receive a A5 sized booklet with lyrics and stuff. Deörth, 40, Grange Terrace, Pleton Fell, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham, DH2 2PD, England

Forgardur Helvitis "Brennid Kirkjur"

Pagan Metal in the musical shapes of death black metal with a lot of groovy rhythms, which is mostly fast and sometimes really strange and chaotic. The vocalist is screaming during all 16 (short) songs, and bores me to death. Good sound, good musicians, but just ordinary music. \$5: Siggi, Halt 1, 801 Selfass, Iceland.

TROLL "Trollstorm over Nidingjuv"

Demo of Nagashi's (**Covenant**) sideband, pure Norse-sounding metal with a mighty production. But this is something more professional, it's good quality music with great atmospheres which cause dangerous moods. Three hymnic creations have been recorded for this storm of trolls, available for \$5. Troll, Box 4162, 2301 Hamar, Norway

MAGGOT OF PUTREFACTION "Hellish Hunger"

Absolutely non-serious, spontaneously created music nobody should pay for. For a joke it's cool, but nothing more. Thrash Punk Noise Death... Metal. Peter Ott, Mittelstraße 44, 88741 Laupheim, Germany. P.S.: Great cover, guys (.....)??...

MUTATION "Malignant Existence"

A demo from 1991! Merciless death grind with songtitles like "Cannibalistic Horror", "Demon Seeds", etc. It all gets a bit boring after a while, but it still spreads power!

Unreleased Tinch: Better than the demo are these two songs which everybody should be able to experience, but unfortunately the mastertapes got lost. This EP is more brutal and better produced (and less chaotic), so if you like to get the demo, then ask for these two songs, too. Roy Yeo, 22 New Industrial Road, Singapore 536208

SEPIREN Promotape '95

How in the world can a band release a promotape without drums ????? And this tape is limited on 200 exemplares, but the only thing that is limited to me here is the music. It's Black Metal the northern way, and it's probably not bad, but how can I judge this when drums are missing? They say they are influenced by the old ones like **Possessed**, etc. but I can't hear this. I think this band should only record something when they are able to record all instruments. Nothing more to say!

DIPHTERIA "Living to Die"

No, this is not a Death Metal band...they play good heavy /power metal in the traditional way, just the high vocals are a touch to theatrical for my taste. The demo is sold out, so there's no need for an address. The band (from Cyprus) will release a CD soon!

GENOCIDE BANDS "Goddess of a Thousand Knights"

Just a cool intro doesn't make this demo great, because the music itself is more stuff below standard... a mixture out of North and South European Black Metal. Some riffs seem to be cool, but it all doesn't sound too professional yet... also the vocals are pretty boring. Two songs and two intros /outros (which are unashamedly stolen) are on this tape. Try again, boys! \$5) Passion Rec., c/o Pedro Martins, Praceta D. Jona 11, 6 r/c esq. - 2795 Carnaxide, Portugal.



"Triumph of the Hordes" (Pagan)

If all those four demos sounded like "When Darkness rears itself a Throne", which is a total headripping song, then **Grand Belial's Key** would belong to one of the leading black metal forces. This studiodemo (prof. printed cover, etc.) is surely above average, but the band should spend even more time in songwriting in order to compose more killersongs like the above mentioned one. I know that their first demo's titletrack has also been a unforgettable killer, so we know that those U.S. guys are able to write great music. Let's hope that the next release will only consist of killersongs \$ 5 to: Pagan Records, c/o Tomasz Krajewski, P.O. Box 12, 86-105 Swiecie 5, Poland

FORGOTTEN WOODS "Sjel Au Natten" (Pagan Records)

Tomasz from Pagan Records claims that **Forgotten Woods** is one of Norway's best bands, but I don't think they belong to the Norwegian elite. But this doesn't mean that their music is just average. It's good black metal hardware with some **Burzumic** parts, especially due to the vocals and the simple style. Melodies aren't a strange term for **Forgotten Woods** and the band made a big step forward in comparison to their (sold-out) debut CD "As the Wolves Gather". \$5 for four studiotracks at the Pagan Records' address.



"De Mörka Maktens Alla"

Swedish Black / Death Metal, 8 songs, acceptabel sound, but cool drumrhythms and melodies, What else is to say? Interested people send \$5 to: Micke Andersson, Falkungaplan 3A, 59533 Mjölby, Sweden.

OCCULTUS "Cain Y Abel"

Mexican greetings with **Occultus**, but wait! This isn't an aggressive sounding band, it's more melancholic, heavy and doomy black/death metal stuff what they play, with a not so good sound. The music itself is good, although it sometimes gets a bit boring when the doomy parts are played. Sorry, no address!

MALJEN "Demo 1/95"

Swedish Black Metal somewhere between **Unpure** and **Marduk**! Four hymns which know to convince, even if this demo lacks of originality. \$5 to: Mörk Lindskog, Stora Tenstagr, 163 63 Spanga, Sweden.

ANDRAS - The true Darkness

The term German black metal is usually an alarm for me that this music sucks when it comes to demotapes, but to my surprise I found out that **Andras** are not as bad as I've expected them to be. Although the vocalist tries to sound more evil than he can be with his permanent fast screaming voice, the band's northern black metal is acceptable. These three songs are very simple, but contain some nice riffs here and there and it all sounds as if we can hope that **Andras** can develop to a nice band. This is not a tape you are forced to possess, but it's definitely not shit.

A.Kies, Drebacher Str. 53, 09149 Herold, Germany

PENITENT - Demo '95

Atmospheric non-metal, not bad, but a touch too simple! Using Norwegian language for the vocals on two of the three tracks isn't too clever, it's just an elite who can understand the stuff **Beastus Rex** (editor of **GENOCIDE** mag) is talking in his microphone. Only the last track "Victory", which contains the English lyrics is the only highlight on this demo. It is done with organ sounds, and it causes a special macabre church atmosphere. But do you think that one good song is worth \$5? Decide for yourself!

P.O. Box 675, 4001 Stavanger, Norway.



"Dins Ech Cel d'Astartia"

Pagan Metal with both old and modern influences... and even if the sound isn't the hottest we can say that **Susscrofa** sounds promising. It's well-played and powerful music, a mixture between black / death / heavy metal and folk. Let's hope that the next release will have a clearer sound, because it seems that **Susscrofa** are not just another new band. One dollar for each song (five are included): Agheion, 19 Avenue de Ranguei, 31400 Toulouse, France

FORGOTTEN SILENCE

For just five lousy dollars you'll get nine long songs of fine death metal with keyboards and other nice things. What else is to say? ... Oh yes, the address: Alexandr Novacek, Machova 487, Rosice U Brna 66501, Czech Republic

STARGAZER "RehearsalDemo"

Watch out for this band if you are into hard black / death metal without lack of good melodies. This is just a rehearsaldemo, but you should be forewarned, because this Australian outfit will strike with a real demo pretty soon. No address!

PROFANITY "Into the Unforeseen"

This German four-piece will become famous if they continue to develop that fast. Harmonic death metal with keyboards, acoustic guitars, female voices, etc... very good. This demo is so convincing that it could easily be released as a MLP. Demo contains 5 songs with great sound, and a good coverdesign. Thomas Sator, Steinfelderstr. 8, 86405 Mettingen, Germany.

NAZUL

(Vampire Records)

Bloody hell, this demo is very extreme, probably a touch too extreme for my wimpy soul! This band sounds like an outrageous inferno, ...elements like high speed, distorted vocals, heavy synths and a headripping production let this tape mutate to a heavy storm. But that's where my problem lies... it's simply too much of all! To describe Nazul's music with the help of comparisons, I think they sound like a mixture out of **Blasphemy** / old **Mystifer** and **Emperor** (due to the atmosphere). Ha, I think that makes some of you curious, doesn't it? Well, I warned you... If you think you are strong enough to stand those four messengers of armageddon, then get in touch with... **Vampire Records, P.O. Box 669 Epping NSW, Australia 2121.**

Lord of Depression

Demo '95"

There's no doom band hiding behind the name if anybody has wondered... this is a one-man black metal mission. Jason, who's also editor of MOURN Zine, did a real good job on his demo... raw and simple mid-tempo black metal with good riffs, very enjoyable. Only the vocals are a bit too shrieky, but all in all this tape will satisfy all black metallers. Three songs of northern styled blasphemy for \$ 5 at... **Lord of Depression, 1411 Sandlake Cir., Tampa, FL 33613, U.S.A.**

"Rehearsal '95"

Suprise, suprise! This one is even better than the demo, it's more symphonic, melodic and original. Especially "When the Battle is over" is **Lord of Depression's** best track so far, it has a certain spirit and shows that there's some promising potential existing! I hope that Jason will continue in this way... No price for this one, but if you order the demo, then ask him if he would be so nice to record this studio-rehearsal as well.

SANGUINARY

Another new band from Sweden, but this time it's not a black metal band (yeah, I still can't believe it). **Sanguinary** play death metal the Swedish way (like old **Entombed**), just with the difference that this band is by far more melodic. This 4 song demo (with beautiful coloured cover) was produced at Unisound and is therefore one of the more professional tapes around, but musicwise it could have been a touch more original as you can still find riffs that are just average beside the great ones. For a debut demo this is nevertheless strong and you can check it for \$ 5 at... **Matias Lenikka, Gullivest, 38, 197 34 Bro, Sweden.**

EXHUMATOR

"Sacrificial Bleeding" (94) & "Arising the Suspicion" (91) split demo

Coming from countries you've probably never heard of before doesn't luckily mean that these kind of bands suck... and so it is when it comes to **Exhumator** from Belarus. Brutal tormenting death metal with an excellent sound, played by good musicians, that's what these four "exhumators" give you for the ridiculous price of \$4! Two demos (9 songs) is really a lot of footage for your money, and that's something which has become really seldomly in these days of commercial holocaust. **Exhumator** are a definite must for those of you who still enjoy aggressive but still intelligent death metal. Show them your respect and support as they hail from Belarus, and send your bucks to... **BLACK BLOOD productions, c/o Homenushko Damien I., P.O. Box 145, 220036 Minsk, Belarus.** BLACK BLOOD promotes other bands as well, so ask for more details!

BLOODSOAKED - not dead...but alive

Like the above reviewed tape this is a professional demotape (coloured cover, studioproduction), but **Bloodsoaked**, which consists of members of **Acephalus** and **Absurd Existence**, are not the kind of band which makes my heart beat faster. It's just average death metal with a weak guitar sound and ordinary riffs / arrangements, something we all have heard already. Yeah, I know that these songs are some years old now as **Bloodsoaked** isn't a new band anymore, but the only thing I can say is that at least the sound should have been much more powerful in order to release this old stuff. Well, a positive thing is that this demo includes 7 songs, so interested die-hard death metal fans get a long playing time for their money (\$5). **Stephan Kuttner, Schatzhofener Str. 2, 84095 Furth, Germany.**

Mortuis

A song of a long forgotten Ghost
(Pagan Records)

Those who have read my debutissue wonder why I write about **Mortuis** first demorelease again, but this version here I got from Pagan Records and is especially made for the east-european market. This tape comes with a different (black/silver printed) coverartwork and professional cassettes. Compared with the **Mortuis** CDs this demo is darker and has nearly nothing to do with the later released stuff. Those who like "dungeon" music shouldn't miss this one. \$5 (address see elsewhere).

DARK PROPHECIES

'On the Edge Of Black Eternity'

Synth loaded death metal with cool atmospheres in a form of seven hymns. It's good music which is filled with doomy moods and is clever arranged, but the voice is too monotonous, just growling through the whole tape. I don't know anything of the band except for the fact that Piotr also does a zine called MOOFDPLIN. **Dark Prophecies** sounds promising, but it's still too early for an album release as the band has to get a bit more catchy, although they seem to know to handle their instruments very well. Sorry, no price, but those who are interested should write to...

Piotr Piekut, 02-679 Warszawa, ul. Modzelewskiego 52 m. 8, Poland

EVER DARK "Gravesite Rites"

After a "graveyard atmosphere" intro you should be ready enough in order to feel the macabre emotions in this demo's titletrack. **Ever Dark** plays black /death metal which might cause some depressions, and their simple style contains a good amount of heaviness. Another cool thing is the way they play their guitars... nearly nobody does it like this anymore. Big brother **Samuel** is greeting here and there, not a bad influence I must say. This 3-track studiodemo costs \$5 like mofs of the other demos, too. **EVER DARK, P.O. Box 3138, Schenectady, N.Y., 12303-3138, U.S.A.**

RESURRECTURIS

'No Flesh Shall be Spared'

Another studiodemo with printed cover, lyrics, etc., this time from an Italian 4-piece. Three songs of untamed death metal, changing from slow doom into grinding terror, sometimes very abrupt and hetical played, all with a monotonous distorted voice. Although I must admit that **Resurrecturis** know how to play am I absolutely not fond of their style...they present nothing very exciting. Fans of experimental (or should I say chaotic?) death the brutal way should probably invest their cash (\$5) in this demo: **RESURRECTURIS, Via Medaglia d'Oro 73, 6023 Fermo (AP), Italy**

DARKSTYLE "Cold Charisma"

There's not too much happening in cold Finland during the last time, so I was suprised to hear about **Darkstyle**. Well, it's not black metal if anybody has wondered about the bandname. It's simple atmospheric metal the hymnic way, very dominated by the bassguitar and synths, the guitars are more used as a rhythm instrument in the background. But especially the simple and original bassplaying gives "Cold Charisma" a touch of own identity and Weno's whispering vocalstyle adds a mystical touch to the music! Comparisons? It's hard to find any, but I would say that they sound like an atmospheric and less metallic version of the Norwegian **Gehenna**. Professional 3-track studiotape. \$ 4. **DARKSTYLE, PL 732, 20101 Turku, Finland.**

JOURNEY THROUGH THE DARK "Screams of Sirens"

Holy hell, how I got deceived by the democover, which shows a beautiful fullcoloured sunrise at a lake. But instead of something atmospherical I got good but powerless death metal with a growling voice. Powerless, because it seems as if the producer has forgotten to add some power to the guitars, ... with a normal guitar sound this tape would have been much better. But this can be changed next time, right? The music quality itself is good on the demo's four songs. Sometimes some keyboardsounds and calm parts appear beside the usual death-parts.nice! Usual price (\$5). **Cianfucia Vecchio, Via Emilia, 8 is. 5, 98124 Mèssina, Italy**



Oh no, another shitty "wanna be evil" black metal band here with an awful debutdemo. Totally high distorted guitars combined with a ridiculous voice (just screaming horribly through the whole tape), this is something we just don't need in times where hundreds of black metal bands are around presenting better music than **Aufgabe** (stupid name by the way). I must admit that the guitar riffs aren't that bad, but I think the whole result has to be good in order to get a positive review, hasn't it? Price is \$ 5: **Dreary Creations, 7521 N. Harlem #2f, Chicago, IL, 60631, U.S.A.**

AS PROPHECIES "Prophanum Antiphona"

Jane Black from Brazilian SAMAPEST zine sent me this tape, but he (she?) didn't enclose anything else but the music. Anyway, it's hard (at parts complex) death metal with distorted vocals. Three good quality tracks are enclosed, but I would lie if I say that it's original stuff. Sorry, no price and address.

