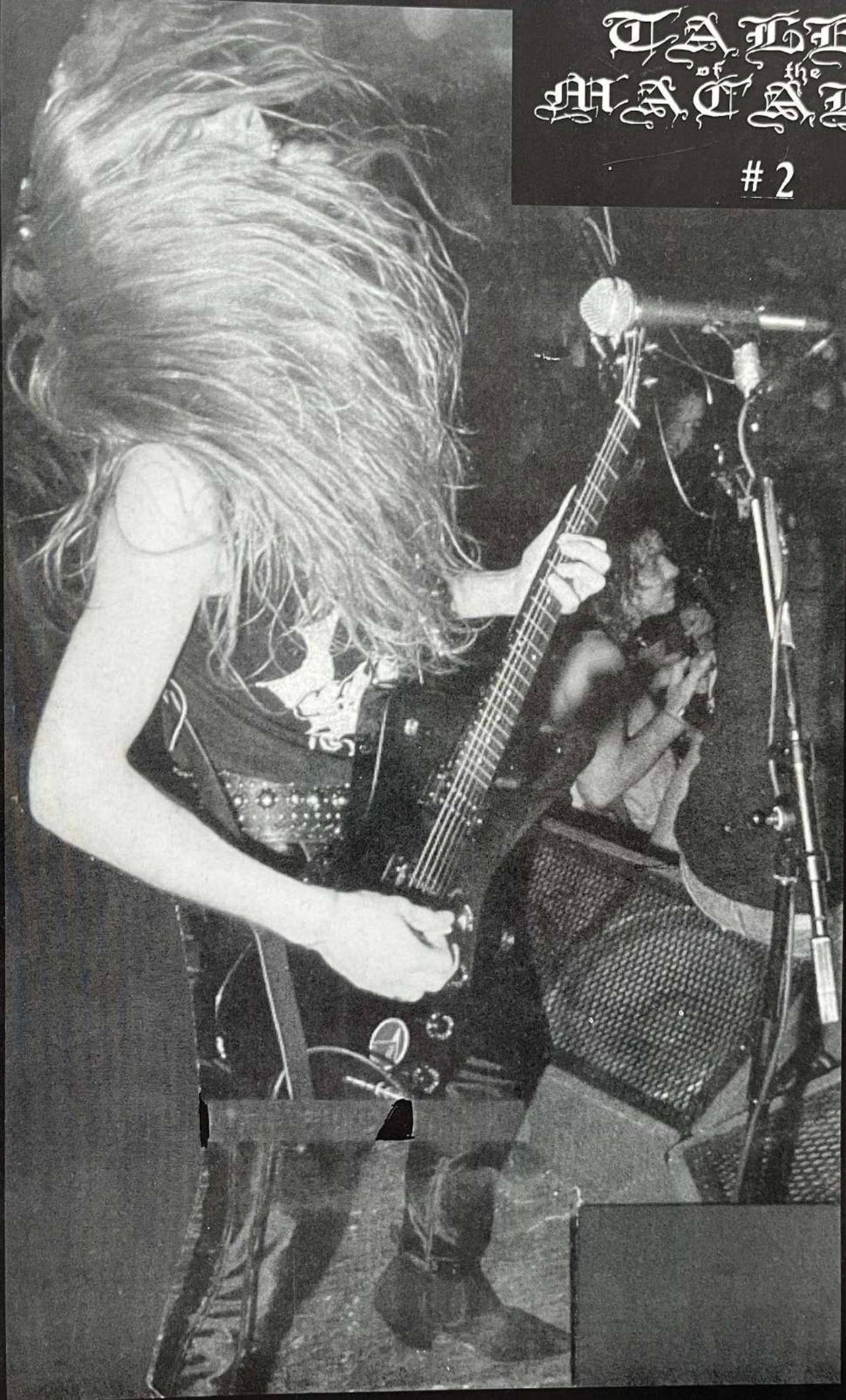


TABLES
of
the
BAR

#2





TALES OF THE MACABRE

Costa Stoios, Herrenbergstr. 12, 56812 Valwig / Mosel, Germany

Welcome to the second of the storms...

... and I really hope you won't regret being part of it. It took long time and hard work (especially for lay-out) until this issue was completed, but of course I'd like to present you the best thing possible for your hard earned money. Not all plans that I had turned into reality for several reasons, many bands didn't again answer my interview attempts (like ROOT, ARCTURUS, SARCOFAGO, ...), also I tried to get in contact with some 'old' bands without any success. Well, but all in all I'm satisfied with the way this issue turned out and I hope you are satisfied, too.

The response on the debut issue was quite positive, although (of course) there are always things to criticise. I tried to make the things which have been criticised better with this issue...for example I added four more pages, reduced the type writing and photos, varied the choice of bands/styles, tried to do a better layout for the optical pleasure, etc. But you should still remember that this mag was meant to be 'underground' (if there exists a so-called underground) and therefore everything isn't always as perfectly done as you know it from the established four-coloured magazines. As a result of not doing a commercial magazine I do not earn any money with TALES... I just like to cover the costs (which are higher than you expect it to be) without using full page ads which you can find in every little badly xeroxed zinc anyway.

A third issue is planned, but it's now impossible to say when it will strike. It depends on how fast the second issue sells as I was more or less forced to print 1.000 exemplares (which is a lot of stuff). At least I can hope that you can spread the word of TALES OF THE MACABRE...personal recommendations are always better than stupid flyers, because on flyers everyone has the best stuff for sale anyway. Again the third issue will not forget the ancient spirit of the eighties...and I'm especially hot for bands who still have that special ancient touch inside their music. 'You cannot understand the presence if you don't know the past'...this universal statement is also valid for music (especially in a fast developing music like metal).

It's not always easy to review some bands' releases and I can understand that some of the readers think I give too little bad reviews, but the only thing I can answer them is that it's absolutely not easy to tear a band's music into pieces. It's a kind of respect I have towards each band's work (as long as it is honestly meant) and it's always a question of personal taste. And if I you think a band is good because you read one of my reviews...and are disappointed when hearing the stuff, well...remember that you can still sell the stuff to somebody who might be interested.

Enough shit written ...take command and let your eyes ride through the tales of the macabre ! The third storm is yet to come...

Stay honest

...and always be faithful to metal!

The editor

Thanks to the following people for their support: Those who bought issue one and issue two, 'Wargod' Erik (Printmaster of Hell & Keeper of the Abyss), Ovl. Svithjod (Norway's best help), Matthias Müller (Hellhammer -Lyrics), Heiko Schor, Jörg Bukowski (heavy metal maniac forever), King Wollé, Wicked Krötz, Christian Anderle, Markus Kuschke, Dark Linskog Hübi 'Master of the rasters'... Also I'd like to thank all the labels and bands who sent me their stuff for review, etc. (You all make it much easier for me!). I don't want to list them as most of that bands/ labels are mentioned in this issue anyway. Last but not least I want to thank all the bands/persons who spent their time and thoughts for interviews/suggestions/etc.

Sorry for those I might have forgotten to mention here...these mistakes weren't done on purpose!

Thanks to the distributors that helped me finding those who are interested in issue one: Merciless, Osmose, Lying Shadows, Ascetic Death, Malicious, Euthanasia*, Teutonic Existence, Final Obituary, Voice Of Death, Wild Rags (I can't get rid of your stuff!), Mayhem Death*, Napalm, Maggot, Isolated, Uncle Underground, Expulse*, Undertaker, Rites of Eleusis Zinc and Estasy! (the ones marked with a * have not paid yet for all exemplares of the Zinc)

Special Thanks to: Eva Christ (for doing a part of the layout) and Russ Smith (for the great BATHORY tribute and support)!

Fuck off Rip offs: Carpathian Forest, Ebonsight, Spectarum, After Dark rec., Avantgarde Music, etc. for getting cash or blanc tapes without sending anything back. Perhaps the post has again fucked up things...but who really knows?

The countries to where TALES OF THE MACABRE #1 got sold..

Germany	165
Norway	60
France	51
Spain	30
England	27
Sweden	23
Netherlands	19
Belgium	18
U.S.A.	17
Austria	17
Italy	16
Portugal	11
Ireland	11
Finland	9
Poland	6
Australia	3
Malaysia	2
Greece	2
Japan	2
Maha	1
Denmark	1
Switzerland	1
Russia	1
Paraguay	1
Colombia	1
Mexico	1
Thailand	1
Estonia	1

Twenty exemplares of TALES OF THE MACABRE #1 are still available...40 printed A 4 pages including interviews with i.e. Emperor, Sigh, Rotting Christ, Brisen, Alistis, Behemoth, etc. Price \$ 5 (everywhere).



NEWS

Immortal now found a permanent drummer in none other than Hellhammer, who has already played in **Mayhem**, **Emperor**, **Mysticum** and **Arcturus**. It's not a surprise for me that he is the only drummer who's able to play as fast as Demozion demands it! Also rumours are going around that Hellhammer reformed **Mayhem** with the old members 'Maniac' (vocals), 'Necrobutter' (bass) and a guitarist.. but many people are very sceptical about that reunion. It was said that there's still unreleased songmaterial (written by Euronymous) existing for a new album.

New interesting stuff we can await to get released by HEAD NOT FOUND like a **Thorns** CD/T-Shirt, **Mayhem Live** (Dawn of the black hearts, limited vinyl), **Bard Faust** T-Shirt and Cds of **Ulver**, **Valhall**, **Paradigma**, **Black Lodge** and **Abruptum**. Also they will probably sign bands like **Usurper**, **Ashen Mortality** and **Disgusting**, so you see...this label's concept is based on only real quality stuff!

MALICIOUS RECORDS plan to release a lot of new albums during this year like **Strid**, **Vond**, **Zyklon B** and **Moonlore**. All four bands are from Norway. Soon the debut album from **Vond** will be released on CD version.

The vinyl version of **Vond's** debut album 'Selvmord' is already released by dutch **NECROMANTIC GALLERY** Productions. Soon a full-length CD of swedish **Thornium** will strike as well as a 7" inch by **Einherjer** and **Dimmo Borgir** (again norwegian bands). For info write to: N.G.P., Plutolaan 81, 6043 VN Roermond, The Netherlands. Enclose IRC!

Quorthon is once again busy with his **Bathory!** In an interview he said that the heaviest and hardest album is already recorded and that the epic days are history now. Strange but true or will it be just another unreleased album?

Rumours say that the legendary **Sambain** demo 'The Courier', which was one of the first european death metal tapes back in '85, should be released on 7" inch by the guy who already did release the **Poison(ger)** album. Sadly **Sambain** (who later changed their name in **DesExult**) never got the attention which they've deserved. The only thing they've managed to release on vinyl was a track called 'Plague of Messiah' on the **SPEED METAL HELL** Volume I compilation (by New Renaissance Records). Their style was a mixture out of **Possessed** and **Celtic Frost** back then! Great!!!!

The 3rd And The Mortal lost their singeress Kari, but a new vocalist has already been found, but the style won't be the same...we'll see!

And another norwegian band (it seems that all people are only concentrating on the norwegian scen...that's why I haven't much news about bands from other countries, sorry!) namely **Mysticum**. They have signed to **FULL MOON**, who have also signed swedish black metal band **Agalion**.

SLAYER mag # 10 is out and is a fuckin' mighty issue including 84 well printed A4 pages. I think everyone should have his own copy of it. Send \$ 8 to the **HEAD NOT FOUND** address (german people should contact me for it).

For all people into exotic death/black metal music can look forward to reading a new zine dedicated to a lot of exotic underground bands. The mag is called **DESECRATION OF VIRGIN** (taken from an old **SARCOFAGO** song) and will be out in late Summer!

Update from issue one

In The Woods... will have their debut (Do)Lp out when you read this as they were lucky to get a deal with **MISANTHROPY** Records. This masterpiece is entitled 'HEart of the Ages' and will musically be a bit different from their successful 'Isle of Men' demo! * **Japanese Sigh** seem to have signed at **CACOPHONOUS** Records and a 7" inch with **Kawir** from Greece is already out. Don't miss **Sigh's** new album when it's out if you look for something original. * **Monumentum's** 'In Absentia Christi' is recorded, but still not for sale...perhaps it will never come out. We'll see! * **Goat** (pervertor) left **Gorgoroth**. * Polish band **Behemoth** released their first full length CD 'Sventevith' (again through **PAGAN** Rec.). * **Mortuary Drape** are still alive and managed to release their first full-length album on greek **UNISOUND**. * **Funeral Winds** signed at **LETHAL** Records and their debut CD 'Godslayer Xul' will be out

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when you read this." **Withering God** and **Pseudomonarchia** **Dacmonium** splitted up and **Count Deamon** (from the last mentioned band) is now doing a faazine dedicated to nazi black metal bands. What kind of wimps they all must be to combine black metal with nazism...it's only for the ultra-weak-ones! * About the other bands in # 1 I don't know...some of them are again featured in this mag, but I don't know what happened i.e. with **Brisca**, **Enchanted**, **Alastis**, etc.

Primordial

Not only great beer is coming from Dublin but also a quite professional black metal band called **Primordial**. So far they've released a studio tape called 'Dark Romanticism' which is already about two years old, but still there are a lot of people still not knowing of **Primordial's** metallic art, so I finally decided to introduce you this band.

Their black metal style is harmonic and a mixture out of traditional heavy metal and the northern kind of **Bathory** influenced music. Five songs are on the above mentioned studio-tape and have a total playing time of 25 minutes (mini-LP standard)...still available for \$ 5. **Ciaran**...the only guitarist in **Primordial** introduces the band...: *We came together in the early months of 1993 C.E. to form Primordial. Previously in 1992 we were called Forsaken, but we split due to lack of activity and because we weren't and at times still aren't the best of friends. In July of '93 we recorded and released our demo 'Dark Romanticism' which marked the first stage of our evolution. The demo was to date sold between 450-500 copies and is still selling.*

In early '94 we started to get serious offers from various underground labels, CANDLELIGHT being one. Things never really took off due to the slow attitude of Lee Barrett (owner of CANDLELIGHT). We have since looked elsewhere. At the moment we are making arrangements with Nihil of CACOPHONOUS Rec! The album will be called 'Imrama' (or something like that -cd), so matter what happens.

So it's great to know that you've already planned an album...So how did your music change since the release of the demo which is already a bit old (as I already told)? **Ciaran**: *Yes, it's over two years old with one of the songs on it now three years old. Those were some of the very first pieces we'd ever written, so I expect that we've grown musically and mentally. We have a wider scope now. There is more spirit and atmosphere in the songs. I would say that these elements expose the Celtic pride which burns within me. In a few words they are colder, darker and heathenish. You shall hear them in time.*

Do you think you have a kind of advantage just because you are from Ireland? It could be an 'exotical bonus' for you... How's the general scene situation in Ireland? **Ciaran**: *We don't look at it that way much because we are Irish and live in Ireland, we cannot change this. But yes, I am happy with my place and position. It's advantageous because people don't really know what to make of us and because the culture and heritage makes us proud which comes through in the music. We are disadvantaged when we have to compete with norwegian bands all the time. I mean the 'average' dark metal fan will sooner buy a norwegian demo before an Irish one. This hindered us at first but when reviews started appearing in zines things picked up. But of course it works both ways...we won't be constantly compared with the different scenes like Norse, Greek, portuguese, etc...and some people would buy our stuff just because we are from Ireland. It's a hard question to answer, but as I said before I'm happy the way things are. As for the scene here, well it is fairly dire. Most people are dull witted and light headed. There's a very small amount black metal fans. Sure most here thought that our demo was good but they also listen to american bollocks like **Obituary**. I only really like one band namely **Cruachan** who've just released the debut-demo of pagan hymns.*

So what about **Primordial's** future? A stupid standard question (I know) but always interesting to know... **Ciaran**: *Firstly our album will come out. Then possibly a tour one off gigs depending on its success, etc. Other than that nothing is concrete, things are changing constantly, we shall see!*

Yes, the contract with **CACOPHONOUS** Records has already been made as **Ciaran** told me in another letter, but still the album isn't out. Well, if it really turns out to be a great album we can wait with patience for it, because good work always needs its time. Bands shouldn't hurry up with their releases just to have something out...that's a shitty attitude! So keep **Primordial** in mind and watch out for their stuff...an album to darken your days. Experience how the Irish version of black metal sounds like! For info/ demo contact: **Ciaran Williams**, 8 Greenlawn, Skerries, Co. Dublin, Ireland.



Mortuus

VOND



MORTUUS...MUSICALLY SEEN A JOURNEY THROUGH ABYSSIC ATMOSPHERE, REVEALER OF THE HIDDEN DESIRES, THE FLIGHT OF YOUR SPIRIT INTO SPHERES UNKNOWN. THE CREATOR OF THIS OBSCURE MUSIC IS THE OLD BASSIST FROM EMPEROR, BUT HE'S NOT JUST BUSY WITH MORTUUS, NO, ALSO VOND, WHO HAVE JUST RELEASED THEIR DEBUTALBUM 'SELF MORD', IS AN EXCELLENT CREATION OF MASTERMIND MORTUUS... AS MANY READERS ALSO LISTEN TO MUSIC LIKE THIS I CONTACTED HIM FOR DETAILS!

FIRST PLEASE TELL US WHY YOU STOPPED PLAYING 'METAL' AND CHANGED YOUR DIRECTION WHICH IS NOW DEDICATED TO SHEER DEPRESSIVE MUSIC THE ANCIENT WAY?

The reason behind my departure from metal was quite coincidental. The rest of the members in EMPEROR felt that I was hard to work with, this resulted in my departure from the band. I had at the same time been playing with the idea of doing a non-metal project and base all my music upon pure darkness and atmosphere. It was the perfect time to do it, so when I left the band, I didn't feel like being in another metal band! So Mortuus was created as a musical project: I am still heavily into metal, but my soul now wanders within the obscure fog of dungeon music!

YOUR DEBUT ALBUM IS NOW AVAILABLE, SO PLEASE DESCRIBE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN 'THE SONG OF...' AND 'TODT TIL A HERSKE'. ARE YOU STILL HAPPY WITH YOUR DEMOTAPE WHEN YOU LOOK BACK?

All my material after the debuttape is based on the concept of the old world. The demo was the first step. I was merely finding my identity with the tape. It has really nothing to do with Mortuus as it stands this day. I enjoy the tape, because of the great longing that dwells within. But it's not what Mortuus represents, neither musically nor lyrically today.

I SUPPOSE THAT MOST OF YOUR TAPES ARE SOLD TO PEOPLE OUT OF THE METAL SCENE DUE TO THE FACT THAT YOU ONCE JOINED 'EMPEROR', BUT DO YOU REALLY WANT TO GET ATTENTION ONLY FROM METALHEADS OR ARE YOU INTERESTED TO SUPPLY PEOPLE WHO LISTEN TO DARKWAVE, GOTHIC OR INDUSTRIAL MUSIC (WHICH OF COURSE HAVE THEIR OWN SCENES) WITH YOUR STUFF?

My goal is to sell my music to any kind of person, any I can influence I will sell my music to. The great difference between dungeon music and metal in general is (beside of the music itself of course) that a metal concert is very influential upon people at the time, but it's not the same feeling through a stereo! Live metal music can be incredible, but when a metal record is played on a stereo it's a much lesser feeling. It's something else with dungeon music, the best feeling will be the live feeling, but the ultimate atmosphere is almost as great when played through a stereo. Many will disagree, but it's my view anyway, so I want to hear about any kind of person listening to my music, be it darkwave, synthpop people or metalheads or whatever! Not that most of this answer had anything to do with the question anyway.

ONCE MARK SHELTON FROM 'MANILLA ROAD' SAID IN AN OLD INTERVIEW THAT 'MUSIC IS MAGIC...SO LET THE MAGIC FLOW', SO WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS STATEMENT? COULD YOU IMAGINE TO MANIPULATE PEOPLE MUSIC, EVEN WHEN IT COMES TO ATTITUDES / POLICY?

First of all, Manilla Road is in my opinion one of the best heavy metal bands of the 80s and that statement was excellent! Music I suppose can be looked upon as magic, magic can be so much! A lot of music has got a 'magic touch', a lot of music is magic to me. And I suppose that manipulating people

with music is a magic kind of thing. The music causes something to happen to someone somewhere, magical probably. Whether I want to manipulate people with my music or not is up to the listener to find out. All I want my listener is to join my army, to be a warrior of the tower whilst on earth. I want the listener to be one with the music, then he'll become one with the tower. And a warrior! This is my attitude and policy.

WHY DO YOU PART 'MORTUUS' FROM 'VOND', ALTHOUGH IT'S ROUGHLY SEEN IN THE SAME DIRECTION?

Mortuus is unearthly, while Vond is earthly and deals with earthly negativity, anti-morals and so on. It's as much the concepts within the projects that differs them as the music does.

TALKING ABOUT YOUR PAST ACTIVITIES: DO YOU STILL GET MONEY OUT OF YOUR WORK AT 'EMPEROR' WHO NOW GROW MIGHTIER THAN EVER WITH THEIR DEBUTALBUM? ARE YOU STILL SATISFIED WITH YOUR WORK AND IS YOUR FRIENDSHIP STILL STRONG WITH THOSE GUYS?

I don't think our friendship has ever been very strong. I'm at peace with Samoth and Ishaan, let me just say we do what we do! When we meet we talk but that's about all. We seldomly meet! No, I don't make any money from it. I

don't think that Candlelight is the kind of label to make their bands wealthy, they have their share first.

ARE YOU HAPPY THAT YOU AREN'T BLACK METAL ANYMORE AND THEREFORE OUT OF THAT SCENE OR DO YOU SOMETIMES WISH TO PLAY SOMETHING 'METALLIC' AGAIN?

I'm not really out of the scene, I don't think the scene will ever get rid of me, whether it wants to or not, I'll stick to it! There might be a time when I join a metal band once more. Just because I don't play black metal myself, it doesn't mean I'm out of the scene. All that has changed is that I now have projects that are not a part of the current trend.

HOW WOULD YOUR PERFECT LIFESTYLE LOOK LIKE AND WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE? COULD YOU IMAGINE TO STAND A LIFE IN LONELINESS, AWAY FROM THE 'CIVILIZED' WORLD (AS IT IS CALLED)?

I think I now have the perfect lifestyle. I say and I do whatever I want to, but I can savely say that the real perfect existence for me will be when I enter my own realm as the true one...that will be ultimate! Yes, I could quite easily live my life in loneliness, I think it would be very relaxing for both body and spirit. I'm not interested in staying in

loneliness forever though. As I'd in the end have so many ideas and unused energy inside that I'd have to return to civilization at least once in a while to have it all out in reality, in forms of albums, writings, discussions and all that kind of things!Thanks for the interview, see you in a war soon!



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30276-HALMSTAD
SWEEDEN



Sabbath



If you think that black metal can only be made in Europe, then you should listen carefully to SABBATH's newest demo 'Southern Twilight', because these three paraguayan warriors know how to make fine black/mystical art. The tape (studio sound and prof. printed cover) features six harmonic tracks with a lot of keyboardparts...but still sounding very unholy. Zethineph (vocals and keyboards) introduces SABBATH...

'SABBATH joined at the darkened and tragic passages of the infernal paraguayan Summer anno 1993 (143 anno Satanar). During the depressive September of the same year our damned souls needed to sign our nocturnal art into a demotape, so about October we released our first tape 'Dentro Del Culo'... After one year in which we played on several shows, we recorded our second melodic and depressive demo, called 'Southern Twilight'. SABBATH is and will always be the first band of my land.'

On 'Southern Twilight' you seem to be inspired by european northern black metal combined with the south euro-pean atmosphere...Am I right that this was an important influence for your songwriting?

'I can't certainly deny what you say, I like some european bands like Immortal, Samael, Rotting Christ, Mayhem, etc... About the songwriting, the things that influence us are the feelings that flow from and through us all. Strange feelings that drive us to dark parallel dimensions, where we can find the sad melodies that our spirit make grow..'

Your demo is very professionally done (good sound, printed cover...) and has a touch of originality (although you're sometimes very similar to other bands)... How is the interest in SABBATH from the international scene, especially from Europe?

'SABBATH is totally interested in spreading its message and music on the european scene and everywhere around us. We hope to release a CD or a mini CD at least. Beside our two demotapes, we have 'six' new songs with a very different view, an atmospheric and total spertal music. All interested labels write, I'm sure that no one will feel betrayed!'

I never heard of another metal outfit in Paraguar beside SABBATH, so what's up in your country when it comes to 'metal'?

'The metal scene over here is really small, we are the first unholy black metal band. There're a



lot of bands playing black . death over here, they are really good, but most of them don't have the opportunity to release even a demotape. There're not many clubs or pubs to play in, but we look out the ways in order to play our unholy art. I think this all is going to grow out...soon black metal will make our country really great.'

How is it financially possible for you to do a band like SABBATH? I guess that you don't make any money with the band until now...

'That's right, Sabbath costs a lot of money . Some of the expenses we save with the demo sales or the earned money from live-performances...but don't worry, I'll stay alive.'

Who are the other members of the band and did you all join other bands before?

'The rest: I: Norrack (dreams) played in another band before, they did death metal. Zethwas (guitars) and I are playing in our first band. Sabbath had another member called Pauli (guitars/vocals), but he decided to join a death/grind band and now the line-up keeps intact.'

Scandinavian people (like Katatonia 's Blackheim) often claim that 'true' black metal only be made by people from the north, but not by people from southern regions because it's too 'hot' there... What do you think about such a statement? Do you agree?

'I certainly don't share that...It doesn't take much distance from Scandinavia to find good black metal bands, for example Rotting Christ, Samael which are as old as they are, and probably older...

Here in South America, especially in Brazil, you can find great infernal bands...This infernal hot weather urges us to scream our hat and hell into our music.

What does SABBATH mean to you?

'Actually SABBATH means a big part of my life, because it is a way to express my hatred to everybody.'

Anything left to add?

'Just thanks for the interview and your support. And to everybody: Al satan rules your life and you praise him, write to us, I really tell you that we'll reply, too. Include IRC...'

'Southern Twilight' is available for \$5 (I guess) and, as already said in the introduction, it is a fine piece of black metal music not the basetal but harmonic, abusive war. Support SABBATH...

Zethineph
c/o Andrés Benites
Patricios 2429
Asunción Paraguar

Cultus Sanguine

From Italy I want to introduce you a new promising band which will sooner or later be an established force within the underground: CULTUS SANGUINE! Perhaps this name seems to be quite unknown to most of you, but behind this band several skilled musicians have assembled to create an occult atmospheric sound, but read the interview which was done with Joe (vocals) for more facts and thoughts concerning CULTUS SANGUINE...

What concept stands behind Cultus Sanguine?

Joe: Hail to you Costa, great to be in 'TALES...'; well, the concept behind Cultus Sanguine I think is the try to create dark and spectral atmospheres, a musical spiritistic sit...have you got the point? Our goal is to create some original and nerves-moving hymns, to reach an own trademark where you can recognize 'the blood of the cult'.

Until now you've only released a 'rehearsal'-tape, but soon your CD will be released on WOUNDED LOVE Records...would you give us some details?

Joe: We didn't have to release that rehearsal officially, but when Valerio from WOUNDED LOVE (Hail to him) listened to the tape and proposed us to release a mini CD, we thought that it wasn't useful to record a studiodemo, so here's the rehearsal-tape. In the end of November we entered the studio to record our mini CD and it will feature the three songs from the rehearsal, 'My journey is long, but my time is endless', 'I ride the winds of hate', 'Into the field of the screaming souls' and a new one 'With the blood of the cult'. So the style is the same as on the tape, naturally with the studio effort...you'll hear!

The fact that Roberto from Monumentum joins Cultus Sanguine as guitarist will draw people's attention even more on your band, but are you happy with that situation to have this kind of 'help'? It is an advantage for your sales, that's at least for sure...

Joe: I want to make light on this fact: Roberto isn't a help, he is a 100 % member of the cult, he and I formed the band. Naturally we are happy to play with him, because beside being a musician he (and the others) are friends of mine! Of course his name will reach more attention on the band, but Cultus Sanguine is a different thing than Monumentum, we are more black metal. Monumentum is total originality and depression, watch out for their album 'In Absentia Christi'!

Well, I'm watching out for it for almost two years...hope that something's going to happen with this album soon! But coming back to Cultus Sanguine...I think that your vocals are done in a melancholic way and I suppose you've no satanic image in the band!?! From where do you draw your inspirations, is it the atmosphere of some Celtic Frost hymns (from the 'Into The Pandemonium'-period) or are even not-metal bands responsible for this?

Joe: Thank you for your words! I'm a Hellhammer / Celtic Frost maniac since '84, definitely my fave band (mine, too -ed.). No, we don't have the usual 'satanic' image at all, if you mean make-up, spikes and so on. Talking about the musical inspiration surely we have Celtic Frost's important part in our background, because everyone in the band is a great fan of them. But even a lot of non-metal stuff such as dark and gothic music is a big influence and at last old and new black metal. My lyrical inspiration is drawn from a lot of things: feelings such as hate, dreams, reflections, desires, power.

Whose idea was it to found Cultus Sanguine? Was it Roberto's because he wanted to play something darker than Monumentum?

