

THE ART OF THE

4



TALES OF THE MACABRE

Hello my friends,

It's great that you are (again ?) laying your hands on this magazine, and I wish that your metallic needs will be satisfied with this issue.

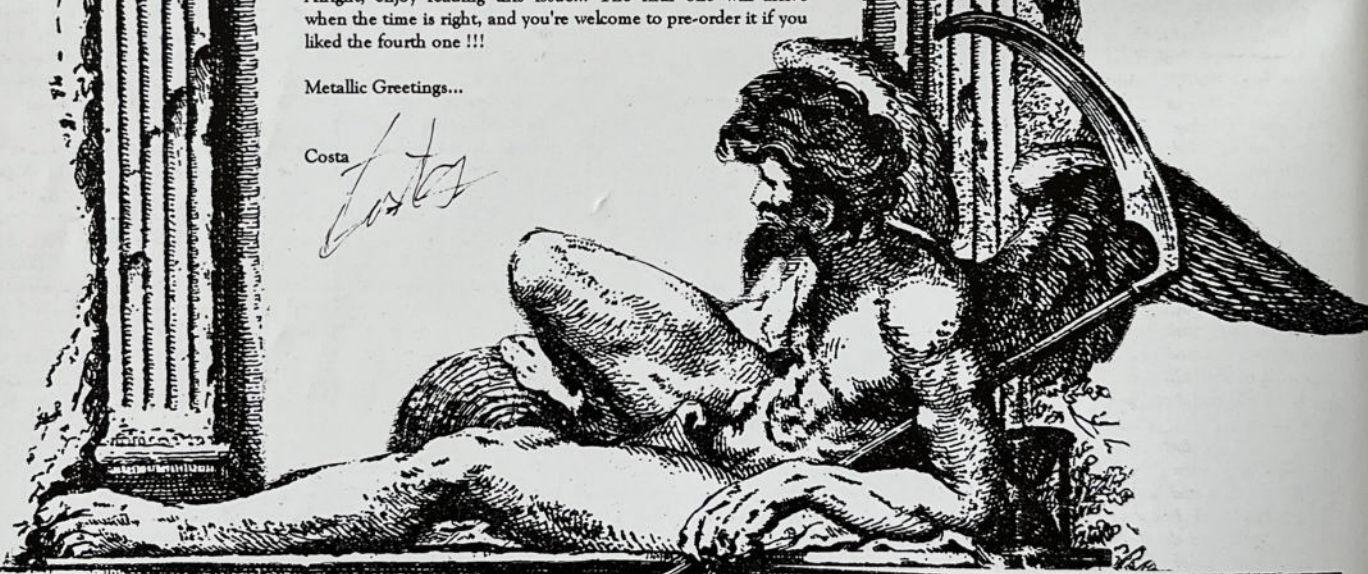
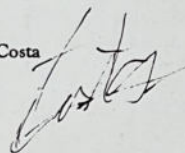
There's a lot of shit happening in our scene, almost everyone who's active tries to make some money with the help of Metal, so that the market gets out of control with its hundreds of CD/LP/Zine releases. Despite of all the commercialism, real and honest Metal music can't be killed, because there will always be good bands around who are existing only to play great music which has the right spirit and attitude. So fuck off to all those who just disturb our so beloved music scene with their superfluous non-quality shit, and cheers to those who still know what METAL is all about. They are our future !

So, be careful when it comes to buying any products, because it's you who decides where our scene finally goes to or not... all the selling bastards are depending on your money, they need it to make their releases possible !!! You have the power !!! The destiny of Metal is in your hands !!!!!!!

Alright, enjoy reading this issue... The fifth one will arrive when the time is right, and you're welcome to pre-order it if you liked the fourth one !!!

Metallic Greetings...

Costa



Special Thanks to: All people who laid their hands on this magazine, all bands who invested time to answer my questions, Eva Christ, Markus Nick, René van Mol (Keep thrashing till Death !!!), Robin "Dr.Fe"Krmr, Opyros (Al Capone), Mike (SPEED ATTACK still rules !!!), Atomic Steif & Co., Frank Kruse, Army of Immortals England, Jochen Heinlein, all labels and finally all people who still keep Metal thrive !!!

Thanks to: All my distributors (you fuckin' rule!), Mattin "Gitarrenarbeit" Krötz, Jörg "Maniac" Bukowski, Infernal Kusch, Dick, Olli, und alle Moselfranken Hellbangers, Tann (Brother in Metal), Chris "Italian Stallion" Anderle, Ytong "Anonym Alcoholic", Stefan "Violent Force" Becker, Secrets-Crue/OS, Frank "K.O." Stöver, Cath Folens (Lady in black), Russ Smith, Frank Krynojewski, Wolle (King Propeller), Dancing Shadows Zine, Bestial Devastator & Cyber Christ, Jane Black & Samapest Zine/Distro, Crying Wolves zine, Stan, Tony, Dave & the Chicago Metal Inquisition, Sami (Finland's veteran for TALES...), Blanca (more "Sex, Drinks and Metal"), Torsten S., ...and all those who supported me so far and kept the faith ! Don't wimp out !!!

No Thanks: Wagner "Rockstar" Antichrist, Tom Warrior (you don't know who your real supporters are !), Black Metal Records (= \$) and all people who like to crush TALES OF THE MACABRE ! You can't be real Metal fans but impotent wimps only !!! Also no thanks to a part of the postal service for not being always honest... Stan and Syaiful, you are one of their victims, unfortunately. Strike back now !!!

New Address !!!

Costa Stolos, Brunnenstr.6, 54538 Kinderbeuern
Heizhof, Germany

News/ Update



Trifixion splitted up, so "farewell". People say that he's only played Black Metal for money, so his departure is no big loss for us! *Brisen (Ex-Dungeon) from Italy have finally released their debut CD, and it should be in the same style as their demo *Gospel of the Horns ceased to exist after the release of their MCD. *Languir signed to German CONQUISTADOR Records, expect a MCD to be released very soon. A full length will follow as well! * The guy from DAWNRAZOR Zine/ Beyond Dawn sells Hellhammer Live- bootleg tapes for \$8, but this is total rip off, because Hellhammer never played live... and he knows this!!! But he doesn't care at all, he just wants to make some fuckin' money with it. So, an endless fuck off to this sucker... there's no place in our scene for posers like him! Such people just use Metal for their financial advantage (... I heard that he's also member of Infernõ....)* Pazuzu's (Austria) second CD is out when you read this.*Bifrost splitted up, but their singer is still active with HAMMERHEART Records though. * Graveland are working on their follow-up album for "Thousand Swords"... hope those guys will change their image to the better with their new album.* Martyrdom are going to record their debut album soon.... remember "Especially for the old Headbangers and Thrashers"! I'm curious... * Inner Sanctum had some line-up problems, but they are still alive.* Kampfara have signed to MALICIOUS Records for two CDs,* Usurper released a MCD on NECROPOLIS Records, and will probably tour Europe this year, so I hope to see them.* Cultus Sanguine broke their contract with Full Moon Productions.* Amon Goeth seem to have serious line-up problems, but I hope that they won't cease to exist because of this. Their new CD "The Worship" will be out very soon, and relating to the advance tape that I heard I can promise you that their new material is much better than "Call The Master" was. Expect nothing but original Czech Black/ Death Metal art! * Enslaved will release their new LP "Eld" very soon. *Pazuzu (US) had (have ?) a lot of line-up problems , but Tony keeps this band alive. * Destroyer 666 released their album which especially fans of sheer brutal Black/ Death Metal (with touches of dirty Thrash) will enjoy. This album is dedicated to old Beherit, Burzum and Destruction....says it all! Get the LP version as it includes one bonus track! * Mark Mackay, the maniac who did the CELTIC FROST report in #3, had a good year in 1996 as he went to see a couple of Kiss-reunion shows... and that meant a lot to him as he's a big Kiss fan. * Everybody is shouting at UNISOUND from Greece. I was told (by several people) that this label isn't as honest as it used to be... who knows? But be careful, ok? * Sadiatic Intent's album "Second coming... Of Darkness" is delayed, but I heard some advance-tracks for it, and their stuff is deathlier than ever. Real morbid stuff, so dark Death Metal lunatics should be ready for it! * VOICES FROM THE DARKSIDE magazine takes a break, but I'm sure that Frank will release his 10th issue sooner than we think, because I know that he's a workoholic... Beside his magazine, he now also runs a label, and started to work and write for ROCK HARD and the E.M.P. mailorder catalogue. * Gehenna have released their third CD now with "Malice", and have developed to one of the most beloved acts from Norway. * Asphyx have released their very first, but unreleased album "Embrace the Death", and all Death Metal people should have their copy of it. It's a KILLER-CD !!! * Bathory's new (old ?) album is announced to be released in August, so be warned. Let's hope that we shouldn't expect another album à la "Octagon" to be released! The Quorthon solo -stuff will be out soon as well. * Holocausto of Nuclear Vengeance, the mastermind behind the once so mighty Beherit declared this Black/ Death Metal legend as dead. But for all those who missed to buy Beherit's "Messe De Morte" 7"inch should look forward to buying its re-release on CD. * Emperor prepare their return. The first messenger is a new 12"inch/ 7"inch, but their new songs are different from their old ones, so be warned! * Countess are still alive and will tour in May through Germany together with their mates from Barathrum and the old Japanese Black Thrashing Death Metal horde Sabbat (!!!). The tourdates are...

30.4. Celle (buntes Haus), 2.5. Berlin (Insel), 3.5 Leipzig (Hellraiser), 7.5. Jena (Casablanca), 9.5. Regensburg (Alte Metzgerei), 10.5. Stuttgart (Jugendhaus- Treff)
Those who are tired of most of today's Black/ Death Metal shows should try to go and see this package, because I'm sure that they won't see usual bands. Countess will also release a new MCD after this tour. *Another German tour that will probably turn into reality in June is the one with Mortuary Drape, Unpure and Decayed... Three bands that are not unknown to in depth-reading TALES OF THE MACABRE readers. Perhaps another tour worth to see ?? * More tournews: Absu will tour Europe very soon together with Enslaved. * STATIC AGE will release three different 7"inch with several bands that join the motto "HEADBANGERS AGAINST DISCO", and the first 7"inch is already out, including cool bands like Bestial Warlust, Sabbat, and two Scandinavian projects Infernõ and Gehennah. The other 7"inches will feature songs from Nifelheim, Unpure, Usurper, etc, and the best thing is that most of the songs are unreleased ones, so you won't get "old news" only here. You'll read about those three 7"inch in the next issue... so already pre-order your copy of issue five, hehe! *

A split CD with Abigail and Funeral Winds should be out on WARMMASTER Records. Beside this, Abigail also released their debut album on MODERN INVASION. Talking about more split LPs: Funeral Winds share one LP with the Norwegian Demoniac. Unfortunately I haven't heard any of these mentioned releases until now, so I can't say anything about the music, sorry! * Pentacle released a great PicMLP which offers cool thrashing Death Metal in the old vein. Those who know the band from their previously released stuff will be surprised! * Gorgoroth's third album is already recorded and will be entitled "Under The Sign Of Hell". Expect more pure Norwegian Black Metal.*

One request at the end: To find out what tastes the majority of you, the readers, have, please answer following questions (if you like, of course)...



10 all time favebands
10 all time faverecords
Biggest surprise in the last half year (name 5)
Biggest disappointments/ jokes (name 5)
5 names for the "shitlist"



I can't promise anything, but I try to get some stuff assembled to honour your work... The labels/ persons that are willing to send some stuff for this "request" will of course be mentioned in TALES OF THE MACABRE #5.

Also, I give you the chance to put a private advert into the next issue... \$1 for every 15 words is the price, your address is free!

Please keep in mind that this is a magazine dedicated to music only, ok? No religion, policy, etc. shit, only adverts that relate to Metal. If the advert stinks in my opinion, then your money will of course be returned.



It's official now that ORDER FROM CHAOS, one of the best American old fashioned Black/Death Metal outfits, is history for several reasons. But their fans shouldn't cry too many tears, because Pete was clever enough not to sell his instrument but join a new band instead, namely ANGELCORPSE! Musical parallels between those bands can't be denied, both forces are extreme Black/Death Metal. Although I'm sure that you will read something about this new band in future, I wanted to get a bit of info from one of those three extremists... and Gene finally made this possible. There's no doubt that this band is not just another Black/ Death Metal outfit... they are the kind of force that will prevail in future (in case they won't split up or wimp out), because their violent, massacracious music is not made for trendy individuals but for real lovers of extremest metallic storms...

Order From Chaos is dead, and Angel Corpse rose from the ashes. But what has changed? Is it a completely new beginning? Gene, the band's axeman answers: Yes, the band Order from Chaos is no more, even though a final album is to be released in early 1997. It was recorded over a year ago. Angelcorpse did not rise from the ashes, or whatever... It is simple, I'd been in touch with Pete for some time, he was familiar with the fact that I was looking for people to start a band with for a long time. And when it came that Order from Chaos broke up, it didn't take much imagination as to what to do. This band is not a new direction at all. Angelcorpse is its own entity.

With such an extremely wicked and violent deathrash style I wonder what the musical roots for Angel Corpse are? Gene again! Mostly old school Black /Death Metal. However, we all have other tastes. I'm into obscure classical music from the 20th century. Pete is into some odd stuff like Non. Yes, your style is definitely sounding old-school without losing a 90s-touch, that's something I like. But being different from most of the other Black/ Death hordes I wanted to know from Gene how and where he sees band in the Black/Death Metal scene? He replies: I think we are definitely what people would call "real" Death or Black/Death. There are no mosh parts and weepy interludes, keyboards or acoustic guitars. Only pure ripping Metal! I think a lot of what people are being fooled into believing is Metal is actually the furthest from. So what about their label mates? What does Angel Corpse think of Herve's bands? Do those US. devastators think that their band fits into the OSMOSE band-list? ...To be honest, I'm not very fond of many of the bands on the OSMOSE roster. However, some of the newer bands are kind of interesting. I can't say whether we fit with other OSMOSE bands. It is simply the label we are on, nothing more.

Such an intensive Black Thrashing Death Metal sound like Angel Corpse has I'm only used from exotic bands (Brazilian, Singaporean, etc).... are they an influence? ...I thought some of the Brazilian bands like Vulcano, (very early) Sepultura, Sarcófago, were great bands. I can't say much for Singapore except maybe Abhorer. Well, not exactly an answer to my question, but anyway, at least they appreciate some of the leading exotic metal forces.

The album "Hammer of Gods" is out now... I prefer their demotape to be honest, because it doesn't sound as clean as the album, but the LP is cool anyway. Read the review for more info.

NIFELHEIM



Tyrant, Hellbutcher and Demon, the pack of NIFELHEIM, managed to surprise me a lot with their merciless "in your face"-like album. It's straight ahead thrashing Black/Death Metal with a lot of aggressions and wicked feelings, an original album indeed in a time where 90% of all bands sound equal.

I knew that there's not much to unlock at Hellbutcher's address, but I confronted him with my questions anyway. Well, unfortunately he really hadn't too many exciting words to say, ...

What differs NIFELHEIM from most of the other Scandinavian "old fashioned" bands like AURA NOIR, BEWITCHED, etc.? Is NIFELHEIM a real band or just a union of Black Metal musicians who like to make some extra money with the new "old Metal" trend?

'We started 1990 and at that time there was no fuckin' trend to play old school Black Metal, and you should have known that most of the tracks on the album were made in 1990, under the period when Gore Death Metal was a fuckin' trend! We have never claimed that we are playing oldschool Metal as the new trend, we just play the music that we think is the best and most evil. In the beginning of the 90s, everyone told us that we would never become anything as long as we play that unfashioned old trash shit. Now everyone says they were the first to play old school Metal. Fuck off to all old school bands... they are just Nifelheim Rip Off!!!'

What are your current faves when it comes to newer bands? Are there also bands you'd like to see to perish in flames?

'I want all bands to perish in flames!'

A tour is announced by NECROPOLIS... what should we expect when NIFELHEIM enters the stage? Any special effects? With which bands would you like to tour?

'We are not planning to go on tour yet, perhaps in one year or something. About our stage show, you won't survive. A band we would like to tour with is Dissection.'

What kind of relationship do you have with DISSECTION? I think they sound like a glam-band in comparison to NIFELHEIM...

'The members of Dissection share the same thoughts as us.'

About your next LP: Will there be any major changes in comparison to your debut album? By the way, isn't it difficult to compose original Thrash /old Death Metal riffs without ripping old bands' riffs off?

'As I said, we will always play the same type of music, so there will be no major changes compared to the Nifelheim album. I don't think it's hard to compose original riffs. We are planning to record the new album in the end of this year.'

On your debut LP there's a song called "Possessed by Evil" I Some old die-hard thrasher might curse you for this title as it is an old cultrack of a certain German Thrash band... Do you know which band I mean?

'I suppose you mean the track from a demo with Necronomicon.'

Hmm, I don't know if it's from a demo, but it's the best track of their debut LP. Your opinion about Black Metal 1996?

'99% of all Black Metal bands are wimpy posser crap. I hate it!!!'

Your opinion about Black Metal fans 1996?

'I want to kill all of them!'

Your wishes for Black Metal 1997?

'That all posers in the scene die and only the true evil remains.'

Why do you think are the Scandinavian people total wimps when it comes to drinking Beer? You go down very easy...

'You have never met Nifelheim. That's all I have to say.'



The best thing to start our interview is to ask you about your new album "The Third Storm..." It seems that it will sound even more old-fashioned styled... so what should we expect? Pure thrashing aggression?

Equitant: Yes, the new album from Absu will be "The Third Storm of Cythruul". We began recording in June 1996, and it will have around nine songs on it. And yes, it will be more old sounding, pure hellish Speed Metal!!! On this one the songs are faster, and a bit shorter from the songs on the 2nd album "The Sun of Tiphareth", all but one song called "Of Celtic Fire we are born". This is an epic song influenced very much by celtic myths of steel and honour... It's in the vein of the songs like "Apzu" and "Feis mor tir na nog" from our second LP, very long with lots of changes within the song and effects as well. This time we entered a new studio, for a different production and sound, more of a big sound this time, and very heavy. Its the same studio we did some of our first recordings in with Absu (early '91), but it changed alot since then, better recording equipment, etc. So yes, we feel good about this LP. It's the first time I myself have liked every song that will be on the LP. Plus they are just better writing, with more feeling and power behind us. This will be our best album for sure! Hell Speed Metal!!!

We are also doing another song of the Texas Deathkuk Morbid Scream (R.I.P.). The song called "Morbid Scream", this was written in '88 and we will give the song life once again... as we did with "The Coming of War" on the "...Tiphareth" album. Some of the other new songs I can tell you are... "Swords and Leather", "The Winter Zephyr", "Highland Tyrant Attack", "A Magician's Lapislazuli", "Intelligence towards the Crown", "Customs of Tasseomaney" and the song from our 7"inch EP "And Shineth unto the cold Cometh" re-recorded. After the LP, we'll do another EP called "Thrashstorms" and begin to work on the 4th epic celtic concept album called "Toldanach: Legends of Fire and Steel". ABSU is one of the few dark U.S. bands that get some international attention... Why is the American scene so weak (in comparison to European countries) when it comes to Dark/Black Metal? Is it a lack of American Black/dark/occult metal roots?

Equitant: I don't know. In the 80s the american Metal was strong... Slayer, Possessed, N.M.E., Manowar (still going strong !!!), Von, Necrovore, Death, Morbid Angel, etc., etc. Today I don't care nor follow it... it's non existing. Texas had two great bands in the 80s, Necrovore and Morbid Scream... they were the kings !!! Why is the american scene so weak? Nothing but idiots are here... not everyone, but most! All the good bands are fargone today!!

What's your honest opinion on American bands in general? Did you have any problems with any kind of bands?

Equitant: As I said before I don't follow the american scene... a few good bands like our brothers Infernal Onk (Ex-Divine Eve members), they are great, and a few non metal bands. Now I see this big uprise with "New Black Metal" bands popping up every place you can think of, ha! Perhaps they will start burning all the american churches, and get caught (that's the best promotion for album sales, haha! -ed.), and put away for a long time. So they can't create the shit music they seem to be dedicated to. Let's hope so! We have no problems with american bands (so far)... spells will be cast if they fuck with us!!!!

But coming back to your new LP: Tell me about your ideas you have got concerning the album layout (cover)... Is it OSMOSE who takes care of that or do you have absolute freedom when it comes to the presentation of your releases?

Equitant: The album "The third Storm of Cythruul" (Cythruul coming from the ancient celtic/caetic name for abyss or hell, and the "Third Storm" standing for our 3rd LP and the three of us! The cover concept with this will be a great storm, containing very dark clouds, shores of Ireland and a dark sea below it with lightning, etc. Other than that we are still working out all ideas for the layout. It will for sure be a better layout from "The Sun of Tiphareth" and will be painted by Kris Vervimp again.


OSMOSE did not use the original cover art for "The Sun of Tiphareth". It was originally a (no colour) scetch. Same concept, different artist. It had no colour, so it was not used. But the art was very good and fit the whole image and music a bit more than the cover by Kris Vervimp. Though we are pleased with the work by Kris. So yes, we have the freedom to do what we want. OSMOSE just did not want to use black and white penck scetch covers... and we understand this now. In the past we have had so many problems with covers, so the new one will be a very good cover, and it will once again be gatefold on the LP-format (Thanks! -ed.) with photos of us, etc. Other than that we are still thinking and planning every detail for this third storm... Was "The Sun of Tiphareth" a success? I'm asking this, because it wasn't just another typical trendy album...

Equitant: A success? Ha! Yes, I guess it was. The album has sold very well all over the world...and this is good! I'm not sure of the full-amount sold or numbers. I lose track of that... we are very pleased on how it has sold. That album was a real rebirth LP for us. Our style changed for the better plus we were doing the whole LP with just the three of us. If all the dedicated fans of us are happy with it, it will make us feel good about what we are doing. I guess you can say that it pushes us to the better with each recording (Yes, I totally agree! -ed.). Putting 100% into each song, giving it all your hell and speed!!! The way it should be!!!!!!!

If you look back to your European tour, what kind of memories are branded in your mind? What did you expect from Europe/ European fans before you entered our continent? Compare the European tour with the U.S.-tour you did.

Equitant: That tour of Europe brings back the best memories, it was a real honour for us! I think about this all the time... and miss it everyday. It was a grand time for us, we can't wait to return again to Europe. It's hard to tell you how it feels for an American coming to Europe. I'm sure it's not like an European coming to America. It's very different for us.

We received what we were expecting from that tour, good shows with cool people and I can tell you its a hell of better place to tour from America. Some knowledge and brains, the other half are fuckin' drunk idiots! That are just waiting flesh... know nothing about us or anything else for that matter! American fucks!! And I hate that more than anything. The U.S. tour was ok, mainly because we were doing this tour in the summer time when it's so hot every place you go...even the northern states were hot! But it was great to tour with our brothers of the north Enslaved, we had such a good time with them.



crushing North America and Canada. A lot of the shows were great, and others were not so great. We had tons of problems with money and getting things stolen out of our bus by idiots !!! More american fuck wits ! So it was a hell on earth at times, driving all night with no sleep at all ! It can break you down fast. Yes, we will tour Europe again this year, and it will be with Enslaved as soon as both of our LPs are out. Perhaps a winter tour, and it could also be with a new OSMOSE band, Gehennah from Sweden. So if this all goes right it will be one of the best tours to hit Europe ! A gaelic/norse/sverige storm tour'96 !!!!

Yes, Germany was great on the last tour of Europe ! It was good for myself and Shaftiel to go to Germany, 'cause we are both half German blood. So it was good to see the home land our ancestors came from.

Was it easy to tour with the other two bands? It's no secret that SADISTIK EXEKUTION, IMPALED NAZARENE are not just "normal" bands...

Equitant: Ha ha, yes, it was easy to tour with them. At first, things were a bit strange. But, after a few days we all started to become good pals, you know, after a few shows getting drunk off Vodka and Jack Daniels, with a lot of Beer to ad to it. And smoking hash, Dave Slace from Sadistik Exekution would always find some good hash for us to smoke ! Ha ha ! So with the first shows on the tour being great ones, we all became friends fast... Those bands were good guys to tour with for sure. They are both crazy and insane bands. The only problem was the tour bus. At times it was so small for three bands plus soundman, promotor, and two bus drivers. Some days you could not even walk down the hall way of the bus, so much stuff was in that bus. Then we had a flat tire in Germany one night, so we had a dead tire to walk over every time you got on the bus. That tour was a time we will never forget !!!!

Proscriptor: I heard that you had the wish to meet Mille Petrozza (KREATOR) at the gig in (Aken)Essen, one of the centres of the glorious German Thrash movement, but unfortunately he didn't show up. What is so fascinating at German Metal (especially thrash) ? Of course I love these bands, too, but I think that people from English-speaking countries must have laughed a lot as the images of German bands were often "over the top" (old DESTRUCTION, SODOM,...), the pronunciation was bad and so were the lyrics, etc...But the foreign fans just love(d) it ! Your comment (would be nice to know) ?

Proscriptor: First of all I'd like to start with a remarkable quote from the Sovereign of German Thrash Metal. "The posers on this Earth have no right to live - We're gonna split their brains, torture is what we give!" (Mille Petrozza). The above statement is so, oh, so very true. During the infamous era of the 80s, Germany was a country to actually advance in the so-called Thrash movement like no other country, yet for reasons unknown. At the same time, America was very strong and powerful as well (Slayer, Possessed, Necrovore, Morbid Scream, Rigor Mortis, Necrophagia, Blood Feast, Metallica, Incubus, Nasty Savage, Exodus, VON, ...). I think the reason why I, along

with the others in Absu, like German DeathTrash so much is due to the fact that it had a sound, an electrifying power like no other bands created. The guitars were brighter and more animated than usual Thrash bands that I had been listening to at that time; this goes for the drum production as well. For example, just listen to Vektor's drum mix in the masterwork of "Pleasure to Kill". Since Vektor did not use bottom drum heads on his toms, Harris Johns decided to push a lot of mid-range and high-end to give the toms a rather "ringy" or should I say an open vault sound. I mean, every time I listen to "Pleasure to Kill", the drums literally run my corpse over like a bunch of goddamn blazin' chariots in zee night ! This goes for Destruction as well ! Schmier's voice is like a heretical commander sending his troops straight to hell (Well, I think he just wanted to imitate "Cronos", didn't he? -ed.) !!! He is a rather unique and decorative voice like none other. I guess listening to other thrash and Speed Metal bands was very enlightening, but once I discovered bands and cuks from your country roughly 10 or 11 years ago, I knew this was a hateful direction I wanted to partake in, in thy musical carrier of course. You know what bothers me ? I don't know anyone who gives a shit about bands like Minotaur, Poison, Necronomicon, Darkness, and especially the legendary DEATHROW !!!!!!! (I don't think they are "legendary"... they were good, but their drummer had a strange style ! But what about bands like Violent Force, Exumer, Living Death ? -ed.) I have never really picked up a zine and seen an interview with a band member saying, "Deathrow is a big influence of mine !"... you never see this in reality ! Well, minus the exception of Japan's Sigh, which I think is one of the better bands in today's episode of extreme Metal music. Anyway, your commentation on poor English sung by godzzz Schmier and Angelripper... I think this is another reason why I luxuriate in this style of German Metal so much ! Oh, I laughed when I first heard some of the words coming out of their mouths, especially like "Thrash", "Death", "Vision", etc. It seems they had a difficulty with the "v" consonant sound and the ending "th" sound, but it's ok, I fucking love it man !!! Now in today's ceaseless compensation of sodality, you don't see many new bands from Germany, except notable ones like Desaster, Fulgor, etc...
Is your admiration of old German thrash bands the reason for you to sing the word "trash" instead of "thrash" ? That's exactly the way the Germans did it...

Proscriptor: Yes, I do believe that is correct ! However, when a very enigmatical and hateful mid-paced tempo change arrives in an Absu song, I have to say "trash" to command on following lyrics. It's the only way. You were in another band before you joined ABSU...Please tell us about it as I heard it must have been a Thrash-band, too... Are there any recordings still existing ?

Proscriptor: Oh that band...mmm ... I was in a cukt band called Magus before I had joined forces behind Absu. Actually, it was a very, very fast death metal band, yet on the other hand, we played this kind of symphonic doom as well. It was totally dedicated to the dominion credence of Thoth and esoteric

ways of magick and mysticism as well. There was a seven inch released entitled "Ruminations of Debauchery", but the mix is fucking horrible, appalling !!! I plan on remixing it someday and changing the vocals on it, so I can possibly re-release, but it's something that will not happen for awhile.

ABSU will remain as a trio... is this because your rehearsalroom is too small, or dont you think that any fourth south won't fir into the band ? Why didn't session bassist "Mezzadurus" stay with **ABSU** ? Or is it just because he is too busy with **BLOOD STORM**, his own project ?

Equitant: No, our rehearsalroom is big. Ha ! The main reason for us being a three-piece is that we have known each other for a long time. We first started playing together in 87/88 just doing covers of bands like **Kreator**, **Slayer**, etc. **Proscriptor** joined another band called **Magus** and before this **Shafiel** and myself were in a band called **Dolmen** in 88/89 (it was the beginning of **Absu** you could say). In 90/91 **Absu** was created, and when things didn't work out with our drummer we had since 1998, we asked **Proscriptor** to join **Absu**, so we all know what we want with this band nowadays and how the style should lead. We willnow be a three piece until the end. At this point no one else would fit in with us as a fourth member. After eight years of playing together it's hard to have a new face in the band. **Mazzadurus** was only a session member for the tour of Europe and North America/Canada tours... and he did a good job on it!. He's now busy with his band **Blood Storm** about to release his first LP, soon!!

It is always difficult to stay away from any kind of musical influences... so my simple question: Are there any influences you admit to build up the thrashy style of **ABSU** (especially for your new LP) ? What are your personal Metal faves (I'm not interested in other music styles...)?

Equitant: Well, in my beginning days of music (early 80s) I was into the Punk Rock style of music, like **G.B.H.**, **The Exploited**, **Discharge**, **Black Flag**, I loved it 'cause it was so raw loud and mean !!! Then in '85 or so I first heard a new LP called "Morbid Tales" by **Celtic Frost** and others like "Haunting the Chapel" by **Slayer**, "Ride the Lightning" by **Metallica**. I was used to this Punk music, I was craving for something more faster... When I first heard **Slayer** and **Celtic Frost** I was blow away !!! Then I heard the LP "Pleasure to Kill" by the German gods **Kreator**... and bands like **Death** ("Scream Bloody Gore") and **Incubus** ("Serpent Temptation"). And that changed me very much !!! I knew from that time on I wanted to play this style of music. It was new to me ! So I would say my kings would be **Slayer**, **Bathory**, **Kreator** ("Reign in Blood", "Blood Fire Death" and "Pleasure to Kill", those LPs are Gods to me!) ! And I must not forget **Morbid Scream**, they were kind of the Texas answer to **Mayhem** for us... I first saw them in '87 live and they were from the same town as I was. They were a big influence on us. They were so fast and evil for that time. This is why we will keep this band alive by doing old songs they did... it's a real honour for us ! And the other Texas Black Metal gods were **Necrovore**, I never saw them live. I hear it was something to see... they had giant inverted crosses with fire and burning pentagrams on the stage floor. For '87 this was evil !!!

DOLMEN

Proscriptor: **Kreator**, **Sodom**, **Slayer**, **Destruction**, **Necrovore**, **Deathrow**, **Morbid Scream**, **Nasty Savage**, **Angel Witch**, **Bulldozer**, **Talon**, **Sedition**, **Watchtower**, **Incubus**, **Kiss**, **Twisted Sister**, **Mekong Delta**, **Celtic Frost**, **DesExult**, **Blood Feast**, **Manowar**, **Coroner**, **Sarcofago**, **Mayhem**, **Necromantis**, **Voivod**, **Iron Maiden**, **Scorpions**, **Sacrifice**, **Metal Church**, etc.....

Talking about **ABSU**-projects: **EQUIMANTHORN** now seems to be the project of all **ABSU** warriors... and there's some talk of a second album. Any infos ?

Proscriptor: Yes, there will be a second **Equimanthorn** album in due time; however, we are concentrating more on **Absu** and individual solo-projects rather than **Equimanthorn** at the moment. I have just released thy debut solo-album with a label I work for called **DARK AGE PROD.**, and it is entitled "The Venus Bellona" by **Proscriptor**. This opus features 21 hymns of art-music like no other indulged by the human manifestation. It will also be released on **UNISOUND** Records as well, when the second **Equimanthorn** is completed. You'll see the magick in perquisite time.

Any final warnings (clichee) ?

Equitant: I must thank you for this interview. It's a real true honour to be in one of the best German magazines today ! Keep up the good work ! Hails to all German Thrashers !!! Keep your eyes open for "The Third Storm of Cythraul" ! It's gonna knock you down !!!!!

Under Blood and Thunder ! Hinweg der Winterwinde, ich gebe dieses Opfer.

Thanks to **ABSU** for their cool and obviously honest answers, I'm proud to have such a good band included in my magazine. Their 3rd album attack of original Black T(h)rashing Metal should be out now, so you better run to the next Metal merchant and buy it (on vinyl, for traditional reasons, hehe !). **ABSU** beat 95 % of all those new Evil (...) Thrash Metal bands that are coming up in these days, these warriors from Texas can look into a bright future !



Demon
 Demon skří na křídlech hrůzy
 Demon...
 Demon...
 Zjevení duchů - 2 muži máš kůl
 jaký je to bratř nechtě zval sil!
 Demon skří na křídlech hrůzy
 Demon...
 Demon...
 Demon...
 Djevení jen tís - temná noc
 od máne kůl - zvali Satana
 Demon skří na křídlech hrůzy

ROOT

Umlou
 Jsem narivan... to vim,
 Jsem narivan... to vim!
 Stojím vlně vlně
 sít pohlavni smrti,
 vlně sít vlně, normální má vlně
 i kůl příst skří mne tís!
 Jsem narivan... to vim,
 Jsem narivan... to vim!
 Omnia ad majorem, Anym foriam!

Umlou
 Suspició - Barrucos
 Loris suspició - Torum de Cardas
 Suspició vicens - Torum de Aqua

How many of you know the band **ROOT**? I guess not too many, but this band was around for a long time, being formed in the late 80s, having recorded 3 demos (as far as I know), and four LPs. Their first unholy LP "Zjevení" was released after the communist system fell in Czech Slovakia, it was the year 1991, but their previous demos had already a raw Black/Death Metal sound (mixed with some thrash riffs), and I dare to say that Count Grishnack's first **BATHORY** album did have some influences from **ROOT**, like the simple drumming and especially the riff of the **ROOT** song "Pisa Pro Satana" which is very similar to the Count's "War" (well, it's also similar to **BATHORY**'s "Necromancy", I must admit). However, I know from old interviews that Vikernes mentioned this Czech force as one of his influences.

ROOT's second album, "Hell Symphony" is much more variable in comparison to the debut release which presented good straight ahead music with deep raw but still sung vocals. "Hell Symphony" was released in 1992 and it is very well-done with its different faces when it comes to the songwriting, i.e. with "Leviathan" you can hear a song with a strong old **BATHORY** influence, very well done, or "Luci", which contains some traditional slavonic-sounding sung melodies. The musicianship is very excellent, no amateurs play here!

Their third, in 1993 released album, "The Temple in the Underworld" shew **ROOT** from their epic side, having a strong late epic **BATHORY** sound, mixed with some old influences and again, slavonic vocalmelodies, very cool! Just listen to the incredible "Voices"!

The fourth LP I haven't heard yet unfortunately, but it must be very different... anyway, with the help of people like Opyros and especially Dr.Fe an interview with Jiri "Big Boss" Valter, the band's vocalist, was made possible. I'm very happy to have this great band included here, especially because I've never read any interview or even a review about **ROOT** so far. Well, check out yourself what Big Boss has to say....



Big Boss anno'91

First I'd like to know, why the fourth **ROOT** LP isn't released yet. It is already ready, isn't it?

The fourth **Root** album, "Kärgeras", is out and was baptized at the concert in Praha, together with **Anathema** and **My Dying Bride**. We have recorded the album in November/december 1995 in Shark Studio. For the Western market, the English company **CACOPHONOUS** has bought the rights, here in Czech Republic the album was released on **BLACK HOLE**.

Please tell us about the album!

It is about a monotheistical story, and it is necessary to read the preface on the cover. **Root**'s style has changed completely. Now I'm singing all with completely clear, normal vocals. The fans and the critics have highly appreciated this record, and we are very happy about it!

Why have you left **MONITOR** Records? Did you have problems with them?

'**MONITOR** now only has bands under contract which have golden records, etc... and this is not really the case at **Root**.'

Haha, not really! Although especially the Norwegians are responsible for the Black Metal trend (especially **Dark Throne**'s "A Blaze in the Northern Sky" anno'92), the Czech scene was much earlier into Black Metal with bands like **TÖRR**, **MASTER'S HAMMER** and **ROOT**. But the fans don't realize this as it seems... Don't you think that the Czech scene should receive much more recognition from the interbational underground? After all, LPs like "Zjevení", "Armageddon" and "Ritual" have already been released before anyone knew about Norwegian Black Metal..

When we have already played Black Metal in Czech Republic, the Norwegians have still shitted into their pants, that's the problem. But I don't want to talk deeper about this subject!

Why were there so many Black/Death Metal bands around in your country anno '90? What is the reason for this admiration for occultism / satanism?

I think that the best reason to play Black Metal is that bands are able to find out everything possible and are able to attack anything possible, including the holy church, etc. You can easily talk about subjects which are usually taboo for normal people. But now I'm not interested in the fantasy-side of the story. All the other stuff is my life-style!

Do you still regard **ROOT** as a Black Metal band? How would you describe your current musical style?

I hate to part music into any directions, everyone can label our music like he wants. I don't care at all!

ROOT are hardly known internationally... No interviews, promotion, etc. can be found. Why do you isolate from making the band more popular with the help of interviews, advertising, etc.? Don't you want

every headbanger to have one ROOT LP in his collection ?

Everyday I receive letters from Columbia, Mexico, U.S.A., Malaysia, France, Germany, Portugal, etc., and I think that we are famous ! But I don't want to do interviews for any zines that I can't read later on. This is the only reason ! I'm convinced that 2/3 of all interviews are just mean deceptions, and that's a pity for my time. I only do this interview, because Dr. Fe, the singer of Amon Goeth, has guaranteed me that this is not a rip off.'

Is it true that you have refused a proposal for a deal from AVANTGARDE ? Why ?

It is true ! The reason for this is that the persons behind AVANTGARDE just promised and blathered a lot, again and again... and the whole thing went down the toilet...'

Big Boss, can you still identify yourself with the old ROOT stuff like the demos, the first two albums ?

I'm asking this, because your third LP ("The Temple in the Underworld") was musically completely different with its epic BATHORY-styled stuff...'

I strongly stand behind every song of us, from the demos, LPs, from the beginning until this time. Although we change our music on every record, although we sound different, this really can't change my philosophy, my view of life.'

Some people call you the KING DIAMOND from the East (side of the old iron curtain)... what do you think of this ? Did you once have contact with King Diamond ? Or is it just Anton LaVey who makes you comparable with the Danish king ?

Well, if the fans call me like this, then they can call King Diamond as "Big Boss from the West"... am I right ? (well, yes, but he's much more popular than you are, don't you agree ? -ed.) We are certainly very close when it comes to the human point of view, and not only because we are both members of the Church of Satan. We know each other from letters and a couple of telephone conversations. So we are friends...'

What is especially conspicuous at ROOT are your vocals, because you use your own voice. Do you have a special training ? Your voice is very flexible (very deep, melodic, etc.) !

I have the theory that every vocalist should be able to sing. If he can't, his ass should be kicked ! But I don't need any special training. I can work very well with my voice and I try to use all possibilities of my voice. Just listen to our new record, and you'll shit in your pants ! I guarantee this to you !'

Fuck, I still haven't, but the whole thing should be very rocky as people have told. I adore your laughter on the first two records... how came the idea ? Why haven't you used this effect on your third LP as well ?

I use my laughter to stress our lyrics better, but only if it fits ! This effect is again used on the new album. And again very nice !'
A lot of Czech musicians are already a bit older, i.e. Franta Storm, Dr. Fe, or you, etc. Why is it like this ? Has communism made fanatical people of you ?

The reason is probably that we couldn't do anything in times of communism, and we had to wait. And times floods and floods... But I don't feel old. Man is as young as he feels himself.'
You also released a Solo CD, right ? What was the reason for this ? Isn't ROOT attractive enough anymore ?

The reason is not that Root isn't attractive anymore for me. But we needed four years to make the last album, and I had my very own ideas for it which didn't fit to Root. So I made my solo-project "Q7".'
Will there be a clip for the new LP ? You once did a clip for the song "Upaleni" some years ago for the TV as far as I know...

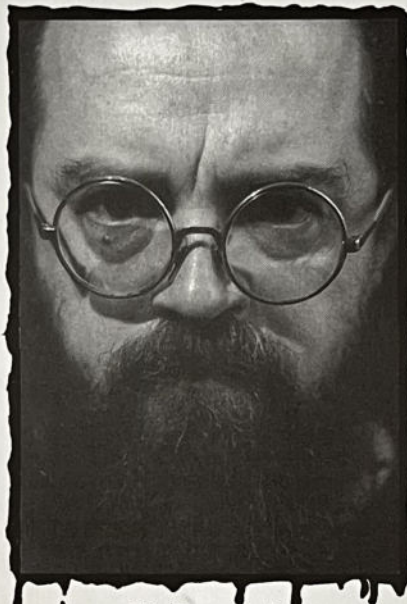
There has to be a video-clip, of course, but I don't know when. Until now we have made 8 clips (!), and five of them have already been broadcasted on TV !'

What do you think of the many young Czech Black Metal bands ? I read that these guys don't take you for serious...

I only know one orthodox Black Metal band from the Czech Republic, and that's Amon Goeth. Others don't interest me, because they are all assholes, they only want to be important with the help of Black Metal. When they come home, then their fathers beat their asses with a stick and send them to church. And that's it with Black Metal... And if those people don't take me for serious, I don't care, because they are only assholes anyway...'

Well, I do not know too many new Black Metal bands from Czech Republic, so I can't really say what to think of them. Haven't you received any offers for a ROOT tour ? Aren't you interested in touring in Germany or anywhere else ?

Of course we have offers, but I always refuse them all. I don't want to play in foreign countries for Beer and sausages only, and to dress in the toilet-room. The promoters just regard us as assholes from the east, and this is not what we need ! I know really well that we have at least the same qualities as My Dying Bride... and especially this band gets a lot of money here for gigs



Big Boss anno '96

and have everything possible secured. If there's anyone willing to do this kind of stuff with us, then it's no problem. Then we could of course play anywhere in foreign countries. We will probably play in Germany together with Anathema and Pyogenesis ... but this isn't sure yet. I don't want to make this for the mentioned reasons. I love comfort and in addition I'm lazy as a pig.'
ROOT shows used to be very dark in the past... how is a ROOT concert nowadays ?

I think it's even darker than before, if we play at all. We cancel our gigs, and our manager gets headaches because of us. In addition we have split up after the recordings, and have reformed, but with a different line-up.'

