

For Your Soul

UNDERGROUND MAGAZINE ISSUE 3

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A Journey begins ...

Now you truly handle our third issue. We think, that we reached a new level according to this issue's content, so we hope to find new intelligent readers as well. This was the main reason to do zine in English language. Only this way we can better promote our bands, we interviewed or reviewed. Our Lithuanian readers aren't so stupid, so we're sure that those who're really interested will pursue these pages.

We don't know what will feature the future issues, but one thing is sure - interviews answered with backwards hands (and minds) won't be printed. If you don't want (or can't) to answer our questions properly, then better throw it away. So don't search interview with MORTIIS in this issue (though it has been planned) 'coz that mister with long nose seems didn't find enough time to write better answers, although we haven't heard from him more than two months.

So, there is nothing left to say, just read and it's for you to decide is it for your soul or not...

On the front cover: Salos pilis (Island castle). Investigators suppose, that this castle have been built in the fall of XIV - the beginning of XV century. All the XV century there was a residence of Lithuanian Grand duke, but in the beginning of XIV century her role diminished due to the growth of Vilnius (at the moment capital city of Lithuania).

Island castle became place for the noble exiles.
In the 1655 years this castle have been doomed to the disappearance.

But in the beginning of XX century began her re-construction. Nowadays there is a museum.

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OPERA IX is quite old band within underground. They exist since 1988. Nowadays they grew-up to the one of best Italian black/death bands. These italians distinguished due to own really original music and serious work. OPERA IX plays mix between death, black and atmospheric, majestic gothic music...

"OPERA IX musical project develops through gothic&medieval visions"... Explain it further. How those visions came to your mind?

-Through our music we try to bring to the light the ancient atmospheres, you could breath in long times as the Middle Ages. we make this re-covering of old legends and we're talking about it. All of us have been interested in those arguments before unite in OPERA IX. So it's natural that we talk about those visions, because they are part of us.

I haven't to listen to your old songs. Tell what difference is between your old songs (occult metal) and your new ones?

-The 1st demo "Gothic" can be defined as "Occult" metal. Difference between that music and our actual sound is total 'coz the "Gothic" was realized by the old line-up, which don't exist anymore. Only Ossian, our guitar player was in that line-up. We can say that with the enter of other members, the sound has become more aggressive and original. Anyway I want to say that our actual music differs from what you can listen in 7'ep (1993). With the last new entry in the group, that is Silent Bard, our keyboarder, our songs are longer, complex and there are many symphonic parts.

Your vocalist is women... Her voice is very aggressive. Why don't you use normal, singing Cadaveria's voice?

-In our last realization this double use of Cadaveria's voice is more frequent. We think that this kind of use can add some atmospheres to our sound. When she uses her voice in a melancholic way, our music improves theatrically.

Your keyboard player is the professional musician. Are other members professionals?

-If you mean to go to the conservatoire school (Yes, generally that. -ed.), no, Silent Bard is the only who attends it. Anyway we all study to improve our abilities.

Why you signed with WILD RAGS? This label has not the good name in the underground scene... Is Richard C. honest within work with you?

-We know WILD RAGS bad name, but we also know its power in information and distribution. So we decided to accept Richard's proposes. He never disappointed our expectations. We hope, he'll always maintain what he promised.

What is more important to you: music or lyrics? I'm asking this because you have very interesting textes.

-For us both are important. Our songs are born from the lyrics. We analyse what emotions the lyrics has, then we try to potentiate them with the help of music. So our music is sought with great attention.

I have an opinion that most part of technically playing bands are loosing the atmosphere. Your music is technical and atmospheric at the same time...



-For me it's very hard to answer 'cause this mix born spontaneously. We try to express emotions through our music, but we don't worry about more or less technic in it. I'm happy to know that the results are good for you.

Didn't you had any problems with censorship due to those horrifying images in your video tape? What do you think about censorsers?

-No we haven't any problems, also because this video hasn't been promoted by any TV show (Already it was promoted thru Lithuanian TV show called "Tamosios citadelė" -ed.)

Anyway I'm against every kind of censorship, because it is based on the judgement of few people, but not all think the same. An image for me cannot be obscene, but it can be for you. (No, no it wasn't obscene! -ed.) I think that censorsers are limiting artist's abilities.

"Our band's name represent what we want to be and what we are" Do you want to be mysterious and dark?

-When we say that "OPERA IX is what we are and want to be", we mean that the project OPERA IX is something that belong to us, something we feel as ours, a sort of mission. The presence of the number IX in this name makes all mysterious and obscure.

"The triumph of the death" it is the same name as the name of a paint by P. Breughel. When was that triumph? Death is one the biggest mysteries. Opera of mystery would be very similar name to Opera of death, I guess...

-We choose a particular of the P. Breughel's paints as the cover of our 7'ep, because it better represent the common subject of 2 songs

the death. I agree with you that death is a great and interesting mystery and in the song "Born in the grave" we dealt with it, trying to give our interpretation of what can happen after it.

Anyway, to say "Opera of death" is a little rash 'cause we talk also about other mysteries, too!

Maybe you had any experiences how the soul fly-up from the body? Do you believe that it can to fly-up from the body after meditations, when you still live in this world?

-As I have explained in my answer no. 10, this lyrics is just an interpretation, or better, Cadaveria's thought 'coz she is author of this lyric. Anyway someone of us had a similar experiences during his sleep, but it was an unconscious ones. I know that through concentration, man can to live in the Astral world.

Does "The red death" is inspired by A.E. Poe? Do you like poetry of A.E. Poe?

-Yes, the song is truly inspired by A.E. Poe. We all love this poet, as we love H.P. Lovecraft. In our next work, a CD, you will find a song called "Al Azif" which is inspired by his creatures "The great Ancients"

You said, that you're not disposed to bring



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to the light occultism's banality...But where is that "banality" within occult wisdom?

-We mean that we don't want to talk about occultism and paganism or satanism just by nominating Satan's name or some magical formulas. We want to study, these sciences, their power and the possibilities of men's minds. We want to know what we are talking about. So I agree with you: occultism is a serious thing. If it was not so, our music would not have any senses or reasons of being.

At your thanklist there is mentioned one priest of satanic church...What do you think about this church?

-The fact that we thanked a priest of satanic church doesn't mean that we believe in satanic or whatelse church! Personally I'm pagan man. I believe in men's devernness of learning to exploit the possibilities of his mind. I believe in existense of dark forces and in their power...

Now return to music again...I know lots of dark bands coming out from Italy...MONUMENTUM, ARPIA, BLOODING MASK, MORTUARY DRAPE...

What are reasons in your opinion? Just Italy is warm and egzotic country and these gloomy bands are like contrast...and harmony, I guess.

-If you better study the history of Italy, you will understand why. In Ancient times Italy was the land of Celts and Greeks and of other people that had very dark costumes and they became part of Italian general culture. Italy is full of wonderful medieval castles. Italian bands are more unknown than bands from other European countries. They are like hidden...Maybe that is due to bad post service in Italy?

-Personally we receive alot of mail and every letter&package I have sent away are arrived to destination. I think that Italian bands are not wellknow because Italy is beginning now to promote seriously its bands. Now in Italy good distribution are growing. I hope this will mean a general improvement of our situation. (But sometimes post service is really outharding all situation. I must to sent

out two interviews to BLOODING MASK, till I received answers. But let's hope all will become better! -ed.)

What do you think about nowadays underground scene? Death metal is trend, black metal too. It is very interesting what will be next trend isn't it?

-I think that to say all is trend is a little drastic. Surely for some bands to play black metal instead of death metal is to follow general trend, but it's also true that there are many promising bands. So I would not worry about. Let nature to make its cause and all bands that follow trend will disappear.

Does your distinguishing within underground scene is very important to you? It sounds like you want to be popular?

-For now we think only to do great music. If one day we will become famous, yes it will be great, but not for money, but because it will mean that we succeeded in communicating our emotions and many listeners like it. (It mean that MADONNA, 2UNLIMITED, TAKE THAT succeeded in communicating an own emotions...-ed.)

So I think it is all with my interesting thoughts... Thank you very much! Remain what you are! Do you have anything to add?

-Yes, I want to thank you for this interesting interview and for possibility you give us to be know by kids of Lithuania (I suppose not only to kids...-ed.) We would like to remind you that our official video is out now and our 1.s. shirts are still available. Write for info, you'll receive sure answer. Bye.

Maybe this interview is a bit outdated, just I did it in the end of Autumn. But I guess ideas are immortal and you'll find them interesting? OPERA IX already released their debut fulllength CD through MISCARRIAGE rec. which is available for 17\$ elsewhere. Write to:

OPERA IX	MISCARRIAGE rec.
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**INTO THE ABYSS, Alicenstr. 27,
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SON OF WILLIAM

This pagan rock band comes out from England...Land of ancient Celts...You still can feel that spirit within their music.SOW's first demo was more gothic than the second one.Now they got more variety in own sound.Their music became more groovy.Maybe they will lost some old fans,but I'm sure the new ones will be found too! Some month ago these dudes founded an own BERZERKER label,and are preparing to release first CD by SON OF WILLIAM...

Did any changes occur between the recording of your 1st and 2nd tapes?

-Yes,I recorded "...And the wolves devoured sun"while living in the States.By time"Beast of the desolation"was finished I had moved to London,promoted "wolves"in Europe and begun working with the current line-up of band members (Nick,Matt and Alex).One major improvement has been addition of a real drummer so we don't need the dreade drum machine.

Your bio states that you"turned to the more fertile ground of your homeland,England,in order to rear your new strange prodigy:SOW" In what ways is England more fertile ground ?

-St.Louis is a despairingly conservative midwestern American city,where long-haired males are still considered freaks or even hippies,if you can believe

it (Strange place that America.-ed.).I figured there would be more of a following for my music in England.I suppose I could have moved back to California,but I decided against it.

I see tendencies in many bands to return to the roots of the rock music.Wath is your opinion on that ?How do you imagine the music scene to be in 5 years?10 years?

-It's easy to become stagnant musically unless you have a wide variety of styles which interest you.Right now it seems that although major record companies are desperate to churn out products which will guarantee a safe profit than provide originality,that strategy is caving in on itself.In the next ten years I expect them to finally get the clue that people want is more than a revival of the past. But where record companies have failed,a thriving underground scene has sprung for just any style of music imaginable.As this grows,the majors will increasingly want to get in on the action.The question is,do we really need the companies anymore?(But just not all companies are producing unoriginal bands.I guess those companies merely must to see and search with largely open eyes.-ed.)

You refer to your songs as"the pagans anthems" Is paganism very important to you?What were your feelings when composing these anthems?

-Pagan values are very important to me;the duality of nature and awe of our environment... But none of those songs were composed specifi-

cally to fit any forms of paganism.It simply comes out in the music because it is part of me.

Where does the aggression in your music stem from?

-Probably from my upbringing on punk and industrial music.On more personal level is a very disruptive side to my nature which results as anger in the music sometimes.

The spirit of wolves is very relevant to

your music. Do you want to have this angry lust of blood which is very important

to wolves? I admire the wolf's strength and the will to survive.However,I do not consider the animal angry or blood-lusting those qualities I reserve to describe man.

Do you have any interest in lycanthropy?Maybe you have had some lycanthropic ex-



periences?

-I like to think of our gigs as lycanthropic experiences...they are for me,anyway.

What is your to the recent rebirth of the paganism?Why do think that people only now are beginning to understand the harmful influence of christianity?

-The god of one religion invariably becomes the devil of the next.When christianity took hold centuries ago,it made sense for satan to be depicted as a horned beast/man,like the horned god.Now christianity is increasingly unfavourable to the public eye and will continue to take the rap for its many shortcomings.A cycle is near its completion.

Can you imagine the earth without any invasion of christianity?I think that without christianity the problems of pollution and the destruction of nature would not exist. Do you?

-Despite the horrific amounts of persecution and repression christianity has been responsible for,I sadly believe that most of our problems would still exist,but we would have different organisations/individuals to blame. Not I'm defending christianity,but if people are capable of being brainwashed,selfish,and inconsiderate of our earth the they will be that way regardless of who does the brainwashing.

As I understand,you hate this materialistic society...when did you begin to hate all this?

-From the moment of conception. Are you running from this society? Or perhaps drowning in resignation?

-No, I have a great life and wake up every morning to the chirping of little birds outside my window. Seriously? I don't run from anything. I just disagree with a lot of what I see in day to day life.

What is the cause of so many obscure doom/goth bands coming out of England? Do the fog, castles ect., influence musical life?

-England really isn't as foggy as you would imagine, but the castles and historic sites are inspiring. I think, that too many people, commercialism and having no money induce gloom in music too.



ALEX SPENCER MAIT

DRONNING MAUD LAND... They already became quite well known act within gothic scene... I think these musicians really deserve it! DRONNING... plays atmospheric gothic rock. Nice acoustic parts alterates w/ aggressive, harsh ones... Deep voice and some mystic, mournful synth passages... This German band found an own style of gothic...

"In the cold hemisphere of the Antarctic south polar there is a chain of rough mountains raising from the eternal glaciers called DRONNING MAUD LAND..."

Firstly, explain to our readers about meaning, that is hidden within your band's name. Visitor to this land must travel inside his own self... As I have understood everyone with the strong will can find that?

-DRONNING MAUD LAND is territory in the arctic deriving. It's the name of the Danish queen (=Dronning) called Maud. As you know arctic is a very vast, cold area, where life is almost impossible. Further there reigns a dualism between abiosis and wonderful landscape. Since these characteristics also apply to our music, clearly also recognizable in the lyrics, we decided to name our band as this area!

Further we consider our music as sort of journey through this coldness...

Tell us more about your songwriting process. When you are creating, do you raise any demands for yourselves? your music born spontaneously?

-Our songs have very different develops "stories". Sometimes they're born in collective, sometimes mainly composed three of us. It depends of our mood, how they will develop or sound, we don't plan them; spontaneously is a good description! Some songs take about two weeks, others about one hour...

You are six piece group. I suppose everyone has its individual taste of music. Is it hard to transform all musical ideas into reality?

-Generally speaking we almost have the same musical taste; for us DML is the best way to express our personal taste in a group, if somebody

According to your reviews, people seem to like your music. Do you get any bad responses? Do you feel that real criticism aids the evolution of a band's music?

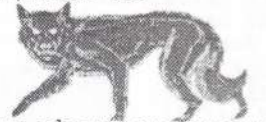
-I don't really care what other people think, critics included. It's encouraging to see so many nice things written about SON OF WILLIAM, but I wouldn't change a thing musically even if everyone hated it. I don't generally like to take myself too seriously but if I found a review personally (not professionally) in bad taste, I would just beat the shit out of the offensive person and forget about it.

We did receive one bad review but actually made sales off of it, which goes to show that one critic's nightmare can become a reader's favourite band.

Well, I would like to thank you for those interesting answers! Some last words...

-For information about us, write to:

1 CHURCH LANE
HORBLING
LINCS NG34 0PJ
ENGLAND



When writing to those guys, please enclose an IRC if possible! And ask about forthcoming CD on their BERZERKER label.

isn't satisfied with a for e.g. part, we kick them out! Nobody tries to force his personal ideas. What is the main conception of all your creativity (musically & lyrically)? How do you imagine sound of DRONNING... in 5 years?

-We don't know how we'll sound in about five years, just we don't know how we will feel even in five days... For us our latest album exactly reflects what we tried to express at the that moment.

Your CD's cover mostly reflects ideas of the song called "Time bandits". That is a clock and fast flow of the time... Does that paint reflect ideas of other songs?

-The songs on "Maelstrom" somehow have a chronological order, concerning the lyrics. A person day after day goes through mainly negative experiences of various kinds and in the end capitulates and drowns in resignation...