Joe: I proposed to Roberto to found a band with me, in order to play a sad kind of black metal. Originally we planned to be a two-member band, but then we decided to have a real drummer and not a drummachine, so I called Vito, an old time friend of mine and then came Mauro on keyboards. This is the definitive line-up and I think it works good, doesn't it? About Roberto: yes, this band is the evil side of Monumentum.

What about the other guys in the band? What sort of people are they?

Joe: As I said before they're Vito and Mauro, we're all friends for years. Vito played as drummer with some other bands, but nothing special. Beside Cultus Sanguine Mauro plays in the best Italian doom

band: Ras Algethi, check out their brilliant 'Oblita Divinitas'-demo, he's also the editor of the monumental NECROTOMY mag, out soon (5th issue), and he runs together with Valerio WOUNDED LOVE Rec., ah...he's also into tapetrading...a busy guy, isn't he?

Without any doubts he is, for me this would be far too much! But you're also very busy with your MORIBOUND mag plus tapetrading. Isn't it difficult to manage all this and what is your most important thing?

Joe: Yes, MORIBOUND, tapetrading, the band...but I've to say that I also work, read most ghost and occult books as I'm able to, I've a girlfriend, what can I say...I like to be busy! I don't know which is the most important activity, all of them are satisfactions/depressions, when you send some interviews and you don't get a reply, when you're ripped off, but even some satisfaction: I've discovered a lot of great bands through tapetrading, I had cool contacts (as this for example) with MORIBOUND, and with the band I play the music I like. Naturally all these activities kept a lot of my spare time, but as far as I can do them I will go on, actually I'm working on MORIBOUND #5, watch out for it, the fourth is still available.

Italy's scene isn't too famous except for the established bands (Mortuary Drape, Monumentum...), what can you say about the scene?

Joe: I can say that there isn't any, if for 'scene' you mean a union between bands and underground activities (no, I mean a 'music' scene, no circle or union stuff -ed.), there're a lot of good bands like Brisen, From Depths, Evol, Winged, and some other, but not a proper scene, we have our closed one: Monumentum, Cultus Sanguine and Ras Algethi, then AVANTGARDE and WOUNDED LOVE, MORIBOUND and NECROTOMY mag, this is my scene, we're friends and help each other. I don't want to move out of it, because there're a lot of losers, trendy newcomers who think to be the 'truest' of the scene (are you talking about Necromass? -ed.).

How's life in Italy? I guess there are more things than only pizza, spaghetti and all that cliché-stuff, right?

Joe: Yeah, we have also maccheroni, rigatoni, mafia and Milan, no I joke. Italy isn't a bad place, neither the best, but life isn't so expensive, alcohol is good and we have a lot of natural and historical places worth of being visited. I don't know about life...you've to work to live, apart from this defect I think that we do quite the same things as the others: hanging out with friends, girls, music, writing letters and so on. Why don't you come here one day?

Perhaps later, but right now my financial situation doesn't allow it! Isn't it difficult to have an occult minded band especially in your country as the catholic headquarter (vatican) is in Rome?

Joe: We live about 600 km far from that shitty place, so it doesn't touch me too much, ask Brisen...they live in Rome, ha ha. But talking seriously, no it isn't difficult, it even makes you know the faults and the blindness of the catholics better, the vatican's one of the richest places in the world, they earned a lot of money! You know that Italy gave life to bands like Death &&, Necrodeath and Monumentum (what about Bulldozer? -ed.), due to the anti-vatican thinking.

As usual you opportunity to say some last things?

Joe: Thank you Costa for this cool interview, my best wishes to you and TALES OF THE MACABRE, the first issue was great, but the second will be better. Hellhammer maniacs never fail! People can order our rehearsal for \$ 3. Bands who would be interested in a feature in MORIBOUND should write: Beware weird music only!

- I RIDE THE WINDS OF HATE -

Joe Ferrara, Via Deledda 39, 20020 Basiglio (MI), Italy

A lot of people see **TALES OF THE MACABRE** as a pure black metal magazine, but it isn't like that, because death metal (or example still attracts me (why not ?), so I decided to do an interview with one of the last 'real' death metal bands... **ASPHYX** ! This three-piece band really overwhelmed me with their third (and best release) which they simply entitled 'Asphyx', a true hymn of death/doom, a proof that death metal is not dead yet. Guitarist **Eric Daniels** was my interview partner to talk about **ASPHYX**, death metal and other things...

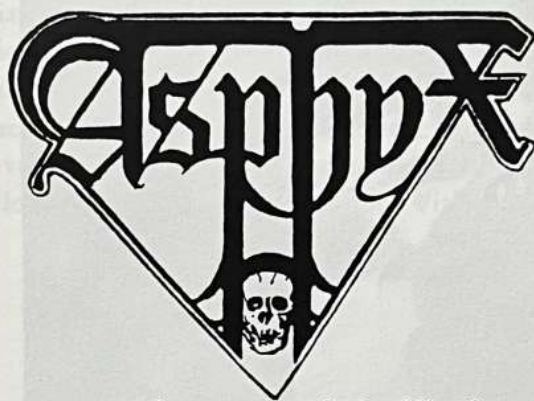


What's up at ASPHYX ? Anything happened since your new album?

Eric: Well, as you know we've released the new ASPHYX-album. In the meantime we enjoyed our holidays and I was terribly busy with interviews to promote the album worldwide. After the holidays we will conquer Europe again with our heavy loaded doom/death metal. Besides the interviews it's quiet, but we're in a starting position to play live for our 'die hard' fans and we will give them the best of ASPHYX! This time we will blow our support-acts from the stage and we will show people what doom/death metal really is! No one fucks with us!!!

The album 'Asphyx' is by far your most brutal one in a time where people are fed up by listening to death metal. Did it finally pay out for you and did you record the album because of the lack of real death metal nowadays?

Eric: The biggest reason for this album was that I heard a lot of stories that ASPHYX didn't exist anymore and that it was fading away. Well, we were busy in preparing songs and rehearsing etc. I had to laugh about these reactions, because we knew that we represent the true doom/death metal. So in the studio we went over the edge and played brutal and very motivated. We wanted to show all these backstabbers and disbelievers that ASPHYX is still playing pure death metal and not wimping out by changing our style. I'm sure that we did our job very well! As Holland's first death metal band we kept our roots alive and also for our fans who are very important for ASPHYX. We just play our stuff and we don't give a shit about other influences in death metal. I would like to add that all wimps have to leave the scene and let the scene be healthy by true believers of Black and Death. We piss and shit on those people who think they are representing the scene. The underground was important for us and I stick with it, and I want all



metal... at its deathliest !

wimps to be executed who don't belong here !!! I've spoken !!!

Isn't it frustrating to see many death metal bands changing their style (like ENTOMBED, MASSACRA, MESSIAH, PESTILENCE, ...) or don't other bands matter to you anymore? What do you think of Chuck Schuldiner's statement that his 'Scream Bloody Gore' album was really shit?

Eric: I don't give a shit !!! They're traitors and disbelievers, we simply don't want to be part of this. As I said before, only pure is Holy!!! Chuck is an asshole, a wimp and a sissy!!! How in the world can somebody piss on a cult album. Perhaps he's a disbeliever and dangerous for the scene, execute him!!!

You're now playing death metal for a long time, so did you ever think of making something different than ASPHYX or is death metal your ultimate fate?

Eric: It's unholy and forbidden by the ghost of death!!! ASPHYX started in 1987 by playing pure death metal. Our destiny and fate is to continue the terror and heaviness of ASPHYX. By changing our style of music we will make the ghost of death really mad and probably it will take our souls. So here's your answer: Our destiny is to let show the world for what ASPHYX stands for: Heaviness, Brutality, Mystery and Danger! Pure doom/death!

The first time when I listened to your new album the vocals directly reminded me at those from US band WINTER. Do you agree and do you like that band? I even think that your music could sometimes be written by WINTER...

Eric: I like WINTER very much. They are ok, but to be honest we're not directly influenced by them. But thanks for your credits, I'm honoured you like it. Our influences are from many bands like: old VENOM, BATHORY, CELTIC FROST, SLAUGHTER, probably WINTER, INFERNAL MAJESTY, etc., but we don't like to put it in too much. Making music is art and not copying bands, like a lot of wimp bands do.

Black Metal is now the big new underground thing, so what do you think of B.M. in general and about this new movement?

Eric: It's ok, but... only the bands with true spirit. I like black metal very much, because to be honest ASPHYX started with Black/Death in 1987. But wimps have to leave like school kids who think they are evil, but when they come home they can drink their milk, because mommy said so. Do you get my point? Only pure is holy like IMPALED NAZARENE: To me it is black metal, however they say it's not, Bullshit! It is black metal !!!

You twice toured through Europe, but now it seems that there's a kind of

silence concerning live gigs. How's the general situation at ASPHYX and is the dutch 'live' situation as bad as in Germany?

Eric: Well, it's the fault of all that wimp promoters/agencies. We like to play live and show our appreciation to our fans who bought our LPs and stuff. They are victims of those promoters who are chicken and afraid to let ASPHYX play live. We're mainly a live band and we get furious and pissed off that we can't play for our fans. That's the situation, so don't get me wrong, ASPHYX is still willing and 100% motivated to play live, only the promoters and organizers are holding up things for us. We ask 'The Ghost of Death' to deal with 'em !'

Are there any ideas for a new album already developed and how do you think will your musical direction be in future? 'Till death do us part'???

Eric: Of course I'm composing further on, but I can't and won't tell you already about new stuff, because it's too early. I can say that you won't be disappointed with our new stuff, it will be still ASPHYX and we definitely want to sound a bit more brutal. Just have patience. ok? Trust me!!!

OK, think we reached the end. Are there any words left to say from your side to let the readers (mostly black metalheads) know?

Eric: OK, you german black/death fuckers! Be united and fight against all disbelievers. Our music is important for all of us, don't let it die by wimps!!! You've our support and we stick by pure death metal 'Till death do us part'. But if we play in your area, don't think it's an earthquake crushing your town, but it's ASPHYX ! Cheers, I like the german beer (godly!!!) and don't forget: ...DEATH: THE FUCKIN' BRUTAL WAY!!!

Costa thanks for the interview and success with your good work!!!

Death Metal Maniacs should better beware of new stuff to come from this 'unpure' band. It was only the calm before the storm...

Thy Serpent



Grim stuff in cold and atmospheric creations... that's what you should be aware of when crossing the path of **Thy Serpent**. Formed back in 1990 it took Sami, who is the only member nowadays in the 'band', more than three years to record the first real demotape, but the result excuses the long waiting. 'Frozen Memory', so the title of this five song studiodemo, has a total playing time of 20 minutes and Sami, who did all instruments by himself (except for the drums which were done by drummachine), did a good job with on this tape.

Musically it can be described as cold black metal with some synth support in order to make it sound more mystical, also two of the five songs are instrumentals with acoustic guitars, etc. and this makes **Thy Serpent** a bit more serious and individual. You can really feel the winter mood in the music and I think that Sami did this on purpose, just take a look at the printed democover and photo and you get blinded by the masses of snow. I asked myself what goal Sami has with **Thy Serpent**, so I simply contacted him again in order to sweep the few questions away...Sami explains: 'I've no goals, I just do some music for myself. If I get a deal, of course I'll take it. I've no goals to be a rockstar...I hate those idiots.' Well, I think that no black metalhead will become a rockstar, you have to go to L.A. for this! **Thy Serpent's** sound is quite typical scandinavian with this famous high'n' scratchy guitar sound, but the music seen in a whole I think that Sami has managed to create a touch of originality. I wondered what influenced Sami's songwriting... 'Well, I listen to so many bands, too many to mention them all, but *Katania*, *Bathory*, *Hellhammer*, *Throne of Azaz* are great. Lyricwise it are the same bands I listen to.' Professional demotapes like 'Frozen Memory' are not very usual as most bands often don't have good quality demos for sale, so offers from labels for **Thy Serpent's** future recordings should be obvious, shouldn't it? Sami: 'No offers until now, but I think that I will not do any 7" inch, only CD, MCD or another demotape. A new demo is going to be recorded soon, then we get probably a deal.' I hope so, because there aren't that many CD/LP releases from Finland available when it comes to black metal music, most finnish bands are still crawling in deepest underground. Let's hope that Sami will also continue with **Thy Serpent** in future, because I guess it's very hard and much work to do a whole band on your own. 'Frozen Memory' can be yours for \$4 (Europe, for World add \$1)...until now it has sold very well, over 3000 (!) flyers have been sent away for promotion. If you only write Sami, then enclose IRC to help him answering.

THY SERPENT, Ruorimiehenkatu 1 c 30, 02320 Espoo, Finland

Ancient Ceremony

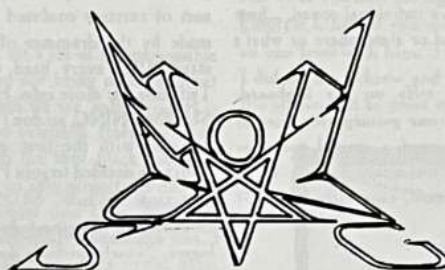
Don't get irritated by the bandname, this is not another black metal band, but a harmonic death metal band with dark atmosphere. In Summer '89 the vocalist and lead guitarist had the idea to form a band which should have a dark death metal sound, but back then it wasn't all too serious...not until the year 1991 when their rhythm guitarist joined the band plus a session drummer (who later became a permanent member). From that time on **Ancient Ceremony** started to write their own compositions and made some few local live gigs. In February '93 they finally managed to release their music on cassette, the result is the (studio-)demo 'Where Serpents Reign' which features seven death metal songs with cool keyboard elements...and it sold about 400 times which is a good success in my opinion. The band now being a five-piece wasn't too lazy after the release of the demo and stroke again in March '94 with their self-financed mini CD which is entitled 'Cemetery Visions'. A certain change of style came with this release, now being more emotional and less brutal. The whole spectacle begins with a keyboard intro, followed by the title track which has some heavy **Paradise Lost**-like riffing, but this doesn't mean that **Ancient Ceremony** is a clown band, they are much more intensive and their death metal elements are still strong enough in order to keep the music heavy. Also the two following songs prove this, there are some nice ideas enclosed. The vocals are still death metal-like and remind me a bit at old **Asphyx** vocalist Martin van Drunen, but of course not so cancer-like. The last track is a kind of keyboard track and will make everyone ejaculate who loves atmosphere through synths. The first pressing of this MCD was 500 copies and the band managed to sell all within six months only. Now, as there is still a demand for this piece of music, the band signed to the new label 'Alister' records and will re-press 'Cemetery Visions' in an edition of 2000 copies and Invasion records will take care of its worldwide distribution.

For german circumstances we can say that **Ancient Ceremony** is a band far above average and you simply hear that they know to play their instruments very well. They are more or less busy with new songs, but relating to the vocalist's info there's still a lot of work to do until they'll again enter the studio to record their follow-up for 'Cemetery Visions' (which will be a full-length album). Their demotape is still available for \$6 at the address below, for the MCD check out distributors if you are interested in their music.

Christina Audeck, Wilkenstraße 16, 54347 Neumagen-Dhrö, Germany

Enchant your Spirit and kiss Eternity by embracing your Soul with the dark, pagan Creations of Ancient Ceremony!

AUSTRIAN BLACK METAL SYNDICATE



PERVERTUM

PAZUZU

Trifixion

From the strength of the austrian mountains rose a dark and mighty circle in a form of several bands, all sworn to the black arts of music... The Austrian Black Metal Syndikate is probably the most original and darkest union since the norwegian circle of hate... For the first time in this magazine I now introduce a whole combination of bands to you, each of them excellent but different...you will sooner or later experience this yourself, because some labels have already entered the syndicate's gates !!! For further information you want to know you should read the following interview which was done with four different persons...

A.B.M.S.

Lord Pazuzu, you're the first ceremony master of the austrian black metal syndicate, so would you introduce your syndicate to the readers?

Pazuzu: The ABMS is a circle that was formed a few years ago. It is composed of several black metal bands such as your cult band SUMMONING, PERVERTUM, CROMM, PAZUZU. All musicians of these bands are active members of the ABMS. I am their overlord and together with Empress Lilith, we decide upon things to come!

What was the main reason to unite several bands under one unholy flag? Isn't there any competition or envy between the bands?

Pazuzu: None of the bands play similar music, so naturally there is no need for envy or hate. We are all brothers and good friends that is why we decided to create the ABMS. But although we get along well, there are often arguments between members on a pure personal level. But they all have to obey me...

The truth behind the ABMS was to spread our music, so that all may live the melancholy that we shape with our instruments.

Most b.m. circles have a fascistic attitude, but with you it's different (luckily!). What does the ABMS differ from all the other (quite stupid) circles around and what's your opinion about the fascistic spirit within the metalscene?

Pazuzu: I know of these circles and I can but pity this vermin. How can a true satanist have fascistic ideas as basis to his belief? How can a satanist with these ideas read, quote and worship people like Crowley? It would be like building a castle on the moon. Their beliefs contradict themselves. Fascism and any form of right-radical idealism is based on te cult of a disciplined and correct society. Fascism rejects the free thinking of an occultist and satanist. Shouldn't the only law be 'do what thou wilt'? I think these 'children' should reconsider their 'beliefs' and stop casting their shadow into the eternal light of satan, for the free spirit shall inherit the earth...

Good argumentation! So I suppose that all bands in your syndicate have the same rights, haven't they?



Trifixion Of The Horned King

Pazuzu: All bands have equal rights among each other, but all decisions go through me.

SUMMONING

So coming to the bands, you said that your darkest messenger is SUMMONING, a black metal outfit, so would you give us some info on that great band? I heard that you are going to enter the studio for a CD recording...

Pazuzu: SUMMONING was the first band of the ABMS and also one of the first in Austria. They have an absolute cult status here and all over Europe and parts of North America. The line-up has never changed: Protector of all endless Sleeps on guitar and vocals, Warlord Silenius on bass, Trifixion of the Horned King on drums and me on deep vocals. On the top of that, Protector does all the keyboard parts. At the moment we just finished the PAZUZU CD, a CD of SUMMONING is still uncertain.

SUMMONING's music is very original, harmonic but still evil music with (in my opinion) a lot of emotions, all supported by abnormally high and deep vocals. Who is responsible for the songwriting, arrangements and so on?

Pazuzu: The songwriting is everyone's work, although the major part of the riffs come from Silenius. But what would these riffs be

without the ideas of all the others? It is therefore impossible to credit the songwriting to a particular person. It is difficult to say what our influences are. All songs that we write have this certain SUMMONING - touch that makes them different to other bands (absolutely! -ed.). I think that probably the main influence is our love to the music.

You are doing the deep vocals, right? So do you use any harmonizer as it is abnormally done?

Pazuzu: No, I've never used a harmonizer. Harmonizer are ridiculous, anybody can sound evil with one. That is my true voice. I use delays and from time to time a flanger, but the voice is real!

The lyrics of SUMMONING must be inspired by nordic cults when I read songtitles like 'Upon The Viking's Stallion', 'Nordlichter', etc, but you're from

middle Europe where the vikings never reigned, so why did you choose to sing about that theme?

Pazuzu: Our lyrics are often based on nordic tales, but even more often on the philosophy of true black magic. But since we never print the lyrics they will remain secret...

Warlord Silenius, you're responsible for **SUMMONING's** individual sound. ...how do you compose the songs? Do you need a special mood or atmosphere or what's important for it?

Silenius: Normally I create the **SUMMONING** riffs on my keyboard. Afterwards I play them on bass... If they sound good, our guitarist tries to put an individual melody-line over each riff. I don't need a special mood or atmosphere during the act of composing but it's very important for me to be alone. I'm also influenced by sword and sorcery literature, especially *Lord Of The Rings* and *Dragonlance*.



Warlord
Silenius
of
SUMMONING.
PAZUZU,
ABIGOR

What songs have been recorded for **SUMMONING's** debut CD? And what about the new stuff?

Silenius: After long struggles and troubles we recorded a full length CD. Most of the songs included in the recording are from the last two demotapes, but sometimes with new arrangements. After the recordings our drummer left the band. **SUMMONING** will go on working as a duo: Protector of all endless sleeps and myself. The new demo is finished and is called 'Lugbürz'. It sounds very nordic and melodic. The main difference between us and the rest of the scandinavian black metal bands is that our music all guitars have to submit to the keyboardsounds. Also we try very hard to go away from the typical metal drumming. We have a new kind of strange and bombastic percussion sound, similar to the **PAZUZU** sound.

Well, the 'Lugbürz' demo is out now and is completely different than the previous **SUMMONING** demotapes...as **Silenius** said it are the keyboards who are now the leading force in **SUMMONING's** music. I don't have any songtitles, but I also don't want to describe every single song of this tape. To explain their new style in a whole I have to say that this is very original stuff. I don't know any band who has the same sound like **SUMMONING** now has. It's the perfect atmosphere, touching your most inner emotions and desires. So all those 'grim norwegian hordes' shouldn't be too arrogant praising Norway as the only true country when it comes to extreme dark music...they will have some problems when they have to face the musical abilities of **SUMMONING**. But I just hope that **Silenius** and Protector... will not lose their 'metal' elements completely when they again enter the studio doors to record some new stuff, the signs for leaving the metal roots are obvious. But of course I can't deny that **Silenius'** keyboards are something very extraordinary...majestic melodies! I noticed that **Pazuzu's** voice is not on this new **SUMMONING** tape, but in some of the latest letters I go from the A.B.M.S. it was said that **Pazuzu** isn't a permanent member of **SUMMONING**, perhaps we'll hear his voice again on new stuff to come.



SUMMONING: First demo
'Upon The Viking's Stallion'
'Lugbürz'

PERVERTUM

PERVERTUM is another great band out of the A.B.M.S. and they've released a good first demotape entitled 'Creature Of Ungod' which represents some interesting sort of extreme confused by always well-played black /death metal. This band is made by the drummer of **SUMMONING** (Trifixion of the horned King) and stands (like every band within the A.B.M.S.) for quality music...so I plugged Trifixion for more info. He answered these questions when he was still member of **SUMMONING**, so don't get confused.

To start with the first question about **PERVERTUM** I wanted to know why Trifixion decided to join **PERVERTUM** beside **SUMMONING**...

Trifixion: While **SUMMONING** expresses me more as a product (harmonics, longwindedness), the playing attraction at **PERVERTUM** is bigger. Nearly anybody doesn't notice this, because most people care about if the music carries you, but who gives a shit?

The rehearsals are more intensive at **PERVERTUM**, the musicians are more experienced and musically better. Personally I prefer being at **PERVERTUM**, because I feel a bit underworked. Privately I'm also teaching drums.

What are the main inspirations for **PERVERTUM's** music as it sounds very complex? Who does the songwriting?

Trifixion: **PERVERTUM** doesn't belong to those bands where the riffs are invented from jamming, coincidence... **Luci** (short name of the guitarist) rules his instrument not only like **Aisthesis**, but both also know theoretic things very well. The riffs are therefore probably for many ears too strenuous and sadly also boring.

A song mostly comes into being because **Luci** presents his done riff, which he has worked out at home. If we like it we polish it up until we all are satisfied with it. Some riffs at **PERVERTUM** are rhythmically so effortful that I sometimes spend hours or even days in finding a rhythm all like!

The problem at **PERVERTUM** is that everything is done in order to satisfy the musicians...and are important to stretch them, but the audience is nearly not catching this at all. Another reason for this is surely the bad marketing of the demo.

PERVERTUM is the only band (out of the A.B.M.S.) that likes to enter the stage for live-mayhem, so what's the reason to play in front of a crowd and with whom have you played so far?

Trifixion: We could do already some gigs with a good success, but the only problem was that the audience didn't hear black metal and **PERVERTUM** before. Most people liked it nevertheless, the others were shaken up (also good, isn't it?). With every gig we think of new small 'showgags', i.e. crushing crosses, blood, cowskulls (which get hacked), fireblowing. To my surprise this all wasn't once embarrassing. Sometimes also **Empress Lilith** is on stage and helps me with the show or with other things (other things? Like what? -ed)

Live we want to keep consciously distance to death metal gigs, not only concerning our clothing, make up, but also show-like we want to bring a bit 'drive' into the concert, this is the most important thing for us. All members had stageexperiences before **PERVERTUM**!

We enjoy to play live, because this is finally the satisfaction of every musician. Other bands, so-called studio projects, can't survive for long time (exceptions confirm the rule) and are, I think, simply to cowardly.

SUMMONING won't play live for 99,9%, because the members have an



Trifixion of the horned King

absolute antipathy towards a direct confrontation with the audience. At PERVERTUM everything is possible.

TRIFIXION

Yes, I believe you...your music already showed that there are a lot of things possible for you. But beside PERVERTUM there's still one band not being mentioned yet where Trifixion is busy with. This kind of band (or should we say 'solo' project) is simply baptized TRIFIXION and there's already a demo available, featuring seven northern black metal tracks with an old touch. 'Back to the root black metal' as Trifixion himself has described it. Trifixion's comment to this project: With this tape I once wanted to do everything on my own and prove that I am able to do it. I'm absolutely satisfied with the result.' Yeah, I completely understand this...I would be, too, if it was my demo. It's straight forward stuff...directly to the point and I'm really sure that all you Black metalheads will love this demo. Another example for the greatness of the Austrian Black Metal Syndicate (as always).

PAZUZU

Returning to the overlord of that syndicate, I'm talking about Lord Pazuzu. I wanted to know some details about his solo-project PAZUZU which is the most famous band out of the A.B.M.S. (due to their debut album on Head Not Found Rec.) . a total from metal independant kind of music...

Pazuzu: The album's name is '...And all was silent', and as you said, it is absolutely non-metal. It is a symphony of dark sounds and mystic, melancholic melodies. The music was composed by Silenius (or better said 'Genius' -ed.) and Protector. The vocals were done by me, Lilith and Mink. The album contains lyrics in english, german, french, chinese and hebrew. That makes the album very interesting. To all people that enjoy true dark music, this will seem like a masterpiece.

Is there a special concept on your '...and all was silent' - CD ?

Pazuzu: Yes, to spread the ultimate in evil sounds and to unleash the beauty of melancholy on those that have not yet seen the light of Satan.

HEAD NOT FOUND is responsible for the PAZUZU release, so how did it come that this was the label to sign you ? Do you have a special relationship with them ?

Pazuzu: We've had contact with Metalion for quite a while. And we felt that the CD should appear on his label, because he is a true brother and his label is one of the last true underground labels. Hail Metalion !!!

PAZUZU seems to be heavily attracted by 'medieval' music, also your photos have that kind of atmosphere. What is so fascinating about the dark age of christian dictatorship ?

Pazuzu: Throughout history believers of the left hand path were persecuted and murdered, yet we have survived and still stand proud. The dark age will come and we shall rule what was once ours again.

Do you also list to non-metal bands like stuff from i.e. darkwave, gothic or even some horrible industrial shit ? What is your inspiration on one hand for PAZUZU, on the other for SUMMONING ?

Pazuzu: Yes, I do listen to darkwave and gothic bands. To me this genre of music offers a much greater spectrum of possibilities to create an evil atmosphere. I think that industrial bands like DAS ICH or darkwave bands like GOETHE ERBEN (bands which I totally dislike -ed.) are far more evil than for example BEHERIT, who live purely of image since their music is not very elaborate. Our influences for PAZUZU come mainly from medieval music and from oriental spheres.

On your CD I can hear a lady singing, so was it important for you to have 'female' vocals beside your own voice ? What do female vocals mean to you anyway...do you think it is something 'angel-like' ?

Pazuzu: The female vocals are sung by Empress Lilith, who is also pictured in the CD booklet, and from Mink, who sings all chinese parts. I feel that female vocals give this type of music a touch of the macabre. Because when you hear it, you think that all is bright, but in fact it is not. I think female vocals are necessary.

PAZUZU has his own band project featuring himself, Empress LILITH, SILENIUS, TRIFIXION OF THE HORNED KING and PROTECTOR OF ALL ENDLESS SLEEPS.

The forthcoming CD 'And all was silent' is a Black Mass of Unholy Ceremonial Necrospirituals.

The other bands who will also release CDs soon represent Pannonian Black Metal with the spirit of The Elder Gods.

The ABMS has connections to Europe, North America, China and the rest of the world.

Now after getting curious about females joining the PAZUZU-thing, I had some questions for Empress Lilith, who is one of the leading forces within the A.B.M.S.

... Empress Lilith, first I want to know what PAZUZU mean to you ? What do you feel when you hear the final result of '...and all was silent' ?

Empress Lilith: If you mean Pazuzu, the person, I can but tell you that I stand on one level with him. Together we command the A.B.M.S. !

I did all the hebrew and french vocal parts on '...and all was silent' and I think the album will be great success. I am very satisfied with it.



Empress Lilith

It is not usual that women are involved in the 'metal' scene (although PAZUZU isn't metal though), so how do you feel inside a scene where 'males' normally rule ?

Empress Lilith: Males don't rule anywhere. You should know that a strong woman stands behind every strong man, so I don't feel inferior in any way.

Perhaps you are right, but often women aren't accepted from many men inside the metal underground... Were you also involved with the songwriting for the PAZUZU CD ?

Empress Lilith: No, not in the music songwriting, but I did write some lyrics for the album.