DROWNED "Conquering the Azure"

What more do you expect from a good demo which has a professionally printed cover (with nice layout) and a perfect production? Right, good music! And **Drowned's** professionally played doomy black /atmospheric metal (I don't know what music is ok, but still not too well-structured it is just filled with average riffs and sung vocals which sound strange. The music might be original when you hear the whole result, but there are still some things which show that **Drowned** aren't ready for a convincing CD/LP release. "Conquering the Azure" includes 4 songs for \$5: **Drowned, Heersir, 131, 14055 Berlin, Germany.**

AN EROTIC FUNERAL "Havohej eslaf eh"

What I hear on this demo sounds like a nordic black metal infected version of **Blasphemy**, and that doesn't mean playing very technical, does it? This tape contains intro/outro and two real songs (one of them is a coverversion of **Hellhammer's** "Aggressor"), so there are finally just one real own composition. The coverversion is more or less bad (shitty vocals), but I must say that it's not easy to listen to this demo (?) as the sound is horrible (bad rehearsalquality). I think there are more interesting demos available than this one here... **An Erotic Funeral** shouldn't release anything new before they saved enough money to record their songs in a real studio. **Summon, Apt.#905, 3600 Brenner Dr., N.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2L-1Y2, Canada**

DEADLOCK

"The Way it is..."

What a suprise! I expected death metal or something similar, but **Deadlock** play an old-fashioned style which reminds me at german thrash / heavy metal meets U.S. '80s crossover (old **Agnostic Front**), really cool. The vocalist sounds like being a bastard out of **Sabbat** (UK) and **Running Wild**, no stupid hardcore voice if anybody thought. I think it's great that bands like **Deadlock** are around making music that is nearly forgotten and buried by the new trends. If you still like to listen to 80s stuff, then you will be entertained by "The Way it is...". Two studiotracks and five live tracks, available for 2 pounds and one S.A.E. (what about \$ 5?): **Deadlock, 9b Alexandra Road, Oldham, OL8 2BG, England.**

MANIAC BUTCHER "The Incapable Carrion"

Yes, I know that the bandname sounds quite silly, but you shouldn't judge a book by its cover... and so it is when it comes to **Maniac Butcher** from the Czech Republic. I suppose that most of you haven't heard of these four guys before, but "The Incapable Carrion" is actually their second studio-demo. They offer us great dark and simple death metal, fast and gloomy and straight to the point. It's nothing very new and original, but who cares as long as the music is good to bang on? And like most czech bands also **Maniac Butcher** have a long playing time (six songs) on their demo, so it won't be a big risk to send \$ 4 to SYMPHONY OF DARK DISTRIBUTION (address see elsewhere)

HAGGARD

"Once... Upon a December's Dawn"
Promotape

Some very good musicians must be united in this german band! It's first class death metal with a lot of influences from other musical styles (like female voices, other instruments / effects, classical inspirations, etc...). The only thing to criticize is probably the variety within this over nine-minutes lasting song... a little bit less complex would also have done, guys! But watch out for this band, because it's not a usual one!

GRIM "Färd"

Horror movie sounds with black metal vocals. Only simple synthsounds are used for this music, and this especially creates a certain macabre atmosphere. But "Färd" turned out to be too simple, it's music which isn't hard to be composed and therefore it easily creeps into your ears and easily gets boring. For a first step it's acceptable, but **Grim**, a one man project (of course), should work a bit harder for the next release! "Färd" (3 long tracks) gets mailed for \$5: **Lindqvist, Glasbrnks, 36, 593 50 Westervik, Sweden.**

S O U L T A K E R

Being inspired by their landmates from unholy **Blasphemy** and brutal U.S. death metal, **Soultaker** show us no mercy with their well-produced sort of black/death metal. The tape features four headripping songs with a deep voice (à la **Suffocation**), but you can find some slow atmospheric parts (with keyboards) as well, even if it's seldomly that way. This is something for people who can't get enough of bands like old **Mystifier**, **Blasphemy**, etc. Not bad, but certainly nothing special!

Soultaker, 8913 98 Avenue # 182, Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, Canada T8L 1P3

ANGELKILL "Grave Samples"

Thrash in the vein of old (but not too old) **Sepultura**, it's just a bit more technical. Four songs with a good sound are enclosed, but the vocals are too "Max meets hardcore"-like. The guitarwork is good! Interested people send \$5 to: Angelkill, P.O.Box 371, LeClaire 371, 52753, U.S.A.

solstafir

I Nordri

Is it possible that Count Grishnack has some relatives living in Iceland? I'm asking this, because **Solstafir**, a three piece band, is heavily sounding like the atmospheric **Burzum**-stuff. This is not a negative thing, but I have to say that **Solstafir**'s music is not as mighty as **Burzum**'s. Anyway, these four long songs which have a superb sound will satisfy most fans of Grishnack's viking music. \$5: Vitfinius / Dori, Pósthólf 8264, 128 Revkiavik, Iceland.

Secrets of the Moon

"Unearthed Arcana"

The German scene gets better (luckily)! This new trio consists of ex-members of **Martyrium** (R.I.P.) and a new drummer, so no dilettantish shit should be expected. But you also shouldn't expect black metal in the complex/chaotic **Martyrium**-vein. No, S.o.t.M. are more straight ahead black metal which is lead by ultrafast but also slower drumrhythms...but you can also experience some guitarorientated old-fashioned thrash parts and other nice ideas like a acoustic guitar introduction, etc. I had to listen to this demo a couple of times until I got fully into it, but at the end I can say that this studiotape is recommendable. \$7 / DM 10 to: Björn Schünemann, Julius-Leber-Str. 4, 49090 Osnabrück, Germany.

PROPHECY "Goresedd"

Varied Black / Death Metal with both cool surprises and standard sounds. For a first demo it's really not bad, because it doesn't sound amateurish and as trendy as most of the other tapes in these days. **Prophecy** understand to work with different atmospheres, you'll find aggressive but also calm melancholic riffs (acoustic guitars), and the vocals are luckily not always high. Obligatory \$5 you have to pay to get these six songs (incl. intro, prelude, etc.). Christophe, Sureau, 94 Rue du Bourg Neuf, 41000 Blois, France

TERMINIUS "Vision"

What is this? Groovy hardcore death metal??? I don't know, but these 8 well-produced songs sound (at least for me) very strange. So it's hard for me to review "Vision" (col. cover, prof!), but I'm sure that it would have been better not to mix that groovy shit with this quite powerful music. 4 pounds to Ben Phillips, Temple House, 257 Boxley Rd., Maidstone, Kent, ME14 2AS, England.

TWILIGHT - Promotape'94

It's still a mystery to me why the guys at E.G.P. released this **Twilight** demo. I simply think the music is not worth being released by a label, it's just standard black / death metal with lousy vocals. It's typical Greek stuff with synth, etc., but the whole result sounds too amateurish and absolutely not convincing. Those of you who think I'm talking shit (once again, ha ha) can send \$5 to check this 2-track demo (plus intro) for themselves. But don't cry if you get disappointed... Write to the E.G.P. address (see **Langsuir** Interview).

HASTUR 'Live In Fear'

Those four Italian metalmaniacs label themselves as an "ancient black death metal band", but I think that "ancient death thrashing metal band" would fit better. Their demo includes some healthy straight ahead thrash with several death metal influences (such as the vocals and some of the riffs), a very cool mixture indeed. **Hastur** have a lot of good ideas to offer, even some nice melodic parts and some keyboard effects aren't missing. If I didn't know that these guys are emerging from Italy, I would say that they're coming from Brazil, Singapore or something like that (this shouldn't be any criticism by the way). Send \$ 5 for this straight to the point-thrashing death studiodemo (four songs plus intro). Indorato Giovanni, V.C. Menotti 51/1, 16154 SESTRI P. - GENOVA, ITALY

SICKNESS 'Endzeit'

It's a very professional demotape (coloured cover), including three skullcrushing and well produced death grinding metal songs with a heavy production. It seems as if **Sickness** are more death metal than in the past, and they've even slowed down their speed at some parts. The vocals are both growling and high (a bit like Jeff Walker from **Carcass**...or is it black metal-like???) and fit into the music. It seems that the band also got inspired by dark atmospheric metal bands as some keyboardparts, whispering vocals, etc. can also be heard at **Sickness** now. They are now surely better than in the past. Sorry, no price! SICKNESS, PF: 0223, 14641 Nauen, Germany



Sometimes I ask myself if it's really necessary to have such a poor production just to be more underground. This would be a great demo if the sound turned out at least more clearer. **Arcane Shadows** play raw and ancient-sounding black metal, some old **Bathory** roots (especially due to the production as the percussions are a bit louder than usual, remember **Quorthon**'s first album) crossed with modern elements and a **Beherit**-like whispering voice. But as said before I'm not too happy with the sound, it's not an ultimate shit sound, but some of the riffs are hard to identify, and that's something I really hate. This 3-tracker at least is good enough to say that you should keep an eye on this one man band, but only if Keagan is going to have a better (not a perfect!) production next time... \$5 (USA), \$6 (World)

ETERNAL SILENCE "Crying of the elements"

Harmonic death metal like it was popular some years ago, not bad but nothing special. This demo (4 songs, includes lyrics, coloured cover and sticker) for DM10 / \$7 at: Daniel Hahn, Wacholderweg 2, 29640 Schnenerdingen, Germany.

UNCLEAN "Tam kdesiv hubinach" '95

Is this a demo or a MCD/MLP- release on cassette format? I'm asking this myself, because it all looks and sounds very professional. Dark mid-tempo death metal is **Unclean**'s trademark, generally good-sounding, but the guitariffs are sometimes too confused and the voice is a touch too outrageous. But on the other side there are certain things included which sound very cool. Although there are both positive and negative aspects in **Unclean**'s music, it won't be a big risk to check these five compositions. Great is without a doubt the professional appearance of this tape. \$5 to the SYMPHONY OF DARK address.

WISDOM

"The South, the Sun, the Sign"

The Paraguayan black metal scene grows bigger and bigger... explosive, fast, blasphemous stuff I have received from **Wisdom**! Sadly the production isn't the best (4-track machine), so it's not easy to be fully concentrated during all four witching tracks. But this rough 'n' noisy production, which makes the drums sound like bombs bursting out, probably makes **Wisdom** interesting. There are of course better demos around plus **Wisdom** are just black metal with typical shrieky vocals (no Paraguayan influences can be heard), but if you want to know what's up in Paraguay, then send \$ 5 to: Hidden Wisdom Key, P.O. Box No. 2112, San Lorenzo, Paraguay.

ADONAY

"The Battle in the unknown South"

Staying in Paraguay there's another new black horde, baptized **Adonay**. But the aren't sounding as violent as **Wisdom**, it's more atmospheric black (of course northern styled) with acoustic guitars and keyboard, reaching from slow to fast. But the production isn't the best, too, the bassguitar dominates over the usual electric guitars, and that means losing a bit of power. Anyway, the band present us five acceptable songs which are simple but effective, perhaps a bit boring after a while, but ok! \$5 to: José Valdez, Mcal. Estigarribia, No. 6164, Asunción, Paraguay.#

CARNAL RAPTURE -Promo'94

From the once so mighty Rome hails a very technical metal band! It's really amazing to listen to complicated riffs as long as they don't lose a clear direction. But sometimes they are a bit over the top with their very technical death / thrash style. I guess they wanted to be even more technical than **Chuck Schuldiner** was on his last **Death** albums, and if that was really their will, well, then I must admit that **Carnal Rapture** managed it. If you like technical abilities you should be lucky to meet this band. Two looning songs (perfect production) for \$5 at: Emilio Trilló, Via Zeusi, 20, 00124 Roma, Italy

BEESECH "Tears"

Friends of emotional metal in the vein of old **Paradise Lost**, **Lake of Tears** listen up! **Besech** have arrived to satisfy for needs with four songs in beautiful shape and perfect studiosound, packed in a nice full-coloured cover with lyrics, etc... Why are you hesitating? Neck \$5 and send it to: Klas Bohlin, Backgardsg. 43, 502 50 Borås, Sweden



Dedicated to "real thrash" they finally attack without any intro or warning... and it's really very "thrashy" what **Terrorsquad** present. First up, this tape has a great sound (coloured cover and lyrics as well), and you simply hear that those five thrashers are excellent musicians, not only the fastchanging and complicated riffs and well-thought guitarsoli show this to me, but also the drums and the basslines are very well-played. But that's probably the problem that I have with this tape... the music is too hectic and overloaded with technical ruffiness. The influences I can hear are very different, reaching from **Slayer** (of course, otherwise it wouldn't be thrash, would it?) to late **Dark Angel** and **Voivod**. Same goes out for the vocalist whose voice is more sung than aggressive, a very strange mixture. I was pretty happy when I got through these three neckbreakers, but I would look forward to hearing from **Terrorsquad** (a name obviously taken from the second **Artillery** album) again if they would go more straight ahead. \$5 to: Takatoshi Kodaira, 2-11-11-102 Nishikasai Edogawaku, Tokyo, 134 Japan.

GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG "Furor Teutonicus"

Former **BATTERY** / C.O.T.I.M. chief Nyar Linke finally tries to express his creativity in musical forms, and here I have the first results! To be honest I expected a bit more from a man who used to review other bands' stuff in the past. **Götterdämmerung** isn't bad, but you need more than just a couple of good ideas to make a tape sound satisfying. Sometimes his fast-changing music (in style and tempo) makes it all a bit chaotic, and unfortunately he also didn't manage to get a powerful sound on this demo...the bass is too loud, the guitars too weak. As said, it's not really bad, but he should try to find a clearer direction instead of mixing several styles (like thrash, black, I don't know what)... Probably next time. 4 songs for \$5 at: Nyar Linke, Klopp 4, 55471 Fronhofen, Germany.

SARCASTIC "The Haunting"

Excellent music but weak vocals! It's a sort of good guitarorientated thrash metal mixed with some modern techniques, it's far away from any death or even black metal explosions. The only thing I don't like is the vocalstyle, it sounds like a sung version of **Tankard**. Sorry guys, musically it's top, and it's great that you keep on thrashing, but kick your singer's ass and force him to change his style if you like to get more attention. Nine songs (including cool coverversions of **Slayer** and **Metallica**) you can hear for only \$5. Patrick Karlsson, Trollemvtsv. 4, 45260 Strömstad, Sweden.



"Dreaming of Pure Carnage"

These four englishmen's dream of pure carange is expressed in their music. Brutal american styled death metal (five songs, 26 minutes) with a great sound are crushing my speakers, and this demo seems to be one of the better ones in death metal. But sometimes the riffs sound too usual, having most of them heard already before. Anyway, a good tape which you can order for \$ 5. Wake Robin, Warnford Road, Orpington, Kent, BR 66 LM, United Kingdom.



(VOICES Productions)

Venom cult in the musical shapes of "Black Metal", "7 Gates of Hell", "Witching Hour", "Poison", etc... played by Japanese top black / thrash metallers **Sigh**. It was recorded live and it sounds very well done, so call this cool tape your own if you really like old historical songs in a new disguise... \$ 5 to the VOICES FROM THE DARKSIDE address.

W.O.P.