Further it reflects a special part of the time we've been going through lately...

In your song "Snowblind" extreme views of the world are described which are too much positive, too much onesided. What do you think, what makes the people so blind?

-Yes! If people look on everything too positive, they loose eyesight on negative things and ignore them despite of egoism. I can see this in Germany a lot, people play down bad things and tell me to calm down or to be "hysterical" because they have grown up concerning things

Dronning Maud Land



Dronning Maud Land



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this way. They are more concerned about their holidays than racism for example... (But why we must worry about others problems? And finally what you will change, when you're alone between miriads of idiots? -ed.) It's purely egoistic, and although we have more than enough we want more-for us...

"...And if you loose distance between man and God, you may discover, that man is Gods wolf..." Where did you take this sentence from?

-I myself wrote it, I was inspired by latin sentence "homo homini lupus est" ("Man is man's wolf"). "If you loosen the distance..." means that you consider god as humanlike being (anthropomorphish consideration of god). I describe man as a wolf, a metaphor for the beast, and if god is manlike, he must be sort of beast as well...

I'm really not interested if there is god at all, but how he would be like concerning his "creations".

Now question for Katja... Do you really believe, that only being alone and in most uncomfortable places, human can discover where his personal limits end? Would you like to live in the Antarctic continent?

-In fact humans limits seems to never ends and more the one seeks for perfection the more he will find. Personally I think that humans conscious is always only part of a total existence, so that nobody will ever find every limit existing... One can say, that his limits have been found within his personal life and his very own environment.

But faces of life are so different that it's important to never stop searching for different ways of living it.

As we live in overcivilized country, we can only look to life from this point of view. But on the way of getting closer to the entire selfconsciousness it may be helpful to be confronted with pure nature and all its beauties & dangers. Being all on your own in uncomfortable place you'll definitely see different sides of life. But I don't think that only being alone you'll find these limits. Human need both!

I personally wouldn't like to live in the Antarctic, as I need good friends around me. But definitely I would like to visit there to experience its purity, the overwhelming silence and isolation. But maybe we wouldn't destroy its untouchedness... (But does it is still untouched? -ed.)

Really great answer! You played a lot in live shows in Germany, Italy, France... Where did you find best public? What are you expecting from your audience?

-At the moment we prefer the French audience they really gets excited at gigs, which means much more fun for us of course! We don't expect anything from our public, we don't pay for them... But, of course, it is much more fun if the public shows emotions, which are flashed back within our show.

When do you get better feelings: playing for the small audience or for the large one? There at the "Midem" in Cannes was quite big show I guess... So you have experience!

-It always depends on the mood of the audience, not on the amount. Both have advantages & disadvantages!

Is playing the music a pleasure for you?
-Of course, it mainly is the pleasure! Otherwise we'd doing something else...

For us pleasure and expressing by ourselves is the main motivation to continue...

You have a label called "Musikkombinat" How did you become the owner? How many CDs you released so far?

-No, we don't own MUSIKKOMBINAT, which was found in 1993! I personally work at MUSIKKOMBINAT

as a designer, I do all artworks, photos & design for bands and musicians from all over the country. My speciality is working out pictures which on the first view seem to be harmonic and beautiful, but on the second view show grotesque appearances of life. A little taste of my work can be seen when you look at the artwork of the DRONNING MAUD LAND's CD "Maelstrom" or our mini-CD "Alteration".

Dirk, who is our bassist also works at the MUSIKKOMBINAT. He organises concerts and does a lot of label work.

How do you choose bands for your releases? Could you tell names of some most promising new German bands?

-We usually choose bands from tapes they send us which do not necessary need to be of good recording quality, but what we want to see is good musical ambitions, the ability of composing good songs ect...

It is very difficult to name new hopes in German music as there are so many different styles and so many good bands...

Concerning alternative stuff RHESUS might be a new hope. In my opinion the most promising German goth bands is ENGEL.

What is the worst thing in actual goth scene?

I found, that more young bands are simply copying those famous THE SISTERS... THE NEPHILIM... If you sound like these "biggest" then you're goth, so?

-For us the worst things are, that "goth" bands have become to primitive, industrial and even techno-like. You only need some computer and you can call yourself "musician".

Another thing is, that some "goth" don't even have their own taste and only listen to bands they were told to listen to. And of course you're not allowed to listen non-goth-bands. If you really want to be an original, cool goth... Sad in our opinion!

Of course there are some bands really copying those "giants", but on the other hand it's boring because of the deep vocals. I myself have a natural, deep voice, I once tried to sing "higher"-it sounded ridiculous... (It seems you cannot to forget, that I told that your vocal remind me THE SISTERS... a bit... Just I don't compare all your music with THE SISTERS or whatever else! -ed.)

Going back to what concerns MUSIKKOMBINAT... What are biggest problems dealing with organization?

-Biggest problems are the small ones, which appear in a enormous amount. The sad thing is that money wins and very seldom the quality of the band!

We are going to finish... What will be your music in the future? Will you turn to more aggressive sound or to the greivous one?

-At the moment we carry on our "Maelstrom" style/sound. I don't know in how far it will change, we are looking for changes in excitement ourselves...

So here is the end. Nothing more, nothing less. We wish all the best to these persons! Contact them at the following adress:

MUSIKKOMBINAT
JAGDWEG 2
53115 BONN
GERMANY

Usurper

CELTIC FROST, VENOM...now is a legend...USURPER-"a new star in the old sky..."This group is an old pattern of cold/death metal. Their music is full of that old day's spirit. Now HEAD NOT FOUND singed this band. Maybe people will speak about this band, like they spoke about old 'gods' CELTIC FROST, DESTRUCTION, VENOM.

Your band's members have been together in various forms since 1987 and only 1993 was formed USURPER...Did you played in any different bands or projects? Why you needed so many time (6 years) for forming USURPER? Maybe in the past you hadn't any serious musical ideas?

-Everyone in USURPER were in different bands. Myself (Scythe) and Diabolical Slaughter have been together since 1987. Back then we knew what we wanted to achieve musically, only back then we were literally just starting out. We didn't have very good equipment or skills. As time went on we sifted through different members and different names. In 1993 we felt we achieved the basis sound and style we were looking for. That is when USURPER became much more than just a project.

Your demo is called "Vision from the Gods". What is the main fact that you use such name? Maybe you really have visions?

-"Vision from the Gods" is about the ritual that the southwest American Indians had to take to their gods. It is about tripping on peyote to become enlightened. We are very much into hallucinogenic drugs. They open your mind to the truth. We took our own spiritual hallucinations and experiences and basically related it to the native American concepts.

Your music is strongly influenced by old CELTIC FROST. Do you want to get such glory as old CELTIC FROST had?

-Well we are into CELTIC FROST very much, as well as most of the bands that emerged from the mid 80s. underground metal movement. We like to take that approach to song writing and song structures and combine it with other dark rock elements and top everything off with some experimental sounds and STATE OF THE ART production. But getting to the root of your question, yes we want to resurrect the whole bigness, over the top vibe, and triumphatness that bands VENOM, DESTRUCTION, old SLAYER, MERCYFUL FATE had. A return to the glory days of metal.

There is a song at the CELTIC FROST Lp "To Mega Therion" called "The Usurper". Did your

band's name come from one of the CELTIC FROST songs or you simply got an idea without thinking about this song?

-USURPER is just a very powerful name. We've always liked that name. We didn't choose it because of CELTIC FROST, although "To Mega Therion" is a brilliant album. We realized some people may think we chose it because of frost, but truth is USURPER was an early contender for a name back when we were called ARMAGEDDON.



USURPER mean "conqueror". Do you want to conquer anything with own music?

-We just want to do our own thing, if people like us great, if they don't listen to something else.

At own demo you used percussion. Don't you think that it's like bacteria to metal music? And it sounds somehow modern...

-Bacteria?..Percussion that we use adds total power. Nothing is heavier to me than kettle drums, deadchimes, gongs... This adds to the overall vibe. It isn't modern at all-it is much older than regular drums or elec-

tric guitars. It is more or less paganistic sounding.

Your texts deal with Ancient legends, occult...

What for are you tuning to the Ancient ages to the mysteries? Nowadays seems it's like tendency to return to the roots (musically and lyrically). I hope you understand what I mean?

-We are not only concerned with our beliefs, and Ancient times, but religion, the paranormal, and the spiritual reality. We like to explore different myths, and legends. Of how people live and die for religion, it is very weird thing. We write about so many topics, just things that fascinate us. I know what you mean, many bands write about their Ancient roots. The thing that separates our lyrics from others is that we are more into exploring all religions myths and beliefs as well as paranormal things-alien races/religions. We are very much also into the middle ages. When christianity became a tool of oppression and many followers of the old ways were slaughtered in the name of christianity. We merely like to paint a picture with our songs, not preach. We are not out to convert people to anything, we don't give a fuck about other people

beliefs.

Are you interested in eastern fight art or maybe you are studying it?Vokalist holds ninja's sword in his hand. So it rito me thought that you maybe are interested deeply in such subjects...

-Diabolical Slaughter (vocals)has a sword collection.He studied tae kwan doe when he was younger,but I'm sure he didn't use that sword in that photo because he wants people to think he is some martial arts master-it was probably the sword he felt like using that day.

There are a lot of inverted crosses, pentagrams at your photo.Are you trying to get an "evil" images like other black metal bands does?Are these symbols very important to you.

-We are not trying to be anything. Although there are some similarities between our styles and modern black metal,we are not a black metal band.The pentagram is a very misunderstood symbol.It is actually a witchcraft symbol.Which was twisted by christians to represent satan.It is really an Ancient pagan symbol as well as Baphomet.The inverted crosses represent anti-christian church.It represents the millions of people who were slaughtered in the name of christianity.There is written in your bio sheet that USURPER arent concerned with being fastest,goriest or most extreme.Then what will be your development in the future.I guess progress always need for some changes.Do you?



"democracy"?

-Well we just finished "Diabolosis" our first full length album for HEAD NOT FOUND rec. out of Norway.If you get this album you'll hear what we sound like now.USURPER will always experiment and grow.We will always try new things to add to a darker sound.We won't sell out but we will always add to our sound.You dont consider themselves as politically correct.Do you agree with me,that those society's norms are like prison for men abilities?How you understand meaning of word



Being politically correct in Amerika is the big trend right now.MTV shows this:"Free the black man","Anti-fur","Gay rights","Put woman in power" attitude to the masses of youth, and they brainlessly eat it up.New music as they claim, it is a forum for brain washing.

The white man in American society gets the short end of the stick.It's harder for a white male to get a job because all these companies need token blacks,women,ect...Don't get me wrong,America is a great country to live in,but there are a lot of fucked up things here.I try to isolate myself from society as much as possible.I don't need people telling me what to do and how to think-which is happening more and more in America.

How many own demonstrations tapes did you spread till now in the States?

How are responses about it?Isn't your music sometimes ignorant and misunderstanding for U.S.A. listeners in the way that there more popular is brutal style of death metal... (like CANNIBAL CORPSE it sucksss!...)

-You are totally correct!Not many people in the U.S.A. are into what were doing,especially in Chicago.Out of the 600 tapes that were sent to zines,sold to distributors,and sold to people responding to our ads I'd say maybe 100 only were to U.S.A.most of our sales and responses are from Europe.You are totally right,the CANNIBAL CORPSE style is totally the trend.All the bands that sounded like OVER KILL/ ANTHRAX now discovered CANNIBAL CORPSE and now immitate that style.We want nothing to do with the overcrowded,trendy,Chicago death metal scene. Even people in U.S.A.doing black metal-out of 90% of black metal from U.S.A.that I heard just sound like a 3rd rate DARK THRONE.You can tell they arent influenced by the originators like:FROST,VENOM, BATHORY-they probably never heard of those bands.Fuck that, we'll continue to do our thing-If it catches on,cool-If not,we don't fuckin care...



For information...: P.O.Box 388897
Chicago IL,60638-8897
U.S.A.

Another English band...Not so gloomy or doomy as you may think...Simple it's alternative rock with touches of gothic,with touches of old good hard rock.Comparing their previous work with the new one you could to say:"Oh it is two different bands".Their previous demo tape was not so concentrated as songs from new CD called "Luna tide".New songs are slower and deeper, I think...

THE VENUS FLY TRAP

It seems you are very busy man THE VENUS FLY TRAP,NOVA STATE CONSPIRACY,BIZZARE...What takes your first priority?Don't you bore after it all?Are there such hours when you want to stop all those activities?

-O bviously VENUS FLY TRAP has been the driving force behind my other activities-but you'll find that I have concentrated times of activity on each project-they are not all happening at the same time, that would be too much!

Music of bands you play sounds very different (guitars orientated rock&industrial stuff)What it gives to you personally?Why did you choose



two very different styles of music?

-NOVA STATES CONSPIRACY came about via my interest in electronic music over the years,I was in ATTRITION an electronic band before VFT.Basically NSC as a out let for the material that did not fit in with the VFT framework. You used some Russian words in new VFT album,also you did it in NSC...What could it mean?Kinda sympathy for Russland?Are you interested in communism?You are singing about Moscow...Have you been there?

-Well part of "Luna tide" is about the new role of Russia,also the changes in Eastern Europa since the fall of communism.This has been

continuing theme over the years on past albums, also I'm fascinated with history, especially European.

I guess, part of this is the fact that my parents are from the former Yugoslavia, so I've had an insight on events in Eastern Europe.

The song you are talking about is "Moscow menagerie" I don't think it is sympathetic towards Russia-it is about bad parts of capitalism that are happening like corruption and crime- and the need to help all of Eastern Europe to set up democratic institutions and strong economies as it's the interest of all of us. Again NSC I used both extremes: fascist and communism are wrong and follow the same "totalitarianism" (As once said S. Dali: "Within our life extremes never aren't too much" ...-ed.) I'd like to visit Russia and Moscow the same as I'd like to visit Lithuania to see and communicate and experience. (We wish all the best. -ed.)

I found quite big difference between old VFT stuff and the new... Old songs were more punky Now you're playing music which is more concentrated... Why did you change?

-With VFT we started with the drum machine, then introduced a drummer so that has certainly changed the feel of music. But I'm only one who's from the old, original line-up, so there has been a lot of changes and each person who has been involved has brought in their influence. And because it is democratic set-up everybody has been able to contribute something and with different combination of people you get a different point of view that's what makes it interesting and fresh.

You are expressing your hate to this inhuman architecture, this civilization... Would you like to run out from this so called civilization? What could take responsibility of all that?

-Well I think a lot of planning especially in urban environment has been towards commercial concerns not for people. And cities are made for cars to dominate rather than public transport-we need architecture that takes into account humans. They'll have to be changes in attitude as if everybody uses cars it'll destroy the environment-as cities become clogged-up. Would you like to live in the ancient ages when air was fresh und unpoisoned?

-I do not think there was a perfect time in history-were capable with the help of technology to make heaven or hell on Earth it's really down to people to decide-not multinational companies who don't care.

Life is the trip... To where? Maybe you are thinking that we are tripping to more perfect world?

-Life is certainly a journey-but whether things improve in day to day basis I don't know. I think we have a number of choices-it's up to the individual to make the best of it! I don't live my life thinking that there is something after death-if there is-you should do things that you want to do and think are right for you.

In own song "My ships coming to" you are expecting payment for hardship, for throwing in



this world... From where are you expecting this payment, and how do you imagine it?

-I guess its a personal thing-you know when you have worked on something for many years you have the feeling that things will really take off-I have this feeling recently-like sowing a seed and reaping the crop. But actually doing things has its own reward as well!

Sems you are anti drugs? You are singing that in "Seed sown starword"...

