

ANCIENT CEREMONIES

THE REAL FIRST ONE!!!

SPRING '98
ISSUE #1

MAYHEM

Callenish Circle
Obscenus

As Divine Grace
Throes Of Dawn
Obtained Enslavement



Incantation lux occultA

THE... BLACKEST, DEATHEST, DOOMEDEST, DARKEST, HEAVIEST... METAL MAGAZINE !!!

Editorial

You may be surprised about what you see in front of your eyes... Yes, it is the first professional issue of your favourite magazine... for some of you, of course!!! Our intentions if we arrange more supportive contributors is to put the magazine available to the public with less space of time between issues, we will see what the future brings to us... Once again, some of the bands contacted by us, refused to be supported under our magical name. I am now starting to think that many bands don't want to be knowned or are nothing more than "serious" jokes.

Many of you are aware of our other activities... some time ago we decided to abort the label we were planning to form, simply to gain more respect, recognition, musical wisdom... and above all as you can see to start a more professional press attitude. That doesn't mean that we can't release some worthy demos or other not so hard working (compared to a cd release) material. About our double compilation tape entitled "Blessed By The Ancient Flame"... we just wanna say to all of you that the adherence is being very positive, only due to the great reviews that received and still receives.

Our mailorder catalogue expanded a lot, and if everything goes well, in future some changes will be felt... changes that will please you very much... we are hoping to expanded "drastically" our catalogue but that will **only** depends on the acceitation of the labels to our newest project... As you see **Ancient Ceremonies** is a organizations that never stops and always wants to be one step head. We must end now, and we only would like to express our sincere gratitude to all persons who support us through those years and to the fresh new blood..

Luis Santos & Rosa Mayland

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ATTENTION TO ALL METAL FANS...
Contributors Are Needed!!!

Ancient Ceremonies is looking for dedicated worldwide contributors!! Anyone into metal music who wants to see their work printed in our pages, should contact us. Our aim is to have a large worldwide crew willing to interview, review... the more well knowned and underground metal bands in our mighty name. Perhaps some day we could survive just by doing something that makes us very proud of, which is the edition of a magazine read by millions of metal freaks...!!! A dream you may say!!! But everyone starts from nothing and from nothing we raised our swords to the worldwide press and now we reached what you have in your hands... So band members, distributors, zine editors and "regular" people, if you have the means, use them!!! Write or fax now to know more about our future collaborations!!!

ANCIENT CEREMONIES's

technical crew..

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News From The Crypt...



Bart, guitarist of ANCIENT RITES has left the band on '97, from then on, they have worked with session players from other known bands. Three new permanent members were added to ANCIENT RITES line-up, they are Erik (ex-INQUISITOR - Holland) and Raphael (CRUCIFIER - Bel) on guitars and Raf on keyboards. A new album is planned for early this year.

Trevor split from HASTUR to SADIST, back in October, after the release of the Cd-ep "Macabre Execution". Hastur nowadays includes David Krief as Vocalist and Marika as second guitar and female vocals.

The Portuguese BLOOD QUEST assisted to the departure of Demonecromighty (guitar), he was already been replaced by Belliccus (that plays also in NOCTU).

CALLENISH CIRCLE will release a Cd-ep in spring '98 (march/april) by the Dutch label Killer Whale Records, it includes 3 new songs. A new album will probably be recorded during the summermonths this year.



Gary Woodhead from Dark Trinity Productions has joined forces with Stefan of Majestic Union

Records and have agreed to release BURIED BENEATH after their THUS DEFILED 2nd Cd entitled "Wings Of The Nightstorm".

DECAYED left Skyfall Records and signed a two albums deal with the french Evil Omen Records. Also they have released a new single entitled 'Behold the Death' in a limited edition of 500 copies.

Horror records will release in march the 7" Ep of FEIKN, that was recorded in the end of the passed year. This label can be contacted on Azter's, Løngang 27, 3 th., DK-6400 Sønderborg, Denmark.

The french label CRAZINESS MUSIX is preparing for this year the releases of KORP "Until Eternity Calls" cd; INHERIT "Empyrean" cd, HATHOR/PERSOPHONE "Division Hildolf" split cd and also PRETENDERS TO THE THRONE compilation Cd with Mactatus, Mortifier, Mortes Saltantes, Bethor, Nebiros, Warlogne, Hathor, Persophone, Tharaphita...