What do you think of the new MASTER'S HAMMER CD, "Slagry" ? Would you like to try anything like that ? Or will ROOT always remain a METAL band ?

I think NOTHING of this new Master's Hammer album, it doesn't interest me at all. I never want to make something like that. Franta Storm is probably completely insane !'

In the meantime there are some people around searching your LPs... Why aren't their any licences for your LPs like there is for the first MASTER'S HAMMER LP ? Your records are hard to get...

This thing doesn't interest me at all.'

What does ROOT mean for you ? Is it just a hobby or is it more ?

Root ? It is my baby, my lifestyle, the way of self-realization, simply everything ! Music has always been my hobby, and if that's not the case, that you can pack up your shit. When we formed Root with Blackie (Blackosh, guitars -ed.), it was a longing for the whole life ! And we don't want to step back from it !'

Should every ROOT album sound different on purpose or is it just a normal development as a musician ? Could you imagine to make a harder LP again, with darker vocals, more laughter, etc. ?

It is of course development. If a band doesn't develop anymore and only copy themselves, then they can fuck off ! (Really ? Would you like to see i.e. Motörhead dead ? -ed.) All our records are very hard, we never have sworn ourselves to any trends, and if there's a song which sounds a bit soft, there's nothing we can do about it.'

Which are your favourite LPs ? How came your love for Heavy Metal ?

All records from King Diamond, Ministry, Type O Negative, Slayer, Jimi Hendrix, Beatles, etc. In my case it is the love to music in general !'
Your plans ?

We work on the next record, with Blackie, and we want to enter studio in Spring 1997. And I work for my next solo-project. Everything else is top secret !'

Ok, thanks for the interview... it's great to have ROOT included in the mag Any last words ?

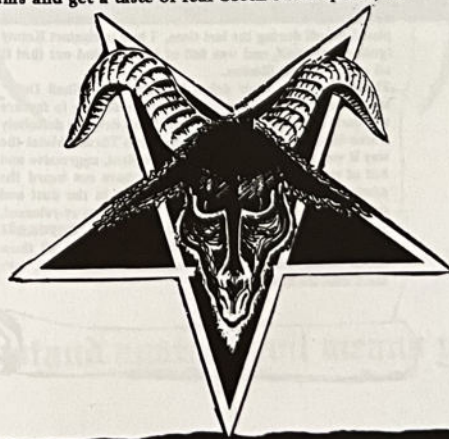
Last words ? I believe nothing ends ! ... and if you masturbate your cock in the evening, then remember me ...'

Jiri seems to be a strange guy, don't you think so ? At least I know that his music doesn't suck at all !

Some time after the interview was made, I got the sad news that ROOT are history, so there will not be a fifth LP recorded ! It seems as if this interview is the last one Jiri Valter did, so take it as kind of "farewell"...

Check out the first three ROOT LPs if you have the chance to lay your hands on it. "Zjevenie" got finally re-released through CACOPHONOUS, but with English lyrics (the album is called "Revelation" now). Try to get the Czech version instead, because I'm sure that the old vocals are much better, they can't be beaten !

It's sad that ROOT never managed to become a known force in the international scene, because they're too good to be ignored. So go for their albums and get a taste of real Czech Metal quality !!!



Infernäl Mäjesty®



The news that **INFERNÄL MÄJESTY**'s grave is open, and that its corpse seems to have risen came like a hammerblow !!! I couldn't believe that these supreme ruling wicked Thrash Metal gods from Canada decided to return with a new album..... As too many rumours just pissed me off during the last time, I had to contact Kenny (guitarist) myself, and was full of hope to find out that it all wasn't just an illusion.

Those who know their debut LP/CD "None Shall Defy" will know that it's more than a honour for me to feature this band in the magazine... "None Shall defy" is definitely a true classic, a must for all people into Thrash Metal the way it was meant to be: Dark, fast, violent, aggressive and full of metallic Power !!! Those who have not heard the album yet should leave all new releases in the dust and spend their money for this album (it has been re-released, so it's no rare item anymore). To me, **INFERNÄL MÄJESTY** are still a lot darker than 95% of all those Black Metal bands that are around today... Well, let's start with the interview...

I was more than just surprised to hear that mighty **INFERNÄL MÄJESTY** returns with a second LP... Please tell us about this album, especially in comparison to your immortal "None Shall Defy" LP... what will be different ?

*'I guess a lot of people were surprised that we had recorded another album. We did it about a year and half ago. We recorded all of the music but have not yet recorded the vocals. We had wanted the album to come out awhile ago, but we had major problems with our last singer Vince. The album was recorded with Scott Burns in Toronto and we are all happy since now we know that Chris Bailey (the unholy brother of Tom Araya, haha -ed.) will be doing all of the vocals. Right now we are putting the finishing touches on all lyrics since we had to re-write most of them after Vince left and Cris came back. The songs are in the same vein as "None Shall Defy" and "Anthology of Death", so don't expect nothing to be overly different. They sound just like what you would expect **Infernäl Mäjesty** to sound like since our writing style hasn't changed much.'*

I'm very excited to hear the album, believe me ! Especially because Chris is back ... why had he left the band years ago ?

*'You're right... Chris Bailey is back with **Infernäl Mäjesty** and we are extremely glad that he is. He was the voice that made the album sound so good. We always got along but over time you run into problems that can't be avoided. But shit, he's back in the band now and that's all I care.'*

Thrash Metal seems to return as people seem to long for this special old (almost forgotten) Thrash feeling. Wouldn't it be a good chance for you to show all the headbangers what Canadian steel is all about ? By the way, it would be interesting to know how many copies you've sold of the re-released version of "None Shall Defy" until now.

'Right now we are really working hard with promoters for a European tour and we will be there for the Summer of 1997. We will be playing at least three festivals

(Belgium, Germany, Holland) and a lot of clubdates in-between. I think we will be playing with Dawn and Altar on the tour (I would like to see you with Razor! -ed.). We have never been to Europe as a band and we are looking forward to it. As far as sales go, "None Shall Defy" is selling well, I guess a lot of people had the album and wore it out or because it has two new songs on it. ROADRUNNER Records are keeping track of it for us, so I won't know exactly how many were sold until the new year.'

Who will take care of "Unholier Than Thou"? Again DISPLEASED? Some people say that this label is not trustworthy...

'We have giving that a lot of thought and aren't going to worry too much about it right now. We put all our money into "Unholier Than Thou" and if we have to, we will release it on our own or license it out to other record companies. We have had offers from other labels that have shown interest in signing us but as of now have not committed to anyone. We want someone that wants to back Infernal Majesty 100%, anything less would be a waste of our time as we have gone down that road before.'

So, hope things will turn out to be great for you! "None Shall Defy" was, together with HOBBS' ANGEL OF DEATH debut LP, one of the last satanic Thrash Metal records in the last decade... Why has real Thrash Metal disappeared? Who are the ones to blame? How has Infernal Majesty changed through the years? Do you still like your work on "None Shall Defy"?

'I don't think Thrash Metal has disappeared at all, there are new bands coming out all the time, sure they may play it differently but that's what you want, the last thing I want to hear is a band that sounds exactly like Slayer or Infernal Majesty (Well, I don't share your opinion! -ed.). A lot of people thought that we sounded like Slayer when we first came out (Definitely, you fight with the same "weapons", but that's great! -ed.), and people are going to compare you to other bands but I know that Slayer and Infernal Majesty have their own sound even though it's the same style of music. I really don't think our music has changed that much (I hope so! -ed.). Steve Terror and I have been together for a long time and we write pretty much the same way, but the lyrics have changed because Psycho is no longer in the band and he wrote a majority of our lyrics. The lyrics are still on the dark side because that's we like to write about and the new album will branch out a lot more than "None Shall Defy" did. Even after playing "None Shall Defy" for years, I still like it. It's one of those albums that you can put on your stereo and not get sick of, just like the old Mercyful Fate album "Don't Break The Oath", I never got sick of it either.'

Talking about Canadian bands: It seems as if your country's bands can't be killed as EXCITER, ANVIL, RAZOR, VOIVOD, INFERNAL MAJESTY are still alive. What's the reason for this survival? Is it probably because you never got the full attention which all of you deserved? I mean, Canadian forces have never been promoted/ supported as much as U.S. bands, right?

'We know the guys in Razor very well and I guess that since we all like playing so much we are still alive. It's a lot different in Canada than anywhere else I know, because most clubs want bands that play top-forty shit, so it makes it a lot harder to play live gigs. We have always had to put together our own tours just so we could play live. But if you are a band from the U.S.A. or Europe, then promoters love to book you.'

In an interview (THAT'S IT mag) you said that you played together with Sheepdog McLaren of RAZOR. Have you ever recorded anything with him? It would be fuckin' interesting to hear an INFERNAL MAJESTY kind of music combined with the original vocals of Stace. What is he doing nowadays? It would be a shame if he retired from Metal... no one sounded like him!

'Steve and I have known Stace for years, we were with him when he first got the job with Razor. After he left Razor he would come down and jam with us, he did know a few of our songs, but we never did do any recording with him. Stace is living in the north of Toronto and I don't know what he's up to these days, but you're right... it would be a shame if he has given it all up!'

Definitely, Stace is ace! But back to your band: A thing which I do not understand is why it takes about nine years to release another album. Was it due to a lack of motivation? I can't imagine that it would have been a problem for a band like you to find a good label...

'If we had our way we would have 5 or 6 albums out now, but we had no real support from ROADRUNNER Records so we had to do everything ourselves and believe me it ain't easy. Sure we got real discouraged, but we kept on going... that's all you can do.'

A cool interviewclip was made for your titlesong "None Shall Defy"... how many bucks did it cost, and who paid all the expenses? Are you thinking about doing another clip for one of your new songs?

'The video was shot in Toronto and we hired the guys to film it for us. I forgot how much it cost, but it was around \$5 - 6.000 (!!! - ed.) and we paid for it ourselves (!!!!! -ed.). We got this real cool song called "Gone away of all Flesh" that we want to put to video after the new album is done because it's got a great story that would make it a great video.'

About your live-performance: How does your show look nowadays... will it look like the old clip... black leather, spikes and fog?

'We always liked bands that put on a good show, so we decided from the start that we would try and have a big stage set up. On our first tour we hired a guy by the name of "VooDoo" to paint backdrops that featured our album cover and a drum riser with medieval airbrushed graphics (Yeah, I noticed the great "lightning" airbrush on the drums! -ed.). We also used lots of fog and pyro. The over all look was there from the start, we were all into leather, studs at the time and it was a bit over the top (only your old hairstyle was really "over the top", haha! -ed.), but it's funny because a lot of the new bands are wearing leather and studs again instead of jeans and T-Shirts (hmm...), but we hope to have a real good stage show together for the tour, that will never change!'

Have you followed the happenings / development of the Metal scene through the years? What do you think of the return of Black Metal? Have you picked up any bands in the last couple of years which you really find interesting?

'I've always kept an eye and ear on what's happening with Thrash and I'm glad that it's alive and well, and I don't think it will ever die. I don't give two shits about what's on the radio (what's that? -ed) because 95% of it I don't care for anyhow. I'm glad to see that so many bands are making it back on to the scene because without them it would all die. I'm listening to a lot of new stuff, and the band that I really like is Altar, I think these guys have great potential and I'm looking forward to touring with them.'

You can't deny that "None Shall Defy" sounds a lot like SLAYER, which is not a bad thing! Have you ever played with or met Tom Araya & Co.? I guess they weren't too happy to hear a band like you which was even stronger than their own one during that period of time ("South of Heaven" LP)...

'To tell the truth, if people compare us to Slayer, that's great because they are the finest Thrash band in the world. I really don't think that they have to worry too much about Infernal Majesty. Our road manager Ray Moss is good friends with Slayer, but we have never played on the same bill together... yet.'

Use your chance to speak some words to all your faithful fans who still have Metal in their veins...

'We are all very surprised that people even remember us and are very grateful for their support over the years. Right now our main goal is to play everywhere in Europe, finish the new album as well as to meet as many fans as possible. We are not one of those bands that stays backstage the entire time. We like to get out and mingle with the crowd. So, if everything goes according to plan we should be seeing you all in near future.'

I pray that your plans will turn into reality...I'll be there to bang my fuckin' skull till blood runs out of my ears, arrghhhh....

I can't await the arrival of "Unholier than Thou", I really hope that it will be nothing but a killer album... I don't want to get disappointed!!!

All you readers should prepare mentally for INFERNAL MAJESTY's tour by listening to "None Shall Defy", again and again. Hope to see you all in the front row!!!



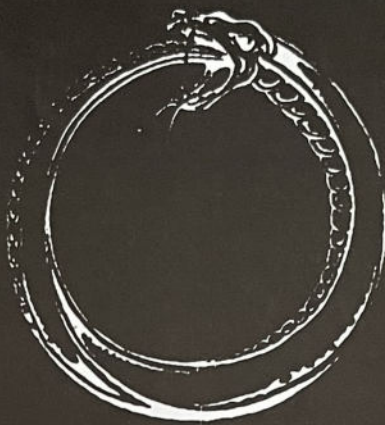
"Marching defiant the legions bear witness, to stand against evil means you stand alone!!!"

CONQUEROR

Ross Bay Cult Eternal



J. Read
Hatchammers and War



R. Forster
Deathfare and Hellswa

What do you know about Canada (beside being the land of mounties and elcs) when it comes to newer Black /Death Metal bands ? Yes, BLASPHEMY come from this country, but they have ceased to exist if I have to believe the latest OSMOSE news. But there's a new band following the footsteps of that and other Canadian bands, and their name is CONQUEROR, like the old SODOM song !

They released a demotape called "Antichrist Superiority" which contains fuckin' bad produced but very hard and merciless Black / Death Metal which reminds me a lot at the first BLASPHEMY album "Fallen Angel of Doom". This LP is certainly not everyone's favoured release, I know, but I think that no one can deny that this music is not dark, malicious and violent. If you prefer to read stuff about the 5035th band with the same trendy sound (you certainly know what I mean, don't you ?), then you have to pick up other zines but not this one here. Read the following interview with Ryan Forster if you want to read something about a "different" band...

What differs you from other Black/ Death Metal bands in your opinion ?

When we write songs, we don't try to compare them to other bands, we write them only to please ourselves. We're into the most violent of Metal.

The current Black/Death Metal trend is to play soft and melodic as it seems. Conqueror plays bestial Black/Death !'

I heard that you're planning to release / record a CD... please tell us about it. Do you think you have progressed since the badly produced demotape ?

'Actually the demo sound came out exactly as we planned it, raw and underground ! We could have easily stayed in the recording studio and over-produced the tape, but we prefer it like this. If you listen to the tape you can still hear all the music, but we didn't clean it up the holocaustic noise that gives us a savage atmosphere. Yes, a CD is to be released early 1997 and we are going to get a raw sound again. Although it will be more professional as we'll have more tracks to work with this time.'

You said in your letter that you're inspired by real Death Metal... what do you mean with this ?

To us, real Death/Black is raw, unholy and extreme ! We include all these elements in the Conqueror sound.'

As a kind of tribute to old Canadian bands you covered an old SLAUGHTER song on your demo... will you continue to honour old bands from your country on your future releases ? Any ideas ?

'The Curse' by Slaughter will again appear on the CD. We also plan to do a Razor cover (great ! - ed.) and a Sacrifice cover in the future if we can.' Why have especially Canadian bands never got the full attention which they deserved ? You can't deny this fact, can you ?

The Metal scene in Canada is very small. What little bands there are, they don't know how to promote themselves in the underground, because we are not exposed to be like in Europe or U.S.A. ! Records by Infernal Majesty, VoiVod, Sacrifice, Razor, etc. were just as godly as other LPs by European bands and U.S. bands... Anyhow, it's great that we don't have an overcrowded scene that is mostly populated by idiots anyway...'

You are probably right with this ! You hail BLASPHEMY, right ? Do you know those guys personally ? Why have they finally split up ?

'Blasphemy live 3 hours travel away from us, so we don't know them personally, but we've contacted them before. Blasphemy's activities out of the band were very extreme. Perhaps their lifestyle prevented them from continuing the band seriously.'

Would be interesting to know more about the mystery behind this dead band ! But back to Ryan: Which kind of people do you want to reach with CONQUEROR's music ?

'All people into brutal, underground, bestial Death Metal should contact Conqueror ! Our "Antichrist Superiority" Demo is still available for US\$ 6 !'

I just have to add that the band officially signed to EVIL OMEN Records for their first CD, which should be entitled "War... Cult... Supremacy". It's no surprise that labelboss Lejeune "Evil" Ludo likes CONQUEROR as he used to be the chief of the European SARCOFAGO/ BLASPHEMY Fan Club.

CONQUEROR

P.O. Box 8407
Victoria, B.C., V8W 3 S1
CANADA

DEMONS SOVA

DEMONS SOVA from Finland are still one of the most unknown Black /Death Metal bands that are around since the very beginning of the second Black Metal movement. But the reason is quite obvious, just listen to their music, because few bands that play a total extreme and uncommercial style. Especially their debut CD "Hailstorm" is so fuckin' extreme that it's hard to stand the whole playing time... "Eerie", the 2nd CD, is much better and more "human, but still extreme. Now the time has come for the 3rd strike of those Finnish JetBlack Metallers behind the mainman and songwriter Demonos Sova, and as the rehearsaltape for this album sounds promising, I'd like to give Demons again the chance to talk through TALES OF THE MACABRE...

Hello Demonos Sova, quite some time went by since we crossed our paths (for the interview in TALES OF THE MACABRE #1). What has mainly happened to DEMONS SOVA (apart from releasing two albums) during that time? I'm asking this, because I seldomly read something about your band in zines...

'I salute you, Costa. A lot of things have happened after your last interview. First of all, at the moment when you made that last interview with us, we were working on "Warmetal" session. Well, it wasn't finished, due to engineer's fault - he fucked up with that mastertape. He recorded some kind of low-life-subhuman-groups' demotape over that session of DEMONS SOVA... Hell, I was pissed off. Anyway, I like the tunes of that "Warmetal" recordings and I'm planning to release that uncompleted version of "Warmetal" studio-session. The form of that release shall probably be a cassette...or CD...or whatever, let's see! Anyway, we won't record those percussion-, backing vocal- and effect-parts that were meant to be on that tape... it's too late for doing those after all the time that has passed. About our line-up: Well, it has changed a lot from the time of your last interview. Actually I'm the only one left from that line-up we had back in those nights.. Current line-up is: Demonos (v/b), Sulphur (g), Pimeä (d).

Other things that have happened are several tattoos that I have taken, and in future there will be more of them!!!! Especially demons and other dark images. We have also played a few gigs, but not too many. The reason for not so many gigs is that we have been so much in the studio, and we have rehearsed so much (except in the last couple of months, and of course we have made a lot of new material, so there's no lack of material with DEMONS SOVA. I'm still writing almost all music and lyrics for DEMONS SOVA, let's say 95% of all art is done by me.

1994 Years After Bastard's Birth we got the contract from German label called NAZGŪL'S EYRIE PRODUCTIONS. And your mag TALES OF THE MACABRE helped us a lot! So thanks for your support!!!

1995 Y.A.B.B. we finally released our studio session from '93 called "Sanctus Satanas". I released it with one messy live-recording from the same year. Recently here in Kuopio we've heard some rumours that there's some kind of group of local parents who are trying to disrupt us to play gigs in places that are made for the youth of this town! ...But we are still doing it!!! Well, of course there has happened a lot of other things, too, but these were the ones that got in my mind first...!

You are preparing your third album attack, so please could you give us some deep infos about it?

'We have rehearsed the material for our 3rd album which shall be entitled "Infernal". We will record three older tunes: "Warmetal", "Death is Saviour" and "Demon est Deus Inversus". Rest of those tunes will be newer songs, still very raw, brutal, extreme, dark and evil - and of course JetBlack!

Instead of these wimp-outs of nowadays our third album will be 100% Metal, no fucking techno/synth-demonstration-shit. It's ok for me to use some keyboards and effects now and then, but not too much... I think that our third album will be the most destructive Metal album ever!!!!'

Big words indeed! ... I was told that you thought the production on "Eerie" wasn't extreme enough, and that "Inferno" will have a sound similar to "Hailstorm"... is this really your intention? I think that your



DARK AND EVIL



music itself is extreme enough, even with a good production ?

Actually I thought that there could be more of those rawer parts on "Eerie", I like "Hailstorm" the way it is, the same goes for "Eerie". I don't want to write about the ideas for "Infernal" here, because this might cause some kind of "rules" for me to work in the studio. I have something in my mind now, and you'll hear the results from our completed album in future, if you don't pass away before its releasing. About that chaos and mess in the sound: I don't try to create a messy sound, the atmosphere is the most important thing and actually it's the only thing that counts when **Dark and Evil** is doing something in the studio. So somehow I think it's really important to get the right feeling for the recording-session, then we just "prison" that feeling on tape ! We have tried some improvisation before, and it has worked very well, so we will do that with the "Infernal" album, too, at least for that tune. There will probably be something really special especially with vocals and basses.... Your new songmaterial seems to be the strongest that you've done so far. Especially "War Metal" and "Deliver a Battle" sound great and carry a special wicked feeling... in which kind of mood have you been while creating these tunes ? When you compose songs, do you have any plans already or does it just happen ?

"War Metal" track was written in 92/93, so actually it is not our newest material. I think that **Dark and Evil**'s music has always been quite (or not just quite, but extremely) powerful with the basic structures that I have created for my music. When I'm working on new HellTunes of **Dark and Evil**, it just happens; everything happens spontaneously. I don't TRY to make new tunes, they just "born" from my wicked and dark mind !..... Fortunately I don't have any problems with creating new material - actually I have tons of riffs and lyrics that aren't used for any tunes yet. You know, I just record every riff that comes to my mind and later I use them for my new songs.

When I write stuff I usually won't listen to any music besides **Dark and Evil** for a while, actually I really try to stay away from the influences from other artists and I just try to be myself. Then these riffs just come out of my mind... After all I think that I have succeeded with my method of songwriting and probably that's why **Dark and Evil**'s style is so unique.

The most respectable bands for me have always been those who have their own original style. It's very easy to steal riffs and ideas from others, but to create something from your own mind, that's really something that subhumans aren't able to.

As your style is very extreme I'm sure that you received a lot of different reviews/reactions to your music, right ? Are their any good/bad ones branded in your mind ? Does it affect you ?

I know a lot of main-stream clowns who just hate **Dark and Evil**'s music. I just think that HATE is one of the feelings that support me to continue ! Our music is not for the main-stream; it hasn't and will never be !

Of course there're some of those who understand **Dark and Evil** and I honestly salute them all ! This music is created by **Dark and Evil** and it is done by **Dark and Evil**, no others ! The more I think about those who don't understand us, the less I care about them.

There's no doubt that you've managed to create a very own style of Black Metal, but it's far away from the typical Black "Metal" sound. I always wondered what influenced your songwriting.... perhaps some non-black (but still) metal bands ???

Which kind of powerful bands do you listen to when you are on your own ??? Which of today's bands do you adore ?

As mentioned earlier, I just keep myself out from the influences of other artists. Only influences that I surely accept to take are the influences from nature, sometimes I just wander in the woods or graveyards or hills, rivers or lakes, etc. just to clear my thoughts. By that I usually get a lot of fresh ideas for my music.

About the music that I listen to when I'm alone... well, as you might guess I do listen to a lot of music ! Eg. now I'm listening to **Dark and Evil**'s debut album. When I'm alone I usually always listen to music (being alone is the major part of my life I think).

Here comes the part that I really enjoy doing in interviews; the list of my faves (to name just a few of them)...: Venom (old), Sodom (old), Bathory (not "Requiem" and "Octagon"), Poison (Ger), Sarcofago (old), Manowar, AC/DC, Manilla Road, Paul Chain, Rainbow, Angelwitch, Demon, Black Sabbath, Dio, Hellhammer/Celtic Frost (old), Voivod (old), Black Widow, Witchfynde, Solitude Aeternus, Candlemass, Witchfinder General, Merciful Fate /King Diamond, Hawkwind, Motörhead, Brocas Helm, Saint Vitus, Uriah Heep, Mayhem, Sacred Crucifix (R.O.D.-demo'89), Master's Hammer (exclusive "Slágr"), Ghost Rider ("Mayhemic Destruction" demo'84), Sabbath (both Japanese and English), Treblinka /Tiamat (especially older stuff), Unholy, Von, Törr, etc. etc. etc.

Some bands of today I like: Countess, Ancient Rites, Alastis, Samael, Drowned, Unpure, Bewitched, Necromantia, Sorcerer, Mortuary Drape, Amon Goeth, Mayhemic Truth, Morningstar, etc. etc. You planned to use a third bassist, but I can't find him on your albums. Didn't it work out or has a third bassguitar left your rehearsalroom in ruins ?

It's not a secret that I've always had some trouble with the line-ups. We had three bassplayers, but it didn't last for too long. Our current line-up consists of only one bassist (me), but in the studio there'll be several basses (and has been on both albums). I'm still trying to find a suitable bassplayer for **Dark and Evil**, but it is really hard to find the right one for an extreme band as **Dark and Evil** is. I just hope that I'll succeed with my search. I met only one guy who could be suitable... I just have to get to know him better, you know, I don't want to waste my time with powerless losers. How came the idea to work with that much bassguitars ??? Was it **Dark and Evil**'s idea ?

No, it wasn't Necromantia ! I wouldn't hesitate to admit if it'd be that band. It happened like this: I was looking for a new drummer for **Dark and Evil** back in late '92, and finally when I found one, it happened to be that this drummer had a brother who was bassist... and he just joined the band at the same time with his drummer-brother. After all he lasted longer than the drummer before burning completely to ruins.

There was talk about some European dates with **Dark and Evil**, **DECEIT** and **DECEIT**... what went wrong ? A lack of interest ?

Well, perhaps it was a lack of interest, but not from **Dark and Evil**, but from gig-organizers and/or club-owners or others. I really don't know why it wasn't possible to do those dates.

Anyway, we're still interested in playing shows abroad and I hope that we can play some shows in Germany, Holland, Belgium, etc... If there's a possibility to do that, of course we'll do it. And I just advice everybody who digs original Black Metal to check out our live-shows, 'cause they really are something special... even worth of some travelling. Just to experience the show of **Dark and Evil** !!! Dark and Evil !!!

You are one of the oldest Black Metal bands from Scandinavia... and you experienced the growth of the Neo Black Metal movement since the beginning. What do you think of its development ? Are you happy with the current situation ?

I've seen the birth of many bands, and I've usually seen them dying after a while... not only in Scandinavia, but elsewhere, too. At the moment I feel that **Dark and Evil** exists 'til my time has come to die ! I have experienced a lot with my band, some losses but mostly victories... and after all almost every loss I face turns into victory afterwards. For example the members that I kicked or lost from the band. Usually afterwards I realize that ex-members weren't strong enough to be the true warrior-mates of mine. And I really believe that if there's a cancer it has to be eliminated, because otherwise that rot can pollute the healthy parts. I've always said that time shall tell who're the true winners ! Losers shall fall after a while, they are not strong enough to be among the survivors !

Do you have any special wishes for **Dark and Evil**'s future ? What are your goals ?

I just hope that I can accomplish my art in future at least as well as I have done before. To name some practical goals in future: Well, to finish our first video, to record our third album, to write some new material, and of course to play as many gigs as it can ever be possible. But main goals are still to frighten main-stream-slaves and to crush the fakes by our musical BlackMetal Hammer !

You don't seem to care about album sales (otherwise you would play a more popular style), and I think that's a sign for being uncommercial. But don't you feel a bit betrayed when kids are playing trendy black metal and sell albums like hell, while you are sticking to your principles to play real obscure and extreme music without getting your wage ?

If our albums sell well, it's really ok, but I think it's not the most important thing. Yes, it is a bit frustrating to listen to these neo-clowns, like last weekend, when we played in a town called Parikkala, there were some morons who told us that Venom hasn't ever been Black Metal... and that Black Metal has been created in Norway. I just feel pity for subhumans like those morons were.

When you play on stage, is the sound as extreme as on your albums ? Are there any special visual effects that add some darkness to your music ? Or do you just get on stage and start to play without any "show" ? Black Metal needs a show in my opinion when it is played live (as a kind of tradition)....

Our shows are as extreme as our music is. I agree with you that Black Metal needs special shows when it comes to Live-appearance. There's a lot of fire in shows of **Dark and Evil**. We're still testing pyros to create even more extreme shows. Only bad thing is that these effects do need some space to work and usually we are



playing our gigs in small clubs. But even in clubgigs there're some fiery effects when ~~we~~ plays.... candles, torches, fire breathing and stuff. And our shows are quite Raw and Filthy in other ways, too. You should see our show to know what I mean.... Black Vomit, Blood, Blasphemy, Darkness.... to name just a few elements that we have in our shows.'

Holocausto of ~~we~~ once dreamt to do an even bigger liveshow (with pyros, darklights, etc.) than ~~we~~, but he finally changed his attitude towards everything as it seems. As you are a friend of him: What's the reason for him to retire from his raging Black Metal style ??? We shouldn't forget that ~~we~~ was one of the forces that brought Black Metal back...

'I don't know for sure what made him to do that quite dramatic change for his music. Perhaps it's just proving that he can do whatever he wants to do, because as far as I know Holocausto, he lives in the way of the ideology of Aleister Crowley: "DO WHAT THOU WILT SHALL BE THE WHOLE OF THE LAW". I really respect his views, because he knows what he's doing.'

Your latest ~~we~~ logo reminds me a lot at the ~~we~~ logo with all the flames and stuff. Why have you stopped to use the old one which looked cool as well ?

'The new logo satisfies me more than the older ones. The basics have always been the same - Black Flames !!!!!'

Alright Demon, I don't want to steal too much of your time, so I end up with a last question: What would you change in Black Metal if you were a dictator ?

'Can't you see that I am a dictator ? Everything I do, I do to satisfy myself, same it is with my warrior-brothers in ~~we~~.

REAL Black/Deathmetal doesn't need anything to be changed. Fakes should invite different names for their pseudo Black/Death Metal, but probably they're impotent to do so, due to their low-capacity in mental activity...'

If there's still something important to say...do it:

'I salute all my Brothers and Friends ! Thank you Costa for this interview, it was sheer pleasure answering for you. I'd like to know if there's anyone who'd know anything about teutonic bands called Poison and Minotaur. I want to get also some information about an Italian band called Ghost Rider. I'd like to get as such information as possible about those bands.

~~we~~'s both CDs ("Hailstorm" and "Eerie") are available for \$18/HFL30/DM 30/FIM80 per copy. Cassette "Sanctus Satanas" (studio & stage'93) is available for \$6/HFL10/DM10/FIM25.

If you write for ~~we~~ without ordering anything, add I.R.C. for sure reply.'

BARATHRUM, PL 103, 70101 Kuopio, Suomi, Finland

SANCTISSIME COLERE SATANAS ET BARATHRUM ! I'A SHA-TN ! HAIL SATAN ! Ave BARATHRUM !

VINDI CORNER

USURPER "Diabolosis" (R.I.P. Music)

Yeah, this one is certainly great ! Usurper's debut album is finally out on good old vinyl. This cool LP does not only contain a different (first class) coverartwork, but also some new recorded versions of the songs. And I find it great that people who keep the vinyl tradition alive get something really great for their money, because this LP comes in Gatefold-cover and a giant poster (with lyrics and stuff... all is layout-and musicwise totally in the Celtic Frost-vein, great !). Get this LP for \$20 (high price due to the fuckin' postage) at: USURPER.

Lordian Guard (Hellion)

A two song PicDisc from Lordian Guard. One of the songs is a new one called "Behold a Pale Horse" which is in the vein of the debut LP, and a coverversion of the old Warlord song "Deliver Us". Musically it's of course great, but this time I'm not very satisfied with the vocals, because they do not sound natural at all. It seems as if she has problems to sing the deeper parts. However, this PicLP is a must for Lordian Guard lovers as the music is still strong and done with class, plus this very limited piece of vinyl has a great front and backcover-art...

...and some compilation shit !!!

STORM OF NEBIULA (Nebiula)

5 bands from the East....Riusgnal (or better said Langsuir), As Sahar, Voiciferation Eternity, Aradia and Sil Khannaz. 12 songs are on this CD, and it's an interesting experience to hear what all those bands have to offer. Riusgnal are the best band on this compilation and should not be ignored ! This CD gets sold for a special low price, so keep your eyes open.

A TRIBUTE TO CELTIC FROST... (Dwell)

I'm more or less disappointed with this tribute CD, especially because of Slaughter's contribution. But also the other bands sound very weak in comparison to the original Celtic Frost and especially Hellhammer - versions (13's version of "Triumph of Death" is supposed to be a bad joke, am I right ?). Only Sadistic Intent know to convince ! Don't get blinded by names like Enslaved, Emperor, etc.... this tribute CD is not really great (most tribute CDs are shit except for the Slayer tribute in my opinion). But if you are an open-minded and flexible guy, then try this.

SLATANIC SLAUGHTER - Volume Two - (Black Sun)

12 bands hail Slayer and do their best to cover their songs. All do a good job in my opinion except for Disaffected. Biggest surprise for me is Anathema's contribution, because their version of "Read between the Lies" is truly cool because of the great vocals which have this special Araya-like pronunciation of the words. The other bands (Necrophobic, Vader, Sinister, Benediction, etc.) also know to convince, and I think that this second Slatanic Slaughter compilation is even better than the first one. This is finally a great Tribute CD, and all Slayer fans should lay their hands on it !!!

THE HOLY BIBLE (Holy)

The special thing at this CD is that all 10 bands play unreleased songs, so people get something new for their money. This CD comes with a 24-(full-coloured) pages booklet with info and stuff. Bands included? Nightfall, Sceptic Flesh, Elend, Tristitia and all the other HOLY bands. This looong CD gets sold for a very cheap price, ... this is really a fair offer from this hard working label !

NORDIC METAL "Tribute to Euronymous" (Necropolis)

The Euronymous cult sells ! With the help of names like Abruptum, Emperor, Mayhem, Marduk, Thorns, Enslaved and five more bands, I'm pretty sure that this compilation sells pretty good. But I have to say that there are six unreleased songs included, so this makes this compilation at least a bit interesting.

THE DARK ART OF WARRIORS "Volume I"

This tape features following bands... Mythological Cold Towers, Elysian Fields, Nazzul, Malkuth, Sacrilegium, Songe' D' Enfer, Havorum, Blazemth, Pagrom, Aeternum Malleficarum, Serpent Rise, Hermh, Gods Tower, Zephyrous, Nocturnal Worshipper. Some bands are great, other aren't. \$5 to... SOUND RIOT, P.O. Box 251, Campo, MS 79002 - 970, Brazil.

Forgotten Jewels

...more classical Metal albums you should never get out of your mind !

Living Death

"Vengeance of Hell"

(Mausoleum/Earthshaker)

"Vengeance of Hell" was Germany's first (vinyl) answer to the U.S. Speed/ Thrash Metal movement which invaded Europe in those days. Back in 1984, **Living Death** haven't found their very own style yet, and you are able to find out their influences in every song of their debut LP. "You and me", the opener, heavily sounds like **Metallica** during their "Kill 'Em All" period, the instrumental "Labyrinth" reminds me a lot at **MSG's** great "Into the Arena", and here and there you'll find riffs that sound like old **Iron Maiden**, **Judas Priest**, **Mercyful Fate** and those kind of bands. But I think that doesn't matter much as **Living Death** do their job well, "Vengeance of Hell" is a real Heavy/ Speed Metal album with good riffs and powerful arrangements. The only thing that may annoy you are Totto's vocals which sound very insane and out of control, just listen to "Riding a Virgin"! But fuck you, I really like them as they have a very own character ! Unfortunately this album was badly produced which is a shame, but good songmaterial can't be ruined by a weak production, right? This album was re-released with a remixed sound in 1986 as far as I know, so there are two different LP versions existing. Anyway, "Vengeance of Hell" is one of the rarest LPs from the German T(h)rash scene, and if you see it for a cheap price, then check it (in case you like old sounds !). **Living Death** changed their sound on the following releases, and was regarded as one of the "Love us or hate us" thrash bands, again due to the vocals which really had an extreme style, especially on "Back to the Weapons" ('86) and "Protected from Reality" ('87). And this is the reason why the band never has been too successful in contrary to their neighbourbands like **Sodom** and **Kreator**. The band ceased to exist in the 90s, and I don't know what happened to the members except for their drummer Atomic Steif (who left his cool band **Violent Force** in '86 to join **Living Death**). He played in **Sacred Chao** and **Sodom** later, but left both bands again.

-Costa-

Demon

"Night of the Demon" (1991)

"The unexpected Guest" (1982)

The early 80s was a good time for British Heavy Metal. Remember: **Venom** was born in those days. Beside the birth of Black Metal, there were some other bands with a dark attitude, well worth checking out, even today.

Demon is one of them, at least their first two albums. "Night of the Demon" was released in 1981. The cover artwork is quite extreme, sowing hands ripping apart a gravecross with innards gashing out. Nevertheless it's kind of aesthetic and far away from some childish and distasteful Death Metal artwork. The music of **Demon's** first album is energetic and melodic Heavy Metal without being commercial. The vocals are rough and the guitar play is catching, both unique components of **Demon**. The lyrics should be interesting for the readers of this magazine, too, for they are well written.

Demon's second album, "The unexpected Guest", came out in 1982. The musical style is nearly the same, just a bit tamed down. There are more calm but also atmospheric songs. The quality of the lyrics increased to a more serious level, same goes for the coverartwork.

The next two **Demon** albums went more and more experimental, influenced by **Pink Floyd** kind of stuff. Not uninteresting. Mal Spooner, guitarist of the band, died during the recordings of the fourth album. After that, **Demon** changed back to sophisticated Heavy Metal. Not bad but beyond the quality of the first two albums. Check 'em out if you want, to relax from an overdose of temporary Black Metal.

-Markus Nick-

CIRITH



UNGOL

CIRITH UNGOL "King Of The Dead"

Talking about real cult-bands in Heavy Metal history you certainly have to mention **Cirith Ungol** from the U.S.A. ! They are one of the few bands who never got full-attention, even if their music is undoubtedly timeless and more original than 90% of the stuff that got released back then. But this is most likely the reason for **Cirith Ungol** being an eternal insiderband but nothing more... "King of the Dead" is the band's second album (the first one is called "Frost & Fire"), and is a milestone of epic but still classical Heavy Metal. The band's trademark were Tim Baker's vocals... you can't describe them... you have to hear them... but all I can tell you is that they sound 100% over the top. For me they sound demonic, as if they come from an extremely obscure mind. Songs like "The Black Machine" or "Death of the Sun" are good examples for this. Beside their own compositions the band has covered the most popular **Bach** composition ever... you know it when you hear it (the Horror-movie classic !). Their third album "One Foot In Hell" is almost as strong as "King of the Dead", especially the titletrack and "Doomed Planet", and the last album "Paradise Lost" I've never heard unfortunately.

At the end I just have to mention that **Cirith Ungol** are probably the band with the greatest fantasy-covers in Heavy Metal history... it would be great to have them as giant posters dressing my walls ! It's a pity that this band ceased to exist due to endless number of disappointments in their career... but I think that knowing that one's albums are very rare and expensive items nowadays probably make those guys feel a bit proud in the end, hopefully. These guys deserve their cult-status !

-Costa-

Witchfynde

"Give 'em Hell" (1979)

"Stagefright" (1981)

"Cloak and Dagger" (1983)

"Lords of Sin" (1984)

Witchfynde is another early 80s band from England. Unlike **Demon**, the music of **Witchfynde** is more influenced by **Black Sabbath**. It is more heavy and dragging, although the vocals are more melodic. The band's attitude towards occultism and things appears more serious and is directly expressed on the cover of "Give'em Hell", showing a goat and a pentagram.

My favourite album is **Witchfynde's** second, "Stagefright". It is very melodic with great hooks and a moody feeling. The style differs from straight forward Metal ("Would not be seen dead in Heaven") to pure ballad ("Madeleine").

Later on, **Witchfynde** changed their vocalist. Unfortunately, as far as I'm concerned. The musical style went back to a more slow and heavy way while the black attitude stayed. **Witchfynde's** final album "Lords of Sin" has a nice gatefold cover and contains a live EP with old songs. The cover photography and the line-up pics inside could have been from a today Black Metal album.

Witchfynde may not be a root of the recent Black Metal musical movement, but they could have been. I think their albums are hard to get nowadays (although the last two were on Belgian MAUSOLEUM), but for those who are rummaging London's record exchange shops from time to time, it may be worthy to look for.

-Markus Nick-

SLAUGHTER "Strappado"

(Diabolic Force)

To be honest with you I find it not necessary to write about this cult-LP, but I noticed that this album gets more and more forgotten... and this is something that should not happen ! **Slaughter** from Canada admitted in their early days being influenced by **Helhammer/ Celtic Frost, Slayer** and a touch of Punk...and yes, that was indeed the band's style ! After two successful demotapes ("Bloody Karmage"/ "Surrender or Die"), they recorded their one and only album in 1986, but due to some fuckin' problems, it wasn't released until 1987. "Strappado" is certainly one of the best releases in that particular year, it was the perfect album for people who still were faithful to the harsh side of Thrashing Death Metal, ... and we should keep in mind that bands like **Anthrax, Helloween, Overkill, Testament**, etc. ruled the scene back then. "Strappado" was hardly known by the European headbangers due to its very bad distribution, so interested maniacs (like me back then) had to pay high import prices for this LP.

But the record is worth every penny /pfennig, because you seldomly hear such classics as the slow and cruel



Nazgûl's Eyrie Productions

proudly presents:

BARATHRUM

Infernal

The most destructive Metal album ever! Whilst even more traditional in their basics, they create a sound not from this world. The true soundtrack to Hell! On tour soon!

MORTUARY DRAPE

Secret Sudaria

The long awaited second full length album of Italia's finest. Ten odes to darkness and evil that are bound to freeze your soul! On tour soon!

COUNTESS

The Book Of The Heretic

The bastard sons of Venom and Bathory have delivered their true masterpiece so far! A monumental concept album including a 12-page story booklet.

AMON GOETH

The Worship

Finally the second album of this wellknown Czechian underground band. Thrashing Black Metal in the vein of early Slayer and Master! After the decline of Master's Hammer and Root, they are the only ones to hold the banner of the once so proud Czechian scene...

Later on, we have scheduled the first releases on our sub-label ORIENTAL ERUPTIONS with two bands from Malaysia: LANGSUIR "The Eastern Cruelty" CD and SIL KHANNAZ "Pendita Gila" MCD.

Early 1997 C.E. will furthermore face the release of new albums by DECAYED, DAWN FALL and WIZARD, as well as HELLWITCH, SARGATANAS and the infamous DOOMSTONE via CONQUISTADOR RECORDS, our department for the (South) American continent.