Returning (once again) to Lord Pazuzu...I still had some questions left for him to answer... So I asked myself whether PAZUZU is only a 'project' or can we even expect more stuff in future ?

Pazuzu: Depending on the reaction to the CD, we will decide whether PAZUZU will continue or not.

You once told me that you also did the vocals for a band called CHARNEL GOD, but they splitted up. What was the reason for the band's end and did you ever record any stuff ?

Pazuzu: CHARNEL GOD was a death metal band that I sang for quite a while back. We recorded two tapes and played a few gigs, but I didn't like the scene, so we split-up.

Also it is said that CROMM are history, but about their end ? What is Athanathos doing nowadays and their tapes still available ?

Pazuzu: About CROMM things have become rather quiet. He (Cromm) sings now in PERVERTUM. Athanathos left the country and moved to Canada, but still he remains member of the A.B.M.S. ! The tapes are no longer available.

PAZUZU seems to be a popular name within the scene as some swiss and american guys have also chosen that name for their bands. Do you know them and don't you have any problems concerning the 'rights' of the name ?

Pazuzu: I know of a swiss band with that name. But there shouldn't be any troubles. We were the first to appear and first to release a CD, so I think the matter is settled. If they want to keep that name, I don't care, we do different

music anyway.

Yeah, that's right...I don't even know if those bands are still around. Coming to your personal views...how does your dream of a perfect life-style look like?

Pazuzu: If I said my perfect life-style were to drink blood and burn churches, that would be a ridiculous lie! I have a life-style like everyone else. I go to the bank, I sleep in a bed (not in a coffin? That would disappoint a lot of evil black metal kids! -cd.) and I eat from a plate. I view things from a different angle, but in order to live a normal life, one has to adjust to society. And I think that is a universal concept.

If you have the chance to travel back in time, what age would be your most beloved one? Why?

Pazuzu: I am satisfied with the time I live in. Society's progress makes things a lot easier for humanity. If I had to travel back in time I would be barred from all these privileges. In our time there are enough things to fight and die for (i.e. intolerance, christian oppression).

Are you happy living in Austria? What is an advantage /disadvantage for you in your country?

Pazuzu: I am happy here although there are a lot of things that should be changed. Austria's economical situation makes it a very comfortable country, but I think that the police here has much too much power.

What will happen at the A.B.M.S. in future? Should we prepare ourselves for any special things?

Pazuzu: No, the A.B.M.S. will continue its work as it has always done!

What about other austrian bands that are not in your circle? Do you care about them?

Pazuzu: In our genre (black metal) there are no other real bands. So they don't really interest me. They are very good musicians (most of them) and I wish them the best of luck. There is no hatred between us and them. But I can't stand death bands that change to black because they get more money.

Why do you think is the austrian scene better than the german one?

Pazuzu: I never said that (but this is a fact! -cd) but I think that we differ from them quite clearly, like I said earlier on. We preach the true philosophy of Satan and no contradictions and pseudo-fascism!

Your last comment to end this big interview?

Pazuzu: Certainly, I think that B.M. bands should be more honest in their interviews, because so often they just make themselves look ridiculous. Hail to free thinking, we are all equal in the light of satan.

Well, that's it about the A.B.M.S. and all the bands which are members of this circle. Hope you now know more about all these promising bands. Also I received the great news from Trifixion of the horned king that every band has now got a deal and some CDs will already be out when you read these lines.

The bands signed as following...

SUMMONING at Napalm Records

PERVERTUM at Lethal Records

TRIFIXION at Lethal Records

A.B.M.S.
P.O. Box 525
1061 Wien / Vienna
Austria



Lord Pazuzu

Silenius is busy with a new project, but time hasn't come yet to introduce it to public. But as I suppose it will (again) be something very extraordinary...In the meantime SUMMONING are planning to make a 'video' where their old drummer 'Trifixion' (who left the band because of personal reasons) will still join forces. Ask the A.B.M.S. for details...

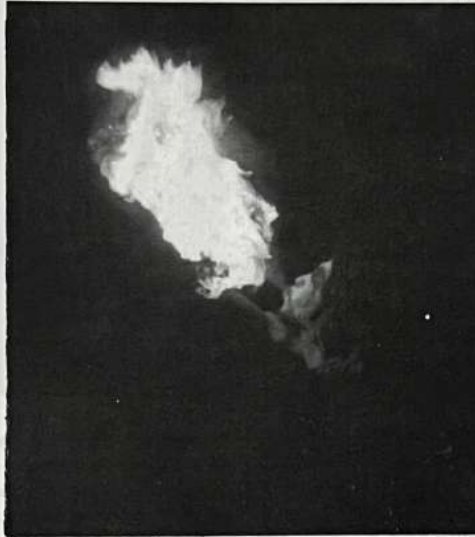
If you are interested in some of the bands' products (demos/CDs) then ask for prices. One demo costs \$7, a proud price, but perhaps you can get the demos cheaper if you order a couple of tapes in one parcel. I can highly recommend you all bands...they are absolutely worth the money!



Primigenium

Not only sweet oranges are coming from Spain but also excellent metal music. Well, to be honest I don't know too much spanish bands but I can say that at least **Primigenium** are a very promising two men line-up which is busy with nothing but straight ahead black metal without any compromises.

The band started in autumn 1992 but nothing much really happened during the first ten months due to the lack of an own rehearsal room. The first stuff of **Primigenium** was very simple black metal influenced by bands like **Bathory**, **Dark Throne** and **Hellhammer**. About one year after the band's birth they got their own rehearsal room and started to play faster stuff in the vein of **Mayhem**, **Immortal**, etc and finally entered the studio in January 1994 to record two hymns for the debut 7"inch. This EP was supposed to be released by a british label, but some problems arrived and **Primigenium** took command and released these two songs as a professional cassette with printed cover, etc. entitled 'As Eternal as the Night'. Well, the songs are very fast black



metal with a strong northern sound (due to the mentioned influences), and can be considered as real hard stuff. It is not atmospheric but very intense and aggressive stuff...sounding a lot like fast **Mayhem**. Smaug, the drummer, guitarist and vocalist did great jobs, especially the drums are incredibly outrageous.

Primigenium is also a band that works very hard on the lyrics, they really hate childish ones what I quite understand. Their lyrics deal with dark feelings, philosophy with a special poetical touch. I don't know anything about **Primigenium's** current activities...I plugged them for an interview, but never got any answer back. I'm quite sure that (again) the post has fucked up things and lost the letter as **Primigenium** was willing to answer some questions to get a better promotion. The tape costs \$ 5 (registered post paid) and is available at : **Primigenium, P.O. BOX 8343, 28080 MADRID, SPAIN**. Write them if you are into fast black metal, because I'm sure that this is a band for you, for info please include \$ 1...no childish letters!!!

What's up at **LAKE OF TEARS** since the release of 'Greater Art' ? Anything interesting happened ? Daniel: 'Nothing interesting has really happened since the 'Greater Art' release, except for the writing of new songs and doing much to few things.'

It's very obvious that you are heavily inspired by **TIAMAT's** 'Clouds' LP and I guess I'm not the first one to tell you this, right ? So what's your opinion on my statement and did you imitate **TIAMAT** on purpose ? Daniel: 'We all like **TIAMAT** very much and I personally think they are the best swedish band right now (Right now ? Well,.... -ed.). We don't try to imitate them, but we are aware of that we are influenced by them. But it's very easy to label new bands and after all we are still going through a development phase.'

Are there any things you are not satisfied with on your album ? How will your new stuff sound ?

Daniel: 'We are very dissatisfied with the titletrack, it's really bad (probably a bit too cliché.-ed.). And the vocals will be improved to the next album and hopefully the sound and production will be much better. But that was our first album and we were quite unexperienced, so hopefully these things will be better on the next one.'

What about **BLACK MARK** ? Are you happy being on this label and how did you get the contract ? Was it because of **CEMETARY** ?

Daniel: '**BLACK MARK** is a growing label and I think it's going better and better. The bad thing about **BLACK MARK** is that they don't arrange any gigs (and if they do it's very seldomly). The guys in **CEMETARY** have been our friends for many years but it was our demo that caught the interest and nothing

Lake Of Tears



*As a result of being tired of usual death metal former members of **Larnal Eruption** and **Sorsaken Grief** united in 1992 to form a band dedicated to heavy, gothic and death metal: **Lake Of Tears**! Their music can be experienced on the band's debut EP 'Greater Art' which has some excellent passages included and was good for a first step. Daniel (vocals/guitars) gives you more details about the band as he did answer my questions...*

else. Our new will probably also be available through **BLACK MARK**, but I can't tell for sure. We'll just have to wait and see what **BLACK MARK** has to say.'

How was the experience to record in Sunlight studio, I heard that it isn't the most comfortable one...Was the choice of studio a question of money?

Daniel: 'Since it was our first recording it was quite an experience, especially when there is a fantastic guy like **Thomas Skogsberg** around and even if the studio is an underground studio (you can

really feel the underground atmosphere) he made us feel very comfortable and relaxed. The choice of studio wasn't a question of money, **BLACK MARK** wanted us to record in a more 'commercial' studio, but since we heard so much good about Sunlight we wanted to try it out. We have not yet decided where to record our second CD.' Your lyrics sound like dreams or fantasies that you have...Are lyrics important to you ?

Daniel: 'Lyrics are very important for me, through them I can express myself. The influences mostly come

from my own surroundings. Most of the lyrics have something to do with my life, things that have happened, things I wish to happen etc., but they are all written in a story like way to make them more interesting and more open for own interpretation. I like Tolkien very much and that's why I probably write in fantasy-style, it just feels good. I can tell that the lyrics on 'Headstones' will deal with needs, sorrows and longings, which describes the last period in my life in a good way.'

How's the scene in your area ? Is death metal still big in Sweden ?

Daniel: 'I think that there is still a big death metal scene in Sweden, but not as big as before. Most of the people who listened to or played death metal a couple of years ago have chosen other directions today, just look at bands like **ENTOMBED** and **TIAMAT** (yeah, both bands suck nowadays ! - ed.). But the scene still lives and grows amongst the younger kids.'

What will this winter bring out of **LAKE OF TEARS** ?

Daniel: 'We will hopefully record our second album and it will be much better than the first one. We have put effort into songwriting to give each song more character and I have worked to improve the vocals. After that I don't really know what is going to happen, but I hope to go on tour and play a lot of shows.'

I just hope that **LAKE OF TEARS** will not wimp out like **CEMETARY** have...but when 'Headstones' strikes we'll know more.



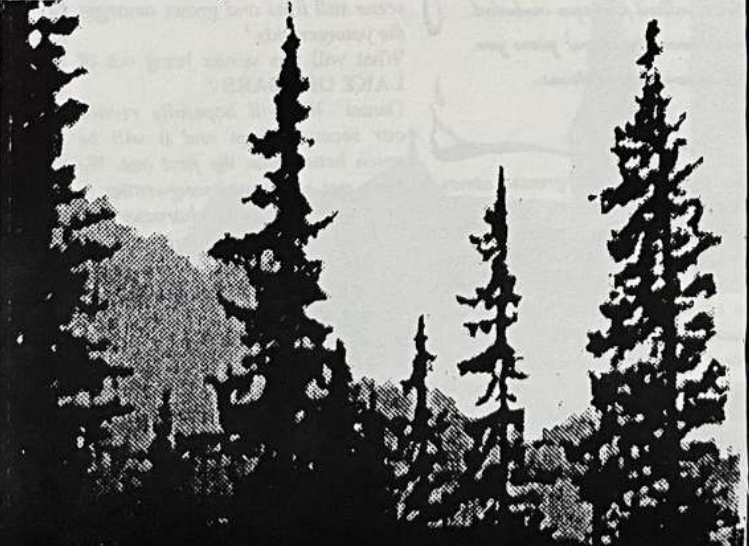
Just take a look at the grim photo and you'll directly know what kind of band Setherial is: Yes, black metal, but wait ! It's not the typical stuff which you expect...it's more emotional black metal and when it comes to the instrumental side of their music I think there are some parallels to TIAMAT and DISSECTION. Setherial's first (and until now last) demo is entitled 'A Hail To The Faceless Angels' and features four songs plus intro/outro, all in excellent sound quality. The vocals are typical screamy style, but the harmonic guitarwork makes Setherial something special.

From the ashes of Astaroth rose Setherial at the end of '93 and after the local black metal band Eggori broke up, the line up was completed with a new vocalist and a bassplayer.

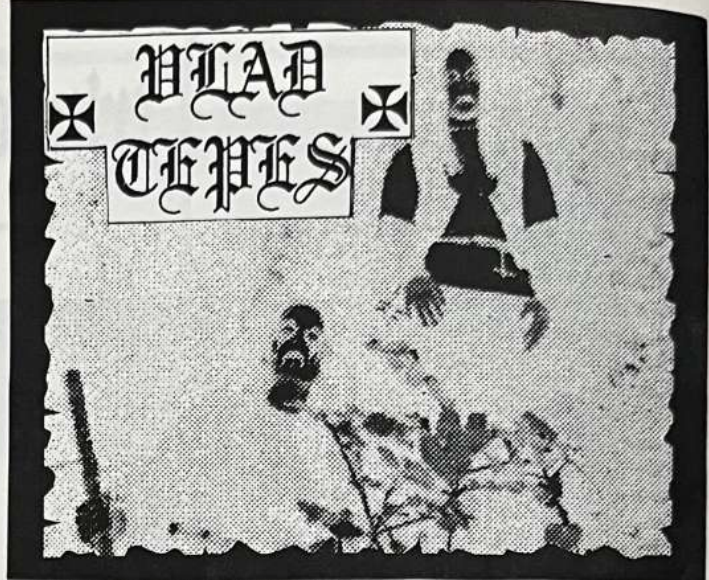
Mysteriis, the main songwriter and guitarist, explains Setherial's live situation...*'We have played live with a few local acts, but none of them have been able to match us when it comes to stage presence and aggression. Our live shows are a focus point of the lyric concept of Setherial and that makes our shows something really special and hard to match.'* I wonder how this looks like, but probably we will experience this one day, who really knows ? I wanted to know how the response was on their debut demo and if there's already new material developed...

'Yes ! Since the debut demo 'A Hail To...' has been receiving so good reviews everywhere we feel that a new demotape would be the right thing to do since we, though it is one of the better demotapes that has emerged recently, are not completely satisfied with our debut. Our new material is in my opinion some of the best black metal songs ever written.' Big words indeed, hope that he's telling the truth. As Setherial's black metal isn't too typical for this genre I wondered from what they got inspired. *'There are many things that inspire us musically and lyrically. When it comes to music the most important source of inspiration has to be the deepest, darkest thoughts of Mysteriis' and Devotian's (g) mind that results in the riffs...and then Thorn (b) and Zathanel (d) completes it by putting their special touch to it.'*

On the lyrical side the inspiration comes from my head, my views on religion, life and death are clearly stated in the lyrics and no lyric is written for which I do not stand. Our lyrics are not satanic in the sense of La'ey (loser) or devil worshipping, but in the occult veins of the watchers and the ancient ones. Of course I'm inspired by the fact that I live nearby the forest and that whenever I feel like it can be by myself and think there.' A clear description indeed...we should watch out for future stuff to strike from the Setherial camp, because it seems that this five-band will probably rise from the underground if their new songs do kill as promised. Their debut demo is still available for \$ 5 at...M. Sjödin, Vinkelstet 4B, 853 53 Sundsvall, Sweden



A hail to the faceless angels



The grimmest band in France must be VLAD TEPES who stand for 'true evil black metal'. They released a rehearsal tape so far which features four songs with a messy sound, but when listening carefully to their music you will detect a certain ancient feeling, they play simple but fuckin' effective black metal and their music reminds me sometimes heavily at the first BURZUM album (especially the song 'Under The Carpathian Doke' and 'In Holocaust To The Natural Darkness' which sounds like WAR) and transmittes an obscure feeling. I believe that, with a good production, these songs are absolutely worth being pressed into vinyl...VLAD TEPES made the effort to re-record these four compositions with a 4 track machine and has a total different atmosphere as the rehearsal due to the new sound (which is sometimes a bit too noisy), sadly this tape isn't for sale ! Wlad, who is responsible for the six strings sword and the appeals to hatred, told me for what the band stands....*'VLAD TEPES stands for playing dark and evil music, giving hatred like black metal, we stand for old black metal tradition, out of money like now (where comes from a 'trend'). As individuals we stand for other things, but it's not as well connected in any sense with black metal. But, anyway, it belongs to our lives (like black metal).'*" In the meantime VLAD TEPES went into the studio to record WAR Funeral March' which is very different from the old rehearsal tape, more northern black metal-like, for Fullmoon Productions'. The tape is out now, but was it a wise idea to release that demo through Fullmoon who already made some bootlegging jobs ? Wlad answers: *'I think that the first Fullmoon release (not the re-release of BURZUM's debut on CD) is the HADES CD, so how could they do some bootlegging things ever ? (The BURZUM CD was a bootleg, also the idiotic BURZUM 'Svastika' shirts -ed.) Well, to answer your question I really don't mind about this. I'm not into 'commercial black metal' and mass consumption, I don't care if our release sells good or bad.'* One thing that I don't understand is that Wlad doesn't want me to print down his address, very strange but true ! I wondered what the reason for this might be...Wlad: *'At the beginning of VLAD TEPES we gave our c/o through flyers to a lot of people, and sometime ago, due to our activities (The Black Regions ? -ed.) and our wellknown c/o, we got some bad problems. So now we know the people we must know and nobody else should write us, we don't need it anymore ! Anyway we'll change our c/o etc, so you don't need to write me.'* Well, it seems that VLAD TEPES will eternally stay in the depths of the underground, but it would be a shame if the public won't be able to catch the cool sound of VLAD TEPES (beside the WAR Funeral March' tape of course). So what can we expect in future ? Wlad: *'Release our next demo which will be available for a very few people, only the ones who truly know us. There will never be one flyer for those coming releases, our c/o will change, so...Perhaps we'll do a first and last full length to show people that we exist and to show them who we are... Anyway, one day the whole world will know who we are !!!'* What the hell does Wlad mean with this ? We'll probably see in future. Wlad said that the ancient sound of VLAD TEPES will also be the sound in future, WAR Funeral March' was only to try something ! From Embassy Productions (who did the SORCEROTH CD so far) I got the news that they will release a split CD featuring VLAD TEPES and a band called BELKERE. This release will be numbered and very limited...for sure the black metal revelation of '95 as Embassy announced ! Interested ? \$ 8 costs WAR Funeral March' at Fullmoon, the split CD costs \$ 20 at the Embassy address, but better write first before ordering something.

Full Moon Prod.
948 Callahan Court
Lakeland, Florida 33801
U.S.A.

Embassy Prod.
Philippe Galliano
29, bd Albert Premier
94130 Nogent sur Marne
France



Yes, again **ROTTING CHRIST**, but after they left **Osmose** there was a kind of silence around the band. Well, they are back with a new great album 'Non Serviam', also the side project **THOU ART LORD** (featuring **Necromayhem** and **Morbid** of **ROTTING C.**) managed to release their first album, so I decided to get two bands in one interview by getting in contact with **Necromayhem** (vocals/guitars).



There was some trouble with **Osmose Prod.** concerning **ROTTING CHRIST** and now you are back on your old label **DECAPITATED** (now **UNISOUND**). What went wrong with **Osmose**? What do you think about the fact that 'Thy Mighty Contract' will not be pressed again (as I heard)?



The **Osmose** attitude towards **ROTTING CHRIST** sucked in many cases, so we decided to leave them and to return back to Greece where we can control everything and where nobody can touch our ass. Great that 'Thy Mighty Contract' will not be pressed again, another cult album. But who knows, the power of money upsets a lot of things.

What's the difference between 'Thy...' and your new album 'Non Serviam'? What hides behind this untypical title?

The natural continuing of **ROTTING CHRIST** is represented on 'Non Serviam', nothing more. There're no hidden messages behind the album title.

The 'Fuck Christ' tour was quite successful, but **IMMORTAL** seemed not to be satisfied with you as rumours say. Some people changed that tour motto into 'Fuck Rotting Christ'... Your comment on this?



Groups like **IMMORTAL** are too small to talk shit about **ROTTING CHRIST**. Believe me, I have never saw such big clowns like this band in my life. 'Attention Black Metalheads: Don't be obsessed by such false attitudes. **IMMORTAL** are one of the many false bands that pollute our 'black scene'. Avoid those assholes! Hope to meet and fuck them someday, I really hope this.'

Will **Unisound** manage to send you on european tour?

Yes, a new dark tour over Europe is planned, also some gigs with **THOU ART LORD**.

Beside the **ROTTING CHRIST** album also **THOU ART LORD**'s first album is out. Would you give us some info about it?

Yes, our debut album 'Eosforos' is out and the style is far away from the typical **ROTTING CHRIST** sound. It is an answer to all the trends that nowadays poison our precious music.

Is the feeling at **THOU ART LORD** much different than at your main band and how is it possible for you to compose for both bands? How can you say that i.e. this riff is for T.A.L., the other for **ROTTING CHRIST**?

It isn't quite difficult, because my inspiration is different when I compose for **ROTTING CHRIST** and different when I compose for **THOU ART LORD**. Both bands express different philosophies in my life.

The cad is yours...

'Non Serviam' and 'Eosforos' are both available for \$17 each from my address. We are waiting for your sound...KEEP OUR ABYSSIC BLACK CULT ALIVE!!!

Necromayhem, Menemenis 22, Athens 142 31, Greece

... and another new norwegian band! It really seems that every metal maniac in Norway has his own band, but the musical quality is always good (of course there are some exceptions). **Incitatus** from the northern part of Norway are also a great cold band, but they're not playing the typical standard stuff which you expect to come from their country.

The birth of **Incitatus** was in January '94 as a five-piece...and during that dark winter they started to compose songs for their debut-release, which finally got recorded later in July. After the recordings two members had to leave the band due to their bad attitude and from that time on the search for a new drummer began, but still none has been found.

The demo contains four songs of total bloodfreezing emotional doom metal which has a sorrowful atmosphere, especially the first song 'Skyggelandet'. It begins with a constant bass guitar melody, synth and a delayed spoken voice...directly followed by the second song which sounds heavily like old **Cathedral** / depressive **Trouble**, just the vocals (beside the usual voice) are made in typical black metal style. To add a special mood into the music **Incitatus** have used some 'bell and choir effects' which sound pretty mystical. The last two songs are more or less ok, but the first two ones are very great. Well, I know that it's not always easy to listen to a whole doom demo/record, but this strange combination of black/pagan metal and doom is more than just 'interesting'. You feel the coldness and depression these guys had while creating the songs...perhaps that's an influence of their environment.

So how is it living in the northern part of Norway, especially when it comes to the metal scene? Ravn, the vocalist and lyric writer gave me his comment....

*Living in northern Norway is both good and bad. Bad when it comes to the metal scene, because there is no metal scene here. In Bodo where we live, there are just kids playing 'grunge' or trying to copy **Metallica**. For instance, our previous drummer is now playing in a fucking hardcore band. In hate the people in this city. But again, that's a good thing, because hatred gives inspiration. The other good thing about living in northern Norway is the cold winter and the mighty forests, and the fact that no immigrants wants to live here.*

*Yes, I can imagine that it isn't that easy to live in such an extreme environment, but this makes your nature so strong and untouched. So I guess that the extremely tough winter up in northern Norway might be an inspiration for **Incitatus**' style...why did they decide to play this depressive black doom metal? Ravn: *The reason for us playing such a depressive sort of music is simply because me, Heike and Jonas are very depressive creatures. We try to make a gloomy atmosphere in our music instead of just chaos and noise. We don't want people who listen to our music to jump around and scream. They should just sit down and feel the atmosphere, get depressed, and I wish them to join us in the battle against the pathetic judaic society. We mainly get inspiration from nature, the woods, the mountains and the water falls. Of course winter inspires us a lot, here in northern Norway it's dark almost 24 hours a day during winter time, and people are very sad and depressed during this 'dark period'.**

...certainly the right circumstances for playing depressive doom! What will the future bring for **Incitatus** and how was the support for the band until now? Ravn again: *The support for **Incitatus** has been great. We are a pretty new band, so we aren't that well known yet. The future plan is to get a new drummer which isn't that easy. Beside that, who knows? ...Their debut demo is a good start and if they work hard on new material they will probably get a bit more known in future as their music is original enough to make **Incitatus** survive. The sound quality is ok (recorded on a portable 4-tracker) and the tape can be yours for \$ 6 at: Ravn Sivertson.*

Hokkaasflata 4, 8028 Morkved, Norway

INCITATUS



Sigillum Diaboli

Although black metal has become a big movement, there aren't too many bands who have sworn themselves to the morbid side of this music, only bands like Darkthrone and Mayhem kept this malicious style alive in their albums. But from the land of the countless lakes Finland emerges an unpure horde called Sigillum Diaboli and they truly do nothing but ugly black metal. Their debut demo 'Decent Into Hell' was more in the Blasphem / Deicide vein, but their latest strike (Demo II) is totally fast and ancient sounding black art. It contains four own compositions and a cover version of mighty Hellhammer's 'The Third Of The Storms', but coming to their own songs... 'Thy Must Prepare To Fall' sounds still from Blasphem influenced due to the incredible speed, but 'Supreme' in contrary sounds more like 'back to the roots black metal...the riff sounds ancient and the drumrhythm reminds me at Venom ('Witching Hour' or the fast version of 'Black Metal'). The following interview was done with Pete Desecrator who handles all instruments at Sigillum Diaboli (except for the vocals).

There's a certain change between 'Decent Into Hell' and your new demo with now being more rough black metal. Was it a natural development?

Pete: 'I wouldn't call it as a change...when we did 'Descent...' we were a five piece band and we noticed that the other three guys really didn't have a fucking idea what black metal is about, so we kicked them out of the band shortly after that demo. For example we had this guy from Depravity doing the drums and he tried to play as technical as possible and shit like that, so they really weren't the right persons for Sigillum Diaboli. I think the 'feeling' is the most important thing in this music and not how technical you play (absolutely right - ed)! So I think it was a natural development if you can say so.'

Don't you think it could be 'deadly' for a band to categorize yourself into a special direction (here: black metal), because sooner or later every movement will perish again?

Pete: 'No. With Sigillum Diaboli we will always play black metal and I don't care if the movement will perish. I have listened this year a lot of Nine Inch Nails and have been blown up by them and if I'd have the equipment, I'd like to do some experiment like that, but never under the Sigillum Diaboli name!'

Once you told me that you've enough songs written to record two full-length albums, so what about turning it into reality?

Pete: 'Yeah, that would be nice, but what about it? I think we are cursed. The record companies are releasing so much shit nowadays which they call 'black metal' that I'm sick of it. But that's ok, I'm happy that I will record record my songs in the studio and I can listen to them from the tape at home and I don't give a fuck what others think of them (I don't believe this -ed.). If the labels aren't interested they can fuck off and continue releasing records of 'black metal' bands who say 'We have been playing this music since 1988 etc' shit like that. Why the hell did they release their demo in 1994 then? Pretty slow songwriters, ho ho...'

Well, you're right with this, but finally I think the music should sell, not fuckin' images! But of course people get manipulated by this, this also happens to me... How will your music sound in future? Could you imagine to do something more atmospherical?

Pete: 'You mean with synths? We actually have quite much synth-stuff in the songs, but we just haven't released those songs yet. But not too much synths! I think our music will basically sound the same in future, not any major changes, but little probably, you have to keep music interesting to yourself.'

Have you ever entered a stage with the band?

Pete: 'Yes, we've played one gig here in Pirkkala in January '93, I think, but I'm not interested in playing gigs really.'

You're also doing a zine called PURE FUCKING HELL...Have you reached many contacts for Sigillum Diaboli with the zine? What about the plans for your third issue?

Pete: 'I don't think I reached many contacts for the band through the zine. It doesn't help that much what you think it would. I have plans for my third issue and if it goes well it will be good. It will be out in February '95. By the way the second issue is almost sold out, so no more orders!'

Why do you think is the finnish scene not as powerful as the swedish or especially the norwegian one? Is it because of the lack of old bands like there were in those countries (Bathory, Mayhem,...)?

Pete: 'Good point, perhaps it's that. We have Beherit which were formed in 1989 if I remember Please describe the area you live. Is it an influence? Pete: 'Well, Pirkkala is the place of 10.000 people and most of them are idiots. I don't think the place is an influence for the music, but the finnish nature in general is I think!'

You're handling all instruments and Hrim is only responsible for the vocals, so we can say that Sigillum Diaboli is mainly your band, can't we? Is it hard to find other musicians for the band?

Pete: 'Perhaps we can say so... now Hrim Grimmir is fucked up if he reads this, hoh hoh. Yes, there aren't any people and we don't need any either.'

I lately heard that Hrim is now in jail as he had done some stupid things as far as I know, right?

Pete: 'No, he isn't in jail. He was charged with two actions of violence, he tried to kill two people with a knife. First they tried to put him to jail, but he was released on parole for two years, so we have been free all the time, except he spent six weeks in the madhouse, so it's not a big deal.'

A nice guy indeed, isn't he? Last question left to ask: What does making music mean to you?

Pete: 'Quite much, and in general music is my life. Those who think that black or death metal is some kind of funny hobby after school can FUCK OFF!'