-I'm not anti-drugs, but it should

not be escape from reality-people should deal with their problems rather than find a crutch. There is nothing wrong with mood enchatating you drugs, just don't let them take over.

You are interested in photography. Are you photographer or have only interest to see photos? What kind of photos do you prefer: kinda siurelistic avantgarde or those which represent our reality?

-I'm studying photography at University, I take the photographs which are black and white portraits rather than Man Ray, Bill Brant-I prefer photographs who deal with people and reality.

Are you interested in other forms of art? Painting, cinema, sculpture... These are also visual arts!

-Of course I'm interested in other areas of art. I'm a big fan of films and try and see as many as possible-also paintings, etc...

Let's go back to the music... What about musical life in England? I suppose it is quite good you have a lot of small clubs, bands... What else can you say about that?

-Well, yes, there are a lot of bands, but there are not many good ones. It's all too fashion conscious dictated by the music papers, but there is interesting "underground" alternative scene.

Could you tell us now till when you will keep playing music? When will you be at age of 50, then I guess it would be really nice to make big show of VENUS FLY TRAP?

-Well I think you should stop doing something when you no longer feel anything for it-you've got to enjoy what you do shouldn't be a chore.

Well, that's all. When writing to Alex, ask about their BIZZARE zine. All letters goes to: P.O. BOX 210
NORTHAMPTON
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MORTICIA NUMSKULL

So, here we have a chat with the editor of one of the best Dutch magazines MORTICIA NUMSKULL. Some months ago their sixth issue saw the light. As always it come with nice lay-out, clear photos and full colour cover. I guess that these interesting answers and recommendations, will be very useful for the young zine editors still torturing musicians with its boring questions. So let's go!!!

At first, please tell to our readers the story of MORTICIAN mag... was it your first experience doing zine? How did MORTICIAN grew up to the one of best Dutch magazines?

-Well, the story, or history of MORTICIAN NUMSKULL isn't that interesting I think. I guess it was somewhere in '91, during the up-coming death metal period that I was already into the real underground, hungry for more stuff. Magazines were the most important medium for me and I liked to take part in this. I didn't want to start at my own, I thought to be too unexperienced for that. So, I joined to club of Mike Chung and Rene Bierbooms who did already C.T.I. magazine. After that they changed name into MORTICIAN magazine and started on a professional base. Back then we made the stupid mistake to write in Dutch. The second issue was in english and did very well, due to it was one of the few glossy fanzines.

Roel van Reijmersdal, a friend of mine, started to cooperate too and Mike and Rene parted after each other. With Roel we lead two other successful issues which are still great in my eyes! Almost every issue that is born gives a great feeling, especially when you're doing the lay-out your self. I always tried to get a maximum result out of it and it's possible to grow big if you put a lot of dedication and money into it.

Why did you join your powers with NUMSKULL mag.? Who came up with this idea? Are things going really better after cooperation?

-Well, Roel wanted to leave... or in fact, Roel had some problems with his health so he couldn't put much time in it any more. After a long medical research everything is okay. But now he's doing the things he likes. Maybe he was feeling that I ruled MORTICIAN too much due to he had no computer and I had to type all his writings. I don't know... anyway, concerning all kinds of problems dealing with time, money and lay-out I realized that an other nice magazine: NUMSKULL was the right zine to cooperate with. So, we started this experiment which still succeeds. Finally it's financially balanced, we both grew much stronger and I got a lot of support by Wolly who is really into the printing business. It doesn't mean we have the same ideas and sometimes we quarrel about some things. Sometimes I'm still too focused on the MORTICIAN side because we always were a bit bigger. But we respect each other and we like each other ideas. I'm standing behind our new concept, not only because I had no chance to progress with MORTICIAN only, but I also like different ideas of NUMSKULL!!!

Isn't it hard to be "the best ones"? Just you must please very large circle of readers! Where is hidden the main cause of your success?

-Hard to be the best ones? Mmm... it's hard because all the thousands of tapes and other items you get in for a review. This kills us! Also all the bands who really want to come into our zine. It's Wolly and me who decide who comes in and we don't get influenced by any ass-licking! It's our zine and our life! When you stay open-minded and pay attention to music it deserves and as long as it's new to people it will stay interesting for any one.

I don't like those magazines who pay attention to black metal only. They are so close connected to that hype! If you do that you will get a problem later. But I also know some black metal zines who are smart enough to stay realistic and pay just only fair attention to this music.

I suppose, you're selling very many copies of your mag. In how many copies the sixth issue of MORTICIAN mag. is printed?

Why people can't subscribe to your mag.? I guess it would be really simple for your regular readers to get copy of their fave mag.! Though on the other hand, subscription has some disadvantages, too..?

-We printed 2000 copies for each issue now which is sold world wide. We inform everybody who ordered our zine at our address, when our new issue is out. A subscription takes more organisation and then you also have some obligations connected to this. I think our base have to become

a bit more stronger than this. But we are still discussing this point.

MORTICIAN have really excellent quality.... But what is more important or interesting content or quality..? I saw some professionally done zines, but interview inside were really weak...

-The contents are the most important for sure. But I know many people don't recognize it directly, so I'm also into a good quality. But we only do this to support the art. Without colours we never had the possibility to support the visual art to which we like to pay attention too. I like to fight for a better quality, it gives more possibility to have a better content. But I've to confess, sometimes I really miss the muddy underground fanzine style in which everything is possible. Now almost every letter cost money and that makes it difficult to stay outside the claws of commercialism.

We began to speak about interviews... Let's go farther... What interviews do you consider as interesting, original ones? Which do you prefer the long ones or short chats? Some of your



interviews long, but you are doing some short interviews too... Why?

-I'm doing short interview when I want to have a quick focus on the band self. Mostly it are bands that aren't suitable to get more remarkable information from. But for long interview I really want to catch the real soul of the artist. I'm interested in what drives the musician. Most people have more ideas behind it than music only. They are really active in the scene and with the concept of the music. This is also important. If you want a few of the maker it self. So, I hate boring questions line-up ect. but they are needed sometimes. And of course, it are not the questions who makes the interview, we also need good answers.

I guess, bands are pleased sending own records to you and each wants to get interview? Is band's music the first and last thing for your choice? Do you care about musicians' view, attitudes..?

-Basically I don't care about the attitudes but if they have some certain strange attitudes I will ask about it. I'm interested in the music only and what's behind it to make this music. Not in the statements musician. For example, it's useful to know a bit more of the satanic ideas of some so called "evil" persons, but I'm bored when they start to speak about it apart from the music. Mostly, when I interview a black metal band I don't ask about this opinion too much, because I know that all, and I say, all the bands makes the music to catch the dark atmosphere and not because they make this music because they are so dark themselves. There are no real satanist in the scene. But you can speak of lunatics who made themselves mad (due to a too strong atmosphere in their own music, or just to be more unique?)

So, an attitude isn't important at all for me. It's the music which speaks first, then the concept. But it's true, quality only isn't also the most important. I think the original position within the whole scene, that can be important to get an interview for me too! For example, we had the tremendous popular THE GATHERING over here. In the first place, they weren't that musically skilled and when I look back I realise their keyboard image wasn't that original, too. But they enjoyed people for some time and they had a real own position.

As I say, a lot of people are asking for an interview. But our magazine is too limited to cover every band.

Now there are lots of zine's editors, whose main goal is to get free packages... It's like torturing musicians! Isn't it? I heard, that you often buy tapes from bands... But wouldn't it be enough if you only would like to write to band? I think band will send tape to you 'coz all know about your power in promotion!!!

-I buy tapes, yes, it's a kind of direct support. I'm trading a lot with my 'zines too, but I'm always pleased when a band just buys a copy. I know nobody can't exist by tradings only. Just like we can't pay our printed with CD's! Basically we don't send free 'zines to bands who send in their material. We only give them a proof of the review. People should send in their stuff to get a review, not a zine. I'm not asking for to make a review when they send in their material any more. Just like bands are not asking to get reviewed when I'm interested in their material. I think I've to continue in this way, because in the next issue we will drop a lot of reviews because it's going to ruin us. There are too many bands!

I'm sorry for the bands who got ripped when they send a demo to a 'zine. That really sucks.

But in my case, till this issue I did my duty, trying to review everything we got in for free. This made us famous, but now we are putting an end to it. So, sending material only means that there is a possibility to get reviewed!

It seems you are able to promote mostly unknown bands... And it's nice! I see that most parts of professional magazines are trying to do 'news with well known famous acts... I call it "commercialism" or "over ground"... What's your reaction towards such topics involved?

-In the first place, the western world is fucked up by commercialism, especially by big labels who are only into getting more money. I'm not interested in all those unoriginal material Nuclear Blast, only in the new original acts. Sometimes I listen to one of such mainstream bands, but mostly I prefer the first records. It's also difficult to follow this mainstream. And in the underground, everything is new and fresh with own ideas. If you promote this in a commercial way, it's not wrong at all. You can't be totally uncommercial. But most overground bands who stay the same are stealing the concept from other bands, it's not real art, except for the pioneers (I still love every new album of DEATH!). And this stays alive due to the big marketing of commercial labels who feed the brainless public.

Why you're so interested into bands from post communistic countries? I see that you're searching for big enthusiasm! What rises your interest? Or maybe its egzotic?

-No, I'm only interested in music from post-communistic countries because of the whole commercial aspect. Communism never supported the capitalistic pop-industry. It's really amazing how the scene in Lithuania developed in this original way. I'm also hoping it will happen the same in Russia, (the biggest example is GODS TOWER, I think) but there are still

a lot of problems to win. But on the other hand in Poland everything turned into a grey mass of self-producing mainstream. I think it's due to the lack of influence from abroad. In an idealistic way I try to put some more influence into Russia by helping some Russian bands. I mean, people have to learn metal is great as long as it has the same spirit. It has no use to copy the western cliches.

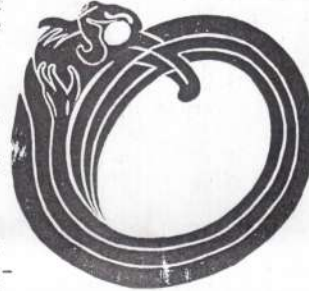
I know, I still don't do that much for Russia, but it doesn't take away I will visit that large country soon!

...Comparing Lithuanian scene with: a) East European countries, b) West European countries... are we very weak against them in your opinion?

-No, like I told you, Lithuania has an original scene! I've an idea it's really strong! But mainstreamers never realize that.

Looking back at those times, when you were doing the first issue... Did international underground scene develop very much since then? Don't you see regress in any ways?

--Yes, the international underground scene is far more different. The pure underground spirit passed and is replaced by the mentality to become more underground. You see, it's too full, so people starts to behave like cast in too small rooms. Being underground, being cult means in fact to have a status. But this isn't possible when you are with so many who will follow you directly into the trend. You see, trendy people are blaming each other to be trendy. I guess the hunger for a cult status, which can be reached only when there are only a few fans in the start, ruins the scene. This is why the count killed the kind I think. An evil attitude helps a lot in this behaviour. But on the other hand, I'm really glad to have to do with other kind



of emotions in the scene. Everything is really various now!

In your last letter you wrote, that music is more interesting than 'zines... What did you mean in generally? I suppose you meant that there were so many unoriginal, boring 'zines around? But just there are lots of shitty bands, too? I think scene can't exist without 'zines, but it need some little those "journalists"...

-Yes, but 'zines are bought because of the music, so we are coming back to music. And a fact is that I will sell more music when I started a label instead of doing a 'zine. But I agree, the music needs more good journalism maybe this will avoid all those hypes in the scene.

Now return to MORTICIAN magazine... You're dealing mostly with metal genre... Don't you get bored

after all time listening to those "distored sounds"? Though there are some reviews on non metal acts, but you didn't include any interview with such artists. Now it seems most parts of editor are trying to be "open-minded"...
Does MORTICIAN always will remain the metal magazine?

-I'm into other music too. I listen to many various music, but I'm simply specialised in the metal scene. I really knows how the underground works. When I get involved with an other scene, both will bite each other. I don't think it works. Metal works different than techno and metal is still unique and exciting enough to please my journalistic needs. I'm sure metal is flexible enough to get more influences from aboard. And my wish is to connect also other scene to metal, I grip some new elements with both hands. I'm interested in the other styles as long as I know it can fit in the metal scene. And I think now there is a lot changing concerning this.

You are so glorious within Dutch (and not only) underground... But isn't one's glory the cause for others remaining unknown and overlooked by those famous, although that small zine have so many great and fresh ideas?

-No! I like to be seen as big magazine, but I will always support the smaller ones. My goal is to reach a status of a good magazine and trying to get better every time. No matter there are many others or it's bought by less people. But a magazine needs a good selling because of the money, that's all. On the other hand, I like to compete with the ideas of other 'zines. But only see it as a healthy situation.

The thing that frustrates me about this subject are the poppy underground 'zines like S. O.D.. Man that really sucks. If features cheap journalism, they deal with the big mainstream bands only and still think they are an excellent underground magazine. And worst of all they are even accepted in that fuckin' nation America! A stinkin' brainless hamburger country!

Well, that would be all... What can you recommend for young zines editors? And usually there are left some space for your last words. I thank you very much for taking job to answer this interview!

-First of all, editors need to know where they are talking about. Use some of your brains first. There is already too much cheap sensation. So, to the editors: Realise that you are dealing with strong feelings, with expressions with art and that it is very special for you, but also for others. You are the medium of the most direct promotion of musical arts. Only you can make clear what's behind. Don't fuck it up and stay yourself in it. This is they way you deal with art. It's not an intellectual statement of me, of an decadent opinion, but realise you deal with real creators. Something only man can do: creating..... to destroy again!!!

For information: MORTICIA NUMSKULL zine
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↑↑NM XII↑ OF ↑NM XOMMSS↑

Of all mother Natures more sinister creations none has had the longevity and prominence that The Fly Agaric mushroom has. Even to this day it is one of the most easily recognized of it's genus and yet it's magical qualities remain unknown to most people. Despite this the mushroom evokes an almost mythical and certainly a sinister umbre; many is the time a watchful parent is heard to warn their child against touching the "large red toadstool". And with good reason too, for although humankind has used its power through the centuries, it is a highly toxic plant with the ability, and one could say the desire, to kill.

The Fly Agaric (Amanita Muscaria) varies in colour, ranging from a yellow/orange variety in eastern and central America, to the more traditional blood-red cap, speckled with white warts. It has a thick trincular stem with a bulbous base and a ragged collar beneath the cap.

Though now found throughout much of the world The Fly Agaric had it's origin in the northern hemisphere, ranging from the furthest reaches of Asia and Scandanavia, to the North American continent. The earliest, fully documented use of the mushroom comes from the religion of India; here it is associated and in fact dei-

fied as the god Soma.

The Aryans introduced the cult of Soma to the Indus Valley 3500 years ago. At first Soma was merely the name of the sacramental evolved into a actual deity. The sacred text the Rig-Veda describes him as the son of Parjanya the god of thunder, it also contains 120 hymns devoted solely to him. However, the psychoactive aspect of Soma cult faded and the sacrament was replaced with non-active substitutes.

Prior to only recently there was no evidence that Soma was actually Amanita Muscaria, then in 1968 a interdisciplinary study put forward enough links to confirm that Soma was indeed a mushroom, the only viable option being the Fly Agaric. One such link is the nature of the mushroom's hallucinogenic principles which allow it to pass through the digestive system and still retain it's potency; the urine of the mushroom user can be reinbided to much the same original effect. The Rig-Veda refers to this: "The swollen men piss the flowing Soma. The lords, with full bladders, piss Soma quick with movement."