'Attacco al cuore del sistema'

Wow, I was very suprised when I listened to this studiodemo the first time. I wasn't astonished about W.O.P. singing in Italian, but their kind of music really did.... It's good melodic, guitarorientated thrash in the vein of **Flotsam & Jetsam** or old **Pyracanda**, you know, with those typical high melodic vocals that more or less belong to the past in these days. So W.O.P. takes you back in time with their 5 song loaded tape which has absolutely nothing to do with black death or any other kind of today's popular styles. Of course this isn't everyone's cup of tea, especially not for the younger readers who haven't been used to this kind of music, but I think it's a quite refreshing stuff. \$5? Andrea Boi, Via Val Trebbia 62/5, 16141 GE, Italy.



"Into Everlastin Fire"

Melodical Black Metal the nordic vein with high possessed vocals and an intelligent use of keyboards. Although this is a studiodemo with good music, I'm not too fond of the computerdrums as they do not always fit to the songs. But I was told by Sami, the only guy behind this band, that his next release (an album on SPINEFARM) will contain real drums. So having this in mind you should watch out for **Thy Serpent's** debutCD/LP. This cool demo (6 songs, nice cover) you can call yours for \$5. Sami Tenetz, Ruorimiehenkatu 1C 30, 02320 Espoo, Finland.

DRUSUS "Century of Sorrow"

Have you ever heard of a style called "Transilvanian Dark Ambience"? If not, well, try to listen to this tape which contains one hour of mysterious, kingly, ancient, dangerous, non metal, etc. music which is inspired by classic. It's very well-done' it often reminds me at triumphal or sorrowful sounds from movie-soundtracks. The lyrics are sung in Rumanian as Drusus himself is of Rumanian origin... This music is especially nice for the snowy days of the year. \$7 or DM 10 to: Andrei Rusu, Im Sichler 34, 61231 Bad Nauheim, Germany. The second demo "World without End" will arrive very soon...

SPEAR OF LONGINUS

Superfluous as flies on cowshit, that's the best description for a band like **Spear of Longinus**. This band is just a disgrace for the metal scene with their "Nazi Occult Metal" (do you feel cool now after you invented such an idiotic term?), using Göbbels' speeches and ridiculous lyrics within their songs. Why don't they play nazi-skinhead music instead of black metal? Bands like this really make me sad.... Of course no address here, you'll find it in most trendzines anyway.

NECRATHEMON "Immaterial Rhythmes"

Greece seems to be the land of "mystical metal".... and **Necrathemon** do also fit into that stylistic corner with their synths and harmonies loaded music. But this four-piece line-up still has to write more memorable and original songs before they're thinking of releasing something more professional. The basic ideas are good, but the special "kick" is missing in their four songs, and the vocals, which are deep and monotonous during the whole tape, make the music a bit boring. It isn't that worse as you might think now, but "Immaterial Rhythmes" is not a demo you are forced to have. \$5! Crownprince, Pantission 7, 163 46 Ilioupoli.

REX INFERNUS

"Triumphalia Ornamenta"

This is a project of **Necrathemon's** "Crownprince", and it's better stuff than the one from his real band. Typical Greek styled metal (hello **Necromantia**!) and Scandinavian influences build up **Rex Infernus'** style. Generally I would say it's well-done, but it gets a bit monotonous after a while and I'm not too happy with the black metal voice. Two songs plus two long intros. \$ 5 to the same address as above!

GRIMOIRE

"In the Darkwoods Sovereignty"

On the first sight (professional printed cover, etc.) I thought that this band might sound promising, but sadly I found out that **Grimoire** are just one more band not above average. It's unholy music from the holy land what they play, black metal infected by northern sounds. Good things to mention are the flute-like keyboards which appear here and there, it gives the music a special touch. But guitariff-wise the band hasn't too much interesting to offer. The vocals are of course screamy... too screamy and therefore without any originality. With a stronger guitarisound this studiotape would have been more attractive,I think the band should work more to find an own identity, especially as they are from Israel. This tape (four songs plus intro / outro) sells for \$ 5: Y. Lahav, Borochoy 22, 40240 Herzliya, Israel.

MAJESTY "The Natual Architect"

Doom Metal in the vein of old **Cathedral**, but just with the difference that **Majesty's** music is less death metal-influenced. It's more in the traditional way, with bells, acoustic guitars and effects like that. And the best thing is that those four songs don't get really boring, which is not usual when it comes to doom metal, just the voice is not always easy to take. A professional studiodemo with printed cover and lyrics, etc. If you like doom, then check it out for \$ 5: Lord Gravehill, Bälitic 6 A 4, 61100 Peräseinäjoki, Finland.



Forbidden Spaces

(Promotape from PAGAN Records)

If our upcoming damnation sounds like this, then it will be nothing but a deathly thing for us. Fast ruthless death metal, filled with a lot of doublebass attacks and fast guitariffing and a brutal (but also monotonous) voice. They're sounding like a darker version of **Morbid Angel**, some of the riffs sound very alike. It's great music, but it could have been a bit more straight ahead for my taste as I'm not a friend of too many hectic parts. Death metal fans can look forward to hearing their debutCD (released by PAGAN) which will be out when you read this.

SKUGGMÖRKER

'Härskare av den storta natten'

To be honest I have never heard of this band before, but this demo must be their fourth one if I have to believe their info. Of course they play black metal in the northern vein, but you will soon notice that there's still some more rehearsing necessary for **Skuggmörker** in order to get out of the demostatus. This demo here contains five songs which are more melancholic black metal, filled with good ideas and promising riffs, but the timing is not always correct. Potential is existing, so I hope that this young band will work hard in order to grow to something more serious. At least **Skuggmörker** aren't just another cheap **Marduk** clown, which is a positive sign. \$4 : Nichlas Ingemarsson, Genestorp, 36044 Ingelstad, Sweden

ENSEMBLE NOCTURNE Crimson Sky



Fresh, guitarorientated metal with screaming vocals and synths. But it's mostly melodic music, with influences from landmates **Dissection**, **Tiamat**, etc. and black metal. It's well produced with good ideas! \$5 aren't too much for six songs... Edvard Gustafsson, Skattegarden, 505 92 Hedared, Sweden.

DARK MIST "Behind A Black Curtain"

Not only black/death metal is around in these days, also power metal with some thrash influences is still existing ... **Dark Mist** prove this, but their style isn't my favourite one. This is because of the influences the band has in their songwriting, they sound like a softer version of **Sepultura** (similar vocals) with some harmonic elements at parts which could have been written by bands like **Tiamat** or **Paradise Lost**. There were some good parts here and there when I listened to their four well-produced songs, and they do their job properly, nothing to criticize, but this is simply not my kind of music. For those who like this style can look forward to receiving a demo with cool printed cover and lyrics, price is \$5. Lusitanian Production, c/o Luis F. Simoes, P.O.Box 6440, P-2700 Brandoas, Portugal

OBSCURE DISASTER

"Zeitalter der Unvernunft"

Good death metal studiodemo (6 songs) with intelligent riffs and melodies, which are surely above average. Contact following address: Dennis Wendig, Wiesenkoppel 8, 29640 Schneverdingen, Germany

MOONBLOOD

'Winter falls over the Land'

After several bad sounding rehearsaltapes **Moonblood** finally invested some money in order to record their songs in a real studio. This resulted in a new five track demo (including intro/outro) which contains some nordic styled black metal with keyboards. But the music is probably a bit too simple and monotonous, and has no identity, which makes this demo quite boring. One thing I do not like too much are the vocals as they sound quite pseudo-evil. Although the playing time is qlong (30min.), and **Moonblood** are better than in the past, this demo isn't really recommendable. \$5: Mirko Schmat, Dost-Str. 7, 08289 Schneeberg, Germany.

EQUINOX

'Anthem to the Moon / Promo'94

Former members of **Acheron** and **Incubus** have united to form a new band dedicated to the same thing, "black/death metal". And yes, their old band's influences (especially **Acheron** due to the slow parts and doublebass) can be heard in **Equinox's** style, just the vocals are not so deep! That was "Anthems to the Moon" from the year'92!

In '93 they recorded a promotape with three new songs, which are more simple, doomy and fast as well but still and brutal. Even some **Celtic Frost** elements appear, but all in all it remained dark death metal. Cool guitarisoli by the way (Kerry King is greeting)! **Equinox's** "7inch should be out now, so check it! The demo costs \$ 5; Equinox, P.O. Box 350333, Grand Island, FL 32735, U.S.A.

MORTIFIER "Unsparring Monstrosity (94), "Over the Unlight" (95)"

How the hell should I describe this one? I would say it's extremely powerful Death Thrashing Black Metal... these seems to be the influences for **Mortifier**. The best song (of eight) is the opening one "Entity Denied", a real with power loaded smasher... great! This is certainly a demo for those who are looking for untamed energy.

Coming to **Mortifier's** newest demo "Over the Unlight", I'm afraid to say that this result is definitely no gain for the band. They have changed their style to usual trendy black metal on their six new songs... it sounds as if two completely different bands are playing when you compare "Over the Unlight" with "Unsparring Monstrosity". I hear some of you say "trendies" now, and I think you're right. I guess the price is \$ 5 for each demo: Iaia Carlo, Via Custozza 24, 72017 Ostuni (BR), Italy.

HELHESTEN - Promo'95

How in the world is someone daring to releases such an awful-sounding Black Metal demo? The whole tape sounds so fuckin' amateurish, especially the vocalist sucks (his high distorted and hectic voice makes me aggressive). Also the slow hymnic parts (with spoken vocals) sound strange, nobody needs a band like this one here. Their music is not worthier than an empty purse. They have to improve alot until they again dare to send a "promotape" to zines, but lately I heard that a MCD (!!!) is soon going to be released. Unbelievable! HELHESTEN MANAGEMENT, P.O. Box 2052, 99401 Weimar, Germany



Advesperascit

If you like dark death metal, then you should continue to read, because **Nihilii Locus** are the kind of band you will probably like. Musically it is very well arranged stuff which is sometimes slow and very gloomy, sometimes very fast and aggressive, but always dark. I must admit that I don't like the vocals at all as they bore me and sound a bit too "I wanna be evil"-like (mostly in the growling way), but the music itself carries certain moods and atmospheres. They sound very original, therefore it's hard for me to compare **Nihilii Locus** with any other band, but for a "rough"orientation I'll name **Bethlehem** when it comes to the slow parts. Seven compositions (=30 minutes) in good studio sound are on this tape (printed cover), available for \$5 (Europe), \$6 (world). A 7inch is also out now as well as a MCD, but I can't give you any info on those releases. Blasi Bruno, Via Maina 30/40, 10040 La Loggia (TO), Italy.

...Finally some compilation shit!



7"inch vinyl attacks

A. B. M. S.

"Norici Obscura Pars"
(Sing Sang)

The current members of the Austrian Black Metal Syndicate such as **Golden Dawn**, **Pervertum**, **Trifixion**, **Die Knechte des Schreckens**, **Vuzem** and **Pazuzu** are featured on this CD. 11 songs are included on this compilation, so a long playing time is promised. Also this CD includes a cool booklet for more info, and we can say that all bands have a good musical niveau, also the new A.B.M.S. bands sound convincing, so this can't be a weak release, especially not as it is available for a special price. But for me it's sad not to see **Summoning**, Austria's best band, included....

WORLD DOMINATION

(Osmose)

If you like to know what's up at OSMOSE / LISTENABLE and EVIL OMEN Records, then this first compilation CD by these french labels is the right answer. 13 different bands are featured such as **Immortal**, **Fallen Christ**, **Absu**, **Demoniac**, **Luciferion**, **Sadistik Exekution**, etc., and this CD was announced to be available for a very special price (Sorry, I can't remember it). So why not checking this out if you aren't familiar with those labels.

What sweet music they make...

(Glastnost)

Nosferatu (alias Klaus Kinski) is greeting on this CD's frontcover and gives a rough imagination which kind of music is featured. Yes, it's vampiristic music, but the styles are different...dark wave, gothic, electro, pop, etc... I don't need to name any bands as you don't know most of them anyway. It's a (longplay) compilation for people (or better said bloodsuckers?) with an obscure music taste. Some bands sound cool, other ones totally suck. But it all hasn't anything to do with metal!

BLACK HORNS OF BOHEMIA

(Pussy God)

The info says: "I (Barbarid Horn) released this compilation-tape for showing you that Czech goat's Black Horns are really sharp. I believe they will pierce you and make never healing wounds in your stick head!" and I think this speaks for itself! This Black /Death Metal raid is caused by bands from Bohemia only, like **Maniac Butcher**, **Enochian**, **Unclean**, **Isaacarum**, **Dark Storm**, **Sorath** and **Avenger**. So you see, only real underground bands are featured and they represent the current situation in Czech Republic quite good. Of course not all bands are first class, but I think it's cool to hear what's up in Bohemia. But the drawn cover is ridiculous I have to say, you can't go more primitive like that, ha ha. You can call this tape your own by sending \$5 to...**Pussy God Records / Maniac Butcher**, **Stroupecká 2144, 43801 Zatec, Czech Republic**.

Symphony of Dark

A tape from Czech Republic! But it includes bands from all over the world. Highlights are **Gehenna**, **Abigail**, **Maniac Butcher**, etc. but there are also bands (like **Grimoire**) that are more or less weak. 16 songs are included on this tape, and it is packed in a full-coloured (xeroxed) cover, which looks a bit silly (Jesus Christ with corpse-paint and a black bleeding heart, huh huh). Available for \$5 at **Symphony of Dark Distribution, Zdenek Riha, Maratice - Vychod 1014, Uherské Hradiste, 686 01 Czech Republic**. Ask for Zdenek's mailorder list as he also distributes other stuff like demos, CDs, etc.

DIABOLICAL NETHERWORLD

Volume Three

Volume three differs quite heavily from the previously released tape.... Bill has chosen more melodic /atmospheric bands than he used to in the past. Examples? **Ulver**, **Beyond Dawn**, **Whores of Babylon**, **Ras Algethi**, **Einherjer**, etc.... But don't be disappointed if you are someone who likes more power in the music. Bill did also include bands like **Order From Chaos**, **Sabbat**, **Destroyer 666**, etc. on his newest compilation-tape. His choice of bands is better than in the past as he didn't concentrate on just one specific style of music like Black Metal. This tape (nice cover!) gets mailed for six dollars: **Bill Connolly, 36 Victory St., Bridgeport, CT, 06606 U.S.A.**

COLD MEAT INDUSTRIES

Keyboard tones from start to finish with all the label's bands (which are unknown to me except for **Aghast** and **Mortis**). It's an interesting CD, but it's a touch too much for my nerves when some bands sound too "industrialized"!!!

REPULSIVE ASSAULT COMPILATION

(Repulse)

"Who said Death Metal is dead?" is the motto of this compilation CD! And REPULSE are right: This CD shows that brutal death metal is still alive with tons of bands like **Avulsed**, **Inmolation**, **Golgotha**, **Demilich**, etc. And the best thing is that this CD gets mailed for the ridiculous price of \$5 **Repulse, P.O. Box 50562, 2080 Madrid, Spain**.

SLAYTANIC WEHRMACHT

A tribute to **SLAYER!**
(Black Sun)

Although I have paid more than DM 20 for this LP, I like to review it for all you maniacs. **Slayer** definitely deserve a tribute, they've influenced the whole extreme metal scene so much in the 80s and they deserve nothing but respect for not wimping out until now. Bands like **Dissection**, **Cemetery**, **At The Gates**, **Enslaved**, **Merciless**, ...play coverversions of old great **Slayer** songs like "Cronics", "Antichrist", "Post Mortem", etc. etc. Of course nothing can beat the original versions, but it's cool to hear other bands playing songs of kings.