...Bang! Everyone must order our demo II for US \$5, only cash! Sigillum Diaboli, Box 54, 33961 Pirkkala, Finland. Thanks for the interview, your Zine rules!



Black
Fuckin'
Metal

Well, thank you Pete for giving light to my questions! He's absolutely right when he says that you should order their demotape...it's worth the money! Let's hope that there will be something on vinyl in future...Sigillum Diaboli's weapons are ready to strike and conquer!!! Ugly black metal at its most extreme... 'thy must prepare to fall', how true!

Please can you give us some details about your mini-album?

'Well, there're five tracks and and they are a bit old now, but they turned out fuckin' great. There will also be a vinyl version which is absolutely great, because VINYL is best (yeah, you're fuckin' right with this! -ed.). The LP version will contain an 8 page lyricbook! The CD will contain lyrics on the cover and shit like that! The album will hopefully be out when you readers read this. But there has been some problems, so I can't say for sure!'

What has changed at GEHENNA since the release of your 7"inch?

'Nothing much, we have been working on the release of the mini-album and we have finally managed to print T-shirts, two-sided printed, \$ 18 world. No registered letters, just send well-hidden cash to my address.'

How would you explain GEHENNA's music to someone who has never heard of you before?

'I would say that we play music with a lot of feeling, we have some really catchy riffs and we now have three vocalists. Dolgar and Sanrabb are the main vocalists but Svartale, the bassist, has also made a song for GEHENNA and he does the vocals on that. He sounds like a fuckin' pissed madman when he sings! Dolgar and Sanrabb sing with a great grim vocal, Sanrabb's vocals are aggressive and Dolgar's are calm and serious.'

Metalion told me that there were some problems with the vinyl version...what went wrong?

'Nothing has really gone wrong, only that 'Voices Of Wonder' gave us some trouble if they do not release our mini-album, because they said they wouldn't make any money on it. But now 'Voices...' are out of the deal and Metalion is working and co-operating with 'House Of Kicks!'

Musically you are typical northern black stuff, but more melodic... But in contrary how are your lyrics? Are they also based on occult themes?

'Our lyrics deal with thoughts, dreams of perfect landscapes, religion / beliefs, loneliness, visions of the darker side of life, etc. Our lyrics contain almost everything, but mostly the subjects mentioned here. And occult themes, yes!'



GEHENNA



A new star at the nordic horizon is born and its light is shining brighter with every new night.

Formed early '93 **GEHENNA** already recorded their demotape after five months of existence and that tape caused enough enthusiasm within the underground to draw some labels' attention. Two tracks from that 'BLACK SEARED HEART' demo were released as a 7"inch (limited edition) and when you read these lines their debut (mini)-album should be out on HEAD NOT FOUND Records. **GEHENNA's** music is a sort of harmonic but still tough black metal the atmospheric way, very intense and emotional. Dirge Rep, the man who punishes the drumkit, was the representative person for this norwegian band.

So how does your live-show look like (any special effects) ?

' On our liveness we have spikes, corpsepaint, bulletbelts, special outfits, etc. We also have synths live, because I think it is very important to have the synths live if you use a lot of synths ! A band that uses a lot of synths on their recordings and doesn't use it live isn't that good ! We also use candles !

With which bands did you play together and how were the experiences ? Are there a lot of places in Norway where to play live ?

' We have played live two times. Once it was in my town with a death metal band and the other gig was in Oslo with GORGOROTH on the Black Metal Fest ! Yes, it was fucking great, but the gig was pretty short, because Sanarbb got too drunk to play, so we could only play the songs Dolgar sings on. But the folks liked it and that's good enough. Yes, there are many places to play here in Norway, but the ultimate gig would be to play in the norwegian woods with a lot of bands, put up a big stage and fire. We would also have a big fire which

would constantly grill some food...and some of the bands would play acoustic, too. Of course there would also be females present at this ultra gig for late night activities ! And I almost forgot that a lot of Beer is also involved ! The norwegian metalheads praise their country as the strongest one, but what's your opinion on the neighbouring states' scenes ?

' I think the norwegian scene is best. But you also have the swedish scene, there you have MARDUK, DISSECTION, ABRUPTUM as very good bands. Also the greek scene with ROTTING CHRIST, NECROMANTIA, VARATHRON, etc plus a lot of killer new demo bands. The polish scene, too, with GRAVELAND, BEHEMOTH, INFERNUM, etc. Every country has at least one, two or three, probably more, good bands. You are on a norwegian label, but what other labels knocked at your door for album deals ? Do you have a constant contract with H.N.F. ?

' There have been quite a few labels that have shown interest such as NO

FASHION, NECROMANTIC GAL- LERY Prod. (great label), some french ones (EMBASSY ? -ed.), etc. I don't have them all in my head.

Perhaps we will release our full-length album on CACOPHONOUS Records. Yes, we have only signed for the mini-LP on HEAD NOT FOUND.'

GEHENNA seems to be a popular name...and you're not the only band with this name as there is also a swedish and polish outfit with **GEHENNA** as their bandname. Is it a problem for you or don't you care as you're the most popular band ?

' We don't care, because we are the one worthy of such a bandname ! I have also heard that the polish band is no longer alive and the swedish one has changed their name.'

A question that might be interesting for musicians: What kind of drumkit/percussion do you use ?

' Well, I play on TAMA drums and I have five cymbals, three tams and a double-pedal. I will buy two more tams and one more bassdrum plus two-three cymbals. My influences come from Peter Criss of KISS and Dave Lombardo, former member of SLAYER (my hero).'

Why do you think are people fascinated by the darkside ? Why are you into occultism ?

' The darkside is very fascinating and mystic. There are a lot of secrets and strange things to discover. The darker side of life is also right for me, because of my beliefs and way of thinking. I think people 'like' the darkside, because of its secrets and right feeling. Why I am into occultism / satanism is because I earn a great deal on it. It's a very powerful force which is not to be fooled with. A lot of people are also frightened by these dark forces, but I feel save ! I will not speak about this anymore, because my rituals and religion are very personal.'

What is the most important thing in your life...did you already find your personal sense ?

' I live day by day, so the most important thing in my life must be religion and music ! The music we make at **GEHENNA** is very important to me, I really put my soul into it when I play the drums.'

It's no secret that it's an advantage for a band to come from Norway, but aren't you angry on those who sell their stuff like hell without reaching the usual norwegian musical standart ?

' Well, perhaps it's an advantage to be a norwegian band, but I see bands from other countries getting deals easy, too ! Of course there are many crappy bands with a deal and that sucks, but there are more good bands than bad ones. Yes, I get a bit angry when I hear a good demo and the band can't get a deal, but some lowlife dicks get some hell of deal.'

What do you think of all the other bands on H.N.F. as they are all different ?

' I like all the bands that Metalion has released and I think it's cool that he does not only release black metal but other stuff, too. Watch out for

PAZUZU CD, THORNS Compilation and MAYHEM 'Dawn Of The Black Hearts' Live LP 1990 NB, ultra limited. For info writ Metalion, also behold SLAYER Mag Vol. 10, 84 pages.'

Will it be possible to see you 'live' within the year 1995 in middle Europe and can we expect some new material during this year ?

' We will try to organize a tour, perhaps in 1995, we are not sure, but it would be killer to go on tour, also to record the full-length album.'

Did you listen to any special record while answering this interview ?

' Neat question ! I listened to KISS 'Alive II' album, fucking great.'

Your outro ?

' Well, the 7"inch is still for sale... \$ 5 Europe and \$ 6 world. T-Shirts \$ 18, **GEHENNA** 'First Spell' Mini album hopefully out when you read this. If it's not in the shops, write Metalion for orders ! I would also like to say: Watch out for female killer band from Telemark here un Norway, the name is AGHAST and beware of their CD, out soon on Cold Meat Industries !

Thanks for the great interview...VINYL FOREVER !!!'

Lately I heard some rehearsal-recordings for their 'First Spell' release and I must say that it's absolute brilliant music what they have created and I'm sure that 'First Spell' is going to be a killer album, their 7"inch was only a first warning.



Armoured Angel



ARMOURED ANGEL from sunny Australia aren't a new young band as they already managed to release a 12"inch back in 1987 which included their 'Wings Of Death' demo. But the band never got too much promotion especially here in Europe, so I guess that this band is still quite unknown to most of you. I really was suprised when I received their newest release 'Mysterium', a mini-album, because I thought this band is dead [as most old thrash bands except for SLAYER and RAZOR]. Musically they now play a sort of 'intense' death metal with thrashing guitars and heavy drums, very great stuff. With Lucy I got the bassman who was the one to talk about the band...

'Well, we've just released a promo-ple was very rigorous schedule at times - other than that the supports the new CD...we've also been weren't hard.'

touring quite a bit. The biggest motivation to record the music the intense way it happened is pure anger and a desire to improve on our previous release 'Stigmartyr'.

I think the years did change your style very much as your 'Wings Of Death' 12"inch/demo was very SLAYER / DESTRUCTION-like, but nowadays you are more brutal death thrashing metal, so was it just a natural development during the years or was your admiration to death metal not too strong in your early days?

'Well, we've tried to move with the times and develop our own originality. I guess we were influenced by Thrash, but, earlier on we were also called black metal as we take influence from olus covered bands such as VENOM and CELTIC FROST. We just do what we do and terminology changes over the years.'

Is thrash (the real one!) definitely dead in your opinion?

'In its former state yes! But take for example METALLICA who still use some of those techniques etc.- it's bigger than ever. Just not such as hardcore following or movement. The underground moves on, looking for something more extreme.'

You supported some established bands like MORBID ANGEL, CARCASS on their australian tour, so how were your experiences and was it easy for you to do the 'support' job?

'Those experiences were great! In many ways they were hard... the BOLTTHROWER tour for exam- Sorry, but I don't know the price.'

How is the scene in Australia? HOBBS' ANGEL OF DEATH were a superb band years ago...

'The australian scene is great! HOBBS' also played one show on the BOLTTHROWER tour, so, they were around at the end of '93. Since? I don't know...'

That would be great if HOBBS' would be still alive...their way of thrash was ultimately!!! But back to ARMOURED ANGEL: On 'Mysterium' I noticed a strong antichristian attitude, what's the exact reason for this? Is Australia a very 'infected' country when it comes to christianity?

'No, Australia isn't overly religious. We just find religion a very interesting topic and our researches lead us on a path of learning.'

You are one of the oldest bands in this issue, so how do you feel among those new young bands?

'I personally like a lot of younger bands and I have great interest in keeping in touch with the underground. So - good luck to them.'

Future activities? 'Definitely! We will be coming to Europe in March'95. So see you there. Cheers!'

So watch out for concert dates, you will experience a skilled live band when ARMOURED ANGEL enters the stage. For their mini CD/MC write to...

ARMOURED ANGEL
P.O. BOX 211
KIPPAX A.C.T. 2615
AUSTRALIA



From the darkened tundra of Norway comes **Perished**. Formed as a three piece in 1991 it took the band one year until they found Jchmod as the right person to handle the drums. In 1993 they managed to release their first demo 'In Hoc Signo Vincas' and it with the recording of that demo the second guitarist 'Ymon' was introduced.

Being now a five piece band, which isn't a usual situation within the underground, **Perished** again assembled all their sonmaterial in order to record their second demo 'Through The Black Mist' in February '94. This tape is the latest release for the band until now and it presents six songs of atmospheric viking metal with a dark touch. Musically it's not very far away from black metal, but as the most obvious influence I name **Enslaved**, especially the song 'The Perfect Face Of Death' which has some spoken vocals reminds me heavily at **Enslaved's** 'Hordanes Land' EP. Bruthor, one of the guys who formed the band and plays the bassguitar, about their second demotape...: 'The demo was recorded in a very bad studio with bad equipment, so we didn't get the chance to do everything we wanted to do with the songs (we intended to include both flute and violins) neither did we manage to create the atmosphere we wanted.' Well, at least they managed to have a good sound on that demo and they used some cool acoustic guitar parts and also some synths/piano elements are within the songs. On **Perished's** flyer sentences like '33 minutes of cold darkness and true norwegian death metal' are printed down, but I don't think that their music can be described as 'death metal' as most of you have a different definition of that music. Bruthor explains this as following...: 'Through The Black Mist' consists of six songs of dark, atmospheric ice cold true norwegian death metal.

This is not black metal as none of us are satanists. We are proud norse men who live by the laws of nature, the survival of the fittest. The music on 'Through The Black Mist' is taken from the deep forests and windy ice cold landscape of Norge, that is where we get our strength and influences from.'

Yes, I can say for sure that their music sounds norwegian and I'm totally fond of their demo and I think you'll be, too. The price for it is \$ 5 (Europe) and \$ 6 (world)...not too much for 33 minutes of well produced and arranged metal the nordic way. Lately I got the news that Tyr left the band, but that won't stop **Perished's** development as the guys soon want to record a rehearsaltape with some new songs, so watch out for it.

Originally a full-length interview was planned, but it seems that the post lost the letter with Bruthor's answers. ! At least we have this article here which is better than nothing...

Tor-Arne Haug
holmenkollvn. 20
7550 Hommelvik
Norway

Swordmaster

Swordmaster is a new Swedish outfit and the only thing they've released so far is a 'studio-rehearsal' with two songs and an intro, but this was enough for me in order to write to vocalist Whiplasher for some more details about this quite new band.

First up I noticed that a full-length CD of **SWORDMASTER** is announced to be released on Fullmoon Productions, true?

Whiplasher: 'Yes, as a matter of fact we've got the contract from Fullmoon this day. **Swordmaster's** record will be released as CD/LP and we will enter the studio in spring/summer '95. Hopefully it will be out in the end of the summer, as far as the record title nothing is yet definitely. So watch out for this one, it'll be the very strike of death!'

Swordmaster would be a great name for a 'viking warrior' band, but your studio rehearsal says that you're doing black metal. What exactly is **Swordmaster** about?

Whiplasher: 'Well, for sure **Swordmaster** is not about vikings etc., but about the ways of ripping death and pure hell. Personally I don't give a shit how music is categorized.'

You're sounding typical scandinavian, but in comparison to old bands like **Bathory**, **Mayhem** and **Darkthrone** you sound very more melodic. Do you think you're not musically so extreme, because you as persons aren't as extreme as i.e. Fenriz, Euronymous... were/are?

Whiplasher: 'The extremeness of people reflects of course more or less in the music they create. **Swordmaster** shapes songs after our views, music doesn't have to be extreme if it's more melodic or not. Advocate the music for your own, only then you

Swordmaster, c/o Andreas Bergh, Gösb. l. 66340 Hammarö, Sweden

find your answer how to name the tunes you listen to - to yourself. Wether we're less extreme than the persons mentioned above we play music which portraits what we are and how or view of things is seen.'

Aren't you sick of all the prejudices concerning black metal in general like only having a satanic image for the shock-effect? How serious do you take the concept of **Swordmaster** when it comes to your lyrics?

Whiplasher: 'Using satanism and the ways of darkness only to shock and to be cruel is the way of inferior people. I am dead serious concerning the lyrics I write and their theme.'

Which things within the scene make you laugh...and which make you sad?

Whiplasher: 'Laughing - The churches standing deeply engulfed in fire.....'

Sad - The unoriginality in the scene. You played some gigs with the band as far as I heard, but how were the experiences and how do the bands treat each other?

Whiplasher: 'So far only one gig has been made with **Swordmaster**, no problems concerning the bands' treatment of one another there anyway. The experience since the live-performance of **Swordmaster** was positive. even though we had a shitty gig, but the upcoming times will be even more brutal and louder than ever.'

Your guitarist also handles the bass-guitar in **Ophthalamia**, but isn't it difficult for him 100% for both **Ophthalamia** and **Swordmaster**?

Whiplasher: 'Of course he has to spend time rehearsing with **Ophthalamia** and so on, but **Swordmaster** is his main band (otherwise he would taste the steely fist of mine, ha ha!). Anyway we don't rehearse that much, but when we do, we do it for a whole week-end or in that way.'

In your neighbourhood (Norway) the underground seems to be more extreme and violent than in Sweden. What do you think is the reason for this?

Whiplasher: 'Sorry, hard question to put a simple answer to.'

Sweden was famous for its huge death metal scene, but I suppose that there's actually also an upcoming black metal flood, right? What's your opinion on new swedish bands, are there some good ones?

Whiplasher: 'Yes, it's right that black metal bands grow like trees in these times and this is also the case in Sweden. There are bands not more worthy than a bag of shit, as well as there are some good ones. Personally I really don't listen to much new bands, it's the old ones I really care about, so I can't give you a simple opinion about the swedish scene. But some bands which you ought to

notice are **Gehenna** - the cruelest band in these nights, **Nifelheim**, **The Moaning**, **Nosferatu**, not so very new bands though.'

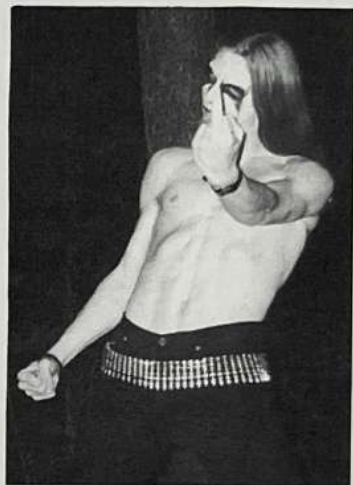
Why did you choose 'Whiplasher' as your pseudonym? Is it because you're a fan of the old band **Whiplash** or that old **Metallica** song?

Whiplasher: 'I've always been attracted to the fact 'Whiplasher', so I took it. It's also something different comparing to names like 'JLGKLY' and 'Sauron'.'

Yes, **Metallica's** 'Whiplash' is a great song, even though it didn't affect the pseudonym of mine.'

At the end I simply want to know who your favoured sex-symbol is and if you have a 'special treat' for her?

Whiplasher: 'Hmm...it's for sure a different question...But I guess she is a big black witchy whore whom I can abuse thoroughly whenever I want to.'



An icy wind carries you into a journey through frost metal...again some frozen stuff from 'Winterland Norway' as it is said on **ISVIND's** flyer for their eight track debut-demotape 'Nivelheimen'. And again it's very enjoyable stuff which Goblin (drums/screams) and Arak Draconiiz (guitar/bass/vocal) present us on their tape. The sound isn't too perfect, but especially in black/viking metal this doesn't seem to matter, so who gives a fuck. **ISVIND** started in winter '93/'94 as a three man band, but Behram, so the name of the third guy, had to move and left **ISVIND** as a two piece. There has been a 'shitty' demo ('The Call of the Icewind') recorded with the original line-up, but it was so bad that it got sold only nine (!) times. **ISVIND** see 'Nivelheimen' as their debut-demo and called their style 'frost metal' (this is probably the 500th invention of a

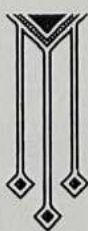


Evil atmospheric black metal? What suddenly has moved the band to go in that direction? But of course first we have to hear the result before questioning this kind of change in style. In **ISVIND's** info something about a 7"inch is written, so what about it? Goblin: 'Yes, the contract is in hand, and we will enter the studio in about two months. The release will be on **SOLSTITIUM** Records, hail Carsten!' Oh, then I guess this will be the first release by that new record label as far as I know! Winter seems to be the main inspiration for the band, just think of the inventions 'ISVIND', 'Frost Metal', etc...but why is the band so attracted by that time of the year? Goblin: 'In winter everything is silent and dead. Winter is mighty and winter is us!' Very simple explanation indeed. **ISVIND's** music is good, but they are just another band inside

I S D I R D

new metal direction).

'Nivelheimen' is a mixture out of viking metal à la **Enslaved**, **Isegard**,... due to the parts with the sung vocals and melodies, and black metal à la early **Burzum**, **Immortal**. Goblin's screams sound like the ones of Fenriz (**Darkthrone**) and gives the music a rough touch, but the music itself sounds quite melodic and in some parts melancholic. Fast and slow parts can both be heard, outrageous cold drumstorms are suddenly turning into calm sorrowful melodies, really cool. I wanted to know from Goblin's mouth what we should expect when **ISVIND** is crossing our air...: 'When it comes to our demo 'Nivelheimen' you can expect everything from supreme viking metal to aggressive fast black metal. For the future you can expect evil atmospheric black metal.'



the stream of good norwegian newcomers...so does the band think that they'll survive inside that stream and (if yes) how will they manage it? Goblin: 'So far we have survived very good. The worst critic on us has been: 'A bit too much playing faults, but good music!' . We will survive, because we don't give a fuck about other people's meaning!' Let's hope so, but of course they can't deny that they like it when people enjoy listening to their music (otherwise **ISVIND** don't need to release tapes 'n' stuff for other people). If you want to check out **ISVIND's** cold northern sound, then you have to send \$ 7 for 'Nivelheimen'. As said before it's a good demo (7 songs plus cool intro, coloured cover) and people into the scandinavian definition of black/viking metal should call this tape their own. Yggdrasil Prod. Tingstuvn 8 E, 0281 Oslo, Norway

BATHORY



A BATHORY Tribute

'In conspiracy with Satan - Baptised in fire and ice

(by Russel Smith of TERRORIZER mag / BLACK TEARS)

When most of today's black metal heroes were still carrying their satchels to school in their short trousers, à la Angus Young, there was a phenomenon already summoning up dark, evil and chaotic chords, and screaming 'til his throat was raw. That phenomenon was **BATHORY**, and the man in question was Quorthon. Whether it was **BATHORY** alone that made black metal what it is today is questionable, but there is no denying that the style employed on those earlier albums have been copied ever since.

Nobody knows whether it was Quorthon alone who created the sounds found on the **BATHORY** albums. But surely it makes no difference, because in everybody's eyes Quorthon was **BATHORY**. Certainly all the promo shots were of the man on his lonesome. Basically the early days of **BATHORY** are shrouded in mists of uncertainty, probably because of the man's reluctance to promote the band in the major press, or perhaps it was because the major press were not ready for this kind of noise?

The man always stuck to his premise that he would not play any gigs, and that was probably a sensible decision, considering the way the **VENOM** plot was uncovered when they hit the European stages. All this created a mystique about the band, always guaranteed to make people go out and buy some albums.

As I mentioned **VENOM** previously, I might as well say that in the early days **BATHORY** were regarded as no more than **VENOM** copyists. It is something that Quorthon always denied, saying that he formed the band before he ever heard **VENOM**. I find that hard to believe, especially if you consider tracks like 'Raise the Dead' from the first album. It doesn't matter though, because the band moved further away from that comparison with each consecutive album. I think Quorthon had his own tongue in cheek stab at all those allegations with the short blast of 'Teacher's Pet' during the song 'Pace 'til Death' found on the 'Blood Fire Death' album. The lyric 'Mirror, Mirror on the wall, who is the fastest of them all?' was probably another two fingered salute to all those sceptics out there.

Now, this article may not seem too factual so far, but who wants to know hard facts? Surely that most bands of **BATHORY**'s ilk are best talked about in half remembered stories and part truths. A legend is created on these terms. Also, I don't want to sound too praiseworthy because, to me, those first two albums were pretty roughshod affairs, especially 'The Return...'. It was not until the



The old influence? VENOM

release of 'Under the Sign of the Black Mark', in 1987, that I really sat up and thought that something special was going on. Real quality, original music was now coming forth. Obviously a lot of people thought the same way as myself because the album moved the band from the arena of cult die-hards into the general Thrash buying public's hand. That is exactly what **BATHORY** were classed as, a Thrash band. Black Metal was not a term everyone used. In those days the divisions were not to be found so readily, and it made

description far simpler. Were the general Thrash public ready for **BATHORY**? Tough shit if they weren't, as it was shoved down their throats with Quorthon coming out of the mists and conducting his first major interviews in the UK press **VENOM** and **CELTIC FROST** were disappearing over the horizon and it was time to worship a new king of bestial noise.

The best was yet to come however, with the arrival of 'Blood Fire Death', a colossal monument of an album. I hope you can forgive me when I say that this album is a masterpiece of black metal art, and must be up at the pinnacle of best black metal albums ever.

'Blood Fire Death' saw the arrival of the Viking feel in the lyrics and the imagery the cover showed Odin galloping over the Northern wastes with his hordes, in true Wagnerian style. Inside we got a gatefold photo of Quorthon, and supposed band members, cavorting in the trees and rocks, broadswords gleaming and chests bare. The image captured the imagination of many a young soul, and paved the way for later works by the band.

As for the music? Well, it was a mish mash of the old speed workouts, and the slower pounding epics - a perfect mix in fact.

At this time, Quorthon started talking about putting together an epic live show, featuring a kind of Viking battle scene, and incorporating many fantastic elements. It was never to see the light of day, but I feel it could have been a spectacle to end all spectacles!

'Hammerheart' was quite a surprise to all concerned. Gone were the speed workouts altogether, and the epic structures, hinted at on 'Blood Fire Death', infiltrated every pore. The biggest shock was the man's voice. The man with the rawest throat in the business, the man that had to get his throat bleed before he would record his vocal tracks, was actually trying to sing properly. The only problem was that he couldn't, not so that he could carry the feel of the songs anyhow. But, it could be that that is what makes this album a gem, though a flawed one. Viking culture was written all over this album, though written in a very romantic, idealised way. But, who wants to read about the reality of those past centuries, it's not gonna sell right? Let us not forget one important fact however, a lot of the influence for Quorthon at this time was down to his praise of **MAGNOLIA**'s work, and the epic quality of 'Hammerheart' can be seen as an extension of Quorthon's individual interpretation of what **MAGNOLIA** had started. The bare chested barbary within the cover of 'Blood, Fire, Death' can also be equated to that band. It is therefore strange that **MAGNOLIA** are ridiculed by a majority of the underground, while **BATHORY** are revered.

The first rumblings of sell-out were being heard from the old school thrashers, it was perhaps an album ahead of its time. It moved **BATHORY** to being scene leaders and trend setters. Quorthon had become an innovator, following his own instincts. How many bands now are using a Viking theme in their music? That's the power of suggestion!

'Twilight of the Gods' followed in '91, and was a continuation of a theme. The quality of the music and the singing was higher, but I feel that the album had lost a little of the sparkle that made 'Hammerheart' the album it was. Certainly the epicness of the songs were there, and it remains a great album nonetheless. It was another three years until we got the cock-rock solo album by the man, an album that had many a **BATHORY** fan putting his psalms to face in disbelief. But hasn't Quorthon always done exactly what he has wanted, and fuck what his fans think? The same could be said of Tom G. Warrior with his decision to records 'Cold Lake'. The older you get the further away from your original concept you get, and some feel the need to put out martyr sounds, or what the general public regard as martyr anyway.

If the real truth about the **BATHORY** myth be known, I think it could well ruin a few people's conception of the band, such as the techniques used to get the sound they did. However, a small dollop of adverse publicity never harmed anybody. Take for example the stories surrounding the recording of 'The Return'. Apparently, according to the man himself, the band were far too busy getting out of their collective boxes to pay too much attention to what was being laid down on tape. The accounted for the length of time it took to record and what transpired to be one of the most atonal pieces of noise recorded at that time. Stories like that fired an even greater reputation, and the fans certainly went out and bought it even more when it was released after the release of 'Under the Sign of the Black Mark'.

Kerrang! Magazine even put the band's first release in their 'Janet & John guide to Heavy Metal', an attempt to ridicule what they saw as the worse Heavy Metal albums of all time. It didn't stop the album being a best seller at Shades, a now defunct specialist shop in London. Dave Constable, the shop's proprietor, even went down as saying that the more out of time, and out of tunes a release was, the more people were buying it. It just goes to show that these supposed



journalists were out of touch with what the fans wanted, and nobody took any notice of what they said anyway!

So, let's round this off now. What exactly has **BATHORY** given the extreme music world? Well, there's no doubt, in my mind that black metal wouldn't exist as it does today without a **BATHORY**. It was a roll on effect, with bands like **MADHEM** being inspired by **BATHORY**, and bands being inspired by **MADHEM** in turn. It mutated the sound a bit, but it is still recognisable as the style that Quorthon was churning out a decade ago. It was like 'pass the Black Metal parcel' if you like.

Then there was the firebreathing, which influenced a multitude of today's paraffin blowers. Obviously this is a throwback to the old days of **KISS**, who probably inspired the young Quorthon anyway.

There was no face paint though, you can look to the likes of **Hellhammer**/early **FROST** and **Mercyful Fate** as the main instigators of that phenomenon, and there is an obvious **KISS**.

There were the uncompromising statements, the Satanic then Viking imagery to latch onto as well.

Thankfully I wasn't a kid when **BATHORY** first crawled from the abyss, being already in my 20's. Hopefully that has brought a perspective to this piece. But I don't want this to sound like I was there before you, tongue poked out, jerk off. Decide for yourselves what the **BATHORY** legacy means.



Swedish Black Arts

Swedish death metal was an accepted term and there were hundreds of good bands around some years ago, but what about today's situation in Sweden when it comes to black metal? **BATHORY**, today's premier influence for 'northern black metal' (which has also become an established term), was a Swedish band, but what about today's Swedish black hordes? **OBSCURITE** were great (although their music was more death metal), **THE BLACK** were a great black metal band but ceased to exist...so the only 'bigger' bands left are **TRONIC OF AHAZ** and **MARDUK**, the leading forces of extreme black metal, but what about the rest? Well, here are some few bands that I experienced and want to introduce you as following.....