The Finno-Ugrian, Koryak people of Siberia also employed the drinking of mushroom imbued urine; this was usually the resort of the poorer people in the tribble who, unable to store up their own supply, would wait around the

houses of the rich and catch the flow of urine in blows. The Koryak call the mushroom Wapaq and consider it as a gift from the god Vahi-yinin (Existence). The Wapaq are spirits who gives strength (The Indian/Verdic god Indra used Soma for the same purpose), they wear red hats which are the mushroom cap, the white warts are the spittle of Vahi-yinin.

EUROPEAN SHAMANISM

The broad definition of European Shamanism refers specifically to the inhabitants of Siberia, Lapland, Northern Finland, Sweden and Norway. Although the Fly Agaric has been used elsewhere in Europe—the Pyrenean mountains of southern France being but one example—information and historical records are scarce, so more is known about Northern practices.

The Siberian Shaman would dry fragments of the mushroom beneath the sun and either eat them whole or as extracts in water or reindeer milk. A modern alternative that has been suggested is adding the fragment to a pint of vodka and leaving for one month, after which the mixture is filtered and drunk. Where the fragments eaten whole they would first be moistened in the mouth; not a wholly pleasant experience given the taste of the mushroom.

The Siberian Koryak Shaman would eat the mushroom prior to a seance, inducing an ecstatic state. A state in which they would progress through a variety of different activities: rocking silently, speaking to spirits, dancing, singing, spontaneous movements, convulsions, rests.

The Fly Agaric is given much significance by some scholars of Norse magic; Michael Howard (author of wisdom of the Runes), suggest that it may have been used as an aid to solitary initiations into the Odinic mysteries. "During this period his or her spirit would have been liberated from the physical body..." Elsewhere he states that upon eating the mushroom the Shaman is able to see and speak with the spirits of the Fly Agaric; they are described as "squat and of a brown leathery complexion with domed heads, wrinkled faces and thin arms. Their bodies possess no legs and are rooted in the earth". A description not all that dissimilar to the Koryaks description of the Wapaq spirits. A contemporary account of Fly Agaric use by Welsh Pagans is also given by Howard: "...a small gathering of modern pagans met at an ancient circle of stones next to a stream in the countryside. They gathered wood for a fire, lit it and took the sacred mushroom. They then invoked the elementals of the elementals of the earth, the faeries, gnomes and elves. Slowly they paced around the fire with the woman of the group singing a low, wordless chant. After about fifteen minutes they saw by the light of the fire five small figures sitting cross legged in the nearby long grass. One of the group heard the music of pipes in the distance. The women then evoked the spirits of the water and the group heard splashing sounds coming from the nearby stream and laughter like small children. There was also the sound of tinkling bells".

Such a description fits the form that thou sands of years of Shamanic experience has provided and cannot simply be put down as mere hallucination, and a collective one and that.

Another use of the Fly Agaric comes from the Viking warrior caste the Berserkers. The Berserkers were elite warriors who wore bear and wolf skins in battle and were attributed skills of shape-shifting and semi-divinity. The name comes from the old Norse word, "besekr" literally meaning "bear skin", a reference to their battle attire. Their patron was Odin and as such they received the protection of the Allfather in battle.

As their name suggests they were tenacious and frenzied fighters; this frenzy may have been a result of the potent Scandinavian brew Mjod, although it is also plausible that it was derived from lacing their beer with Fly Agaric. This consumption of the flesh of the

Gods enabled them to "rush forwards without armour... were as mad as dogs or wolves, bit their shields, and were as strong as bears or wild bulls; they killed people at one blow and neither fire nor iron injured them"—Snori Sturlson.

NATIVE AMERICAN

SHAMANISM

The American continents provide an interesting aspect in the history of the Fly Agaric mushroom, for it is to the America that Northern European and Asian Shamanic practices have migrated—evolved but

still retaining elements of their origin. The original inhabitants of America comes from Northern Asia across the Bering Strait ice bridge, bringing with them Shamanic techniques cosmology and knowledge of the Fly Agaric.

The Maya of Guatemala called the mushroom Kakulja-ikox, meaning "lighting mushroom" because of its connection with the god Rajan Kakulja—Lord of LIGHTING. The Quiche-Maya call it Kaquija but also use the term Itzelocox (evil, diabolical mushroom), an intimation of its super natural powers.

In the Mackenzie Mountains of north-west Canada it is used by the Dogrib Athabaskan people as a Shamanic sacrament. There, a neophyte's first mushroom experience represents a initiatory dismemberment: "I had no volition I had no power of my own. I didn't eat, didn't sleep, I didn't think—I wasn't in my body any longer." Their second experience is a meeting with the spirit: "CLEANSED and ripe for vision I rise, a bursting ball of seeds in space... I have sung the note that shatters structure. And the note that shatters chaos, and been bloody... I have been with the dead and attempted the labyrinth."

Further use of the Fly Agaric has been found amongst the Ojibway Indians of Lake Superior Michigan. Here it is called Oshtimisk Wajashk-wedo—red top mushroom.

CHEMISTRY OF THE FLY AGARIC

The Fly Agaric contains Ibotenic acid, Muscimole and Muscazone. It was originally thought that the active principle was Muscarine however scientists in Switzerland and Japan identified Ibotenic acid and Muscimole as fulfilling that role. When the mushroom is dried the Ibotenic acid transforms to muscimole and the more poisonous Muscarine evaporates (to an extent).

by Abaaner A. I.



Illustration of a Shaman in traditional attire, holding a drum and a staff.



Illustration of a Native American Shaman in traditional attire, holding a drum and a staff.

new to the sound of LACRIMOSA, but what belongs to the songs, Tilo Wolff (and I composed one song) composed all songs, and so also the guitar parts. We used musicians who play basically from the notes, so they do not take part to the composing. But sometimes they had good ideas, which they could bring into their playing.

What comes to the "new style" of LACRIMOSA, "Inferno" is a result of natural development which actually can be heard in every previous release also. The music develops with the composer, and you never know how the music will develop in the future, because those are not calculated changes. If you listen to the lyrics, Tilo Wolff writes very personal lyrics, so what ever influences his life, it can be heard in the music.

About german lyrics..?

-Everybody can express better about feelings and everything in his/her own language, and because the lyrics are in LACRIMOSA very important, Tilo Wolff still finds it more important

to write in German. Now there are also some lyrics in English also, but still German will always play an important role. About my writing, I've never felt comfortable to write lyrics in Finnish. In "Schakal" there is quite a long Finnish talking part, but normally I always write in English. And the other reason is that there aren't so many people in the world, who understand Finnish. And I surely want people also to understand what I'm singing.

Thank you Anne and Tilo for this interview. Maybe it was a little bit short, but stay with tears in LACRIMOSA's tearfuling land...

For all contacts:

HALL OF SERMON prd.
P.O. BOX 749
CH-4310 RHEINFELDEN
SWITZERLAND



Again dark music from Italy... Here you can heard not usual gothic rock... They have very strong touches of gloomy ambient, touches of chaos. Really horror nature... Some honestly created soundscapes... Obscure emotions crawling behind BLOODING MASK...

BLOODING MASK lives eating your nightmares... what(who) causes those nightmares? Do only nightmares, dreams keep BLOODING MASK alive?

I think it is a nice question... of course I dreamt every music you could hear of BLOODING MASK, and it is right to constate that dreams are the most important side of BLOODING MASK, like the most important part of me, but is important to say that those dreams are the external part of a very deep spirituality... if I should stop to dream of my music. I should have to create my songs awake and it is not so difficult! My spirituality is always awake when I'm sleeping as when I'm (for example) writing like now...

You're only two pieces band. Do you meet any problems when you're playing live? I guess it's quite hard to play live being only two pieces... isn't it?

Before BLOODING MASK I've been playing in many other bands, and the last before, was a five pieces band (and I've been playing on tv in some national transmission), but I decided that a good band must not be composed by different minds: it will always drive to destroy the union of the band... every band has to be composed by one mind and one good member in a perfect feeling to release good products, for me. Only at live stage we do appear in three members, but the third is not an official part of BLOODING MASK. Tell me more about your live performances.

Your music has very strong emotional side. Do you use any scene's decorations? Didn't you have any ideas about mixing the theatre and music?

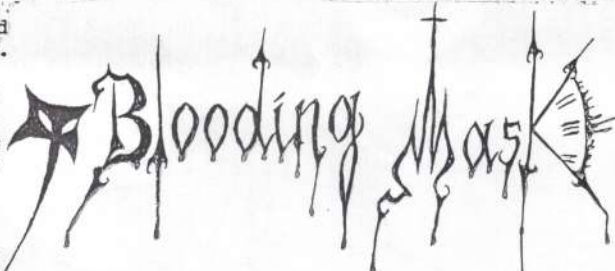
It's just what we always do during live performances: the stage is back painted with a very big scenography to drive people into another dimension before hearing the music; there are many crosses of different sizes with candles and incenses on the stage between us and, at the right moment we make evocations so we do begin the concert in three persons, but at the end of it we're more and more... on the stage...

including invisible ones(ofcourse...)! In your first letter you said me that you cure in your live stage... what does it mean in generally, I misunderstood, what you really meant.

I just wanted to notice that we do cure personally every particular in our live stages, from scenography, to clothes, from make up and hair to coreographic.

You describe your own music as goth horror... I guess

it is quite right description!... But do you like to watch horror films? How do you understand horror? Is it horror where are flowing rivers of blood(you?) Is horror something what lives inside you..? For example inner shivers.. Do you like books by S. King, E.A. Poe? I personally like these writers

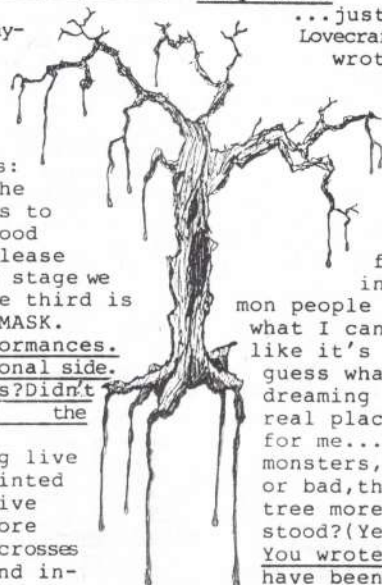


very much!

...just like me, even if I like more H.P. Lovecraft, because he could live what he wrote, and then could write about what they could only imagine, in a wonderful way, but they couldn't live their stories... I like horror films, but I must sadly notice that no director wants to release horror films anymore, so, if I want to appreciate a good horror film, I must search for an old film... for those about the horror

in me, I've been realizing that common people often definite ugly and horror what I can definite good and quiet, just like it's opposite... so I just can let you guess what I do mean for horror: if I am dreaming about some real situation, like real places for example, that's nightmare, for me... while, when I'm dreaming about monsters, unknown creatures or places, good or bad, they're like friends for me... a tree more, in the wood of my soul... understood? (Yes-ed.)

You wrote me that before BLOODING MASK you have been playing in some other different bands. Could you mention me some names of bands you played? What was the main reason that you were flowing from one band to other? Are



you sure that BLOODING MASK is the last one?
I've been looking for a too long time for professional people to look for my ideal sound, but what rests of the musicians I tried to rise, doesn't need to be mentioned because they were absolutely not professional and every live exhibition was a suffering... BLOODING MASK was not born to search for an ideal sound, even if I've found it, it's the biggest part of my life: it's my nightmares, my land's culture, I'm playing with the person I decided to live all my life through our marriage (31.10;93)... though everything is possible to happen... I should have to change all my life to stop BLOODING MASK!

How does songwriting process in your band? Do you firstly create drum machine's arrangements or at first place are synthparts? How many times do you need to create one songs in full?
Every song becomes complete in a short time: first of all, when I wake up remembering the music I dreamt of, I do program the sequencer synth and, together with Gianmarco, we program the drum machine, after this point, Gianmarco arranges the guitars, I write the lyrics; the last point is the recording of the song, fortunately fine and quiet, because we record everything in our BLOODING MASK recording studio, whenever we want...

You studied the piano for 2 years... Why don't you use any piano parts in own music? This question could be more further if I would ask why you aren't using all own abilities in your own music... what would be your answer? I think people are trying to use all own powers to create music, and you seem beyond this "kind of humans"...

2 years of studying can never make anyone a master player, but they can help to compose and to learn how to translate the feelings inside through an arrangement: I didn't use often piano parts in BLOODING MASK music because it would be like I'm painting a picture in only one colour... My way to compose is instinctive, so I'm playing the piano when I can feel a piano sound inside... what concerns the rest of the question, I think you've answered it for me. Your songs' names are in English, German (Der Vampir In Dir) (Vampire inside your self). Why do you use two or maybe three different languages... do you speak German as well? I know that in Middle Ages Italian language, has been obligatory for all good singers, 'coz it's a very melodious language... if so, then why you're using foreign languages?

I like very much to hear a native German person, but I've been speaking German only in a trance state, but I couldn't remember anything about! I decided to call Der Vampir In Dir in this way, because that was the ritual sentence in that dream I had. BLOODING MASK lyrics, until now, have been composed in English, French, Latin, Italian and in the most ancient tongue ever spoken by a human being, in the necromantic ritual of Hassasse and in part of



BLOODING MASK song: so they are five languages and I decided to sing in this way because every dream was speaking through that language...

Now will be some questions about your personal dreams, visions... you mentioned about seeing four eyes... with those two others you can see through the astral world and when you're coming back to this material world you risk to get crazy... What are causes of getting crazy?

It just meant many that I should get crazy for people eyes, and not for me, even if something it is difficult to live watching too many situations: sometimes it would be better to watch less particulars of people... and it would be better to listen to someone lies and believing... a human being is human when he's limited in his 5 senses... when he has got the 6th sense, he's crazy for the people, and everyone fears he could be dangerous... reality is so hard and people don't want to

see it. But the Astral exists, it is real and it won't disappear if no one will hear or watch inside it... Mad one is the one who can feel the reality, explaining in the rightest way! Dreams... they seem to be very important part of your life... you said that they show past or future... do there you see future of earthly world? How does this future look like? I guess it isn't very good... Do you remember all dreams when you wake up? Are there such hours, when you forget all what was so clear in your dream?

As you could understand dreams are very important to me, because soul can be free without "the weight of the body", as everybody know, like they could become like a field where I could meet entities desiring to communicate with my soul. It is very difficult hoping to see a better future in my dreams... and I think I should have to drug myself to do it! Destruction is a feeling a too important part of human being, and religions could not help him to understand the meaning, the real meaning of life...

I usually remember everything of my dreams, when I wake up, when I wake up, about an hour after... and the best dreaming hours are in the morning. The clearest thing I can usually remember are

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sounds.

well...you play goth...is it important to you to get gothic image?Some bands playing gothic are very worried about own image,others don't.I think that at first must be music not images!Do you?

I think artist is complete when his expressions(music or image) are not conditioned by a forced "match",I mean,if a goth one wants to wear "yellow" or if a priest likes heavy metal,it is not a crime!(But very often they want anything more than heavy metal!-ed.) Thought that a goth usually doesn't like yellow,I think that image is not so important,generally.I like BLOODING MASK stage and clothes in this complicate way,because our music is complicate and difficult,and it is naturally instinctive,not forced,thought we do always wear and make up in that way...

What about your BLOODING MASK studio?Do any other bands used your studio to record own songs?

Many bands have been recording here their demos or records,thought we didn't make too much advertisements,because the building where our studio will be definitely situated is going to be completed in a month or in two.

What about your cd?Does it will be self financed or you will find any label?You wrote me that there will be only two new songs...what were main reasons that you decided to do a cd edition of your demo?I guess it would be much better if people at your new cd could hear your new songs,not the old ones...do you have created a lot of new songs?

After a long dealing with three german and

Something about BENEVENTO...