GEHENNA "Merry Shitmas"

(Primitive Art)

Arrrghh, Swedish boozers **Gehennah** return with a 7"inch (especially released before Christmas). It seems as if they plan to be a pure **Venom** copy, their new songs (although there are still some punkriffs included) are more **Venom**-like than the stuff they did for their "Hardrocker" CD, some parts even seem to be stolen (remember the end of **Venom's** "Dead of the nite"). Also their bassist tries to look like **Cronos** with all his read leather and spikes, only the muscles are missing. This single which is packed in a cool full-coloured front and backcover, and is pressed on brown vinyl (**Happy "Shitmas"**), contains two songs which sound pretty cool. It is limited to 500 copies only, so hurry up if you like to experience "Satana Claus" and the title-track. A band like **Gehenna** is (in my opinion) important to bring some new (old-fashioned) ideas into our scene. Cheers!

ATHOTHEP "Baob - Catha"

(V Noise)

I always am very curious to listen to new bands from Switzerland as there were a lot of good bands hailing from this country in the past (remember **Hellhammer**, **Messiah**, **Coroner**, **Samael**, etc). But **Athothep** have to improve their cool but not yet well-worked out kind of atmospheric black /death metal in order to be named together with those above mentioned bands. For a first step I can say that this 7"inch (limited to 500 copies) is acceptable, but there's still a lot to do to grow to a might Swiss force.

PENTACLE "Exalted Journey"

(Midian Creation)

Old-fashioned Death Metal from Holland! This band has totally dedicated themselves to the old sound, and they show us this with their two-track 7"inch. No keyboards and stuff is included here, **Pentacle** just convince with pure metal the deathly way. But they should stop sounding like **Celtic Frost**, because they can't bring over this cool old sound as it is only destined to be played by some chosen ones (like **Slaughter**, **Delirium** or **Inner Sanctum**). Check it out if you like the easy but effective way. "Don't forget the ancient feeling - it still rules!!!" ...how true!

Desaster / Ungod

(Merciless)

A fine split single! **Ungod** are black thrashing metal and seem to have found their very own sound... just the sound could have been better! But musically it's really cool! **Desaster's** side is better produced and represents melodic but straight ahead black metal, and I think that this band seems to have found their own style, too. I also have to mention that this single has two cool coverartworks (4-coloured). This release is especially interesting for those among you who got disappointed by German Black Metal in the past!

UNGOD / CABAL

(Merciless)

Again a split single by **MERCILESS** Records. But although the musical quality of both bands is good, I'm not too satisfied with the sound. But coming to the music: **Cabal** play old-fashioned Death /Thrash Metal which sounds brutal but also a bit monotonous... **Ungod's** song is in the same direction as on their other split single, pure Black Thrashing Metal which sounds cool. On one side this is not a single everyone simply must have, but on the other side it isn't a bad release.

FULGOR "Eyequinox"

(Merciless)

What the fuck hides behind this untypical cover ??? Yes, untypical music! This band sounds as if they don't know what to play. It's a mixture of (black) metal and electronic sounds à la **Kraftwerk**... it's not easy to describe, but it sounds very original. But it's not something for everyone's ears I must admit. Anyway, it was a cool experience to get confronted with this kind of well-produced music. This 7"inch comes in red vinyl!

MANIAC BUTCHER / BARK SCORCH

(pussy God)

Two black/death metal hordes on one unholy single. It's dark and aggressive stuff, these bands spit on sweet harmonies. An interesting piece of black vinyl I must say!!! Available for \$5 at the **PUSSY GOD** Records address!

Final CD / LP Warnings

Master's Hammer "Slagry"

(Kron - H)

Franta, what have you done ??? I merely could say something after I heard "Slagry", the band's third opus. The reason is simple: This album has absolutely nothing to do with "metal", except for the last song which shows **Master's Hammer** from their old side (great!!!). It's orchestral/circus/gypsy/I don't know what music, which sounds very original and good, but also totally strange. I cannot understand why the band has released this LP under the **Master's Hammer** logo, but I pray that Franta hasn't lost his interest metal, and that his next album will be carry the typical **Master's Hammer** sound again. It would be a shame if not!!!!

Bewitched

"Diabolical Desecration"
(Osmose)

Former members of **Throne of Azah** and **Katatonica** united to bring back the feeling of the 80s Speed / Heavy Metal sound. And yes, they have some strong 80s influences (except for the vocals) like **Running Wild**, **Venom**, **Mercyful Fate**, etc., but you can hear at the production that this LP was recorded in the 90s. It's a good album, but sometimes **Bewitched** have stolen their riffs too obviously from some of their old heroes.

SCEPTER

'Metal - what a fucking beautiful word. Such a word describes power, honor, and glory. Such a word describes honesty, integrity, and resolve. Such a word describes **SCEPTER**.'

These are the introducing sentences for **SCEPTER**'s biography, so you see that this is not just another faceless horde.

This trio has released a professional 4-track demo called "Up Thy Ass" and it represents old-styled mid-tempo metal in the vein of slow (old) **SODOM** and their mates from **USURPER**, but not as dark I must say. For a first demo it sounds very promising, and clearly shows which path **SCEPTER** have chosen to walk. I used my chance to attack John Barnes, who is the band's vocalist and bassman, with my questions concerning this and that. But first I wanted to know what's up in the band's camp...

"Things are going well. Word of **Scepter** is gradually getting around the scene. We are busy promoting "UP THY ASS", so nothing really new. Perhaps a show late in the year but nothing definite."

You label your music as "pure metal", but it's not the same as the traditional kind of metal which bands like **IRON MAIDEN**, **JUDAS PRIEST**, **MANOWAR**, etc. play, so why this term for **SCEPTER**'s music?

Scepter plays **METAL**, pure and simple. We're influenced by **METAL** bands from the 70s, early and mid 80s. Some examples are **Kiss**, **Böc**, **Iron Maiden**, **Twisted Sister**, **Venom**, **Celtic Frost**... you get the idea! We feel that labeling ourselves as just "death", "thrash", "black", etc. would be too defining and confining. By combining the aforementioned influences with our own ideas we create **METAL** without limits. Maybe we are doing something unique? I don't know and I don't care. We play what is in our hearts and we call it **METAL**!

Tell us about the time when you were in **USURPER**. Why did you leave them?

'I played with the **Usurper** guys in a totally different band which they dissolved in late 1993. Thus, I was never part of **Usurper**, so I never left them.'

Well, I think I've misunderstood you in your last letter, sorry man! But I think I'm not the first guy who found some similarities to **USURPER** in **SCEPTER**'s music, am I? Did you use some old ideas for "Up Thy Ass" you had while you were playing with the **USURPER** guys?

'All the material for "Up Thy Ass" was written by Todd and me after the **Usurper** guys and I parted ways. Any similarities between **Scepter**'s music and **Usurper**'s can be attributed to the fact that I played with them on and off in the past for some five years. You don't play with other musicians for that long unless your stylistic tastes in music are similar. If our riffs sound alike at times it is purely coincidental and ultimately unavoidable. Great minds think alike, right?'

Ha, if you see in this way you're right. What will happen next at **SCEPTER**? I guess you are longing for a full-length album...

'A full-length LP will happen when we are ready. I think a lot of bands jump into a record deal before they have really had a chance to develop their sound. We are in no hurry for any major moves. Our time will come.'



In your music I also found some **SODOM**-like arrangements, do you agree? What do you think about the German metal back in the 80s?

'My first German **METAL** experiences were bands like **Scorpions** and **Accept**. Eventually I got into bands like **Sodom**, **Destruction** and **Kreator**. What I liked best about those bands was the solid, heavy downpicking 4/4 rhythms. Those bands wrote killer, catchy songs. So as for having **Sodom**-like arrangements, what can I say? We were influenced by the best!'

What is the "purest" metal band in your opinion (beside of course **SCEPTER**)?

'I have my personal favourites, but overall, I think the purest **METAL** bands came from the mid-80s thrash/death/black scene. The bands of the mid-80s pushed through the boundaries of conventional **METAL** styles set by bands from the 70s and early 80s into totally unexplored realms of speed, heaviness, overall the song structuring and instrumental technique. Those bands laid down the foundation for most **METAL** bands today. The extreme bands from the mid 80s were so special because they threw out all the rules and played from pure instinct.'

"Up Thy Ass" is really professionally done, so how much money did you invest for the whole thing (including promotion) until now? Of course you needn't answer this question if this is too personal...

'The whole "Up Thy Ass" assault was paid for in full when we laid down our souls to the gods rock and roll.'

Nice argument, really. Before our ways part once again I'd like to know how your situation was while being confronted with my questions...

'Just revelling in the screams of agony coming from my dungeon where the poses I have captured are having their bodies broken by my trusty **STRAPPADO!** How inspiring...'

So all you metalheads who like to get an overdose of pure metal, well, check out "Up Thy Ass" by sending five bucks to...

SCEPTER
P.O. Box 388068
Chicago, IL. 60638 - 8068
U.S.A.

...or DM 12 to the **VOICES FROM THE DARKSIDE** address!

The band is currently working on their new demo which should be entitled "Metal Supremacy"... watch out for this one as well.

NAR MATARON



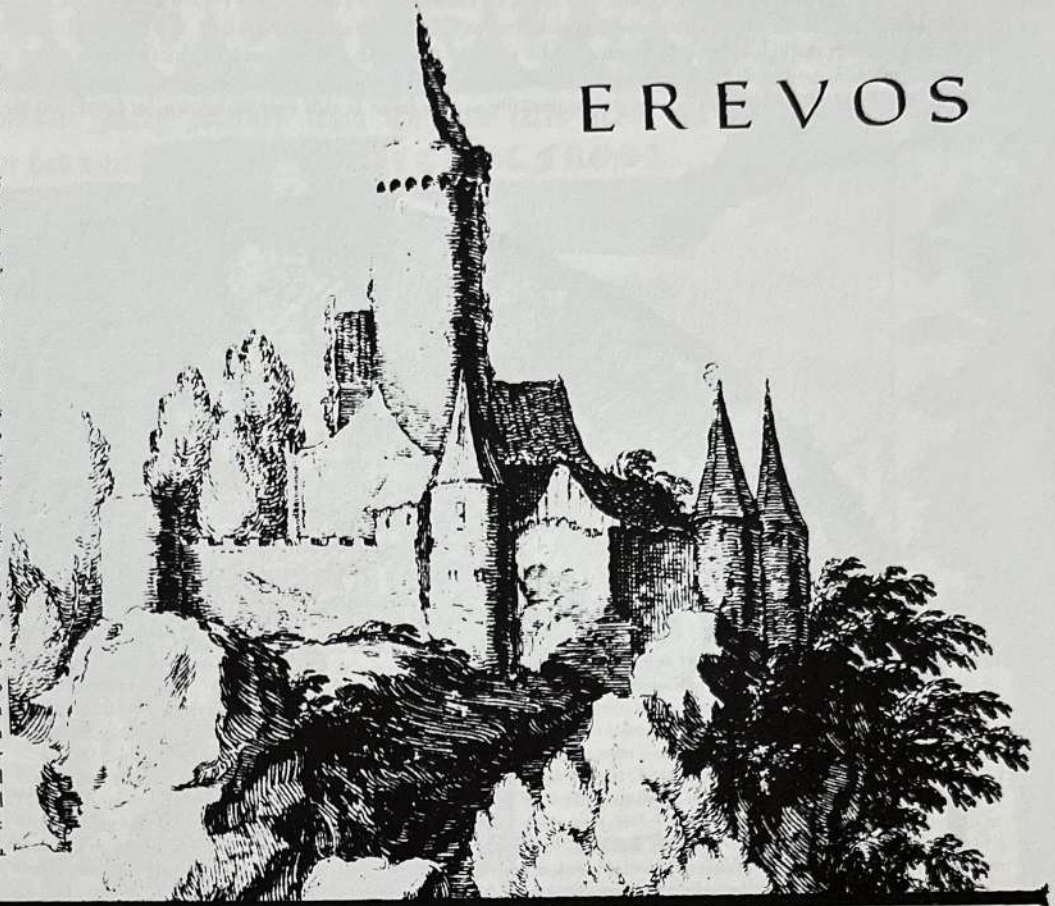
VORPHALACK

Most Greek bands have an atmospheric sound and so has **Nar Mataron**. Their bad produced promo has just one real song included (plus intro/outro), but the atmosphere is very cool and magical. It's very simple stuff, based on just one riff with a lot of choir-like keyboardtones and the fast (late) **Rotting Christ** drumrhythm, but it sounds good. As two members of this band also play in **Vorphalack**, a band which sounds typical fast Greek black metal with high vocals as you can hear it on their "Black sorrow for a dead brother" demo, I had (once again) the chance to put two bands into one article when I contacted Lord Alatoth (vocals, and bass/keyboard at **Nar Mataron**). When musicians are playing in two bands the question always comes up what differs both bands from another.... 'Actually in **Nar Mataron** we experience our style. We have mixed folk ancient Greek music real brutal parts with a lot of atmospheric feelings. We were very satisfied with our demo (except for the sound, but we liked the in that moment, that's why we didn't mix the songs), and I tried the brutal parts for **Vorphalack**'s new demo, with the help of Count Samas and Emperor Palmist. The reactions were very good, the demo is selling well for both bands. And for **Vorphalack** we earned a CD contract at **UNISOUND**, and a 7EP contract for **Nar Mataron**. We'll keep the extreme brutal parts and the folk influences in **Nar Mataron** and we'll continue to play pure ancient tartaric evil black metal. In **Vorphalack** we'll keep the atmospheric parts along with some progressive music. The only thing that is equal in both bands are my vocals. 'When it comes to **MELANCHOLY** Promotion I noticed that "orders from Greece are not accepted" for the **Nar Mataron** demo.... Why this? Are the fans from foreign countries "worthier" than Greek metallers? Leonidas, chief of **MELANCHOLY** explains: 'In the beginning we didn't want to sell our things to Greeks, 'cause here in Greece people are closed minds and they judge every new Greek group as bad. Also a lot of "new" kids (12 - 16 years-old) try to be evil by labeling themselves as underground maniacs. We only correspond with good true Greek bands and people. **MELANCHOLY** changed this now and we're selling the demos in Greece except for **Nar Mataron**, because it was part of the deal. By the way Lord Alatoth has stopped corresponding with Greek metalheads long time ago. He only has few friends he talks to. 'Well, this is a pretty silly attitude I think... Anyway, Lord Alatoth tells us about the future of both bands: 'In beginning of '96 **Vorphalack**'s debut CD "Lullabies of a Vampire" will be released. It'll contain 8 tracks of melancholic black metal. Next, there will be a contract with a new label. The **Nar Mataron** 7inch will include two songs plus intro/outro, then a new demo will be out. And Leonidas plans for **MELANCHOLY**: '7EP of **Demogorgon** will be out at the end of '95. It'll contain two songs, later the **Nar Mataron** 7EP and probably a **Vorphalack** 7EP will follow and some other 7EPs or LPs of new groups as well.' Only the stars know whether this label is a gift for the scene's future or not. By the way... why don't they release a split LP or a compilation LP instead of all those countless demos / 7inches ??? Oh yes, I forgot... the profit is bigger ... If you like to write them, here's the address:

MELANCHOLY Promotion
Leonidas
Trapezountos 3 - 5
17673 Kallithea
Athens
Greece

EREVOS

Erevos I've already reviewed in # 2, but after I listened to their cool non-metallic medieval music again for a couple of times I wondered what happened since that cool promo-release and if the plans of doing a full-length release are turning into reality? Prince Korthnag explains: *Yes, in the beginning of '96 I'll enter the "STORM" studio to record 6 poems under the title "Winterfeast" as a debut CD. I have three poems from the promotape '94 and three new poems with titles like "Swords in flames", "The Black Ring of the Great Sorcerer" and "Hymn to the Ancient Dark Spirits".* It's good to know that something is happening concerning the album... but Erevos isn't the only band in which Prince Korthnag is involved (by the way, he's the only member in Erevos anyway), he used to be busy in Agatus, a black metal band, too. But it's gone pretty silent with that band as I've noticed... The "Prince" comments: *I don't know what's happening now to Agatus, because Eskarth removed to Australia. A promo was released with the title "Black Moon", but after this, nothing known has been done. Just silence...* To me this sounds as if they faded away, so let them rest in peace, even if they were a cool band. Making good music usually takes a lot of time, so in which of Korthnag's two bands has he spent more time and work? *...Of course I spend all of my time now to Erevos and I'm making the same for Svefnathorn (!!! -ed.) when I have my inspiration. When I was in both bands, Agatus and Erevos, I had the same feelings and inspirations for them.* But this definitely belongs to the past if I read between the lines. So just concentrate on his main project now, and if you are a friend of cool medieval harmonic flute-tones, then watch out for Erevos' first strike on CD (LP?). Not only our Scandinavian friends are able to create some cool non-metal music! If you like to convince yourself of the musical quality you still can order the promotape '94 for \$4 at: Prince Korthnag, AG. Marinis 4, 123 51 Egaleo, Athens, Greece.