First band I'd like to present you is **Nastrod** from the Swedish west-coast....and they really strike hard with their debut-demo 'From A Black Funeral Coffin' (five tracks). Their music is a mixture out of **Emperor**, **Enslaved** and the other typical Norwegian stuff which is heavily inspired by the old **Bathory**. but

Nastrod do their job pretty fine. A blasphemous voice, good guitarwork, etc...make this tape a quite good release. Songtitles like 'Transylvania Fullmoon', 'On Black Winter Thrones', etc...speak for themselves. Rumours say that they've signed at **FULL MOON** for a 7" inch entitled 'Pester', but I don't know if this is true or not. Their demo is limited to 666 copies, available for \$5 (Europe), also they have some black shirts out with their logo....ask for that price (I guess \$17 or something like that). **Nastrod** are one of the pure black metal hordes, just look at their photo and you'll agree....perhaps you'll hear more from them in near future! Write to: Arganas, c/o Uimonen, Linnegatan 38 B, 41304 Göteborg, Sweden.



Prophanity are also hailing from the western part of Sweden and do, as a Swedish/Norwegian bands are forced to do if they've dedicated themselves to black metal, their music in the Northern from **Bathory** influenced kind of black metal, and (like **Nastrod**) they do a good job on their first demo (three tracks). The music sounds as if they got inspired by early **Burzum** and **Emperor**...but that shouldn't be a negative point, not at all. The sound is clear and the music very melodic, they're not one of those morbid black metal bands, not at all. A second demo is also out now as I received a flyer saying this, but it seems that **Prophanity** are now more busy with the pagan stuff...also they've now their first T-Shirt out (two colour print) for \$10 only. Demo #1 costs \$4, the second one \$5. I haven't heard the music of demo 2 yet....perhaps I will never manage to do this as I'm not one of those wealthy guys. Well, the first tape was good, so I guess that it won't be a mistake to risk some money for the second strike! LEGION OF PROFANE, c/o Farbaute, Franska Gatan 17 c, 441 56 Alingsås, Sweden.

SPITEFUL

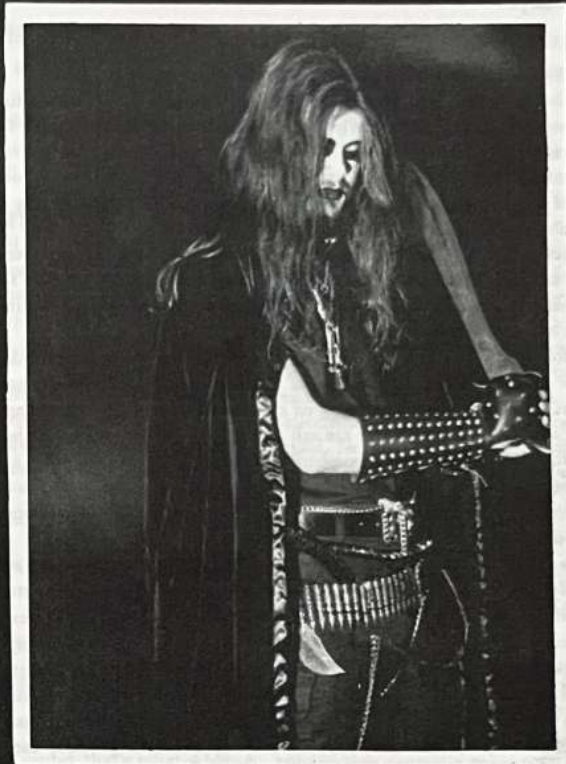


Now coming to the worst band of the Swedish Black Arts column....yeah, I know that you already wondered about the strange photo, but I decided to put it into this mag just in order to show you with which weapons new bands work in order to get their attention, in this case using nazism for the 'shock-effect' ('shock effects' have been used in heavy metal since the very beginning, but not with shitty Nazi symbols). As Lord Pazuzu already said in the A.B.M.S interview a true satanist (and black metal bands should have satanism as basis) can't have fascistic ideas as basis to his belief. The music on **Spitful's** rehearsal tape isn't that bad, but I'm really sad about the fact that jocke, guitarist and guy on the photo, is trying to be evil with a SS flag. I hope that you won't support this band, because there's no place for Nazi bands to pollute the once so healthy heavy metal scene. Nazism is the poorest form of political radicalism and I can't understand why so many intelligent people are so attracted by that stuff....only because it's so extreme and because many people fear it? I don't know....**TALES OF THE MACABRE** still doesn't support political bands (yes, I know that I interviewed Grishaackh, but his music/lyrics at least hasn't directly anything to do with policy....the attitudes of musicians is a private thing) and I will not in future. Metal shouldn't deal with policy....otherwise it would be life metal, got it? Well, as I do not want to support **Spitful** you will not find their address in this mag. Their music is (as already said) quite nice and there're some good ideas/riffs included on their 4-tracker, musically total black metal the rough but still melodic way....but I simply refuse to support them because the bring us their policy with their music! This can't be accepted here!!!

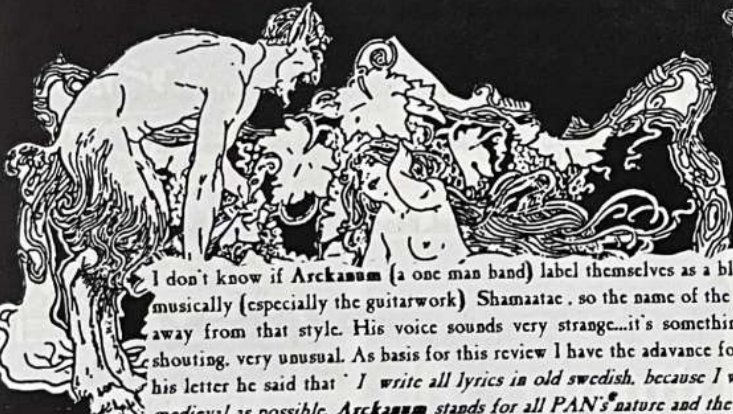


A one man band is **Thornium** and (as already written in the news column) Thyphenz (so the name of the guy) already managed to get a full length deal with dutch NECROMANTIC GALLERY Prod. Yes, this deal was only a result of **Thornium's** debut demo 'North Storms Of The Bestial Goatign' which features three well produced typical northern black metal songs, sometimes fast, sometimes the typical slow parts (à la **Immortal**), but always (like **Prophanity**) done with a lot of melodies...also **Thornium** isn't also one of those morbid bands. Well, what else should I say beside the fact that it's always the same kind of stuff most of the northern hordes play, so the danger exists that sooner or later people will be fed up by that music. But of course...as there's still enough demand for this stuff, the fans will lay their hands on the releases. This shouldn't be a bad review for **Thornium**, no way as it's well done, but the 'aha' moment is gone for my concern....This tape costs \$ 5 at : D. Munoz, Axgatan 12, 43140 Målndal, Sweden.

"North Storms of the Bestial Goatign"



The order of the black hordes/assembled in order to create **Dark Funeral**, a new four-piece black metal act, and it did not too long time until their first stuff has been released in a form of a 17 minutes lasting mini CD. It features four songs of unpurest stuff which is well-produced and well-played...stylish somewhere between old **Impaled Nazarene** and norwegian black metal. I'm sure that with the release of their full-length album, which will soon strike, they will be counted to one of Sweden's strongest bands concerning the black arts, this MCD should only be a rough taste for their new material. I hope that with that new release **Dark Funeral** will find their own style in order to have their own identity and to move away from their 'usual' (but good) black metal music. Well, I'm looking forward to hearing their album, which will probably be entitled 'The Secrets Of The Black Arts' (on **Hellspawn Rec.**). So if you're interested in **Dark Funeral's** MCD, then write to: Hellspawn Records, P.O. Box 5077, 121 16 Johannahov, Sweden.



I don't know if **Arkkanum** (a one man band) label themselves as a black metal band, but at least musically (especially the guitarwork) **Shamaatac**, so the name of the guy behind this all, isn't far away from that style. His voice sounds very strange...it's something like blasphemous punky shouting, very unusual. As basis for this review I have the advance for an upcoming demotape. In his letter he said that "I write all lyrics in old swedish, because I want **Arkkanum** to sound as medieval as possible. **Arkkanum** stands for all PAN's nature and the trolls." Surely this band is something different and their music is not easy to take...some will like it, some won't! There are a lot of intros used on the advance tape and they give the whole thing a special atmosphere, but the music itself hasn't the medieval touch **Shamaatac** is longing for...Well, decide for yourself if this is something for you or not.. The demo will feature more than seven songs at least (plus at least five intros), all very well-played (no amateurish guitarmastrubrations) with with a good sound. For interest write to: Shamaatac, Yvradsv. 45 A, 792 34 Mora, Sweden.

And finally I got a kind of selfmade compilationtape by **Malign's** Dark Lindskog only with swedish footage recorded.... first song is an instrumental by his own band which sounds like a healthy mixture out of death and black metal with some speedy elements, not bad! **Naglfar**, the next band (they've actually signed at **WRONG AGAIN**), is melodic stuff with a high voice...it reminds me a bit at swedish **Dissection**, so those who worship this band (I know that a lot of people do) should wait for **Naglfar's** debut CD. After this track I get introduced by a new band called **Dannation** where some members of **Unanimated / Dismember** join...and it's (once again) very melodic stuff with a screamy voice...is it black metal? I don't know, but the evilness is missing here. You've read about **Prophanity**, didn't you? The following band is their vocalist's project and he baptized the whole thing as **Nauthis**. This is more monotonous stuff, although I must admit that some drumparts are cool. It seems that he tries to be as blasphemous as possible with this project...it's more malicious than his main band. **Blackshinc** is another new outfit...something between death and black metal due to the varying vocals (done by a **Necrophobic** guy), but musically it's (again) melodic music, so those who long for pure black metal are wrong here. So making my own opinion of most of the new acts I must say that there seems to be a new trend in Sweden (I also count **Setherial** to those bands)...in clear words: MELODIES! Those who are searching for real ugly and grim black metal à la **Darkthrone/ (old) Bathory/ Mayhem** have some hard times in finding new bands that satisfy their lust. But of course I don't know every band that is around...**Nifelheim** should be hellish great (beside the established bands, one of them being **Dark Funeral**)...and there's still **Unspare** still creating some individual ancient-orientated stuff. Well, of course still the most abnormal satanic band still hails from Sweden, I'm talking about **Abrauptum**, but they're not black metal, not 'metal' or even real music at all. Sweden's scene isn't dead yet as people thought after the death of most (trendy) death metal bands, await some swedish surprises for the future!

Atmospheric

AETERNUS

death metal

In a time where the metal underground celebrates Norway as the 'land of true black metal', there are still bands dedicating themselves to real death metal. One of these bands must be AETERNUS from the western part of Norway as they've shown it on their three-song debut demo 'Walk My Path'. Well-produced majestic atmospheric death metal, but still kept very heavy...against all trends. I thought of honouring this 'exception'-band with an interview which I did with guitarist/vocalist Ronny.

What happened at AETERNUS since 'Walk My Path'?

Ronny: A lot of things have happened to Aeternus. I now have a line-up consisting myself, a rhythm guitarist and a drummer. I've not yet found myself a bass-player, but that will come some day. We have done one live performance after the demo release and it went ok. We are at this time working hard and preparing a concert early 1995 with the norwegian viking band Einherjer.

Norway has become famous for great black metal bands, but you decided to dedicate AETERNUS to death metal back in 1993. Why didn't you choose to play the 'black' stuff...don't you want to be compared with all the other norwegian bands?

Ronny: It's true that I've called my music 'death metal' back in 1993, this now changed! Don't put my lyrics or music in any category anymore. I believe that black metal is based on evil and satanic tidings. My tidings are not any of these two. People can call my music whatever they want, but if you ask me, my music is atmospheric dark, aggressive, tuneful! I don't want to be compared to any bands! Of course my music can sound similar to other bands, but whose music doesn't do that? I'm trying to do my own stuff as good as I can!

Your death metal is very atmospheric although you didn't use any synth, so do you think that's your advantage as it became quite 'trendy' to use synth in order to create atmosphere and you don't belong to that trend?

Ronny: Well, I don't think it's trendy to use synth (of course there are a lot of bands who use it). Synth creates a special mood if you use it currently with the music and I like that if it's done orderly. I did not use it because it didn't really consider it that much. I had no need for it in my three songs.

Sometimes your music reminds me of early GRAVE (vocals) and late BATHORY, because also Quorthon did have that guitar-sound and knows how to create atmosphere without synth. Is BATHORY a big influence for your songwriting or what bands are a big inspiration for the AETERNUS' sound?

Ronny: My vocals are a bit inspired by Bolt Thrower's vocalist Karl Willets. Not that I wished to have a vocal just like his, but this death metal band is the only band in this category that I like and I've always liked the vocals...they are brutal, aggressive and kind of singing. Bathory has not inspired me in any way. Actually my music on the demo is inspired by

Hades' music (and they are heavily inspired by Bathory! - ed.), it was hard composing music without sounding like them. About the sound: I did not take inspirations from any bands for this.

How was the response on 'Walk My Path' until now, especially from so called 'true black metal zines' and people?

Ronny: The response has been great! It seems to be a good interest in my demo, it is a bit short, but that doesn't seem to bother anyone. Black metal people have also shown interest in my demo, though I don't play black metal, but that doesn't seem to be so important for those I write with.

What are your lyrics about? There isn't a satanic concept behind AETERNUS, right?

Ronny: Since I'm not black metal my lyrics are not satanic! My lyrics are about different kind of desires (good and bad ones)! Some lyrics are especially written to the powerful wind! Sometimes words just pop up in my head and they become small tales to which I compose music to.

HADES are also coming from Bones...do you have any relationship with them? What other bands are coming from your area?

Ronny: Well, it's only Janto, the bassplayer and singer of Hades, who lives here in Bones. I have a good relationship to Hades, Janto is one of my closest friends. There are no other bands or bandmembers in Bones except me and Janto of Hades.

Will your death metal elements still be available in AETERNUS' future? Is any new material already developed?

Ronny: Well, the demo is still available for \$4 (Europe), \$5 (World) and we have two sided T-Shirts, \$17, size XL. We have not recorded anything new yet, but it will happen as time goes on.

What would be great to happen at AETERNUS?

Ronny: To get a good record deal would be great now when I have found my style in words and music.

Last hails?

Ronny: A mighty hail to my contacts and my brothers in dark metal arms.

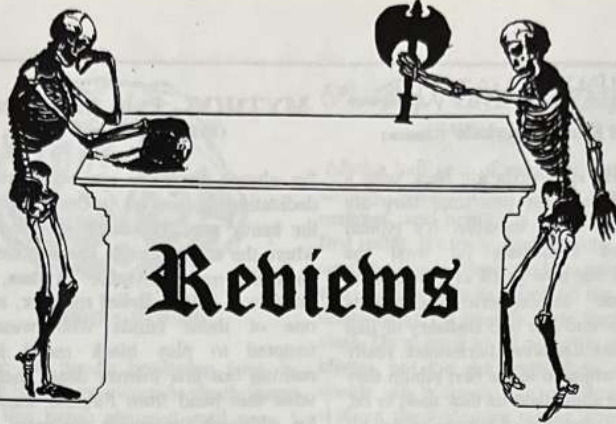
The shirt is good quality with logo on front and a celtic symbol on the back, white print on black!

Aeternus, c/o Ronny B. Hovland, Bonesta 7, 5062 Bones, Norway



Sanctorum

Sanctorum from Greece is another good band with a traditional greek black/death metal sound. Their three-track demo 'Crystal Tears of Silence' shows some good quality music in the vein of old Rotting Christ, just a little more melodic and less-death metal like. What is great at Saetorum's music are the harmonic but still heavy parts, combined with a mystical touch, really well done. The tape feature about 29 minutes music and has they lyrics enclosed...also the sound is good (studiosound), so \$4 (or \$5?) is an acceptable price for this piece of well-structured greek assault. People should not forget that the greek scene is a very strong one, there are more good bands beside all the Rotting Christ -side bands like Varathron, Necromantia, Thou Art Lord. Also check out bands like Sanctorum, Horrified, Agatus, Septicemia, Septic Flesh, etc. Anyone interested in Sanctorum's work should write to: *Sony, I fuckin' lost it!*



Reviews

SARCOFAGO-Hate (Cogumelo)

The old weird metalmaniacs from the land of the most sheer desecrating black/death metal are back with vengeance and they truly show their outrageous and hateful spirit on their newest album. These brazilian schizos have probably released one of the fastest albums ever with 'Hate' and I really doubt if these drums were played by flesh and blood...it's too fast to imagine this. In comparison to their 'The Laws Of The Scourge' LP they moved away from death metal more to the thrashy side of black/death metal if I can call it like that and they've even gone more primitive on 'Hate'. We can say that **Sarcophago** got their old ugliness back...and yeah, just look at their logo now, the third converted cross is back which was dropped since the INRI album. It's a sign of evil at **Sarcophago** ... Musically it's a good but not a perfect album, at least a typical record brazilian style: ugly, fast and without any compromises. We should honour this for (probably) the oldest death/black metal outfit today who didn't wimp out !!!



Satanic death metal from U.S.A. and it's always 'straight ahead' stuff with deep vocals (à la old **Carcass**) and simple arrangements, both slow and fast parts can be heard. 28 minutes you must stand until the chaos is over. It's an ok-release, fans of death metal the filthy evil way will enjoy it. **Resuscitator** have recorded this one here at the end of '93, perhaps they have improved since they entered the studio.

IMPURITY - The Lamb's Fury (Cogumelo Rec., Brazilian Import)

Another desecrating band from South America, but this time I have to say that I'm not too fond of this release. The point is that those four brazilian guys are just clowning the old style of **BEHERIT** / **BLASPHEMY**... and even the production is weak ! Of course some people will still love this, but to me it's pretty boring ! As a demotape it would be ok, but I'm not really sure if this band deserves a full length LP. Perhaps next time they'll show their true abilities...

ALLEGIANCE - Destitution

People into **Testament**'s 'Practise what you preach' album will find this australian band interesting, but **Allegiance** aren't the band I like to listen to. Perhaps they are fine within their genre, but they don't fit into a mag like this here. Sorry guys !



This U.S. formation is around for quite a long time now and they are one of the last real death metal bands that sticks to their style of music. They clearly show on their newest mini CD that death metal the rough way isn't dead yet, it's really powerful stuff with influences from **Morbid Angel**, **Slayer** and old **Kreator** (vocal-arrangements). This is death metal the way our ancestors already knew it...straight into the face. Available for 22 DM at the 'Voices From The Darksides' address (see zine column).



Norwegian black metal in its purest form, nothing original though, but if you are into bands like **Mayhem**, **Darkthrone** and especially **Emperor** (due to the vocals which are very alike) I think you simply must buy this album. The playing time is 29 minutes, a bit short, but this doesn't matter that much. I'm personally sad about the fact that the vocals have changed that much since their demotape as I liked the damaged insane style of singing on 'Sorcery Written In Blood'. This CD you can order for \$ 19 /DM 30 at the Malicious address (see elsewhere).

SEPTIC FLESH - Mystic places of dawn (Holy Rec.)

The greek masters of emotions here with their first full length album and it's much better than their 'Temple Of The lost souls' mini album. **Septic Flesh** stand for emotional but still intense death metal, sometimes very slow and mystical, but also very fast parts can be heard, but always made with dreamy melodies ! The vocals are very deep and fit to the whole musical background. I know that it became quite trendy to use harmonic parts like **Katatonnia** or late **Tiamat** does, but **Septic Flesh** are still very original within this new development in metal. This great album is also available on limited edition picture disc, so get your hands on it !

ABIGOR - Verwüstung: Evoking... (Napalm Rec.)

Austrian black metal with a 'northern' sound, that's what **Abigor** are about ! Extreme vocals, powerful drums and intereting arrangements (morbidity and melodies are both available), well-produced and with nice CD layout. Sometimes the **Emperor** -roots are breaking out too much, but I'm sure that this might be the reason for some of you metalheads to buy this CD. Let's hope that **Abigor** aren't just a 'one-day fly' as they have (or had ?) some line-up problems.

INNER SANCTUM - Advancetape for LP

Thanks to Russ Smith for giving me the opportunity to catch the greatness of this band from Uruguay. As some of you have probably noticed, **Inner Sanctum** have choosen their bandname from a **Celtic Frost** song ... and yes, they have dedicated themselves to the past glory of those immortal swiss gods. **Inner Sanctum** are a pure **Frost** -copy, a mixture between the 'To Mega Therion' and 'Into The Pandemonium' LP (musically) and even the vocals are similar to Tom Warrior's, also they've the typical 'frosty' guitar sound and the same kind of arranging the riffs/songs. I don't fuckin' care about clowning when it comes to imitate **Celtic Frost** as they are (at least for me) the best band beside the mighty **Hellhammer**. I only hope that the **Inner Sanctum** album will be out very soon on TOXIC Records from Chile !!!

MARDUK - Opus Nocturne (Osmose Productions)

Fourty-three minutes you have to stand in order to get through the new opus from swedish **Marduk**. It's fast crushing black metal and they really must have been aggressive while recording this mean musical explosion. I was never a big fan of **Marduk**, but 'Opus Nocturne' has really turned out nice and the album has a special own touch, although in some passages they seem to be heavily inspired by **Immortal**'s 'Pure Holocaust' album due to the raging speed. Never mind, the fans will like it anyway...and real black metal maniacs will buy this, no matter what.

KATATONIA - Jhva Meth ... the revival ! (V.I.C. Rec.)

Yeah, I know that this release isn't the newest one, but as I got this CD from Roel (Mortician Mag, V.I.C.) I want to review it for those who still haven't bought this fantastic mini CD. It's a masterpiece of harmonic and atmospheric heavy metal, also the vocals are very well-done (rough, but not death metal) and the production doesn't suck, although these recordings were originally made for a demo. It hasn't anything to do with black metal, don't get irritated by **Katatonnia**'s corpsepaint...there's nothing 'morbid' at this band. A definite must if you are into metal !



No words really express the intensity of this album...everything is so perfectly done and the most original element in the music must be the vocals, which are hard to take in the beginning, but if you get used to it only pure worship remains. Same goes out for Euronymous' guitawork and **Hellhammer**'s incredible drums (he must be an animal). Those who still ignore this piece of black/death metal history should continue to listen to the 3677th cheap copy of **Bathory**. This is a typical 'anti-trend' album and totally fits into the concept of **Mayhem**. Ultimate !!!

DIABOLOS RISING - 666
(Osmose Productions)

How is it possible for me to review something like this when I'm at war with pure computer music ? I'm aware that some people really worship this strange sort of industrial music with black metal arrangements, but it sounds 'too' sterile for my taste. At least this is a cool experiment by Mikko (**Impaled Nazarene**) and Morbid (**Necromantia**).



The title 'Dark Metal' is a good description for **Bethlehem's** music, especially when you get used to their individual style. It's simple but effective stuff, a mixture out of death and black metal, but also sorrowful parts are not missing. The music is generally held in a special mood, not always easy to listen to, you have to listen to it a couple of times before you get the 'kick' ! A fine album with nice cover/layout. Lately I heard that their vocalist left the band and now it seems that Sephiroth from dutch band **Occult** will do the vocals as 'guest singer'. hope that won't change **Bethlehem's** style too much !



'L.V.X. Occulta'

Could you imagine technical black metal ? Well, that's what **Martyrium** from Germany are about, but I must admit that their style isn't easy to take, sometimes it seems to be a bit too 'chaotic' due to the untamed drums. I have no comparison for this band...you should hear it on your own. I know that **Martyrium** are an excellent live-band and that they know how to handle their instruments, so we have no amateurish beginners here, but finally I think that only a few people really care about technical abilities. Stylish they now sound more 'northern' than on their demos due to the guitarsound and they are more experimental than they were before. You have to listen carefully to this album a couple of times before you get used to it. Not an album for those with weak nerves... For orders see flyer elsewhere !

IMPALED NAZARENE
'Suomi Finland Perkele' (Osmose)

The sado specialists are back with a new album, but this time they are musically more variable. It's typical **Impaled Nazarene** (at least the vocals), but now you'll also find some harmonic atmospheric guitarparts which sound like late **Bathory** or like some new **Enslaved** harmonies, really nice. Compared to the first album they aren't as aggressive as they used to be, but time changes of course as we all know. Well, after listening to this CD here I can't get rid off the feeling that **Impaled Nazarene** were never seriously into black metal as they claimed to be in their early days. The only bad thing at this album is the short playing time, because 30 minutes isn't really value for money, I think Osmose should better put unreleased songs on their full-length albums instead of making extra limited 7" inches, shouldn't they ?

Misanthrope - Miracles: Totem Taboo
(Holy Records)

This album is a real tough one for me to review...**Misanthrope** call their music Avantgarde Doom / death metal, but 'avantgarde' is no exact description in my opinion. There are a lot of different elements combined in their music, such as death metal, gothic, classic, sighing vocal parts à la old **Christian Death**, etc. Variety is the main character of these french guys...therefore this album is not easy to take for everyone, but it's a fact that **Misanthrope** are a talented band who haven't sworn themselves to a special category of music.

SOULGRIND - La Matanza

Talking about bands that I don't like too much I have to name this french band (?) as they make me nervous with their complex untamed style of death metal ! Perhaps it's not bad, but I don't like it...sorry !

Master's Hammer
'Ritual' (Osmose)

This release has already been reviewed in issue one, but I want you again to notice this superb debut-album by those czech master's of orchestral avantgarde black metal as OSMOSE finally re-released 'The Ritual'. So now you have the chance to lay your hands on this successful album (it sold 25.000 times in their home country). 'The Ritual' is not so avantgarde like 'The Jilemnice Occultist' but more straight to the point. The best thing on this LP are the vocals in my opinion, because they are so incredibly sick and (most important) original. Sadly **Master's Hammer** weren't too successful with their second album (relating to the info) on the market beyond the eastern frontiers, I really don't know why there are so many ignorants out there. Wake up, because **Master's Hammer** is one of the best bands when it comes to occult/black metal art ! They are now busy with their third album...it's going to be a masterpiece !!!

MYTHOS - Pain Amplifier
(Evil Omen Records)

I'm always happy to see bands still dedicating themselves to death metal the heavy way...especially in a time where the scene doesn't seem to care about this music anymore. **Mythos**, a band by a former **Belial** member, are one of those bands who wasn't tempted to play black metal...it's nothing but fast intense death metal what this band from Finland stands for, although the vocals are more in the **Impaled Nazarene**-vein. I must admit that sometimes it's a bit boring what they do, but the album seen as a whole result is quite good. 'Pain Amplifier' turned out to be a true firework due to the heavy production and at least real death metal will love it. Distributed by Osmose !



After their good demo 'Eerily Howling Winds' and the 7" inch release it was only a question of time until a full-length album will be presented to public. The result is 'Svartalheim' and it's without any doubts one of the strongest debut-Lps made in the last time. Of course it has the typical norwegian black metal sound, but **Ancient's** music is more based on atmosphere instead of dark riffs and ugliness, although they didn't use much synths ! Coldness, fear and sorrow are the feelings you get when listening to 'Svartalheim' and another great thing at this release is the clean production which has become really 'rare' nowadays'. Nearly 50 minutes of music can be heard on this one here (the songs from the sold-out 7" inch are included) , so I can highly recommend this one to you.

BELPHEGOR - The last Supper
(Lethal Records)

Arrgh...brutal gory death metal, and it's again **Belphegor** from Austria who are responsible for this sheer attack ! 'The last Supper' is their second CD and (in my opinion) their most extreme one until now. The band's music has different faces, but one thing is certain: It's fuckin' extreme ! Fast elements à la **Cannibal Corpse** (also the vocals), suddenly a choir changes the atmosphere, some black metal influences can also be heard, etc etc, so that the result isn't just another fast boring death metal outburst ! As addition to the music you'll get the extreme coverartwork, both front cover, innersleeve and photos, total blasphemous splatter !!! What I especially like at **Belphegor** is that they continue their bloody way since their beginning...no wimp out or trendfollowers, that's great !



"Again Shall Be"

More norwegian stuff...this time the debut album of **Hades** who already got some attention with their good 'Alone Walkyng' demotape. They did a fine job in Grieghallen when they recorded this album...very heavy production, especially the drums are very intense. **Hades** are inspired by the epic period of **Bathory** ('Hammerheart' and 'Twilight ...' LPs) and a bit by **Enslaved**, but the voice is always high 'n' screaming. 54 minutes of nordic orchestral pounding metal, you can really feel the mightiness of the old vikings. Titles like 'Pagan Triumph', 'The Spirit Of An Ancient Past', etc. speak for themselves...and so does the music. A mighty album, although the sources of inspiration are sometimes too obvious...

ORPHANED LAND - Sahara
(Holy Records)

Again a quality release by **HOLY** records and **Orphaned Land** do totally fit into the label's concept: Original and intelligent music ! In this case it means death/heavy metal meets the mystical oriental beauty, strange but very cool ! Their style is generally seen very various, there are many different influences inside the music so that it is nearly impossible for a discription of **Orphaned Land's** music. This is the only band I know from Israel (beside **Salem**), perhaps this makes their style so individual. Curious ? If you go to your local record shop then check out the track 'Seasons unite'...then you'll know what I mean !