The NEP backcatalogue:

- DAWN FALL "Dominance Of Darkness" CD
40 min. Extremely raw and distorted subterranean BM from Germany.
- BEHEMOTH "...From The Pagan Vastlands" CD
36 min. The first CD release of this wellknown Polish band.
- COUNTESS "The Return Of The Horned One" CD
44 min. Raw orthodox BM from the Netherlands with a healthy 80s dose.
- BIFROST "Pagan Reality" CD
44 min. Pagan Heavy Metal from the Netherlands.
- CRUACHAN "Tuatha Na Gae" CD
57 min. Pagan Folk Metal from Ireland.
- BARATHRUM "Hailstorm" CD
60 min. Extremely violent and brutal BM from Finland. Not for wimps!
- THA-NORR "Wolfenzeitler" CD
61 min. Fast and aggressive BM from Germany. Hellhammer on speed!
- AMON GOETH "Call The Master" CD
44 min. The remastered 3rd demo. Very traditional BM from Czechia.
- COUNTESS "Ad Maiorem Sathanac Gloriam" CD
49 min. The third of the storms.. Orthodox BM - a classic!
- BARATHRUM "Eerie" CD
65 min. If you want something REAL - try this if you dare! Heavy as shit!!
- BIFROST "The Wildest Fire" CD
54 min. Everybody talks about Heavy Metal - Bifrost play it!

All albums are available for 20 DM each directly from our address. Please add a postage fee of 5 DM per order. This is worldwide. Please note that in order to keep the postage as low as possible, we mail orders from overseas without the plastic cases.

Payment in advance is however required.

Distributors get in touch for wholesale prices and possible trades!

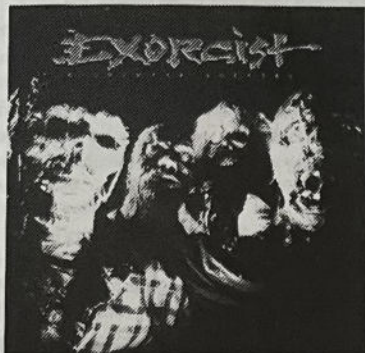
NAZGÛL'S EYRIE PRODUCTIONS

P.O. BOX 100 710
93007 REGENSBURG
GERMANY

!!!! SPECIAL OFFER !!!!

Get 5 CDs from the N.E.P. Backcatalogue for the price of 70 DM (incl. postage)

"F.O.D.", the neckbreaker "The Curse", the pure nightmare "Nocturnal Hell", the powerful "Incinerator" and of course the ultraheavy "Tales of the Macabre", a song about Charles Manson. This LP is very heavy and intense, it has such a raw 'n' dirty guitarsound, and it's great to listen to both vocalists Terry and Dave... both of them know to convince! Every fan of Black/ Thrash/ Death Metal should definitely have this album in his collection, even if you have to pay more than \$30/ \$40 for it... the album is still worth the money, and even more...



EXORCIST "Nightmare Theatre"
(Roadrunner/ Cobra)

A mystery still surrounds this band and its members. Some people say that the guys from Virgin Steele hide behind Exorcist (at least the album was produced by one of the guys)... and I can't rid of the feeling that the Piledriver guy had his hands in Exorcist. Just listen to "Nightmare Theatre", and you'll detect some parallels to Piledriver, both lyrically and musically... Both Exorcist and Piledriver know to combine obscurity with (a touch of) humour.

When it comes to the metallic style of Exorcist I would say it's Black Power / Speed Metal with great traditional Heavy Metal riffs. Listen to the opener "Black Mass"... pure straight ahead pounding Metal! The voice is deep, almost Death Metal like, and is quite dark for my taste. You hear that no amateurs are playing the instruments in Exorcist... good drums, great guitarsoli, etc... Songtitles like "Death By Bewitchment", "Megawatt Mayhem", "Execution of the Witches", speak for themselves, and so does the (quite amusing and cool) cover! "Nightmare Theatre" is a rare album nowadays, because not many headbangers did pick up this LP back in '86. Go on a second hand LP market and buy this LP instead of three/ four ordinary Black Metal CDs... in case you find it. Good luck!

-Costa-

CARNIVORE "I" (Roadrunner)

Yeah, a lot of horny girls get a wet underpant when looking at Pete Steele, and his new band Type O' Negative managed to be one of the best-selling bands in the Metal / Goth- I don't know what- scene.

But how many of the new fans know about "Lord Petrus Steele" 's scandalous past, about Carnivore? This was one of the most controversial and boycotted bands around. Their debut LP was released in the beginning of '86, and was one of the harshest offerings known to Metal maniacs back then, especially because of Petrus' ugly and hateful vocals. They probably were comparable to the vocals of Venom's Cronos ("Bloodlust"/ "In Nomine Sathanas"), but were even more extreme. The music was a sort of powerful Speed Metal with doomy parts, and even today I think it's still great stuff. Nuclear hymns like "Predator", "Male Supremacy" (the first and still best song where Steele uses his deep sung voice), "God Is Dead", etc. still make me bite on my teeth for they are full of anger, simply fantastic! The worst (or best?) thing at this metallic messenger of world war III and IV were the lyrics which really are below the belt... pure violence without any sign of taste... no boundaries of extremity seem to be defined here!

This first LP remains a classic and is certainly a pain in the ass for all wimpy, Metal hating Type O' Negative fans!

-Costa-

BATHORY



a band like **BATHORY** needs no introduction, so let's fuckin' start with the interview...

what have you been doing since the release of "Blood on Ice" ? spending the money you earned with it, haha ?

"Blood On Ice" was released in May this year I guess, since then I have had a nice Summer off duty so to speak. In August I entered the studio to record my second solo album. It'll be released at start of 1997. It'll be a double album containing 22 songs ranging from brutal Punk stuff to acoustic pieces of unplugged style...

what was the reason to release "Blood on Ice" ? in old interviews you did not like to release it, because the fans/ critics would say "it sounds like manowar" anyway, why your change of mind ? I mean, the album is great, and it is not a negative thing being compared with manowar, is it ?

"I guess I have explained the whole situation behind releasing "Blood On Ice" quite well in the CD booklet that follows with the CD (it's dual language English/German). The demand from the fans to release the album was so powerful and the whole project was such a great challenge to me, I felt I really should have a go and try to make a good album out of the original material... About me talking about people probably making comparisons with ~~manowar~~ was simply not an excuse for not putting it out, but mainly to show that I was aware of the fact that the comparison was gonna be made by allot of people, not to piss on "Blood On Ice" as an album or ~~manowar~~ as a band."

why have you re-recorded the vocals ? weren't you satisfied with the old ones anymore ? were they "different" (like less sung) to the new ones ?

"The reason why some new vocals was added to the original material was that not all of the tracks had vocals laid down. Read the story on the recording in the CD-booklet on this and you'll get a more detailed picture."

well, in the meantime I got the album on lp, so I now read your words ! so, is there still any unreleased songmaterial existing, or was "Blood on Ice" the last messenger from the past ? I know that you once had a song entitled "witchcraft"... how many old songs have never been recorded ?

"It's true that there is allot of material still unreleased. Not that I think even half of it is even worth releasing, not even the most die-hard **BATHORY** fan could enjoy some of it. There is some demo-stuff made in 1983 and early 1984, some songs from an album that was never completed from the end of the 80s etc... "Witchcraft"

is a really old song. I don't even remember how to play or sing it, so unfortunately that is a track that no one will ever be able to hear. I'm not even sure I have a tape of it anywhere..."

talking about "requiem" and "octagon": a lot of fans are not very fond of those albums and are (to say the truth) disappointed, especially of "octagon"... they say that the typical **BATHORY** feeling/ atmosphere is gone, how do you see "octagon" compared to all the other lps you did ? why do you think that this album received bad response ? is this another **BATHORY** album which gets criticised first and hailed afterwards ?

"It's true that whenever **BATHORY** puts an album out, 50% of our fans are always disappointed. Some of our fans accept the Black/Death type of albums, but cannot listen to the more Nordic/ Epic albums. Others do not like the Black/ Death but hail the Nordic Epic as legendary stuff. About "Requiem" and "Octagon" I think the problem was that people had gotten used to **BATHORY** sounding a certain way like "Twilight of the Gods"... but here they were offered two albums of brutal Death Metal. Not everybody (who had a definitive idea of what **BATHORY** was/ is all about) could accept two such brutal albums. In some circles they are considered to be among the best stuff we've done. But as a musician and an artist you can not always write stuff to satisfy all out there. In the end what an album is all about is satisfying yourself. I wanted to make an album like "Requiem" and "Octagon" at that time. I wanted to make a brutal, dry and violent production at the time. What one person may think of any album is not important... there is always other albums to listen to should you not like the new one."

what do you see when you look into the crystal ball when it comes to **BATHORY**'s tomorrow ?

"I have a million of ideas for the future. I don't know yet the specific style and what it may sound like, but I promise that it is gonna be something really special. We are gonna start working on the next **BATHORY** album next year, and hopefully it will be out sometime early Summer next year. No titles as of yet though..."

to what kind of music are listening nowadays ? you often said that you don't listen to metal very much... but you play metal... why this ?

"I listen to virtually everything really. I have no specific favourite type of music now a days... I hardly buy CDs and follow no "living" acts die-hard."

when you think of old bands, which ones have survived in your heart? do you still listen to them here and then?

'Slayer have always had a big place in my heart, because they have remained true to their style and sound. As far as any other old acts... I guess most of them are gone since long now... **VENOM** reunited for one show, but other than **BATHORY**, **SLAYER**, **METALLICA** and I guess one or two others there aren't any bands around from the really old days.'

well, I can not agree, just think of **KREATOR**, **MEGADETH**, **SODOM**, **RAZOR**, even **NECROMICON**, etc. are still around, even if their sound has changed during the years...

you once said that you made your **quorthon** solop, because you were (or still are) a big kiss fan. so, what do you think of all the re-union stuff that happens today? not only kiss, but also **VENOM**, **TWISTED SISTER** and even **SEX PISTOLS** try to revive their old days? why are so many people hot to see all those bands? don't all the new bands of today have anything exciting to offer anymore?

'I can not believe that I have ever said I made the first solo album because I am/were a **Slasher** fan. That was never the reason. The reason was to take a step aside and see what could be done outside of **BATHORY** for fun really. I guess ultimately the people who gets the most out of all these re-unifications and revival stuff are the fans/the audiences. They will decide which act should fail or succeed, there's really nothing about any of that. But I would have preferred to see the original **Slasher** without make-up and blood on this world tour...'

will you go to one of those kiss gigs in near future? and what about **VENOM**?

'I will probably go to see **Slasher** in Stockholm in three weeks but never in a life time should I go to see **VENOM**... not even if anyone pays me a million Deutsch Mark to go and see them.'

this you can tell your grandpa, but no me, haha! but let's continue... **BATHORY** has been one of the bands (like **BULLDOZER**, **HELLHAMMER**, **SODOM**, etc.) who got ridiculed by the press in the mid 80s... which were the worst reactions you ever got? do you still remember some of the old reviews?

'I guess there is a time when we all care allot for reviews and stuff... for allot of years now I have not been bothered with even reading my own interviews or reviews on **BATHORY** albums... I don't care at all... I have been doing this stuff now for 14 years and have not too much love for the media for no other reason other than that I feel a single person's idea about an album should not influence thousands of readers whether they should buy it or not... the Führer-Prinzip, you know...'

yes, that's true, but reviews are necessary for a rough orientation, aren't they? also, a bad review can sometimes be a reason for some maniacs to buy an album...

the new wave of black metal was heavily influenced by your first three lps, and you were regarded as a kind of god for many new black metal musicians. but when I read newer interviews of you, I can't get rid of the feeling that you like to destroy your "cult status" with statements like "under the sign..." is your worst lp, and things like that. don't you want to be a kind of idol for all those young satanists? or is black metal something that belongs to the past, and that you can't take for serious anymore?

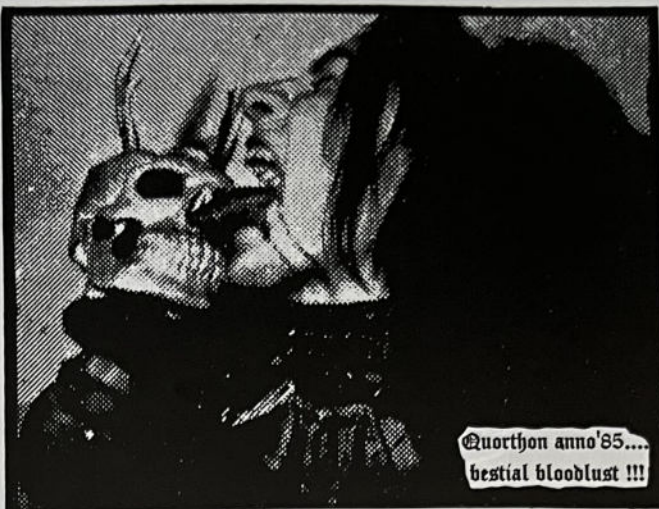
'It's not a question of wanting to be an idol or not... I am just perfectly honest when I say "Under the Sign of the Black Mark" is not a very good album at all. It's just my personal opinion. I am not trying to kill the **BATHORY** legend and piss on the cult status around the name **BATHORY** and our albums. But all this legend status and cult or whatever you may call it was created by other people and I have nothing to do with that (You certainly have something to do with that... you created the mystery around **BATHORY** in the beginning, and most important, you created the music... - cd.). When I say I don't like some **BATHORY** stuff, some **BATHORY** fans go crazy and raise hell because I talk bad about a **BATHORY** album, like if I wasn't in a position to be able to have an opinion at all... Of course I know how much **BATHORY** has meant to hundreds of bands and to tens of thousands of fans... but to me **BATHORY** is just another act. Very little of what **BATHORY** has done over the years is really good, most is shit... but the important thing is that we all understand *when* and *how* this stuff was recorded... we have to put everything into its right time-slot. We all progress, develop, improve and learn...'

how has **quorthon** as a person changed during the years?

'The same way we all change... we grow and get older and wiser with time... better musicians and better understand what life and music is all about... well, most of us I hope!'

what differs the new black metal wave from the old one? are those two scenes comparable in your opinion? can you take most of the new bands for serious, or are they just a horde of teenagers for you who just like to provoke with the help of satan?

'No. One cannot compare **BATHORY**, **Slayer**, **Venom**, **Hellhammer**, **Sodom** and the rest of the old acts with what's happening today. Mainly because first of all there's more than ten years separates these acts with what's going on out there today. It's true we influenced a lot of these new acts but it's an entirely different market and scene now than ten years ago. These new acts carry the torch on into the future and I love it even though I know absolutely nothing about what they sound like or their names... I don't believe Black Metal was ever dead at all... music will always be



Quorthon anno'85...
bestial bloodlust !!!

around, only fashion comes and goes.'

please could you tell us how many copies you have sold of each album? would be interesting to know... I guess you still sold a lot of cDs/lps in the 90s as well, after black metal came back to reign?

'The sales figures concerning **BATHORY** was never affected of the frequency of Black Metal in fanzines or magazines... We have sold more and more for each year even though the market is allot tougher now a days. There are so many acts out there today, today a new act can be glad to sell more than 10.000 copies of a debut album. It's not fair to compare sales figures because our first album has been out for 12 years and is considered a classic, whereas "Octagon", or my solo album are totally different type of albums and have only been out for a short time. But I have been able to live from the albums alone for the past five years, so we sell allot of albums around the world.'

why are you so faithful to black mark? I mean, they haven't released anything that was as strong as **BATHORY**... haven't you got any other offers from bigger labels so far?

'That's your personal opinion that **BLACK MARK** hasn't released anything as strong as **BATHORY**... it's true that we are their first babies in the sense that we sell more than any other act even though we do not tour and make videos like the others, we mean allot to them as far as prestige and credibility is concerned and they do allot for us because of that... We also draw attention to the label and this in the end helps allot of great young acts reaching a record contract and an album release, etc... of course we have been approached by other major labels, but we have always said "no" to each and everyone of them basically because we want to remain an independent band on an independent label... the same reason why we never signed any big merchandise contracts.'

which were the coolest, most memorable things you experienced with **BATHORY**? I can imagine that having a band helps you to see a lot of people and different countries...

'I don't know really... what about fucking girls in limousines and 747s at 20.000 feet above the atlantic (sounds great! -cd.), or signing autographs for six hours in two continents on promo trips, or doing TV and radio... I don't know... the greatest thing is probably having been able to make music and putting on Vinyl/ CD... the other is the love and support from hundreds of thousands of fans all these years... money couldn't buy that I tell you, man!'

yes, I can imagine this! you can't beat the feeling, haha! ... heavy metal seems to be a musical style that cannot be killed, it's alive for about 26 years now !!! why do you think is metal still popular, why doesn't it ever get out of style?

'Metal has got a specific sound and style that is very definitive even though there is a big difference between bands like Bon Jovi (is this Metal ??? -cd.) and **BATHORY**. But call it Hard Rock, Metal, Black Metal, Death Metal, Speed, Thrash, Epic, Doom, Gothic, Grunge or whatever... its the guitar based hard style right through it all... Metal and Rock will never die!'

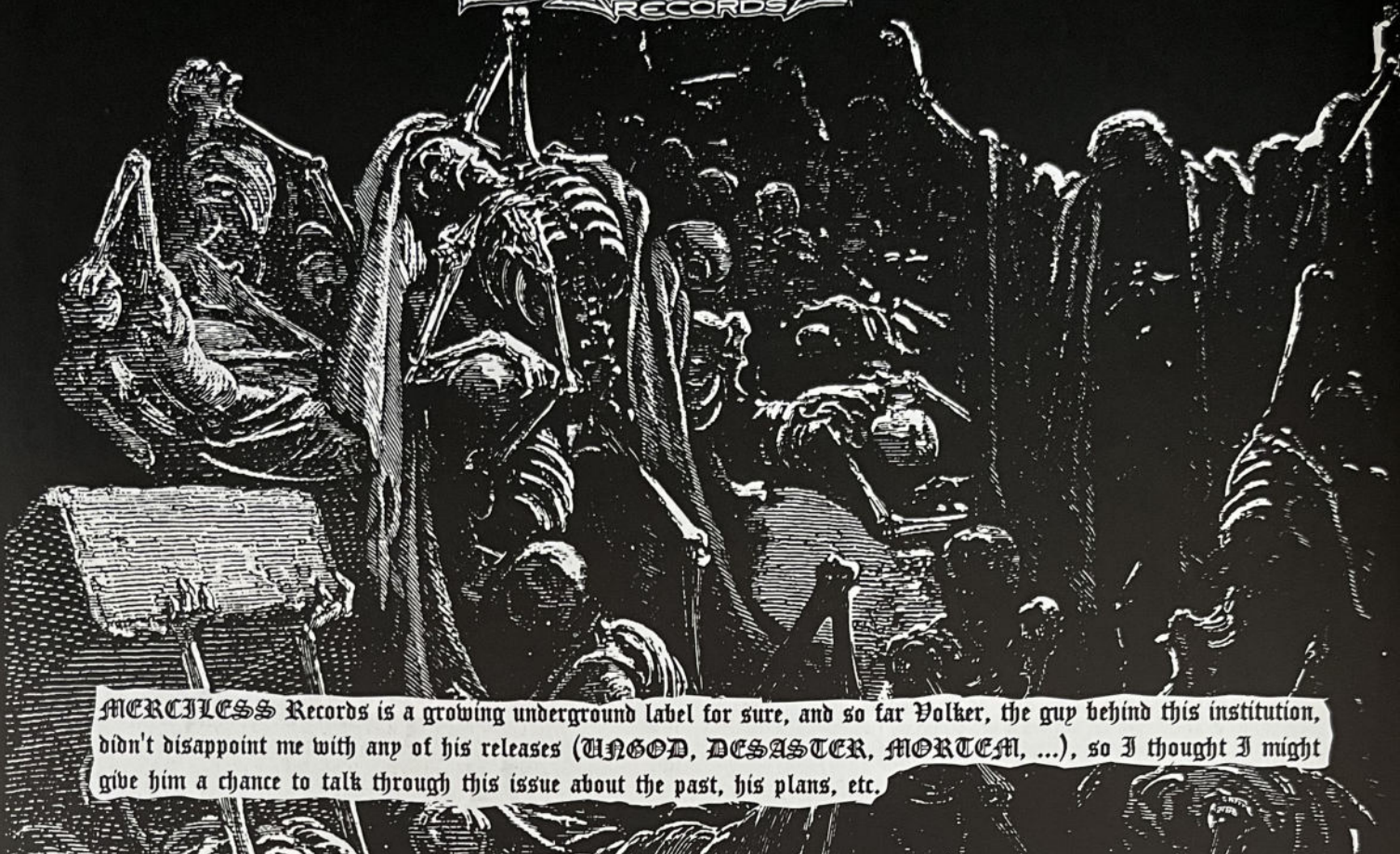
there's talk of a **BATHORY** tribute lp/cd... have you already heard some of the bands that will be included on that release? have you heard any **BATHORY** covers at all so far?

'I have known about several **BATHORY** tribute albums being made over the past two or three years, but I haven't yet heard of any out on the market... I know that several bands have done **BATHORY** covers on their album and I have even heard a few of them... It's great and you feel proud and start to think how much the stuff that I have done for these years have meant to a whole generation of Metal fans... are the **BATHORY** herdes still existing?

'**BATHORY** herdes is just a bond of fans... there's no official fan club or anything... anyone into **BATHORY** is a horde member/ warrior, any final message to the fans?

'Thank you for all these years of great memories... You are all part of the **BATHORY** legend... without you it would never have been possible. Hail the herdes!'

MERCILESS RECORDS



MERCILESS Records is a growing underground label for sure, and so far Volker, the guy behind this institution, didn't disappoint me with any of his releases (UNGOD, DESASTER, MORTEM, ...), so I thought I might give him a chance to talk through this issue about the past, his plans, etc.

When did the idea appear to become an active member of the Metal underground? Do you still know how it was when you began your activities under the name "MERCILESS"?

In the middle of 1989 I began to write to bands and labels to ask for their stuff, because well-known distribution services were quite too expensive (LP 25,-). I always asked for 10 LPs and the prices I've got were cheap for me. I made a lot of real bad experiences with fuckin' rip offs like SERAPHIC DECAY Records, etc. At this time I also got in touch with Euroonymous, he started just at the same time DEATHLIKE SILENCE Production. His first release was the Merciless "The Awakening" album. The sellings of this album were so incredibly good for me, that I've decided to call my distribution service MERCILESS!

It took you some years until you managed to release a band's product on MERCILESS... why did it take so long? Lack of money or lack of bands?

I never had the thoughts "I must have a release out". But after H.S.B. Records from Holland had released the Ungod "Circle of..." LP, the band wanted to release a CD version as well. Economical problems at H.S.B. Records prevented this plan, so we all decided to re-release the album on CD through MERCILESS Records.

You have released three full-length LPs/CDs so far, not really much, but I guess that there are already plans for the upcoming time. Would you reveal some of them to us? What will be next on MERCILESS?

I've to correct you, Costa, the 4th MERCILESS album is out now (oh, I've forgotten to count the Martyrium CD! -ed), Mortem's "Demon Tales"! But yes, it's not really much, quality is more important than quantity. There are of course plans for future activities, but nothing's sure now, so I don't let you know. Next release will be a Desaster "Stormbringer" Mini album, and Acheron "Anti God, Anti Christ" Vinyl (LP), with bonus tracks, which is a license product from MORIBOUND Records.

Sounds good! Have you tried to sign a band without being successful at the end? If yes, which bands were these? By the way, for what kind of bands are you generally looking?

It's always difficult to know in advance if a band will be successful at the end, I believe in the bands I sign! I'm looking for original Metal bands which are able to push adrenalin with their music in my veins!

What does a label need (except for good bands) to be successful? What is the most important thing for the sales? Is it hard for you to get your stuff sold on an international basis?

To be honest to yourself! Important things are also bands which are involved in the underground, promotion work and good contacts to other labels/distros. Perhaps I'm in contact with more than 200, so the sellings on an international basis are quite ok.

As you are doing your distribution service for some years now... What experiences have you made during that time with all those labels, bands, etc? I heard that the old NO FASHION guy has heavily ripped you off, and that you (as a result) once visited him due to that..., right?

Fuckin' Rip Offs destroy the scene! Destroy that what is destroying you! Yes, I visited Tomas after he tried to rip me off (and several others as well). He was looking very strange when I stood eye to eye before him, and saying "Hey, I'm Volker from MERCILESS Records, Germany. And I don't wanna be ripped by you!" This asshole was using all the money he's received for drugs! I found some interesting goods in his apartment, and said "Thanx, good bye!"

What do you think of the business-side of Metal anyway?

Too many people with money-making attitude are in business, and they are selling out

the scene. I really hate the business-side, but it's important for a financial existence, so I've to do some unpleasant compromises.

How have your customers' (behaviour/ taste) changed during the years? You often sell at concerts, so there isn't a lack of personal experiences...

The customers didn't change over the years! Mostly long-haired, beer-drinking headbangers like me. From 14 up to 40 year-old people. I want the personal contact with the customers, so you can find me at a lot of concerts!

Once you said that you are (again) going to distribute stuff that is more underground, but when I take a look at your current lists I must say that it's more the trend stuff instead of the underground one... Why this? Has your principle changed in order to stay alive (financially)?

Hey, I don't like this question (I know! -ed.)! Well, that's probably the compromise that I've mentioned in the "business" question. What can I say, I'm going step by step forward, any other direction would be stupid. I never want to leave the underground and I never deny my roots. Years ago I was one of the first in Germany who was selling stuff of the new age of Black Metal. I'm still selling the same kind of stuff from the same labels! So please Costa, tell me out of your eyes what is wrong with me! I always try to find out bands with self-financed CDs or new labels! How would you describe "underground"? (Oh, it's me who's fucked now, because that's a tough question to answer. Let's say it this way: Underground is the institution beyond the commercial trends, but it's really hard to find nowadays, I must admit! However, leave the real boring trendy releases in the dust, that's the only way to make shit disappear! -ed.)

You released a lot of German stuff, like UNGOD, FULGOR, CABAL, MARTYRIUM, DESASTER. MORTEM is the only exception as they hail from Peru. Why this interest in German bands? Do you think it's your job to bring German Metal some attention again? Are there any other German bands you'd like to sign in future?

Difficult question for me. To be honest, I really don't know. The reason is probably the easy work, no problems with translation, etc. At the moment I don't have plans for more German bands. I don't feel responsible for the attention of German Metal scene, but I hope to have done part of it (Yes, you have! -ed.). Bands have to do that with good music!

Although you are one of the smaller labels, you decided to still press your releases on Vinyl as well... Is it easy to sell LPs? Is the interest in vinyl still strong as far you can tell?

It's definitely not easy to sell LPs, because German postage rates kill! I've got a collection of circa 1.200 LPs, and I want to see my products on vinyl as well. The interest in Vinyl is still alive, but mostly by people who are older than around 25 years.

How is your personal metallic taste? Are there any LPs in your collection you would defend with your life, hehe? Perhaps the first MERCILESS LP (the band!)?

Since more than 16 years I'm listening to Metal music now, always to the underground-like stuff. Yes, you are right, there are some items in my collection I would defend with my life, like the Merciless album. But also the raries of Mercyful Fate, Mayhem, Possessed, Venom, 1st Watchtower or any others.

Have you ever tried to create an own band? How would your own band sound if you had the ability of a musician like (let's say) Glenn Tipton?

I never had the idea to create a band, I can't play any instrument and cannot even sing, so it would sound horrible! But when I would be a musician, I would create a kind of Metal which would sound totally different to the wellknown music. Like Mercyful Fate or VolVod had done.

IRONSWORD



Those of you who think that real traditional Heavy Metal is dead should better continue to read, because IRONSWORD is here to teach you a lesson !!! Tann, who's the only warrior behind this growing Portuguese Metal force, managed to record a promotape which includes three songs of pure metallic delight. It's a very promising tape, this is the beginning of something that will grow strong in future. After an ordinary intro a song called "I am the Defender" awaits you, a simple but effective atmospheric tune that knows to convince, followed by "The Flame and the Sword", which is a great track with strong riffs reminding me a lot at early IRON MAIDEN ("Phantom of the Opera"), cool. The final song is 100% a highlight for all old Metalbangers... it starts off with a JUDAS PRIEST/RUNNING WILD-like riff and has a MANOWAR kind of chorus... no wonder why the song is called "Battlecry". All three songs are done with certain intelligence, you feel this when listening to them, and it's great to hear that Tann tries to sing, he simply dares it, even if his voice isn't perfect yet. He even uses high screams, something that nobody (except for the old bands) does nowadays. The feeling is right and you hear that IRONSWORD seems to be a honest mission of forgotten Heavy Metal, with no commercial or trendy background.

Therefore I'm proud to present you this long interview with Tann, the creator of this promising band...

Most of the readers have surely never heard of IRONSWORD before, so would you introduce it? For what does your creation stand?

I'll introduce just by saying that Ironsword is a Metal band in the old forgotten spirit of the 80s, may it be Heavy Metal or Power Metal, I don't care what people label me or if they like my work or not, I make music for myself only and not with the main intention of pleasing the audience. Ironsword is more than music. It's Lusitanian art, culture brought from the past. I live through Ironsword!

Only a few months ago I started spreading my band across all nations, that's why most readers never heard of it before. My band is new in flesh and soul, but quite old in spirit. It's a long time dream of mine that became a neverending quest, of creating something different, unique, where I could see myself as a bard warrior singing, narrating legends, visions, dreams of my homeland kingdom which I rightfully belong. To pass all my feelings, emotions, knowledge to music and poetry. I had this huge urge but only recently I decided to move forward with it.

You mailed out a 3-track promotape... what were the reactions to it? I mean, it's not music that people are used to hear from a new "band".

'Yes, I consciously know that! Times have changed, but not me... This promo recorded during Yule '95 ev, was the first step. I guess I owe a bit to

some fanzines who got really interested and intrigued when I sent them the presentation booklet, such as your case actually. It encouraged me when I faced all of a sudden million requests for listening any audio stuff of mine. It wasn't necessary too much time to convince me, so I just asked a friend of mine if I could record at home on his 4 track recorder some songs, and immediately the whole thing was done. I maybe have rushed things a bit according to my plans, but when you see opportunities, it's better to seize them before it's too late! A kind of gift !!

However, on one hand the reactions I could ascertain were right according to my predictions, no big surprise! I have full consciousness of all weak points on that promo, and the hard ameliorations I have to work in future. On the other hand, for my astonishment there was a complete adherence to my so dated sound. I hail all those who loyally supported me! I'll keep the spirit alive, still fighting in the name of Heavy Metal! That's what I offer with respect...

Has the tape brought you any useful fruits (beside personal satisfaction of course)?

'It's too early to say... it makes me reflect alot when you're suddenly faced with several identical comments such as "IRONSWORD is the last hope in the Heavy Metal underground scene" or "I haven't heard such a brilliant traditional thing for ages!" ... another gift, perhaps ?? (I guess so as I

agree to these comments as well! -ed.)

I feel proud and completely satisfied with that tape, afterall a 4 tracker limitates your composing, but I just wanted to capture the "feeling" of the power and energy, spontaneous as possible. I still have alot to learn on my way. For the moment, I will concentrate on the work I've started with all my heart. I'm not running after any throne! My ego is not bigger than myself! Let's wait and be patient...' Great and fuckin' seldom attitude indeed! Some of you arrogant (Black) Metal musicians out there should better think in that way, too, instead of praising themselves too much. But back to you, Tann: How came the idea to play music that is totally in the traditional 80s Heavy Metal style ??? I hear nothing but old (direct) influences like MANOWAR, JUDAS PRIEST, IRON MAIDEN, RUNNING WILD, etc. in your creations....

'Well, I've always kept the flame of Heavy Metal burning inside me, alive! Musical evolution does not make part of my vocabulary. Being faithful to the roots and traditions is my priority! So, consider it a natural thing from my part, to continue what others left behind and held high once! As I told you it was something I had planned long ago, but for some reasons I never got the chance to achieve. I cannot imagine how it would be if I had started 6 years ago!

People should believe more in themselves. If a

person really knows what he wants, he gets there easily. On the contrary, if you don't know your destiny, you end up wasting too many time going round in circles. The most important is to define our goals that hich we like to do. Also, I cannot permit that others oppose to what I like to do... I am free ! I am a musician, I play what I like, in solitude I've followed with enormous pasion my musical rainbow path !

So what is missing in today's music if you have dedicated yourself to the old style ? Why doesn't most of the new stuff fascinate you anymore ?

'A lot of people do not understand such a phenomenon, but I remember when Metal was a way of life, something united, mystical. Metal was always connected to the concept of freedom and that's what I miss mostly from the 80s. The early 90s were ofuscated by excess and bad quality that we can so witness nowadays. Millions of shitty bands with rockstar attitudes ! Nowadays it's more a matter of image, perhaps it's a reflex of lack of motivation, lack of identity from the new generations. I regret as well the fact that Metal is now a musical vicious business, all the pure values and principles were easily betrayed by materialism and commercialism (yes, but capitalism gets more extreme and knows no boundaries, unfortunately ! -ed.). Some of the responsibilities for all this change I can point some people from the media who wanted to make Metal a normal style of music, image, mixed among others. These people only speak good of what they like or what is fashion, they don't pay attention to what the audience wants. Probably, if I had today 13 years old and listen to the first time a modern Metal band, I certainly would not enjoy it, since it's too mundane. That's why I avoid all reading big magazines or listening radioshowes, etc...

Nothing is dead as it seems, although nothing returns in the same form... for several people Metal is a fashion, and all fashions after a while disappear for these people, but not for a certain elite ! It all starts when you're trying to be a part of today's society and you're rejected. In Singapore, I think, it's forbidden to have long hair ! I remember 10 years ago when you walked on a crowded sidewalk, dressed with black leather, spikes, etc. everyone point you as a menace ! So, everything starts somewhere, someplace...

It's rare to find new stuff that really fascinate me, there are some exceptions, but it's rare. I rather listen to traditional Metal, Classical music or folk music which are two other pure musical sources. For any cause, there is a reason, and a truth behind it. Or you believe and fight, or...

Why do you do a band on your very own ? Aren't you open for other musicians to join your mission or is it simply too complicated to find musicians that fit into the band ?

'First of all it's too complicated to find good musicians, conciliating taste for old Metal sounding, as well as individuals with strong character and personality, with interest for Portuguese historical background, etc. It's too difficult, you know. It's not healthy for a band having always an unstable line-up. Every member for Ironsword should be like me, which is something impossible ! That's not of my interest having a complete line-up, I don't care as it's useless ! Not even when I first idealised Ironsword, and according to my plans this shall prevail. That's why I follow my path alone, as I feel capable to be in charge of all things, really capable enough.

Besides, all the experiences I had of playing in bands before didn't leave me with such good memories, and I always felt I had to accomodate and compromise to others which had the result of slowing me down, to share with others my personal ideas, etc. That is why this quest must be shared by myself only, because it is too intimate, and still I am trying to prove something to myself. When a group of people, may it be clan, team or band, do don't respect each other, there can be no harmony in it, unless it is for materialistic purposes, but then it's just a small concept box of apparent happiness ! I

rather remain pure at heart with no materialistic goal above my own life...'

What about other songmaterial ? Have you already developed some more new old-sounding songs ? Please give some details...

'Hopefully very soon ! Yes, still this Autumn I'm planning to enter a decent studio and record a demotape entitled "Power Metal Thunder" with 6 new songs, so everyone with no restrictions, will certainly lay their hands on a new Ironsword release, on the contrary of the promo which was only available to fanzines, mags, radioshowes. This time I can offer more time of music, more quality and more Power Metal old sounding. A real important presentation card for everyone...

I'm still in a composition phase, but I have some new songs ready like "Warriors Blood" and "Stormbound", which are going to be featured on this demo.

And I guess that's it for this year. In spite of all the invitations I have to participate in several compilation CDs, etc., the idea of wasting material in everycomer who says he's interested in Ironsword, does not cheer me up ! So far, I refused all offers ! Let's wait and see how things develop for my side, then I can decide... only time will tell now !'

"Power Metal Thunder"

Do you think that there's still a market for real Heavy Metal music the way it was meant to be ?

'With all these small labels popping up like mushrooms ? That we can so easily find in record stores so many releases of bands who don't know how to handle their instruments ! With shitty rehearsalsound ? Five thousand bands all sounding like Pantera, Sepultura or Paradise Lost ? Major labels who offer honesty and trust to their artists, when these great values are something you possess inside and do not give for free, unless you want something in exchange - "music for profit !" - and the values become senseless ? Or just be something enslaved on the hook of vicious musical business ? Surviving ? There can be a market of course. Just close your eyes, and lesser man in wise, for he is in deep sleep to the world he lives, and the hunted prey who dwells within the calls to be slaughtered... enslavement is unbearable... but the hunters still make profit of the dead useless meat to eat !'

IRONSWORD is based upon paganism, and I noticed that you are really into it. When did this subject started to interest you ? Any special moment for the "aha !" effect ?

'There wasn't such a thing as the "aha !" effect ! Yes, I am a free man and I truly recognize myself ! There was an intersection of factors who contributed for the manifestations and senses that I was able to interpretate and understand before. At school in my childhood I heard for the first time the first inhabitants of Portugal, the Lusitanians, an Iberian tribe of Pre-Celtic origin who fought during centuries the Roman legions who came to the Peninsula to conquer by force our kingdom and to enslave all tribes.

This interest increased as time passed by and I soon realised that this part of Portuguese history, although very restrict, as some of the events are mixed with legends, is very rich and significant, and how I felt more than linked with that, I started to buy all books possible on my homeland ancestors, visiting pagan sites, exploring and researching regions, monuments, studying all in detail, drawing maps, etc., and it became a quest just naturally...

It makes me puke why most of the Portuguese historians ignore this part of Portuguese history, labeling the Lusitanians as "Savages" and "Barbarians", when their known intentions was to form one Iberian Nation early that time in the Peninsula by the gathering of all tribes. If they were really barbarians, the kind of "drink, rape and kill",

how come they fought for their freedom for centuries against the biggest and powerful potency of that age, the Roman Empire ? ...and that's not all, several christian churches destroyed several archeological evidences from that time just to finish with probable "incentives for pagan practices and superstitions" !!! I just don't recognize nowadays in Portuguese people's mentality and behaviour any heritage left by the Lusitanians ! Slaves of modern technology and materialism... (We are living in a century of with the biggest lost of old values ever, frustrating as it is. But it's a sign of the upcoming chaos. ! -ed.)

I think it needs a certain time, when you have a different uncommon vision towards life and death, to shout "That wich does not kill us, makes us stronger", and important it is to play the character role of Nietzsche's Zarathustra, once in a while or probably always, as only a free man is capable enough of influence his own destiny...'

Portugal is a nice country, you certainly agree, don't you ? But can you fully live a pagan lifestyle in your country ? Are you dependend on any kind of jobs in order to live ? Do you live in an old house with the right old atmosphere of forgotten times ?

'Of course Portugal is a wonderful country, I live here, remember !! There isn't only sun, beaches, good food and cheap prices. In spite of the "Romans" who want us as puppets... Well, I am employed, you have to work to get paid here and I live in a normal flat ! For something more than a philosophy or a way of life in a visionsight, adapting to new parameters, base upon old noble values and principles that the elder ones lived in harmonious balance with nature, makes a free man constantly moving, longing in a place called Mother Earth ! Through blood and soul you can fulfill all desires... ! But back to music: To play in the old traditional Heavy Metal style affords playing some coverversions first to get the right feeling, so which songs have taught you this great old style ? What do you think are the most important musical forces for the invention of new riffs ?

'Hmmm... I don't think so. I learned everything by myself only, when a cousin of min who plays in a folk band offered me an accoustic guitar on my birthday. I never bought books, nor tapes either... at the beginning at least, I never was able to do an decent coverversion, because they were too difficult. The only thing I could get was just a few riffs, you know. However, Motörhead was always my favourite for coverversions. Songs like "Bomber", "Iron Fist", "Deaf Forever", "Built for Speed", "Killed by Death", "Back at the funny Farm", etc. such nostalgia it brigs... However, at the moment it is not so difficult as it was, but hard to cose, among AC/DC, Saxon, etc., but in near or distant future, it's not concrete though, I will definitely do a coverversion of Manilla Road ! They're absolutely brilliant (Yes, indeed ! -ed.) !

Ironsword naturally was brought to live, by several factors all mixed together. There are alot of things that inspire me, not only musically, but nature, Portuguese mythology and protohistorical background, etc. Musically, I'm inspired by everything I consider good quality music, from classical music like Mussorgsky, Grieg, Barber, Prokofiev, Handel, Debussy; folk stuff like The Chieftains, Clannad, Hedningarda, etc. etc. etc. ...and of course 80s Metal in general...

The loud pounding of my Lusitanian pagan heart is the most important musical force for the invention of new riffs...'

Is it an advantage or disadvantage for you to hail from Portugal ? Does the Portuguese scene get the international attention which it deserves ?

'I am proud of being born in Portugal, of being a Lusitanian in blood, heart and spirit... even if it's nowadays occupied by "Romans", but this happens everywhere, in every society, in every government... In my viewpoint, there are no disadvantages or advantages, at least for me. I follow my path alone longing for the ancient homeland, and do you think



CANN, the defender of steel

others care about our History, ancestors, etc.?
Portuguese scene does not have a big international attention, because it is not so popular, only 3 or 4 bands can be detached from the rest. You know, where once was cooperation and support, now there is only envy and greed. They don't show respect or any sympathy for others, so why should I care? I don't want to be backstabbed by those who proclaim themselves my brothers...

It is so disappointing, when here in Portugal everyone wants to be the clone of some modern thing... but it leaves the ways open to others, but as I told you I follow in a different path, alone, and I'm very misanthropic, only those who respect me, have the same treatment... I cannot change anything, at least for now, but I think this will never happen, because no one would understand me, as they never understood my ancestors...

Usually bands look out for contacts with other bands that are in the same direction, but I guess you will have your difficulties with that as there aren't many similar bands like IRONSWORD around, right? I think there's nothing much left but MANOWAR, ha ha....

I'm not sure if there are similar bands like Ironsword, apart from the creators, Manowar, etc., but I guess I'm not the only one. This Earth is so big! But if there is, they are totally unknown for me, I've even heard of a couple, but I'm a bit lazy to get in touch, and to judge. You see, alot claim to play in the old style, but most are just a weak attempt to sound old, because they don't have the spirit, the schooling... (I totally agree, but as long as those bands are successful, they'll continue to release this kind of "False Old Metal", to express it in the Manowar kind of language, haha! - ed.).

I once had this thing of getting in contact with all those I found to be interesting, since I liked their music, but at the end most of them revealed to be a big disappointment, because they had no brains or they were just trying to impress others etc. ... for countless reasons.

I have my contacts all over the globe, but I have one in particular, which is Manú da Silva, ex-roady of Trust and Iron Maiden, who has a new label, and a Bar (Eddie's Bar) in Algarve, in the south of Portugal, a very known touristic place... Eddie's Bar is a cool place.

If somebody would damn you on a lonely island, which (let's say five) albums would you take with you if you have the chance to?

'Ah! ...that's easy! Manowar "Into Glory Ride", Manowar "Sign of the Hammer", Manowar "Hail to England", Manilla Road "Open the Gates", Manilla Road "Metal", etc. etc. etc... there are so many!! Is there anybody out there who has the guts to damn me on a lonely island? Anyone, please? (Perhaps some old Roman imperators, if our modern technology manages to raise them from their graves, hehe! -ed.) But, I shouldn't reimid you, sorry to be the spoiler, but on a lonely island there is no electricity!!'