Another new great band from the eternal North abyss... NEEZTACH have released a cool 3-track demo called "Pinseltronen" which sounds like a mixture out of Gehenna and horror-movie-sounds. It's so convincing that I had to ask "Gidim Xul", the only "official guy behind this band, a couple of things...

'Pinseltronen' is a great demo that seemed to arrive from the nothingness, but how was the existence of NEEZTACH before that tape got released?

'Neeztach has always existed deep within my dark mind, it was not only until recent I had material and money in order to do the demo. There have been some session-members, but they all turned out to be wimps.'

Within those countless new Scandinavian bands you seem to have a touch of own identity... What made you create moodier and more mystical music than others do? Just in order to be "different"?

'Well, as I told you, NEEZTACH has been around for quite a while and I have had plenty of time to think about how I wanted the songs to be. You can say that I wanted my songs to be a bit 'different', and I have accomplished that in sort of a way. The new songs will be a bit more faster, satanical and hateful.'

As the whole scene seems to concentrate on norwegian bands, I can imagine that soon you got some offers from labels, etc, didn't you?

'I haven't received any offers from labels yet, but this is explainable, because my demo hasn't been out for so long. I'm still waiting for some labels' reply, we'll see what time will bring. I surely hope that I'll get a deal with a label, so I can release my work on vinyl!'

There are quite a lot bands coming from your area, so how's the collaboration? Can you imagine anyone to join NEEZTACH as a second member?

'The only band I'm in contact with is Gehenna. There are a few other black metal bands, but they're all posers. I have found a drummer by the way, but his identity will remain secret, he goes by the name 'Akhkharu' (aha! -ed.). I've also a session guitarist, but I think that he'll also wants to remain secret. I can tell you that they're no posers!'

NEEZTACH



Well, let others decide who's poser or not... Coming to the next question I wanted to know if you are into horror movie-soundtracks or anything like that, I thought about this when I listened to the song 'Brennende' which sounds very dangerous and adrk due to the effective synth effect...

'Yes, I am into horror movies, and they have all inspired me a lot. Other influences are my satnic belief and thoughts (...as usual, I didn't expect any other answer! -ed.). Musical influences are mostly the good old gods and some newer stuff.'

Many swedish or norwegian bands tend not to expand their souls (or should I say horizons?) beyond the scandinavian frontiers... is it the same with you? Explain your opinion!

'Yes, it's the same with me...'

Oh well, thanks for the explanation of your opinion! Such long informative answers make this interview really a killer (...)!'

From your place (Stavanger) comes a mag called GENOCIDE which caused a lot of trouble because of some nationalistic/ racial propaganda and temptation to violence, etc... Did you notice all that trouble and did some people also come after you as you're a band playing the kind of music which GENOCIDE features in their mag?

'Yes, the police found me / us interesting and are always breathing down our necks! I do not spend much time with the GENOCIDE guys, Beastus Rex is currently in jail.'

"Arrogance is strength" is a slogan you often have to face in the (northern black) metal scene, but don't you think it's kind of silly? I often experienced that there are a lot of wimps hiding behind the arrogant masquerades...

Sometimes I can be very arrogant, this can be explained in very simple words! I tend to be arrogant when I am in a situation I do not like and when there are people whom I do not like to be present.'

A strange answer to my question... but it's your thing. What does NEEZTACH mean to you? Is it just a hobby or is your aim to live through the sales in near future?

'Neeztach is definitely not my hobby, and I can't live through the sales, at least not yet, you don't make much money on a demo (that's of course clear! -ed.). But we'll see in future!'

Before I leave you: How will the new songs sound compared to the demostuff?

'We are working on new material and as I said earlier, the songs are a bit faster and they aren't finished yet, so I can't tell you more... A big hail to Dirge Rep and the rest of Gehenna. Greetings to Erkekjetter and Dimmu Borgir. Hello to Roy 'Mannen' fra Mannestad. And a special thanks to you for the interview and your support!'

Gidim Xul, Kongsteinssmauet 4, 4012 Stavanger, Norway

If you are a real fan of dark American Death Metal, then you don't have to miss AZATOTH from Sweden. Their first demo "The Dawn" was really nice, but the new one "Through the Halls of Hatred" is a killer! But I have to say that this band has nothing to do with originality... it's very American Death Metal-like, and comparisons to DEICIDE and CANNIBAL CORPSE, etc. are undeniable. I don't care as long as the music kills, and it certainly does when it comes to the new AZATOTH-stuff. Especially the first two songs are pure death metal crusher, very well played (there are even great soli included) and fuckin' powerful, all arranged with certain intelligence. It was very obvious for me to do an interview with Kalle, the band's vocalist and lyricwriter, especially as this band is still very unknown (at least outside Sweden).

How are things going at AZATOTH now as your new demo is available?

Correction! The demo is not available...not yet! Because we have some money problems right now, so everything is going fuckin' slow. But we hope to unleash it soon, very soon.

"Through the Halls of Hatred" is your strongest release so far, so how much time did you need to record all the new songs which sound very well-arranged? Did you work harder on the songs than in the past?

"Through the Halls of Hatred" took about 30-35 hours to be completed (including mix) and in my opinion we put our souls into it (if we have any!).

Although you're from Sweden you sound more like U.S. death metal, especially the DEICIDE influences are heavily...do you agree? If yes, why are you more into the American death metal than the Swedish or European one?

Yee, we have a little Deicide in us, yes, we may sound like an American death metal band. But hey, let's get rid of the bloody comparison...do we sound different? The American sound may very well come from the fact that it was the first type of metal/death/grind music our ears were exposed to, this goes back to the time when we were young lads.

Yes, you're right, but keep in mind that heavy metal originally comes from England, not from U.S.A. Real death metal has been declared as dead some time ago, but seems to rise again. So do you think that your time will come soon for an album, do you see any chances for you?

Azatoth? Yes, probably if we get our asses out of the bloody wagon (a way of speaking in Sweden) and start spreading the bloody word about ourselves.

When listening to your tape I couldn't find any black metal influences which nearly every band seems to have in these days. Didn't northern kind of black metal have any affect on AZATOTH's members? To what bands do you like to listen to?

You're correct. We don't have any black metal influences (and I'm glad about this), only for some vocals and lyrics. You know that some people like to class the music after the vocals and lyrics, but that's stupid in my opinion! The band Azatoth has a wide music taste. It can vary from folk music to almost everything, but I can read from your question that you're interested in our taste of death/metal music. Some groups are Deicide (of course!), Massacre, My Dying Bride, Cannibal Corpse, Bolt Thrower, and various black metal bands, etc. etc.

HIST
CAP
AP

You sound very professional for a demo band, and you're around for quite some time now, aren't you? Please give us some info on AZATOTH's past!

Azatoth started in 1992, but under an other name (Convulsion). We changed that name one year later. We had several members since the beginning, but some original members are still left (me and Raza). The set up we have now is cool, we're completely satisfied with the new members. We have played a lot of gigs...not one hundred but at least 60-70! Note: The old bass player on "The Dawn" is replaced by the new one namely Markus, he's good, very good!

Don't you want to become a bit successful with your band? I'm asking this, because I haven't seen neither flyers of you nor any features in magazines until now...

You're asking me! I'm burning to get successful, but as I said before we're out of money. About the magazines and flyers: We're too lazy, that's all!

Luckily you're not too lazy to compose powerful songs... Black metal seems to be the law in these days and there are a lot of childish things going on since some new bands have joined the

scene...did you have any experiences with them?

No experiences! I don't really mingle with black metal guys (except for Mörk of Malign), so I don't give a fuck. Let them play their childish games as long as they don't disturb me! "Lex Talianos: The strong will survive!"

You're really not afraid to play live...so please describe what's going on at an AZATOTH gig! By the way, what have been your greatest live gigs for you (and why)?

I see music as a drug and substitute for power. When I'm on stage I like to whip myself with the microphone-cord and I put myself into a sort of trance. But except for that we're just banging our way through the whole show. We don't dress in spikes or stuff like that, I think that if you have a strong personality you don't need that stuff in order to show what you feel. But on the other hand it looks really cool, so I don't judge others who wears it. Gigs? We have played with bands like Obscurity, Hypocrisy, Necrophobic, Morphius, etc etc. The gig with Obscurity was the greatest, it would be too bad if they disappeared forever!

Having a band often means that you have to invest quite a lot of money (like buying good instruments, paying studio- and rehearsalplace costs, etc.) before you can hear any acceptable results. So isn't it sometimes a problem for you? Do you think that your work (no matter if it's quality work) will ever financially pay out?

No, I don't think you can make a lot of money in this business but I get payed by emotions. But if it pays for us, it will be 900-1000 Skr and that's not much if you are a great consumer of beer, booze, junk-food and beer like we are.

Brew your own beer! It's not difficult and much cheaper!!! But back to music business, I heard that there's another Swedish band called AZATOTH, so what's going to happen in order to change this stupid situation? Who's going to surrender?

Yeees! I was thinking in the beginning of this interview about this question. Yes, we know that there is another band called Azatoth...bhhaa!...and we have been in contact with them. They should change their name in my opinion as we have been around with this name for several years. Now, they have only be around for a couple of months, so...What do you think? Have you heard them?

No, I haven't, but I received one of their flyers. I also think they should change their name because of the reason you mentioned. The future of death metal seems now to be brighter than about two years ago, so what do you think will soon happen in AZATOTH's upcoming months?

We will probably (!!! - ed) release our demo II and we hope to get a record deal, play some more gigs, meet new people, bands, etc. etc.

You've written that you never thought that your demo "The Dawn" would be accepted in a mag like mine...why don't you think are most black metal fans ignoring other metallic styles beside "true" black metal? Any advices to such kind of people?

My advice? Fuck off zombies! You got to have an open mind, because if you don't you're isolating yourself and isolation leads to stupidity, and stupidity leads to self hypocrisy... and that's what christianity is based on. So if they want to be so "really true evil" as they say they are, they have to have an open mind (as you, Costa), but a controlled open mind. Heil Satan!

Your final chance for a comment...

Yes, I would like to thank you for this interview and good luck with # 3. AVE AZATOTH!!!

Write to Kalle and ask if they've finally released their second demo, but I think and hope that it is out now...

CELTIC FROST

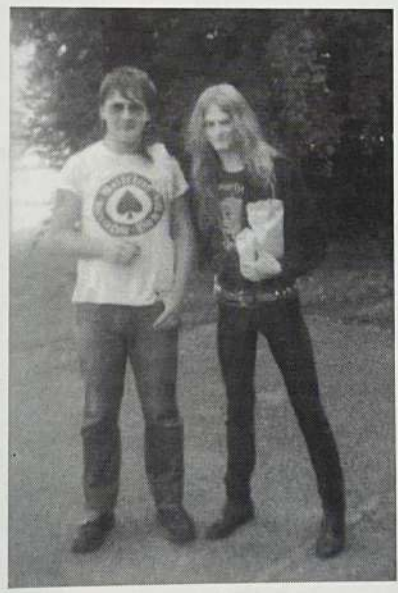
Old Necromaniac Mark Mackey from England tells about his experiences he had with **CELTIC FROST...**



AND RAVING WILD

The Beginning

The first time I ever met Celtic Frost was in 1985 in Switzerland. I got to know their roady, his name was "Dinosaur", he's mentioned on the band's early demos and the "Morbid Tales" MLP. I had a friend in England who was going out with him... and she asked me "You want to go and meet someone?", and I said "Yes". And when Dinosaur and I spoke to each other we found out that we both liked Celtic Frost and that he was their roady... and this fact blew me away! Then in 1985 I went on a Eurorail-tour, and when we got to Switzerland we knocked on Dinosaur's door, and he put us up for the night (Talking about him, he used to ride around Zürich on a black motorcycle, dressed in black leather with a black helmet and a fencing mask on with two horns sticking out of his helmet...and he looked like Mad Max). And he said, "how about meeting the band tomorrow?", and I was pretty excited that time and I said "Ok". The next day he took us for a drive from Zürich to a tiny tiny little town that I really can't remember the name of, but it had about five farmhouses and a couple of fields in. And one of the big farmhouses was owned by Tom, and we walked into the Celtic Frost rehearsal room which was a kindergarten that had a four foot thick door, and saw the band rehearsing. We, me and my mate Gary, sat down, didn't say anything, and the band was playing "Circle of the Tyrants", "Into the Crypts of Rays", and they carried on rehearsing. It was the time they rehearsed for "To Mega Therion", and when they finished the songs, Tom came over, introduced himself and the members of the bands to us. "Morbid Tales" was out and "Emperor's Return" was just released at that time. The line-up then was Tom on guitar, Reed on drums and Dominik Steiner on bassguitar. Dominik just played on "To Megatherion", but never again, because the others didn't really like him at all. They said by the end of the recording of the "To Mega Therion" LP that they would walk down the streets and if Dominik was on their side of the street they would walk on the other side of the street. Dominik used to play in a band in Switzerland called **Baby Steel**, and they got him as Martin Ain has left the band by that time, for the first time, he decided to go off and do his own thing. So Tom wanted a good bassist, and Dominik was a very good bassist and a really nice guy, but he did not look right at that time, and I don't think his attitude was there for Celtic Frost. He was a bit too glamy at the time for the band which is really ironic considering Frost's "Cold Lake" LP in '88.