'Lex Talionis' (Lethal Records)

The second full-length punishment from these four american satanists and I really like their style of satanic death metal. You can hear that this is a band from Florida, parallels to **Morbid Angel** and **Decide** can't be denied, but that's totally ok for me. **Acheron** have a special kind of power within their songs and I am really sure about the fact that death metal can sound dark and evil, not only the usual from **Bathory** influenced black metal ! **Acheron** are a good example for this, at least they've proved that they aren't a trend band as they stick to their style since 1988...just think about it ! I think you should try this album if death metal still attracts you. About **Acheron's** image I don't want to lose some words as I'm the wrong person to judge this...

Hvis Lyset tar oss
(Misanthropy Records)

I guess that most of you have already bought this one here, but still I want to review it as I got it as a promo. To make it short: It's a strong release, no doubt about that, but far away from the class of 'Det Som Engang Var' (which I still consider as one of the strongest albums ever). 'Hvis...' is a bit too monotonous for my taste, I know that Grishnackh could have made all a bit more varied like on his previous albums. Let's wait what his next and last album 'Filosofem' brings us...



'Blod - draum'

Since the band's beginning back in 1991 they have sworn to death metal and this hasn't changed until now. I think that's something rare, especially when you hail from a country like Norway where black metal bands sell their records like hell. So you see, it's not a question of money or/and trend, **Molested's** style seems to be very honest. 'Blod-draum' is their first album (and the first full length release of EFFIGY Records) and is a pure death metal fest. They are very intensive and very fast, a lot of hectic guitarparts and intensive drumwork (à la **Immortal**) make this release 'an opus of infernal hate, melancholy and damnation' (as it was said in the info). The voice is very deep (à la old **Convulse**) and gives us the ultimate death metal atmosphere. This album is too sheer for my taste, I think I can't stand the storm that **Molested** produces, because they (nearly) never slow down. A bit more variation would have been good, but I'm sure that there are enough extreme guys loving this energetic crusher! Arrgh...



In the info sheet it is written that 'Mount Olympus rang out once again with enchanting melodies...', big words indeed, but with **Nightfall** we really have a superb band from Hellas. They understand to combine death metal with melodies without losing their energy. Also it all sounds very symphonic due to some different instruments/elements which they added to their music. The opener is the strongest track, the second one is also good (the third one isn't a real song, more effects) and the last one is a coverversion of **Manowar's** all-time classic (and one of my personal favoured songs) 'Thor (The Powerhead)'. Of course **Nightfall's** version doesn't beat the original one, it's simply impossible, but it's cool to hear the song in a death metal version. Watch out for **Nightfall's** 'Megadrama' CD which will strike in September.

Mortiis - Jodt 'til a Herske
(Malicious Records)

Prepare yourself for a journey through dimensions unknown when you decide to invest your money in **Mortiis'** debut album. 'Dungeon music' is really the best description for this stuff and it's a total enormous great feeling if you let your spirit fall into the abyss with these majestic, medieval creations. Light some candles and simply enjoy this album, you can get it at the Malicious address (for details see **Mortiis** interview).



'NON SERVIAM'

Rotting Christ's return is mighty as I've expected it to be... 'Non Serviam' is a good follow-up for 'Thy Mighty Contract' and again an absolute masterpiece of greek black metal. **Rotting Christ** really understand to compose harmonic music which sounds dark...and a big credit for this goes (again) out to Magus Wampy Daoloth (Morbid's magical name)'s excellent synth work. I don't hope that the band's popularity will decrease just because they changed to a smaller label, so go out and get this album here. You won't regret buying it if you're not one of those guys without a taste for quality music. Great art !!!

Serenity - Then came silence
(Holy Records)

After a half year of existence **Serenity** already managed to get a two CD contract...and here's the arrival of their first result. It's traditional melodic doom combined with some modern structures and (in contrary to most of the other doom bands) it sounds quite fresh and vital. There are a lot of cool riffs on this album, but I'm not really fond of the vocals, it's a touch too melodic and without the important power. From the instrumental side seen it's a good CD.



This isn't metal, but something very extraordinary music. It's total atmospheric stuff with great harmonies and arrangements, sometimes it reminds me heavily at **Dead Can Dance**. The lyrics are satanic, but they don't really fit to the music, because it has nothing to do with the 'evilness' most of us know from 'black metal'. I think that **HOLY** records is a real quality label, all their releases are something special and so is **Elend**. As I said, this has nothing to do with metal, so listen to it before you buy it, but I guess that you'll like it.

SADISTIK EXEKUTION
We are death ... fukk you ! (Osmose)

Fast, damaged death metal from this quite old australian underground act and 'We're death...' is the second album of those weird guys. It is full-terror ahead and something beyond the current trends, just simple noisy and intense death with some few thrash elements. The only band I'd like to compare with **Sadistik Exekution** are **Blasphemy**, but this should only be a rough orientation for you. It's not everyone's favoured music as I've experienced it, so try it first before buying it.

BATHORY 'Requiem'
(Black Mark Productions)

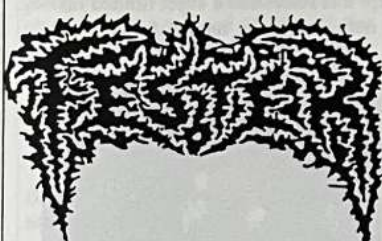
After listening carefully to this 'unreleased' **Bathory** album I'm asking myself why Quorthon finally decided to release this old stuff ? Just to shock the old fans with a new face of **Bathory** ? I really don't know, but 'Requiem' is by far the weakest album and is far away from the class of for example 'Blood Fire Death' or any other of the **Bathory** albums. It's mainly fast stuff with 'thrashy' guitars (bay area thrash meets hardcore), a weak (guitar-sound and Quorthon's disappointing voice. It sounds like a mixture out of **Holy Moses** and new **Kreator**...the usual power that we all know is missing in Quorthon's vocals. If this album hadn't been released with the **Bathory** logo on it, then I would say this one here is ok, but for **Bathory** standard it's shitty. I just hope that the other unreleased album will be less disappointing. What about the never released miniLP with the great 'Burning Leather' song ? For this one I'm still waiting !!!

EUCHARIST
"A Velvet Creation"

It was often said within the underground that **Eucharist** are a special band people should have an eye on, so I was very excited to hear their debut CD. And the underground folk was right, this band is something special ! The music sounds quite typical swedish in its fundaments, but **Eucharist** understand play death metal in a technical way without losing their heaviness and that's great ! It's very guitar-orientated stuff with many good ideas, so those who are very demanding people will get their full satisfaction. The only thing I wondered was if it was **Katatonias** Blackheim who did the vocals on this album, the vocals sound so similar ! Lately I heard that **Eucharist's** new songmaterial will be 'different', but how ? We'll see !

ENSLAVED - Frost
(Osmose Productions)

The masters of northern myths strike again with their third warning, now available through **OSMOSE**. It's still typical **Enslaved**, but they've added some more 'folklore' parts to their music. It's again a strong album, great things to mention are the drums, acoustic parts and the mighty Grieghallen production. **Enslaved** have a lot of different faces as they are sometimes hellish fast, but also very calm, mystical and heroic. They even seem now to be inspired by **Manowar**, just listen to one rhythm part at the song 'Fennis' which sounds like **Manowar's** opening song on their 'Triumph Of Steel' album...and I really like it (and I guess you also do). **Enslaved** can be considered as one of the strongest bands from Norway !



'Silence' (Lethal Records)

Fester here back with their follow-up for 'Winter of Sin' and it's certainly a step forward. They are from Norway, but do not expect another black metal band...only the vocals are a bit from black metal inspired (sound like the ones from **Necromantia**, but not so rough). **Fester's** kind of metal is more power/heavy metal with some **King Diamond** and **Satan** (UK)-like arrangements. I think it's not everyone's cup of tea, but at least you should make the effort to check this out. Those who long for traditional metal with some modern elements will probably love this record. An original release by the way !



EUCHARIST



EMINENZ - Exorialis

(Lethal Rec.)

Eminenz is one of the only bands that have survived the GDR time and even before the wall fell in Berlin they've already made some spectacular live gigs (i.e. with **Mayhem**) which gave this band a kind of cult status in the eastern part of Germany. Well, finally Lethal Records from Austria signed **Eminenz** and the first CD result is 'Exorialis', an over 61 minutes strong album. When you look at the picture above you'll probably think that they must play total blasphemous black metal, but you're wrong! Their style is more slow and simple death metal with a total dark atmosphere, not a very usual style nowadays. To add a special obscure sound they used some cool synth effects. Some of the songs are pure synth creations and are absolutely worth listening to. It's not everyone's cup of tea, some will find this one boring, but I think you've to concentrate in order to feel the darkness inside the music. It's simple but original music beyond the trends.



'Battles in the North'

A lot of people were looking forward to hearing the new **Immortal** album and I must admit that I was curious about this one here, too, as 'Battles in the North' was announced to be even faster than 'Pure Holocaust' was. And yes, it's fuckin' faster and **Immortal** seem to be grimmer than ever. There's a lot of intensity in this within the songs and I think that the band has reached the point where they can't go play any faster (except they would manipulate the speed through studio techniques). But being faster doesn't always mean that the music is heavier and I really think that 'Battles in the North' isn't heavier than the other **Immortal** albums, just a bit more grimmer and uglier. AS a result of being faster they've lost a bit of their atmosphere which they especially had on 'Diabolical Fullmoon Mysticism'. This third full length strike is of course again a real killer album, the way **Immortal** handle their instruments is unbelievable, but you can't deny that people have a special expectation when it comes to established black metal bands like **Immortal**. With 'Battles in the North' they've put themselves into a special corner...some fans will be a bit disappointed due to the lack of variety, but most black metal maniacs will fall on their knees to worship **Immortal** as kings! Very extreme album!!!

Bestial Warlust

'Vengeance War 'Til Death'

(Modern Invasion Records)

From the ashes of **Corpse Molestation** rose an even mightier force...**Bestial Warlust**! And they truly show us their strength on this debut album. These five australian warriors play 'satanic war metal' (as they call it) and their style isn't far away from the one of the canadian warmongers **Blasphemy**. Very fast, rough, monotonous stuff which is brutally produced! **Bestial Warlust** sound like a warmachine and people who worship this kind of **Blasphemy** sound (just a bit more intense) will surely include **Bestial Warlust** into their nocturnal prayers! This record is available through german **MERCILESS** Records (address see elsewhere), write Volker for prices, etc.

Intense Agonizing / Necrobiosis

(M.M.L.)

Chaotic death/grind is what **Intense Agonizing** from Hungary play, absolutely not my favoured style. After three tracks of their punishment, **Necrobiosis** from Finland starts to torment me with their quite nice death metal...and best at their music are the abnormally deep vomits! Well, death metal fans shouldn't ignore **Necrobiosis**, but **Intense Agonizing** are more or less boring.



IN FLAMES - Lunar Strain

(Wrong Again Records)

On the flyer **In Flames**' style is described as melodic death metal, but I think that's totally wrong...I can't find any 'deathly' elements in the band's excellent music. I would say that their style is more fresh 'n' fast power metal with some cool folklore acoustic parts. The guitarwork is brilliant and gives this album a special touch and the voice is more 'thrash'-like (à la **Merciless**). So if you are fed up by black/ death / doom or whatever and want to get out of your depressions, then I think this one is something for you. But this doesn't mean that **In Flames** are a kind of 'fun' band, these swedish guys have a serious sound. Cool release by **WRONG AGAIN** Records...quality counts!

MARDUK - Fuck me Jesus

(Osmose Productions)

Those MCD was necessary to be released since both party, the band & Osmose got too much mail about it' is written in the info for the re-release of this one and only demo from swedish black metalheads **Marduk**. Beside the stupid cover and intro it's a very good release, 12 minutes (including intro/outro) of dark swedish death metal with a clear black metal voice, a cool mixture. I even think that 'Fuck me Jesus' is **Marduk**'s best piece of music...and if you listen to their newest full-length 'Opus nocturne' you don't think that it's done by the same band as on the demo, it's such a big difference! 'Fuck me Jesus' is the darkest **Marduk** release so far!

DEATHCORE - Monobrow

It seems that **Deathcore** completely lost their 'metal' roots which they had on their debut-album 'Spontaneous Underground'! Hardcore fans will probably love this album, but I guess there aren't any hardcore fans reading this kind of Zine (at least I hope so). But I have a great respect for **Deathcore** doing their own thing since their beginning (somewhere in the 80s) and their style is luckily not too U.S.-like! 25 DM for this CD to: P.O Box 2051, 67346 Speyer, Germany

ACHERON -Satanic Victory

(Lethal Records)

'Satanic Victory' is a fine piece of heavy satanic death metal the american way. This mini CD was released before the 'Lex Talionis' album, but there are not too much differences between those releases. **Acheron** is a good example that death metal was meant to be 'dark' and obscure, not just a 'fun' thing. You'll get twenty minutes of traditional death with a good voice, so why not checking this one out?

NAKED WHIPPER - Painstreaks

(M.M.L.)

Naked Whipper fom Germany seem to be a black metal band if you look at their outer appearance...a converted cross in the logo, a Chris' Thorncross' Moyaen frontcoverdesign (goat with a whip), etc. but musically they are more death/grind stuff, **Blasphemy** meets old **Napalm Death** or something like that, always very fast and damaged. This debut CD feature eleven studio tracks and the same tracks in a live version (!!!).



'A Tribute to the Black Emperors'

It took long time before these legendary recordings of Dead's former swedish band **Morbid** got pressed deep into the black vinyl...and some japanese guys took command and managed to do it (like **Morbid Angel's** 'Abomination of Desolation', released with original sound and cover on japanese 'Satanic Records'). This record here is dedicated to both **Dead** and **Euronymous**, the two most important black metal warriors of the new wave of black metal. The **Mayhem** side presents nothing new, three live songs (from their 'Live In Leipzig' LP) and 'Necrolust' from the 'Deathcrush' EP, so we should better talk about **Morbid**. This band played old fashioned thrash with several death metal elements, nothing special, but the highlight is of course **Dead's** voice. Five songs (from their 'December Moon' demo) that have a normal sound and a strong (old) **Slayer** touch. Did you know that **Uffe** who nowadays plays in **Entombed** handled the guitars at **Morbid**. Hard to imagine, especially when you think of the last **Entombed** album 'Wolvering Blues' (which pretty sucks). Time changes! Formerly this split album was very limited, but it seems that they've repressed this album again in a huge edition (now also available on CD). The temptation of money seems to be without any moral, especially when it comes to **Mayhem / Morbid**, because nobody is responsible for those bands anymore and there's no control about the releases. It's really a shame that people earn money out of the work of others (who are dead now). I accept this release as a strict limited bootleg, but not as regular record!



Mayhem from left to right... **Euronymous**, **Hellhammer**, **Dead** and **Necrobutter**!

demotapes

RAGNAROK

'Et Vinterland I Nord'

This is only a one-track tape, but it gives me a good introduction of this new norwegian band. Viking metal is what they are doing, but musicically they don't differ too much from black metal bands, **Ragnarok** are just caring a bit more about nice melodies. Their demo must be out now, so write for info: Ragnarok, Box 489, 1701 Sarpsborg, Norway.

MATANBOUKOUS

'Hell's sober comeback'

Very interesting music is what these two guys from **Matanboukous** play, always with a lot of variation! Sometimes it's fast death metal ahead, but also acoustic guitar parts and sung parts they were not afraid to do. Although this is probably a mixture of several styles, **Matanboukous** music doesn't sound chaotic and that makes this band interesting. You have to listen to those six songs a couple of time before you get used to it. Cool work guys...\$ 5 to: Diabolical Priest, 79, rue du gue des grues, 28260 Sorel Mousseil, France.

FROZEN SOULS-Flesh in Armour

Heavy death metal with a messy sound, sometimes very fast, sometimes very doomy. The music is ok, some original ideas are included. They have a 7" inch out now as I've seen a flyer for it...and they're now dedicated to 'true satanic aryan black metal'...(did I hear anybody saying 'trend'?). I guess so and beside that they now seem to be a pure nazi horde as their flyer is now dressed by the old german Svastika eagle, so it's up to you whether you want to support this band or not. For my concern they can fuck off...but there are always some people using the nazi image in order to feel more malicious, the time of being evil only with using satanism is over...people got used to it and the 'shock-effect' is already gone. Their tape costs \$ 6 (\$7 world): F.S., Postfach 150563, 67030 Ludwigshaven, Germany.

DARK HERESY - Diabolus In Musica

Total strange stuff, but very professionally done. It's a fact that this band knows to play their instruments, but their style of death metal is a bit too 'groovy' for my taste. It's not easy to explain their music, because I haven't heard such a style before. It is a well-produced demo and has a printed cover and is one of the better tapes, but musically it's a question of individual taste. I personally think that they could have added more power to their music. Seven songs are on 'Diabolus In Musica' and I hope that \$ 5 will be ok for the demo: Kola, 188 Stephendale Road, London SW6 2PW, England.

EREVOS - MY BLACK DESIRES (promo'94)

Everos is the side project of **Agatus**' Prince Korthnag' and is total different music. Well, it became a bit trendy to do 'non-metal' projects à la **Mortiis** inside the black metal scene, but I think it's a good development...musicians get more creative and can prove their musical abilities with other music beside metal. **Everos** is very atmospheric, proud but also melancholic mystical music with a medieval touch. Flutes dominate the whole creations and Prince Korthnag has written some great melody lines for it...it's a pleasure to listen to this two track tape. I'm sure that everyone of you will like the **Everos** stuff, so it's not a risk to pay \$ 5 for it. At the beginning of 1996 a full-length CD should be out by this band, so keep your eyes open for it. Prince Korthnag, AG. Marinis 4, 123 51 Egaleo, Athens, Greece. You can also get the new **Agatus** two track promo for \$ 5!



Poland seems to be very strong concerning black metal, just think of bands like **Behemoth**, **Graveland**, **Infernum**, etc. and I'm sure that soon **Thy Infinite Kingdom** can also be counted to one of the strongest forces in polish black metal. The tape I got from **THY KINGDOM COME**'s 'Haal' is only a rehearsal tape, but there's no need for a studiotape in order to detect the qualities this new band has. Black metal with a lot of harmonic synth work and good ideas. I don't know if this tape is for sale (ask Haal), but never mind as a CD is going to be released through **NAZGUL**'s **EYRIE PROD.** anyway. It's going to be an interesting piece of music!

Chained And Desperate

'Greaving for the lost Sun'

A four track demo I got here from this good greek band and their music can be labeled as typical 'hellenic' due to the influences from bands like **Rotting Christ**, **Varathron**. But this band is more melodic and harmonic (even acoustic guitars can be heard), the only rough thing at **Chained And Desperate** are the vocals, but nothing more. Greek metal reminds me often at classical heavy metal and that's great! This tape has good sound and music, all well-structured and very easy to listen to. 23 minutes of simple but effective doom/death harmonies for just \$ 4: **Chained & Desperate**, Chris. Smiritis 59, 185 47 New Faliro, Greece.

ESOTERIC

Arrgh...this is hard to take, the most depressive deathdoom I have ever heard, **Winter** (great band) in contrary sound like a happy band. This well-produced demo has eight songs, I really ask myself who will 'survive' this whole tape ??? A very cultic band I suppose **Esoteric** must be for die-hard doomsters, but toooo heavy for me. Check their double CD out on **AESETHIC DEATH**. This demo costs \$ 5 at: **Esoteric**, 19 Fairmead Rise, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8BS, England.

CERNUNNOS' WOODS - Promo

Obscure abyssic music from the U.S.A. that has nothing to do with 'metal'. But this stuff isn't too familiar with darkwave...it's more pure atmosphere stuff with flute-like sounds, deep drums. Darkness and obscurity creeps out of my speakers



Again some cool original black metal from swedish **Unpure** and it's nearly in the same vein as their second tape. The sound isn't the very best one, but at least the six songs which are included are really enjoyable...I especially like the old ugly touch, but **Unpure**'s 'ugliness' is of course different than **Darkthrone**'s...not so extreme. Well, still **Unpure** haven't got a deal as far as I know, but I hope that soon a label will show interest in the band! One thing I can't understand is that **Kolgrim** still hasn't released some of his unreleased songs which he has recorded me about two years ago, because especially that songs are extremely cool. For demo 3 (six songs) send \$ 5 to: **Unpure**, Valthornsvägen 9C, 149 50 Nynäshamn, Sweden. They've also great quality T-Shirts out (black shirt with white logo) for \$ 17!

and it's very monotonous (but great), a sort of ritual music! I think it's very enjoyable and the right music for a foggy cold night. These three creations (done by **Bard Algot Eriboas**, who also does the **MAGGOT COLONNY Zine**) you can get for \$ 4 at: **Cernunnos'** Woods, 110278 Village Road, MN 55318, U.S.A.

MISCREANT - Dreaming Ice

(Promo from WRONG AGAIN Records)

Let's hope that **Miscreant** are going to release their excellent music on CD/LP soon as I got this tape from swedish **WRONG AGAIN Records**. They make emotional refreshing metal music with a lot of different faces, something between heavy / power and gothic metal. Sometimes they sound like **Tiamat/ Cradle of Filth** (due to the deep spoken vocals) and old forgotten bands like **Helstar**. I think **Miscreant** are one of the swedish bands that wants to put the old heavy metal spirit of the 80s into their music beside the new elements. So watch out for their album...if there'll be one.

MYSTERIES

If you like the old **Burzum** stuff (just a bit more primitive) then you'll certainly like this band. **Mysteries** play the simply kind of black metal that **Grishnackh** used to play on his first album...same goes out for the vocals. This tape has a good sound and features four songs that sometimes force you to headbang. Not original but cool stuff. For price and band contact write to: **Samoth**, P.O.Box 19, 88-106 Inowroclaw 11, Poland

BLACK BALLOON - III

Death metal with a strong thrash spirit, very well payed and sometimes even technical. The sound is also nice and the things I like mosz are some rhythms and the vocals. Healthy life metal, DM 10 at **Stefan Münster**, Steinrüttschstr. 21, 52152 Simmerath, Germany. Tel.02473/2576

SILENT - Demo

'Rising from the remains of thrash comes **SILENT**... is written on **SILENT**'s flyer for their demotape! At the first look (4 - coloured cover), professional design, etc... it is very promising but I think **SILENT**'s definition of 'thrash' is not the same as mine. On their 6-track (well-produced) demo I find some **M.O.D.** - influences, combined with melodic parts and a (for my taste) too hardcore-like voice! This is nothing I like, sorry guys. To me true thrash must sound like **SLAYER**, **KREATOR**, **WHIPLASH**, **DESTRUCTION**, etc...People who are interested send \$6/40 Kr. to: **Lars Nedland**, Haakon Den Godesv. 19, 4633 Kristiansand, Norway.

AZATOTH - The Dawn

A swedish 5 - piece death metal outfit with five brutal deathercrushers! It's brutal stuff in the vein of **CANNIBAL CORPSE**, also some thrashing passages are included, but it's not that bad at all as it's a powerful tape (5 songs) with good production! **AZATOTH** has played 25 - 30 gigs (!) until now with bands like **OBSCURITY**, **NECROPHOBIC**, **MORPHEUS**, etc...so this here is no 'only studio band'! \$3 is not too much for this demo: **Raza Anjam**, Edingekroken 13, 16363 Spanga, Sweden.

Sleeping Gods - The die is cast

Gothic death à la old **Paradise Lost**, this is the best description for this german bands' music. Five songs, good sound, nice ideas...For interest send \$6 to: **Tim Siebrecht**, Hannoversche Str. 29a, 34266 Niestetal, Germany

NEBELBURG - 'Verdamnis'

Another new black metal horde from Germany with their debuttape and they play in the vein of their norwegian idols. But wait, **Nebelburg's** music is very good, very cold sound and good riffs, this is one of the better german demos. **Burzum**, **Darkthrone** and **Emperor** seem to be the main influence for this new band...and with seven infernal songs (with a good sound) it has a total playing time of 36 minutes. \$ 7 or DM 10 to: Jan Tappert, Vossweg 4, 59348 Lüdighausen, Germany.

'Transcend the Dark Chaos'

Centinex throws me back in time where swedish death metal was still very popular, because this band has this kind of style on their new well-produced tape! It's very great to hear a band still doing this kind of death metal as such bands became rare nowadays. **Centinex** are not just a clown band as they have some very original ideas on this 4 track strong tape, but the certain old **Entombed**, **Carnage**, etc influence can't be denied. Recorded in Unisound studio. \$ 5 to: Martin Schulman, Winqvistsg. 6, 77630 Hedemora, Sweden

CABAL - Obsessed to deify

If you are looking for pure death metal, then you simply have to check out **Cabal** from Germany. This band will completely satisfy you with their healthy kind of death. Especially the vocals are very great, a mixture out of **Sempiternal** **Deathreign** and probably **Pentacle**. The music has its own identity (beside the song 'All things dead' which sounds like **Morbid Angel's** 'Blessed are the sick') and is straight ahead stuff. For this tape (five songs) write to MERCILESS Records who also released the **Cabal/Ungod** split EP.



A one track promo again, this time from a new band called **Malignant Eternal**. This track 'Vanished Winds' is very unusual for norwegian standard as it sounds very melodic (but not emotional). Some fast parts are also included and they used a lot of synths to bring the atmosphere, but all in all it's strange stuff...black metal (guitars and voice) meets friendly melodies. Their self-financed 'tarnet' debut CD (six tracks) will be out soon. For info write: Torgrim Oyre, Box 662, N-5401 Stord, Norway.

PROFANITY - The transitory

A combination out of melancholy, death and thrash metal is **Profanity's** music and they even aren't too shy to use a lot of acoustic parts to give this demo a special touch. It's good music (well-played and produced) and 'The Transitory' is a good start for this five-piece band. Four songs, six acoustic intros...sorry, but again I don't know the exact price for this: Thomas Sartor, Steinfeldstr. 8, 8605 Meitingen, Germany. (Tel. 08271/5127)

CEMETARY OF SCREAM

Melancholy
(Gamma Records)

Yes, there's a touch of 'melancholy' in **Cemetery of Scream's** music, and I'm sure that everyone into early **The Gathering** or **Crematory** (the german) will find this band interesting. The quality of this tape is really good (four-coloured cover and professional sound) and I really don't know if this is just a demo or a full-length album on cassette! It's an album if you ask me...it's a touch too professionally done. Well, you'll get nine songs plus intro/outro, so a long playing time is guaranteed. For price ask...Lukasz Kawecki, Reymonta 40/8, 40-038 Katowice, Poland.

Hermh - Promo'95

(Witchin' Hour Prod.)

Usual death/black metal with an harmonic touch here and there, but finally it doesn't convince me too much. It's not a bad tape as the guys know to play...perhaps I'm the wrong guy to review this band. \$ 4 to the same address as above!

Inverus Hobiscum

'In the shadows of the wintertrees'

No! How are bands like this one here daring to release a tape with such a horrible noisy sound? I would feel ashamed if I demand money for this shit. Perhaps their style of black metal isn't that bad, but how the hell can I judge this when I can't hear the riffs clearly? This tape costs \$ 5: L.Lensey, Am Hüttenkrug 4, 37574 Einbeck / Drüber, Germany



Does anybody remember **Demoniac** from **TALES OF THE MACABRE # 1**? Well, this is the same band just with a new name...but musically it hasn't changed that much. Medieval black metal with some nice ideas, but this rehearsal tape is again suffering from a bad sound (like in **Demoniac** times). Well, at least the sound is a bit better than the one from the above reviewed german band...ten songs are included and if you're interested send \$ 5 to: Moonblood, c/o M.Schmat, Dost-Str. 7, 08289 Schneeberg, Germany.

DARK WOODS AND BETROTHED

- Dark Ancestral Gathering

Some of you might know this demotile already from another band, but don't worry. **Dark Woods My Betrothed** is only the new name for **Virgin's Cunt**, but the music on the tape remained the same. These three piece band from Finland play some well produced and played black metal that reminds me heavily at **Emperor** with the typical high sounding guitars and keyboard. They do their job pretty good and I see no reason for a black metal maniac not to get his hands on this one here. Four songs, printed cover...\$ 5 to: T. Kautonen, Rysätie 13, 82500 Kitee, Finland

SORCERER -Rehearsal

More german black stuff, but to my surprise I got something good this time. The tape contains three tracks (in the typical northern vein) that are well-arranged and with good melodies/ideas. Of course it's a rehearsal tape with the usual messy sound, but for an introduction of **Sorcerer** it's good. They are a three piece band with two session-musicians, so I guess that they're still searching for a permanent drummer and a keyboardplayer. As said the music is good and certainly not primitive, **Sorcerer** are on the right way to establish their name in the german underground (which isn't that difficult by the way!). You can contact **Sorcerer** at: 'Bael' Halupka, Pariser Str. 16, 97084 Würzburg, Germany.