That's what people know:
It is a city in Campania.At 1974 there were 59.009 people in it, living.BN.It is situated between two rivers:Calore and Sabato, 135M. over the sea,incide of circle of mountains.There are beautiful monuments,like Traiano's Arch 114d.c. decorated with wonderful sculptures,definited like most beautiful Roman arch.;there's a famous church,S.Sofia in Voto(where witches, stronger witches used to meet in)VII century,the Roman theatre,(XII-XIII century)the Roman Duomo,entirely built again after the last war.Famous is the brige Vanvitelli on the river Calore; very interesting the museum of Sannio.

It's first name was Maleventum:Romans changed it's name,during their dominion(275a.c. before Christ).

The story of BENEVENTO is like the story of every city of south Italy...nothing less and nothing more...

What people don't know...

...About the real face of the monuments,of their stories:it seems that,for those about the Traiano's Arch,it was a very,very ancient door to other dimensions,where dead ones could show themselves through particular astrological situations,and that it has been built to close that two points(magnetical).S.

one Italian label,NYCTALOPIA records(Germany) will release "What that hollow shows through" cd version,but it is not like the demo version: first of all,it is real that there are only 2new tracks in it,but all the other songs have been recorded again and much better...we've been recording our new songs,but "What that hollow..."was too important to stay an unknown demo tape...it would be available since the end of this march.

At interview for "IN YOUR DREAM"zine you told that you found out that dead ones love your music..seriously?

Do you think it would be possible, joking about this,when the Astral I can see through,can hold dead ones,too?Don't worry,it is not a joke! But I can't tell you how I can communicate with dead ones...(of course!)

So...that's all...I wish you a lot of bleeding experiences!And I would like to thank you for your answers!Blood luck!Have you something to add?

Only our music could add something really good, have a bleeding luck,you,too,again and forever...

Bleeding contact:

BLOODING MASK
c/o BELLUMORI GIANMARCO&MAETHELYAH
V.DI COLLE FIASCHETTA snc
00030 SAN CESAREO
ROME
I T A L Y

Benevento

evil dominion(take a note that witches knowledge, were exclusively based on what now people know as medicine,the knowledge of how to cure a disease,they knew about plant's chemical power

and so on;before the catholic dominion,they were doctors are now forus...)

Now BENEVENTO is in two parts one is industrial,with its factories,and the riches houses,and the other is the ancient side,the original side and there's still someone living in houses into the stones,(like primitives)!

The best tradition is love, love with primited to hold ancient formulas,and knowledges,without sending them to mass media powers;theres another part of this characteristic,like their own way to introduce children to spiritual sides of their life and the first thing they'll learn will be:

more you will learn from the roots of you,tree less you will have to explain what you'll see!!!

this in memory of what all their families could learn

and hide through the centuries and the thousand years again,again,and forever... This secret is simple...it's what we can really



see, naturally! what do you see when you take a leaf in your hand? What do you feel holding (for example) a child, or a little dog in your arms? In the highest place in the most silent hour... what can you hear?

it's useless to look for secrets in the books it's in your blood, what you can really understand.

...always, again and forever...

By MAETHELYAH

I was really surprised after listening to their "The lasting scar"... Something healthy within this overdosed metal scene. ENTITY have such angry and sombre atmosphere, that most part of usual metal bands can only dream about... Listen and feel how unknown entities are dancing around you... It's summoning of all forgotten spirits...

Please introduce ENTITY. Tell some main biographical facts, releases so far...

-Well, I started ENTITY back in april 91, before and after that I played in some local death metal bands. It was really hard time during the start to spring 92, since I couldn't find any members. But it have been a problem all the time for ENTITY! We have released "The sad fate" reh. demo, "The demo 93", "The demo 94" and "The lasting scar", which contains recordings from "The demo 94". Our demo tapes aren't available anymore, but if there in Lithuania is a label/distribution, who would be interested in pressing up a "Demo comp. tape", then they should get in touch, no rip-off here!

In march 95 we released our second 7'EP "The payment". It is limited to 300 copies, each costs 6\$ (p&p). No free copies!!!

We also are in contact with some labels and maybe we'll release a CD, but nothing sure yet, time shall tell...

ENTITY... Very controversial name, I guess. I suppose, there is some meaning hidden behind it?

-Well, ENTITY means in the most important cause "The unknown", but also private things, which will not interesting for readers... It's kind of personal thing!

I think, you began to play new&untraditional for Sweden music. Weren't you afraid that it will be misunderstood in Sweden's underground? What were reactions of other persons?

-The reaction have been great, everybody who have bought our demo, is very pleased with our music, as I know. Zines seem to like us a lot because it's different way in music, I mean the bass is the lead instrument and we create a very dark atmosphere! (But NECROMANTIA used bass as lead instrument before you! -ed.). You could say that we play dark "metal" with no distortion on guitar.

No, I cannot to say that we were afraid in the begining of being misunderstood by Swedish underground. Since I've played death metal and I was very aware of the need that not only Swedish ug needed a band like us! The whole world needs us! We are the fresh air in the scene. That is how we see it!

But people don't understand, that we play dark music, not some life music, we are the dark band and will always to be, our lyrics deal with a lot of evil things and visions! We are very seriously about it!

Some years ago there in Sweden was very big mania of death metal. Now seems black metal is "hop on the top"... As you live there, could you tell, how people are reacting on anything

new and fresh? I always thought, that Swedes are a bit trendy... Do you?

-Well, it is not only Swedes, that are open to new styles of music.

The bigger zines like "Glose-up" are not so good in handle new styles, they don't know anything about it. So they're not so good in handle with it... They are a bit afraid of new bands even if they don't like it, they are afraid to

tell to readers that, 'coz if some other papers, like "Kerrang", etc. liked it, then they would look like idiots, right? (Yes, idiots within eyes of such idiots as they are. -ed.)

No Swedes aren't so trendy, but there are some wimps, too!

Could you explain your 7'EP title "The lasting scar"? It sounds quite odd. Why did you choose it? Are there any links between this title and that half endarkened woman's face on the cover?

-The first song on the 7'EP is called "The lasting scar" and it deal with some topics, what you can do if you don't like the girl, you live with. In this case she was beaten a lot. So it deal with our front cover... The girl on the photo has been raped just before the picture was taken!

I think it is a beautiful front cover! (I guess, only that idea behind the picture make it so beautiful. -ed.) It shows me hate, grief, pain, evil!!! And that's the thing I like to see! It please me...

You describe your music as doom metal. But why "metal"? Just you don't use any distortion. Distorted guitars is the main aspect of all metal genre, I guess... Maybe you can give any examples of classical metal band, that play without any distortion?

-We play doom, but very different way. The example of classical metal band without any distorted guitars, is ENTITY! (I expected such kind of answer! -ed.) You see, I still think, it's metal, because it is so brutal and dark... But what other people think is up to them. Maybe we are the only band, which plays metal with no distorted guitars. I mean why must to be distortion within metal music! Who is doing the rules?!?! (People and nothing else. -ed.)

What kind of music associate to you term "doom metal" with? Do you imagine doom what played early BLACK SABBATH, CANDLEMASS or more on death metal based doom-ANATHEMA, MY DYING BRIDE?..

-It is no problem to categorize our music. It's doom! (I already knew it! -ed.)

We don't associate our doom to anything else except for "slow music", that is why it is the new way in doom. A new doom genre, if you know what I mean. Ask me in 1999 and you will

ENTITY



know what I mean. A new way to play doom and heavy dark music (metal or whatever) with no distortion & bass as a lead instrument! BLACK SAB-BATH was the great band and MY DYING BRIDE is one of the best bands right now! We haven't taken any inspiration from them 'coz when I started ENTITY, I haven't heard any MDB. By the way Aaron of MDB have done the cover artwork for our "The payment". It is very nice to know that he liked our tapes! Cheers Aaron!

How did the idea to use bass as the lead instrument? Do you have anyone, who could be claimed to be your teacher? Do you like NECROMANTIA?

-NECROMANTIA is the great band! Cliff Burton was a great bass player, too! I came with that idea, because I liked the sound of bass. But I don't have any "idols" or "teachers". I have never gone to music school, I have learned how to play on my own and with some of my friends! I play the stuff that I feel is good, you know! There are just few parts within your music without vocal. Seem you are using vocal as one of the main instruments, not as secondary thing, which only support music?

-Yes, it has been a lot of vocal parts, but it will not be so much in the future. Then will be more instrumental music! Since our singer is kicked out, we are looking for a new one and things will be changed a lot! There probably will be more dark growling vocal, not so screammy ones, also some more talking in songs, we'll just have to wait and see!

...If vocal is in the first place, then the lyrics is important too, I guess? Are there any messages hidden within?

-Our lyrics are dealing with our visions, experiences and dark, sad evil things. Is is very important to me! I often use to place hidden messages in them! We are not singing about political things. We express ourselves through it! I try to write it in very easy english, 'coz then it get that cold atmosphere, I like! Your inner war... What is it?

-This intro "My inner war" deals with noone else, but myself! I don't want to speak about it. I'm right now and have been for a couple of years, very depressed and four last years I have been thinking of taking my life and stuff like that... Anyway I don't want to talk about it! Some of you wear inverted crosses... What does it mean for you? Could music to be used for spreading any religion?

-ENTITY doesn't spread any religion! Yes, I use inverted cross! It stands for many things! When I was about 14-16 years old, I used to cut myself (Like those fanatics christians during penance...-ed.) and I was involved in different rituals, I saw myself as satanist then, now I'm still dealing with some stuff like that, but that's private! Now I'm 21 years old and many things are different, but my inverted cross stands for many things, firstly it's denial of some things and it's not secret that I dislike christian priests and followers of Islam, etc. I can't tell you anymore!!! Some people stands for Darkness, Pain, Pleasure and Pure human and I'm one of them!!!

There will be a final war soon and I can sacrifice my family for the cause! Time is near! There are alot of wimps, but we can smell them out! But I hope you understand that I cannot to go in a talk about this, 'coz it's personal things. I don't want to spread what I believe to, you know!

Didn't you have any link with b.m. in the past? I found some b.m. elements within your music: screaming vocal, warlike atmosphere...

-well, as you can read in answer of previous question, I share some b.m. elements. Yes, I have played in black/death band before, but that was back in 91-92! We also share a reh. place with black metal band. We don't like houses of god... I hope people starting to burn them down

burn them all down! (But in this case we need general action, which is impossible right now, I guess.-ed.) I like the fire, don't you? (I'd like to say: "I love fire!"-ed.)

Are you playing any shows right now? I think you can do really great theatric performance, due to your very emotional music! What public do you prefer?

-We have done few gigs in our home town and we have had suggestions for a lot of other gigs, but since we haven't a full line-up right now it's hard! Yes, we could to do some theatric performances, but we haven't money for it! But it would be great to do! We prefer public that likes our music, no matter if they are drunk or not, so long as they don't gives us troubles!

You have already released two 7'EPs... why do you love those small 7' inches so much? Don't you prepare any CD release?

-Well, it have been a dream for the long time to do 7'EP, I love them much better than CDs. We aren't going to release anything on CD until we have done 7'EP, but we are open to do CD and of course LP! As I told before we are contacting with some record labels, which might to release something with us!

There are a lot of people around, speaking that every shitty band can release 7EP now. What is your opinion about such tongues? Are those tongues the main reason, that some really worth of attention groups remain unknown & overlooked by other not original bands that have CDs?

-People can think whatever they want, but of course a lot of shit bands release CD as well! People, who don't like 7'EP or true LP should stay with their CDs and miss great atmosphere on 7'EP!!! Vinyl is real! But maybe we are the shit band, I don't know... (If you like what you are doing then it mean that's great, fuck other opinions!-ed.)

Please give us some details about your new songs! How much do they differ from the old ones? Does "The lasting scar" still represent actual ENTITY sound?

-"The payment" contains some songs from oct. 94 and I won't say that they are bad songs, but our new songs are much more better in arrangements, etc. But those old songs, you mentioned, still do represent our sound! And I like them very much, but I could say that new compositions are better!

What are your aims for the future? You wrote you have some financial problems, how much does it effect the existence of your band?

-I'm out of work right now and I have not so much money to live for. All I do is to play in our reh. place! I can't do anything else! The problem is that I can't afford to go in the studio and release a demo again. That is why it'd be nice to get a deal. Another problem is that I used to have my own appartement before, but now I live with my family again. But what can I do? I haven't money to pay the rent. So things aren't always so easy!

What did you feel, when you heard about vikings their battles? Do you want to be in viking's ship, which goes to fight, to kill?..

-Vikings, hell yeah!!! That's some history of Sweden! Do I want to be in a viking's ship & go to fight, to kill? Why not?!!?

The last line of your letter was: "Beware of the Gandalum society!" Why I must to beware'em? I just don't know what it is...

-"Gandalum society" is organization, which only goal is to do for "the cause". They do some terror actions, etc. But I don't think, you have to fear'em. Oh, if you are against the cause, then... maybe? But who the hell is against the cause? Not me anyway! (And not me!-ed.)

Here is the end of this long chat... Keep creating such ENTITY's music! If you have something to add, then don't hesitate!

-Thanks a lot for the nice interview! If there are anyone who would like to help us in any way, then contact me. Include an IRC! One 7'EP costs 6 \$ each, if you will buy both, then for 10\$(P&P). Write to:

ENTITY
TOMPA GUSTAFSSON
BRATTENSV.8B
31135 FAKENBERG, SWEDEN

CELTIC QUEEN - BOUDICCA

For local administration, Roman provinces were largely divided into civitates or contons, presided over by councils of prominent men. In Britain the system was only beginning to take shape. The prominent Britons who were cooperating thus far found that their status was a burden as well as a privilege. They had to make contributions themselves, and the new order meant a huge outlay on things they had not foreseen, an outlay shared among too few. Roman money-lenders were glad to help, at high rates of interest. One of them was the philosopher Seneca. This affair casts an odd light on his high-minded teaching. So does the fact that his most famous pupil was Nero (now emperor; he had just murdered his mother). Having lent large amounts to Britons struggling with the cost of civilization, and done well by doing so, Seneca demanded repayment in full. A similar blow was struck from another angle by Catus Decianus, the Roman treasury officer in Britain. Claudius had disbursed money to various Britons in recognition of their pro-Roman conduct. Decianus now claimed that the sums involved were not subsidies, but loans and tried to recover them.

These attempts to call in loans, real or alleged, may have been prompted by nervousness about the Iceni in Norfolk. Their kind Prasutagus had honoured his treaty, but Roman policy did not regard such treaties as permanent. Sooner or later the sub-kingdoms in occupied territory were to be brought under direct rule. Prasutagus died leaving no son, and officials closed in, confiscated his property, and arrested some of his nobles. But although he had left no son he had left a widow, Boudicca (otherwise Boadicea), and two daughters. These counted as part of the confiscated property. The queen was flogged, the princesses raped. However, by a fatal miscalculation they were not actually imprisoned...or not imprisoned securely enough. Boudicca was free to appeal to her husband's subjects. The desperation of both Iceni and Trinovantes now had a leader to turn in into rebellion.

Suetonius Paulinus was still in Anglesey and the Romans were taken by surprise. At Colchester the colonist had been put off guard by a pretence of friendliness. A horde of Britons poured down on the settlement from the north

and destroyed it. They ambushed and massacred a Roman force, part of the Ninth Legion. Apparently the law forbidding Britons to carry arms had not been enforced. When Paullinus heard, he set out for London. He also sent orders to the Second Legion, which was in the southwest, to march against the rebels. Its commander was away, and the acting commander, Poenius Postumus, ignored the governor's message and did not stir. Paullinus's force, composed of the Fourteenth Legion and part of the Twentieth, was too small to defend London, and he drew back. Boudicca captured both London and Verulamium. Both were burnt to the ground. The total killed in the three towns is said to have been seventy thousand. If so, the rising was not, properly speaking, national. It was against British collaborators as well as Romans.