Mark Mackey & Tom

The band weren't playing Hellhammer songs at that time anymore when they rehearsed, but they asked me what I wanted to hear, and I said I wanna hear "Messiah", so they played a couple of chords of that song. And when they played "Into the Crypts of Rays", I actually sang along with every word for it, and they couldn't believe an English guy knew all the lyrics to "Into the Crypts...". They weren't playing any Hellhammer-songs at all, the only time I know of them in concert playing Hellhammer-songs as Celtic Frost was the very first gig in St.Gallen, and they played "Messiah". And they played that song once in America on their first tour with **Voivod**, **Nasty Savage** and **Destruction**. But otherwise they never played Hellhammer-songs as Celtic Frost, it was a complete new thing.

Hellhammer splitted up, and when they came together they decided that it wasn't going to be Hellhammer again., they wanted something new.

Musically Celtic Frost was heavy as fuck, I was really chuffed to see them, I couldn't believe the I was seeing Frost in a live-situation... not in front of an audience, but playing with a bank of amplifiers behind them.

The first time I heard about them was the "Apocalyptic Raids" EP that was bought by a friend of mine, she said you have to hear it, this is incredible, so I listened to it and sure enough this was incredible. Then I started seeing posters in Heavy Metal Record Shops in London for a new band called Celtic Frost "who make Venom sound like the BeeGees", etc., and I thought that this sounds pretty good, and I bought it and it blew me

out of the window. So, I couldn't believe being at their rehearsalplace later, I was a happy boy back then.

When we went to see them rehearse, we said "goodby" by the end of the session, and we went back to our way around Europe back to England. Later I spoke to some friends and I said that Celtic Frost are playing in Germany, "do you wanna go and see them!" and they agreed and we went to Bochum at the Zeche, and Celtic Frost were supported by **Kreator**, but unfortunately we got there and the gig was cancelled because Tom lost his voice, but the band said to us we won't forget you, because you knew all the songlyrics, and they said they talked about me for weeks afterwards, I was the first English fan that ever met and liked the band, which I felt quite pleased about, because they had so much bad press in England, especially in METAL FORCES, and Tom said he would never play England, and he was true to his word for a long time until 1987, but I think they were quite pleased when they came over.

The contact branched out, I started writing with them, I had Tom's, Martin's and Reed's personal address... and from then I used to go over occasionally just to see them jam and play.

By mixing with them I got to know that Tom, whatever you read about him, he sounds like a bastard, but he had his reasons, it was his baby, his band, and if something went wrong the pressure was always on him. If a record was wrong he thought he's done something wrong. Celtic Frost was as much the other members' band, but Tom always felt he was the main man.

The first time I met Martin we went in '85, after we just have seen the band rehearse, to Martin's flat and he was watching Dracula, or any other black and white horrormovie, and his record collection is made up with things like the **Virgin Prunes** and **Christian Death** and very gothic-styled stuff. That was his way of doing things! He always wanted to leave the band and do horrormovie-soundtracks, that was always his thing. Maybe one day he'll actually do it... Martin also worked pretty full-time at a recordstore in Zürich, and he never give up his dayjob.

The most easy going guy has to be Reed. Being American, he was always drinking Beer which Tom never did. Martin never touched alcohol, but Tom was known to drink bottles of Brandy, he was into spirits, but not into fruit-type of spirits, he wouldn't drink Vodka or Scotch or anything. He was always very straight with everybody, and if he didn't like you, you certainly knew about it.

Mark's collection

Special things that I possess? Well, I got all three Hellhammer demos from Dinosaur, and the band gave me their 12" inch "In The Chapel In the Moonlight", Picture Discs, Tourposters, Photos, etc.. Also I have a white shirt with the "Morbid Tales" design, and the design is upside-down, and there were only about 10 - 15 shirts made, and I still have it, it's in shreds, because it has been worn so much... and when I went to concerts in England people used to say to me "Hey, your T-Shirt is upsidedown", but I used to say "Well, it was given to me by the band" and they said "You BASTARD!"

Mark about the members of the band

I was there when they made the "Circle of the Tyrants" video, that was also at the Bochum /Zeche, and there was only 10 people allowed and that was record company, etc., myself and my two friends were allowed to watch them play which was pretty special, and just being mates of them.

When at stayed at Tom, he had about 100 Frank Sinatra records, Frank Sinatra is Tom's favoured artist...Tom wanted to do "These Boots are made for walking", but unfortunately about a year before, Megadeth have already done it, so Tom was really pissed off and he said to me "I really wanted to do this" and all he does is listening to



bloody **Frank Senatra**. So in the end, they did "In the Chapel in the Moonlight" by **Dean Martin**, because it sounded so weird and it actually really worked, and that's what Tom listens to, he's really into that sort 50s, I don't know, and he really isn't into Heavy Rock at all.

Martin on the other side is the gothic man, he wears the **Christian Death** T-Shirts, he's the guy that dresses in black, wears the make-up, he's the real doom merchant. He was the cult man, the guy with the black rooms, the altars, the skulls,...he used to read stuff like Aleister Crowley, Anton LaVey, etc. Tom wasn't really that dark about these things, he was more into medieval things, like the helmet on the backcover of "To Mega Therion" LP. Tom was the angry boy of the band. Reed was into just about anything, into drinking beer, into heavy stuff, but he never really told me his favoured bands. But I know that he met Paul Stanley and Gen Simmons once and he didn't know what to say to them; he likes the American bands. Reed was one of the best drummers I've seen in my life.

In England and Europe the band is called " (K) CELTIC FROST and in U.S.A. the band is called (S) CELTIC FROST, and the reason is because Katon from **Hirax** once said on stage "this one's for (S) CELTIC FROST", and over here in England, (S) CELTIC are a football time.



Tom and Martin

The experiences at Martin's house were ultra scary ! I'm not a small guy, but I had to sleep with the door open. I walked into this room and there was a proper marble altar with a skull in the middle, two candles on the side and on the side of the altar he has four foot tall candlesticks made out of spiriling metal with gorgons and everything, and on the wall he has black and white Giger paintings, and the entire thing is painted black. His flat at the time had a codephonic speakersystem, so he had two speakers in the living room, one speaker in this altar-room, and one speaker in the toilets. And when you wake up in the morning, he would play something like **Coil**, and he had to destroy angels which is really really scary. I did not sleep very well in that room at all.

Another funny story: One day I went to Tom's house to see them rehearse for two weeks, and one morning I opened the back door, because he had some stray cats he feeds. He also had a dog which he called Wotan who was also in that room... I went to feed the cats and I heard some music upstairs, so I thought Tom's up,... and I went upstairs to see him, didn't realise that I left the door open. As I was checking to Tom, I've forgotten all about it. One hour later we came downstairs, the door was open and the dog was gone. I searched for hours... the dog was eventually found by the police, and Tom had to pay a lot of money to get the dog back and the night after I done that Tom told me to fuck off out of his house. He wasn't a happy man at all then. From Tom's house I was really broken-eyed, and I went back to Martin's house and I slept once again in that fuckin' room with the altar in which he did me in again. And as I walked down on the stairs Reed was sitting there, and his words to me were "Hello, loser of dogs." which I wasn't very happy about. Reed thought it was immensely funny, Martin thought so, but Tom 's going to smash me in the face. The best thing was to get out while I can, so I did, and we didn't speak to eachother for about one year.

The Reunion

The way we met up again was when I went to a record shop in London and some friends of mine were there and they've just been to Hammersmith where **Frost** were playing that night. One of them told me that Reed was outside asking for me, so I went to Hammersmith, knocked on the door of the backstage entrance and Reed came out, and he said "How are you Mark, it's been a long time, etc., and I've got someone who wants to see you." I got a wake feeling what was going to happen, so I walked on stage on the Hammersmith Odeon, and there was Tom, and he looked to me and I looked to him .. and he started laughing and he gave me a big hug, and he said : "I'm really sorry (which I thought was rather nice) to do this to the biggest **Celtic Frost** fan in England... I should never have done it and we are friends again." For a year and a half we didn't talk and I was told by Reed later that this was the reason my name didn't go onto "Into the Pandemonium", because of that fuckin' dog, hah hah.

Bochum /Zeche: It was February '86, **Kreator** supported them (once again), and the German fans were completely bloody mad. When **Kreator** played it was ok, but when **Celtic Frost** did people were stagediving with cowboyspears on, and people were getting cut to ribbons. It really was naughty, but that was the way there were doing it in Germany... in England it was quieter, we certainly don't kick people. Everytime I've been to Germany for a gig there have been fights everywhere. The **Celtic Frost** gig was superb, and I've got the bootleg of it, and on the second song Reed comes out and actually said "This one's for Mark" ...well, that's me (proud) !!!

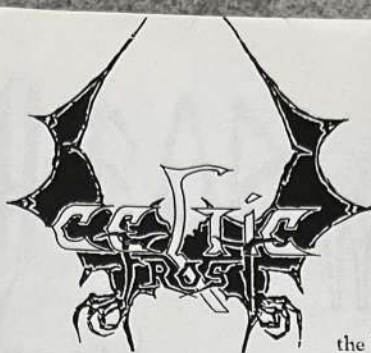
The fans back then: Everyone was wearing **Helloween** or **Slayer** Shirts, had long hair and mustaches, well in Germany everyone has mustaches (ha ha).... and they were mader. The Bochum gig has been the madest gig I've been to. In England there's like a moshing pit, stagediving, but it doesn't get quite as violent as in Bochum where people are purposely going in to hurt people.

Steve, Tom's brother who has been in **Hellhammer** as **Savage Damage**, was also there. He's total different to Tom, Tom is five foot tall, Steve must be like six foot three, a really nice guy, and he was the main roady at that time. That was another good thing at Germany to meet "Savage Damage".

Talking about **Coroner**: Markus was **Frost's** roadie on the Engalnd tour in '86, and he gave me his band's debutdemo "Death Cult" on which Tom is singing, and



Tom and Reed



the band with their session drummer Isaac Darso



I think Tom still has something against England, because when they played the "Cold Lake"-tour at Hammersmith...the place which usually holds 3.500 thousand people was filled with 600-700 people, and that really annoyed Tom, but he didn't realise that the people were into **Frost** for their heaviness and the image, and when he changed the image to look like glam, I didn't think he had thought about it as much as he could have done. And the people who were there were all **Celtic Frost** fans who have **Celtic Frost** tattoos up and down their arms.

It's so weird now, everybody is a **Celtic Frost** fan, but at the time everybody hated them, it was only a very very small band of people who used to go and see them all the time. We still meet each other, we still know each other, but all the younger people now who get into **Celtic Frost**, I'm sure that at the time they (or even older people) may just have said "what a lot of rubbish". And now because of other people saying "we're influenced by **Celtic Frost**" all of a sudden there is a big time....maybe now it's the time for Tom to get it together, speak to Reed and Martin and maybe do a farewell-tour, because it will go very well if they do good publicity.

What about the other members ?

I met Steve Priestly, who was in **Schizo** before he joined the band in 1984, afterwards, but I never met the very early members, and I really didn't know what happened between them. The reason they were leaving the band is that Tom has chucked them out, because they weren't good enough (says Tom).

Facepaint

The band's facepaint in the early days was one of the reasons I turned on to **Frost**, because being a **Kiss** fan...facepaint was cool during that time. I've seen **Mercyful Fate** in 1983 and then **Frost** played with make-up... and now all these bands that are coming out, I have to say this, are boring. I don't like facepaint if it doesn't add anything to music. But everytime I see a Scandinavian band with make-up it reminds me of **Kiss**, early **Celtic Frost**, **Mercyful Fate**, and I don't know why they do it!

At the time in '86 I heard of things like "Jounrey into Fear" and "Cross on my shoulders" when it comes to unreleased **Celtic Frost** material, but the last one never got released finally.

In 1986 Tom wanted the band to become a 4-piece and he played me a lot of demos of guitarist that he got who wanted to join the band. Tom had enough of being a three-piece, because all the pressure was on him with the guitar. The demos were sent in by a lot of American guys who've put on it a **Celtic Frost** song on the record player and they started playing along to it...and that was it. And I thought "What is this, a bunch of crap!", it was absolute garbage, but Tom was really really keen on one American guy who looked about 4-years-old, and Tom wanted to bring him over, but that didn't work. But you don't really need more than three persons for **Celtic Frost**, Tom filled out all the guitarparts quite happily!

We had good contact, I phoned Tom and Martin up, but Reed actually used to phone me up. He once came to London and I went out drinking with him, he was over here to do some sessions for a band, he would never tell me for which band. And I got him into a pub and we got so pissed that he wasn't able to do the session that day which I was quite proud about. We were as drunk as scunks! During the time Tom got madder like "This is my band,...get bigger and bigger", Martin got more interverts, and Reed just drank more Beer.

if anyone hasn't got it...get it! If you are a **Frost** fan, and want to hear Tom singing on a real obscure thing, then pick up the **Coroner** bootleg CD. It's excellent!

Hellhammer were basic, and at that time when "Apocalyptic Raids" came out it was so unusual, they needed a band like this, metal was going fuckin' nowhere then, we had **Venom**, great, and **Metallica** who will go mainstream anyway, then you needed something loud: **Hellhammer**. It used to be called **Tarot**, **Grave Hill**, **Hammerhead** and then **Hellhammer**. The fact that they came from Switzerland maybe pissed a lot of people off, because Switzerland was never known for producing any metal bands (except for wimpy bands like **Krokus**).

Hellhammer was a different band than **Frost**, that's probably why Tom has taken this so personally... **Hellhammer** was just Tom and a couple of other musicians, but when it came to **Celtic Frost** attitudes changed when "Morbid Tales" appeared, it is so different to **Hellhammer**, I think it did them really good (Never heard.) to stop **Hellhammer** and get **Celtic Frost** going. The difference is so obvious!

CELTYC FROST

AND **Running Wild**

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9h30 & 11h30 P.M.

Destruction FROM GERMANY

SPEED METAL

MERCREDI, 4 décembre / WEDNESDAY, December 4th

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Cherry METAL 1986

Inner Sanctum



Total Celtic Frost-clown from Uruguay, but fuckin' great! Inner Sanctum isn't just inspired by those Swiss gods, no, they try to be a pure copy with success. Their cassette LP "Frozen Souls" is finally out (I have reviewed it in #2), and I was really happy to get in touch with Pablo, the band's bassman and vocalist. Even if this interview is pretty poor due to his bad English and all the Beers which he has drunk, it's better than nothing, isn't it? Well, enough written, let's start....

Why is your album so delayed? Will it ever be released on TOXIC?

'We are not the one to blame! All the problems were made by TOXIC Records, they made it so fuckin' problematic. But now we are ok with our "Frozen Souls" LP.'

As your recordings are quite old now I suppose that there're some new songs already written... Please tell us something about it...

'Yes, there are two new songs, "Embrion", "Locus Plague" and the "Frozen Souls" LP of course!!!'

It is very obvious that you are heavily into CELTIC FROST, and I dare to say that INNER SANCTUM try to copy Tom Warrior's style of songwriting. Do you care about people calling you a CELTIC FROST rip off? What other influences do you admit for INNER SANCTUM?

'I don't care, I've never cared and will never care. Of course I have other influences like Morbid Angel, etc. etc., we try to make a sound which we like, I don't know. We like too much styles and I've too much bands I mostly like. I'm not a chosen mind when it comes to styles...'

Who came up with the idea to form a band like INNER SANCTUM and what happened before you went into the studio to record your album? Please tell us about the past...

'The idea to record our album came from TOXIC. I was the person who continued since the beginning ('91), and before I was also playing bass in a band called Angkor Vat ('89). At that time I knew Euronymous (Mayhem). He was an extreme and good person.'