Infernum - Promo'94

(Witchin' Hour Productions)

Get ready for some grim black metal when you enslave your ears to **Infernum**. It's a side-band of **Graveland** (as far as I heard) and those two bands are musically very similar as **Infernum** also add synth to their nordic sound. I really like the mystical evil atmosphere in **Infernum's** music, it forces you to intensify your feelings. If you want to be part of the band's magical character you should (again) write to Lukasz' address....I have no

songtitles, but I'm sure that this is the 'Damned Majesty' tape, available for \$4! Soon the arrival of the first **Infernum** CD will come...pagan minds should be ready for it!



This tape here is the only one in this issue which isn't for sale, but I still like to review it just to inform you that you can expect a great album by **Fleurety** this year. Yeah, they've signed to **MISANTHROPY / AESETHIC DEATH** for an album...and on this tape I got at least the instrumental version of **Fleurety's** forthcoming stuff. This is already enough for me in order to say that their album is going to be a masterpiece, but of course it will depend on the vocals whether people will like the band or not as Alexanders voice is incredibly high. **Fleurety** seem to be one of the most hated bands inside the norwegian scene (I don't know why!) and from **MISANTHROPY** Records sent me a copy of a anonymous letter from a norwegian guy saying that '...Fleurety is a band not accepted in the norwegian scene...A boycott of Misanthropy products is the least important thing that will happen if such a signing takes place.' Well, I also received a few letters asking me if I got money for praising **Fleurety** in my debut-issue, but the only thing I can say is that I absolutely support bands which sound very original and good (original doesn't always mean good, remember that!). I know that it's a 'love it or hate it' situation when it comes to **Fleurety's** music (due to the vocals), and I'm lucky that I belong to the ones who like to listen to the band's dark creations. But of course there'll ever be some ignorants out there not accepting great bands...there are a lot of examples I can mention you (one of them you can find in the **BATHORY** tribute when it comes to **MANOWAR**). At least I'm very looking forward to hearing the **Fleurety** album...



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compilationtapes

OVER THE EDGE

'Cradle Of The Damned'

'Over The Edge' distribution is responsible for the release of this sampler...and as you can guess from the title it features black metal stuff. Eleven different bands (i.e. **Unpure, Gorgoroth, Blasphemer, Thus Defiled, Moonspell,**...) are included here and I think that this tape is ok. With this tape comes a 'fact sheet' with full details about the bands featured on the tape. \$ 5 will be enough for this one. Over The Edge, Whistlestop, Grosvenor Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 211D, England.

Northern Wastelands - Vol.1

A norwegian compilation with a lot of pagan hymns from bands like **In The Woods...**, **Perished**, **Ancient** and **Obtained Enslavement**. Nine songs are plus an intro are included, good sound and good choice of songs. This

tape costs \$ 6 (Europe) and \$ 7 (elsewhere). You can also get the latest **Perished** demo (article see elsewhere) for the same price at the following address: OSIRIS Prod., Runden 9, 1930 Aurskog, Norway.

DIABOLICAL NETHERWORLD

'Volume II'

This diabolical compilation was made by Bill from CHILDREN OF COIN magazine (a zine totally in the ancient way, issue one must be out soon) and he really did a good choice of bands for this tape. The sound isn't always the hottest, but its finally the music which counts, isn't it? You'll get a hell full of bands like **Dungeon, Carpathian Forest, Runemagic, Grand Belial's Key, Pagan Rites, Zemial,** etc ... only demosongs were used! 18 songs you have to stand until you leave the Bill's diabolical netherworld again, and it's really a pleasure to listen to this tape. Price is \$5: Bill Connolly, 36 Victory St., Bridgeport, CT., 06606...USA.

CELTIC FROST

'Into The Crypts Of L'Amour'

Recorded 'live' in June'86 during the best period of **Celtic Frost**...and you'll get nearly all of their classics on this tape ('Morbid Tales', 'Jewel Throne', 'Into The Crypts Of Rays', etc. just to name a few). 13 live-songs, two rehearsal tracks and one LP song...all with an acceptable sound. It's really depressing to know that this great band is history now (or better siad since their disappointing 'Cold Lake' LP). \$ 5 at the Diabolical Netherworld address.

MORBID METAL

'Orchestrations for the damned'

And another compilation tape...but wait! This one features more doomy

stuff than black metal...just take a look at the choice of bands (**Mangled, Tristitia, Opera IX, As Sahar, Ancient,**...) Melinda did. 14 songs plus two intros/one outro...along with a printed cover and a good sound! This compilation tape is intereting due to the different kind of bands as not only scandinavian bands (with the usual **Bathory** sound) have been chosen for this tape. Price is \$ 5: Morbid Metal Distro and Rec., 6262 Del Rosa Ave # 111, San Bernardino, Ca., 92404 U.S.A.

'Into The Catachthonium Vol. 1'

This tape gives you a good presentation of all UNISOUND bands like **Mortuary Drape, Rotting Christ, Uncanny, Necromass, Malicious Onslaught, Thou Art Lord,** etc (eight bands) and this promo cassette has been guaranteed to every greek METAL HAMMER reader (18.000 copies were given away), so if anybody of you has interest in that tape, then include IRC and write to: UNISOUND, 84, Acadimias Ave., 106 78 Athens, Greece.

7' inches

BELPHEGOR - Obscure and deep

A self financed 7'inch by those austrian slaughterers from **Belphegor**. Two own tracks and a coverversion of **Black Sabbath's** 'Sabbath Bloody Sabbath', pure brutality! It seems that **Cannibal Corpse** is the main influence for **Belphegor's** sound (they also did a coverversion of 'an old **Black Sabbath** song on their 'Hammer Smashed Face' MLP). You can get this 7'inch for \$ 7 at: BELPHEGOR, St. Jakob 2, 5412 Puch, Austria. This single comes in blue vinyl!

FLEURETY - A Darker Shade Of Grey (Aesthetic Death Records)

In issue one I already lost some words about these two tracks...and here they are finally available on vinyl form. MALICIOUS records should have been the label to put this 7'inch on the market, but after some problems the english label AESTHETIC DEATH helped out. So those people who look for an original infestation of darkness into music have to experience this release. Cool coverartwork, an expression that **Fleurety** are a band with an individual character. Extreme vocals!!!



'Carnivoracity' (M.M.L)

Spanish brutal deathers **Avulsed** here with a brandnew three track crusher. Great death metal with abnormally deep vocals. One of the song is a coverversion of old **Pentagram** from Chile (remember their 7'inch on **CHAINSAW MURDER** records). Good work guys!

IMPIETY - Salving the goat (Shivadarshana Rec.)

Like **Abhorer** these three insane maniacs hail from Singapore and they are also playing a sort of satanic death metal, very intense and brutal! I think they totally sound like **Abhorer** did on their split album, perhaps this is due to the same 'production', but I really like the way **Impiety** desecrate their bloody instruments. The image seems to be a bit too 'nasty' with songtitles like 'Cuntblasphemy' and the statement they made on the backcover: 'To all norwegian black metal clowns, we desecrate your so called northern kingdom & sky of white falseness...afterwhich we baptise all of you in piss!' Well, not too 'tasty' in my opinion, but I think at least their music doesn't suck. People who long for harmonies and atmosphere are totally wrong here, this is sheer exotic blasphemy!



After some delays the first 7'inch from MALICIOUS Records is out...**Strid** from Norway play of course music in the typical northern way, but their music is dominated by synths...and the guitars are more in the background. Therefore it's very atmospheric stuff and will easily slip into the listerners ears. There's a lack of variety in my opinion...the tempo is always the same, but all in all it's a good release. The price for it is \$ 7 at the MALICIOUS address.



'The Revelation of higher Mysteriis' (Teutonic Existence Records)

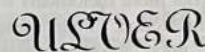
Good old thrash with screamy vocals...reminding me a lot at **Bathym / Sathanas**, only with the difference that these four greek thrashers are more melodic and less noisy. **Deviser** has been around since '89, so you see they're not one of those new 'one year-old' bands. Two good tracks plus an intro...packed in a full-coloured cover (which isn't usual for a 7'inch). \$ 6 (?) to: Twan Kreeft, Grotiusplantsoen 23, 5121 TR Rijen (N.B.), The Netherlands.

GUT - Pussified (M.M.L)

Primitive from old **Carcass** influenced death, not bad but nothing special! Cool intros!



&



(Necromantic Gallery Productions)

A split-single featuring two different sounding norwegian bands. **Ulver's** song starts with a cool acoustic part which later turns into a bit confused kind of viking metal (or something like that). **Mysticum** are more original with their strange combination of they typical northern sound with ultrafast percussion (made by computer) plus the untypical kind of vocal (more thrash-like). This band has a special touch, but I'm personally not too fond of using the drumcomputer the way **Mysticum** does...it's too fast in order to sound 'natural'! This single comes in a beautiful coloured cover...great!

Black Tears Distribution

Black Tears is a small, but dedicated distribution catering for **Black/Death/Doom** bands from around the globe. If you're looking for top quality goods then drop me a line, with a SAE/IRC and I'll send you a current list of items in stock. This is especially open to UK residents. It saves you having to get those \$'s for overseas demos!

I only deal with bands that I am 100% into, and have good relations with. Therefore, any bands/sines reading this flyer, don't send your material direct to me for distro, I will contact you if I am interested in what you're doing. That doesn't stop you contacting me and having a chat. So, everybody that's not interested in bullshit and trends, just good extreme music, get in touch.

Contact: Russ Smith, 6 Elderfield Rd, Stoke Poges, Slough, Berks, SL2 4DE, England.

Demoreviews

INQUISITION
"Krank"

First as I saw the cover of this tape (childish hospital drawing with crayons) I thought someone wanted to fool around with me, but to my surprise some high quality music is hidden behind this quite untypical cover. This demo has a great sound (mastered) and features about 55 minutes of experimental death metal with several influences like thrash, gothic, punk and even some funky parts. Well, sometimes it's good, sometimes it's horrible (especially side B). You can get this tape for DM 15/ ATS 80, but as I said before it's very experimental stuff...Thomas Kaindl, Obere Bahnhofstr. 9, 2752 Wöllersdorf, Austria.

MALEDICTION
"Through the Gate"

After you are 'through the gate', then await some doomy death metal with a good sound. It's dark stuff with a lot of heaviness, very simple but total effective...and that's great. Some people will find this demo more or less boring, but I think people who like a mixture out of **Grave** (voice) and **Winter** (but more melodic) will get their satisfaction. Four songs, good sound, good music...available for 5 DM (Germany) and \$ 4 (world). Michael Mayr, Kapellenweg 2, 86859 Holzhausen, Germany. Their second demo will soon be out, so write for info. Their music sounds very honest!

BUNDESWEHRA
King's Return

Yes, it's the return of polish **Bundeswehra** after their split LP with **Nergal**...and their return is very good. The band's own definition of black metal isn't a usual one, their music sounds like a mixture out of northern black (guitar sound), thrash (speed), death (voice), folklore (some synth parts), etc. so you see, not a usual mixture! The first song 'March to Totenhorn' sounds very majestic and proud, but the other songs are more usual kind of stuff, sometimes very fast, sometimes very traditional metal orientated. The sound is good (studio), seven tracks are included. I don't know if this is a demo or an album cassette (prof. printed cover, with photos, etc), also I don't know the price for this good release. Better write to: Pilot, ul. Dabrowskiego 6/13, 89-200 Szubin, Poland.

Album reviews

BELIAL - 4
(Witchhunt Records)

It seems that there's a 'New Wave Of Finnish Wimp Out'...former death metal bands suddenly change their style into hardrock or something like that. I never thought that **Belial** would have such a strong change of style on their now third album...it's unbelievable!!! Heavy Rock with some L.A. glam influences, some fuckin' hardcore elements and **Pearl Jam/ Alice In Chains** vocal-arrangements... what a disappointment! I've no mercy left for

good old death metal bands who betray the style which made them popular. **Belial** made an unforgivable mistake, they should better change their bandname now in order not to irritate the old fans.

PAZUZU - And all was silent
(Head Not Found)

'A black mass of unholy ceremonial necrospirituals' is written on the flyer...and yes, it's the right description for this ritual music. Like it was already said in the interview it's non-metal, but the strength of this CD is the variety! A dark feeling is guaranteed when listening to the music... Well, what else should I write? Just check this masterpiece!

ESOTERIC

'Epistemological Despondency'
(Aesthetic Death Records)

Who the fuck is going to survive this band? The demo was quite hard to

take, but this debut album is (believe it or not) even more extreme! The most depressive death/doom ever...and in order to give you the final step to your suicide this is a DoCD release. All death doomsters can celebrate a new cult band, the others only are left to suffer!

GRAVELAND - The Celtic Winter
(Melissa Productions)

This is the follower of 'In The Glare Of the burning Churches' and is mainly in the same style, only with the difference that this tape is more melodic. There's a big **Emperor** influence in their music and I'm sure that most of you will like it... This review is based on the cassette version which has five tracks(+ intro/outro), the MCD in contrary has only three tracks as far as I know.



DESPISE

You wonder about the picture, don't you? No painted faces, spikes, black clothes etc. very unusual in these times, but **Despise** really don't fit into any of today's trends as they simply play the good old thrash metal the way we used to love it a couple of years ago.

They started in late'86 and they already had the chance to do a track ('Spewn out from Hell') for a compilation LP called 'Greece Attacks - Vol. I' back in 1989. In the end of the same year the final line-up was formatted with Johnny (d), Maria (b) and (the only original member left) Makis (v/g), and with this line-up they started doing some gigs in their home country Greece. Once they had the chance to open for **D.R.I.**'s 'Live In Athens' in 1990.

In the year 1992 **Despise** finally managed to record some of their songs for their debut-demo 'State Of Brutality' in their very own studio...and I must say that this demo really makes old thrashers' hearts beat faster. Their thrash metal is absolutely **Slayer**-like and fuckin' well played. It seems that Kerry King and Jeff Hannemann themselves did the guitars for this **Despise** demo. 'State Of Brutality' is a highly professional tape with good sound, coloured cover and photos/lyrics, certainly one of the better demos. Well, they are **Slayer** clowns...but I don't care at all. If I would, then I also have to hate eternally great bands like **Infernal Majesty**...and that would be pure blasphemy of old cult! One thing that could be stronger at **Despise** are Makis' vocals, but this doesn't mean that his voice sucks! I asked Makis if it isn't difficult to



survive as a thrash band in a time where only death/black metal seems to attract people...Makis: 'Today it might seem that death/black metal attracts people, but that hasn't affected us. As far as we're concerned, we're slowly trying to expand our horizons without really losing our thrash roots which are still alive for us. Besides, a lot of today's successful bands who play different styles of music have based their style on thrash, even if that is difficult to distinguish sometimes. As for us, it's more important to play really well and through your heart, as there will always be people who will be touched by your music.' I really hope so for **Despise**, because Thrash is dead nowadays (beside bands like **Razor** and of course the immortal **Slayer** who are still sticking to their music) an probably especially because of that fact people are again hungry for good thrash, I don't know?! So returning to Makis...what is **Despise**'s inner desire? Makis: 'First, we'd like to record a real good LP

with our new material, go on a few tours presenting it and generally speaking, to achieve for our music the biggest reception possible from the audience in future.' From a previous letter I know that there're still a lot of unreleased songs and I think it would be great to release them on LP as the stuff might carry a true thrash feeling, so prepare yourself for **Despise**'s upcoming Thrash Attack. The 'State Of Brutality' demo costs \$ 5 which is not too much for this quality tape. Write the band at: **DESPISE 104** Kountouriouou st., Galatsi 111 - 46, Athens, Greece.



Abigor are the first austrian black metal band with an album out (see review) and it's a fine masterpiece of nordic styled music. I don't know too much about the band's history, only that they've released 3 or 4 demos before they recorded their CD, but in contrary to most german black metal bands Abigor know to make quality music. After some line-up problems they took Summoning's Silenius as vocalist for the CD...but only as a session member? T.T. explains: *We never used a session vocalist, Silenius is a constant Abigor member and adds much power to our music.* Yes, his vocals are extreme, that's for sure...and so is the whole music. Especially when it comes to the musical side of Abigor I think they've dedicated themselves to the nordic style... *That's not what we do, we just play without the determination to sound like any other band. I know we sound more like some northern bands, but everyone gives us great reviews, because we have our own style without copying othe bands. But you're right, too, some reasons for parallels...a) I listen to black metal since 1982 and so I have some primary influences (Venom, Bathory, etc) b) Austria's landscape (forest, mountains, lakes) and the snowy winter are also inspiration and are not very different (just think of the alps) to some of Norway's nature c) we're influenced by our ancestors' culture and lifestyle and that were teutons (Markomannen here), vikings were the northern teutons so we have the same origins d) last but not least we listen to many bands from Norway, especially to Enslaved, Thorns, Mayhem, and that's, if we want it or not, an influence.* I agree with you in point d), but the origins don't matter, because a music style is (in my opinion) only a question of other bands' influences (in Norway Mayhem, in Greece Rotting Christ) and the expression of your own feelings transformed into music. But continuing with my questions I wanted to know why Abigor quitted the membership in the great austrian black metal syndicate... *I don't consider them as great, we split because our thoughts didn't go conform. We found the 'Circle Of Hate' that is in contact with some serious international organizations (serious fascists? ed.). All the A.B.M.S. does are 100s of side and soloprojects (which are fucking great ed.), I won't say more, but we are not in contact anymore. Also it's no problem that Silenius is in Summoning and we are not in contact anymore. Also it's no problem that Silenius is in Summoning and Pazuzu, because he doesn't care for anybody but himself, he's totally neutral.* Well, there seems to be no good air between Abigor and the A.B.M.S. anymore, but I guess you can imagine why, can't you? So what can we expect from Abigor in future? *'Our minis CD' 'Onkblut The Retaliation' will be released soon, also we have many new songs for the second full length album. No gigs...* So those who liked 'Verwüstung...' can look forward to hearing new stuff from Abigor in 1995 on Napalm Rec.!

ABIGOR, c/o T.T., Römersthalg, 7/30 31, 1110 Wien, Austria



Fjell sounds as if this band comes from Norway, right? But you are wrong...this is a band from Bavaria in Germany, but one thing they have in common with most of the norwegian hordes...Fjell play black metal. Their proof for this is their 'Lord of the unholy forest' featuring four songs plus intro with a fuckin' messy sound quality, but what I can hear through the noise is good (the intro is stupid)...black metal with some typical death metal arrangements (use of double bass for instance). The voice is screamy and the music taken as a whole result is quite sounding northern. The riffs that Fjell are more morbid than melodic and that's good...this makes the music sound harder, colder! They must be a cool live-band as I heard, so probably Fjell aren't just a one day fly! Well, I have heard of a new demotape which was planned, but haven't seen yet any flyer for it. For this demo (bad sound, bad cover but cool music) write to...Hraesvelgr, Scheizerbers 8, 87700 Memmingen, Germany.



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The 3rd and the Mortal

One of the most original and promising bands during the last time must be this line-up from Norway, but they've nothing in common with the usual death / black metal music which we usually know to appear from this country. THE 3RD AND THE MORTAL are just taking care of emotional, dreamy and calm music and they do their job perfectly, just listen to their newest release 'Tears Laid In Earth'. The only weapons they use to create this magical music are three guitars, bass, drums and the heavenly female vocals...this makes their music sound so natural! In Norway they're quite famous, but world-wide seen they're still very unknown and that's the reason why I decided to write Finn Olav (guitars) for an interview...



How came the idea to found The 3rd And The Mortal...and what happened in the time before your 'Sorrow' EP came out?

'The 3rd... was formed in easter 1992. We had all been in different bands before, but we discovered that this had to be the thing for all of us.'

Your new album is even more emotional than 'Sorrow', so what is the reason for this development?

'I don't believe that it's a special reason for this, it's the most natural way for us to go.'

In the past you didn't have much promotion through Lines although your music is really original. Do you think this is because you are probably not 'metallic' enough or just because you don't fit into any category?

'To be honest we didn't have much contact with Lines and the underground until we got signed to Metalion's HEAD NOT FOUND, so I guess that's the main reason.'

I noticed that you once were shown in norwegian TV... Was it an important experience in the band's history and did it pay out for you? Who offered you to play in TV?

'We played on a show called 'Bootleg' which is a show for more alternative music. And it was a good experience, but it didn't exactly pay out in a big way.'

Isn't it difficult to come on one 'level' when it comes to create the ideas for the songs? Aren't there often disagreements as you are a six-piece-band?

'We have our fair cher of disagreements, but it always works good'

Yes, of course I know that...

It's really rare that a band has a female singer, even if it has become trendy to use female vocal elements. Why did you decide to use only female vocals for your music? Do you think it's more emotional?

'It's definitely more emotional and sensual. A band with five men and one woman, isn't it difficult to switch off the (quite natural) sexual urges which (if you like it or not) exist?'

'No, that's not a problem at all.'

Again a very detailed answer (...). Musically your inspirations seem to be far reaching... a bit of norwegian folklore, an oriental touch ('Shaman'), some metal elements... Which things (musically seen) were / are important for your emotional, mystical sound?

'Our way of thinking! We have so many inspiration sources that it's no point in naming just a few.'

Your music sounds very natural (in contrary to fuckin' dark wave music), so am I right that your relationship to nature is strong? How is the area around Trondheim and are you often consciously experiencing nature?

'We like the nature, but it's not like we're living in the woods or anything like that. But we're glad to have it around us and in that way our music becomes a bit organic.'

Which time of the year is your most favoured one? Why?

'The winter, because it's so cold and such shitty weather that the only good thing is to make music.'

Do you think that your songwriting changes

with the seasonal moods?

'Yes, a little bit but not much.'

How will you promote your new album and do you think it will take much time before you again will enter the studio?

'We are probably entering the studio in 1995.' So it seems that he doesn't want to promote their new album, his short answers are probably a proof for this?! Coming to the last question: Why did you especially choose Head Not Found as your label and do you think that this small (but excellent) label is able to manage everything at The 3rd... the way you expect them to do?

'Things just turned out the way they did and the work between us works out fine.'

At the end I only want to give you the advice to check out this superb band and I'm quite sure that this music will attract most of you readers if you like emotional music. I completely understand why HEAD NOT FOUND signed this excellent six-piece band... Got yourself an impression of THE 3RD AND THE MORTAL.

EP 'Sorrow' \$ 15, EP 'Tears Laid In Earth' \$ 22, T-Shirt 'Black with red print on front' \$ 15, T-Shirt 'New black with two sided print. Tears - logo and picture' \$ 15, Poster (A2) two different designs \$ 7 each

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Visions from

Usurper

the Gods

Black metal is mainly a European thing as the forefathers like Venom, Bathory and Hellhammer plus the bands who revived that style like Smael, Mayhem, Darkthrone, etc came from Europe, but this doesn't mean that other countries don't have some interesting bands. As a good example I want to present you Usurper from Chicago, a three-piece band dedicated to 'old-school metal' as they call it, and relating to their info they are not concerned with being the fastest, goriest or most extreme, they are only concerned with writing heavy, memorable songs. This should be the answer to all the hundreds of American gory death metal bands (I guess) and it's for sure that Usurper aren't just another 'new' black/death metal outfit. ...just listen to their newest demo 'Visions From The Gods' and you'll know what I mean. It included four excellent produced songs (LP quality) which could be described as a mixture out of old bands like Celtic Frost, Venom and newer ones like Morbid Angel and Darkthrone (at 'A Blaze...' times), but Usurper haven't the 'evil' touch like most bands with those influences mentioned above, these three guys are more busy with sounding heavy instead of creating a special satanic



metal public or even some good bands... Years ago, before it became a trend it was cool, there were many cool bands in Chicago. Not too many clubs would have shows, but there was a small, strong following. Now times have changed, many of the pioneers of the Chicago scene no longer exist. Death metal shows are a dime a dozen, nearly every club has death metal concerts because it's a big trend. All these trendy kids who either hated extreme metal, or didn't know it existed back then, are in second rate cheesy death/grind bands now. The scene in Chicago is way overcrowded with fools. We want nothing to do with the trendy modern Chicago death/grind scum." Well, I think Usurper have the right to say this as they have been together in various forms since 1987. So what will happen at Usurper after they sold all demos? I think that something on vinyl / CD would be cool...Seythe again: "We are almost out of the first pressing of 'Visions From The Gods' (1st pressing was 600 copies), we will at least release 600 more before we release anything new. We went into the studio in Dec '94 to record two songs and in February '95 to record two more songs. We will release these songs in

mood or something like that. The most distinctive character at Usurper are the vocals which sound like Tom Warrior's (just a bit deeper and not so natural, but he manages to do the Tom Warrior's 'Uhh' very well) and like the rough vocals of Hallow's Eve (if anybody remembers this old band). It's difficult to see Usurper among other black/death metal bands, but this is probably the band's advantage...Seythe's (guitars/bass) comment to this: "Nobody is really doing what we're doing right now in any scene. We just play what we want to hear. I don't know if there is an advantage to that we don't care either." A simple statement, but of course musicians should do the music for themselves first. But why did they decide to play in the old vein of metal instead of creating a new style? How important are the 80s for Usurper? Seythe again: "Our approach is similar to the old vein of metal, however we intertwine a lot of bizarre elements as well. Compared to what's going on in metal now, we have a somewhat unique sound. The bands from the early eighties underground metal movement were the originators of black/death metal. Any new bands who don't know and respect the bands from that era are posers! That's the true shit." Yes, I absolutely agree with his attitude, but it seems that especially in the U.S.A. bands often don't care about the old bands anymore if you ask me, just listen to their music and you'll simply feel it. So it was obvious for me to ask Seythe about the scene in Chicago and if there is any extreme



Summer 1995 either as an EP on our own label or through a small underground label. It will probably be a 'vinyl only' release, very much in the same vein as 'Visions From The Gods', only darker and weirder. Total dark occult metal."

I really hope that they'll manage everything the way Seythe announced...and it's a total satisfaction for me to know that it's going to be a vinyl only release...now you CD freaks are fucked up this time !!! But you've read their demo is still available and I'm sure that everyone into 'old school metal' will like Usurper (the name is obviously taken from an old Celtic Frost song as most of you know). 'Visions From The Gods' costs \$ 5 and has a professionally printed cover (with pictures, etc) and if you order their tape don't forget to ask for the lyrics! Never forget the ancient spirit...check out Usurper!

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c/o USURPER
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U.S.A.

BUZZUM

'Read between the li(n)es'

BUZZUM is probably the most controversial band in heavy metal history until now. On the one hand Count Grishnackh (alias 'Varg' Vikernes) is a very talented musician with great songwriting abilities and individual style who made great albums (plus one maxi), on the other hand he is very extreme and dangerous as a person and, beside the churchburnings and the introduction and praising of fascism in interviews, finally ended the life of **MAVHEM**'s guitarist and leader of the inner circle Euronymous in August 1993. The shock value within the scene was big and Grishnackh finally got sentenced for 21 years in jail...but still he seems to be standing tall and getting more extreme with every new day. I got the chance to do this interview with him, but unlike most of the other fanzines I tried to ask some critical questions as this mag isn't a usual Zine where people can praise themselves as much as they like to, especially when it comes to extreme persons like the **BUZZUM** mainman...

How's your mental state behind bars and what are you doing to keep it ok?

Varg: My mental state? In one word: relaxed! Prison is no big deal, it is a temporary state of isolation, no need to change my mental state just because you get thrown into prison for some time. I do, more or less, the same as I did outside, only minor differences.

Business is going fine for BUZZUM as 'Hvis Fugset Tar Oss' sells like hell, so what are you going to do with the money you earn out of the sales? Is the financial advantage also existing in prison?

Varg: No financial advantage in prison, we only get what we get from the prison which is 25 NOK (about 5-6 USD), no private money allowed. I see no reason to initiate you or anyone else into my private economy. I see to it that money is spent wisely for matters I burn for.

The latest news we heard (from the Misanthropy Newsletter) is your side project 'LUSKJALM', totally not-metal as it was said, so please can you give some info about it? Why do you differ 'LUSKJALM' from BUZZUM?

Varg: Well, first of all 'LUSKJALM' is written 'LUSKJOLF'. It differs from **BUZZUM** simply because the burzonic suntohed has been fully covered. The number of **BUZZUM** is five, with the fifth album the circle is ended. 'LUSKJOLF' is obviously a different thing, so it differ from **BUZZUM** of that obvious reason. I see no reason to babble about it here, all who have any interest will be able to find out what it is when the first release is out anyway. It is music all right, that's all you need to know.