Well, the one who damns you should be merciful and give you (beside a cheap record player) a bicycle with a dynamo to produce some electricity (ride for Metal)! But enough bullshit talked now...

How do you rehearse your songs? Do you use a drumcomputer when writing music or is it all inside your head?

'Every symphony that I create has its origin in my head. When sometimes I'm composing a certain guitar riff or acoustic bass, I immediately imagine how the rest like instruments, vocals, effects are going to be. Then I record all instruments on several tapes and rehearse one at each time. I sometimes use the drum machine just when I'm experimenting the rhythmic section.'

Any final greetings at the end?

'I raise my ale filled cup and hail with power to all those who've been massively supporting me, we are all brothers at arms! It was really a nice pleasure answering your questions, and I just hope that anyone survived after reading all this...(I hope that those who lay their hands on TALES OF THE MACABRE are not buying it just because of the photos! -ed.). I don't like to reveal my plans, but expect always the unexpected from my band, everything is so unpredictable...

Look out for my new demo "Power Metal Thunder", if you like 80s Heavy Power Metal sounding.

All the best to you Costa, and thanks for giving me this opportunity!

Feel free anyone to drop me a line, all letters will be answered, no rockstar attitude here. Honour the Earth! Stay Pure at heart and heathen regards to all of you...

IRONSWORD
P.O. BOX 4,
2780 OÉTRAS,
PORTUGAL

7 inches attack

DEAFED CREATION "Resurrection"

You'll hear 5 songs of fast, aggressive and great Death Metal à la Deicide on this black 7inch. Power is guaranteed here, and those four Swedish guys really know to play and write great riffs. This is untrendy and immortal music, and I think you should get your copy of this good (and limited) single in case you like this style of music. Try to contact following address: Jörgen Bylander, Pionjärvägen 11, 834 34 Brunflo, Sweden

DEAD "Slaves to abysmal Perversity"

Perverse is the right word for this single's cover "art"work (fuckin' n' suckin'), and you expect the music to sound like shit. But that's not the case here, Dead play very powerful Death Metal with gory vocals (à la old Carcass), and it sounds damn good. This band seems to be an exception from the rule when it comes to the musical quality in comparison to most of the other gory n' perverse bands. Get this 4 song-single (red vinyl) if you're seeking for untamed energy.

ABIGAIL "Confound Eternal" (Of God's Disgrace)

Abigail returns with a second 7inch. Their two songs are in the typical Abigail vein (one of them can be found on th previously released piece of vinyl as well), old fashioned simple Black Metal. I like it!!!



MASTER / EXCISION
(Moonlight)

Paul Speckmann never surrenders! Master are still alive, and their single-side (consisting of three songs) presents music in the typical old ass-kicking Master way (a lot of doublebass doses, simple riffs, etc.)... I enjoy it! Let's hope that these songs will not be the last songs from Master, I'm waiting for more!!! Excision are a Dutch band and play great Death Thrashing Metal with great guitarwork and quite a lot of energy... sounds very professional! So at the end you get two good bands on this 7inch (the layout of it is good!), perhaps a good reason to buy it!

DEAD "Wanted for Kingly Sesiions"

The music is almost as good as on the other reviewed Dead- 7inch. Just the cover is (in my opinion) more perverse on this one here. 3 songs (again very powerful) are pressed into the piss-yellow vinyl... those who have sworn themselves to the gory things in life should have this 7inch in their record collection.

MOURNINGSTAR "Before the Dawn" (Moonlight)

A single with two songs that sound different to the band's stuff from their debut CD "Heretic Metal". This 7inch has a rawer production and a rawer kind of playing when it comes to the riffs, etc. It all sounds more dirty, so I suppose that this songmaterial is older than the one from the CD. But anyway, musically it's just average what you'll hear, even if it's not unoriginal stuff, but the final deadly strike is missing.

DIABOLIC

Something's going on in Chicago.... in TALES OF THE MACABRE #2 the band USURPER has found the way on one page, in #3 I had PAZUZU/EZURATE and SCEPTER included, and now, this "unwanted" tradition continues with another band by the name CIANIDE from this city. All those bands know to cultivate old Metal roots in their powerful music with CIANIDE being the deathliest band of them. Their "Rage War" demo reached my address, and already the opening song, the titletrack, showed me that this band's work should be honoured with an interview. Musically it's Death Metal with touches of the doomy side of CELTIC FROST, a sort of combination of old and new sounds, all played in a quite heavy way. The vocals are death growls, no imitating of Tom Warrior or anyone else here. The faster parts are sounding very violent and brutal, a feast for people into aggressive stuff! A demo with different faces! The band's axeman (Scott) gives more details about the band...

"Rage War" did really surprise me, and I was even more surprised to read that you already released albums. Why is CIANIDE still a very unknown name in the underground? Has your old stuff been limited to 50 copies only or what?

'Cianide has never been the cool new hip band in the underground and we really don't give a fuck either. We've had two CDs out, and four demos from 1989 through 1996. Our CDs were put out mainly in the U.S., not too many made it to Europe. So perhaps that's why you never heard of us. As for the demos, we went through about 200 copies each except for the new "Rage War" tape which will be 400 copies. We only send out free copies to zines we enjoy and zines we know are still around. We don't worry about sending out 600 free tapes to every zine that has a fucking flyer floating around. Fuck that, I'd rather spend my money on myself - Fuck all these people wanting stuff for free and fuck all these bands who can afford it because they live at home with mom and dad!

CIANIDE says: "If it's not Metal, it ain't shit"...what do you mean with this? Sounds quite strange to me...

'Basically it means "If it's not Metal, then it's not worth listening to". Words to live by, right?'

Oh yes, of course! The word METAL is especially hailed in Chicago when I think of other cool bands like SCEPTER, PAZUZU, USURPER, etc... So I guess that you know and influence each other, right? Tell us about your relationship with the Chicago METAL INQUISITION!

'Yes, we know each other, but as far as influence, no! None of these bands have never had any influence on us whatsoever, perhaps we influence them as we've been around quite a bit longer than any of these bands. We don't know or care if we influence them or not. We do like to get together and get drunk as hell and sing the Piledriver classic... "And if you're not a Metalhead, you might as

well be dead, we're the Metal Inquisition - we sentence you to death - by guillotine." That is the Metal Inquisition Cianide belongs to." You hail BATHORY, VENOM, HELHAMMER,...are there any newer bands you hail as well?

'Cianide hails bands who stay true to themselves, Bands who don't fall for the latest underground trend. People who believe in Metal as a life style, not a fuckin' fashion show, Metal is more than dressing up and pretending and thinking you are evil. You're not that evil when you have to go back to your bedroom in your mother's house. There are many newer bands that we like, but we don't care to mention them.'

What will come next at CIANIDE? An album? I'm sure that some labels have already knocked on your door, right?

'We are currently recording our third CD entitled "Death...Doom...:Destruction" out in January 1997 on LOST HORIZON Records (??? - ed.). We have also recruited another guitarist named "Jim" and recording for the first time as a four-piece band. This is where we are right now!'

Do you think about re-recording any of your old stuff for a future release? Bands often like to re-record old songs to show that they have improved during the years (remember POSSESSED, KREATOR, DESTRUCTION,...)

'We will be re-recording the song "The Dying Truth" from our 2nd demo and it was also on our first CD, and a cover song. These two songs will appear on a 7"inch next year after the CD. We are doing a cover of Chicago legends Death Strike.'

Great idea, especially as this old band never got the attention they deserved! Which interesting things have you experienced in Chicago in the last couple of months when it comes to Metal? I heard that old Metal/Speed merchants ANVIL and RAZOR played near your stinky city...

'Not much happening in Shitcago over the last few months, but Merciful Fate will play here soon. We played a cool show with Incantation during the Summer. Just alot drinking, as usual. The Anvil/Razor show did not happen, a cruel rumour!!! I did see Anvil about 10 years ago and the memories have never left my head. Lips is one crazy motherfucker. There were only about 30 people, but they killed anyway. Also Manowar are coming here for the first time in 8 or 9 years!!! I'm dying to see them again, it's been way too long.' A final message to those who label Metal as dead?

'Fools who label Metal as dead are the same fools who will be listening to Metal again once it gets trendy again, fuckin' weakminded fools. Metalheads know Metal will never die, there will always be a demand for Metal and real Metal freaks will always know how to get their fix. So all you real fuckers out there, if you want some real Death Metal, then take some fuckin' Cianide, "Rage War" motherfuckers!'

**BLACK MARK PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE BEST NEWS IN METAL!**

Blackened Death Metal:
Mit einer düsteren
Atmosphäre, die
nach Teufel stinkt!

NECROPHOBIC
"Darkside"
BMCD 96

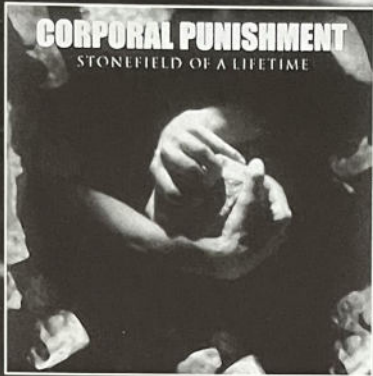


**Infernales am
Rande des
Wahnsinns!**

EDGE OF SANITY
Infernal
BMCD/CT/P 108

Ein düsteres,
aggressives
Explosionsgemisch!

**CORPORAL
PUNISHMENT**
Stonefield Of A Lifetime
BMCD 101



**Extrem brutaler
Mid-Tempo Metal!**

PURITY
Built
BMCD 102



BLACK MARK PRODUCTION • LUXEMBURGER STR. 31 • 13353 BERLIN • TEL. (+49 30) 462 78 02 • FAX (+49 30) 462 78 94



Dreamy Emotions & The Evil Wight

IR
025



GODOXY

"Shadow's Dance" Picture: CD

The swedish Masters of Melancholic
Power / Death are back with their
second Release. 57 minutes of emo-
tionally, dreamy Metal. Crystal-
clear sound, recorded & mixed at
Unisound studio.



Distributed in Germany by



IR
026



INFEST DEAD

"Hellfuck" Picture: CD

The most Satanic and
Extreme Album ever,
will be released on 20th
of January. Ultrafast
and Evil Death Metal.

CATALOGUE NOW!

ORDER OUR FREE



INVASION RECORDS, P.O. BOX 2119, D-15707 KÖNIGS WUSTERHAUSEN
TEL/ FAX: (49) 3375-292695



BLACK SUN RECORDS



SLATANIC SLAUGHTER VOL 2 A TRIBUTE TO SLAYER - V/A (BS06)

An all-star line-up take turns thrashing the almighty Slayer on this amazing follow up. CRADLE OF FILTH, ANATHEMA, SINISTER, LUCIFERION, LIERS IN WAIT, VADER, BENEDICTION, NECROPHOBIC, DISAFFECTED, UNANIMATED, MALEVOLENT CREATION, COFFINMAN.



CROWN OF THORNS - THE BURNING (BS05)
The stunning debut from Swedish CROWN OF THORNS hasn't lost its momentum, and continue to gain fans all over the world. Lookout for the follow-up "ETERNAL DEATH" in early '97!



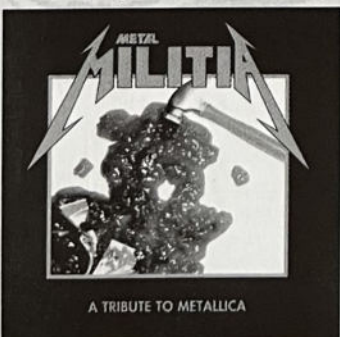
GROTESQUE - IN THE EMBRACE OF EVIL (BS07)
In the dark dawn of death/black metal there was the incredible GROTESQUE. Finally the tapes for their unreleased album have been exhumed from the very depths of hell, and we are proud to unleash this monument of terror unto the public.



LIERS IN WAIT - SPIRITUALLY UNCONTROLLED ART (BS08)
The re-release of the legendary, and long since deleted debut from the most fiercely original deathband ever! The brainchild of renowned artist Necrolord, this is technical on the verge of macical!



SACRILEGE - LOST IN THE BEAUTY YOU SLAY (BS09)
Awesome debut from a young Swedish death-outfit who continue the tradition of brutal, Nordic metal in the footsteps of greats such as DISSECTION and AT THE GATES, yet break their very own path.



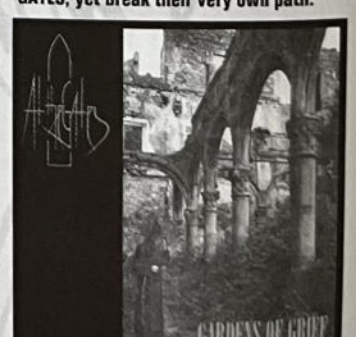
METAL MILITIA - A TRIBUTE TO METALLICA - V/A (BS01)
DARK TRANQUILLITY, SARCAZM, LUCIFERION, CEREMONIAL OATH, PAGANDOM, CRYSTAL AGE, IN FLAMES and others pays tribute to the kings of thrash metal!



CEREMONIAL OATH - THE CARPET (BS02)
True Swedish death metal combining beautiful harmonies with sheer brutality. Guest-appearances by Tomas Lindberg of AT THE GATES and Anders Fridén of DARK TRANQUILLITY.



SLATANIC SLAUGHTER - A TRIBUTE TO SLAYER - V/A (BS03)
DISSECTION, HYPOCRISY, AT THE GATES, MERCILESS, ENSLAVED, EDGE OF SANITY, GROPE, CEMETARY, CROWN OF THORNS, INVOCATOR & SEANCE slaughter Slayer!!



AT THE GATES - GARDENS OF GRIEF (BS04)
The debut mlp on cd from '91 before they went to Earache Records via Peaceville and then split-up (rest in pieces). This record is a must for anyone remotely interested in brutal death!!

Lordian Guard



How excited I was when I heard that mastermind William J. Tsamis from the legendary WARLORD returns with a new band called LORDIAN GUARD! After I heard the album for the first time, I didn't know what to think of it, because I wasn't used this kind of musical soft-Metal style. But after listening to it again and again, the gates to enthusiasms opened for me. I was trapped within this very emotional and epic sound. The things I appreciate most are William's guitar riffs and solos, they really touch your deepest soul, even more than it was the case at WARLORD. But all in all it's all more softer than it used to be due to the tamed guitar playing. The vocals are female and spread a special magic. They aren't 100% "perfectly" sung, but especially this makes them so interesting, and you hear that there's not a 16-year-old girl singing here. But I have to say that I had to get used to the vocals, so don't surrender if they don't appeal to you when listening to them for the first time. Well, the album contains nothing but kingly and intensive feelings, definitely music for those who demand more from Metal than just aggressive atmospheres. The only thing to criticize, in my opinion, are the lyrics which are very cliché at parts... But as we are here for the musical side of the story, I can say that LORDIAN GUARD are a band beyond all trends... all you get is skill, originality and honesty when it comes to music. To catch both bands, WARLORD and LORDIAN GUARD, nobody else but William J. Tsamis had to be contacted...

Hello William, what's up at LORDIAN GUARD? I heard that you are already working on your second album...

Yes, we are currently working on the 2nd album, titled "Sinners In The Hands Of An Angry God". It will be more Warlord orientated; however, it will maintain the sophistication, maturity and epic/medieval quality of Lordian Guard. Prior to the release of the LP/CD, however, we released a single (PicDisc) of the song "Behold A Pale Horse" (Side A), with a Lordian Guard rendition of the Warlord song "Deliver Us From Evil" (Side B). The single is out since October and the LP/CD will be out in December!

Are you still happy with the debut LP? I think it's a great album, but it got heavily criticized by some of the big magazines... Doesn't this hurt your motivation to continue with your musical art?

Yes, I am very happy with the music of the first album. The only thing open to critique, in my opinion, was the production quality. We had a mastering problem with the mastering studio in Germany, so most of the LPs/CDs released to the magazines were not of the best production. The remastered version sounds much better. Actually, we received great reviews from almost every magazine, and the fan mail has been extremely supportive. I remember that "Deliver Us" LP was heavily criticized for its production quality when it first came out, but now it is regarded as a classic, so the critics don't really concern me!

Do you think that LORDIAN GUARD fits into the 90s? I mean, there are not many bands around that play a similar style that you play...

I really don't know what's happening in the 1990s Metal scene, so I'm not really concerned with this. The music of Lordian Guard is epic/medieval Metal, a style which will always appeal to a certain underground audience. We have a large underground following, so I'm content with that. I will continue to explore this



Epic Medieval Metal

blend of renaissance/medieval music with Heavy Metal, and I'm certain from fan response that it will appeal to more and more people!

LORDIAN GUARD is much more emotional and calmer than WARLORD was... why this development? Has your attitude towards (Metal) music changed?

Naturally, I have grown as a person and a musician, so of course my music will always change a little. Since the Warlord days, I have learned to play keyboards and have extended my knowledge of renaissance and medieval music, so

this is all incorporated into the new sound. Maybe Warlord was heavier in a traditional sense, but the music of Lordian Guard is much darker and medieval than Warlord. For me, it is heavier than Warlord because it contains darker compositional themes. Furthermore, there are more guitar solos in the songs of Lordian Guard (some have 2 or 3 solos), so this gives me more flexibility in my artistic expression!

WARLORD is one of the few old bands that still has a sort of "cult" status today... What do you feel when people are still asking you about that period of your life?

I think Warlord has maintained a cult status because it was a blend of many of the classic Heavy Metal bands. Almost every Lordian Guard fan is a Warlord fan as well. And since Warlord was my band (my ideas, etc.), Lordian Guard is an extension of the Warlord legacy! How many WARLORD songs have never seen the light of day? And will you continue to use old riffs for LORDIAN GUARD, or aren't you satisfied with your old songwriting anymore?

Some Warlord songs will be released through Lordian Guard; for example, "Winds of Thor", "War in Heaven", and some others which may appear on future LPs/CDs. But even though these songs are "old" Warlord songs, they are Warlord only in the sense of the main riffs. Many aspects of these songs are very new. As far as being satisfied with my "old" songwriting, this is like asking Beethoven if he liked his 9th symphony more than his 5th (although I'm not comparing myself to Beethoven). Like any artist, a composer grows artistically, so although I am content with the older music, I am also very excited about the new sound as well!

In one interview I read that you don't listen to Metal for many years now... what's the reason for this? Are you afraid that other bands' music will probably influence you too much, or is it a lack of interest? I think you should at least listen to some of the epic

MANOWAR stuff as it is similar to your style...

"I don't listen to Metal because when I'm not writing or recording, I usually like to listen to something from the renaissance or medieval period. I know there are many great Metal groups out there (including Manowar), but I simply don't have the time to hear it all. I usually write the kind of music that I want to hear; it's difficult to explain. I know Michael Schenker never listened to Metal because he didn't want it to affect his original style; however, that's not my reason. Somehow, when you become a Metal composer/player, the magic of listening to others somehow disappears."

Was HELLION Records the only label that was interested in LORDIAN GUARD? Are you satisfied with their job?

"I never really actively pursued a deal with any label. I was connected to Hellion Records (Jürgen Hegewald) through John Kornarens (an L.A. Metal aficionado) and I have very much enjoyed working with Jürgen. He is far and above more honest and professional than those who I worked with in the past. And as the release subsequent projects, the production quality and everything will improve (as you will hear on the upcoming single and LP/CD). So, I am very happy with Hellion."

Joey DeMaio from MANOWAR once said that "people take music so unscrupulous that it is a real problem for me"... what do you think of this statement?

"I agree with that statement. Just look at what has been popular in the music industry. As far as I'm concerned, true Epic Metal will always thrive in the underground (although some groups like Iron Maiden and Manowar made it very big). It doesn't matter to me, however. I create my music because I'm an artist. If anyone wants to listen, they're more than welcome. J.S. Bach and Franz Schubert were unheard of in their time, but their music stood the test of time. Edgar Allan Poe sold his poem "The Raven" for \$14; nevertheless, he is now regarded as one of the greats. The artist must be concerned with artistic expression and nothing else."

Good and healthy attitude... hope some of the trendy folks will read this, because trendmusic is mortal! Anyway, how would you describe your music to a person who's not familiar with your band?

"Well, I guess I would define it as "Epic Medieval Metal". The music is very dark, reminiscent of the Middle Ages and The Crusades; you know, knights going off to battle and things like that. Many of the songs contain narration, chants, choirs, and sound effects, and melodies progress like Gregorian or Byzantine music. Most of the lyrics contain apocalyptic themes, expressing philosophically the monumental conflict between good and evil. Also, there are a lot of harmony guitar solos floating over driving rhythms. The music is very melodic." Is America the right place for a band like LORDIAN GUARD? Songs like "Winds of Thor" don't really sound American...

"America is a bastion of commercialism, definitely not a place for Epic / Medieval Metal. I was never influenced by any American bands anyway, so both Barlord and Lordian Guard are rooted in the Euro-Metal experience." Any dreams for the band?

"Not really. Primarily, I am concerned with artistic expression. Like I said earlier, I compose and record a very original form of music; if any wants to listen, they're more than welcome."



Lordian Guard, I think, will grow in popularity as subsequent projects are released. The first project certainly exceeded my expectations, not only in sales, but also in positive fan response. My concern right now is with the 2nd LP/CD. The sound will be much fuller and thicker, and the tracks so far sound very powerful and intense. I am certain that the Barlord fans especially will like this new thicker sound. I can't wait for the new release!



BLACK / DEATH

- CD A Canorous Quintet - Silence of the world beyond 33-
CD Ablaze My Sorrow - If emotions still burn 30-
CD Abruptum - VI somus veris nigrae (digi) 30-
7" Absu - And slineth unto the cold cometh 10-
CD Absu - The third storm of cythraul 30-/LP 25-
7" Acheron - Messe noir 12-
CD Aeternus - Dark sorcery 15-
CD Aetasis - The other side 30-/LP 25-
CD Allegiance - Hymn to hangaged 30-
LP Amen Corner - Fall ascension domination 20-
LP Ancient - Svartalheim (numbered) 25-
CD Ancient - Trolltattar 20-/LP (extratrack) 20-
CD Ancients Rebirth - Drain the portal in... 24-
CD Angel Corpse - Hammer of gods 30-/LP 25-
CD Arch Enemy - Black earth (ex. Carriage) 30-
EP At The Gates - Gardens of grief 30-
7" Athothep - Under the black wings 10-
CD Bal Sagoth - Starfire burning upon the ice 30-
CD Bathory - Blood on ice 30-/LP 25-
CD Bathory - Twilight of the gods 30-/LP 25-
CD Bathory - Under the sign of the 30-/LP 25-
CD Bathory - Requiem 30-
CD Bathory - Octagon 15-
CD Behemoth - And the forests dream eternally (scr rar) 30-
CD Behemoth - From the pagan wastelands 30-
CD Behemoth - Svantevith 24-
CD Behemoth - Gron 30-/LP Pic.Disc 25-
CD Behelit - Drawing down the moon 30-
CD Bethlehem - Dictus to necare 30-
CD Bewitched - Diabolical desecration 30-/lim. LP 25-
CD Bliffort - Pagan reality 20-
Black Mass No.2 (Magazin) 9-
CD Blut Aus Nord - Ultima thule 30-
CD Borknagar - First 30-/LP 25-
CD Burzum - Det som en gang var (digi) 30-
CD Burzum - Dunkelheit (Video) 25-
CD Burzum - First & Aske (digi) 30-/DLP 30-
CD Burzum - Hvis lysat tar oss 30-/LP 25-
CD Burzum - Filoseofem 30-
CD Cannibal Corpse - Hammer smashed 30-
CD Cannibal Corpse - Vile (digi/pack) 30-
12" Celtic Frost - The collectors (rar) 50-
CD Cradle of Filth - The principle of evil made 30-
CD Cradle of Filth - Dusk & her embrace (lim. ed. book 30-/LP & Poster) 25-
CD Cradle of Filth - Vempire 30-
CD Crown of Thorns - Eternal death 30-
CD Crown of Thorns - The burning 24-
CD Dark Funeral - The secrets of the black arts 30-
CD Dark Throne - A blaze in the northern sky 35-
CD Dark Throne - Goutlord 30-
CD Dark Throne - Panzerfaust 30-
CD Dark Throne - Total death 30-/LP 25-
CD Dark Throne - Transylvanian hunger 30-
CD Dark Tranquillity - The gallery (lim. ed. 10" pack) 35-/LP 25-
CD Dawn - Sorgh på svarte vingar flag 20-
CD Deathwish - Triumphant devastation 24-
CD Decameron - My shadow (No Fashion) 30-
7" Defleshed - Oculum obscuro 5-
CD Destroyer 666 - Violence is the prince of this world 30-/LP 25-
CD Diabolos Rising - Blood, vampirism, 25-
CD Diabolos Rising - Blood, vampirism, 25-
CD Dimmu Borgir - Devil's path 20-
CD Dimmu Borgir - For all id 30-/LP 25-
CD Dimmu Borgir - Stormblast 30-
LP Dodheimsgard - Kronet til kongen 25-
CD Emperor - Wrath of the tyrant 30-
CD Emperor - In the night side eclipse 30-
CD Emperor - The loss and curse of reverence 10-
7" Emperor - The loss and curse of reverence 10-
CD Emperor - Enslaved - split CD 30-
CD Everdawn - Opera of the damned 20-
CD Evol - The saga of the horned king 20-
CD Falkenbach - In their mesh 30-/LP 25-
LP Gehenna - First spell (lim. ed. 500 copies) 22-
7" Gorgoth - The lost tormentor 10-
CD Graveland - Carpathian wolver 24-
CD Grotlesque - In the embrace of 30-/LP 25-
CD Hades - Alone walking (das Demo) 20-
7" Hellhammer - Buried and forgotten (lim. ed. 300 copies, col. vinyl) 20-

- LP Hellhammer - Apocalyptic raids 25-
LP Hellhammer - Triumph of death Pic.Disc (lim.ed. 333 copies) Gebot
CD Ildjarn - Det frysende nordarket 30-
CD Ildjarn - Forest poetry 30-
CD Immortal - Blizzard beasts 30-/LP 25-
CD Immortal - Diabolical full moon 24-/LP 25-
VI Immortal - Masters of nebulah frost (Video) 20-
7" Impaled Nazarene - Satanisk masovihore 20-
LP Impaled Nazarene - Tok kompt norz norz 25-
VI Impaled Nazarene - Karmekorden warriors (Video) 20-
LP Impurity - Same (Brasil black metal) 20-
CD Kaitonia - Dance of december souls 30-
CD Kaitonia - Opus nocturne 30-/LP 25-
CD Kaitonia - For funerals to come 15-
LP Kaitonia - Opus nocturne 30-/LP 25-
CD Kaitonia - Opus nocturne 30-/LP 25-
CD Maelstrom - Slagry 20-
CD Masters Hammer - De mysteris dom sathanas 30-
CD Mayhem - In memoriam 20-
CD Mayhem - Pure fucking armetagdon 35-
CD Mayhem - Live in Leipzig 25-/LP 25-
CD Mayhem / Morbid - split 30-/LP 25-
CD Mercedless - Unbound 24-
LP Morbid Angel - Domination 25-/CD 30-
LP Morbid Angel - Altars of madness Pic.Disc 50-
LP Morbid Angel - Unholy blasphemies 12-
LP Morbid Angel - Third gig 12-
LP Morbid Angel - Blessed are the sick 25-
Morticianumskald (Magazin) 7-
CD Mortis - Crypt of the wizard 24-
VI Mortis - Reisen til grotter og (Video) 25-
12" Mortis - Ferden og kallet (red vinyl) 20-
12" Mortis - En sirkel av komisk kaos 20-
LP Mystifier - In Gortia 25-
CD Mystifier - Wicca 20-
D-10" Napalm Death - Diatribes 12-
CD Nasherum - Debut 24-
CD Necromicon - Realm of silence 30-
CD Necrophobic - Darkside 30-
CD Necrophobic - Nocturnal silence 20-
CD Night In Galis - Symplokis 25-
CD Obliterated Enslavement - Centuries of 24-
CD Octononus - On the demurge 15-
CD Old Man's Child - Born of the flickering 30-
CD Old Man's Child - Shades of life 20-
CD Opeth - Morningrise 30-
CD Opeth - Gredid (das Debut) 30-
LP Pentacle - The fifth moon Pic.Disc 25-
7" Perished - Kald som alder fore (Norwegian) 10-
LP Porrada - The avalanche (Brasil black) 20-
7" Rotting Christ - Visions of the dead lovers 5-
CD Rotting Christ - Satanus tedeum 10-
CD Rotting Christ / Monumentum Pic. Disc 20-
LP Sabbath - Live 666 (Japan Imp., lim. 300) 35-
CD Sacrilege - Lost in the beauty 30-
CD Sarcófago - Inrl 35-
7" Sathanas - Ripping evil 10-
CD Satyricon - The shadowthrone 30-
CD Satyricon - Dark medieval times 30-
CD Satyricon - Nemesis diva 30-
CD Satyricon / Enslaved - split 30-/LP (& 7") 30-
CD Serenade - The 28th parallel 30-
CD Shub Nigurrath - Evilness and darkness 24-
Subterra (Magazin) 10-
CD Summoning - Dold guldur / Minas morgul / Lagburz 30-
CD Taranus - Faust 10-
LP Terrorizer / Nausen - split Demo 12-
CD Thergothon - Stream from the heavens 24-
CD Throne of Abaz - On twilight throne 30-
CD Thy Serpent - Forests of witchery 30-
7" Tiamat - A winter shadow 20-
CD Tiamat - Sumerian cry 24-
CD Tormtor - Anno domini 24-/LP (rar) 30-
CD Tormtor - Dreg de kristne 30-
CD Ulver - Unep - split CD 30-
CD Unlabeled - Ancient god of evil 30-
LP Unlabeled - In the forest of the dreaming 8-
LP Varathron - Walpurgisnacht 24-
Box Venom - Live at the Dynamo (Video etc.) 40-
CD Venom - Possessed Pic.Disc 40-
CD Venom - The singles 30-
CD Vintersmestre - Kirkkokyrpa 24-
LP Vond - Selvmord (incl. Mortis) 25-
CD Xysma - Lotto 10-

SONDERANGEBOTE

- CD Accuser - Taken by the throat 20-
CD Accuser - Reflections 20-
CD Angelwitch - Live 10-
LP Anvil - Strength of steel 12-
LP Anvil - Plugged in permanent Pic.Disc 12-
LP Anvil - Worth the weight 15-
LP Atrocity / Das Ich - Die Liebe 5-
LP Autopsy - Rotting death 12-
CD Autopsy - Shiftun 15-
LP Bloodfeast - Chopping block blues 5-
CD Cancer - The sins of mankind 15-
LP Cannibal Corpse - Born in a casket 12-
LP Carcass - Cerebral tumor 12-
LP Celtic Frost - Parched with thirst I am 12-
LP Coroner - Mental vortex 12-
LP Destruction - Sentence of death 12-
EP Destruction - Mad butcher 12-
EP Exploited - Punk's alive 5-
LP Extreme Noise Terror - Ear terror 12-
LP Grave Digger - The reaper 12-
EP Hexx - Quest for sanity 5-
LP Killers - Murder one 12-
LP Megadeth - Killing is my business 12-
CD Mekong Delta - Dances of death 15-
CD Mekong Delta - The principle of doubt 15-
EP Messiah - Psychomorphia 5-
LP Messiah - Rotten perish 3-
LP Morbid Angel - Abominations 12-
LP Morbid Angel - Unholy blasphemies 12-
LP Morbid Angel - Third gig 12-
LP Motörhead - Ace of spades 12-
LP Motörhead - Bomber 12-
LP Motörhead - No sleep till Hammersmith 12-
LP Motörhead - Overkill 12-
EP Paradise Lost - The last time 5-
LP Pentagram - Relentless 10-
LP Rage - Perfect man 10-
EP Recipients of Death - Final flight 5-
CD Sabbath - Mourning has broken 10-
LP Sacred Reich - Heal 12-
LP Skylead - The silent whales of lunar sea 12-
LP Slayer - Greetings from my guts 12-
LP Spudmonsters - Stop the madness 5-
LP VA - Thrash metal attack (ampler) 12-
LP VA - X'mas project - I 5-
CD Venom - Prime evil 15-
LP Vicious Rumors - Something b Pic.Disc 12-
CD Vital Remains - Let us pray 20-
LP Vol Vud - Dimension hörrös 12-
CD Wargasm - Fireball 10-
CD Wargasm - Ugly 15-
LP Wargasm - Why play around 10-
LP Whiplash - Cult of one Pic.Disc 12-
LP Znöwhite - Act of god 12-
LP Znöwhite - Kick 'em when they are down 12-
CD Zoetrope - Mind over splatter 15-
Bei den Sonderangeboten handelt es sich selbstverständlich nur um einen geringen Auszug aus unserem Programm. Weitere Special Offers findet ihr dann in unserem Hauptkatalog - oder natürlich direkt bei uns im Laden - speziell im Vinylkeller! Unter dem Stichwort "Tales Mag" erhaltet ihr mit Eurer Bestellung oder Katalogauforderung eine Überraschung.

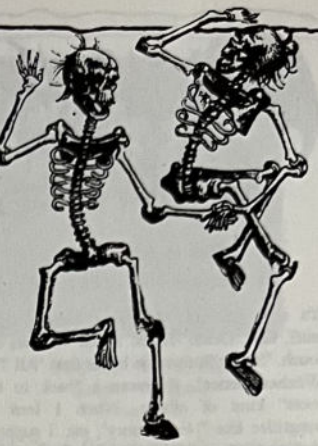
T SHIRTS

- Abu - Temples of ofal (EP Motiv) 10-
Ancient - Bandlogo 10-
Ancient - Svartalheim (Longsleeve) 30-
Angelwitch - Baphomet 30-
Bathory - First LP Motiv 30-
Behemoth - Svantevith 20-/ Longsleeve 35-
Bewitched - Diabolical desecration 30-
Bewitched - Encyclopaedia of evil 30-
Black Sabbath - Sabbath bloody Sabbath 30-
Black Sabbath - Vol. 4 30-
CD Cancer - The sins of mankind 15-
Burzum - Det som en gang var 30-/Longsl. 50-
Burzum - Filoseofem 30-/ Longsleeve 50-
Burzum - Hvis lysat tar oss 30-/ Longsleeve 50-
Cannibal Corpse - Logo 30-/ Longsleeve 50-
Cannibal Corpse - The bleeding 30-
Cannibal Corpse - Vile 20-/ Longsleeve 50-
Carnivore - Thermo nuclear warrior 30-
Celtic Frost - Emperor's return 30-
Celtic Frost - Morbid tales 30-
Chateaux - Chained and desperate 30-
Cradle of Filth - Black goddess 30-
Cradle of Filth - Sedusa 30-
Cradle of Filth - Vestal masturbation 30-
Dark Funeral - Bandlogo 30-
Dark Throne - A blaze in the northern sky 30-
Dark Throne - Goutlord / Longsleeve 50-
Dark Throne - Panzerfaust 30-
Dark Throne - Total death / Kapuzenpulli 70-
Dark Throne - Total death 30-
Dark Throne - Transylvanian hunger 30-
Dark Throne - Under a funeral moon 30-
Dark Tranquillity - The gallery 20-
Dream Theater - Awake 10-
Dream Theater - Clock / Longsleeve 10-
Emperor - In the night side eclipse 30-
Emperor - Witch 30-
Hades - again shall be... 20-
Hades - Alone walking / Longsleeve 35-
Heilhammer - Satanic rites 30-
Iced Earth - Warrior 30-
Infernal Majesty - None shall defy 45-
Isegard - Vinterskugge / Kapuzenpulli 60-
Mayhem - De mysteris dom sathanas 30-
Mayhem - Deathscar 30-
Moonspell - Wolfhead 30-
Morbid Angel - Altars of madness 30-
Motörhead - England / Kapuzenpulli 70-
Necromantia - First Motiv 10-
Nevermore - In memory 30-
Nevermore - LP cover 30-
Omen - Warning of danger 30-
Ostrogoth - Full moon's eyes 30-
Possessed - Seven churches 30-
Razor - Armed and dangerous 30-
Rotting Christ - Thy mighty contract 25-
Satyricon - Dark medieval times 30-
Satyricon - The conquering of Europe tour 30-
Tank - Flith hounds of hades 30-
The Black - The priest of satan 30-
Trouble - The fall of lucifer 30-
Unholy - Logo 10-
Venom - At war with satan 30-
Venom - Black metal 30-
Venom - Possessed 30-
Venom - Welcome to hell 30-
Witchfinder General - Soviet invasion 50-

VERSANDBEDINGUNGEN (bitte aufmerksam lesen): Bestellungen können schriftlich oder telefonisch erfolgen. Alle Preise in DM - all prices in German marks. Porto bei Vorauskasse 7 DM (ab 200 DM frei), bei Nachnahme 15 DM. Orders outside Germany will be prepared, postage up to 2 kg 12 DM. Heavier orders or air mail require higher postage. Dies ist nur ein kleiner Auszug aus unserem Programm. Fordert unseren 80 Seiten starken Katalog mit hunderten von Importen, Raritäten etc. an. This is just a small selection! Feel free to ask for our 80 pages catalogue! Besucht unseren Laden im Zentrum von Itzehoe - visit our shop in the centre of Itzehoe (Adresse: Itzehoe, Sandberg 13). Händler: Händlerpreise erfragen - Dealers ask for wholesale rates!



REVIEWS



EVOL "Dreamquest" (Adipocere)

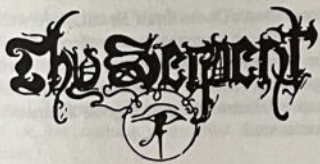
Black Metal in the South-European vein (Evol is an Italian band) with a clever combination of synths and guitars. The songwriting is quite ok, some parts are really nice, others are just standard stuff. A release which isn't a great but at least a cool one. For fans of this kind of Black Metal this might be something to lay your hands on.

AVULSED "Eminence In Putrescence" (Repulse)

To make it short: **Avulsed** haven't wimped out... it's still deadly stuff with deincep vocals. It all got a bit more "drum-orientated", all is done in a more precise 'n' hectic way. They have certainly improved as musicians. I shall not forget to mention the great coverartwork in pure Death Metal style!

SCEPTER "Metal Supremacy" (Self - financed)

Here it is, the first (M)CD of Chicago's Metal cultivators **Scepter**, and it is in the same style as their cool "Up Thy Ass" demotape. Well, to be exactly, this MCD sounds more serious than the demo, but it's again mid-tempo Metal with touches of old **Celtic Frost** (guitars) and probably **Sodom** (vocals)... all is done in a heavy way which is good! The final kick is missing unfortunately (except for the titletrack which is a killing kick in your balls!), but I'm sure that these three American Metalheads will progress on their next release, so that we can expect "I'm going to Hell" to be an interesting album with the quality of the track "Metal Supremacy". I'm really curious for the album!!! The MCD you can get for 20 DM at the **MERCILESS** address.



THY SERPENT "Flowers of Witchery" (Spinefarm)

After two successful demotapes here the first CD offering from Finland's **Thy Serpent**. It's a melodic, atmospherical but fine Black Metal album which offers good 'n' intelligent songwriting (with acoustic guitars, etc.)... real enjoyable stuff. Finally not just another CD up from the north, but a CD where you hear that a lot of careful work has been invested here. People who are looking for good riffs, melodies should keep this release in mind... this may be something for you!

FROZEN SUN "Unspoken" (DSFA)

To make it short... This is music for baseballcap-people who like the jump around like idiots. Groovy stuff that pisses me off!!!

LYCANTHROPY "The Veils of Sorrow" (P/E)

Fast, raw, badly produced Black Metal from the United States. All sounds very average, just the last of the four tracks has some good moments included, but that's all. Would have been ok for a demo, but not for CD release.

OXIPLEGATZ "Worlds and Words" (Adipocere)

This band is really strange... just take a look at the cover (reminds me at Black Sabbath's "Technical Ecstasy"). Their music is a sort of Black Metal, but it's very hard to describe. It's interesting to listen to this stuff as there are a lot of untypical sounds/arrangements inside the music... variety is no unknown term here! Well, as this is fuckin' difficult to review I will leave you with the advice to test it yourself at your local CD shop....



ABRAMELECH "Psychostasia" (Repulse)

Scandinavian Death Metal mixed with the power of **Bolt Thrower**. Great production, it sounds pretty tough! With bands like **Abramelech**, real dark Death Metal will not rest in peace!!!

FOREST OF SOULS "War and poetry" (Adipocere)

Basically this seems to be a new promising band, their mixture of mystical (Greek styled) Metal and atmospherical music is indeed nice. But then those sung vocals appear, and it makes me shiver. This guy tries to imitate **Messiah Marcolin's** (Ex- **Candlemass**) voice, but it sounds very amateurish that it is a pain in my ears. So... keep on rehearsing and rehearsing, because you have the right feeling, but not the technical ability to realize all your ideas.

DEEDS OF FLESH "Trading Pieces" (Repulse)

Fuckin' Death, very fast and full of gore! Typical bestial U.S. stuff in the vein of old **Cannibal Corpse**, **Suffocation**, etc... with very powerful doublebass and snare attacks! Only the guitars could be louder!

Desecration "Gore and Perversion" (Arctic Serenades)

52 minutes of gory and perverse Death/Grind with greetings from **Cannibal Corpse**. Heavy production!

MORTIIS "Crypt of the Wizard" (Dark Dungeon Music)

Kingly hymns from forgotten ages! Dark music the way we always know it from **Mortiis**, only heroic atmospheres can be found here!

AVATAR "...Memorian Draconis" (Wood Nymph)

It's nice to see bands that at least try to make their music a bit more interesting. **Avatar's** Black Metal is good as they know to combine fast, slow, grim and sweet atmospherical parts without making it all sound like an unprofessional cocktail. Ok, it's still not perfect, but this MCD it's a good start for this Belgian band. Good, extremely high vocals... cool atmosphere! This release can be obtained through **MERCILESS** Records by German people.

Lunar Aurora "Weltengänger" (Voices)

Frank Stöver of **VOICES FROM THE DARKSIDE** zine now enters the world of labels with his first release of a German Black Metal band. But even if Frank prefers old Metal stuff instead of new sounds, this CD sounds 100%ly modern. It's fast, very symphonic nordic Black Metal which is played in a perfect and intense way, but it doesn't blow me away! It's the kind of Black Metal that I don't like too much as it has no real spirit. Sorry, but I expected something better (or should I say more original?) from an old Metal warrior like Frank. However, **Lunar Aurora** are perfect for those who love pure intense 'n' modern Black Metal with no old traditional influences!

IMPALED NAZARENE "Latex Cult" (Osmose)

Thrasher than before are **Impaled Nazarene** on their latest LP/CD offering. But of course they are still recognizable as they didn't get rid of their punkrock infected influences. Also, you hear that this band adores the chaotic side of **Venom**! "Latex Cult" is another step away from the band's old Blackened Metal style.

"Motörpenis" (Osmose)

This is a "Rip Off" release in my eyes, because this MaxiCD lasts for 8 minutes only... This sucks especially when you keep in mind that "Latex Cult" 's playing time is also just 30 minutes.

FUNERAL MOON "Beware of the light of a Spectial Moon" (Guttural)

Wake me up when it's over! 43 minutes of abyssical ritual music with Black Metal parts here and then. All is very primitive and diletantish. Perhaps I'm not evil enough for this one?!