It is always interesting to hear some musical influences from the band's country, but that's not existing in your music. Will there ever be any Uruguayan influences in your music? Don't you think you limit yourself when just concentrating on one sound (here: CELTIC FROST)?

'We have some Uruguayan influences like Walpurgis (true black metal), Maldicion, Melkor Morgot, and as you say Celtic Frost.'

Why did you choose TOXIC as your label, why not an European one?

'TOXIC records joins us! We have purposes from three different Chilean labels, such as TOXIC, EMI, INFerno. But we don't know,

some people say that TOXIC sells the catalog to INFerno. In these times I don't care about anything.'

I never heard of any other Uruguayan band before, so is there any metal scene in your country?

'There are other Uruguayan metal bands like Maldicion, Morbid Blood, Diskordid, Walpurgis, Eclampsy, Ossuary, Exorce, Corpses, and a lot more.'

Do you think that middle- and south American bands are underestimated by the world wide metal underground? What's your opinion on Brazilian, Mexican, etc. bands? Are there any you can recommend?

'Sabaoth, Typhon, Brujeria, Criminal, Dorso. From Argentina I can't recommend anything, and that's all...'

As said before you heavily sound like FROST, but I can't hear any HELL HAMMER influences (H.II. and C.F. do not sound alike !!!). Is this because you don't like HELL HAMMER or is it too difficult to write songs in that simple style?

'There were three months in my life where I only listened to "Apocalyptic Raids" from Hellhammer.'

How's the line-up in your band and is it easy to find the right musicians for it?

'Line-up: Alvaro Garcia (drums), Beto (guitar), Pablo (bass). There was only a change on guitar.'

What will await us when it comes to INNER SANCTUM's future activities?

'We will play in Brazil (December '95), we'll record an advance tape for our second LP with the songs in question two.'

'Thanks for the interview. I'm sorry that the first interview didn't reach my hands... "Life is short. Death is eternal. Let it touch you with immortality.'

This interview wasn't too informative, but I printed it, because you should keep an eye on those guys if you really like the Celtic Frost stuff which they've created during their "To Mega Therion" and "Into the Pandemonium". Sadly I don't know any address where to get "Frozen Souls" from, so check out lists from South American distributors.



The Czech town Pilsen is famous for its great Beer, but beside this alcoholic delight there's more good stuff to detect at that place, like good metallic art in form of a band called Sorath. I was quite surprised when I listened to their second demo ("Voices", includes four songs), because their death metal style is both dark and melodic, and easy to listen to, especially because of the intelligent guitariffs and cool drumwork. It's not something "very" original, but what the hell do we care as long as they present us some fine pieces of music. Although "Voices" is a demo above average, there's one thing which irritates me a bit, and that's the fact that the band sometimes puts too many different riffs into a song, and this makes a listening to the demo a bit hard at times. I wondered what the guys from Sorath think about this, so "Arraon Admirerforest Tear" (what a name!) answered: *'I don't think that playing more riffs in one song is bad. We are trying to play interesting music where more different melodies are put together, it's a kind of polyphony that I'm trying to play in our songs. Our new songs will be shorter and sometimes even more combined!'* Uff, then I suppose the band is heading into the progressive corner, but I shouldn't draw any conclusions until I hear the new stuff. But of course I'm very curious about the upcoming songcreations, so I asked for more info... *'We are going to release a new demo under the name "Matache Chavala". The next demo after that one will include five old songs from '006... to Awakening', our in 1994 released debutdemo. One of these songs will be recorded in a new version and there will also be one new song. Everything will be recorded in a better studio.'* To my bad luck I don't know the band's debuttape, so this info didn't really satisfy my curiosity. Perhaps some of you know that tape, but I doubt it to be honest as Sorath is still an unknown force in the international scene. Czech bands aren't too famous anyway (beside of course the bigger ones like Master's Hammer), and I really think that this is a shame, because there are a couple of fine bands hailing from this country. Ottar Distress comments on it... *'There are a few good underground bands in our country, for example Maniac Butcher, Fleshless, Isacaarum, Unclean, Enochian, Dissolving of Prodigy, Dark Storm. Our country is good for metalbands and for playing metal. We haven't had problems with our performances, but it depends on people and towns we are playing for / in. I think that the underground has a good position in our country.'* It seems that the hard times for metal are over in the countries on the east-side of the old iron curtain. Turning again to 'A.A.Tear', I guess that he has heard about the shitty American Sorath (lead by Nazipig "Baron Abaddon"), at least because they share the same bandname. But who's going to change the name now? It's always bullshit that bands are around with the same name... *'Sure, we have heard about the American Sorath, and we are sorry for it. We haven't thought about the change of the bandname yet, because we like this name and I have a personal relation to Sorath as the band. Baron Abaddon probably doesn't know about us, but we are going to write him.'* I think the musically best band shouldn't change their name, and that would be the Czech one.

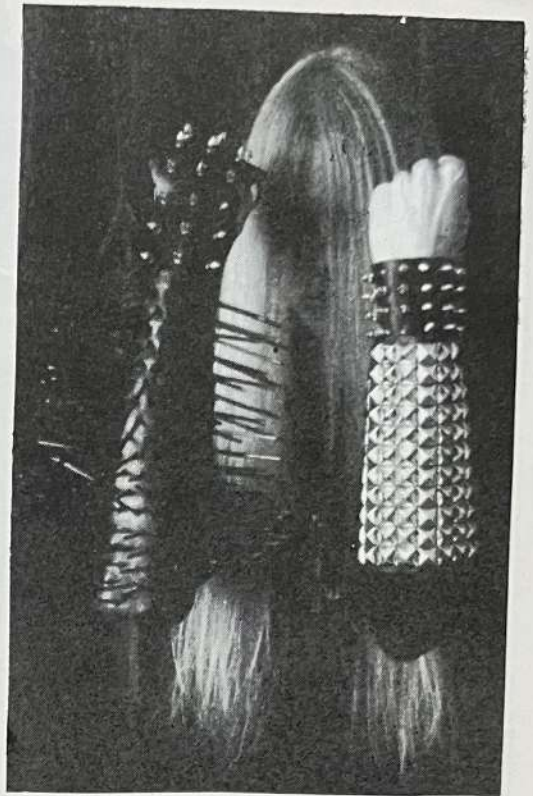
By the way, if you ever see photos of the Czech Sorath, don't get deceived by their (stupid) corpsepaint... they're far away from sounding typical Black Metal (here: high sounding guitars and voice, etc.).

For those who like to check this band out should send \$3 for the first demo or / and \$5 for "Voices" to the SYMPHONY OF DARK address (see review-pages). For those who want even more can order the band's T-Shirt ("Darkness of Sun", bothsided) for \$10, which is more than just a fair price, at: Miroslav Sádlo ml., Heyrovského 24, Pilsen 320 06, Czech Republic

KAMPFAR

Although **Kampf** seems to be a new one-man band from oblivion, the musician (Dolk) has already made some experiences with another band called **Mock**, which ceased to exist (a split CD with German **Tumulus** is now available). So Dolk now decided to walk his very own path, and he founded **Kampf** in order to create Norse music. He's already released a demotape which contains two excellent produced hymns. Of course I need not mention that it's typical Norwegian styled (viking) metal, which seems to be influenced by **Burzum** (simplicity) and hymnic **Bathory**. Dolk's vocals are ordinary (high screams), but to make the music more interesting he added some normal sung voices.... typical Norwegian as already said. Although Dolk brings us only old news with his demo, there are still people around who are still hungry for such music, and however I can say that the demo is nice as it comes with a great sound and nice cover (2-coloured). I don't know if the tape is still for sale as it was limited on 250 exemplares only. It costs US \$7 (a price for a half LP !!!). But I'm sure that an album will be released soon as we know that nearly every band (even shitty ones without any talents) gets a deal quite easily nowadays. If this happens at **Kampf**, then I hope that Dolk will try to sound a touch more original.

DOLK, Midtaseen 14 E, 1624 Gressvik, Norway



SACRILEGIUM

Although **Black Metal** starts getting boring as too much stuff gets released in these days, there are still bands around that sound astonishing. One of these bands must be **SACRILEGIUM** from Poland, their "Sleeptime" demotape (professional sound, music, layout) presents four pure black metal tracks (+intro/outro) which are heavily influenced by old **BATHORY**, especially "Empty Side of Soul", the opening track,... and this sounds very cool. But on the other side I detected some parallels to **DARKTHRONE**'s hateful "Under a Funeral Moon" LP, like some of the drumrhythms and riffs, so I wondered what **Suclagus** (guitar, vocals, keyboard) thinks of my comparison...

'No! **Darkthrone** creates great and possessed music. But it isn't number one for us. I agree that the sound on our demo "Sleeptime" is similar to Norwegian, but you won't feel it on our debut LP "Wicher".'

Whose idea was it to publish your demo through **PAGAN** and are you satisfied with their work? What do you think of other Polish labels like for example **BARON** or **WITCHIN' HOUR**?

'It was **Nantur**'s idea. We are really satisfied with collaboration with **PAGAN** Records. Together with **WITCHIN' HOUR** Productions they are the only honest label in Poland. **BARON** Records - Trend!'

Please tell us something about your announced debut-album (songtitles, musical direction)...will it be a lot different than "Sleeptime"?

'Our debut LP is more mature than "Sleeptime", the lyrics have changed, too. The LP will include seven songs and it should be available on **PAGAN** Records very soon.'

Your answer isn't really satisfying... Musicwise there are a lot of great Polish black (and also death) metal bands around, but lately some of them seem to mutate into pure nazi hordes.... Do you support this development or do you belong to the kind of bands which are cursed by those neo-nazi pigs?

'We are no fascist pigs. We haven't received any menaces from them yet. Perhaps in future, but we really don't care about this. We fuck these people and these bands.'

Don't you think it's a contradiction being a proud slavonic being on one hand, and praising Hitler on the other hand?

'As you wrote in your previous question, also in Poland there is a fascination for Nazism. People who regard themselves as slavs worship Hitler and Slavonic gods. It's a big denial.... it can't be treated seriously. They are weak!'

Which Polish bands can you recommend to us? Anything we should or even shouldn't watch out for?

'Great and true hordes worthy recommendation are: **North**, **Marmoth**, **My Infinite Kingdom**, **Hefeystos**, **Behemoth**, **Grom**.'

Well, I know that this little interview wasn't too informative (I asked some more questions, but I dropped them as **Suclagus**' answers were a tough too short), but what can I do about it? "Sleeptime" is really an impressive **Black Metal** demotape with a lot of hatred and cool cold atmospheres (keyboards have been used, of course!), and it sold more than 1000 times (Now it gets re-released on MCD format through **WILD RAGS** Records). I haven't heard "Wicher" yet, but I wish that it will sound as intensive as the demo.



Metal Press!

Again I've bought / traded some new publications just to see what's up in the fanzine 'scene. Sadly I wasn't able to review them all on this METAL PRESS page, but I hope that my choice is interesting.

DAWNRAZOR # 1

(subtitle: "The Jewel's Gleam")

On DAWNRAZOR's flyer this seemed to be a very interesting new zine, but unfortunately it's just another ordinary new publication in the 'zine underground. It's printed and filled with several interviews like **Arcturus**, **Dissection**, **Amon**, **Hypernoide**, etc., several articles (**Ved Buens Ende**, ...) and reviews. The interviews are ok, but it's all (including the reviews) too outdated plus there a big waste of free space in this mag as pictures /drawings /etc. are sometimes far too big, so that these 48 (NOT 50 as they said on the flyer) A4 pages would have easily fitted on 40 pages or even less. "Get this piece of profound art for \$7 (Scandinavia), \$8 (Europe), \$10 (overseas), cash only" says their flyer.... and I think you would be a real fool (or a son of rich parents) if you pay such ridiculous prices for an ordinary mag like DAWNRAZOR. My advice to the editors: You need more than just "Made in Norway" to really convince the metal majority!

ANCIENT LORE CREATIONS

Markalléen 39
1320 Stabekk
Norway

DESECRATION OF VIRGIN #1

Do you want to read things you seldomly find in zines? Well, then check this new mag here which is mainly dedicated to the bands from not so wealthy countries. In this issue you'll get something to read about **Lucyfer**, **Amen Corner**, **Itnos**, etc., a Columbian and Ukrainian scene report, labelinterview with **Schizophrenia** (Col.), and a lot of reviews about "exotic" releases. But the editor didn't forget to enclose some European forces, too, like **Uncanny**, **Funeral Urn**, **Death Vomit**, **Necromass**, etc.! 40 A4 pages with great cover (**Sextrash's** debutLPcover, arrghhh...) and good print quality, available for just DM4 (Germany) and \$4 (world). I can assure you that there's a lot of stuff included of that you never heard before, and this is also the meaning of this zine, presenting bands that nobody seems to care about in these times. Zines like **DESECRATION OF VIRGIN** (the name is taken from an old **Sarcophago** song) are important to bring some fresh air into this too "nordic" orientated fans' minds (relating to CD / LP sales!). Check it out!!!

King Wölle
P.O. Box 1470
56804 Cochem
Germany

ISTEN
'Playing With Fire'



If you want to get a good laugh, then you simply have to get your hands on this 20 A5 strong issue of **ISTEN**. No, it's absolutely not a shitty issue...Mikko (the editor) just assembled all his funny experiences with bands during his 10th anniversary being involved in the metal underground.

He made this issue look very "ziny" (layout-wise, etc.) and it is a total parody of all the underground zines. So all the blind **Emperor**, **Immortal**, **Darkthrone**, etc. followers have to face old interviews with **Fenriz** or "gory" **Thomas** (now **Samoth**)...who were far away from being true black metal back then. You can also see old flyers of i.e. **Treblinka**, try to identify 20 different logos, and tons of other funny things. Mikko's humour must be really great as **ISTEN 7 B** is one of the coolest publications in these days.

So everyone who probably takes everything a bit too serious should check this mag out for just \$ 2 (or you can order it together with the regular **ISTEN** mag for US \$6).

Mikko Mattila
Peltolamminkatu 6 A 17
33840 Tampere
Finland

GENOCIDE # 1

When an editor has to spent some time in jail because of his fanzine, then something's wrong with it, right? It weren't the interviews (except for **Graveland** probably) that made the police furious, no, **Beastus Rex** has put a couple of ads which are obviously praising nationalism, racism and violence, and some controversial poems into his first issue... and this caused a lot of trouble for him. So finally **GENOCIDE** (printed, 36 pages) got seized and is no longer available. The interviews with **Marduk**, **Mortiis**, **Sigh**, **Gehenna**, **Ildjarn**, etc. were just average anyway, so it's really not a drama that it's not for sale anymore and beside this...are you interested in reading adverts for **Skinhead** bands??? Well, I'm not and I hope you aren't, too. No address!



Staying in Norway another new mag rises from the unknown! **EINHERIJUM** #1 has 60 printed pages which include Scandinavian stuff like **In the Woods**, **Persihed**, **Mortiis**, **Theatre of Tragedy**, **Isvind**, etc. and a few non-Scandinavian bands like **Esoteric**, **Black Funeral**, etc., an Irish scene report, reviews, etc... A nice mag, but I have to criticize the **Helheim Society** interview which (in my opinion) is just dealing with nazi propaganda, even an old NSDAP "Rundsreiben" has been printed in this interview.... Apart from this the editor's comments are sometimes strange (but also funny I have to admit) and the photo quality is bad. Well, if I take the whole result I can say that it's a good mag, but it more a mag for Norwegian people, because there are often sentences written in Norwegian language which is more than uninteresting for foreign readers. \$7 is the price you have to pay to get **EINHERIJUM**...