The triple devastation was a grim triumph, and there were not to be any more. Sometime during the year 6 Paullinus assembled about ten thousand men and awaited Boudicca in a carefully chosen spot, partly enclosed by hills and woods, with an open level to the front. No one knows where it was—perhaps near Towcester in Northamptonshire. The Britons vastly outnumbered him, but Roman discipline won, and the queen took poison. Dio Cassius, describing Boudicca, says: "She wore a great twisted golden necklace, and a tunic of many colours over which was a thick cloak, fastened by a brooch".

She was not the only suicide. Postumus knew that he would be called to account for disobeying orders, and fell on his sword. Paullinus followed up the victory with ruthless reprisals. But the province now had a new treasury officer, Classicianus, who was of Gaulish family and knew how the Romanization of a non-Roman people should be effected. He stood up to the governor and reported to Rome on the Britons' grievances. Paullinus was recalled on face-saving pretext and the regime grew milder.

Though Roman historians mention no other rising, there may have been a related outbreak in Somerset. At the South Cadbury hill-fort, archaeology has shown that the village on the summit plateau survived untouched till Boudicca's time and somewhat later, but was then assaulted. The Romans slaughtered many of the inhabitants, and moved the rest to a new, non-defensible site below.



Above: A Celt with a long mustache and with hair brushed straight back from his forehead. This miniature bronze head was found at Welwyn in 1871 for 18hr

No more blood in your veins, but you are still alive... You are blind, but you see everything... You can't feel your body, you can't feel the Earth, but you're in Heaven, you are flying, you are dreaming, you are sleeping... Your sleep is eternal... That's SOPOR AETERNUS! Find your sopor in this shadow of mind, shadow of sound...

Firstly I would like to know what your name, Varney, mean? What does it symbolize to you?

If I understood you correctly you are referring to SOPOR AETERNUS which is the name of the project. In that case I can only offer you nothing more than a simple translation. Since I have found through the years that there are so many various aspects intertwined within those two plainly looking words. Also aspects of myself, of course, as SOPOR is basically a certain kind of self-therapy, a possible way to support my personal process of healing. Indeed, it's like a diary filled with questions and maybe pictures which allows me to "EX-press" the paint that

I feel. By doing so it becomes easier to reflect on the problems and inner conflicts that haunt me and which are sometimes only recognized on a subconscious level. SOPOR offers me the opportunity to project these conflicts out, so that I can take a closer look at them as they take on the shapes of their true essence. Sometimes they chose to appear as animals, but they also might appear as fragrances, flowers, monsters, persons or whatever. But I am drifting away... The translation that I promised you to deliver reads: "Eternal Sleep" or sometimes "Sleep of Death".

How has your personal state changed during the last year years? What did occur within the camp of SOPOR AETERNUS & THE ESEMBLE OF SHADOWS?

Many things have changed or at least it might appear so. But if you look at it closely

you will discover that not these "things" on the outside have changed-which is impossible, anyway-but that I am the one who run through a change and long with it my view on my "environment". This transformed my personal vibrations, which again causes me to attract different (higher) equivalents...

Now SOPOR AETERNUS claims to be the cult band... did you ever dream about of such glory?

Subconsciously..., I think so, yes.

You were doubt full about live shows... What did you decide on this question? Will you play live shows in the future?

Right now I am not "allowed" to let Sopor appear live and I must tell you that I really do not believe that this project has ever been supposed to do concerts. There is also a problem of repetition which can be rather fatal if you consider the therapeutic aspects of SOPOR which might be reversed by it...

What about WHITE ONYX ELEPHANT? Why did you begin this new project? Too many dreams and you can't express them all through SOPOR... media?

Yes.

You told that all music of SOPOR... firstly

Sopor Aeternus The Ensemble of Shadows



details since it is all rather complicated even-or especially-to me and it is almost impossible to adept the essence of it to language. If you allow me to remain on the safer grounds of emotional perception I would describe it by using the help of colour: SOPOR is basically black with spheres of a dark violet and some strings of silver whereas WHITE ONYX ELEPHANTS bears different shades of green touches of white and also a little yellow...

In the past you didn't listen to music nor played it... Now you are a musician... Could you leave musical life now and return to your previous state?

I am afraid you must have misunderstood something here. I have always listened to music as I could never have survived without it spiritually. I only avoided to play "my own" music, in other words, I avoided SOPOR, I avoided MYSELF...

You doomed yourself to eternal despair... You experienced quite a long time in (the) Darkness... Why did you choose such kind of life? Were you tired of all the shallow people around you?

There is something very interesting in your question. Did I doom myself to eternal despair all by myself? Did really I choose this kind of life? Some may say "yes", we are the ones to determine our destiny

Others proclaim that it is all decided by someone/something else (maybe by the one they call GOD?) I do tend towards a combination of both ideas...

One Lithuanian poet V. Mačernis wrote: "When a person becomes more perfect on spiritual plane, then he/she needs for solitude in the material world." Would you agree with this thought? I am not sure whether I understood your translation correctly, anyway I dare to say all souls that are on "our" level in their process of development do need the material world in order to experience the various sensations which are bound to the medium of the body. Without the existence of matter and all the aspects that are taught by it spiritual development would not be possible at all...

You talk about reincarnations... After every life your soul becomes more perfect... Are there any verges for self development?

This question can only be answered by someone who has reached these hypothetical verges. But these verges or frontiers do not necessarily mean that our search and development is completed the very moment we reach them. Maybe they are just a gateway towards a new realm, a transformation into something beyond the human comprehension...

You live a very intensive spiritual life... You feel so many incarnations...Do any bounds exist between life and death?
Is there a difference between what you call "Life and Death"?If so,could you explain it?
I could not...

You mentioned that souls must return to earth for future improvements again and again...I understood She can only develop being within body...But when you lived 1,5 years in eternal Darkness,your only joy was sleep...How does your soul develop when you're absolutely in active all the time?

A very good question indeed.Please remember that we are here on this planet to learn from experiences. We all have our individual paths that we must follow in order to get all the experiences we are supposed to gather.So, one of experiences which I had to learn was "1,5 years in eternal darkness with all its consequences.It is very complicated and simple at the same time...

Healthy soul within healthy body!Is this anti-self sentence right for yourself?What would your commentaries be on this sentence?

Yes,I believe that this sentence does carry very important truth!Body and soul are connected,after all the soul has chosen the body as temporary mansion,as a tool,a medium if you will.Psychic disorders,depression but also happiness etc.-all of these are sensations of the soul-do descent down into the body,materialise as "symptoms".

Did you feel such emotions as tranquility? Could you describe that state?Does human can to achieve state of universal tranquility(nirvana)only loosing an own individuality(Like stated Veda,holy book of ancient brahmans), loosing an own individual face?Is it impossible to find tranquility inside oneself without loosing individuality?

I do not dare to answer.I don't even have the right to.

Suicide's soul is damned to suffer...Don't you justify any kind of suicide?

Somehow I feel that every human being wants to live.At first sight this might seem very strange,even wrong,If we look at all the people committing suicide.But If we take a closer,more careful look we will discover that the main reason for the wish to put an end to their lives is not that they do not want to live anymore but to put an end to the pain! Indeed,sometimes the pain can grow so strong that you just can not bear it anymore-whether this pain is physical or psychic is completely unimportant here and all you are hoping for is that the pain will stop...,somehow!!! And If suicide appears to be the only way to achiev this aim,then be it...!

Fortunately I can understand this state some people have to go through, since I had to suffer it myself.I could survive because I was shown a way to change myself through which I became able to deal with the pain in a different way.That doesn't mean that the "problems" I had disappeared,but I found a new strength to-somehow-conquer them.I can

even bear the tides of depression now...
"Dying is much easier than living"...Doesn't it mean that we must try to keep us alive instead of committing suicides,when we want to escape from our problems?Life is not so simple and living shows self's strenght,I guess. Do you agree?

Yes,indeed.As you know I do believe that we incarnate on this planet in order to learn and therefore develop.If I put a "voluntary" end to my life before my actual "time" has come, how can I learn then what I am supposed to learn?The period of life would have just been too short to gather all the experiences necessary...

But yes,sometimes it takes a lot of strenght

a strenght we can all call our own, but sometimes-for whatever the reasons might be we do not allow ourself to use this strenght..

"In the cradle of mercy we are sleeping,the half sleep of oblivion,no holy water could wash away

our faults nor benediction purify our souls".Does these lines could be regarded as your criticism upon christianity?

What do you think about such rituals as baptizing of small babies? I

guess masters of one French ordin were totally correct,saying that baptizing of infans is absolutely meaningless,because they still cannot think...

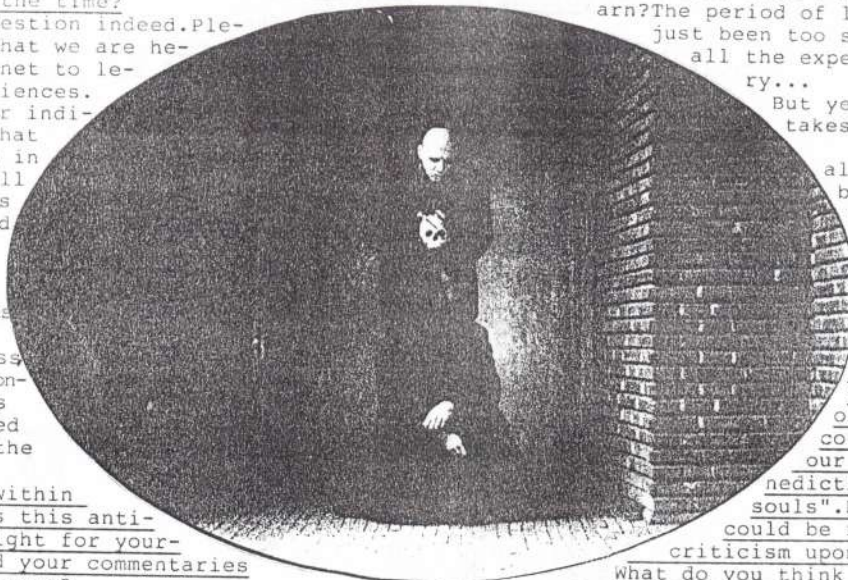
Please remember that we all perceive things differently.I can only write lyrics about myself,but if you think that there is also some criticism hidden within...,it shall be okay with me.You are the ones to decide!

Concerning the ritual of babbism I think it formerly was ment to be a symbolic act through which the new-born was received within the community,became part of large "family".A ritual to welcome the child on earth...Nowdays the people who call themselves christians-without having the slightest idea what this means-claim that all babies must receive the holy baptism otherwise they will never have the chance to come to heaven after their death.well, that,of course,can be regarded as nonsense...
Within your philosophy cosmos has a very important role...But aren't you getting any influences from closer surroundings than cosmos?Do you believe in horoscops,which are very popular over all the globe?

Cosmos means "order" and therefore comprises everything that surrounds us-though we are also surrounded by chaos,which would be the opposite ,but even this thing,called chaos has to obey its own rules,its own order.
Of course I do "believe" in astrology since it is a beautiful way to learn...But please,forget those newspaper horoscopes...

You had several problems due to your look.Some persons were laughing or spitted at your feet.What did you feel in such minutes?Didn't you want to answer them the same way?Or maybe you wanted to get it a more strange look according to the crowd?

This is also another point that has not changed with the years.People are still laughing at me or calling me names whenever I leave the house.In the past I got very aggressive



then, but this aggression has only been directed against myself and never against others. The hatred for myself increased to such a degree that that I started hurting myself—even physically. Today I am strong enough to bear the insult, but still it requires an enormously high amount of strength to leave the safety of my four walls...

You said, you don't feel German, you don't like to be called German...are you pleased with life in Germany? Isn't it the same for you where to spend this earthly life? But just deep in the subconscious everyone belongs to any nation...

Indeed. It's true, I don't feel German nor like any other nationality. It is also not a political background or maybe a tradition that attracts me but I feel strongly drawn to certain...-places.

Why do you hide your face behind a mask all the time? You often use human skulls & bones on your photos. Do you want to achieve or treat anything with this? Or maybe you want that people would find beauty in those bones? You told that beauty can be found everywhere, even within the remains of dead animals...

Yes, I have to admit I actually do wear a mask even though the mask and the face are identical twins... For what concerns the bones and skulls it is the same as always. Resembling things attract each other. This is why I am attracted towards the principle of Saturn, a principle the bones and skulls do also belong to. But you are right. Beauty is to be found everywhere! Even within the remains of decaying animals. But it's a beauty you may only discover by accepting your own beauty!!!

What is your aim in your life? Only sorrow, sorrow, sorrow...

If I only knew...

Do you want to add anything in the end of this interview? Tell some words from the depths of your soul...

I would like only to apologize for being so unconcentrated today. And, please, stay TRUE, because whenever you lie you are destroying some part of the world!!!

With love and best wishes,
Anna-Varney Cantodea for SOPOR AETERNUS

Through the world of...

THE ORDER OF N.C.S cd "Rituals of the new poison"

Here we deal with experimental music project which contains two members of already not existing US goth band REQUIEM IN WHITE. And I think that THE ORDER... has much more to offer than REQUIEM... From the first minute I sank in mournful, medieval visions. Bass lines are mixed up with a lot of keyboards passages. Ritualistic drum machine's arrangements give really morbid character. Sinistrous Eric's voice alternates with operic female vocals... Very intensive piece of various emotions put out together...

CD costs 20\$ worldwide. All orders goes to:
c/o Sacrum Torch, P.O. Box 278, Prince street station, New York, NY 10012, USA

MEMOIRES D'AUTOMNE demo "Gloria Victis"

This dark wave act reminds me its unrepeatable fellow-countrymen LUCIE CRIES. Again sombre bass melodies, deep sorrowful vocal+ singing in its native french language, what is very appreciable fact here! There and here floating guitar passages and some keyboards chords finally fill up this music with autumnal nostalgia, that runs through all six songs. This tape lacks of sound quality abit, because vocal is overlooked by others instruments. Just this demo have been recorded on 4 tracker. But, anyway this group is worth of your attention, I think.

Soon, very soon earth will sleep... Remain only remembrances of the Autumn...

c/o Because Herve, 59 rue G. Plasse, 42300 Roanne, France

REGARD EXTREME "Demo"

Another release, which shows friskiness of french experimental music scene. Here's edge of mournful, melodious ambient performed with keyboards and drum computer only. Anyway, I

can't compare this music with that, which is played by those angry and "dark" persons, which formerly played "true black metal", but now found that games with keys are exciting too.

Fabien's ambient has much more spirituality and sincerity. Powerful chords with little Bach touch, medieval choirs... It really embraces me. Listen being in solitude (like all true music), maybe these melodies will reveal anything for you.

Very soon, there will be available new CD called "Resurgence". Fabien also runs radio show, that is dedicated to industrial, ambient, gothic, neo-classical music. So, if play somewhat similar to before mentioned genres, then don't hesitate to send some tapes to him!

c/o Fabien Niauxt, 32 rue de Carcassonne, 37100 Tours, France

BURNING DOLLHOUSE promo "Ice"

I must to admit, that I was really looking for the new BURNING's songs. And finally I received promo tape with six new songs, which are more professional than the old ones. New quality! "Ice" can't be put in any frame 'coz every song has its own individual structure and emotions. A spectre of emotions vary from light nostalgia till real tragedy. Drummer still plays these minimalistic, ritual alike, rythmes, sometimes mixed with percussion. These intensive rythmes combined with a lot of piano's parts + space effect, sometimes indie ("Trust"), sometimes even heavy metalish guitars, very deep vocal truly exclude this group from the most part of today's gothic acts. I very liked vocal that is recorded such way, that you can hear every breath of D. Stucker (guitarist & vocalist). It makes an image of the friskiness...