DECEMBER WOLVES "Til Ten Years" (Hammerheart)

Interesting Black Metal from the U.S.A.! These guys know to bring some variety into their style which keeps my interest awake. Cool effects and intros are also added, so don't expect ultraborning shit here. Powerful music is what they offer!

ARCKANUM "Fran Marder" (Necropolis)

Pagan stuff in the typical melodic (fast and slow) Black Metal disguise, with cool intros 'n' stuff. Vocals are both sung and screamed one. An average release!

IMPIETY "Asateerul Awaleem" (Shivadarshana)

Fuckin' hell, these barbaric desecrators of the church really know no boundaries when it comes to be blasphemous! Titles like "Anal Madonna", etc. are really over the top... and so is the music! But they've changed their style compared to their 7inch release, they've changed it into pure Black blasphemous Metal with both nordic (**Emperor**, vocals and guitarsound), and exotical (old **Sarcofago** when it comes to rhythms, speed, etc.) influences. It's sheer Metal to the bone, even if I was upset when I listened to it for the first time. Now it's you who decides whether you are strong enough to face the ruthless evilness of **Impiety** or not



"Zygotical Sabbatary Anadep't" (Shivardashana)

There's also a change in **Abhorer's** style, but it's not as radical as it's the case at their landmates from **Impiety**. **Abhorer** still play ultrafast 'n' hard Death Metal which is based upon dark terror, but they've lost a bit of their old simple songstructuring as the songs now are much more complex. Plus I hear that some new influences have been adopted in **Abhorer's** style, like **Morbid Angel** and other deadly bands like that. I'm convinced that every maniac into dark 'n' brutal Death Metal will love this album, because this is no wimpshit here but pure raging violence. Not destined for those who long for melodies, sweetest keyboardsounds and female vocals.... Piss off!

RAISM "The very best of Pain" (Kron - H)

Ex-Diabolos **Rising**! But **Raism's** electrified synth-stuff includes more guitarsounds in comparison. An interesting experience, a lot better than most of the other synth-bands of that direction, but it's of course no CD for true headbangers.

PIKE "Lack of Judgement" (Black Mark)

Why does a label like **BLACK MARK** sign mainstream shit(core) bands like **Pike**? Isn't the label's motto "Metal for the World"? If **Pike** is Metal, I will not call myself a Metalhead anymore! This is below the belt music à la **Pantera**/ **Faith No More**, etc., with horrible vocals! Down the toilet with it.



"Secret Sudaria"

(advance, to be released on N.E.P.)

It's still 100% **Mortuary Drape**-style stuff, dark Death/Black Metal with an old touch. "Secret Sudaria" is better than "All The Witches Dance", it's more a "back to the roots" kind of album. When I look at song titles like "Necromancy", etc. I suppose that some very old demos have been re-recorded here... and I think they sound very good. It's great to see **Mortuary Drape** still sticking to their original style! It all sounds very honest and original to me! I just wonder what kind of cover these 4 Italian monks will take for this new album... I'm surprised why "All The Witches Dance" hasn't been censored yet...

RAMPAGE

"The Burden of Melancholy Gravity" (self-financed)

Brutal Death Metal with **Cannibal Corpse**-like vocals. The songwriting is ok, but don't expect any surprises. At least it all sounds dark and brutal, and is professionally done!

UNDER BLACK CLOUDS

"As Darkness Falls" (Arsi Metalli)

Oh, what a nice CD. This second album really knows to convince me as I detect a lot of traditional Metal riffs in their new songs. **Under Black Clouds**, a German band, fortunately got rid of their Swedish kind of riffs... all is much more variable and powerful now, so don't ignore this promising band as they have real good music to offer. Support bands that try to make their music sound more interesting... and you certainly hear that **Under One Clouds** put a lot of work and time into their songwriting! Better check this one out before you get bored by another unoriginal Black/Death Metal CD.

MARDUK "Glorification"

(Osmose)

Do **Marduk** have financial problems? I don't understand the reason for this release, because this 5-tracker just contains four (!) coverversions and a "remixed" (how interesting?) version of "Glorification of the Black God". The coverversions are... **Destruction** ("Total Disaster"), two old **Piledriver** songs (which were meant to be a parody on Black Metal back in '85) and the **Bathory** classic "The Return...". Especially this one shows where the difference lies between new and old Black Metal, because even if **Marduk** cover this song very well, the general atmosphere/feeling is totally different compared to the original version which sounds way more evil! "Glorification" seems to be an attempt to make some extra money... and the next **Marduk** release is already announced... it should be a Live CD/LP! To me, this smells like making some more quick bucks...

BEHEMOTH "Grom"

(Solistitium)

"Sventevith" has already been a good album, but "Grom" blows "Sventevith" away. Good songwriting and both Death/Thrash Metal influences made "Grom" a great album. Power is no unknown word when listening to the songs, all is done in an energetic but still variable way. The use of acoustic guitars again rules... it fits perfectly. **Behemoth** have managed to develop their own style! Go and get this album on Picture Disc!!!

TUMULUS / MOCK "Split CD"

(Hammerheart)

52 minutes of pure paganism! German **Tumulus** do their job in a very slow atmospheric (metal) way with death grunts and female vocals, and **Mock's** contribution on this CD consists of three tracks from their "Cold Winter"-demo (a mixture of old Swedish Death Metal and Northern Black). Both bands know to convince with a touch of originality, even if they don't bring us anything brandnew.

DIMMU BORGIR "Stormblast"

(Cacophonous)

It's the return of **Dimmu Borgir** with a new release. "Stormblast" is better and more original than "For all Tid", all is a bit better worked out and full of convincing melodies. You can certainly hear that this is a Norwegian band, but their atmospheric and melodic Black Metal hits your deepest soul. So don't get deceived by their grim and with spikes/bullets/nails overloaded photos, because they are not a grim and ruthless band. Check out the vinyl version, because the coverartwork is too fine just to be printed on CD/flyer-format. A convincing release indeed!

MEANWHILE "The Road to Hell"

(We Bite)

We, the Metal fans, know that U.S.-hardcore is definitely the disease of the 90s and is constantly disturbing our ears, so it's always nice to know that there are still some hard Punkbands around like **Meanwhile**. They are as rough as **The Exploited** are nowadays, or old **Accused**, etc. "The Road to hell" includes songs that are hard, fast and quite short... simply "in your face"-like compositions, cool! Even if the new Hardcore movement has nearly killed Punk music (and it certainly hurt the Metal scene as well), Punk seems to be not dead at all with bands like **Meanwhile**.

CRACK UP "Blood is Life"

(Corrosion)

A deep voice, deep guitars, ruthless doublebass attacks help to give this new German outfit a brutal sound of Death Metal. But melodies aren't missing, and especially this makes the band sound like old **Crematory** without keyboards. Fans of this style can buy this CD without any doubts.



(Stormsoul)

After a couple of good demos it was natural to hear **Sabaoth's** music on CD format soon. But the band hasn't progressed in my opinion, because the album is not stronger than the (2nd) demo. Although this band hails from Paraguay, they have a Scandinavian kind of sound, only their calmer parts show the original side of the songwriting. Their speedy Black Metal parts sound below average, this must be the biggest disadvantage at this album. **Sabaoth** should better keep working on their own style instead of trying to sound like other bands... I'm a bit disappointed!

Satanic Slaughter

(Necropolis)

Already formed in 1985 (as they say), this U.S. band needed 10 years to release their debut CD. But there are not many old Metal sounds included on their debut if anybody has wondered... It's thrash-infected Black Metal, fast, grim and without mercy. I have to say that I expected more from a band that is around since a decade, because it's just average stuff with some good riffs here and then what they have to offer. Quite unspectacular I must say, sorry!

DODHEIMSGARD

"Monumental Possession"

(Malicious)

This Norwegian band is known as a Black Metal band, and they're still playing this harsh stuff that we know from their debut LP "Kronet Til Konge", but **Dodheimsgard** have (like many others) started to adopt some old Thrash influences (here: **Destruction**) in their new songs. It's not bad, but most of the riffs are unoriginal, especially the Thrash stuff. Also I'm not too happy with parts of the vocals (which seem to be done by several people). On the other side I have to say that it's all well-played and that there are some real good parts existing as well. And this makes "Monumental Possession" an acceptable release.

Mercyful Fate

"Into The Unknown"

(Metal Blade)

Again a great album, even if this is possibly their "weakest" (if we can say so...) release so far. Songs like "The Uninvited Guest" or "Under The Spell" still kick asses... 1st class compositions! The **Mercyful Fate** reunion was surely one of the better reunions, and we should be thankful for that! So go out and get "Into The Unknown" if you like to listen to good old Metal!

POINT BLANK

(self-financed)

4 songs of brutal but groovy Death Metal with vocals à la **Sepultura**. Not my style at all! But anybody who's interested should send DM 13 to... **Andreas Rabe, Westerdik 28, 26125 Oldenburg, Germany**

EMPYRIUM

"A Wintersunset..."

(Advance from Prophecy)

In comparison to their successful demo this CD is much more overloaded with synths and tons of melodies which creep deep into your ears... It's all used in such an intense way that it all sounds fuckin' kitschy, it's too much of all! But I can't deny that these two intellectual persons behind **Empyrium** made a good job when it comes to the recording and the whole arrangements... I know that there are a lot of guys/pussies liking this CD! One thing I really regard as amateurish are the deep sung vocals, because they are weak attempt to copy gothic styled vocals like **Sisters of Mercy**, **Fields of the Nephilim**, etc....

EINHERJER "Aurora Borealis"

(Necropolis)

A re-released of a demo on CD! It's Metal with heroic sounds, therefore you'll find parallels to epic **Bathory** and sometimes even **Manowar**, only the main vocals are different (= screaming). It's great music in my opinion, music (4 songs) that is worth the money.

IMPRECATION

"Theurgia Goetia Summa"

(Repulse)

Arrghhh... a band that is really dark 'n' brutal, but also boring when you take their whole CD. **Imprecation** play dark Death/ Doom/ Grind with deep dark vocals, probably destined to reach the ears of die-hard fans only as this CD is extreme and hard to take! This album comes with an ultracoloured blasphemous Chris Moyon cover, so this band must be cult, right?!

COUNTESS

"The Return of the Horned One" (Nazgul's Eyrie)

This CD isn't the newest one, but I got it as a promo, so here I am with a review. "The Return of..." is the most rude and aggressive **Countess** album so far, very primitive but total original Black Metal which is far away from any trendy sounds. They play this kind of "Love Us or Hate Us" music, but to me this is way much more "Black Metal" than most of the shit that gets released nowadays. I at least fuckin' like this art, even if it's recorded on a 4-tracker only...

Serenade / Torment

(Arctic Serenades)

Serenade bore me to death with their strange kind of melodic and powerless Death Metal style. You need more than just a couple of good soli to make your music sound great. **Torment's** feature is better... it's more aggressive deadly stuff with good raging riffs, etc. Why hasn't this band released a MCD instead of sharing their release with another band? A split CD with two sides of different quality!

PENTACROSTIC "De Profundis"

(Hellion Brazil)

Brutal Death Metal isn't dead, especially not in Brazil (hail their old bands!!!), but **Pentacrostic's** kind of style isn't too overwhelming as it lacks of good riffs. Also, their sometimes abruptly and strange played breaks and the arrangements in general don't make this CD a new sensation. Well, it's not a shit-album, and potential is existing, but it's still not enough to be worth an investment!

SICKNESS "Verbrannte Erde"

(Folter)

There are more **Sickness**-bands around, but this here is the German one. This former Grind-band now plays Death Metal with high and deep vocals and calmer parts. This CD hits my nerves at parts as their style is sometimes too confused and in addition I can't find too many real great riffs. Not my case....



MYTHOLOGICAL COLD TOWERS

"Sphere of Nebaddon"

(Sound Riot)

Darkest Death/Doom from Brazil, very well done with an intense atmosphere. Deep voice, heavy production, intelligent songwriting, etc... A perfect release for abyssic wintermoods, and a good alternative to nordic stuff.

HEAVENSHORE

"Between Human and Divine"

(Repulse)

There's one song included that is really great called "...While Your God Is Dying", it has the special touch of immortality! The other three tracks are just average and not very well-worked out... it's melodic atmospheric Metal with parallels to hymnic Greek Metal and epic **Bathory**. I hope that this Spanish men will come up with more than just one great song on their next release in order to be fully recommendable. Potential is existing!

NYCTOPHOBIC "War Criminal Views"

(Morbid)

Fans of old **Napalm Death** and **Carcass** should check out this new band and their brutal Death/Grind (with distorted vocals).

QUESTION / ANSWER

(Napalm)

"Where raw Black Metal meets fantastic folklore" are the words of NAPALM Records for this splitCD. **Amestigon** (with **Ex-Abigor** vocalist **Rune**) is not very raw but hymnic nordic-styled Black Metal with nice melodies (which seem to be typical for Austrian Black hordes). It's nothing very original, but as long as it doesn't start to bore me it's enjoyable. **Angizia** is a band that mixes Black Metal sounds with folklore elements and female vocals. The result is quite nice but kind of kitschy as well. The melodies slip easily into your damaged ears, so you won't have any problems with keeping the songs in mind. A good thing is the playing time (51 minutes = more than two new **Gorgoroth** LPs !!!), that's what I call fair ! Although this is a cool Austrian SplitCD, this isn't anything for people who are fed up with the typical Scandinavian sounds.



"Natural Survivor"
(Neat Metal)

Old stuff, re-released. This Yugoslavian band sounds like a softer version of old (not the new !) **Scorpions**, and I fuckin' like it. This album has sold over 1.000.000 copies in Yugoslavia when it was released years ago (1986 ?) if I have to believe the info... check this CD out if you like Hard / Heavy Rock music with good melodies.

CRYPTIC CARNAGE

"And another Kingdom was born"
(Folter)

With lack of power these Germans arrive on their debutCD. Slow, Death Metal inspired music with melodies and a lot of doublebass... I heard it too many times before, and their attempts to add some mystical elements with the use of sung voices, keyboards and acoustic guitars can't help to convince me ! Perhaps I'm not the right person to judge this CD as I have never been fond of this kind of music, but real feeling is much more necessary to me than instrumental abilities... sorry !

MOCK "Vinterlandet"

(Hammerheart)

"This MCD is the last recording thy cult Norse viking band (**Mock**) did" is a statement taken from the innersleeve of this product. But I think that the word "cult" is superfluous here, because this MCD isn't anything very special. Hymnic Norwegian Metal which is just ok, but nothing more. Not a necessary release !

FERMENTING INNARDS "Myst"
(Invasion)

This here used to be a Death Metal band if I remember correctly... but I guess they are forced to play Black Metal now as it sells better, ... I don't know !?! Fast atmospheric but still melodic Black Metal with a lot of changes and clever arrangements that keeps the listener interested. But too many ordinary riffs don't make this by Dan Swano produced CD an unbeatable release.

FATA MORGANA
(Tower)

Mortis here with his third project...and this is his best one in my opinion. Very naturally sounding calm harmonic music with flutes, piano, etc. with a kingly atmosphere. Great and absolutely recommendable ! This is something that everyone (even your grandmother) can listen to !

CHRIST AGONY "Unholyunion"
(Faithless)

It was a wise decision to release these old recordings on CD. Doomy Black Metal at its best, with influences from old **Samael** which is a sign for heaviness. But faster parts aren't missing as well, so variety is there. 4 songs are only included on this album, but they manage to last for 52 minutes (!)... not really a MCD, eh ? "Unholyunion" is a must for everyone into serious unholy Black Death Metal.

ORPHANED LAND "El Norra Allia"
(Holy)

Album number two from Israel's most successful band. Basically their music hasn't changed that much, perhaps it's softer now. Mystical Metal with a lot of harmonical riffs. But still I'm not too mad about this band as most of the other reviewing editors are... it's just too "different" for my taste. I'm just no flexible guy !

SHUB - NIGGURATH
"Evilness and Darkness Prevails"
(Guttural)

Old stuff from '92/'93, but still enjoyable. Dark Death Metal on a certain technical level. I think it's good stuff, because the feeling is right. It's just a touch too abruptly played and the sound of the percussions is strange. But I read that this unholy album was recorded in "Tequil(1)a" studio, so this might be the reason, haha. Get a taste of Mexican Death Metal with this band.

MYSTIFIER "The World is so good..."
(Osmose)

Out now on OSMOSE Records is the third strike of Brazil's **Mystifier**. This one is not so easy to review, because the style now is a very strange mixture of typical rough Black Metal, some quite melodic parts and a tenor (!) voice. Sounds interesting, doesn't it ? Well, this is definitely an original and by no means boring album. On the other hand this one is no easy listening and the whole thing is pretty close at the edge of being ridiculous. Ask your parents, they might be right this time. So, don't buy the new **Mystifier** album blindly folks. Perhaps check out the last track first, for it is one of the best on most representatives titles of this very unusual output

- Markus Nick -

MY GARDEN "Neon Lights"
(Arctic Serenades)

According to the promotion sheet, **My Garden** from Istanbul is not a newcomer band. Actually, they were formed in 1990. In October 1995, they re-recorded their former demotape which is no released as a MCD. **My Garden** are playing well produced Doom Metal with a mixture of male normal and death vocals along with some female vocals, which works out quite fine. Every no and then, the band's own ethnic roots become apparent, namely arabic folk music, but I would have put more of that into the songs. Perhaps next time ?

Although nothing too special for now, we may expect something from **My Garden** in the near future.

- Markus Nick -

KVIST
"For Kunsten Maa Vi Evig Vike"
(Avantgarde)

Yes, **Kvist** are from Norway, and also do sound Norwegian. It's in the vein of **Satyricon** ("The Shadowthrone", vocals) and **Immortal**, just with the difference that **Kvist's** music is more complex. Both hard and soft riffs can be found, and a lot of atmospheric sounds as well.

EXPIRATION "Deviated"
(Self-Financed)

If you decide to release a gory Death Metal product, then the production should at least be powerful. But that's absolutely not the case here, and this makes this Mini MCD quite a boring one. Even the extremely gory cover can't help making this release a more interesting one. Five very boring powerless songs !

WORLD OF SILENCE
"Window of Heaven"
(Black Mark)

Silent stuff indeed, with parts à la new **Metallica**, dreamy **Tiamat** combined with almost hardcore-like rhythms. It's all quite far away from being real Metal... it's more the kind of stuff which people into modern commercial Metal Rock (if this is the right term ...) will probably enjoy.



"Khaos Magick"
(Morbid)

Good CD ! This is the kind of Death Metal I like... intense, brutal and with dark obscure atmospheres. It's nothing new though, but it's done in a satisfying way. Also, enough doublebass doses have been recorded on this CD to make your house sound like being crushed by a giant bulldozer. It's great to know that there are still some bands around that know to convince with destructive music.

Wizard**"Advance for CD"**

I've no titles, no info, etc. about this release, just the tape ! All I can say is that I like **Wizard** as they play old-school Metal in the vein of **Exorcist**, **Onslaught**, **Piledriver** and **The Exploited** ("The Massacre" LP, when it comes to the riffs' simplicity). Also, **Wizard** have good original dark vocals, which is a cool thing for me after hearing 1000 high screaming throats. All sounds quite honest and not so "let's sound 80s"-like, that's an important thing for me ! I think you'll find an interview with **Wizard** in TALES OF THE MACABRE #5 !

GRIMOIRE "A Requiem for the Light"
(Euphonious)

In #3 I reviewed this band's demo and thought that some more work is necessary in order to release a real CD. Well, they couldn't wait anymore, and here's their debutCD. Although the band has improved, this album is not more than average. They play melodic, keyboard-infected Black Metal with faster drumparts occasionally. It's all too average as said before... you get tired of it. Some riffs are good, other parts totally suck in contrary. This band has still to find their own identity.

MORTEM "Demon Tales"
(Merciless)

Take **Possessed's** "Seven Churches" and a touch of **Decide's** hectoral playing... then you have the sound that **Mortem** smashes into your face ! Old-school Death Metal played on a certain technical level, and in addition you can hear great deathly vocals the way they usually should sound. For more info read the interview elsewhere....

FROZEN SUN "Unspoken"
(DSFA)

To make it short... This is music for baseballcap- people who like the jump around like idiots. Groovy stuff that pisses me off !!!



MANIAC BUTCHER
"Lucan - Antkrst"
(Pussy God)

These Czech Barbarians really work fast... here's already their follow-up for their "Barbarians"-CD. It's again fast furious Black Metal the Northern way, but done with quite some power and strong vocals. Musically it's nothing new, of course. To my surprise I found a good coverversion of an old **Master's Hammer** classic... and it's good to see **Maniac Butcher** showing respect for their landmates' great work which they've done for true Black Metal history.

MANOS "Weihnachtsfieber"

I expected the worst, and I got the worst, Christmas songs for Metal (?) fans... and a couple of other tunes. My interpretation of fun is a different one, sorry !

BORKNAGAR
(Malicious)

Norse attack in a form of very fast, furious but still epic Norwegian Metal style. It's done in a very bombastic and professional way, and people into the pure Norse style will like this LP. I think that they have the strongest moments when they slow down the speed, as the fast parts are just average.

ABBA Div.187 "Towards Judgement"
(Necropolis)

What an irritating bandname, but it's just one of the few new Black Metal hordes that got spat out of the abyss of Sweden. Those guys don't have the typical look of a Black Metal band (no corpsepaint, etc.), but they have the typical Black Metal sound. 4 songs of standard stuff... nothing important !

SORT VOKTER
"Folkloric Necro Metal"
(Norse League)

NORSE LEAGUE seemed to have specialized on Norse bands with an extremely primitive sound. **Sort Vokter** play nothing but ultra-primitive, grim "Necro" Metal (huhu !), with boring computerdrums and shitty guitar distortion. But musically it's acceptable, nordic Black Metal with keyboards and monotonous drums. However, there are a lot of better releases to pick up...

Beherit "Electric Doom Synthesis"
(Spinefarm)

I would prefer some more metallic songmaterial instead of this synthetic computersound from Holocausto. Anyway, even if it's not Metal, this is a CD with dark ritual music in the typical simple **Beherit** style just with the difference that it's a totally different musical direction. This is certainly one of the stronger synth-CDs !

VOICE OF DESTRUCTION
"Bloodriever"
(Morbid)

Oh, I'm not used such kind of Metal from MORBID Records. Modern Heavy Metal with cool guitar riffs and melodies, and it all sounds good except for the vocals (which are a mixture of Punk and Death Metal). The thing I like most at this South African band is the healthy does of energy in their music !

SACRILEGIUM "Wicher"
(Pagan)

"Wicher" sounds like *Graveland* with a lot more melodies and hymnic parts if you ask me. *Sacrilegium* will probably kill me for this comparison, but let's face the truth: A lot of Polish bands have this kind of sound when it comes to Black/Pagan Metal. Luckily I can say that *Sacrilegium* are not a horde of stupid slaves who worship Hitler, ...they just seem to love their country and their pagan roots. Therefore all the lyrics are sung in Polish language, and the music got a bit calmer and more melodic with some folklore (?) -like touches in comparison to their great and successful "Sleeptime" demo (which is now re-released on CD. *Black Metallers*: Get it !!!). It's a cool CD, but I have to admit that it gets a bit monotonous in the long run. Also I'm a bit sad that the band lost a bit of their malice which they surely had on their furious demo, but time changes and so does music in most cases.

AMON GOETH "Call The Master"
(N.E.P.)

An old demo (from '92) re-released on CD format. Those of you who have read reviews about "Call The Master" in several other mags probably think that this band sounds like garbage, but this is not true. But I know that *Amon Goeth* is not a band like any other, and this is why the opinions are so different about this CD! It's a mixture of (old) Black/Death Metal with growled but still sung vocals which sound quite original, but are definitely not everyone's cup of tea and are probably the main reason for all the bad critics. But I like the voice anyway, especially the incredibly deep backing vocals of *Root's* Big Boss, sounds unbelievable! Musically it's stuff who have to get used to, but it's very variable stuff. The only weak point is the conversion of *Celtic Frost's* "Into the Crypts of Rays", because it lacks of the original energy.



"Stormbringer"
(advance)

A MCD that rips your head off! With the exception of the titletrack, *Desaster* are thrasher than ever. But it's no clone / copy thing here like it is the case at *Infernö* or other Scandinavian shitbands. Just listen to "The Swords Will Never Sink" and the short but deadly "Sacrilege"... total Black thrashing Metal mayhem, very raging stuff! These two songs do capture an old spirit, but are still sounding individual, and are indeed the best tunes that I heard from a German band for ages. Also the vocals have improved since the debut album, and can be seen as original. *Desaster* seem to be one of the only German bands (beside *Ungod*) who follow the tradition of the old German Thrash scene that is hailed by so many foreign maniacs. Those who only talk about the German past should better get their hands on this release and hear that real German Metal quality is still existing. "Stormbringer" is also released on PicDisc (limited to 500), and has one of the best covers I've seen during the last couple of months.

LUX OCCULTA
"Forever Alone. Immortal"
(Pagan)

This metallic music is simple, melodic, very atmospheric (=keyboards), dark, etc. It's probably nothing really exciting, but it has a touch of an original sound.

MELEK - THA "Astrum Argentinum"
(Adipocere)

Non-metallic stuff, based on pure atmospheric sounds. A nice experience as it causes different feelings... sounds like a filmsoundtrack. Weird!



"The Cainian"
(Metal Blade)

A lot of people were surprised to hear that Norwegian band *Ancient* signed at METAL BLADE, because the band used to play good but not original Black Metal on their old releases. Well, and this hasn't changed, just listen to this new album which just presents the ordinary Northern Black Metal thing which certainly loses its magic in these days as too many bands sound alike and have no own face. "The Cainian" is well-produced, well-played, etc., but it simply bores me too much. Two/three years ago this would have been a great release, but now amongst countless competitors this is just an average album.

ANGEL CORPSE "Hammer of Gods"
(Osmose)

Fast raging Death/Thrash Metal with sick guitar solo and dark morbid (angel) riffing. I like it when these guys slow down their tempo, because this are the most powerful moments! The album is a bit softer compared to the demo, but that's probably just because of the cleaner album sound. The music itself is absolutely untrendy and indeed a hammer in your face in case you like aggressive stuff the American way.

LIMBONIC ART "Morn in the Scorpio"
(Nocturnal Art)

Extreme Norse Black Metal with atmospheric keyboardsounds... a mixture which sounds good. Of course it's no brandnew thing, but the feeling is right and its all well-done. This kind of Black Metal sounds quite modern and is doesn't show those typical *Bathory* roots which all the older Norwegian bands had. This is the only disadvantage for me to be honest.

EINHERJER "Dragons of the North"
(Napalm)

What is this? I thought that this band ceased to exist, but I was wrong. Here's their first album... and I'm quite disappointed when I compare with their good demo. They've changed their style into a more folklorical one, and especially some of the new drumrhythms make me sceptical... they sound too unheavy for me. The music itself is not typically arranged and played for Metal standards, and this is the reason why I'm not fond of this CD.

HELHEIM "Jordmundsgand"
(Solistitutim)

Is anything wrong with my ears? The vocals of *Helheim* are really extreme, very high and insanely screamed... I really don't know if this sounds cool or silly. Musically it's typical Norwegian Black Metal, both slow and fuckin' fast, but played in the way we have heard it from countless bands before.

MORDOR "Prayer to..."
(Effigy)

The Polish answer to old (but not too old) *Tiamat*! But it's original in its very own way though, there are a lot of good ideas combined in an intelligent way. The positive thing is that you don't get tired while listening to this CD, and this is something that has become quite seldom for me! Good harmonies and a clever use of keyboards make "Prayer to..." the best EFFIGY release!

AURA "Shattered Dawnbreak"
(Hammerheart)

Sounds as if *Aura* are Swedish, but those guys are from Holland. They play melodic, Swedish styled Metal... 4 songs!

MOURNINGSTAR "Heretic Metal"
(Moonlight)

Mourningstar are the kind of band who have potential to be a very strong force in the world of real Metal, because you'll find some great riffs and several good parts in their songs. The only problem is that it's not all perfect and well-arranged yet... there are too many influences (like Nordic Metal, Heavy Metal, even Rock'n'Roll, etc.) combined... and we all know that not only creating good riffs but also arranging them to a good song is a kind of art. "Heretic Metal" is a cool powerful album, and it's still better than most of the crap that gets released, but I hope that the band will be able to offer something really strong next time... it only depends on how hard the band is willing to work on their new material.



Black Metal extremists listen up... The French Black Legions still march! And their bands still play ruthless grim Black Metal which is awfully produced and very wickedly played. *Torgeist* sound like an underground-version of bands like *Graveland*, *Belketre*, etc... but all with a high distorted rehearsal sound, it almost hurt my ears!

Viap Tepes' part is not much better when it comes to the sound, but musically they are stronger than their mates from *Torgeist*. *Vlad Tepes* have good melodies/ ancient riffs to offer, and it all sounds quite honest to me. To summon it all up: This CD is made for Die-Hard Black Metal maniacs only. Decide for yourself, but be warned: This is not a "usual" Black Metal album!

TORQUE
(Mascot)

Hardcore Metal the modern way, with influences from *Napalm* (R.I.P.) and *Biohazard* (hopefully R.I.P. soon!) and such kind of crap. Do I need say more?

Paragon Belial
"Hordes of the Darklands"
(Folter)

Black Metal... raw, grim, unoriginal! Their biggest influence must be *Darkthrone* ("Transilvanian Hunger"), but they can't reach this level. People into primitive harsh music should try this German band. Good dark intros, weak vocals (sung by Ex-*Bethlehem* vocalist)... ordinary music!

DEVISER "Unspeakable Cults"
(Mascot)

It took long time until this old Greek band managed to record their first CD. Well, I know *Deviser's* 7inch, and in comparison to this CD I can say that the band lost their thrashy spirit and added Black Metal kind of arrangements / riffs instead. But the riffs are still good (most Greek bands understand to create good guitar riffs by the way), and so are the songs. Only the fast parts don't blow me away and make *Deviser* sound average, but for the rest it's good stuff!

DECORYAH "Fall- Dark Waters"
(Metal Blade)

People who liked *Decoryah's* debut CD will like this new CD as well. Atmospheric (Metal?) music with sung vocals, well played and well-arranged.

DAMNATION "Reborn"
(Pagan)

This crossfire of dark satanic Death Metal comes from Poland, so don't mix this band with the Swedish *Damnation*. "Reborn" is american styled Death Metal in the style of *Morbid Angel* and *Deicide* when it comes to the arrangements, but it's all a bit more technical and not so straight ahead here. This is what irritates me at *Damnation*, but generally seen I can say that they made a good job, and I guess that die-hard Death Metalheads will be satisfied. But next time the band should try to have a more powerful production, 'cause this kind of music simply demands it!

"Rebel Souls"
(Last Epitaph)

Here it finally is, the follow up to "Reborn". It's still Death Metal, but not as dark and technical as before... I think it's mainly because the guitar distortion/sound has changed. But... don't worry, it's good stuff, professionally played and performed with a certain know-how. Also, the production is better now. So, "Rebel Souls" is a step forward for *Damnation*... let's wait and hear what the third CD will bring...

DIABOLI "Mesmerized by Darkness"
(Unisound)

Diaboli is the new name for *Sigillum*. Some of you probably remember this band as they were part of *TALES...#2*. However, here's the first CD attack, and I'm sad to say that I'm disappointed! All I can say is that the second demo is much better than this album, even if those three demosongs can be found on this CD as well. This step backward is caused by a too distorted guitarsound, too monotonous songmaterial, etc... It all sounds too nordic! But I don't want to damn this album as it isn't shit, ... I'm just disappointed, because I know that this band is able to be much better. Style? Fast, grim Black Metal, played in an extreme way!

A second album is already recorded, so I hope that that one will be stronger! If die-hard Black Metallers like to order "Mesmerized by Darkness", then send \$20 to... *Diaboli*, Box 54, 33961 Pirkkala, Finland.

DARK "Endless Dreams"
(self-financed)

Germany seems to be the domain for atmospheric Death Metal like old *Crematory* played it, with clear sound and harmonic keyboard effects. *Dark* (not to be compared with the Czech band) try to take lovers of this music by storm with their one hour strong debut CD... and their music really doesn't need to hide. They did a good job indeed, only the voice is could be a bit better, but that's my opinion. It's good to see such kind of bands existing who try to convince with honest music instead of false images 'n' cheap talk. This CD is absolutely recommendable for lovers of this kind of powerful but still atmospheric Death Metal. This CD costs \$20: *Mathias Fickert*, Buchenstr. 5, 17707 Schopp, Germany



"Hosanna Bizzare"
(Osmose)

This new German band seems to be heavily influenced by old *Impaled Nazarene* stuff, like simple Metal/Punk riffs, straight ahead music. I don't know why *OSMOSE* have signed this band for they are nothing very exciting, they just do an ordinary job on their debut.

THE FLESH "Storming the Heaven's Gates"
(Arctic Serenades)

Due to a weak sound this brutal dark Death Metal 4-tracker is just average sounding, but it's very pure in its style!

Judgement day

"Sir-Sum-Sis-Jon of the War - Tyr"
(Effigy)

Judgement Day have a better production in contrary to **The Flesh**, but the music is weaker. Their Death Metal is fast and well-played, but their too melodic riffs make their music sound "unheavy". Not my case at all for it's just boring!

ALGOL

"Entering the Woods of Enchantment"
(Effigy)

A Norwegian band with a (for Norwegians) untypical style of music. Their style is Death Metal the technical way, which has a certain balance between brutal and melodic riffs. The band is not easy to categorize... all I can say that I got a bit sleepy after a while, but that's probably because I've listened to too much stuff for this fourth issue...

Poccolus

(Hammerheart)

This debut CD would be cool if the vocals weren't that horrible! This screaming sounds like Grishnackh meets Franta Storm, very strange, and not my case at all. But the music is ok, simple stuff with a lot of melodies. The biggest inspiration must be **Burzum**, but **Poccolus** are not as dark and grim as Grishnackh's creations. Mid tempo Pagan / Black (?) Metal.

Argentum

Ad Interitum Funerarium"
(Full Moon)

Beside Tacos and Tequila there's also a cool dark Metal band hailing from Mexico. **Argentum** play abyssic Black/ Death Metal with obscure vocals, dark keyboards, cryptic sounds.... Just the production on their debut CD could be more powerful, especially when it comes to the guitars. Great is the length of this CD... 76 minutes (= 3x **Gorgoroth's** "Antichrist" LP for the price of one!).



"Sursum Luna"
(Avantgarde)

Good news from Italy! **Funeral Oration** prove that the Italian scene is better than most people think! This band shows that Black/Death doesn't have to sound boring and monotonous. "Sursum Luna" has different faces, and all is very well-done. It's energetic, aggressive on one side, on the other side it's also filled with melancholic sounds and atmospheres. You can hear that this is an older band (formed in 1989), especially when you listen to some of the older tracks that have been recorded for this CD ('89 - '95)... this kind of variety makes this album so interesting! The old songs have a touch of old **Incubus**, very cool! I received this fine album as a digipack CD, and I must say that the artwork and the generell layout is impressive!

ISVIND "Dark Waters Stir"
(Solistitium)

Norwegian Black Metal... fast, hard, but also average. No progression since their demo!

AZAG -THOTH "Reign Supreme"
(Witchhunt)

Originally known as **Pazuzu**, this Swiss outfit returns with a debut CD. But they've changed their **Hellhammer**-like style into a more Nordic Black Metal-like one. But it's still hard 'n' fast stuff which is done in an aggressive way. The vocals are untypical for this kind of music, there's a strange effect used here. Musically it's all just ok, at least they know how to rage hard!

ORPHANAGE "By Time alone"
(DSFA)

Uuhh... I don't like this one for the groovy slow rhythms! Although it's seriously made, it's more the kind of music for people who like to jump at concerts...

DEMONIC "Lead Us Into Darkness"
(Necropolis)

The strength of **Demonic** lies in the slower parts which spread a lot of power. It's of course all played in the Norwegian Black Metal style, but luckily I can say that **Demonic** are one of the stronger bands up from the North. 4 songs are included, all recorded between '94 and '95.

OBCENITY "The 3rd Chapter"
(Morbid)

Still hungry for brutal Death Metal? Your faves are **Immolation**, **Cannibal Corpse**, etc.? Then check out **Obscenity**. The only difference is that this band also has some slower parts (with female vocals) which bring some variety into the music.

PAKENI "Detergent Bubble Bath"
(Morbid)

Let it groove with **Pakeni** from Finland. Warning: Not for real headbangers!!!



BENIGHTED LEAMS
"Calignas Romantic Myth"
(Supernal Music)

An original style isn't always a great one... This new English band plays a very original style of Black Metal that can be seen as quite complex and unusual... the vocals are both sung and growled, but very different, and so are the unusual drumrhythms, etc. This music will definitely find a few ears only, it's certainly not music for the masses. If anybody is open for music that is experimental and beyond the limits, then **Benighted Leams** may be your new cult band. For me it's too different, but it's good to see some musicians daring to try something new.

GORGOROTH "Antichrist"
(Malicious)

This one is hard to review... on one side, there are some good 'n' powerful songs included (like "Possessed by Satan"), but on the other side some songs are typical Norse ones which we've heard already before in its rough structure. This is probably one of the better pure Norwegian Black Metal releases as **Gorgoroth** still know to play hard and with the right feeling (even if the band's live performance sucked with their new "vocalist"), but it's definitely not ok that 24 minutes playing time get sold for a full length album... You decide whether you buy this one or not, but if you do... buy it on PicDisc!

COUNTESS

"The Book of the Heretic"
(N.E.P.)

Nobody seems to stop **Countess'** way! This is already the fourth album... and it's still typical **Countess**-styled, even if the band has progressed. 70 minutes (!!!) of music are damned on this CD, 70 minutes of original and very simple Black Metal. The songmaterial is ok, some of the riffs repeat too often at parts. But the production isn't the best unfortunately, because the guitars are too much in the background which means a loss of power. Cool is the coverartwork of the CD, I'm sure this is a sign for the band's admiration for **Venom**. I'm curious what the fifth **Countess** CD will bring... I hope at least a real drummer!

WARDOG "Scorched Earth"
(Metal Blade)

Just imagine **Hallows Eve** with a 90s sound plus some newer **Overkill** influences, and mix this with groovy elements and a positive "C'mon let's party"-atmosphere...well, ready is the **Wardog** cocktail! Ha, I guess most of you don't know what I mean with this description, right? Doesn't matter, because I'm sure that most of you won't like this release anyway. But I have to say that **Wardog's** music is better than any kind of "Metal" band with bloody Hardcore influences (spit!). If your local CD-store (the word "record store" belongs to the past unfortunately!), has this CD, well, try at least to listen to it, perhaps I'm wrong with my review?

DISMAL EUPHONY
(Napalm)

Norse hardware mixed with lovely female vocals, a grim Black Metal voice and abyssic atmospheres. A strange but interesting combination of sounds: This MCD should be a rough taste for the upcoming full-length CD. Musically it fits to the current Norse kind of playing, you'll find melodic, atmospheric riffs, so don't expect anything brandnew here. It's just the mixture of styles which makes this new Norwegian band (at least a bit) interesting. A good release for a start, let's see if those boys and girls are able to improve. Nice coverartwork!

CRYPTOPSY "None So Vile"
(Wrong Again)

Do you want it very hectically played? And very intense? Well, this is what **Cryptopsy** is all about... melodic sounds are crossed with old **Napalm Death** (!)-vocals and **Cannibal Corpse**-like arrangements. It all sounds like a fuckin' violent inferno! Cool untrendy stuff which is definitely difficult to play, but this is only for people with nerves of steel... otherwise you won't survive this deadly storm of violence!

DISMAL EUPHONY
"Sorta Moria Slott"
(Napalm)

It's in the same style as on their MCD (review see elsewhere)...Nodric blackened stuff with a lot of keyboards, screamed and sung (female) vocals. It's "easy listening" kind of music, sweet melodies that directly go deep into your ears. There's nothing much to add except for the thing that real clear guitararriffs are hard to find on this one.

DEMILICH "Nespithe"
(Repulse)

Finland still produces a lot of Death Metal bands, but not every band is a gain! **Demilich** know to play, but their deadly music does not kill... it doesn't affect me at all for it's filled with too many uninteresting riffs and arrangements. Next time, guys!

POLLUTED INHERITANCE

"Betrayed"
(DSFA)

Death Metal the more technical way, especially the drumwork is astonishing, ... some of you drumming maniacs will find it interesting listening to it if you like precise playing!

Svolherd "Tagernes Artusinde"
(Euphonious)

I hate it when a complete booklet is written in a foreign language like it is the case here. It's technical Death Metal with good dark vocals, but musically it's nothing really great... It's all played in a hectical way... and is therefore nothing I appreciate!

GODKILLER

"The Rebirth of the Middle Age"
(Wounded Love)

Black Metal in the Norwegian vein, but with medieval touches. Those of you who know the band's demo ("The Warlord") know what to expect. The vocals haven't changed that much as well, they're still very **Burzum**-like. A 5 song MCD of old news!

BARATHRUM "Infernal"
(advance, N.E.P.)

The title say it all... "Infernal"! Yeah, this third opus of **Barathrum** is the most wicked and best one so far. Their doomy style of JetBlack Metal with deadly bassdoses is very original, it's something very unique! This album is beyond the trends, just listen to the tracks like "War Metal", "Ethereal Guest", etc. ... hymns of the final armageddon! It's still extreme music, so wimps should stay away... you won't survive the (almost) 70 minutes of playing time! A thing I really like is the clear pronunciation of **Demonos'** vocals... they are extreme but quite easy to understand. Give "Infernal" a chance if you are bored by most of the other Black Metal stuff that gets released!



"Alone Walking"
(Wounded Love)

A re-release of a demo on MCD format. Read the review in **TALES OF THE MACABRE** #1. A short description: Epic and bombastic Metal in the vein of **Bathory** ("Hammerheart"/ "Blood Fire Death").

SCABBARD "Beginning of Extruction"
(Deathvastation)

Two of the musicians are wearing **Slayer** shirts on the backcover, so I thought this band must be great. Well, all I got is unspectacular, abruptly played Death Metal with deep vocals. The only thing I can't deny is that those guys know to play their instruments quite well.

FLOWING TEARS & WITHERED FLOWERS
"Swansongs"
(Seven Art)

Something for your heart, with influences from **My Dying Bride** and **Dead Can Dance**, but it's not very professionally done (changing of riffs, vocal-rhythm, etc.), and it gets quite boring after some songs. It was too early for a CD.

APOPHIS "Down in the Valley"
(Contraption)

Death Metal with strange drumrhythms at parts. All is professionally played, but the music is nothing really special though.

Night in Wales

A German band, but they play a melodic kind of Metal à la **In Flames**, etc... it all sounds 100% Swedish-styled. I admit that those guys can play, but this music has no real power to offer!

FORSTH (M.O.S.)

Grim nordic Black Metal with a messy but raw production which helps the band having a special atmosphere, even if the guitar- / drumwork is average. Forsth's music is best when they slow down their speed and use these obscure dark keyboards (à la **Eminenz**). This band spits on sweet melodies... this is more the dark kind of Black Metal.

SANGUIS ET CINIS (M.O.S.)