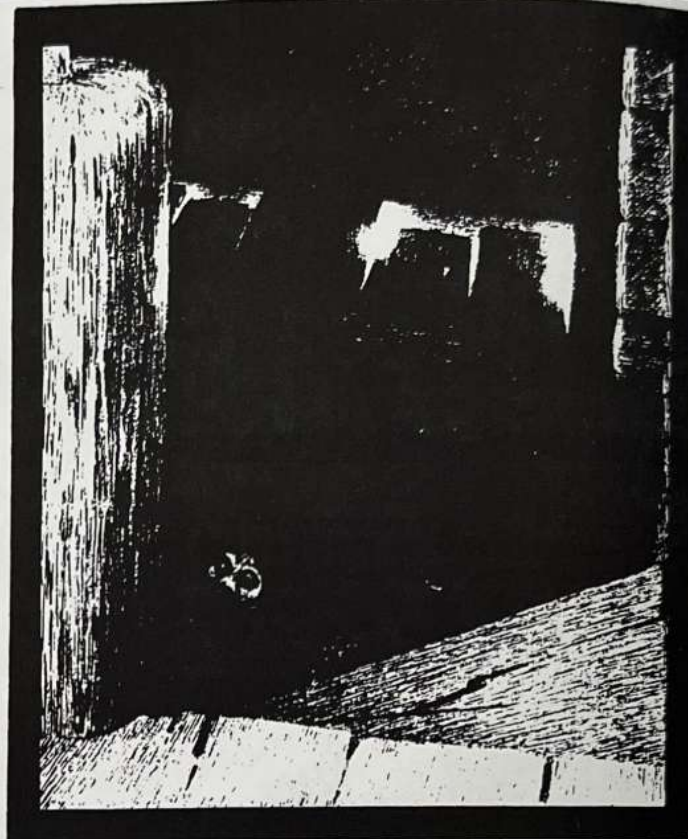
On one side BUZZUM is stronger than ever, but on the other side a sort of 'anti BUZZUM movement' is increasing and the first threats have already been done. Aren't you afraid that this movement will grow too powerful for you and that even some of BUZZUM's representative people will probably be in danger?

Varg: Weak men threaten, real men act. This 'movement' you are talking about is a bunch of homosexual losers who fell in love with Euronymous and hate me for killing their great love. I do not even think about them. I have more powerful foes than these weaklings. Fear is failure and hate is fear (hate is fear? -ed.), so that leave those who hate me no failures. Think about it.

If anybody want to kill any of the BUZZUM representatives let them try, I am sure that even the women at Misanthropy Records are more men than the weaklings who hate me for killing the pathetic Euronymous.

You call yourself an Odinist, but in old interviews (like the one in Finnish Hammer Of Damnation # 3) you didn't talk about viking cults and stuff like that, only about the usual hate, winter, no fun-themes...more vampyristic! What differs Count Grishnackh '91 from the Count of '95?

Varg: In 1991 a.y.p.s. we (who? -ed.) said a lot just to make people hate us, everybody hated what we said, so that's why we said it. We were fed up with all the scene and all the people in the scene, so we wanted to get away from it. Of course a lot of people view it as a sudden change or something like that, but actually we heard the same questions back then. In 1991 everybody asked me why I did not talk about all the viking stuff and heathen cults I used to talk



about (really? -ed.), before I suddenly started to talk about total hate/death/winter etc. So the Graf Grishnackh of 1990 was exactly like the Graf (a younger version of course) of 1993 and from thence, but in late 1991 and uphill late 1992 I was fed up with everything and I wanted to get away from it all. The depression only lasted for a while.

If you like it or not...BUZZUM got 'big' with the 'new wave of black metal' (as I call it) that was mainly caused by none other than MAVHEM / Deathlike Silence, but you deny being black metal and within that scene. Do you really think that BUZZUM would exist the way it is if MAVHEM weren't around?

Varg: Listen to me you big idiot. Deathlike Silence Productions was totally bankrupt and the one and only reason it economically survived was because **BUZZUM** signed to it, lended about 40.000 NOK (about 10.000 USD) to them to make the release possible (but ASP was the only label at that time dedicated to bands with an ancient 'black/death metal sound', no other label was interested in such music back then -ed.). If I had not signed to ASP they would not exist out of the year 1992. Also there were no fuckin' wave of black metal when **BUZZUM** and **BARATHRON** started, it was us who caused the wave to appear (after Euronymous gave you all the right definition of what real death/black metal is all about -ed.), together with **SARAFI** from Switzerland and **IMMORTAL**. So do not fucking tell me I got 'big' on the black metal wave. I signed to ASP to help them, if I had not done that **BUZZUM** would be 'big' a whole year earlier as I would have signed to a competent label instead of the bankrupt ASP who had the use the **BUZZUM** income to pay their fucking house rent, leaving nothing back. What truly made this fuckin' black metal wave to appear was also my slaughtering of Euronymous and the churchburnings (which was a stupid thing to do in some cases -ed.) which **MAVHEM** had absolutely nothing to do with (well, apart from being stabbed to death, apart from being the fucking loser victim). Also **MAVHEM** released their first album in 1994 (Deathcrush is a big joke, it's fun metal with fun lyrics, I know as I've read them, so that this piece has nothing to do with the black metal wave. The track they excluded from the release is a fun track which we could hear on children's TV when we were young. No wonder of albums before they even had a cover for their debut (which has already been released as a limited 7" inch around '87 and was one of the top collector's items since quite a long time - ed.), so how the hell can you give **MAVHEM** the credit for creating this black metal wave? Get serious and piss on that idiotic delusion you seem to be suffering from. (Euronymous converted a lot of musicians from usual death metal to black metal, still think about the dedications also people who are into the norwegian scene for long time can confirm this. ...also it's a fact that **MAVHEM** were never trendy, they didn't need to change their style and still played a lot of old songs at live gigs - ed.)

If you are so into nordic culture as you say, why haven't you settled your differences with Euronymous honourably? In olden times rivals would

settle their differences in Holganga, a duel to the death on a deserted island, considered a legal and magical form of arbitration up to the 10th century. Wouldn't this have been the way to do this instead of stabbing someone on his doorstep in the middle of the night? Your chosen spot need not have been Holganga, but anywhere private would have been done...

Barg: Why I did not settle the difference between me and Euronymous honourably? Listen to me you clown, Euronymous intended to kill me while I was unconscious. He knew very well he would stand no chance if we met to fight to death. I have trained martial arts for ten years, five of them in club, I am a whole head taller than Euronymous was, I have grown up in an environment where fist fights were a weekly happening for me, where my friends shot each other because of drug money and so on. Euronymous had hardly ever been in fist fights at all and when he was he always got beaten badly with one exception when he used a broken winebottle to cut two totally drunk young teenagers with. When I killed Euronymous I had to walk past two doors with he unlocked with remote control and then walk right stairs, four floors up before I got to his apartment, so do not tell me I did anything dishonourable (This has nothing to do with honour -ed.). He had a electroshock-pistol and a shotgun in his apartment and for what I could know there could just as well be three or four guys with him up there, so think before you speak. (I'm quite sure that you knew that he was alone -ed.). Besides it's not Holganga, it's called Holmganga (in modern Norwegian Holmgang). It's impossible to go Holmganga with such cowards as Euronymous, he would either bring his shotgun or electro-pistol or he would not show up at all. (perhaps you are now excusing your own cowardice with Euronymous' cowardice?! -ed.).

It was often said that your friendship with Euronymous ended because of the different political attitudes as you are a fascist and he was more attracted by communistic thoughts... Is this true and was it finally the main reason for your feud?

Barg: The reason for our feud is simply because he enbried me for getting so much support. People started to follow me as the leader instead of following him, so either he could loose all his influence or he could kill me, I killed him before he got that far. Survival to the fittest, have you forgotten that you 'evil satanists' out there? Well, I survived, he did not. As simple as that!

Euronymous was a member of the communistic party and wore RR flag on his jacket and so on. I was a skinhead when I was younger who smashed all the reds in the area and such believes do not wither over night, so obviously our 'friendship' had to end sooner or later. It was business relationship, nothing else. He never was a friend of mine, only in theory to make the BRRZHM/ASP deal possible. At that time I did not know that he was a communist.

Don't you think that Euronymous will sooner or later be again 'king' as he used to be within people's mind? The signs for that are given...

Barg: He will always be the king-looser! (king what? -ed.)

I heard that you don't answer questions that relate to the musical aspect of BRRZHM anymore, but don't you think that BRRZHM is famous because of your great compositions? Do you really expect people to read your lyrics?

Barg: People are perfectly capable of making up their own opinion on the music of BRRZHM. Besides I doubt anybody cares what I think of BRRZHM anyway, why should they? (Because it's your band and a piece of your personality! -ed.) Let them think for themselves. BRRZHM is famous because I did something, but they got to know about BRRZHM because I did something unusual, a lot of them though. What I did made BRRZHM known, but nothing else, it is the music who make BRRZHM famous. BRRZHM would not be famous if the music was shit, no matter what I had done, it's the music that counts. Not all who know of BRRZHM like it, not all who like BRRZHM like me, not all who like me like BRRZHM and not all who support me have even heard of BRRZHM. In Norway I am famous, not BRRZHM.

No, I do not expect people to read my lyrics, they are written in norwegian, so only norsemen know the language anyway. The german translations is meant to show the germans that I feel closer to them than to the english or french speaking peoples. I would fight and die for Deutschland (includes all of what some consider as Grohdeuschland), but I would not even consider fighting for any of the other european countries (I do not consider Norden/Scandinavia as a part of Europe, the british isles either for that sake).

Well, I don't care about nationalistic thinking and I would never die for any country as a volunteer, why should I? This is false pride!

Beside BRRZHM you are also working for BARRATHRONE, so what does that band (...) mean to you? Musically you can't compare BRRZHM with that band, but how's it with the lyrics? As a non-norwegian I can't understand it...

Barg: I contributed with some lyrics, that's all. I am not and have never been even a session member of BARRATHRONE. Henric asked me if I wanted to do some lyrics for their next album and I said yes. As I see it, it was a way of showing support to each other in a difficult period. He let me write some lyrics for them, and I wrote some lyrics for them, an exchange of gifts.

BARRATHRONE means together with BRRZHM the beginning of this heathen wave. (I thought that BARRATHRONE are a black metal band!?! -ed.)

Henric and Demonz are your only true 'brothers' as you call them, so what does unite you, what's so special about your brotherhood?

Barg: There's nothing special about our brotherhood, we are the spirit-brethren in Norway who built this scene together, as simple as that.

Talking about Demonz: You once played with him and Abbath in a band namely SATANFI, but why didn't it grow to something serious? Do any recordings exist of that time and what differs SATANFI from both IMMORTAL and BRRZHM?

Barg: SATANFI grew to something serious. To IMMORTAL and BRRZHM! We decided to work separately because we did not share the same ideas of how the music should sound and we were broke. Some of the tracks on the debutalbum of IMMORTAL are original SATANFI tracks, some of the BRRZHM tracks are SATANFI tracks and a lot of the riffs in some of the other songs of each band are SATANFI riffs, so there exists some recordings of the tracks, but the only thing existing as a SATANFI recording is a rehearsaltape which the police took from me under the search of my apartment (they even took my underwear, BRRZHM mastertapes and the original artwork for 'Was einst war').

SATANFI was more intense than any of the two bands, our main goal was to make as intense and aggressive music as we possibly managed. Every rehearsal was a madhouse!

A simple question: What does metal or better said music mean to you?

Barg: Metal means nothing to me (anymore? -ed.), music is an addiction. The only one I could suffer from. Music is the only therapy I need to stay sane in this sick world. Die Welt ist krank, Musik ist Medizin!

Tin washer Satz! Will you continue with BRRZHM in future and where / when will you record something?

Barg: I doubt it, but I will never say never. Music enough to record two albums was forgotten while I was on isolation cell for four months and the tapes I had recorded the riffs on were 'lost' by the police, now I only remember two of those tracks. I am tired of working so hard just to see other ruin what I build or make and not least rip off what I do. It is time for me to move another step ahead of the others, so I do.

Your sentence is 21 years, but do you really expect it to be that long? I always thought that justice is for those who can afford it...and money wouldn't be a problem for you (I guess)!

Barg: Justice is not for heathens. I thought everybody understood that. The inquisition is not over, it never will be, as long as the christians are in power. So money would not be a problem for me? Well, your guess is a bad guess. I hardly had enough money to buy food when I was out there, one of the changes from freedom to my current situation is that I don't need to worry about that anymore. One of the reasons why SATANFI split up was this poverty, we could not afford to travel to the rehearsal place, with BRRZHM / IMMORTAL I could rehearse in my one-room apartment (which did not even have a toilet!). I was not just a heathen, I was a poor heathen when I entered the courtroom for a 'fair' trial (Rumours say that you had a good lawyer! -ed.). The state payed for the best lawyer there is in Norway, well, he took the case hired by the state (as criminals have a right to). Yes, I expected 21 years, those who believe in justice are ignorant fools!

Is there anything left to say at the end of this interview?

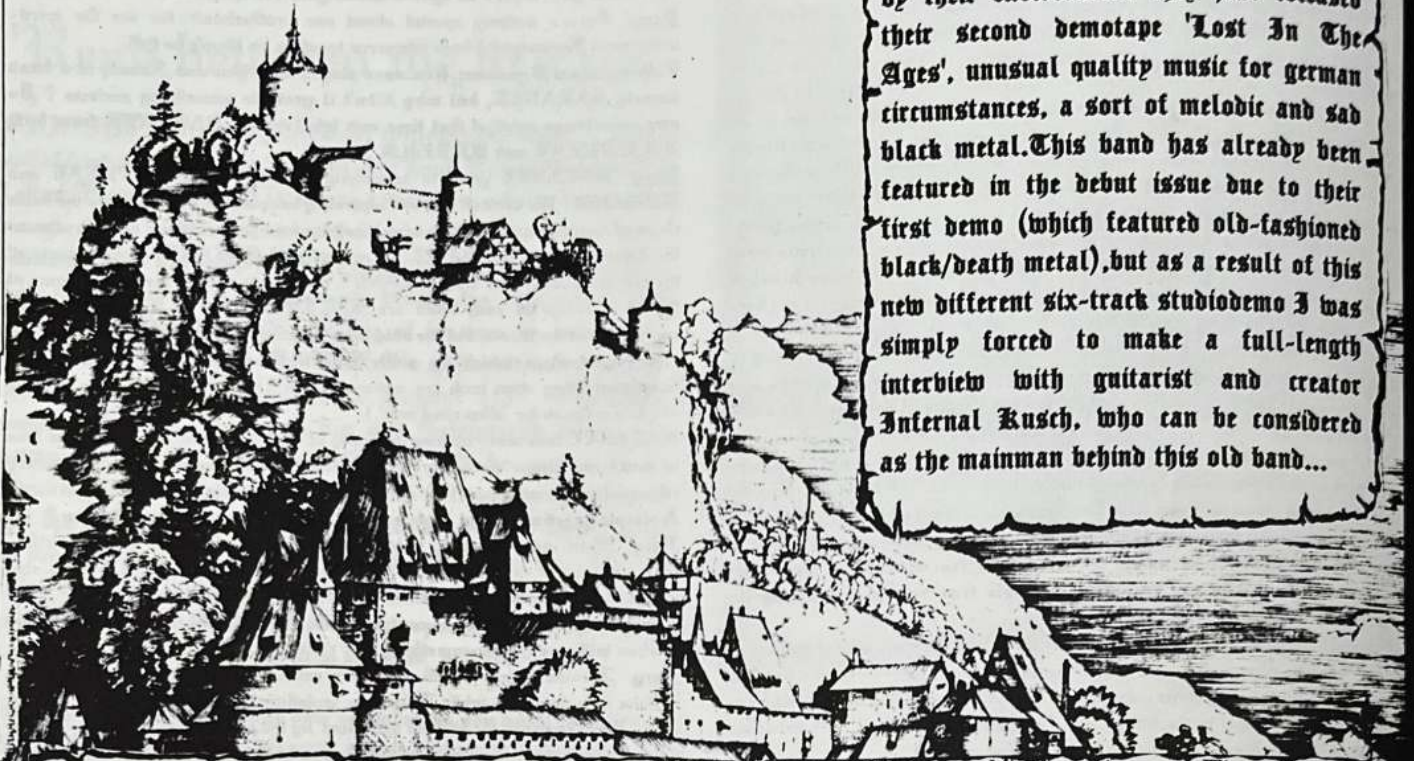
Barg: Most likely not, violence would probably say alot more anyway. Think before you send me any questions, if there ever comes a next time (No! -ed.)! If you fail manage to think, you can just drop it!

Decide for yourself what you should think about Grishnack's statements, never trust in nobody but yourself generally! BRRZHM's music is still first class and I still think that especially 'Det Som Engang Var' is one of the strongest albums made in black metal history, but Grishnack as a person is a different chapter, especially when it comes to his attitudes! 'Filosofem', the fourth and last full-length album, is soon to strike, but it will be different relating to Misanthropy Records. As usual: Time will tell!

For info and releases/merchandise send \$ 1 or IRC to...

MISANTHROPY RECORDS
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ENGLAND

DESASTER



From the valley of the countless castles **DESASTER** comes forth! Inspired by their environment they just released their second demotape 'Lost In The Ages', unusual quality music for german circumstances, a sort of melodic and sad black metal. This band has already been featured in the debut issue due to their first demo (which featured old-fashioned black/death metal), but as a result of this new different six-track studiodemo I was simply forced to make a full-length interview with guitarist and creator **Infernal Kusch**, who can be considered as the mainman behind this old band...

There's a certain difference between 'The Fog Of Avalon' and 'Lost In The Ages'... What has moved you to leave the trail from old-fashioned black/death/thrash metal to quite melodic but still heavy black metal the modern way? Is it a sign of the times?

Infernal K.: Yes, the new demo contains more melodic and melancholic songs, but this wasn't planned, it just happened. I as the guitarist wrote most of the music and I can't just sit down and invent new sounds, it depends on the mood I am. The old demo is more aggressive and hateful, the new one has a depressive and sad sound. I think one strength of **DESASTER** is variety. I always try to make songs different from each other (Yes, your demos prove this without a doubt - ed.). For example I'm now working on a new one which will definitely sound like old **DESTRUCTION** (Great! - ed.). But I don't think that the difference between the two demos is that big.

Your new tape comes in great sound quality and full-coloured cover, surely one of the more professional and worthy demos, but you still haven't found a label for a CD/LP release. Why? Is it a lack of offers or because you still aren't too famous beyond the german borders?

Infernal K.: Well, the new demo has just been released, but we are not into music to become rich and famous. We prefer to do all by ourselves, but this isn't always possible. We wanted to release the new demo as a mini CD, but we couldn't afford the money. For us it's not that necessary to make a LP/CD as soon as possible just for the fact that there is a big scene right now. When we started back in 1988 nobody was longer interested in black metal that bands like **HELLHAMMER** and **VENOM** had made famous. But we played this kind of music because we love it. First we play for ourselves, but certainly it's cool if people from all countries know our name and if we are offered a good deal oneday, why not?

What's so fascinating about the ages in which you seem to be lost in? Is it just the ancient obscure feeling you get when hanging around on castles ruins or do you praise that ancient lifestyle or even more?

Infernal K.: In fact, I'm very interested in past centuries, especially the middle-ages. You can feel the spirit of long forgotten human beings in the ancient stonework when walking among medieval castle ruins. I'm very much longing for those times when virtues which have become insignificant nowadays were held up high. My fantasy enables me to walk through a land without getting disturbed by traffic and ridiculous people, a land with majestic castles and manors. I'm dreaming of a gate to reach the spheres of ancient glory, so that I can find myself...lost in the ages!

Often it was said within the german underground that **DESASTER** are a so-called trendband, but relating to some old rehearsals I think you're not. What's your comment on people calling you blind trend followers?

Infernal K.: My comment: Misinformed ignorants! What enables you to comment about a band which you are not in contact with or haven't any information about? I can understand that it can leave people with a doubt when they suddenly hear of a band which claims to exist since 1988. But then you have to write and ask for details instead of spreading lies. If I'm right (correct me if I'm not) **DESASTER** is Germany's oldest still existing black metal band and we haven't thought about any trends since the beginning. So you assholes around can accuse other, younger bands of being blind trend followers. But I know that some people have changed their minds after getting in contact with us.

Do you think it's easy to escape trends? What does 'trend' mean to you anyway?

Infernal K.: We don't think about 'trends', we just play the music we like for years now and that's the most important thing. Certainly the music changes a bit, because you as the musician develop your skills, etc. A 'trend' for us is of course manifested by the big magazines around, but also by those people who suddenly buy everything that has something to do with the music style. It's very poor if people start playing music only in order to belong to this scene, but there are even young bands which play very honest and good music. When I say good, I don't mean that you have to be a brilliant musician, but you have to be able to transform your thoughts into a song and to produce a certain atmosphere, that's very important.

DESASTER is a quite simple name...and to me it sounds like a '1-2-3 go' band. Do you think that this name fits to the concept of the band like in your beginning back in 1988?

Infernal K.: Well, back in 1988 the name totally fitted to us, because the beginning was very chaotic, both musically and considered to the bandmembers. For example we'd planned a concert for April '89 although we still hadn't found a drummer one month before. By the way, the name was influenced by the **DESTRUCTION** song 'Total Desaster'. When we reformed the band I was thinking about a 'blacker' name for the band (I thought about 'Necromancy' or sth like that), but it has to do something with tradition that we still stick to the old name and logo, although we know that some people don't suppose a black metal band behind the **DESASTER** logo (The original logo you can only find on their demos as I didn't like to use it for the layout - ed.)!

Why did it take you so long until you managed to release your debut demo? What about older songs that you have? Will you probably use some of the old material in future?

Infernal K.: We'd recorded two rehearsaltapes around '89, but they were never released, we did them only for us and a few friends. Then in 1990 the band splitted up and when I found the right warriors to continue in 1992 we needed time to find the right sound, etc. Today I regret that we haven't released our old stuff, but you have to consider the situation back in the late

eighties. When we still wore bullet-belts and spikes, people said 'What is that? Those times are gone' and they were wearing ANTHRAX shorts n' stuff like that. Nobody was interested in our music, so we did it only for ourselves. Everytime I hear the old songs I have a smile on my face and I remember the old chaotic days. The music wasn't the best, it was all that we could manage, but the songs are too bad in order to use them today. 'Leaving The Hall Of Kings' from the new demo is an old song from '91 when DESASTER only consisted of me.'

Some medieval influences in black metal music seem to become popular, just think of bands like SATYRICON or ISENGARD. Do you think this has been an influence for some passages of your new demo or was it just because your area where you live is so overloaded with a lot of ancient buildings and history?

Infernal K.: I wanted to use some medieval sounds for a long time now, but it's difficult to realize that with the common instruments, we hadn't the possibility to use synths. But I think we have managed to invoke some ancient feelings within those passages you mentioned without any huge effects. I can assure you that we didn't do that because it seems to become popular, in fact, when I wrote the songs for the new tape I haven't heard the great music of ISENGARD or SATYRICON.

DESASTER hasn't been carried too much in underground magazines although you sold about 350 exemplars of your 'The Fog Of Avalon' -demo-tape. How do you want to promote your new tape...any plans?

Infernal K.: Honestly we haven't expected



that so many people are interested in our music, we only printed 100 covers for the first demo and we thought it would be enough. Well, we got in contact with more distributors around the world for the new demo, but I think if the music is good, people will recognize DESASTER, although we don't want to blind people with a certain image, honesty will pay out oneday!

Well, again in end of an interview is reached, so anything (no matter what) to add from your alcoholic soul?

Infernal K.: Costa, sorry that thee aren't some HELLHAMMER riffs on the new one. I'll do my best in future (It shall be forgiven if you don't break your promise - ed.). But what do you mean by alcoholic soul? I don't know what you're speaking about?!?!?! (Really? - ed.) I hope that we will spend some more time together on bewitched places like the Winneburg. ONLY DEATH IS REAL!

It surely is...and yes, another meeting at Winneburg would be utterly interesting. Time will tell! Well, the DESASTER demo 'Lost In The Ages' features five songs plus a long intro (done by a member of a gothic band namely HECATE), all with excellent sound quality and good songstructure. The music has a certain nordic atmosphere, as a rough comparison I take late BURZUM, but DESASTER are not a clown band. Best track in my opinion is 'Tears Of An Old Wizard', it has a lot of feeling, very interesting done. As said before DESASTER have lost their ancient touch which they heavily had on their debut-demo, but 'Lost In The Ages' shows another good face of the band. Every black metal listener will enjoy DESASTER, they go straight to the point...and that's what black metal is usually all about.

I think \$ 6 is the price of the new demo, the old one is still available for \$ 5 : Markus Kuschke, Jahastraße 76, 56218 Mühlheim, Germany

Death Metal the unholy way here is what ABHORER from Singapore stand for and they are not one of those 'new' bands that just entered the scene as their birth was already in 1987! Their first vinyl output was a strict limited split - LP with japanese NECROPHILE in 1991 and about two years later they released a real masterpiece of exotic death/black metal in form of a 7" inch ('Upheaval Of Blasphemy'), so I thought of plugging them for a concrete interview! Exorcist, so the 'name' of ABHORER's guitarist was the person to answer following questions that interested me...

Please introduce ABHORER to the readers!

Exorcist: 'ABHORER is a band from the east and we are your worst nightmare!' Your latest release was your 7" inch, so please tell us what happened since that cool piece of vinyl. What about a full-length album?

Exorcist: 'Yes that was the last release and we haven't do anything yet. We've got a deal from SHIVADARSHANA to release a full-length LP, but we are still thinking about it. We have new songs ready to complete the album but it's yet to be recorded...'

There are not too many bands known from Singapore. But I guess that you've a kind of scene. So how is this scene in general (both musicians and fans) and are there often concerts?

Exorcist: 'There is no fucking scene here, there's no underground scene here...only fucking glamour death metal bands playing side by side with pop and 'pretty boy rock bands'!!! Well the fans here are not true, they worship both metal and pop...and yes, there're many concerts here, all bands united hand in hand, ha ha!!! Fuck!!!'



ABHORER
BLK 159#04-551
BEDOK SOUTH AVE 3
SINGAPORE 1646
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE



You're around for quite a long time now, but it seems that you still have enough aggression to make uncompromising music! I often noticed that bands from South America and Asia are the most desecrating ones...How would you explain this?

Exorcist: 'Well...it's unexplainable...! OK, I don't know how true this is, but I think it's because of the hot climate.'

Talking about your split-Album with NECROPHILE which is pretty old now: Are you still happy with this release or do you wish that it had never appeared? To some this is pure cult...

Exorcist: 'Wish it would never exist' (Short but clear answer-ed.)

What do you think of the new wave of Black Metal in the way the Scandinavian people do? Do you agree with their attitudes?

Exorcist: 'Let them be what they want to be, maybe it is the way they express their feelings. They must have their reasons.' Some interesting bands that I should watch out for from Sin.?

Exorcist: 'Well, XHASTOR, ASAHAR, IMPIETY are good crucifucking great bands, their stuff kills!!!!'

Future of your path?

Exorcist: 'Well, we've been around for quite a long time now, since 1987 we managed to stay together until today. The future still stays a mystery...'

Any final witching revelations of doom at the end?

Exorcist: 'Keep on writing TALES OF THE MACABRE' till you drop dead!!! Summon ABHORER now!!!'

Hellhammer



Hellhammer are: SATANIC SLAUGHTER (V-axe holocaust & dambuster vocals)
DENIAL FIEND (Hellish crossfire on wodden coffins)
SLAYED NECROS (Deadly bassdose & hacking howling)

The third of the storms (Evoked damnation)

Three days of absolute eclipse
Introduce the evoked tribunal
Hailstorms proof: They told us the truth

Total destruction
Mankind to "hell"
Blind and insane
The misguided repent

But it's a bit late...

In the heat of 'nferral lightnings
And in the shadows of poisoned clouds
The world will die under the sword of destiny

Go out and see, the omens are here
A church is red, like blood of an angel
The rich and the poor, both will fall
Into the flames of malice...

Lyrics and music, by Tom Warrior (1984)

Massacra

In moments of reflection
It all unfolds to me
I walk down, through my mind
And feel a bittercold fear
What mankind did with pretence
Of religion and belief

Away is the sun
Endless the night
Mankind's massacra
Intelligence is dead

There have been satanic rites
In blood, inverted crosses
Expulsion of all mortals...
The "good" side isn't better
Holy inquisitors on arbitrary command
Through all blasphemous centuries

Destruction and hate
Sewarre of faith
Ignorant souls
The decline goes on
Man will never learn
That religion's created by man

Lyrics and music, by Tom Warrior (1984)

Triumph of death

When you have been down in your grave... alive
Your mind decays and you're the coffin's slave
And when at midnight an uncanny bell tolls...
Terrible noises, the dark graveyard calls

Limbs break through the dirt
Decay stinks like hell
Dark creatures in the fog
Trust'd blood on the dead

Triumph of death
Triumph of death

Turynomos sends his souls
Buried by horrible mistakes
You feel, you're eaten by worms
And the night's alive again

Repeat verse 1)

Lyrics and music, by Tom Warrior (1984)

Aggressor

Was it tomorrow
Or will it be yesterday
When abolished, rotten instincts
Will for the last time be awake
And malice slander and hate
Will rule the ignorant heart

Aggressor, deceiver of reality
Aggressor, inverter of protection

The final chapter is yet unwritten
But the trail leads toward greed
Who will be the traitor
How many, all of them?
Ruthless is the creation
(Created through pale ages)

Duplicated in confusion
Horizons of black fire
Thorns in the chosen's eye
Stench of false hails,
Decline of all thrones...
When only perception can survive

Was it tomorrow, or
Yet will it be yesterday
When abolished, rotten instincts
Were for the last time ruling minds
Then-eternal silence
And the future remains the past

Lyrics and music, by Tom Warrior (1984)