Band almost avoided its earlier THE CURE influences, though now they got more influences from the 70ties, especially PINK FLOYD. Listen to these tranquil, floating guitar solos performed in the keyboard's fone and you'll understand what I mean... Truly fascinating!

Since I don't know a price, write and ask for details.
c/o Peter Weip, Ogenwaldstr. 58, 64853 Otzberg, Germany

ASMROR demo
"Dance in the winter fog"

No words to express my feelings... I instinctive felt, that there must be something original... Nosferat Noctui using different synthesized sounds (flute, piano etc.) and cold effects (sounds of ice crystals) is really able to create freezing atmosphere. Melodic, powerful synth explorations alterates with doomy blackish guitar riffs and screaming vocals. There are a lot of demonic laught, whispers, spoken words and even some ancient Carpathian dances parts.

...Join yourself at the dance... Dance in the cold winter fog... For info about other Nosferat's activities write to ERZSEBET prod. This demo comes with full colour cover, transparent chrome tape, pro-print available for \$5 or 40ff from

ERZSEBET prod.
4 Avenue du cimetièr
42390 Villars
FRANCE

DARK SIDE COWBOYS cassette
"The Hall of Pain"

Goth band from Scandinavia... It's impossible meet such ones very often in that place. I know only CATHERINES CATHEDRAL, EQUINOX OVA GODS and D.S.C. Their music can be comparable with CATHERINES CATHEDRAL. Sincere played acoustic ballads leans very similar mood to CATHERINE's best song "In noxious pandemonium". Some other songs create the feeling like you're sitting and watching through window, but you can't see anything... Then perceive that still is running the same song. Anyway, such pieces don't bore me; it's pleasure to hear that hypnotic, sad voice and simple rhythm. "Magia Bianca" will take in the voyage thru unknown places of your depth...

SISTERS and NEPHILIM touch is noticeable, but in the end you forget this... MORINIS prod., Skostigen 6, 83070 Sammedal, Sweden

EPITAPHI demo
"Unearthed"

This tape consist four tracks. The best in my ears are the first and the last one. First track contains doomy BLACK SABBATHish riffing mixed with growling vocals. "The Weeping" is such lyrical balade with normal singing vocal. Though singer must have more power. Other, still don't mentioned songs, are hurred times before heard death metal. Guys know how to play, but they could search for more original ideas. Contact: Mike Houzam 5 Sykes Rd. Soothill Batley West Yorkshire WF 17 0PU U.K.

DOWNRIGHT MALICE demo
"Criminally insane"

Old heavy/thrash metal from France. Here we have their 2nd demo. Can you imagine the mix of old TESTAMENT, ANTRAX and IRON MAIDEN? Rhythmic thrash passages alterates with melodic parts, nice lyrical refrains. Vocalist can really sing and I appreciate it. All is well played and professionally recorded. Although I'm not a big fan of thrash, but I can appreciate such powerfull piece. That tape with press book costs \$5. If you are rich, then send money to:

c/o Bauer Didier
2 res. Ch. Kroeppfle
Rue des Fleurs
68300 Saint-Louis
FRANCE

SERENITY cd
"Then came silence"

Debut CD of this English doom band. In my case it's very successful "coz they found an own sound and really differs from that MY DYING BRIDE or PARADISE LOST style... All seven tracks are well composed and arranged. Tempo alterates from slow to mid piece and moods changes: from melancholic, lyrical to the eerily one. Great riffing, lots of nice solo guitar melodies, clear tenor voice. I found some influences from old BLACK SABBATH and heavy metal bands

of 87-90 period. I recommend it to all, who are searching for lyrical forms of music. CD available for \$8-16\$, MC-6 -12\$. Write to:

Garry Riley
46 Round Street,
West Brolwing, Bradford
West Yorkshire,
BD5 7HS,
ENGLAND

LEGION/PERUNWIT

Two Polish bands on one tape... Side A feature LEGION... Intense fast, sometimes melodic black metal with some synth parts going through. Vocals sounds ridiculous. Vocalist all the time seem is trying to imitate howling of wolves... BEHEMOTH are really better than this...

PERUNWIT created individual sound. I found them interesting and original! No, no here aren't black metal! PERUNWIT are combining different soundscapes with acoustic guitar parts. Battle in the storm sad, echoing guitar melodies with some synth explorations mixed in the fone of wind, rustle see... Powerful use of kettle-drum here and there. "Bol niewiscisci" is played in the folk music's traditions. All this piece is pierced by gloomy, ancient atmosphere... Check 'em out from DEAD CHRIST COMMUNE for \$5:

c/o Wittek Slusarz
Warynskiego 31/26
45-047 Opole 1
POLAND

NECROMANTIC GALERY prod.
"Promo tape..."

Tape contains songs of Swedish THORNIUM and two Norwegian bands DIMMU BORGINA and EINHERJER... THORNIUM play totally unoriginal black metal. I didn't find anything interesting here, besides sharp guitars and screaming vocals... But they already released full length CD on the same label...

DIMMU BORGIN opens with nice atmospheric track performed with acoustic and distorted guitars in the fone of wind... 2nd track mix between Norwegian and Greek black metal, with some mournful synth passages, acoustic guitar. Still listenable... EINHERJER feature with one new track from forthcoming 7'EP with Dutch DAMNATION... I always liked EINHERJER... Nice melodies combining with double use of vocal. Screaming and singing. Acoustic guitars alterates with mid tempo distorted guitar's parts. Majestic! Write to:

Plutolaan 81
6043 VN Roermond
THE NETHERLANDS

SABAOTH demo
"Centro dei culto"

Black metal from Paraguay... Wonder? We're amazed, too. After synth created intro, you hear black metal in veins of DARK THRONE, BURZUM, SAMAE. Yes, you already heard it before, but I don't get bored after listening to it. Melodic, from slow to fast changing, black metal with usual screaming vocal. Guys recorded new reh. and new songs are much more original. Tape comes with professionally done cover, photos inside. Available for \$5 from:

L. Norrack
c/o Jorge Carron
Santiago 1275
Asuncion
PARAGUAY

NOVEMBRE tape album
"Wish I could dream if again"

These dudes planed to shake the world with this new release. I doubt if our mother Earth will began to shake, but anyway this album is great. NOVEMBRE mixed a lot of elements from gothic, doom, death, black. This tape have a long running time (near 70min), but it don't bore me. Gothic, melancholic parts changes to fast, blackish ones. Vocal alterates, too: from singing (like FAITH NO MORE) to

growling or screaming. Synth adds some more majesty, playing is very tight! Professional: original riffing, great sorrowful solos. Recorded at UNISOUND, but sound isn't perfect. It must be clearer. CD available for 18\$(p+p) from:

Polyphemus rec.
Via Benanti 41
95122 Catania
ITALY

MORTIIS cd
"Født til a herske"

Second MORTIIS release after demo "Song for sad forgotten spirit". I liked this more than their demo. MORTIIS introduce those mournful landscapes, deserts, dangeons of that world through synth created soundscapes. Majestic melodies, kettle drums, wind blasting towards black stones... Somebody it see as monotonous, but I personally disagree with this opinion... All depends on your individuality and musical taste. Anyway it's great dark ambient... It can be bought for 20\$. Write to:

Malicious rec.
P.O. Box 210408
72027 Tubingen 21
GERMANY

MERESSIN demo
"Satan oro te reo portas patere"

Finally we have debut demo tape from this Lithuanian black metal band. Before they were known as great live band. They keep those old black metal canons alive. Music is fast and very intense. Loads of guitar solos, interesting manner of singing, which remind me Tom Warrior (though he had lower vocal at "To mega therion"). Guys plays 4 years together, so these previous years weren't waste of time-playing is very tight. There are some touches of new wave black metal, synth, acoustic guitar, but that old spirit is more relevant. "Insomnia" - fantastic bass solo... Nothing to say more, just check 'em out for \$5. Tape has professional glossy cover with photo & lyric.

c/o Žydrisius Auquilis
T. Genio 15
5610 Telšiai
LITHUANIA

PURITAS VIRGINUM demo
"Espirit impur"

Experimental, noisy black... Very bad sound quality and that chaos gets really unlistenable. Somewhere can be heard strange cries, drums, misundenstandable guitar passages. Sometimes guys adds some synth and acoustic guitar... Try who like ABRUPTUM. Demo available for 4\$. Guys said that they're going to record new demo, which will be different to "Espirit impur"... Sorry, but I lost their adress...

ATOTHEP demo
"Rites of the necrogot"

Debut demo of this pagan band... Thrash, death, black cocktail. Some times they remind DARK THRONE due to ugly guitar sound and screaming Fenriz a like, vocal. Sad, but as most time while listening to new black metal band, I didn't find nothing new and interesting... "All is improvised, so, that you can feel occult pagan power" - say flyer... Maybe? Write to:

c/o Daniel Bisang
Alter Oberlanderweg 46
3653 Oberhofen
SWITZERLAND

FUNERAL WINDS adv. track
from split LP with ABIGAIL

Music changed a bit from their previous tape EP "Resurrection...". Yes it still remained brutal black metal, though can be found some more slow, atmospheric parts, some attempts to experiment... Wait for their full length CD which will be released through LETHAL rec. (Austria)...

FUNERAL WINDS
Gorgoroth
Bielefeld 34
3085 Re Rotterdam
HOLLAND

ENTITY 7'ep
"The lasting scar"

Sweden sometimes can really amaze! ENTITY is impossible to put into any musical walls. Doom? Black? Goth? Odd mixture... Leading instrument-bass guitar. Loads of synth, any distorted guitar, only acoustic and drums. Vocalist has great voice... Sometimes really sings, sometimes whispers, sometimes screams like madman. Greivous melodies alterates with chaotic, warlike passages. Crazy run through the night... \$5 to:

Tompa Gustafson
Brattenso 8B
31135 Falkenberg
SWEDEN

SPHERES OF DAWN reh.

Sometimes very similar to ATHOTHEP I guess 'coz of the same members of both groups... SPHERES OF DAWN is a bit more melodic, a bit more technical... But again lot of cliches, lack of originality... Adress the same as ATHOTHEP.

BETRAYER demo
"Our scars"

Industrial/thrash metal. Demo contains 4 track. Strange guitar riffs and drum machine makes very good impression. Sound reminds me 70-80 years groups. Reverbered vocal and strong bass don't have alternatives with other bands... The last track's words are written in Hebrew and it seems sometimes funny, but I like bands, who sing in their born language. Buy it for \$5 from:
c/o Yishai Swartz
10 Kazan st.
Raanaa 43612
ISRAEL

MIKHAIL ATOM

"Astroepos Revalation Album"

MIKHAIL ATOM offers 45 minutes of various sounds and feelings. Sometimes his ambient sounds so obscure like LUSIMOND, sometimes you can even to relax, but surely you will wake up after some parts of funeral march or odd childish laughing... c/o Vera Kolotilov, Riazanskii pr. 71-1-34, Moscow 454, RUSSIA

GRIMOIRE demo
"In the darkwoods sovereignty"

Second release of GRIMOIRE. Intro is the best piece, no doubt. Melancholic piano solo. Lately follows 5 tracks of Norwegian/Greek black metal. Fuckin' amazing, yes? Vocalist remind AT THE GATES, but demo is recorded at 24 tracks studio, but it sound like recorded on simple 4 tracker.

I don't know why, but this demo is not valid in their homeland... I suppose it's a new way to be true... \$5 for this tape with pro printed cover.

c/o Lord Y. Ohav, Borochoy st. 22, Herzliya 46240, Israel

NAOS promo
"The final harvest"

I'm hopeful, that you already know this Morbid's project. Harsh synth's attacks supported by drum computer. A lot of fantasy. Industrialized vocal foretelling cyberwar...

I got good impression, but I'm not sure about you, lovers of metal music... c/o Itsemurha Arts, P.O. Box 2151, 91011 Erlangen, Germany.

ELYSIAN FIELDS promo
"Promo 95"

Flyer says, that this band play occult metal. I suppose this term can be misunderstood for somebody so I'll try to explain with usual terms... Their music consist elements of death, black and doom metal. Fast, aggressive, but yet melodious parts turn to the slower ones, which are adorned with keyboards and violin. Guys also use piano and flute, what sounds nice, of course, but there aren't any innovative ideas. Vocal can be compared with T. Linsberg from AT THE GATES, but Bill rather growls than screams. On the whole this group sounds like being from Scandinavia, instead of usual Greek sound.

**PHOETICIDE demo
"Flare"**

Spanish scene was well known thru its gory death metal some years ago and traces of this "glory" are remarkable within PHOETICIDE's music. Music itself isn't very bad. Those dudes combines rhythmic thrash parts, strange sounding acoustical interludes, fast b.metal attacks and I could be glad if they could to reject these brutal, boring death metal riffs & that gory vocal. Just the latter fact keeps me out of listening to this demo. Music suffers due to bad sound quality, 'coz guitars are overlooked by drums (which sound very repulsive by the way) and you hear only small fragments of guitar melodies...
Send your \$5 to:
c/o Grall 14, 38436 Pto. Stgo., Tenerife, Spain

**ETERNAL HATRED demo
"Vengeance from the grave"**

I think, you all will agree with me that both bands' name and demo title are rather than silly. The most stupid black metal boy meet the most stupid death metal freak. Unfortunately, I'm wrong because there is just single person and music, he play isn't neither primitive nor silly. This guy kick ass with carefully composed, intelligent death metal with some old metal school's influences. Music vary from fast to slow, heavy. Guitar solos are very technical, but still have a sense. Drummer is replaced by drum machine, so rhythms are kept accurately. Of course, it's simplest solution, but who cares? Quite good demo, although I prefer USURPER...

Professionally released cassette available for \$5 from:
ODYSSEY prod., P.O. Box 1250, La Grange Park, IL 60526, USA

**USURPER demo
"Visions from the Gods"**

I'm glad seeing that there still are very few alternatives to that overpopulated death/black scene.

Such ones are our MERESSIN, americana. USURPER... Those bands keep old metal spirit alive without copying those famous CELTIC FROST, VENOM, BATHORY. Lithuanian MERESSIN have bigger b.m. approach, whilst USURPER sound more death metalish, although some u.m. riff are heard too. Sounding more like a band from 85-87 period USURPER do it the own individual way. Music is intensive without being very fast. They use normal drums and drum machine, so that extreme drumming creates all intensity. Vocal is growling, but not deep, a manner of singing reminds T. Warrior a bit. Just you all know these powerful "uh"... Guitarist plays all guitars and bass and knows his job very well. Structures of solos are similar to SLAYER and CELTIC FROST. Kettle drums, gongs create an warlike atmosphere, but they could be used more effectively, since now deep in the second plane and you must concentrate if you want to hear these subtle

Professionally released "Visions from the Gods" costs \$5.
USURPER, P.O. Box 388897, Chicago, IL 60638-8897, USA

**IN ARTICULO MORTIS demo
"Sombre melancolie"**

Don't expect anything new here. This tape intrigues only with its full colour cover & pro printed cassette, though sound is shity. Music - usual b.m. with some keyboard chords, acoustic interludes, screaming and normal vocals. Some idiotic grind parts really decorate that boring stuff... Of course, cover contains some angry photos and lyrics, which conception is clear to every b.m. fanatic... So "No love, only hate and despair"...
Buy it for \$6 from:
c/o Baron Moloch, 54 Lot St. Jean, 84200 I'isle sur Sorgue, France

**DECEMBER'S FIRE demo
"Across the sorrowfuls of Baltic"**

A one more example of keyboards orientated scene. As I know musician regard themselves as pagans, so prepare yourself to hear rustle of sea, rain... These soundscapes are mixed up with simple keyboard lines, what help to catch in-

jection pompastic, call whatever you want atmosphere. Indeed, not worstest piece, but lack of fantasy is visual...