Slow and very atmospheric Dark Wave stuff, with German lyrics. It all sounds very natural, so you won't suffocate in synthetic computer-sounds... even acoustic guitars can be heard!

HEFEYSTOS (Last Epitaph)

Melodical stuff... the info says "atmospheric majestic Metal, sublime, light and charming music", well, this might be right. Female vocals, flutes, organ-sounds, etc... are the elements of this CD, the guitars are more in the background. A tamed but nice album.

THE ROCKING DILDOS "On Speed" (Kron H)

"On Speed" sounds like (first) **Gehennah** meets newer **Impaled Nazarene** stuff, but mixed with a strong touch of old Hardcore. The vocals are Black Metal like. This band is supposed to be a Fun-band, right ?!?

CASKET "Emotions..." (Serenades)

There's a demo of a band called **Casket** reviewed elsewhere in this mag, but I'm sure that this is not the same band that released this CD here. "Emotions..." represents melodic Gothic Metal with female voices, harmonic guitars, slow rhythms, etc... not really music for wild headbangers, but for those who like this style of music.

WELTENBRAND (M.O.S.)

Romantic Dark wave! This is very atmospheric stuff which seems to be praising the dark. Sometimes it all sounds like a movie-soundtrack.

DECEYED

"Resurreciórem Morturáum" (Skyfall)

Black Metal, once a cult, loses power and a big part of its spirit with every new average album that gets released with every new sunrise. So I was surprised when I listened to the third **Decayed** album, because this band understands how Black Metal should sound... dark, harsh and with a lot of power. Influences such as **Bathory**, even **Blasphemy**, old Thrash, etc... can be found here... You can obtain this CD by sending \$20 to the band's address (see elsewhere).

PERETUAL DEMISE "Arctic" (DSFA)

Quite untypical coverartwork for a melodic (Death) Metal release I must say, but I'm always open for surprises. One of the main influences must be **VoiVod**, but this CD has nothing to do with old-school Metal. It's enjoyable but unspectacular stuff!

Ancient Rites "Diabolical Serenades" (Mascot)

For all those who missed to buy **Ancient Rites** debut CD have the chance to do it now, and you'll even find a bonus track on it! Musically it's simple but powerful Black/Death Metal which is mainly played in a fast way. For those who like it loud and heavy!

VADER "The Darkest Age" (Arctic Serenades)

This is probably the first Death Metal "Live" album ... 12 songs of supreme deathly aggression, recorded anno '93. The sound quality is good but not excellent. However, **Vader** fans have to buy this CD, there's no escape! And this album proves that **Vader** is a strong "live force", hell yes!

"De Profundis"

Awesome album, pure aggressive Death Metal with parallels to **Morbid Angel** and **Slayer**. It's a shame that the label doesn't promote this album too well...

CHARACHORN

"Immemorial Atlantic Veneration" (Repulse)

Speedy, raw, bad-produced Black Metal from Spain. It's a cheap **Dark Throne** copy without the necessary energy and convincing riffs. 21 minutes of boring music.

MAJESTY

(Teutonic Exstistence)

Very original melodic and melancholic Doom Metal with cool sung vocals which are almost beyond description (a rough imitation are the sung vocals of early **Riot** tunes). 3 songs of supreme Doom cult !!!

MOLESTED "Stormvold" (Repulse)

It's still extreme what **Molested** from Norway have to offer on this new 5 song MCD. Furious Death Metal with dark vocals and a complex way of playing, in the same vein as their full-length CD.

SUMMONING "Dol Guldur" (Napalm)

Typical **Summoning** stuff again! They continue where "**Minas Morgul**" ended, and it's again a good album. The only shit is that too many bands nowadays started to play atmospheric Black Metal stuff, so a bit of the old "magic" of this music is gone. This is of course not **Summoning's** fault, because they were one of the first bands to play this kind of style. Those who liked their old CDs as well will not be disappointed by this new album.

GOLDEN DAWN "The Art of Dreaming" (Dark Matter)

Very professional Black Metal art, especially for a debut CD. It sounds like old **Summoning** stuff with a touch of an own identity. The songwriting is variable, so you won't fall asleep while you descend through the nine songs. A good album for a start, with good riffs and atmospheres.

NAZXUL "Totem" (Vampire)

Extremists of Black Metal listen up... **Nazxul** have arrived with their debut CD to satisfy your needs. Extremely fast 'n' ruthless Black Metal with a demonic atmosphere is what they've created. But wait, this is no copy of Norse bands here! This band comes from Australia and have this extreme Australian Black/Death sound (remember **Destroyer 666**, **Armoured Angel**, etc.). "Totem" is much better than their demo (reviewed in #3), so we can speak of a good surprise here.

Adorned Brood "Hilitia" (Folter)

"Teutonic War Metal" is the style here, as the band says. Well, to give you a better imagination I would say they play tamed Black Metal with folklore parts, with influences from bands like **Cruachan**, etc. as flutes, acoustic guitars, etc. can be heard in **Adorned Brood's** music as well. "Hilitia" is an acceptable album for a start and is **FOLTER's** best release so far.



NECROMANTIA "Ancient Pride" (Osmose)

A good MCD / MLP by **Necromantia**! I like their slow parts a lot, because they are the strength and the most original side of this old Greek band. One of those 4 songs is a coverversion of **Manowar's** "Each Dawn I Die" (cool!), ... strange that the band didn't mention it on the promo... perhaps the fans have to find it out for themselves ?!?! The MLP version comes with one bonus-song... so go out and buy Vinyl (like always said!).

MYSTIC CIRCLE "Der Schrei nach Morgenröte" (Last Epitaph)

One more Vampire Black Metal band! Musically they have not much to offer except for the standard Black/Death Metal stuff with the typical nordic atmosphere and some melodic riffs. The first five songs for example start with the same drumrhythms, and this is one of the signs for the band's limited songwriting-ability. The intros/keyboard sounds can't help making this album much better. Some good parts can be heard, but most of the stuff is just boring and pathetic.

DECEMBER'S FIRE "Vae Victis" (Last Epitaph)

This Polish band plays music that can be seen as a dark movie-soundtrack... quite hymnic, dark and dramatic stuff! This is not music to sing along with!

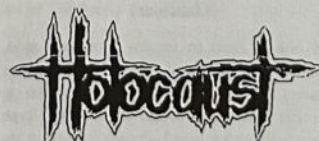
IMPSTICUM

"In the Streams of Inferno" (Full Moon)

You'll hear Industrial Black Metal in the purest Norwegian form when listening to this weird product. On one side it's interesting cruel music, but on the other side I'm pissed off by all those synthetic industrialized drumsounds 'n' rhythms. I would describe this band as "Emperor with an unnatural sound". Strange but original in its own way.

NINE WORLDS "Beth Zalda" (Adipocere)

Melodical stuff, infected by ordinary Black Metal sounds and doomy/ gloomy music... even **VoiVod/ Black Sabbath**-influences can be heard on this very complex album.



HOLOCAUST "Spirit's Fly" (Neat Metal)

These old veterans of British Heavy Metal return with a new album, but all isn't of course as old-sounding as the bands' old albums. It's Heavy Metal/ Hard Rock with progressive (not chaotic!) touches.

INFERNÖ "Utter Hell" (Osmose)

Who do these Norwegians think they are? Nobody needs a side-project of members from **Ved Buens Ende**, etc. etc. etc... which just rips off old (but not forgotten!) bands' riffs. After the obligatory intro, the LP starts with the song "Intro from Hell"... this song starts with exactly the same riff as **Hirax's** "Bombs of Death", unbelievable! Another good example for **Inferno** being just a coverband is the song "Infernal Invasion" which is almost the same like **Destruction's** legendary "Bestial Invasion". "Torment Her" sounds like **Kreator's** "Tormentor", and so on and so on... the list could be endless! **Inferno** are nothing but true POSERS in my eyes, so a big "Fuck Off" to them for just being a band that makes some extra money with the help of old bands' riffs... it's a shame that a band like **Inferno** gets hailed by some young people while some of the original old bands (like **Hirax**) never received full attention and are unknown to most of the younger headbangers. "Utter Hell" is probably the ultimate proof for our scene being nothing but a commercial trendy thing without any moral. **Inferno** are a disgrace for all people who are seriously into old Metal!

NOX MORTIS "Same" (Prophecy)

Melodical Metal with growled vocals. It sounds like a much more complex version of **Crematory**, but not with the same energy. Some parts are good, others suck. The band should try to compose real songs instead of assembling several riffs that do not fit too well in a row... technical know-how is existing, but no ability to write good songs.

Malignant Eternal "Farnet" (Self-financed)

Yes, another Norwegian band, but a band without corpsepaint and all the typical grim posing! It's more atmospheric Norse Metal with melodies and hymnic sounds, even if it's fast at parts. The vocals are of course very high, but a touch of originality is hidden in this band's music.

ATMAN "Like Pure Unawaited Magic" (New Goetia/ Requiem/ Repulse)

Black Metal, played very fast and intense, but with atmospheric touches. An album with music the straight and easy way!

ABIGOR "Opus IV" (Napalm)

The fourth **Abigor** CD, ... and it's still in the typical Nordic Black Metal style which we are all used to hear from this band. This CD is divided into two recording sessions, it's a kind of **Abigor** "split CD". I've nothing to criticize at this release except for the fact that this band releases too much stuff in just a short time, so the possibility exists that people will start to lose interest in **Abigor**.

WRAITH "Riot" (Neat Metal)

Old Heavy Rock with a touch of Glam (like **Twisted Sister**, **Ozzy**, etc.), and grunge.

Swedish CD/LP Invasion

There were so many Swedish albums released that they deserve some "Extra- Only For Swedish Metal -Pages" in this issue, especially as most of the stuff sounds alike...

VARGAVINTER "Frostfödd" (Invasion)

Metal made in Sweden... fast but very melodic Black Metal with no dark spirit at all. You can't play dark music when playing tons of melodies! Tastes are different of course...

BLACKMAIL "A Female Impersonator" (Ransom)

70s sounds (Black Sabbath) meet newer (Faith No More, Danzig, I don't fuckin' know what) shit-sounds. Real Metal lovers won't buy this 4 track MCD.

EMBRACING "I hear the Burden of Time" (Invasion)

Fast and melodic Black Metal in the vein of Dissection, In Flames, etc. The vocals are really hitting my nerves the rest is "ok" in its style!

THE MOBILE MOB FREAKSHOW "The Raving Dead EP" (Static Age)

It seems as if fans of different music scenes have united to create a very own sound, a sort of cool 'n' ugly Rock 'n' Roll -Goth with a touch of Punk. Original indeed! This hasn't much to do with Metal, so be careful with buying this release blindly!

PARNASSUS "In Doloriam Gloria" (Secula Delenda)

This sounds like a symphonic version of Emperor... and this is why Parnassus sounds a bit over the top! It's too symphonic with their strong use of synths. But I know that a lot of guys (and grrlles) will like this band. Fast but very melodic stuff with melancholic touches is the rule here. Slaves to the Scandinavian sound should try this, because this is one of the worthier releases from Sweden, and even if it's very melodic (but still intense) stuff, it's not like all those other melodic Swedish bands!

DEATHWITCH "Triumphant Devastation" (Necropolis)

Like Bewitched, Inferno, etc... this is another Scandinavian old-school band featuring members of other bands. Deathwitch play straight and very simple Black/Thrash Metal, a mixture of Kreator and modern Black Metal. Well, the CD is ok, but would have been better if those guys worked harder on the songwriting, because it's sometimes a touch too simple what they show us on "Triumphant Devastation". Let's see what their second LP "Dawn of Armageddon" will bring...



"Far away from the Sun" (Adipocere)

Good CD, but lesser of the faster parts would have been better, because this band has its best moments when slowing down the tempo. Symphonic fast 'n' melodic Black Metal with an bearable voice (mixture of Black and Death Metal) is game here! I think there's nothing more to say.

THE EVERDAWN "Openn of the Damned" (Invasion)

Swedish stuff, again played in a melodic way. 4 songs which I can recommend to all Swedish Metal loving readers (are there any by the way?!?)

SCHEITAN "Travelling in Ancient Times" (Invasion)

Members of The Everdawn and Gates of Ishtar formed this new band (or should I say "project"?!?) to bring us intense Black violent Metal, with undeniable parallels to stuff like the 3rd Immortal LP, etc... just fast and grim blasphemy! But you hear in Scheitan's riffs that this band is Swedish... they can't hide their style behind the masquerade of grim Black Metal.

DIABOLICAL MASQUERADE "Ravendusk in my Heart" (Adipocere)

Blackheim (Katatonia/ Bewitched) goes solo! And he managed to record a cool album. Black Metal, with melodic mid-tempo parts, but also very fast blastparts. Influences might be Katatonia (the melodic/ gothic one), Emperor (the symphonic one) and even classical Heavy Metal bands (just listen to "Under the Banner of The Sentinel", featuring Dan Swanö on vocals!). It's absolutely not an album that makes you fall asleep!

AMON ARMATH "Sorrow Throughout the Nine World" (Pulverized)

New styled Swedish "Death" Metal... fast, furious, melodic. They have some good guitar riffs to offer, and might be one of the better Swedish bands in that particular style.

GEHENNAH "King of the Sidewalk" (Osmose)

More clone Metal, but it's not as worse as I've expected it to be. It's at least not as unoriginal as their labelmates from Inferno... Gehennah sound like a bloody bastard of Motörhead, Venom and dirty Punk, but it's of course not of the same quality! "King of..." is more "Rock'n'Rolly" compared to "Hard Rocker", the band's debut CD.

DARK TRANQUILLITY "Enter Suicidal Angels" (Osmose)

Those who like the stuff which Dark Tranquillity have created in the past, will also like this new CD. Melodic, sometimes furious Metal made in Sweden. But why have those guys recorded one techno-song? Perhaps this is a taste for how the band sounds in future?!

ANCIENT WISDOM "For Snow Covered The Northland" (Avantgarde)

Don't expect grim Black Metal here. This is good doomy and emotional Black Metal with cold feelings. Some of the melodic riffs remind me of old Burzum and old Katatonia. It's of course nothing that we haven't heard before, but Ancient Wisdom did a some good work on their debut CD. It's an album that spreads a certain atmosphere that is lost in most Black Metal band's music.

INFESTHEAD "Killing Christ" (Invasion)

The first thought I had when reading the CD's title was "Oh... this one will suck!", but I was wrong. It's well-played straight ahead Death Metal with big influences from Decide... that's something I really like! Also, the CD cover is cool! But next time those guys should try to get a more brutal and dark production!

DEFLESHED "Abrah Kadavrah" (Invasion)

Another cool release by INVASION! Defleshed are not as "Decide-influenced" as Infesthead are, but some parallels are existing. It's a funny thing that there are some Swedish bands (like Luciferion, etc.) adopting this U.S. Death Metal style instead of playing this melodic Swedish shit which people call "Death" Metal as well. "Abrah Kadavrah" is not a new cult album, but it's at least a nice one. The only thing that pisses me off is that Defleshed isn't as straight ahead-playing as I want them to be!

DARK FUNERAL "The Secrets of the Black Arts" (No Fashion)

It's hard to express the intensity of this album in words. It's almost as bombastic, fast and aggressive as Mayhem's "De Myteris..." is. Of course I have to say that Dark Funeral's release is not as original as Mayhem's LP, but it's all done with the same powerful expression. It's pure fast Black Metal without any will to compromise, it's astonishing to hear the musicians play that precise. Beside the convincing music I have to mention the great coverartwork (drawn by Necrolord) and the whole layout of this CD.

UNPURE "Coldland" (Napalm)

Most of the Swedish Black Metal bands try to copy each other in style and sound, but this is luckily not the case at Unpure. They are still faithful to their original sound, and "Coldland" is (at least in my opinion) a strong album, much stronger than the debut CD!!! It's straight ahead old Black Metal with cool riffs and powerful rhythms, and it's sounding very honest and untrendy. Songs like "Horny Goat" (my favoured old demosong), "Count Dracula", etc. are good examples for Unpure's style. More albums like this one, please!

SETHERIAL "Nord" (Napalm)

This Black Metal manifest sounds like fast Emperor on a much more melodic level. But it's very intense and bombastic/symphonic music, quite impressive I must say! Although Setherial do capture all typical Northern Black Metal clichés in their music, I dare to say that this is one of the highlights from Sweden in 1996. Give them a listen!

VINTERLAND "Wings of Sorrow" (No Fashion)

Here again something for lovers of bombastic Black Metal, fast but still with melodies. Surely one of the better CDs as quality can't be denied. The production is great, so don't expect rehearsal sound. To me, Vinterland sound like a tamed and melodic version of Dark Funeral.

SACRILEGE "Lost In The Beauty You Slay" (Black Sun)

This must be the third band with the name Sacrilige that I know. But let's concentrate on the music. This album is not as overloaded with melodies as it is the case at most of the other melodic Swedish bands these days, and that's good! Sacrilige is Swedish Metal "light", which means this band is a bit harder!

NECROMICON "Realm of Silence" (Impure Creations)

An acceptable release of atmospheric but still fast 'n' powerful Black Metal from Sweden. Melodies aren't of course missing.

DECEMBER MOON "Source of Origin" (Spinefarm)

Death Metal meets avantgarde, all in the typical Swedish disguise. But December Moon are better than most of their landmates. They still know how to define "energy", and that's very important (to me). This CD seems to be a serious work! They know to mix hard and melodic riffs without starting to sound like a rougher Helloween version like most of the other Swedish competitors.

GATES OF ISHTAR "Bloodred Path" (Spinefarm)

Fans of bands like Dissection, In Flames, Naglfar, etc. should check out Gates to Ishtar's CD!

THE BLACK "Black Blood" (Necropolis)

Another The Black release? Why this? All songs are already included on the "The Priest of Satan" album. Right, this "Black Blood" MCD includes the demorecordings, but hey... was this release really necessary? But if you haven't heard The Black yet, then check out the MCD instead of the CD, for "Black Blood" has a rawer, more wicked (and therefore for Black Metal) better production.

DAWN "Sorgh Pa Svarte Vinger Fogh" (Necropolis)

Dawn play fast, but still melodic Black Metal, and that's something I don't think fits good as a combination. But tastes are different, of course and I must admit that those guys know to play their weapons! My personal highlight in 23 minutes playing time is their coverversion of Infernal Majesty's "Night of the Living Dead" which makes Dawn's own material sounds like Glam if you compare the intensity of the riffs. But the original version still rules supreme!

KATATONIA "Brave Murder Day" (Avantgarde)

The guys from Katatonia must have listened to a lot of Rock stuff during the last time, because you can hear this when you bath your ears in "Brave Murder Day". But it's still Katatonia-like... and it's still good what they do, even if I honestly prefer their "For Funerals to Come" Pic12"inch. I think that no one will really be disappointed by their new work, as the band still knows to write good riffs!

ARCH ENEMY "Black Earth"
(W.A.R.)

"Featuring ex-Carnage members"... wow, this must be great I thought, but at the end I got nothing but disappointed. I really love Carnage's kind of Death Metal, I dare to say that "Dark Recollections" is one of the best dark Death Metal LPs to hail from Sweden. But Arch Enemy haven't too much in common with Carnage except for the distorted guitarsound... Arch Enemy's music isn't dark and brutal... to say it with clear words: It isn't Death Metal, at least not for me! It's all more melodic now, and is sometimes even filled with (for real Death Metal) untypical rhythms... I don't really like it too much to be honest with you. Luckily this band decided not to continue with the old name, because that would be a real deception for the old fans!

LIERS IN WAIT
Spiritually Uncontrolled"
(Black Sun)

Swedish Death Metal... but wait! This has nothing to do with the new kind of Swedish stuff. **Liers in Wait** play the kind of Death Metal the way it was meant to be... extremely violent and brutal, in the vein of **Morbid Angel**. It's great stuff, but a touch too technical for my primitive ears. 17 minutes of heavy produced devastation.

GOLEM
"Eternity... the weeping Horizons"
(Invasion)

Following the footsteps of **Carcass** and **Death Metal**, "Eternity..." turned out to be a brutal source of energy. I like the morbid riffing and the general atmosphere which is quite powerful. Unfortunately the CD starts with strong songs, but ends with some more or less ordinary ones. But it still is a good CD.

GODGORY "Sea of Dreams"
(Invasion)

This kind of Death Metal seems to be popular! "Sea of Dreams" is not only ruled by the brutal kind of playing, but also by absolute harmonical parts with nice soli and acoustic guitars. This is not a CD where every song sounds equal, so you often get surprised during the 48 minutes playing time. There are of course still things that aren't perfect yet (mid-tempo /slower parts), but for a debut CD it's good.



GROTESQUE "In the Embrace of Evil"
(Black Sun)

Grotesque are regarded as a cult band by a lot of people, and with this re-release of their old stuff on CD, younger Death Metal fans, who missed to listen to this band, have now the chance to check out the class of this old band. Swedish Death Metal in its old form... dark 'n' powerful the way it should be! This CD comes as a digipack with an extra booklet... looks cool!

MURDER CORPORATION
"Blood Revolution 2050"
(Qabalah)

This new band says they're influenced by **Master**, **Repulsion**, **Impetigo**, etc., so now you know how to handle this band. Death Metal, simple, brutal, but without the final kick. And this makes the album only recommendable to die-hard lunatics. Even the fact that the ex-Megaslaughter (a great band!) vocalist sings here doesn't make this CD better.

ALCAJON "Vox Clamentis"
(Wounded Love)

Again, melodic but still fast Swedish Death/Black-Metal. Nothing much has changed since their first release!

CARDINAL SIN "Spiteful Intent's"
(W.A.R.)

4 songs of melodic stuff the way most of the Swedish bands play. Why don't all those bands form a kind of "Big Band"? It would sound the same anyway...

NECROPHOBIC "Darkside"
(Black Mark)

It's the return of **Necrophobic**, and they still play brutal 'n' dark Death Metal. The only difference between this CD and the old stuff is that the band lost most of their **Morbid Angel**-spirit and sounds more "Swedish" now instead. Even some Black Metal-like riffs can be heard now at parts. It's a good powerful album with a great coverartwork, so Death Metal maniacs have another reason to party.



BEWITCHED "Encyclopedia of Evil"
(Osmose)

A MCD with covers from **Mercyful Fate**, **Bathory**, even **Black Widow**, etc. plus a new version of the band's own composition "Hellcul!" can be found here, and they did a good job. But do we really need this release?

THE BLACK "The Priest of Satan"
(Necropolis)

This album arrives about three years too late. It was recorded back in 1993, but it wasn't released until 1996 for unknown reasons. It's raw Swedish Black Metal with simple but effective riffs. Nowadays this album can be considered as "average", but three years ago this CD would have been a killer. As said before, "The Priest of Satan" is three years too late, but is still enjoyable though.

MARDUK "Heaven Shall Burn..."
(Osmose)

The most characteristic element in **Marduk**'s music must be the incredible speed. Their Black Metal is really ultrafast, but that's probably the band's main problem, because especially the very fast parts suck a lot of energy out of the music. But the instrumental abilities are astonishing, no doubt about it! A live album will be released later, and I'm sure that it will prove that **Marduk** are really able to play their fast stuff live as well.

CENTINEX "Reflections"
(Die Hard)

A mixture of old and new-styled Swedish Death Metal is **Centinex**'s style. Their music is very straight ahead and it's easy to get into the songs. I prefer the parts where the ghosts of old forces like **Carnage**, **Entombed**, etc. appear.

Final LP/ CD Warnings

DEMONIAC "Stormblade"
(Evil Omen)

"Prepare for War", the band's debut CD, offered Black Metal with some folklore influences, but "Stormblade" is more a sort of Heavy Metal album with blackened vocals. The folklore-influence still remained, but for the rest it's all very different in comparison to the debut album. Now you can hear traditional Heavy Metal riffs, mixed with modern Metal techniques...and it sounds very well. I'm indeed surprised by this work, not only good riffs but also great soli, tempo changes, etc. can be heard here. **Demoniac** changed their sound to the better. The only thing I find shit is the band's "torturous satanic sex-slave" image... it doesn't fit to the music at all. If I want to be entertained by dirty "Sex Metal" lyrics, then I listen to real dirty stuff like **The Mentors**, because their music fits perfectly to their lyrics.

INTESTINE BAALISM
"An Anatomy of the Beast"
(Repulse)

Brutal Death Metal stuff from Japan, and those guys are not afraid to use some real melodies here and then without losing power. A cool CD which should be checked by Death Metalers. Impressive coverartwork, really great!

YOUR SHAPELESS BEAUTY
(Adipocere)

Mid tempo Metal with keyboards, screamed vocals, etc..., stuff that is hard to describe as it is very unspectacular, at least for me. I think this CD is something for people that are looking for simple stuff with touches of Gothic, Black and harmonic Metal.

KALISIA "Skles"
(Adipocere)

Better than the above reviewed album is **Kalisia**'s CD debut, because they have some good metallic riffs to offer. It's straight forward, guitarorientated Metal on a certain technical (but not too technical) level, supported by keyboards and a deep voice. Influences? Perhaps Greek and Swedish Metal, a bit of **Crematory** and traditional Heavy Metal. A good 4 song CD!



Witchburner is a new band that plays good old-fashioned Death/ Thrash Metal. The influences are taken from **Kreator**, **Sodom**, and neo-Death Metal. They present their music in a quite convincing and honest way, this band doesn't seem to be one of those "wannabe old Metal rip off shit"-bands. Their debut CD is of course not perfect yet, but it proves that this band has potential. So it would be cool to hear more stuff from this German outfit in future.

IMMORTAL "Blizzard Beasts"
(Osmose)

With this fourth album **Immortal** will probably lose some of their old fans, because the band's style gets more and more complex and extreme with every new LP. "Blizzard Beasts" continues where "Battles in the North" ended, it hasn't really much to do with the first two albums anymore. But I think that "Blizzard Beasts" is not a bad album; it's just not as easy to listen to **Immortal** as it used to be. The riffs are really morbid and sometimes quite complex... and I dare to say that some parts sound very **Morbid Angel**-like when it comes to the morbidity/ disharmonies. Perhaps **Demonaz** and **Abbat** got a little inspired when they toured with **Trey** and his morbid angels. One thing is for sure: **Immortal** haven't wimped out and are more uncommercial than ever.

PAZUZU "Awaken the Dragon"
(Dark Matter)

Pazuzu was one of the first bands to come up with dark non-metallic (medieval) ritual music with deep/ high vocals, and everyone who remembers the band's debut CD "...And all was silent" knows that this Austrian force stands for good quality music. "Awaken the Dragon", the second CD, is still recognizable as a **Pazuzu** album, but the style of songwriting has changed a bit. Don't worry, it's still good stuff which doesn't make you sleepy (like it is the case at most of the other non-metallic bands), there's still a sort of magic in the music! All those who liked the debut CD will also enjoy this new one as well. Don't waste your money on the copy-bands... check out the originals instead.

VLAD TEPEȘ
"War Funeral March"
(Embassy)

Originally released as the band's first official demo on **FULL MOON**; these 5 unholy Black Metal songs are now re-released on MCD format. Unlike the other **Vlad Tepeș** releases, these recordings are more "modern"- Black Metal sounding à la old **Graveland** (especially the vocals), etc... very harsh 'n' extreme stuff. This French member of the **Black Legions** knows to play Black Metal with the necessary dark feeling, and even the production is acceptable this time! This MCD is limited to 500 copies only, so interested people should hurry up.

ABSU "The Third Storm of Cythal"
(Osmose)

Yeah, this is a great album. **Absu** understand to combine old Thrash Metal with new Black Metal sounds without sounding like a clone-band. This third album offers first class Metal mayhem with a lot of powerful parts and great drumwork. Also the coverartwork is impressive. What should I say? This is the best band **OSMOSE** has to offer right now! Buy or die!!!

EDGE OF SANITY "Infernal"
(Black Mark)

The devil is in **Edge of Sanity** now, at least in some parts, because they have adopted a bit of Black Metal here and then. But it's still typical **Edge of Sanity**-styled stuff with all the distorted guitarsound and those harmonic riffs. There are both good and not so good songs included on "Infernal", but I'm sure that fans will again enjoy this album, even if the songmaterial varies a lot from song to song.

PURITY "Built"
(Black Mark)

Modern Metal stuff with sung vocals, but it lacks of a certain feeling that is necessary to make heads bang. Not really bad, but not really recommendable as well.

DYING FETUS
"Purification Through Violence"
(Die Hard)

The influences seem to be old **Carcass**, **Suffocation**, **Cannibal Corpse**, but **Dying Fetus**' Death/ Grind is not as "deathly" as the music of those mentioned bands. But it's extreme anyway.

COVENANT

After long delays here **Covenant**'s first CD. It's pure Norwegian Black Metal on a high quality level. The biggest influence must be **Satyricon**, but I think that **Covenant** are better. This album is finally an interesting one worth the money.

GEASA "Starside"

6 nordic Black Metal songs with a clear sound, with both atmospheric and hard parts. That's all... \$5: Draighean, 184 Grace Park Rd., Drumcondra, Dublin 9, Ireland.

OSSUARY "The Black Wind ..."

Raging Deathrash played on a higher technical level.... these guys really know to torment their instruments, and it sounds cool and honest. Three songs that are definitely worth the money (\$5) are included here. Write to: Roberto Lemes, P.O. Box 52278, C.P. 20.000, Maldonado - Uruguay, South-America.

SERPENT RISE "Travellin' Free"

A tape for people into depressive and melancholic Doom sounds... and these sounds are combined with a sort of "Space music" which makes your soul fly. Interesting and very moody music indeed! These two songs should be a messenger for an upcoming CD on SOUND RIOT, P.O. Box 251, Campo Grande MS, 79002-970, Brazil

NEBULA OF DESTINY "Rehearsaltape '96"

Easy-listening-music from Germany, ... "easy listening", because their very melodic medieval-styled riffs go deep into your ears... and even if it's all at the edge of being "kitschy", it's nice stuff, but it has certainly no powerful energy to offer.

COUNT DE NOCTE "Nos Omnes Una Manet"

Again Black Metal stuff, but wait... this band has also some riffs to offer that are not typical for Black Metal, but more for Power Metal and this melodic Swedish Death Metal stuff. I'm not happy with the fact that these guys' music sounds too confused, perhaps this is because they wanted to do a touch too much on this tape. 5 songs for \$5. Jarmo Hohtari, Puomikaari 3, 18300 Heinola KK, Finland.

CANOPIC JAR "Vision"

New Carcass meets almost hardcore like riffs. 5 songs, 14 Pemberton Road, Bridgehill, Consen, Co. Durham, DH8 8JJ, England.

CARNUN "Malkuth"

Melodic Black Metal with bad vocals, 4 songs, \$5. Looney, 3 Beechwood Close, Ballincorra, Midleton, Co. Cork, Ireland

LUNAR AURORA "Auf dunklen Schwingen"

This is a tape for people in fast but melodic modern Nordic Black Metal with no traditional Black Metal influences. DM 10 (?) is the price for these five professionally played hymns. Sabine Geppert, Am Mühlerg 34, 83093 Bad Endorf, Germany

VASSILIUM "The Moonshine..."

Vassillum's music is definitely original... that's probably because it's so primitive, amateurish, and done with a lot of untypical effects, computerdrums, echoes, etc... Pure horror! But I don't like this nightmare (Black Metal ?) music too much... this is stuff for schizos and psychopaths exclusively. Count Vassillum, P.O. Box 112, Dupniza 2600, Bulgaria

VINDSDALE

This tape is something for people who like to know how an LSD - trip feels like... extremely weird and boring effect-music which has nothing in common with Metal. Daniel T. Eideholm, Katarina Bang 13, 11639 Stockholm, Sweden.

DEMOTAPES

DRUSUS "World Without End"

A new demo from this symphonic "film-soundtrack" kind of band, and it's again all very professionally played. About one hour of playing time can be found on this good sounding tape..., so if you are into obscure but still very emotional soundtrack-like tunes, then write (with DM 10 ?) to: Andrei Rusu, Im Sichler 34, 61231 Bad Nauheim, Germany.

"Efemer"

Holy hell, Andrei must be a fast working guy... here's his third demo, and again he offers quality music (except for the first song which cuts my nerves!). Although he did a good job, I think that the second tape was better and more impressive.

NAMELESS "Across the Treshold"

This tape looks (and sounds) like an album cassette. Musically it's melancholic, slow emotional stuff with a lot of acoustic guitars and a Black Metal kind of desperated voice. All sounds very serious and well done. I think \$5 will do for this cool demo (?). Nameless, A.A. 35298, Cali Colombia, South America.

Shadow6 toward my Sky "Nightwaves"

Nordic styled Black Metal, fast 'n' furious. Sometimes they add some melodic riffs, but it's mainly stuff in the typical fast vein. 5 songs are included, available for \$5 (?). Hofmann, Frauenberg 1, 99817 Eisenach, Germany.

CLANDESTINE "Umarte Konle"

The tape's cover looked very harmless (with a white horse, etc.), so I thought this is a more emotional Metal stuff, but I was wrong.... This here is brutal Death Metal with dark vocals! This band knows to combine both morbid and melodic riffs, sounds good as long as it doesn't get filled with too many melodies. This cassette album seems to be made for the Polish market only, because I don't find any English words on it. If you like to check this band, write to Clandestine, P.O. Box 374, 72-600 Swinoujscie, Poland. \$8 must be ok!

WITHOUT GRIEF "Forever Closed"

Typical Swedish stuff which is overloaded with tons of melodies... This band needn't hide behind all those other Swedish bands, it's of the same quality. Just the vocals are weaker (or not loud enough?). This 4 song studiodemo comes with a coloured cover and lyrics. \$5... Nicklas Lindh, Promenaden 19, 2 tr. 79130 Falun, Sweden.

CATAFALQUE

"Ruins of a Forgotten Age"

These three Belgian guys know how to play, but they don't really know how to write songs that will be remembered after we heard them. Their 7 song demo (style: melodic mid-tempo stuff) is not bad, but it starts to get boring after a while. Invest more time into the songwriting next time, guys. For a start it's an "ok" demo. Steve E., Costersveld 10, 8210 Loppem, Belgium.

DIE VERNEINUNG "Liebe, Angst..."

A rehearsal tape with acceptable music but awful vocals. 42 minutes of mid tempo Metal with a touch of Punk. Some good riffs are existing, so we can hope for a better future. S.A. Zehethof 4, 3281 Oberdorf/Melk, Germany

PSYCHONAUT "Liber Null"

When I looked at the bandphoto, I thought that this is a Glam Gothic band... but I was wrong. It's dark stuff (3 songs) with a lot of keyboards and strange sounds in the background. Perhaps that's because this band is from Japan?! It's very unusual music I must say that can be regarded as original, but unfortunately it's not stuff I really like! Zos, 386 - 1 - 713, Hisasuye, Takatsu - ward, Kawasaki - City, Kanagawa - Prefecture, 213 Japan.



FUNERAL MIST "Darkness"

Purest cold and fast Northern Black Metal with a bearable sound. These six songs can be regarded as quite typical in that particular style, but it's all well done. \$5. Ekeroth, Skivågen 5, 13541 Tyresö, Sweden

CTHULHU

Oh no, more atmospheric Non Metal music, but it's better than Vindsdale. 4 songs of sounds from the deepest abyss. P.O. Box 607, St. Petersburg, 189510 Russia

α-THANATOS

Death Metal with thrash influences, and it's well-done when it comes to the instrumental know-how, but the songwriting isn't the best... some of the riffs do not fit too well as a combination. But this does not mean that this 6-song studiodemo sucks, because this demo has also some good parts to offer, especially the calmer parts are cool. I hope that DM 10 are enough for this tape. Jörg Ebert, Winterstraße 4a, 53177 Bonn, Germany.

Another Perfect Day

This band has nothing to do with Motörhead (unfortunately), even if "Another Perfect Day" is the name of one of Lemmy's LPs! This German band plays Metal stuff in the vein of Paradise Lost (lesser melodic though) with horrible vocals... Sorry, I don't like their 4 songs, because this type of Metal gives me nothing. K. Kohlmannslehner, Im Kirchwald 6, 64342 Seeheim, Germany

GHOUL "A Razor For The Goat"

This tape comes with a real razorblade, so do these Americans want their fans to cut themselves? Perhaps it's something for people who like to die after listening to Ghoul's musical torture... Their music is not really "Metal", it's just doomy guitarripping and screams of agony. The atmosphere is dark, yes, but it's all a touch too primitive, and after two very unusual songs (?) we've already reached the end. Only for die-hard perverts. \$5. Ghoul, P.O. Box 1786, Gilbert, AZ 85299 - 1786, U.S.A.

RATTLER "Tyhortism"

I'm a bit disappointed by Rattler's new demo, because the songwriting is weaker in comparison to their previously released "Frankenstein" demo. Well, the band still plays dark and brutal Death Metal, and "Tyhortism" is by no means a bad demo, it's just a step backward for Rattler. These three new studiosongs, packed in a great full-coloured democover (ultraprofessional), you can get for \$5. Russian Creator (Yakovlev), Viru 16 - 1A, EE0001 Tallinn, Estonia

EQUINOX

"Upon the Throne of Eternity"

Just imagine old fast Acheron with a Black Metal sound... that's the way how Equinox's 2 song EP sounds. These recordings are a bit old (recorded in February'95), so this band has probably improved since then. An album is out as far as I know, but I haven't heard it yet. If you like to contact the band, write to: P.O. Box 350333, Grand Island, FL, 32735, U.S.A.

EVOKEN Promotape '96

A change of style! Evoken are still very slow and doomy, but they got a bit rid of their Death Metal roots, especially when it comes to the vocals, they're now more in a sung (or sighed) way. The music itself is more atmospheric, but Evoken is still a very depressive band... they must be one of the last bands that play such an intense style of slow'n moody music. Some will find this music boring, but I like this 3-track tape, because for me it has a magical abyssic touch.

MAGGOT OF PUTREFACTION "Infernal Harvest"

Oh no, a new demo from this horrible band. But they have improved I must agree, it's not as "cheap" a it used to be, but it's still bad enough to not buy this 7 song (rehearsal)-tape. Style? Mid-tempo Death/Black Metal with a touch of Punk. A good thing is that the music is sounding honestly. Peter Ott, Mittelstraße 44, 88741 Laupheim, Germany

ATER

Again atmospheric stuff, but this time with acoustic guitars, watersounds, synths, spoken vocals, etc. No music to bang your head to!

- In The Name of Metal -

A small distribution service with both old/ new Vinyls, T-Shirts, Patches, and other cool merchandise stuff!

For a list send an I.R.C or \$1. Send your "Wanted lists" with stuff that you're looking for. Trades are possible!

Write to the editor's new address!

Razor, Eclerit, Shaghter, Krator, Masover, Shyrr, Vason, Dark, Cebic, Frost, Surovago, Flama, Hobbi, Angel of Death, Destroyer, Gostrod, Infernal Majesty, Iron Maiden, Running Wild, Tor, Exodus, Judas Priest, Balkanz, Black Sabbath, Iron Angel, Root Living Death, Deathbride, Mortuary Drape, Baphomet, Stormtrooper, Escort, Violent Force, Mercyful Fate, Moral Sin, Dark Throats, Onslaught, Master's Hammer, Menah, Tsak, Possessed, Exorcision, Blood Feast, Marha, Bathory, Necrophagia, Mayhem, Darkzone, Exciter, Cyclone, Barathrum, Motörhead, Witchfynde, Black Shepherd, Evanesce, Anarchy, Scattered, Decide, Trichaks, Oxy Obscene, Whiplash, Carcass, Griffin, Destruction, Dark Angel, Sodom, Megahyster, Stormwind, etc.

MOONRISE "Engrafting Feelings"

Is this an LP cassette or a demo? Very professional 6 song tape with good cover, etc... Melodic music is Moonrise's style, and they have some cool ideas, riffs to offer. It's actually not my favoured style of music to be honest, ... but people who think that old *The Gathering* were too hard will probably like Moonrise? The band's address is: Faccoli Alessio, Via Venezia 44, (TN), 38062 Italy

INTO OBLIVION "Into Oblivion II"

Fans of groovy *Sepultura* stuff and a *Pantera* kind of voice should check this 6 song demo.... I had certainly enough of this demo after one song. M. Noll, Fritz-Flinte-Ring-26, 22309 Hamburg, Germany

DORMANT MISERY "The World Beyond"

Brutal Death Metal with dark vocals. The songwriting is nothing special, it's all a bit too confused, but still acceptable. 4 songs (good sound) are included. Write to: Jörg Hartmann, Ratiborstr.27, 38214 Braunschweig, Germany

MOSH QUMA "In a Land of Blind"

5 songs of straight ahead Black/ Death Metal with different faces. Good ideas and potential are existing, perhaps we'll hear more from this band in future? DM 8 to: Matthias Renzenbrink, Mindener Straße 461, 49089 Osnabrück, Germany

CEREBROCIDE "Souls"

Well-played but average Death Metal with both brutal and melodic (or better said less brutal) parts. Their 7 studiosongs (+ intro/outro) are available for DM 10. Thomas Kohl, Marktstraße 18, 04445 Liebertwolkwitz, Germany, P.S.: This band is willing to play live, so organisers contact them.

MALEVOLANCE "Dominium"

Perhaps this band has a touch of originality, but I'm not too fond of their modern Death Metal bastard music with almost Hardcore-like guitar playing.

NEOPATH "Behold The Horde"

Nordic Black Metal, well-produced, fast, but still melodic... 4 songs.

FAERGHAIL "Rehearsal Summer '96"

These guys call their music "Black Heavy Metal", and generally they are right with this, even if *Faergahail's* music is not really "Heavy" but more melodic. This band is going to release a MCD, so check them if you like to listen to something slightly different. Nice music. Kai Lehtinen, Risto Rytin Katu 30 as 16, 32700 Huitinen, Finland.

KHEPHRA

Fast and quite average and sometimes boring Nordic-styled Black Metal, 4 songs (studio-recording). \$6. Andras, Via CEREDO 1, 20030, Baruccana Di Seveso (MI), Italy.

RAMPAGE "Promo"

This tape contains new material, and the band has certainly improved since their CD. It's still fast Death Metal, straight ahead and bloody brutal. Just a part of the vocals have changed, and it doesn't sound too great. But for the rest it's good violent stuff.

IRON RAINBOW

"Never Settle for less than Metal"

Heavy Metal Rock with influences from 70s bands.... the vocals remind me of old *Mortal Sin*, and are therefore melodic and not screamed. 3 songs are included on this good tape, available for \$5. P.O. Box 932, Middle Island, N.Y. 11953, U.S.A.



I've already reviewed their previous released demos in #3, so I can say that *Mortifier* have improved since their last assault. They aren't as "unoriginal" (= being just a copy of Norwegians) as they used to be, they have developed to a professional sounding Black Metal band. This third demo brings us 6 songs with a certain niveau and instrumental "know how", and those three Italians should continue to work on their material until they plan to release an album that will be regarded as more than just another Black Metal album. The price for this tape is \$5. Jaia Carlo, Via Custoza, 24, 72017 Ostuni (br), Italy

DRAUGWATH "Dwellers of the Cursed Forest"

Grim Black fuckin' Metal from the old Soviet Union. Unfortunately this tape has a poor sound, but it was probably done on purpose to sound even grimmer, I don't know. Anyway, with a nordic sound and a *Graveland*-like voice this three-piece tortures your ears with their seven songs. Musically it didn't blow me away, it's just the same stuff that we are used from so many other bands. What is a thorn in my eye is the band's/ label's image.... they should concentrate more on the music if you ask me.