AUTKAST # 1

Only 32 xeroxed pages (A4) are included in **AUTKAST's** debutissue, but wait! The interviews (**Dissection**, **Faust**, **Gorgoroth**, **Dissection**, **Anthropomancy**, **Bruce Dickinson**, etc.) and reviews are not stupid and cliché but critical ones instead. So this seems to be a zine (done by **Dark Heresy's** vocalist) which works on a honest basis. As the price is just \$2, this zine is recommendable...

Cranes Park
Surbition,
Surrey,
KT5 8AB
England

I CAME FROM DARKNESS

On the cover you see **Abbath** and **Demonaz** from **Immortal**, so this mag's content seems to be clear: **Black Metal**! And yes, bands like **Darkwoods my Betrothed**, **Ancient**, **Behemoth**, **Immortal**, **Emperor**, **Burzum**, **Throne of Ahaz**, etc. etc. are included and the interviews are ok as well as the outer appearance (printed!). All in all a satisfying mag, but demanding \$5 for just 32 A 4 pages (including four full-page ads!!!) is expensive, and it's no suprise that "Northwind", the editor didn't mention the number of pages on his flyers.

I CAME FROM DARKNESS
c/o Northwind
Karhumäenkatu 1
53850 Lappeenranta
Finland

HOLOCAUST #8

We should be lucky that old mags like Polish **HOLOCAUST** are still around. Volume 8 is a heavy piece of printed matter (84 pages), and it is packed with interviews like **Behemoth**, **Misanthrope**, **Emperor**, **Sabbat**, **Alastis**, **Nightfall**, **Sadistic Intent**, etc... and tons of reviews, nice drawings (done by **DARKARTS/France**), and other cool things. But there are also some things to criticize like the interviews with **Black Funeral** and **Infernum**, because they seem to be more busy with policy instead of music. But **Tomasz** already regrets having featured such kind of bands, so I hope he will be more careful when he starts working for issue 9. Although #8 isn't too up-to date it wouldn't be a mistake to order it for \$7...

HOLOCAUST MAG / PAGAN RECORDS

P.O. Box 12
86-005 Swiecie 5
Poland



In the beginning this regularly published new underground magazine seemed to be a cool new black /death metal guide for the German speaking metalheads, but now, after a couple of issues are out, I'm not too fond of **ABLAZE** at all! I bought #6 just to see what's up at Germany's leading underground mag (saleswise), and I really got pissed by the methods **ABLAZE** is working with now. For example there is a 4 page strong **Mayhem** interview included, and almost 50% of it consists of old statements by **Euryomous**. Nothing wrong with this, but **ABLAZE** have simply stolen all those statements from an old interview which you can find in Finnish **ISTEN** # 6, and **ABLAZE** simply do so as if it was done by themselves. So you see how honest and "serious" this mag works, and I think they're now more busy in praising themselves (just take a look at the readers reaction-pages in **ABLAZE** issue Nr.7... with sentences "you made yourself immortal with this **Mayhem** interview", etc.!!!) than in presenting interesting and untrendy bands which aren't featured in every second fanzine anyway. The other bands included in # 6 are **Satyricon**, **Katantonia**, **Cradle of Filth**, etc.... and in #7 bands like **Immortal**, **Gorgoroth**, **Luciferion**, **Helheim**, etc. Sadly I've to say that **ABLAZE** has turned out to be a magazine to satisfy the trendy masses.

Peter Schramm / Marc Spermeth
Oberspreestr. 59 b
12439 Berlin
Germany

MASSIVE CONTAGION

A bad xeroxed zine with good interviews (**Contense**: **Therion**, **Sadist**, **Ancient Rites**, **Mortem**, **Masochist**, etc. etc....are included, but due to the bad quality it's not always a pleasure to torture your eyes with the interviews, but perhaps only I have received such a bad copy. Next time the editor (from Puerto Rico) should invest some more money for a better result. Sorry, but no address!



You don't know too many bands from countries like Malaysia, right ??? Therefore it's time to introduce **Langsuir** to you, a band which understands to play powerful and straight ahead old-fashioned death metal that contains some dark feelings. Their 3-track "Occultus Mysticism" studiodemo has already been published in 1993, but because of a huge demand from the fans it has finally be re-released by EAST GOTHIC Productions. Luckily a tape was send to me by that company (otherwise I believe I wouldn't have heard about the band until now), and I really enjoyed the tape as it sounds very honest and untrendy, but still very attractive and powerful. That was stuff from 1993, but what happened since that time ? Azlan (vocals) gives us answers...

' After the release, we received overwhelming responses from the metal freaks. They think it's something "old" in musical directions. We get a lot of letters which we think it's cool then, but now letters are so boring except for certain ones. We did few local gigs which were always sold out and a gig in Singapore with the mighty **As Sahar** and **Demigor**, etc. Then we were involved in a controversy with local black metal bands / scene. We printed the "Occultus Mysticism" demo on another 100 copies and finally it was reprinted again for the final 500 copies through EAST GOTHIC PROD. . This time it comes with professional printed cover and cassette.

At this moment, I'm listening to **Darkthrone's** "Soulside Journey" which was labelled as a trend release by many people. Last few nights, I've completed a new song entitled "Malam" which means "Night". And I've got a rough structure for another song which is still untitled.'

I guess you've written some new songs since "Occultus Mysticism", have they brought any musical changes ?

"Malam" is the latest composition. There are few more songs that were completed in two years time (mid '93 - mid'95). I'll have written: 1. Bastardized Rejaman Sihir, 2. The Seven-Headed Dragon of Pelang, 3. Sumpahan Tujuh Keturunan, 4. Breezing Monsoon Dance, 5. Descent of the Fire, 6. Tangison Embun Pagi, and finally a wimpy version of the '60s "Pontianak" which is "Vampire" in English. I can't say that we are different in musical approaches. We're certainly a metal band. But in a way, we progressed a lot. If we sounded like "Occultus Mysticism" it would be certainly least. I experimented new techniques and riffs that I've encountered since those two years. All songs differs in its approaches, You may hear it. Anyway, it's still dark, occult and mystical death metal the way it should be.

EAST GOTHIC re-released your demo... why did you choose a label in order to release your tape, why didn't you do it yourself ? Will upcoming LANGSUIR stuff also be released through E.G.P. ?

'Because we don't have much time to handle them. Personally, I'm busy with my study as a university student. And I work constantly on making songs and lyrics. I did 90% of the composition. Besides E.G.P. offered us a good deal. We received about US \$400 for the 500 sold copies. That's equal to 8 - 10 hours of 16-track studio recordings. We may use all the royalties to record 2 - 3 songs for a new demo (probably). And E.G.P. releases it with more professional work.

I can't say that we're certainly going to release anything through E.G.P. ! There's talk between **Langsuir** and E.G.P for a possible full-length release, but that's just talk. We are still "free" at the moment. We encourage labels to ask us for a 7"inch or MCD / split-CD release.'

A lot of new bands are emerging from Malaysia, some of them totally sounding "scandinavian". What do you think of this development and "change" of the typical exotic sound ?

' Actually, the "Scandinavian" sound or "norwegian" sounds are very influencing, and Malaysian youth is also fragile for these sounds. So, they absorbed them. That's why we have Malaysian bands with Scandinavian look...they totally look like Scandinavians, the songs, the lyrics, the paint, even the way of thinking. This kills their creativity ! It happens globally, very pathetic I think. We should not let the music control us, we have to control the music !!! It will still develop the sounds, but we will have these typical bands in future, we even have them now. I'm

now very careful at choosing to what Scandinavian bands I should listen to, because it is pointless to hear the same thing. I'm working in a band now which have broad metal influences, that's **Langsuir**. Well, the Malaysian scene is not bad either. Some bands are very good, they deserve a world tour ! Bands such as **Sil Khannaz**, **Necrotic Chaos**, **Profane Creation**, **Athothorgh**, **Bazzah**, etc. are good. We also have crap bands, but they won't go anywhere. We have 5 - 6 metal gigs a year and the usual weekly radio-friendly alternative /HC rubbish gig.'

What do you think about the situation that most zines / labels are only supporting (north-)european bands (or bands that sound like them)? Don't you feel a bit "betrayed" by some "scene" people ?

' I think this is, because it sells more when releasing "northern" sounding bands. And probably those zines / labels are hardcore fans to the sound (!!! -ed). For me, I can't stand the typical thing. I search for different kinds of metal. Trendy or not, I listen to **Dismember** (old), **Aggressor**, (old) **Suffocation**, etc. It's a way to expand our creativity. This northern sound will come to an end. It's natural to see the glory and the end of things. New sounds will grab the people. Well, actually those labels / zines do not only betray us, they also betray themselves.'

What can people expect when coming to a country like yours ? What has your ancient culture to offer ?

' Monsoon rain, hot sun, green landscapes with tropical forests, sweet girls, three boring TV stations and the kids wearing propaganda of their musical idols. People here are very friendly except for few such as me, hah hah... Our ancient cultures have a lot of rituals physically and spiritually. I adandoned this. But I absorbed the way of spiritualism, the way we see things and approach them. I hailed the ancient values of loving the country. You'll have all this in my compositions for **Langsuir**.'

LANGSUIR sounds a bit like old ROTTING CHRIST in my opinion, but I better ask you for your musical inspirations. Do you play any coverversions at rehearsals ?

' Well, everyone has his own perspectives on the "Occultus Mysticism" demo. But I don't have the slightest idea of comparing the demo with **Rotting Christ** (I just heard some parallels to the greek's old demostuff and to some of the "Passage to Arcturo" songs, nothing more - ed.). Oh well, some think we sounded like **Unleashed**. For me, the demo is more mid-80s death metal mingled with 90s death metal. We have no exact influence. They change from time to time. Some new songs may be influenced by **King Diamond** (well... great ! - ed), some may from old **Metallica**, some may even from Vli Roth's **Scorpions** (!!! - ed.). Those riffs in a song may popped up suddenly after hearing songs from another favourite metal band or perhaps when I'm playing my cheap guitar. Sometimes it came when I'm about to sleep. But all these inspirations came from my idolisation of the ancestors and the forests. It soothes me to compose a song which hailed the region's values. We played a lot of covers at gigs and rehearsals. We have to stop it now since we have got to concentrate on our own songs for a future release. If not, we might have covers of **Benediction's** cover of **Anvil's** "Forged in Fire" (Ha, this actually sounds very funny, covering **Benediction's** coverversion of **Anvil** ! -ed.), **At the Gates** "The Architect" and **Darkthrone's** "Cromlech". Anyway, in the past four years we played... 1. The Crucified 2. The Horny and the Horned (both by **Impaled Nazarene**), 3.

Fourth Knight of Revelation (**Rotting Christ**), 4. The Immortals (**Unleashed**), 5. Mexican Radio (**Celtic Frost**) (...again a coverversion of a coverversion ! - ed.), 6. Shemahanforash (**Grand Belial's Key**), 7. The Laws of the Scourge (**Sarcofago**), 8. Weeping in Heaven (**Profanatica**), and finally from the mighty **Absu** "Descent to Acheron".

I'm also involved in a side atmospheric metal project in a bad called **Voiciferation Eternity**. I played guitars and bass in this band and was specialized on the lyrics. We've a gig coming up and we'll cover **Burzum's** "War" and will mega-hail **Sodom's** "Remember the Fallen". **Voiciferation Eternity** will release new stuff soon.'

What about a LANGSUIR CD / LP (quite possible with the amount of new songs that you have) ?

' E.G.P. have offered us a possible CD release. But I can't give you details of the deal, because I really need a paper-proposal from them. Everyone can talk. What I can tell you is this: They will cover all the costs including studio-hours, we received a certain amount of royalties and they will print about 1000 CDs and 2000 tapes (they are selling better in Malaysia than CDs).

Actually, E.G.P. said that we may enter the studio this Summer, but it's getting Autumn now. I think they have some problems, so we let them solve it first. My guess is that we will enter the studio in December'95. In the meantime we are ready for any smaller release. I call forth a potential label !

Perhaps we will record a 8 songs CD. You'll have some songs in English and some in Malaysian language. I have two songs in our own language, and I think the future songs will be written in that language, too. Never a death metal / black metal band wrote in Malaysian before except **Langsuir**. Soon, we will have many following our steps...(well, it became common trend to sing in its own language nowadays -ed.). I plan to record a new demo in '98/99. A full-blown Malay album!

Your last shot....

' The E.G.P. versions of "Occultus Mysticism" demo has sold about 300 copies, so we have 200 tapes left. I urge every metal freak to grab a copy of it. Hurry up ! Labels should be encouraged to write us with some potential proposals. Zines may question us, but only selected ones will be answered. Once, anger and hatred controlled us. Now we control them !!! Hail **LANGSUIR**, the seventh one !'

"Occultus Mysticism", their three-song demo, is still for sale for \$5. So if you like to hear good old-school death metal the dark way, then get a copy of it. I for myself just hope that **Langsuir** haven't changed their style too drastically during their three years of silence.

EAST GOTHIC PRODUCTIONS
Azli Suhaimi
A 6636 Taman Metro,
Lorong Alor Akar 7,
25250 Kuantan,
Pahang,
West Malaysia



Death Metal

ARISE FROM THE DEAD AND ATTACK FROM THE GRAVE
THE KILLING WON'T STOP UNTIL FIRST LIGHT
WE'LL BRING YOU TO HELL BECAUSE WE WANT TO ENSLAVE
SOUL WILL BE FROZEN WITH FRIGHT

WE'LL BREAK THROUGH THE CRUST, LEAVE FROM OUR CRYPTS
PROTECTED BY ETERNAL LIFE
LAY DOWN THE LAWS FROM OUR SATANIC SCRIPTS
BRINGING YOU NOTHING BUT STRIFE

DEATH METAL

RULING YOUR CITIES, CONTROLLING YOUR TOWNS
ENTRAPPED IN YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE
PIERCING YOUR EARS WITH THE HORRIBLE SOUND
CASTING MY EVUSIVE STARE

LUCIFER LAUGHS, HIS NEEDS ARE FULFILLED
THE FLAMES ARE NOW BURNING HOT
BODIES ARE BURNING, THE PEOPLE ARE KILLED
TORTURE THE REASON WE FOUGHT

DEATH METAL

KILL THEM PIGS

NOW WE TAKE OVER AND RULE BY DEATH METAL
ENJOY OUR LONG WANTED REIGN
BLOOD'S WHAT WE WANT AND WE WON'T SETTLE
UNTIL WE DRIVE YOU INSANE

ATTACKING THE YOUNG AND KILLING THE OLD
BLEEDING WITH EVERY HEART BEAT
DARKNESS HAS FALLEN AND YOUR SOUL IS SOLD
CLAWS WILL DIG INTO YOUR MEAT

WHEN THE SUN DOESN'T RISE AND THE DAY IS LIKE NIGHT
KNOW THAT YOUR LIFE IS AT ITS END
RENDERED HELPLESS SO SCREAM OUT FRIGHT
DEATH METAL CAME WITH THE WIND
DEATH METAL