I have nothing to say, because I got this tape from one polish distributor. You can write to bands (or just project) frontman:
c/o Piotr welltrowski, ul. Swarzewska 54 A/7, 81-059 Gdynia, Poland

**JUSTICE mini CD
"Half of the ..."**

True underground supporters can go away, because so far as I remember such music that play JUSTICE isn't very popular among underground people. Thrashy heavy metal with some sweet sounding glam rock parts (what is not for my taste). Some riffs are reminiscence of old good IRON MAIDEN. I even think that first song's refrain has been stolen from famous IRON's song "Seventh son of the seventh son"... Here can't be any discussions about playing's technics, since all musicians formerly played in other groups (i.e. Lain Finlay was drummer of RUNNING WILD). Dynamic, melodious solos, strong and melodious vocal, great bass lines...

Some songs sound heavier, other - sweeter, but if you want to purchase anything fairly different, then check out JUSTICE. Write to their label.

MUSICAL TRAGEDIES, Muggenhoferstr. 39, 90429 Nurburg, Germany

**CANTICUM FUNEBRIS
"Endless"**

This, unknown German group plays music in the veins of DEATH IN JUNE, SORROW (U.K.) and Norwegian GODSEND. Slow, melancholic music with depressive male and female vocals. Band notice that they don't use any synthesizers, but I suppose they use guitar processor, which creates that floatings tone. Flute and viola add folk character to these melancholic songs.

The only negative aspect of this CD is long running time (60 min) 'coz songs aren't very different, so some persons can be bored after listening to this depressive piece.

TALITHA rec./Music research GmbH Norsk-Data-Str. 3, 61325 Bad Homburg, Germany.

**ORCHESTRATION FOR THE DAMNED
"Morbid Metal comp. tape"**

14 different bands appear on this comp. cassette. Most of them are playing b.m. though there are some exceptions: TRISTITIA - gloomy doom metal with early singing vocalist, MANGLED-death/doom, AVERNUS - somewhat in the veins of old MY DYING BRIDE. Those b.m. hordes that took place in this tape are DENIAL of GOD-clowns... nightmare, ANCIENT - boring Norwegian b.m. and AS SAHAR - coming from Singapore, although there aren't more egzotic beside this fact...

I guess, OPERA IX and TRISTIA are most acceptable and original bands on this cocktail. Tape comes with A2 poster & pro printed cover.
MORBID METAL, 1184 E. 33RD St. San Bernardino, CA 92404, USA

**THE VENUS FLY TRAP adv. tape
"Luna tide"**

This alternative group grows with each its product. New album is more concentrated according to their previous tape. Songs have such an old hard rock structures: some harsh attacks and then follow melodic refrain. Guys added some more acoustic guitar interludes, what is ok for me.

So these freaks did one more step forward...
Address: see elsewhere.

**IN SENSORIUM demo
"Demo III"**

England have nice musical traditions, no doubt! So many artists, so many good ideas!

This duet still experiment with minimal bass arrangements and simple, very often even primitive ritual rhythms. Pete added some keyboard lines, what makes music not so empty like it was on the 2nd demo. Schizophrenic female voice draws really grotesque paintings within my mind...

Stranger, darker than ever... A fine example how much you can do with minimal, simple arrangements, if you have just a drop of fantasy...

This six songs demo can be yours

for \$5. when writing enclose IRF or S.A.S.E.
c/o Pete, P.O. Box 214, Croydon, CR9 6RQ, England

**SON OF WILLIAM demo
"The beasts of desolation"**

Three songs of guitar orientated rock. I'm sure, that band will lose some of their earlier fans 'coz now there left just small part of their previous gothic edge. Aggressive, thrashy guitars, distorted bass, catchy drum's arrangements. Melodic refrain comes with little LED ZEPPELLIN touch. Apart overall dominating aggression, band don't fear to use acoustical guitar, keyboards. Such an lyrical piece is song entitled "Serpent".
Professional production is worth of your \$5.

**SON OF WILLIAM cassette
"Husk"**

These four songs are available on CD format, but I have only promo tape. And what I can say about it?

Just, that SOW have good traditions of style changing. Music, which those blokes play now I'd call "industrialized gothic metal". No doubt "Husk" is most aggressive work so far. There aren't any lyrical aspects just cheer aggression. Crazy drum programming, gothic riffs, angry Spencer's vocal, which sound very weird. MINISTRY comes to my mind. Though SOW have more variety than MINISTRY. But please don't mind very much about this comparison. SOW have a lot of original ideas to offer.

What can we expect out of the new upcoming full length CD, only Mr. Spencer knows...

This mini CD costs only 7\$. Contact their own BERZERKER label:
BERZERKER, 90 B High Road, London, N2 9EB, U.K.

**USURPER promo
"Diabolosis"**

Bands like this one always welcome! Guys keep own promises, new songs contains more interesting solutions. There are much more variety, too. Some more speed changes, interesting use of normal drums and drum machine. If not this "double drumming" I'm not sure do these sudden speed changes would be possible. Vocalist began to sing with three voices: screaming, growling and that T. Warrior alike. Music is full of energy and everything is on the its place. USURPER really distinguish due to very not traditional song structures and its sincere feelings.

All these songs are on their full length CD released through HEAD NOT FOUND.

Address: see elsewhere.

**NETWORK cd
"Perihelion"**

Electro pop band from Switzerland. Metal heads better turn your eyes somewhere in your TV or so on...

If no, then I'm absolutely irresponsible for your isteries...

NETWORK have influences from such pop grands as DEPECHE MODE, ERASURE. Vocalist's singing manier is similar to D. Hagan's "SMOKE" way of singing. Some techno effects are going through and I remind new CD of PET SHOP BOYS. Atmospheres are almost the same.

They write really not stupid texts have a good image, so I think they must try to "express their selfs" in MTV or VIVA chanel. In my opinion, NETWORK is the best pop act in Europe and all over the world!

If you become interested, then write to HALL OF SERMON prod. and ask for it!

**CLAIR OBSCUR cd
"A collection..."**

This is a collection of songs which have been created in the period between 82-88. I think their fans won't miss this CD. Those, who still don't know their music have the good chance for acquaintance with 'em, although on the other side this CD shows nothing else than the the exhaustible scourse of various ideas... So, you'd meet just a small part of CLAIR OBSCUR... CD opens with simple, post punkish songs, which are pulsating with the raw, primitive energy. The 2nd part of CD shows more experimental face of the band. Probably, somewhat in the veins of DEATH IN JUNE "Cathedral of the tears". Some of such songs are full of cynism

(as the most of Clair... songs), there have even dreamy chourgr. These dreamy ambient songs dissolved my wrong opinion, that this band always write the songs, which are full filled with the harsh cynism that brings you to the hands of shiver. I found some Eastern folk motives, what sounds very fresh within this piece, where cynism still is dominating over.

I haven't anything more to say, that this CD is released through APOCALYPTIC VISIONS and you can order it for 18\$. All orders goes to:

c/o Alex Storm; Ahornweg 19; D-807 Dienburg; GERMANY

**CLAIR OBSCUR cd
"In out"**

Again something healthy & original. Music performed with couple different instruments: trumpets, flute, piano, guitar, bass guitar, viola, cordon, minimal drums arrangements - like mini orchestra. Very strong vocal elements. They are so emotional. Melancholic songs alterates with horrible, full of cynism ones. You can't bore after listening. Just all songs differs from each others...

**SOPOR AETERNUS cd
"Ich tote mich..."**

Occult/dark wave act. Individual spiritual experiences expressed through the music. Dances in the sleeping winter's fields... Listening you got wrapped up by very sorrowful atmosphere. Gloomy passages mixed with great bass guitar lines, greivous acoustic guitar melodies, drum's machine arrangements and strange historical vocals. It's impossible to describe this music, simply you must heard it! No doubt - it's masterpiece!

**LONDON AFTER MIDNIGHT cd
"Selected scenes from the end of the World"**

Another cd released by APOCALYPTIC VISIONS. So far this label brought some CDs of the bands, which play not very traditional music, whilst LONDON... plays quite usual gothic rock with little touches of doom. There aren't a lot of new ideas, just well played goth in best traditions: catchy guitar riffs, simple drums arrangements, emotional painful vocal and a lot of keyboard tunes. Keyboard is fulltime instrument, so music has very ambient character. Strokes of bell bring view of middle ages... High, gothic style churches, vampires, inquisition...

I told my opinion, so now you have all chances to decide - need you this cd or not.

**RAIJ re-released double cd
"The gift of tears"**

This English band is older than CURRENT93. Why I mentioned CURRENT93? Because RAIJ plays apocalyptic folk too and they began to do it before famous CURRENT93... If you are interested in such music you know what word "folk" mean in general. Through all CD continues such nostalgic, autumnal wood. Not usual drums playing (such "ploping", which gives to songs ritual character) acoustic guitar, nice melodies of flute, viola. This band have great singers. Sometimes they sing in duet - male & female but most part they alterates with each other. Use of archaic trumpets makes this group avangard a bit. Sometimes there is approach to dark, yearly experimental sounds. RAIJ are mixing elements from both European and Eastern folklore. Check 'em out from Apocalyptic Visions...

**UNSILENCE demo
"Shadows cast in stone..."**

Death/doom from England, and you can understand that from the first chord. This demo is recorded and mixed at the same studio (M.A.) like Anathema and music of Unsilence is mix between ANATHEMA and other English death/doom monster, MY DYING BRIDE. Vocal parties are too much brutal and I don't like this kind of singing. One track is singed with normal vocal and it's beautiful. I can exclude title song it's done only with acoustic guitar and dark sound of synth - I liked it. I think, there are too much of English death/doom traditions in this demo

from the other side you know for what are you sending 5\$ to:
c/o Kieron Tuohy, 105 Devonshire Road,
Bolton, Lancs. BL1 4PP, UK.

LACRIMOSA cd
"Satura"

Tearfulling goth act from Switzerland creates something really amazing! It's impossible to describe as usual gothic act - they are totally original. Loads of piano parts shows that Tilo Wolf have really golden fingers! Guitar solos sounds together with effects like childish laughing and it makes you thinking and listening to this music more and more... Vocal isn't very low and it gives more mystery for the songs, by the way all texts are written in German (in the cover you can find the translation into english). So if you need it, you must send 27 DM to HALL OF SERMON.

BREATH OF LIFE cd
"Taste Of Sorrow"

I had some emptiness in my heart and this band was a "cork". The first track with its magical rhythm right away makes an good impression. And personally I enjoy all the rest their songs. It's very original music again and I can't find any "outdoor" influences. (Maybe SIOUXIE AND THE BANSHEES a bit?) Can you imagine thrashy guitars, violin and operic female vocal at the one place? That's real face of BREATH...! Drum parties and bass keep old good goth traditions. Song structures are very completed. There aren't very much of rhythm and speed changes, so band don't lose its power and energy doing these tricks. That's again HALL OF SERMON release.

LACRIMOSA cd
"Inferno"

With this album begins the new era of LACRIMOSA. Now in songs creation process are involved two new members - one is from RUNNING WILD, another from old death metal band. Those two new persons did a big influence for LACRIMOSA's music. Sound became heavier, "alive" drums give more power. A few texts are written in English. (A way to get bigger audience?)

The running time takes over 60 minutes, but music has a lot emotions, so I don't get bored.

Write to HALL OF SERMON and ask for this excellent CD!
HALL OF SERMON, P.O. Box 749, 4310 Rheinfeld,
Switzerland

BREATH OF LIFE mcd
"Shining"

This mini CD contains one new version of "Shining", which has been placed at their CD "Taste of sorrow" + two absolutely new songs. My fave track is "Kutna Hora" which reminds Dracula's soundtrack: vocal like in opera and synth sound - mix between "old transylvania castle and royal castle in England". If you don't understand, excuse me 'coz I have no other words to express a feeling I got...

You can purchase this MCD from HALL OF SERMON.

WHERE'S MY SKIN zine

Finally I handle fourth issue of this b.m. zine. I think it might be useful for every die-hard b.m. fan. Bands featured in this issue are mainly black: SATYRICON, ULVER, MYSTICUM, NASTROND, GEHENNA, DARKWOODS MY BETHRONED,

DIMMU BORGIN + some death, doom acts such as ESOTERY OF CALAMITY, ESOTERIC, etc. All interviews are rather long, but those little (but angry, of course) b. metalers makes them boring with their idiotic answers. Blaash has some original question to ask and more intelligent people answer them properly. Such ones are musicians from ESOTERIC (the best interview for me), DARKWOODS MY DETHRONED, ULVER. Besides of great dose of interviews, there are more than 100 reviews on black, death bands. So you'll know how many cool black hordes supplemented this rotten scene. Worshipers of Count Grishnakh can read an interview... with his mother! She describes character of Greifi ("stubborn"), explores how bad was he at school, etc. Also some photos of teenager Varg Vikernes are given for you... Although editor of this thick zine pretend to be stupid, ignorant, but he isn't such in general. I found that his zine really progressed since third issue (though Blaash claims, that he can only regress...)

So blackers out there send your 5\$ immediately to:
c/o Blaash, Chery bend, Houston, TX 77077, USA

KEY OF ALOCER zine

This is a magazine that I expected for the long time. Formerly being more b.m. orientated mag., now KOA turns more to different kinds of literature and magic, since there are only two interviews with b.m. acts: DEMONCY and WITHERING GOD. They both are interesting for reading due to deep questioning of Abaaner A.I. Besides of these above mentioned interview also are three interviews with artists (one from 'em is with Abaaner himself) and a chat with Slavic nationalistic organization MORANA SOCIETY. The latter interview is the best one for me. After before mentioned talks there are great dose of different articles; most interesting I found "The Sign of four Wind" revealing the meaning of very ancient symbol - Svastika. "Talking with Terrence" - some more info about world of hallucinogens. Those, studying shamanic practices, will find this article very useful, I guess. "H.P. Lovecraft & the Dark Gods" and "Mystery of Babylon" supplement each other in some ways and both explore real face of Sumerian magic, instead of Lovecraftian misinterpretation. "The Galactic Empire" - this one I'd call "national socialistic, realistic science-fiction". It speaks about creating of Galactic Aryan Empire... There left some not mentioned articles, detailed music and literature reviews, that you'll find acquiring this magazine for 6\$ from:
SHADOWLIGHT PRESS, 88 Rangituihi Cres, Porirua, New Zealand
So far as I know there is new (sixth) issue available.

INTO THE ABYSS cd
"The Feathered Snake"

Here we have 2nd CD of this German group to criticise. Too much originality - that's the only thing, that I can "reproach" with these musicians. This CD differs from their previous work like the day from the night.

Distorted guitars always come together with arrangements of acoustic ones, and that's the main aspect of their distinctive sound. Janis really developed as vocalist. Now he sings with more variety, more power and emotions. In some parts it sounds not worse than singing of Glen Danzig...

Violin and whistle also have its place with in their music. I do like that, of course, because I appreciate almost everything what folk music can to offer...

I guess, INTO THE ABYSS already have left that is called "goth"...

Janis also is editing FIGHT AMNESIA newsletter, which is open to all good music...

CD available for 18\$ from:
c/ Janis Kalifatidis, Alicentr. 27, D-64293
Darmstadt, GERMANY



LAURAS LUČIŪNAS
TAIKOS 29 - 20
4910 UTENA

VAIDAS ŠADEIKA
TAIKOS 10 - 11
4910 UTENA

AURIUS SAMULĖNAS
TAIKOS 20 - 5
4910 UTENA

L I T H U A N I A