DRAUGWATH

A new demo from this Russian band, and my first impression was "Oh, what a horrible sound!". Musically it's still grim, Northern Black Metal styled stuff. 5 songs, only recommendable for hardest Black Metal junkies. The democover says "Primitive Art for Primitive Evil".... how true!

NEUROPATH "Desert of Excruciation"

Professional demo (cover / tape) and music. Harsh Death Metal in the vein of *Morbid Angel*, *Suffocation*, etc. If you like to have this (3 song) demo, then send your five bucks to.... NeuroPath, 93 Ross Ave, Wheeler Heights, NSW 2097, Australia

Grimson Midwinter

"Us Mere Mortals"

Talking about professional looking demos I can name this one here with its full-coloured printed cover. So I expect a lot from this band's music... Unfortunately it was only the democover that draw my attention, because the music is just ordinary, not bad but not good either! Average, with melodies filled Pagan (?) Metal, can be found here. The fast stuff bores me, some of the Heavy Metal-like riffs are cool, but that's all! 4 songs for \$5. Jussi Helenius, Mäntykankarrentatu 14 as 13, 21200 Raisio, Finland.

NAGELFAR "Als die Tore sich öffnen"

German title, but Norwegian styled music. Black Metal with heavy synths (à la early *Emperor/Enslaved*) and vocals that remind me at *Burzum*. Their three songs are dominated by the synthwork, but good guitar riffs can be heard as well.... it's melodic but still cold music which is between "ok" and good. But is it really necessary that a German band sounds Norwegian? A bit more originality next time and better vocals (especially the sung ones sound awful), please! 10DM/\$7 is the price (German demos seem to be expensive!). Michael Jander Franke, An der Rennbahn 3, 52134 Herzogenrath, Germany.

CEASA "Starside"

This band calls their style "Celtic Black Metal", but I think that "Norwegian Black Metal" is the better term for it. However, they play their music in a professional way. 6 songs are included that are in the vein of *Emperor*, *Burzum*, etc. plus a touch of folklore. Fans of this sort of *Blackened Metal* will love this studiodemo. \$5 (Europe)/ \$6 (World). Draighan, 184 Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9, Ireland.

SONGE D' ENFER "My Visions from the Forest"

Very atmospheric but still dark Black Metal with extremely screamed vocals. The music is acceptable, the sound of this 3-track demo is good. Send five bucks to.... c/o Fon, P.O. Box 9095, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, CEP. 22272-970, Brazil

Darkness is my Bride

A combination of grim and very melodic parts is the Black Metal style of this new band. Some melody-lines seem to be influenced by folklore stuff and this new melodic Swedish kind of playing. The vocals are constantly screaming in an extreme way, and do not fit too well to the rest of the music. 6 songs, available (for DM 8 ?) at Christoph Maier, Albrecht-Dürer-Str. 19, 91207 Lauf, Germany.

STRANGULATION "Between Nothing and Eternity"

Technical Death Metal with influences from old *Atrocity*, *Death*, etc. There's even a coversion of *Death's* "Spiritual Healing" included". Excellent sound, 11 songs (!), ... and all this just for \$6. But I fuckin' lost the address, shit!

IMPENDING DOOM "Promo'96"

A good demotape which isn't just another copy of Norse Black Metal. *Impending Doom's* kind of Black/ Death Metal music is indeed dark with its clever use of keyboard-sounds. And there's a lot of variety in the songwriting, which makes this tape an interesting one. Sometimes I detect parallels to Greek bands like *Rotting Christ* (melodies, vocals, synths) and probably dark stuff like *Eminenz*. You'll hear more from this band in future, in case they keep on working hard on their music. Their 6-song promo isn't for sale as far as I know (the tape says "for promotional use only"), but if you like to write the band, contact: Olaf Riegler, An der Ziegelei 2, 07570 Wünschendorf, Germany

NECROMANCY "Into Apocalypse"

Arrghhhh... unholy exotic unholy Death Metal with a bloody underground sound. Deep vocals, brutal riffs.... This seems to be an LP tape (8 songs are included, coloured cover, etc.). Only for people who love it raw and dirty! \$6 (?) to: Jhery Villarroel S.C. (Antigod), c.Estudiantes Nr. 0822 - Barrio - Petrolero, Cochabamba, Bolivia, South America

PAGANUS DOCTRINA "Demo 1 '95"

Ultra-fast Black Metal with a *Graveland*-kind of voice from the depths of Costa Rica. This sounds like old *Sarcofago* on a Black Metal trip extreme! Even guitarsoli are included... Get this professional (5 song) demotape for \$5. Raum S., Apdo. Postal 77, Barva, Heredia, Costa Rica

FORBIDDEN SITE "Renaissances Noir"

Black is our renaissance, and with seven dark songs this new band expresses their feelings of this new age. Very variable Black/ Death/ Atmospheric Metal these guys play, but the songwriting quality isn't the hottest. It's a bit too "usual" for my taste, but try it yourself if you don't believe me. 28 áv. Rhin & Danube, 38100 Grenoble, France

Lordes Werre

"The Dark Ascension"

Chicago is the place of old school Metal bands, and *Lordes Werre* is one of those forces. They play mid-tempo Heavy/ Thrash Metal with touches of *Sodom* and newer Black Metal. It's not bad what those two guys have to offer, but it's probably a bit too simple. Two tracks (already recorded back in 1994) are only included on this tape, but I prefer a nice two tracker instead of a boring 10 song demo. This tape can be yours for (I guess) \$4 from: R.I.P. Music, P.O. Box 41182, Chicago, IL, 60641, U.S.A. P.S.: The band has a MCD out now, available for \$13 at the same address.

Blood of Christ

"The lonely Flowers of Autumn"

Music with different faces... atmospheric, aggressive, calm, Black/ Death, etc... their variety is sometimes too extreme for my taste, but it would be a lie to say "This band can't play". Their five (for me average) songs are packed in a great coloured cover, and get sold for \$5. Jeff Longo, 27 Century Pl., London, ON, Canada, N6H4W9

SLANDER "Decay of Nightmares"

Their style is Death Metal with great vocals and real dark atmospheric touches. All four songs are good ones and should be noticed by you. \$6 (Europe), \$7 (rest). Julianalaan 62, 3135 JK Vlaardingen, Netherlands. I really hope to hear more music from Slander in future, because this band sounds promising.

MORDUM "Systems"

"Systems" is a demo, but seems to be more like an album-cassette if you take the very professional look of the demo and the clear sound of the eight songs that are included. Musically it's Death Metal with a couple of Thrash/ Progressive Metal influences. These guys are good musicians. However, it's not my favoured music, but probably yours? Only \$5 to... Körösi Roman, Lesnicka 7, 04611 Kosice, Slovakia

CARPATHIAN "Promo95"

Belgium has not really much to do with the Carpathians, has it? Anyway, these five Belgian musicians have sworn themselves to the atmospheric but fast kind of Black Metal which is not above average. 6 songs with an "ok" sound. Lamia, Avenue Central 59, 6001 Marcinelle, Belgium

AGARTHI "Beginning"

A warrior fights a demon in a tombstone, that's how the great drawing of the democover looks like. So the music must be bloody, hopefully! Well, it's not exactly bloody stuff, but hymnic Metal with enjoyable melodies and a strong use of synth-sounds (which are played in a classical way). Only the vocals are the usual screamy ones, unfortunately, because sung vocals would fit much better to this kind of music. Hope this band will improve on their new demo, so that I can write more about them than just a small review. This demo is distributed through *Entropy*. Via Garibaldi, 135/3, 21010 Ferno (Va), Italy

SURTR

Atmospheric music here, an attempt to sound like *Mortils*, but with even more primitive weapons 'n' sounds.

Bluttaufe "Schwarze Dornen"

Black Metal with the *Darkthrone/ Burzum* kind of riffing, not very original and exciting, but not bad though. 4 songs, \$5/ DM 8. Dennis Walz, Wiebadenerstr. 199, 61462 Königstein, Germany

SOLEFALD "Jernlov"

It's always difficult and dangerous to combine several different sounding styles. Dangerous, because it may not fit too well together. **Solefald** are one of those line-ups who try to vary their Nordic music with the help of adding several untypical riffs, parts, etc to it. But, even if the result is listenable and even good at parts, there are still some things that should be improved like the songstructures and especially the vocals (both the screamed and sung ones).

I hope that this band won't rush into the studio to record a CD too soon, because there's still some work to do in order to release something that people have to pay more than \$6 (= price of this 4 song studiodemo) for. T.G.O.N., Box 5530, 4602 Kr.Sand S, Norway

NAGELFAR "Als die Tore sich öffnen"

German title, but Norwegian styled music. Black Metal with heavy synths (à la early **Emperor/Enslaved**) and vocals that remind me at **Burzum**. Their three songs are dominated by the synthwork, but good guitariffs can be heard as well... it's melodic but still cold music which is between "ok" and good. But is it really necessary that a German band sounds Norwegian? A bit more originality next time and better vocals (especially the sung ones sound awful), please! 10DM/\$7 is the price (German demos seem to be expensive!). Michael Jander Franke, An der Rennbahn 3, 52134 Herzogenrath, Germany.

LUNAR GATE "A Secret Well Kept"

Atmospheric stuff again... but it's cool that this Irish outfit tries to create atmosphere in the traditional way, with acoustic guitars instead of using the synths all the time. "A Secret Well Kept" has nothing to do with Metal, but if you need some music to relax to... this might be something for you. Cool is the cover of the demo (and the very professional appearance in general). I don't know if \$5 is enough for this 5 tracker.... Emmett Rees, 1 Marian Villas, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Ireland

Blood Storm

"Iron Flames of Battle"

Responsible for this bloody storm of **Bathory**- styled Black Metal is **Absu's** session bassist "Mezzadurus". 4 songs of ordinary old styled/ traditional fast 'n' monotonous dark stuff are included, and they really don't blow me away, especially because of the messy and distorted sound. This is probably something for die hard - fans only. Good full-coloured cover! \$5... Mezzadurus, 2756 Pratt St., Philadelphia, Pa 19137, U.S.A.

Sadorass

6 songs of slow (**Burzum**-like) and fast primitive (**Mayhem**-like) Black Metal. But it's not bad what those guys offer us... the feeling is good! Sven Goldberg, Neibestr. 30, 38226 Salzgitter, Germany

Det Hedenske Folk

"Three tracks of supreme Heathen Metal, done in the true way from Bergen in Norway" says the flyer. And yes, it sounds very Norwegian, with influences from **Immortal**, but **Det Hedenske Folk** are not as fast 'n' straight ahead as **Abbath** and **Demonaz** are. Talking about **Abbath**: He played the drums for this demo, that's probably why there's the parallel to **Immortal**. \$6. Jim Larsen, Elvenesveien 62, 5050 Nestun, Norway.

CASKET "Meant to be Dead"

Boring Death Metal with no aggressive riffs.... You need more than the ability to play an instrument technically well in order to offer good music !!! Nobody will really miss these 5 songs which you can get for 10DM/\$7. Schorsch Gerriets, Eifelstr. 17, 72766 Reutlingen, Germany.

TRIFIXION "III"

Trifixion of the Horned King returns with a some recordings for his third album after his struggle with his label boss (**LETHAL**) and **Werewolf** partner Michael Piesch. He accuses him being a rip-off, etc. so there's really some bad air between them. Anyway, let's concentrate on the music: Black Metal in the typical Austrian style (= melodic but still aggressive at parts). Some riffs are cool, some are just boring. So this one is hard to review, but I have the feeling that **Trifixion's** third album won't be an important classic for Black Metal history.

DEFACE "The Temple of Truth"

There are quite a lot of German bands who are playing melodic death à la **Crematory** and such sort of stuff, and so is **Deface**. Their music sounds professional, with good riffs and vocals, so if you are into this style, you shouldn't be afraid to invest your cash into this demo (6 songs). Sorry, no price was mentioned, but I'm sure that this tape isn't for free, haha. Contact: Andreas Wickleder, August - Bebel - Straße 1, 09224 Gröna, Germany

NEW AGE

"Decadent Image of Creation in the Nihilist Age"

Finally something promising: This band is a proof for my theories that there are a lot of great but still unknown bands hiding in the countries on the Eastside of the old iron curtain. **New Age**, a band that hails from the depths of Romania, present a demo that is full of atmospheres. It's melodic Metal with a touch of melancholy and darkness, all done in a very professional and original way. Good riffs, piano, violine, synths, etc. build up the sound of this (new?) band. But it's not melodic stuff from start to finish... 'cause those guys have some **Celtic Frost** riffs in their songs as well. The only weak element are the vocals which are a bit strange, but you get used to them, no problem. Three songs you'll find on this demo (which has a cool printed booklet and a long playing time), and I suppose that \$5 is the right price for this tape. Why not giving those guys a fair chance? Check this demo! Mihai Bilauca, P.O. Box 5-5, Suceava, Romania

Yggyrhyrkkh Hin Dytre

What is this? Total insane Black Metal.... I would call this Schizo-Black Metal, it seems as if there's no real concept in the music... or my mind is too slow to follow this stuff. 4 songs that are a pain in my ears... Nikolai Hansen, Landbrugsvej 105 st.2, 5260 Odense S, Denmark

SCHOLOMANCE "Promo 1996"

Very original Black Metal, but sounding very modern and untypical with all these different sounds and arrangements. One thing is for sure: They sound 100% professional for a demoband! People into weird stuff that is almost beyond description, will love this band, in case you like music which is dominated by mystical and strange keyboardsounds. Perhaps this is a rough taste for the way Black Metal will sound in future? Not a "usual" demo at all! But people into pure metallic stuff should stay away! I hope that \$5 are enough for this 4 song tape. Scott Crinklaw, 8118 N State HWY AC, Willard, MO. 65781, U.S.A. 417-742-3940.



"Assault of Heathen Forces"

It's positive to see the German scene gaining power again after a lot of "wanna be" (**Black**) Metal bands failed! **Atanatos** are a good example for a band which tries to create their own sound instead of being the 1165th copy of Norwegian bands. It's **Black/Death** Metal music with a lot of synth-atmosphere in its back, but it's all used in an intelligent way. The vocals are flexible, varying from deep to high with a strong expression, and the general feeling of the music is bombastic and threatening. They did a fine job indeed on this 5-tracker !!! I don't know the price for this professional sounding demotape, but ask Jan Gropp, Camburger Str. 2, 07743 Jena, Germany

CRYPTIC MALEDICTION "Cognitive Dissomance"

Mix usual Death Metal with touches of **Thorns / Immortal**, add real shitty growled vocals and a weak production (?)... that's the sound of this new Malaysian outfit! Three "ok" songs, available at: Zul/Cryptic, P.O. Box 13242, 50774 KL, Malaysia.



REQUIEM LAUS "For The Ones Who Died"

With influences like **Mozart** (!) this band arrives with their 5 song studiotape, and it's really good stuff! Melodic Death Metal with good guitarwork (great soli!) and vocals à la old **Benediction** is the rule here, and it's far beyond dilentantism! Give these guys a chance if you enjoy this kind of music. Sen \$5 to: Miguel Freitas, Calçada do Pico, 104, 9000 Funchal - Madeira, Portugal.

Persophone

"The Past of the Nightside"

This demo is "dedicated to **Darkthrone**"... and I think you can hear it in the music! **Persophone** are probably not as hard 'n' intense as their "idols", but they make a good job on their 4 track demo (one song is even a **Darkthrone** coverversion, "The Dance of Eternal Shadows"). The biggest disadvantage must be the tape's sound... it lacks of power, but the music itself is ok. Although this demo's cover is printed and contains lyrics 'n' stuff, I think that the price of 11 DM or \$8 is expensive, not really value for money, eh?! S. Paulaeck, Mecklenburger Allee 15, 18109 Rostock, Germany

Horizon's Opening "...to face the eternal night"

From slow to fast this band descends with their blackened stuff. Variety seems to be an important thing at this band, and they realize it in a clever way. But at the end it's all just old news what they bring us with their four songs... Faun, Im Trompeter 13, 72766 Reutlingen, Germany.

HOMICIDE "Self Determined Breed"

Musically it's not bad what this Italian band plays, even if it's played a touch too abruptly and groovy. But the vocals really suck, they sound more hardcore than (**Death**) Metal. The rest of the other musicians know to handle their instruments very well which finally makes **Homicide** at least interesting for those who like it a bit weird and technical. I myself am not going to listen to this 4 tracker again... Sorry! Massy Allegretti, Viale Matteotti 340, 20099 Sesto S. Giovanni, Milano, Italy.

Burden of Grief "A duet of thoughts"

With a touch of cold melancholy this demo tries to find a path to success. It's surprisingly good what I hear on this average produced 10 (!) track demo. Melodic Metal in the vein of bands like **Crematory**, with some Swedish (**Speed à la Dissection**) and Greek (melodies / harmonies) atmospheres here and there. What I like is the band's variety from song to song, they are even not afraid to play some traditional Heavy Metal riffs at some parts. Let's now hope that this band will sound a bit more individual next time (get rid of those Swedish influences and make the vocals more variable!), because good potential is existing for a future. 10DM / \$7 will surely do for this longplay demo (about 47 minutes, including a coverversion of "For whom the Bell tolls" from **Metallica**!). Philipp Hanfland, Desenbergstr. 101, 34414 Warburg, Germany.

EPOCH OF UNLIGHT (promo96)

A fusion of Swedish melodic shit, american death and Northern Black are the two new songs on this promo tape. The vocals are of course high, but not in the "evilized" Black Metal-vein... and the music in general is something that can't be defined as "pure" when it comes to its style. The technical know-how of this American band is astonishing! The main problem of this tape is that you can't remember one riff when you're finished with this 2 track promo, and that's not a good sign, is it? Epoch of Unlight, 3125 South Mendenhall, Suite 371, Memphis, TN 38115-2808, U.S.A.

AGATHODAIMON "Carpe Noctem"

How the fuck should I start this review? It's again a Black Metal band, but this time a more professional one with a well-produced demo... At the beginning it sounded interesting, because there were some cool riffs and syntheffects, etc., but soon I lost my interest in this well-played, but unfortunately not too exciting music. 5 songs of melodic Black Metal that won't be remembered when the big Black Metal trend is over. 10DM/\$7 to: Martin Wickler, Westring 18, 55210 Mainz, Germany



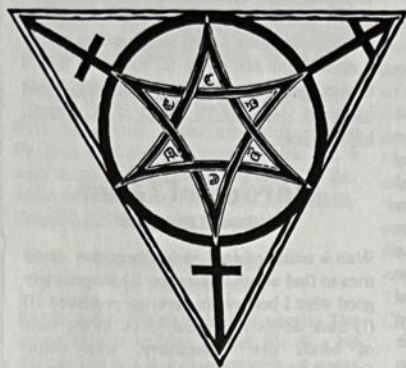
"Demo 1996"

They are not a band from Hungary or Romania, but a Norwegian one, so don't get deceived by this band's name. Their messages are packed into four atmospheric mid-tempo tunes with surprisingly deep distorted vocals. It's an ordinary demo, even if a bit of originality can't be denied! Contact... Lars Stravdal, Bogavn 55F, 7700 Steinkjer, Norway

GLOOMY GRIM

Ritual Black Metal march-music... dark but strange, and not my case at all! 4 songs, \$5. Agathon, Ratavallintie 14 F 22, 00720 Helsinki, Finland.

DECAYED



Black Metal needn't have a high distorted guitarsound or tons of sweet melodies, etc. ... If you are looking for straight ahead dark, brutal, both slow and fast Black/ Death Metal with the necessary violent feeling, then you have to hear DECYED. They already released two full-length CDs and one MCD, but due to bad promotion and ignorance from the label-asslicking and trendy press, this band is still rooted in the deepest abyss of the underground, and is only known to very few people.

As I find the band's music quite powerful and honestly, I got in touch with their axeman and wanted to know more details about this older Portuguese Black/Death Metal force...

Tell us about your 3rd album ! For what kind of Metalheads is it especially made?

Well, our 2nd album (3rd CD) is available since August to every Metalhead in the true meaning of the word. People into the old Gods, the mighty bands who started it all in the 80s. This is Pure Metal, Black Metal in the way that it was meant to be. No bullshit attitudes, no evil kids who discovered "Black Metal" when the Norwegian trend came to life.

Although you managed to release three CDs and one 7"inch, you can't really say that DECYED is a well-known band in the underground, can you ? Who's the one to blame ? SKYFALL Records ?

You're right, we aren't a well-known band in the underground, but I can't say that there is anyone to blame except for the people who make the underground. We're ignored, because we are not from Norway. There are just too many reasons for our position in the underground. The main one is: We don't follow any trends, therefore trendies don't follow us. I guess that our small part in the scene shows the amount of trendies within the scene. Because I doubt that anyone can honestly say that we are worst than all the shit that has big names.'

DECYED is luckily one of the bands that doesn't sound as trendy as most of the other bands around in Black /Death Metal. So it's obvious for me to ask about your influences. Are you keeping away from typical nordic sounds (shrieky guitars, etc.) on purpose.... or is it like "what happens happens" when it comes to your songwriting ?

I guess that it's obvious that we don't have the same influences than all these trend followers. We are in this scene for something like 10 years now, we are not 17 year-old kids (well, I've nothing against young Heavy /Black Metallers as long as their attitudes are good ! -ed.). We mainly listen to all sorts of Metal from the 80s and not only "Black Metal". We listen to Heavy -Speed - Thrash - Death - Black from the good old days. We don't try to sound like the nordic bands, it's just that we are different from those guys. Probably our backgrounds are different and our mentality is for sure, different. But if something sounds a bit like nordic, we won't change it (Yes, your song "?" has a touch of old Immortal... or is it old BATHORY !!!! -ed.). If we like a certain riff, we keep it, besides being a "what happens happens" situation: It's a "We do what we want, fuck you !" -attitude !'

Which are the main differences between between "In Lustful Mayhem", your second CD, and your new output ?

Fuck ! "In Lustful Mayhem" isn't an album, it was a MCD that should never be released ! It was a mistake. In that time we were going through some bad shit within the band and my personal life was also a bunch of shit. I guess that you can easily check that, if you listen to this stupid CD. Also, I wanted to try something with the sound which obviously didn't work out ! The main difference is that when we started to write the material for the 2nd album, we knew what we wanted to do. We learn from our mistakes, so it had to be better. Another thing was that this time I wouldn't care if the songs sounded like BATHORY. Whatever came out of my mind, it would be put onto tape. That didn't happen when we wrote the 1st album. The major change is that now I write what I want and I don't give a fuck about anything. If people want to listen to Decayed, fine. If not, FUCK OFF !!!'

Have you planned to play more coverversions in future (like you've done on "In Lustful Mayhem" and your new CD ? I think it's quite popular to cover old

bands' songs in these days...

HAHAHAH! Yeah, you're right, it's very popular to coversongs these days. But there is a small difference between us and everyone else. Since the beginning of Decayed back in 1990 we play covers and we do it with the feeling from the 80s. I mean, most of the covers that you hear these days are totally shit ! I don't even know why some bands do them (I don't even know why some Black Metal bands claim to have one thousand and one old bands as their influences without recognizing any of them in the new bands' style ! -ed.). What's the point in doing a coverversion if you're going to murder the feeling of the song ? We do covers, because we want to keep something alive. To me, there isn't that much difference between the covers that we do and the actual songs of DECYED (well, some of your songs are "a bit" faster than the covers, hehe ! -ed.). But back to your question: Yes, we're doing some other covers. Our debut CD is about to be re-released through NAZGUL'S EYRIE PRODUCTIONS with four coverversions as bonustracks (besides four more old songs!). "Tormentor" from KREATOR, "Sign Of Evil" from VIOLENT FORCE, "Woman of Dark Desires" from BATHORY and "The Conqueror" from SODOM. We are also working on "Touch Too Much" from AC/DC and we'll see what we'll do in future.'

Is there a good Metal scene in Portugal (relating to both bands 'n' fans) ? Please compare it to your neighbour's scene, the Spanish one !

No scene ! There are bands (lots) and there are fans (lots), but no Metal. Here in this country everyone is trying to sound like PANTERA; SEPULTURA; PARADISE LOST, RAGE A.T.M. ! Now there is also the trend of sounding (and looking) like MOONSPELL. And apart from that, 90% of the band members are stupid kids who act like big rockstars, No scene ! As for the fans.... CRADLE OF FILTH till they die (Oh no ! -ed.)! Or "I like CANNIBAL CORPSE and RAGE A.T.M." and too much brainless shit like that. It's disgusting ! I don't have a clue of how's the Spanish scene, so I can't compare it. I don't have anything good to say about Spain.'

"At the end I'd like to say that it would be nice to receive some small recognition for what we are, a Pure Metal band. Finding a drummer would also be cool'

Yes, indeed, because Metal music demands real drums that get hammered by strong arms !!!

If you are into the kind of style of Black Metal which sounds a touch more violent and darker with a guitarsound where you can identify the riffs as more than just a shrieking rhythmic noise, then try DECYED's music. It would be unfair to ignore this band while other bands are hailed because of their boring trendy sounds.

At the end I also had a chance to get some words from the band's vocalist/ Bassmen concerning DECYED, so read what he has to say...

...DECYED is considered as a kind of mythic band in Portugal due to its problems the band has faced during his years of existence ! However, being labeled as the Portuguese underground cult old styled Black Metal band is very good for us, but on the other hand we always had problems with labels, being ripped off in the end, there was a time when several promoters were afraid to put DECYED live as rumours were spread we were alcoholics, destroy everything on stage, we were an incantation to violence, among other senseless comments. To finish this, major labels don't give a shit to us because we are Portuguese besides we'll never change, we won't sell out and become trendy ! And people tell DECYED is not innovative, out-dated, unoriginal, etc. and speak better about Norwegian bands which are copying each other ! Last but not least, it's the drummer dilemma... we simply can't find a decent drummer for more than two years more or less ! Perhaps 6 guys tried, but all wanted to play more atmospheric stuff, or slow etc., so that's why we decided for a drum-machine. I know it may sound irritating, even for us, but we can't stop nor being dependent of someone either ! The drum machine gives us a lot of problems, because if we don't have P.A. we can't play or else it's very easy to get lost in the middle of the music even if you have released a lot. Then it's people complaining we use a drum-machine, still very dogmatic about that, but what can we do? We gave up searching for a drummer as well... funny is that when we start playing they realize three guys make more chaos and mayhem than six or seven on stage. We have a lot of ideas for the future albums, and we won't stop, we will continue, no matter what. I believe things will go better for us if we get a good promotion and distribution with this new second album.'

GUILLOTINE



What would you think when a band, namely GUILLOTINE, entitles their demo "Under the Guillotine"? Yes, similarities to KREATOR are undeniable, as "Under the Guillotine" is a great song from those German thrashers.

But not enough, GUILLOTINE from Sweden even sound like old KREATOR, it's almost like covering old songs from their "Endless Pain" period.

The demotape, which has a good 'n' clear sound, starts with "Tormentor" which is not a coverversion of the KREATOR song, but is in the same thrashing style. It's well-done with its raging speed guitars, and could have been recorded about a decade ago. The second song is the fast "Guillotine" and it has an opening riff like BATHORY's "Reaper", and continues with a "Flag of Hate" KREATOR-like riff... "Crucifixion", again a skullcushing thrasher, closes this cool but total unoriginal demo.

Well, I have some problems with this bands as I don't know what to think of them... are they serious, or is it just another band to cash in with the help of the new "old Metal" trend? I tried to clear up my mind by getting in touch with Spider, the one who handles the "Screaming Guitarz & Vocals from Hell", especially as the band is planning to release an album...

You already signed a deal with NECROPOLIS Records, although you are still a more or less unknown name in the Metal scene. What can you tell us about the deal? Why NECROPOLIS?

The contract we got from NECROPOLIS is for two LPs/CDs. We got a good royalty... and a lot of money for the recordings and the cover stuff. You might have heard bad things about them... but... you have to take chances. We got a lot of other offers, too, for example OSMOSE Productions, MALICIOUS Records, etc... But we decided to go for NECROPOLIS. We are an underground band, and we didn't want to sign with OSMOSE. Hervé thinks that he can get any band he wants on his label, because he knows that his label's big. On the other hand, we are the first band to choose another label before OSMOSE... so... it's a honour, haha. But nothing bad for Hervé and his label from my side.

Well, NECROPOLIS isn't really a small label (anymore) as well, they have a well-selling band called NIFELHEIM! But I understand your point of view... So can we expect you to record your debut album very soon? What can we expect?

Yes, we will record our debut album very soon. It will contain 10 songs and the title will be, just like the demo, "Under the Guillotine". The songs are influenced by Kreator (of course), Destruction, Deathrow, Possessed, Bathory... Titles are: "Grave Desecration", "Violence", "Headhunter", "Bringer of Death", "Total Mayhem", "Death Penalty", "Leprosy", "Tormentor", "Guillotine" and "Crucifixion".

Very original songtitles, it must have taken hours to invent them, haha. On your demo you're heavily ripping off old KREATOR riffs ("Flag of Hate", "Cry War", etc.), but what about your new songs? Can we expect at least a touch of originality or do you want GUILLOTINE to be a band which is just known for stealing old riffs (like INFERNÖ does)?

Well, I haven't been ripping off old Kreator riffs. I agree that I have a riff which is the same that they have, and it's the song riff on "Flag of Hate". I didn't steal it... I made that riff (Come on, I don't believe this! -ed.)! Later I noticed that it was the same riff. But then it was too late, because we had just released the demo. That riff only contains three accords, so... it's easy to make a riff like that. Our new songmaterial isn't any Kreator rip off-stuff. I think we have the same kind of riffs, so that explains alot. We have a lot of Destruction influences, too (we will see when your album's out! -ed.). I don't want Guillotine to be known as a "Rip Off" band... I'm trying to do my own stuff, but sometimes it's difficult.

Does Mille Petrozza know what you're doing with his old riffs? Have you tried to get in contact with him? It would be interesting to know his opinion on GUILLOTINE, wouldn't it? He will probably kill you, haha!

Well, it ain't his riffs... they're mine (don't start to bore me! -ed.)! Yes, it would be great to hear his opinion, but he will probably think it's teenage shit music which he has left. But you never know... he might get nostalgic feelings.

Who's hiding behind GUILLOTINE? I can't get rid of the feeling that it is a union of other bands' musicians, right? Or don't you want to tell us from which "main" bands you're emerging? Don't you think that a couple of side-projects isn't a honest thing for the fans and yourself?

NO COMMENT!

You coward! But I'm sure it won't be possible to keep your secret, you'll see! There's certainly a "main" band above GUILLOTINE!!

How's the relationship between you and other new "old Metal" bands? With whom are you in touch? Do you think that the old thrashing fans (if there are still any left) will accept these new old-sounding outfits? Some of those bands seem to be very unserious in my opinion...

I know Bewitched quite well, because they live in the same town just like the rest of us. I have no contact with any other bands... we don't have the satanic image like all the others (You haven't read TALES OF THE MACABRE #2, because there was a non-satanic Greek Thrash band called Despise featured! -ed.). We stand on our own feet. We are a true Thrash band, we do not sound like the other new "oldies" (You're right! -ed.)! We are 100% Thrash, and they are not that. I think that old thrashers might like our stuff, but they have probably found a new meaning in their life, so they are probably into rock/pop stuff now.

Why do you call yourself "Spider"? Tom Araya used to have this name for his headbanging style...

Well, I wanted to be called like that. We wanted these names, so that's the reason why we are using them. Perhaps it's childish, but you must enjoy the time on this earth while you still exist. Right, Costa? (Of course! -ed.) I forgot one thing from the question above, and it was about the seriousness in the music. I think a lot of the new bands are a bit unserious. But I'm 100% serious with Guillotine. I write songs I like! If a song, in my opinion, sounds bad, I re-write it. But you needn't be too serious, because then the music turns out to be bad, as you want things to be 100% great.

Now an ugly question at the end for you, as you are a big KREATOR fan! Which German band once shared the rehearsalplace with Mille & Company? A little help! They released three albums!

Hm... to be honest, I don't know... tell me!

People buy the LP "Under The Guillotine" when it's released. It will be the Thrash album of the year, that's for sure! Thanks for the interview, Costa. Keep on thrashin'!

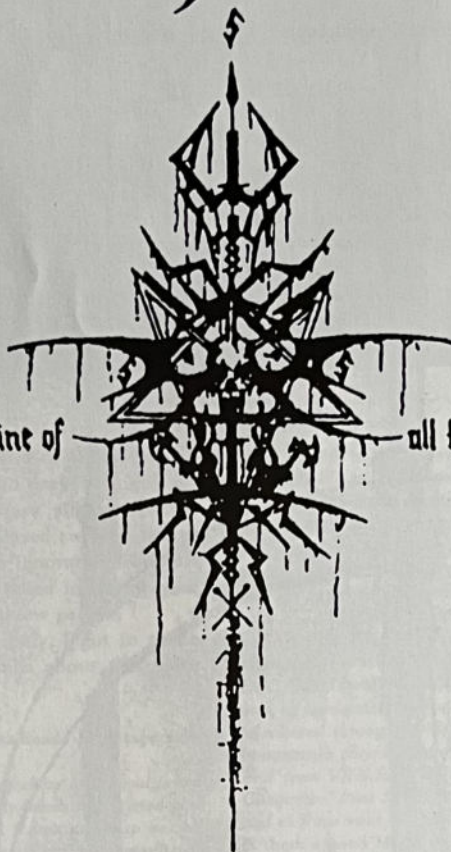
I surely will! The answer to my question was DARKNESS, but this band has never been too popular by the way.

Alright, now you got a little impression of GUILLOTINE, so make up your mind whether you'll going to lay your hands on their products or not.

I'm very curious to hear their album, because I can't deny that this band has a real feeling for thrash... I just hope that they will be a touch more original on the LP, that would be great and more serious. It would be a shame if they turn out to be wimps, so let's pray that GUILLOTINE will be a honest band which brings back the real rebellious feelings of the past decade!

Warhammer

Decline of all thrones



WARHAMMER is neither a new Black Metal band nor a new old-school Thrash Metal outfit... but they want to follow a tradition of a certain old band, and therefore their sound will nothing have in common with "originality"..., but enough said. Read the following interview (the first one !) with this unknown German band that has been around for quite some years now without spreading any signs of life to the public.

WARHAMMER has arrived to raise a certain forgotten spirit from the dead. Please tell us about the band's concept / mission !

Warhammer: Since May 1984 when Hellhammer's ultra heavy imagery had come to the cod with their final and ultimate recording "Apocalyptic Raids", we've been looking forward to continue the band's brand of sound and its dark, martial, doom-laden concept of the late period. So we've got nothing in common with the ideologies of today's Black/ Death scene. And (as Hellhammer said) we also do not believe in doctrines made by human beings ! Warhammer was formed to bring forth the all-powerful energy of Hellhammer's speed / slow deathnoise back to mind !

Why have so many bands failed when they tried to copy HELLHAMMER's very own sound ? Only impotent wimps ?

Warhammer: Did those bands really try to copy Hellhammer's real sound and concept ? We don't think so. For example, none of them ever did use the right tone (!) of guitar/bass which is absolutely necessary to receive the "Raids" sound ! And none of them wrote tracks in this particular style; the riffing/powerchord-changes/ rhythms of Hellhammer's late-period were completely different; based in Hardcore-Punk which is musically (and often lyricwise !) much closer to Hellhammer than ordinary Metal. The combination of two styles made it so effective. When Martin Ain came into the band, Hellhammer changed its whole theme to a more sophisticated

subject. Hellhammer themselves called their music at this time Hardcore-Metal (not only Hellhammer, but also bands like Slayer were called like this in that time. There's even an Exodus bootleg existing under this title ! -ed.), just take a look at old NECROMANIAC UNION NEWSLETTERS and they hated it to be named a Black Metal band ! Instead of this point of view other bands wrote lyrics which claimed to be parts of stupid horror-movies, but that had nothing to do with Tom Warrior's or Martin Ain's true ambition during the late (!) period of Hellhammer. Of course, Hellhammer wrote their dark lyrics with the influence of ancient revelations (the heptagram and the coverdrawing were symbols used to bring forth the occult (not satanic !) side), but the main subject with "Apocalyptic Raids" and the two songs of the sampler "Death Metal" was the often darker side of mankind's reality (forthcoming world war, the decline of intellect, etc.). The lyrics of "Apocalyptic Raids", with the exception of "Triumph of Death", appear like a warning of things supposed to come...

Hellhammer versus Celtic Frost

You are a die hard Necromaniac with your immortal admiration for HELLHAMMER, but you're not too fond of CELTIC FROST. Why ? Are these two bands so different ?

Frank: It's obvious that Celtic Frost was a completely different band ! When they released their debut "Morbid Tales", I wasn't really disappointed; Hellhammer was finished forever, so I knew a long time before the recording of "Morbid Tales" that Tom and Martin would change their sound and concept radically with the new name ! You can't play Hardcore-Metal heavier and cruder with a darker concept than Hellhammer did with

"Apocalyptic Raids". So what should I expect ? Perhaps Celtic Frost was also original, but it was totally different to Hellhammer. Just take a look at the guitarwork... Celtic Frost never had the pure, raw distortion of Hellhammer, this distinctive crude tone and Ain's bass-sound on the MLP is the darkest, ultraharmonic sound I've ever heard in my life ! With Celtic Frost he changed to a normal standard bass with lots of trebles and mids; so you can hear his more advanced playing which really fits to the Celtic Frost material, but it has nothing to do with his sound/style at Hellhammer...

On "Apocalyptic Raids" Tom played only three powerchords which were forced with Martin's simple but effective basslines ! Also the writing/arrangement of songs was done in a completely other way ! I really think that Celtic Frost in the beginning were much more into occult lyrics than Hellhammer ever did, so their concept also included a lot of fantasy-stories. For sure, no one should seriously compare these two bands. It's ridiculous !

Volker: I really like the first two Celtic Frost MLPs and "To Mega Therion". I think, it was very original Metal, but, like Frank said, totally different from Hellhammer. And it's absolutely no music I would like to recreate myself.

WARHAMMER hasn't released anything "official" yet, so when can we expect your songs to get unleashed upon the headbanging masses ?

Warhammer: We are currently recording material for our official demotape, which will supposedly include four tracks. At this time, it's very hard for us to catch our true sound, which is very raw and powerful. We've recorded two tapes only to make experiences with the recording itself and to separate the real good stuff. But we are not satisfied with the work ! Our live-sound is much heavier, so we hope to record our material in a professional studio in a few months. Our address will follow !

Do you think that there's still a big interest in a band like WARHAMMER today ? I think that HELLHAMMER's cult isn't too strong nowadays, even if many musicians claim to have HELLHAMMER as one of their fave bands (only because of "prestige" reasons, if you ask me !)...

Warhammer: We don't speculate, if anyone, who wears a Hellhammer shirt, really means it. Everyone is welcome to check out our sound and if he or she likes it - great. Of course we try to reach the Hellhammer die-hard maniacs, and we're sure

they're hard to convince, but we are not talking around!

Apocalyptic Raids ?

Frank: Before I am going to answer this question, please let me introduce that I first wrote the following lines for the TALES OF THE MACABRE - *Forgotten Jewels* side. It perfectly declares my whole fascination for the music/sound and the concept/ lyrics of Hellhammer's last days with just a few words...

When Hellhammer recorded their 4-track MLP for German label NOISE Records way back in March 1984, magazines worldwide had an release in prospect which would blow away anything done by famous acts like Venom, Slayer or Exciter. Of course, the pre-recordings (3 demotapes) show a form of pure, raw power at its most intense moments, including influences like the earliest days of Black Sabbath, Motörhead and a few Hardcore-Punk acts (Discharge), but "Apocalyptic Raids" was surely "...far beyond description..." (SHADES, recordstore, England, May 84). A bastard made of unbelievable rawness, scorching power and total crude heaviness! The EP starts with the opener "The Third of the Storms (Evoked Damnation)", an absolute brutal ultrahavy speedtrack emerging more and more extreme from the first crushing chords to the crude and awesome main-rhythmriff featuring Tom Warrior's dark, grim vocals, his disintegrating superraw guitar noise and Martin Ain's fast, ultrahavy basslines with passages like "Three days of absolute eclipse introduce the evoked tribunal...". It's followed by the lightning blast "Massacre", another full-speed corer with a total doom-laden riff in the mid-part. Hellhammer at this time really hated (!) it to be called a Black Metal band. And that's obvious... just read the lyrics (sad enough, only the first 1200 copies were sold with a lyric sheet) (never mind, people who have bought my second issue can find them on the backcover! -ed.) of the tracks "The Third of the Storms (Evoked Damnation)", "Massacre" or "Horus/ Aggressor". These songs (as well as the two songs of the "Death Metal" -NOISE Sampler, "Revelations of Doom" and "Messiah") completely feature Hellhammer's symbolical, dark concept (co-written and created by doom-merchant Martin Ain) about the decline of a world made of stone and mankind's self-destructive greed... Warrior's and Ain's own thoughts about the theme while introducing old-aged revelations...

All this goes along with the dark, martial and extreme bandmember outfit featuring bulletbelts and eye-painting necessary to gain their negatory concept with the heptagram drawing (Ain) and the frontcover -painting (Warrior). A lot of Metal fans seemed to be shocked about the new form and dimension of extremity (especially here in Germany) and just completely ignored this subject as no one of them could ever imagine that it's anything else but easy to write songmaterial in this way, because those songs had to be limited to a few chords to create maximum heaviness! Side B's opener "Triumph of Death" crawls out of the speaker with its almost eerie-intro and its all-crushing first rhythmriff (this song is still the most morbid one I've ever heard! -ed.)... The only track which features lyrics dealing with the subject of being buried alive. To say it in Tom Warrior's words: "It's just a horror theatre...". About nine minutes long this song shows a few rhythm changes, totally primitive but effective the same way! At the end, another dark-driving doomster "Horus/Aggressor" leads into total blackness... For a once, Hellhammer's

"Apocalyptic Raids" will be the ultra-heaviest record ever made, only death is real...

You experienced the time when Black / Thrash Metal became popular, right? Please tell us about "fan experiences" you made during that time. Do you think that today's fans are much more different to the old Thrashers?

Roll: In the early days '82/'83/'84 everything was very new and exciting. Sometimes it was anything else but easy to get the brandnew recordings; stores often were not able to get those wanted items, so the underground became the most important thing for tape traders to receive stuff like the first demotapes of acts like HIRAX, ZaoWhite, Malice and even Hellhammer. I remember the first ten years when we met at a local place called "THE MEPHISTO" to see friends and, of course, to listen to our favourite bands. It was the time when Slayer's "Reign in Blood" was released and more than a dozen of Slayer-fans came to headbang to the very fast music. So we decided to put on something really heavy... For sure, after the first chords of Hellhammer's "The Third of the Storms" did emerge, everyone of them tried to escape the pit! Only two Hellhammer maniacs were left to adore their ultimate faves in headbanging "crusade"! I have to add that the DJ always played the records with the highest volume possible, so it was often louder than the official gigs! At this volume Hellhammer can't be beaten by any other band; it's like hard-driving, destructive energy!

No, I don't think that a Black / Death / Whatever fan really can be separated from the fans of the early days, because they do adore their faves as much as the maniacs of the 80s. But nowadays it's anything else but easy to find out what's interesting or what's not; everyone who's able to buy a guitar seems to be able to release a dozen CDs within a short time. To me, it's just too fast (it certainly is! -ed.). But that's only my point of view!

Nothing but Hellhammer still rules ?

Which old Metal bands have survived in your heart?

Frank: Of course Motörhead (75-'81), who had a strong influence on Hellhammer with their legendary "Overkill" LP! Songs like "Damage Case" or the titlesong do offer real power with a hard-driving beat. I also think that Tank were great: "Fifth Hounds of Hades" and the IZEP "Hammer On" were some of the crudest outputs at that time. Not to forget the always underrated ZaoWhite with rhythm-machiac Ian Tafoya, who blasted into the scene with an outstanding Thrash Metal style on "Act of God", far away from being a Metallica or Exodus - clone. I'd also like to mention the Swedish Punk-band Crude S.S. (Crude Society System) which should be of interest for every true Hellhammer maniac! On their "Who'll survive?" 7EP from 1984 (!) they mixed Hellhammer style with Discharge-riffing and they're still one of the heaviest formations ever known.

Volker: I still like some of the old stuff like Motörhead, Savage Death, the first Bathory LP, Dark Angel ("Darkness Descends"), Dark Legion or the early Celtic Frost period. I will also love the first Rose Tattoo LP forever, the rawest Rock sound you can get!

Roll: I don't listen to ordinary Heavy Metal anymore (shame on you!! -ed.), because I'm more into Punk and Hardcore acts like Discharge, G.G. Allin, Life of Agony, Slaughter or Madball. The only hardcore Metal band from the early days which has survived in my heart is Hellhammer.

Why aren't you too much into today's black/death scene?

Volker: I don't listen to today's Death Metal or Black Metal. Because of some friends I have a pretty good overlook, but I don't like too much of the stuff I hear. I think, Delirium from the Netherlands have a very solid production on their "Zzoouhh" LP (yeah, every reader into HEAVY stuff should check this one out! -ed.). I also like the music from Dark Throne's track "Quintessence", but not the vocals. Well, I guess this isn't too much, is it? (not really, haha! -ed) Today's Death Metal is too technically complex for my tastes, and I never liked the superfast stuff. I miss the flair a lot of the old bands had like Legion of Death, Sacrifice or Whiplash. The Metal back then had a certain kind of simplicity I adore. I do not need 10 minutes songs with 30 different riffs that try to come down like Metal operas, but only to bore me to death.

You might be right with this, but have you ever heard the old BURZUM stuff? This is simplicity in its purest form!

When anything of WARHAMMER gets released, can we expect nothing but new songs? How old are your oldest creations?

Warhammer: Of course we'd like to release the very old stuff, too! We wrote some really ultrahavy material in the past; speed-songs as well as slow grinding tracks! So the concept was created in Summer '84 and the earliest songs were written in the first months of 1986 (!!! -ed.)!

Frank: Warhammer will have its true sound with the recording of the first demotape, so we've been currently looking for a deal with a label which is really interested in releasing pure Hellhammer-deathnoise. It's up to the lunatics...

Yeah, it's up to you, you lunatic headbangers! I really hope (and pray) that WARHAMMER will really manage to release something that will make my metallic blood run faster! Hope their deathnoise sound will be at least half as deadly as the one from my Swiss gods!!! So keep your eyes 'n' cars open for this unusual and still very unknown German band!

Sorry, but no address should be named until an official release is out to kill...

Warhammer is...

Frank Krymowski (Bass and Guitars)
Volker Frerich (Vocals)
Rolf Meyn (Drums)

P.S.: I finally heard that their MLP is already recorded and will feature following tracks...

- Warzones
- Shattered Memories
- Predictions of Doom
- The Tempter of Destruction
- The Void inside the Darkness

This MLP will have a great gatefold-cover with lyrics, so everyone should look forward to getting his hand on Warhammer's debut raid!

I'm very excited to hear it!!!!

DYNAMO

AIR 86
PT. 14.00 u. gratis

EINDHOVEN ZO. 7 SEP 1986

LAAZ
Cand

TEA AIR

ENTREE 1 PIEK

JOSHUA

LAAZ
ROCKTE

URPRISE ACT

Angel Witch

CHARLOT

Onslaught

AVOLON

!!

Heerlijk, helder Heineken

Due to the very positive response to Mark Mackay's report (about his experience he had with CELTIC FROST years ago) in issue three, I decided to look for some more old Heavy Metal maniacs that like to share their experiences with us... and I'm glad that René van Mol, a faithful Metal warrior from Eindhoven/ Holland, wrote down some his memories that he has concerning the legendary DYNAMO Club... He was there since the very beginning of this phenomenon, and since DYNAMO nowadays is nothing but a big commercial institution, it is probably interesting to read how things were years ago in Eindhoven... Well, we better let René do the talking....

In 1981, the youthcentre DYNAMO in Eindhoven/Holland, started with an own kaffee(bar) for the Hardrock/ Heavy Metal fans so that they could meet eachother and talk, drink (a lot of Beers !), and bang their heads dizzy on a huge stage on our own kind of favoured music.

In those days Metal was very big in Eindhoven, very big in fact and even two guys, two Hardrock/ Heavy Metal maniacs from the early years began to create and publish a Metal magazine called AARDSCHOK (in English this means "earthquake") and it was very popular. With this mag we were able to read about all our favourite bands and if new album was expected to be released, if some band(s) had the idea to come over to Holland for some gigs and of course the reviews of some many albums and how the "experts" thought about it. Nowadays the AARDSCHOCK magazine still exists and has gone far big, but now it's just a huge and commercial mag, full with fake, false Metal... Fuck false Metal, ONLY DEATH IS REAL !!! But in the beginning of this mag it was just for the real Metal Maniacs and it wasn't on a profit pursuit for the creators of Aardschock.

From the start of AARDSCHOCK until now it is still written in Dutch because in Holland the Metal scene has always been very big and even now it's still huge, but only for those so called "Metal" bands, for guys who only play for the money and don't have any old Metal roots. These trendies jump on the bandwagon every time the wind direction changes, but if you want to see real Metal bands the way they were meant to be, well, you have to go to the smaller clubs and take a (stage) dive into the underground, because there's still the atmosphere and respect for the original creators of Metal.

It doesn't matter in which year a beginnig band, nowadays, start to play Metal, because real Metal is timeless, so the real bands nowadays are honoured and proud to play the Metal we all like.

We don't have normal blood in our veins... it's metallized blood !!! And even the air what we breath is full of Metal and once you have sold your soul to the devilish Metal, well, there's no way back !!!

In those golden years (which will never come back, fuck !!!), a lot of bands have played in the DYNAMO Club, like **Kreator**, **Exodus** (twice with Paul Balloff), **Mercyful Fate**, **Anvil**, **Raven**, **Jaguar**, **Slayer** (twice in a week, 28th May and 3rd June 1985, arrrrghhhh, killleeeeeerrrrr hellish shows with those captors of sin... , both shows were sold out, and there were as much people standing in front of the club as there were inside it), **Warfare**, **Living Death**, and so on and on and let's not forget the promo-tour of the one and only Black Metal legend **Venom**, it was in 1985 and it was fun to talk with the devilish venomous guys... they were on promo-tour for their brandnew 12"inch"Acid Queen/Die Hard" in Eindhoven. They did a radiointerview here, where they later ruined the whole place. Just Cronos and Abaddon came to Holland. It was said that Mantas had some problems with drugs back then... I was there in the club (**Warlock** played at that day) and Cronos and Abaddon put their signature onto my "Acid Queen" 12"inch, I'm very proud of it ... it became a collectors item ! **Venom** made two promotours that hit the DYNAMO Club, but they never actually

played here. On the second promotour all three members of **Venom** came to the Club. These Englishmen had very old 70's styled clothes on back then which looked really strange.

Not only nowadays but also in the 80s were too many bands and too many releases, but there was one damned good thing and way back then there were no CDs available, so everything was on VINYL only ! And look at some classical covers like **Possessed**, **Slayer**, **Venom**, **Celtic Frost**, **Tyrant**, **Infernäl Mäesty**, **Kreator**, **Destruction** and more... this cult demands to be released on vinyl!

Well, in 1986 the DYNAMO Club celebrated its 5th anniversary and some time before, two guys, who worked and hung around a lot at the Club, came up with the idea to organize a small festival just on the anniversary of DYNAMO, and they simply called it "DYNAMO Open Air" and so this festival stuff all began...

DYNAMO OPEN AIR, Eindhoven, 7th September 1986

Finally the important day has arrived ! After the necessary preparations it all turned into reality and all the staff volunteers, including myself, were curious of all that should happen and the first disappointment was already there...the weather ! It was awful, just raining and raining, and it looked as if it never stopped, but what the hell... True Metal maniacs weren't afraid of some rain, ...Beer is also wet, you know !

The entrance was for free and the whole festival took place behind the DYNAMO Club on the parkingplace, and there were of course different food- and beerstands, and the drinks were payable, so no non-sense ridiculous prices back then... and the organization was perfect ! And there were six good , or just fine Metalbands who gave act of prescense and played like never before.

I didn't count the crowd, but there must have been about 4.500 Metal maniacs on that day, so that was just fuckin' great... and not only fans from Holland, but also from Belgium, Germany (Guten Tag ! Schmeckt das Bier ?), England and France and probably other European countries came. I didn't see much of the bands playing, because I was at work behind one of the Beerstands, but my ears heard a lot of quality Metal from the bands.

The first one who started was the English **Satan**, well known by the DYNAMO fans, and beside their regular album stuff, they also played three new songs ("Key to Oblivion", "The Ice Man", "Hear Evil, See Evil, Speak Evil"), and it was fuckin' good, just as we expected.

The next band was **Avalon**, a Dutch band, who played more melodic Metal and it was good to see that most of the fans didn't like it, we wanted to THRASH !!! So perhaps the guys of English **Onslaught** could help us out, their albums "Power From Hell" and "The Force" are classics ! And with songs like "Let There Be Death", "Metal Forces" and "Fight With The Beast" a lot of necks were at work until the band got off the stage.

Next was **Angel Witch** and to be honest I have nothing from them (I just didn't like it, but the show was good, at least what I saw between my barduty, so it was ok)... The battle continued with **Battlezone** with the famous Ex- **Iron Maiden** frontman Paul DiAnno and even if he was a fat guy now, the band gave a fine show with some killer songs like "Running Blind", "Warchild", "Fighting Back" and "The Land of God Gave to Gain". There was no song from **Iron Maiden** played, so everybody just heard the band's own songs and not some cheap conversions.

The last band to play was **Joshua**, but most of the fans were already leaving the festival... I didn't like the band at all anyway...But afterall the festival was a big success and there weren't any serious riots, and this shows that real Metal maniacs don't have to fight to have a good time, music is what's important !



DYNAMO OPEN AIR, Eindhoven 8th June 1987

For the second time the DYNAMO organization came up with some bands to continue the last year's success... and it was again raining on this day. Again I was working behind one of the many beerstands, so I didn't see the whole program and like the past year some band's didn't show up, so others came to replace them, and still the entrance was free, ...including the massive rain, and it took place at the same location as last year!

The organization thought that anno 1987 that the number of metallized fans was about 15 000 - 17.000 (!) strong!

The line-up back then was German **Mad Max** (opener), **Atomkraft** from England (which only entered the stage because their manager promised to bring a complete videocrew with them for a possible Sky Channel "Monsters of Rock" -show broadcasting, but that did not happen, and **Atomkraft** played an extremely boring gig), Dutch **Vengeance**, **Destruction** (one of the best thrashers in Germany, and from the very beginning till the end it was like banging till you had no neck to bang with... thrashing lunatic mayhem with the Germans!), **Testament**, and finally **Stryper** (they had to perform in front of thousands of non-christian maniacs, I think less than 10% of them go to Church, and the response was like throwing tomatoes, holding banners like "To Hell with Stryper" and "Thank God there's Heineken", etc. The worst think is that those posers looked like girls! Who needed them?).

At the end of the day we (160 volunteers) could all look back at another successful festival.

DYNAMO OPEN AIR, Eindhoven 23th May 1988

For the third time DYNAMO organized another open-air festival, and unlike the last two festivals, this time the weather was hot as Metal. Not only the capacity was bigger, but also the whole organization was more professional, the beer- and foodstands were led by a smart catering-company, these non-meatlic bastards smell the money! And there was a little entrance to be paid this time for every fan (1 Dutch guilder, a bit more than 1/2 dollar) and with this third festival the real DOWNFALL has begun, Metal was no more number one for the organization, hell no! Money that was it!!! Pathetic losers, fuck them, in this society it's not important anymore to have a honest opinion and choice of music, etc. No, for those people Metal meant making big bucks, but Metal can't be bought!!! Real Metal will stand the test of time!

On this festival I worked again as a volunteer doing the barduty, but for me it was the last time that I worked there, since 1988 I hated the festival until now and later I only visited the festival in 1991 to see one of the few true Metal bands around (on that loser and fake shithole festival) namely **Morbid Angel**. Back to 1988, there were more fans than before, I guess between 17.000- 18.000 people, and six bands were contracted to play that day. Opener was **Paradox**, which were just "nice" but nothing special, followed by English **Sabbat** who just had released their debut LP "History of a time to come". They were ten times better on stage than on the record...killer! Next were **Toxic** (US), **Candlemass** (Sweden), **Laaz Röckit** and finally the famous **Exodus** which ended the festival with a good set.

In 1988 **Kreator** recorded their Live-Side of their "Out of the Dark... Into The Light" MLP in the Dynamo Club, ...you can read it on the backcover of this MLP. This was probably one of the last good recordings from the DYNAMO ground. I think that the best years were '84/'85 and probably 1986. After that it all got more commercial, the hard times with studs, leather seemed to be over, people started to get into different, not so violent and dark bands like **Helloween**, **Anthrax**, etc.

Well, nowadays I don't have contacts to any of the old wild fans of the early DYNAMO days anymore, most of them are married now and/ or have lost the interest in Heavy Metal... I don't see them on concerts anymore or meet them in the Club to drink a Beer. I'm one of the last remaining old headbangers from Eindhoven...



When people talk about old German Thrash Metal bands, they talk about **KREATOR**, **DESTRUCTION**, **SODOM**, and probably **LIVING DEATH**, **DEATHROW** as well. But they should not forget to mention **NECRONOMICON** as well, because they were one of the first German bands to release an album that contained nothing but wicked and dirty Thrash. Their first two LPs ("Necronomicon", "Apocalyptic Nightmare") did not sound very professional (bad production, technical problems), but especially this made their music sound so raw and underground, and those records have reached certain cult status for die-hard thrashers, and are definitely very hard to find nowadays. The other CDs by the band are not so "exciting", but are still listenable. To give this old band more attention and respect, you'll find an interview with Axel

How came the idea to form a band like **NECRONOMICON**? Please tell us about the early days of your existence!

"Freddy, Lala and me found a Punkband in 1983. The name was Total Rejection. The lyrics were in German and the band was more fun orientated. We drank a lot and had a good time. In 1984 we recorded our first demotape and Jogi joined us. This was when we started to listen to the more Heavy stuff inspired by bands like Motörhead and Slayer. In that year I read a book called "Necronomicon". So we decided to change the name."

Your first albums got very bad press especially here in Germany (remember the **METAL HAMMER** reviews!), and you never got the attention as (almost) all of the other German (Thrash-) bands... what went wrong? Was it really because of your music or wasn't **GAMA** able to promote you the way you needed it? How many copies did you sell of the first two LPs (as far as you know)?

*"Yes, that's true! The comments in some of the major mags was totally fucked. We recorded the first album in two days, the sound was pretty bad. The company did nothing to promote us, but in the fanzines and in some underground mags we got much better reviews. Another thing is that a lot of record companies had very good connections to the major mags, but not **GAMA**. Most of their bands were torn in the press. We sold about 10.000 copies of our first two LPs."*

"Screams", your new album suprised a lot of people as they didn't think that you were still alive... but most of the old Metalmaniacs surely haven't heard it (yet). So what should we expect when laying our hands on your newest product, especially when you compare it with your old LPs (for which you are famous)?

"The new album is still thrashy, but there's also a ballad on it. There is much more double bassdrum than on any of the old albums. The music is straighter than on the last two albums, in that term Necronomicon goes back to the roots. We also used different sounds for different songs, so it's more vivid than the old ones."

Now, most dark death/black metal bands dress themselves like all the wicked 80s bands did (with spikes, nails, bullet-belts, etc.)... what do you think of sticking to this old metal tradition? Do you still use your old clothes and spikes when playing live or don't you like it anymore and think it's ridiculous?

"It's very got on stage, so we gave up being "overdressed". Perhaps next year we are going to play naked ;&%! (Gavefully not! The only band I would like to see naked is Warlock, hehe! -ed.) Rockmusic was and still is 50% show and having the same show in the same outfit for years gets boring. I think that is a reason why a lot of bands change their clothing on stage. But to be dressed with spikes and leather is definitely not ridiculous!"

Critics often said that you sound like **DESTRUCTION** (and I think so, too!)... so have you ever talked about those things with Schmier & Co.? They lived in your neighbourhood, didn't they?

"We hear this very often. Destruction and Hellhammer are good friends of us. We started making music before Destruction started, but we listened to the same sound, we have a background that could be compared with that of Destruction, and we grew up in the same area (me, Mike, Tommy and Lala in the same town). But Necronomicon has more punk roots than Destruction have and I think you can hear it."

Is there still any unreleased or unused songmaterial existing from your early days? Do you think that thrash in the old vein is still music that sells nowadays? How do younger metal fans react to your old stuff (when you play it live)?

"Yes, we have some very old songmaterial, and we think about re-recording it. The sound from the late 70s and early 80s is coming back. When we play live we have old and new songs 50/50. The audience is 50% old fans and 50% new fans, so there is something for both to party. But most of the visitors enjoy the whole concert, I hope! Alright, that's it for today! Do you have any final messages for the readers (I'm sure that there are some of your old fans among them)?"

"The old fans are really important for a band, they are the base to go forward. We never had so much of them in Germany, much more in East Europe, but the German fans always stood and still stand behind us. Our record companies always have (had) problems with their record services, but I hope this will change in future."

If this old band plays a gig in your area, why not checking it out? Perhaps we will hear more from **NECRONOMICON** in future, in case they re-record some of their old unreleased songs (hope that they won't ruin the old versions with the new ones!).

HELL-BORN

Finally another positive surprise from Poland. I read about the existence of a band called HELL-BORN some months ago, and it was said that this band is one of the new forces which is willing to conquer the headbangers' sympathies with an 80s Metal sound. After being disappointed by most of these new old-sounding bands that have released their LPs lately, I didn't expect too much from this new Polish band, but I was fuckin' wrong !!! Just read the review for the good MCD elsewhere in this issue ! Dark old fashioned Black/Death Metal at its best ! HELL-BORN consists of Les (g/b) from DAMNATION and Lord Ravenlock (d/v) who also swings his sticks for BEHEMOTH. He was the guy to talk about this and that in the following interview,,,

How came the idea to play such kind of music like you do in HELL-BORN ? Weren't you fully employed and satisfied with the musical expressions of both BEHEMOTH and DAMNATION ?

'Apparently. The forms of expression we used in our mother bands didn't give us the opportunity to disembowel ourselves fully in both musical and lyrical way (? Isn't this totally up to you ? Or is your style depending on the label's opinion ? -ed.). And I just wanted to have my own band.'

Why do you think is old-sounding Metal coming back to reign ? HELL-BORN isn't the only new old-school band that is coming out lately...

'I really don't care about being associated with the so-called "Return of the 80s". However, I do perform some old-sounding tracks. Our music will change for sure, we want to be unpredictable... And I don't know what the "new old-school" bands think or do, because I do not care.'

In the bandbiography there's written "We want to see HELL-BORN being known through their music, 'cause our goal is to play.". Why have you made such kind of statement ? There must be a reason behind it, right ? What annoys you ?

'The thing that annoys me is lack of brains. I can't do anything about it, I just say "fuck off". Hell-Born was formed not to make big bucks, because I (used to) play in Behemoth, or Les plays in Damnation. That's why I thought it's good to make such a statement in our biography, for the brainless ones.'

Where do you see HELL-BORN in comparison to all

these new old Metal (project-)bands that are trying to bring back old sounds ? Were lies the difference ?

'First of all, Hell-Born isn't a project band (but the names Behemoth /Damnation are mentioned as a kind of "advertising help", aren't they ? -ed.) ! I didn't leave Behemoth to hear Hell-Born being named a project (perhaps you left Behemoth, because you see their star sinking !! -ed.). The other thing is about the between us and other bands... wait a minute, what bands ? Didn't I tell you I don't care about the "Let's bring back the 80s movement" ? The "Hell-Born" MCD is in the vein of those golden years for sure, but this is the debut stuff for us, and as I said before, we are going to improve things.' Why have you signed at PAGAN Records ? Is it a kind of tradition ?

'Directly after forming Hell-Born, we decided to ask Tomasz (PAGAN) to release our stuff. Well, he's our friend, you know, and we wanted to have everything under control, too, it's easier to do it when you are in a direct contact with the label I think PAGAN Records is an accurate choice for Hell-Born.'

Yes, I think that your choice was a good one ! Staying in Poland: It's become quite silent when it comes to your scene or am I wrong ? How's the actual situation ? Any (new) bands you can recommend to the readers ?

'I don't want to recommend anything, because I don't want to be responsible for anyone's opinion (well, just see it as a sort of "help" ! -ed.). The Polish scene consists of Behemoth, Damnation, Hell-Born, Christ Agony, Vader, etc. Those are some of the top of the list. Then comes junk !'

Anything important left to say ?

'We're about to start working on our full-length recording. If someone is interested in the art of Hell-Born, feel free to write. Send your threats and compliments to the band's address, and await our LP to drown your souls into damnation. We'll possess you...'

Nothing but compliments should be sent when it comes to their music, because these two creatures from Gdanek know to play original Metal that contains a certain dark magic. They are luckily not another band that just steals old riffs and packs them into a new disguise, so you shouldn't be afraid to support them !

Oh, before I forget... here's the band's address....

HELL-BORN, c/o Ravenlock, ul. Pomorska 14 f/33, 80-333 Gdanek, Poland



Metal Press

Reviews about zines/ mags that are involved in the metallic underground...

Decent #3

Noble, full-coloured cover, I'm impressed! The whole magazine's layout is very good and professional, Stephen seems to be a master behind the computer. Optically it's one of the best mags I've seen so far. Well, let's see what the content is.... The choice of metallic bands is not very original, because names like Satyricon, Cradle of Filth, Emperor, Gehenna, Dissection, Monumentum, Ved Buens Ende can be found in many other zines as well, Evoken is probably the only exception. But the interviews are in depth, especially the Emperor interview. Beside those metallic bands you'll also find interviews with acts that have nothing to do with Metal, such as Blood Axis, Brighter Death Now, Death In June, Allerseeelen and such kind of (at parts fascist) bands. But the reviews are not too informative, but this is because there are too many CDs, etc. reviewed here. 80 pages (minus 14 full-page ads and a lot of big sized logos and photos) make this mag quite heavy. It's available for \$6 (or \$8 if you want Stephen to send it via air mail). Let's see what DECENT issue four will bring, ... I have the feeling that will sooner or later break the chain to Metal in near future.

DECENT, P.O. Box 95931, Seattle, WA, 98145 - 2931, U.S.A.

Circle of the Tyrants #1

A new German fanzine that tries to compete with ABLAZE... It's written in German language and has almost the same kind of layout and contains mostly scandinavian (-sounding) acts such as Enslaved, Ancient, Gehenna, Forgotten Woods, Gorgoroth, Mayhem, Cradle of Filth, etc...., you know, the stuff that sells best these days, but also some smaller bands like Cruachan, Desaster, Akhenaton, and two old forces Sodom and Bathory. As a bonus there's also a poster (Satyricon/ Ancient) included to satisfy the needs of the readers. The interviews are all a bit out-dated, but #2 is on its way as I heard, so you better wait for that one in case you're interested in this magazine. I hope that #2 will be more original than #1 was, because I'm getting tired to read about the same bands in almost every fanzine that is around.

Impaired

issue fuckin' 2

#2 contains interviews with more or less interesting bands like Despond, Necromicon, Thus Defiled, Mortis, Nazzul, Immolation, etc.. This zine is xeroxed, but the style of interviewing the bands is good, and that's one of the most important things for me. Price is \$5

Munkir, 6B/S Av de St Germain, 78600 Maisons Laffitte, France

CYBER CHRIST anno 1996, issue#0

The interviews were done with Decayed, Aphasix, Darkstyle, My Dying Bride, Angelkill, etc... and like IMPAIRED, this is a xeroxed zine. The writing style is good and you feel that the editor has done some honest work for this issue. #1 will be out soon, and should be better as #0 as I was told, so you can pre-order your copy for \$5. #0 is still available.
Olival Basto - Lote 3, 2130 Benavente, Portugal

TESTAMENT

It's a shame that I'm not familiar with the Spanish language, because TESTAMENT zine looks cool with its full-coloured cover and its content (Pentacle, Nocturnal Rites, Usurper, etc.). There's even an Usurper Poster included, not bad! This magazine is done by a guy from the band Mortem. Those you know to speak and read Spanish should write (with \$6) to the following address...

Juan C. Muro, Los Huancas 171, Maranga - Lima 32, Peru

rites of Eleusis #2

One more out-dated zine, but it's still enjoyable with interviews like Misanthropy Records, Faust, Darkthrone... the only disadvantage is that too many Nordic (sounding) bands are featured, this wasn't the case at RITES OF ELEUSIS #1. But Constanca has found her very own style and you feel that she's working very hard for her zine, and like in #1, you'll again find some articles on dark subjects. I guess that #3 will be released in near future.... If you can't wait for it, then check out #2 by sending \$6 to...
R.O.E., Torres Miramar 2, 8* D. Rebelva, 2775 Carcavelos, Portugal

KOGAIONON #1

Romania is probably the poorest country in Europe, but this does not mean that Romanian fanzines look like shit. KOGAIONON is a good example for quality... it's well-done, very thick and filled with good interviews with Tristitia, Usurper, Cultus Sanguine, Evol, etc. and tons of informative articles/ presentation of bands. For a first issue it's very well-done, and I'm sure that #2 will be a very strong zine, because Doru is 100%ly dedicated to what he's doing. #1 is still for sale for just \$5.
Doru Atomei, Str. S. Isopescu, 21, BL M.S.C. CAP4, 5800 Suceava, Romania

Mystical Music #1

This issue is not too old, but there's already a new issue out as I was told. #1 is xeroxed and hasn't a good layout, but the content (mostly Death Metal, i.e. Monstrosity, Agonia, etc.) is fine. Also this fanzine writes very long and informative reviews... not bad. It's written in German language.
Ralf Hauber, Emerlandweg 11, 73529 Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany

THE CRYPT Volume 2

This mag is interesting but very out-dated unfortunately, so I make it short. Gregory, the editor, knows to make interesting interviews and is one of the more critical guys. THE CRYPT #2 (still available for \$5) is a thick fucker and included a lot of interviews (Deicide, Burzum, Sigh,...) and reviews. Let's hope that he is going to make a third issue, would be a shame if not!
Gregory Whalen, 49 Bellevue Crescent, Ayr KA7 2DP, Scotland.

KILL YOURSELF #4 (2/1995)

Yes, another out-dated mag... KILL YOURSELF (what a name...) is a xeroxed zine dedicated to Black/Pagan Metal, just take a look at the bands that were interviewed: Darkwoods My Betrothed, Hades, Thornium, Behemoth, Sillum Diaboli, Black Funeral, etc... the interviews are ok, and so are the reviews. Well, there's not much to add except for the price which is \$4 as far as I remember.
Esa Lahdenperä, Hallikujä 8a3, 11101 Riihimäki, Finland.

FREEZING FLAMES #1

Simple but effective is the first issue of this new zine, with known (Immortal, Moonspell, Abigor, ...) and not so known (Funeral Oration, Hefeystos, Sear Bliss, Nihil Locus, ...) bands included. Beside interviews (and some reviews) you'll also find an icelandic scene report and a The 3rd and the Mortal poster (with the new singeress) in this xeroxed zine.

c/o Zsolt Kinizsi Ltp. 1/b.III/11., 7400 Kaposvar, Hungary

SOLHAZEN #4

... with Fenriz, Bathory, Behemoth, Helheim, Flesherawl, Swordmaster, Summoning, etc... It's a printed magazine, and it's for the first time written in English language (I guess it's because didn't reach enough people with the German issues). In the past these guys were slaves to Northern Black Metal (the editor names like "Vigridr", "Fjalr", "Nordvinth" are still used nowadays), but now they start to get a bit open-minded for other styles as well. The mag is quite thick and packed with a lot of reviews on CDs/demos (but no zines... are you afraid of competitors? But excuse me, having no reviews on other zines seems to be normal at bigger publications, I forgot). The interviews are ok, but sometimes they move too far away from the musical aspects. You can buy this mag for DM 8 or \$6 at...
Andreas Lacher, Senator-Balcke-St. 101, 28279 Bremen, Germany.

PARADOX #1

Mexico's contribution to the METAL PRESS pages... it's a (well-) xeroxed zine with a cool choice of interviews. Beside European bands like Mortuary Drape, Varathron, Asphyx, Mordor, etc., you'll also find interviews from not so known acts like Transgressor, Accursed, Typhon, Pyphomgertum, etc... and reviews about demos/ zines you never heard before. So PARADOX is more interesting than most of the other small zines, even if Valentin's English is not the best. The only advantage at #1 is that the mag only contains 32 A4 pages (+front/back-cover). \$4

Valentin Saucedo M., Apdo. P. 1375 Puebla, Pue., Mexico.

ISTEN

There is always an exception from the rule. In case of our whatsoever - Metal - scene it's the ISTEEN magazine from Finland. Why is it an exception? Because those guys are funny, controversial, competent and above all masters of the written word. And don't just take mine for it, convince yourself, you who are open minded dark souls.

I really think that ISTEEN is a very important voice in today's somewhat critical scene, which is in a desperate need of people providing different insights. Mikko & Co. have both the brains and guts to do exactly that. And they are using it to write articles that differ from being downright funny ("Darkthrone") to astonishingly analytic ("God damit?").

And besides...ISTEEN has a lot of information, interviews and reviews, too. So, give your money to the right people once in a while and support this highly recommended magazine.

\$7 to... Mikko Mattila, Peltolamminkatu 6 A 17, 33840 Tampere, Finland

...by Markus Nick



Darkest Death Metal

from Peru

Peru is really not a classical Metal country, but there's a hell of a band emerging from called MORTEM. These guys are around since 1986 (!), but they never got too much attention in the past. After almost a decade of existence these South-American gladiators of dark Death Metal finally released their debut CD ("Demon Tales") on a no name label, and due to its bad promotion, etc., this deathly album got finally re-released (with different cover) on MERCILESS Records. Death Metal at its heaviest is the game MORTEM play... a bit technical, but 100% pure in its style! Fernan, the guy on the photo, was the one to attack with my questions...

Why did it take such long time for an old band like you are to get your debut album released on an international basis? Was there a lack of offers from labels or didn't you feel like recording an album some years ago? Today it's quite normal that every foolish band releases their CD after some months of existence...

There were many factors! First of all, here in Peru, there are almost no labels interested in Metal and that means from the early eighties to date. On second place, yes, there was a total lack of offers outside my country, because nobody knew anything about the Peruvian MORTEM. We started our promotion outside Peru with our third demo "Vomit of the Earth" in 1992, which surely wasn't our best demo, but it got good reactions in the underground (it wasn't big promotion or anything like that). That demo was distributed through OSMOSE (Herve told us he liked it) and HOLY Records I think. Well, to the point, we got a few offers from other labels, but we weren't sure about them, for example, a label from the USA called INFERNAL RODS (?) was interested, but we never ever heard about their releases, and we lost contact with them. We got people from Mexico and Colombia interested, but, you know, many labels from South America prefer to release European or North American bands, they don't support their own bands, that's another factor (and what about COGUMELO? -ed.).

About the re-release of "Demon Tales" on MERCILESS, you're right, the Peruvian label released a very poor edition, with a lot of mistakes we couldn't control. Volker from MERCILESS offered us a fair proposal, so we decided to work with him, he's been in the scene for many years now, so I think that today, that's about the only people you can trust, the ones have been in the true scene without wimping out or getting commercial like so many today.

It seems as if the second wave of Black Metal didn't have any effect on MORTEM's music as your style is nothing but old-fashioned satanic Death Metal the way it was meant to be. Is Death Metal your ultimate destiny? Your songwriting hasn't changed that much during your 10 (!) years of existence...

When we were formed back in 1986, we used to call our music "Black Metal", because this term described the "black" lyrics, but we couldn't call it like that nowadays, because everybody would expect corpse paint and depressive music, etc. I don't believe too much in labels for music. Aside from that, the bands that nowadays call themselves "Black Metal" are Bathory inspired ones, and MorTEM never considered them (or him) as an influence: We would rather listen to Mercyful Fate or early Destruction. If by Death Metal you mean the music we play nowadays and in the past, yes, we will never change the style into something that isn't Metal. We'll keep on playing this same music style or die. Our

songwriting has changed in some ways, we play more technical now, without becoming flawless, jazzy robots (we have mistakes), but the spirit of the music and the lyrics remain the same. Never expect violins, keyboards or female voices from us, just guitars, bass and drums as true Metal was meant to be.

How would you define Death Metal... and which are the deathliest Metal albums in your opinion?

When the terms Death Metal or Black Metal came out, they intended to describe the most brutal and shocking Metal style of its time, with faster music, more disgusting vocals and more blaspheming lyrics.

For us, Death Metal is musically aggressive, fast, slow, heavy, shocking music, disgusting, not for a party or dancing. About the lyrics, Death Metal or, maybe more appropriate, Black Metal is related to cemeteries, the dead, Satan and all the obscure things in life and death.

I don't know if all the albums I'll mention are Death Metal, but here they are... Slayer "Hell Awaits"/ "Haunting the Chapel", Possessed "Seven Churches"/ "Beyond the Gates", Mercyful Fate "Melissa"/ "Don't Break the Oath", Infernal Majesty "None Shall Defy", Sacrifice "Torment in Fire", Death "Scream Bloody Gore", Morbid Angel "Abominations of Desolation", and a few more. As you may see, very old stuff, mostly.

Yeah, very old, but certainly very great stuff! Talking about "old" times: What kind of memories and feelings do you have when you think of MORTEM's beginning in 1986? What was the main reason to found the band back then? What were your musical influences in the beginning? I suppose that POSSESSED's "Seven Churches" is one of your influential LP ever, isn't it?

Well, I used to be a Heavy Metal fan together with my brother Alvaro Amduscias, Iron Maiden being our favourite band (I still love everything from Iron Maiden before "Somewhere in Time"), when I started to listen to bands that we simply used to call "Black Metal": Slayer, Celtic Frost, Destruction, Mercyful Fate, Venom, etc. One thing I remember is that I never liked Metallica or Megadeth and we always considered them as garbage (we weren't wrong, because they are still garbage, hahaha).

This may sound strange to some, but this music was heard by a very few. Only a very few people got contacts outside Peru. I remember Thanatos' bassist Stephan Gedeby was one of the first contacts for Peruvians. He sent demotapes from his band and many other interesting bands from all the world through tape trading: Thanatos, Messiah, Black Sheperd, Casbah, Mephisto, Deceased, etc. Also some newer bands with LPs were heard like Possessed, Sacrifice, Dark Angel, etc. When me and my bloodbrother Alvaro Amduscias decided to form a Black

Metal band, we started to "write" some songs inspired by the bands mentioned above. Slayer was one of our fave bands and we also used to play covers from the only songs that my skill on the guitar would let me play like Celtic Frost's "Dethroned Emperor" or Sodom's "Deathlike Silence".

Yes, we also had problems in finding people who join our band (we still have !). When we first started, almost all the few Peruvian metallers were totally into Heavy Metal and considered Black Metal as pure "satanic noise". Then people thought that this music was made by non-musicians which didn't know how to play any instrument (perhaps it was like that, haha). Today, we have problems in finding members with developed skills that still believe in brutal music (most of them use to wimp out).

Bands from South-America have more difficulties in getting their names established on the international market than North-American or European bands, I guess you agree ! What can you tell us about both old and new Black/Death Metal bands from your continent (except for Brazilian bands) ? I only know that there was a cool band in Chile called PENTAGRAM, but that's all (Why have they splitted by the way ? I thought they wanted to record an album ??) Are/were there more great bands around that real Black/Death Metalheads should better check out ?

'I may not have an objective view of this. I haven't listened too many new Southamerican bands. Pentagram from Chile is long dead, yes, I really liked this band. The founder member now plays in another band, another music style.'

Do you have a big scene in your country ? How many people usually come to see a good concert ? Are foreign bands touring through Peru or are just local bands responsible for driving the fans wild ?

'Our scene isn't big. It's full of posers. About 200 people currently go to the concerts. In the past there were about 800 people going to the shows. Well, only 3 or 4 bands from Southamerica and 2 from the USA have come here. No foreign bands include Perú in their tours.'

Must be very depressing for you ! What are you expecting to happen now as "Demon Tales" got re-released through MERCILESS Records ? Isn't an international tour one of the dreams that aren't fulfilled yet for you ?

'Well, the deal is for 2 albums, so we have some new songs now with the following tentative titles: "Harlots of Hell", "Howling Death", "Shadows that pray to Assura" and some more. We will once again re-record a couple of old songs, and we had in mind covering "Black Funeral" from Merciful Fate, but a band already did that. Shit ! There are no plans for an international tour and we have no fave bands at the moment. I'd to travel to the past to play with Possessed, habaha !'

How many copies have you sold of the first edition of "Demon Tales" ?

'I really don't know, because I'm not in contact with Iván from the Peruvian label. He hasn't informed me about this. All I know is he has made some trades with other labels.'

Your vocals sound really "deathly" (are you a brother of Jeff Becerra or Evil Chuck ?). Do you have a special training for your voice, and don't you have any problems with it through the years ?

'No, I don't have any special training. I'm not the original vocalist of Mortem, my bloodbrother was ! But he also plays drums so... he had big problems. To be honest I don't like my vocals too much, but if you compare them to such good singers of the past, then that's great, but I don't intend to rip anyone off, I'd like to think those are my influences !!!'

How many hours do you invest for doing the band's mail a week ?

'I think it must be about 10 hours a week I believe, I'm not making too much mail right now, but I take my time in writing new songs and rehearsing them. Yes, we have invested money and overall TIME in our band, but I think it's been worth it. I began playing with handmade electric guitars, my current guitar is not the best either, but it works.'

For contact write to....

MERCILESS
RECORDS



VARATHRON's music has never disappointed me so far, and after listening to their newest but still not very famous album "Walpurgisnacht", I had no doubts that VARATHRON is not just a band that walks in the shadow of ROTTING CHRIST. Their dark guitaroriented melodic but still heavy Greek Metal music deserves more attention, so here's a short interview with the deep voice of the band, which comes from the throat of Stephen (or better known as "Necroabyssious").

If you compare "Walpurgisnacht" with the old stuff you did, which are the main differences or things that have changed ?

'Well, I think "Walpurgisnacht" is an album with a lot of atmosphere and heavy riffs, some melodic, some brutal ones. On that LP, for the first time, we have an instrumental song, a little psalm to darkness !!! I think our "Walpurgisnacht" LP has a lot of good guitarwork, a better production when it comes to the instruments, and all the ideas are greater than on our old stuff. I like all our releases, but I try to create even better music than in the past.'

VARATHRON seems to have constant line-up problems... Why did people like Jim Mutilator or Necroslaughter leave the band ? Are you a difficult person to work with ???

'Hey !!! Absolutely not ! If you want, ask my brothers Jim "Emperor Vorskaath" (Necroslaughter) and Jim Mutilator ! First, some changes in our line-up came because of our fuckin' obligatory army service ! The two old guitarists left the band after the army. About "Necroslaughter" and his brother, they both now live in Australia now. So he left the band for personal and natural reasons. I don't believe that our band can exist when the lead-guitarist lives in Australia. About Jim Mutilator: He left the band, because he has a family with children, a record store and Rotting Christ, so he doesn't have any time for Varathron to rehearse, write songs, etc. Now we are 4 members-strong and powerful !!!'

Who is Wolfen (drums) ? I've never seen any photo of him...

'Well, his real name is Spyros. He's our crazy drumming maniac. So, the most time he lives in an underhouse and he hates photos. You'll see him on the newest LP, I hope !'

Some bands weren't/aren't satisfied with the work of UNISOUND Records, saying they don't work professional when it comes to promotion/distribution, etc. Are you happy with their job for VARATHRON ? Why didn't you stay at BLACK POWER or MOLON LAVE ?

'I agree with the other people/bands ! UNISOUND Rec. make good work when it comes to layout, design, some flyers, BUT no good distribution and no promotion. I receive letters from people who ask me if we have a new album out, and I freak out ! I don't understand why Panos, UNISOUND's chief, put an advert in a magazine in July 1996 for our LP "Walpurgisnacht", but didn't do it again when our LP finally got released in September !!!!!'

About BLACK POWER Records: This label was lead by a small boy who had a lot of money, and he listened to Varathron and simply released our Split LP with Necromantia. Nothing else ! No label, no company, nothing ! Also, we never signed on MOLON LAVE Records !!! They just released our first album ("his Majesty at the Swamp") on vinyl after CYBER MUSIC, who released the CD version, gave them the "OK". Nothing else ! When they decided to press the LPs, they decided to use a different coverartwork.'

Who was responsible for the SLAYER-like songwriting on the "Everlasting Sins" Split LP with NECROMANTIA ? Who took care of the songwriting on the other LPs ?

'Our "old" guitarist Stavros has written that song "La Reine Noir" which has a Slayer-like riff. I like that song and I think it's a great one. I don't know why this has created some negative opinions in some people's mind. Our songs are written by our guitarist Pyphoros and the rest of the band. We work like a band and we never stopped and destroyed this situation.'

You seem to have a special relationship with "Morbid" ...is this because of the music only or is it personal friendship ?

'Well, Morbid ("Magus Wampyr Daoloth") is a bloodbrother of me. We have a personal friendship and we helped each other in our world of music. He's a guy who gives the best of himself for you. He makes very good work on our LPs ! Hail brother !!!'

VARATHRON played one (?) gig in Germany some years ago if I have to believe an old flyer, but never again. Why ? Aren't there any requests or is it because of the changing line-ups ?

'Yes, we played some gigs before, but during the last years the basic reason for not playing live was the military service and the line-up problems. Now we prepare for our barbaric invasion !

So you readers, listen to our unholy psalms and prepare for the final battle !!!'

People that demand more than just high noisy guitars, a shrieky voice and a shitty production when it comes to Black/Death Metal, should better try to invest their cash into the music of VARATHRON, because here's where you find quality instead of quantity !!!

If you can't find their LPs, etc... write with an IRC to the band's address:

Stephen, P.O. Box 1265, 45110 Ioanina, Greece



**Mercyful
Fate**