Slovak band MENTALITY recorded in june '97 new material (8 songs = 40 minutes). A promo-tape '97 was released containing 4 of those songs. This year they are going to release a full-length cd. For any info and promo package write for Jan Honc's address (see reviews).

The radio show fogo no gelo, supports the underground. It completed in '97, 12 years of metal transmissions in portugal. Anyone

interested may contact: Jorge Apolinário, Rua do Pombal nº 56, 2080 Almeirim, Portugal.

DENIAL OF GOD should enter in studio this month, to record their 10" Ep/Mcd that will be out by Hammerheart Records. H.R. will also release their '98 full-length. Also HAMMERHEART has caught TRELLOM and signed with them for their second album.

In March '98 is planned the beginning of a new magazine named REVENANT, you can contact it on: Piazza Libertá, 52; 20010 Cornaredo (Milano); Italy.

The Brazilians, SONGE D'ENFER who were waiting for the release of their mini-cd trough SOUND RIOT have left this label due to some problems and have now signed a deal with EVIL HORDE REC. and will release a split Cd with MIASTHENIA and also their debut Cd.

STILL DEAD Productions are preparing for this year the re-release of APOSTASY's demo "Accuser of Brethren" in Cd format and a new EQUINOX album. Also the second part of the compilation Deceased "Death Metal From The Grave". Contact at: Julius Polczynski, 03-933 Warsaw, Ul. Obroncow 2A, Poland.

NECROPOLIS RECORDS is going to release a compilation Cd entitled THRASHING HOLOCAUST where you could check the two new bands of this label: SADIST INTENT that will record this year their first album and ABOMINATOR. NECROPOLIS as released the Mcd "Total War" of the band WAR, recently It (guitar player) has left the band, although WAR will continue and release this year a new cd on HELLSPAWN RECORDS.

The Brazilian zine "The Book Of Monarch" is now pressed under the name of OCULTUS MAGAZINE. The second issue of this magazine should be out early this year, probably in March and it will contain interviews with Emperor, Mayhem, Desaster, Mortis, Limbionic Art between others. P. O. Box 144, Rondapólis, MT 78700-970, Brasil.

The portuguese radio show SINFONIAS DE

AÇO of Manuel de Melo has also a Website: <http://www.terravista.pt/Meco/1553>, dedicated to the divulgation of metal...

A new greek label has surged, DEATH VALEY 69 is its name and her aim is the release of old speed/death/black rare and unreleased material.

DESASTER is release a new 7" called "Ride for Revenge" in Feb/March, it contains two songs. This release was firstly planned as a split "7 with Scepter but that failed.

OSMOSE PRODUCTIONS will release the new record of IMPALED NAZARENE entitled "Papture". In this current month of February it should be out the new album of MARDUK named "Nightwinds".

SORHIN, after releasing their album "I Get Glimrande Mörkrets Djup" has signed another two albums deal with NEAR DARK PRODUCTIONS, the first one will see the dark of the night in the summer.

Other releases for '98 by NEAR DARK PRODUCTIONS will be: the compilation Cd "Under The Banner Of Darkness", NOCTICULA's debut album "The Shadows Are The Past" and some



more...

Due to some serious line-up problems MALEVOLENCE could not appear in the 16 and 17 of January to play with NIGHTFALL & AVULSED. Nelson Agostinho their drummer since '94, was expelled from the band. The band alleged for that expulsion multiple reasons... unselfishness, lies, lack of responsibility and the list goes on. Fabricio Cordeiro their keyboard player and the bass player Miguel Cardoso also left the band, the last one due to his technical stagnation. Nowadays Malevolence is constituted by: Carlos Cariano (guitar), Paulo Alexandre (guitar) plus more three new unknown members.

Their second work will be recorded & produced in Fredman's Studios, sweden. the production will be done by Frederik Nordstrom known for his work with At The Gates, Dark Tranquility, In Flames, Memento Mori, Meshuggah between others...

DOOMSDAY "S.O.S." are preparing their european tour scheduled between March/April with something like 30 playing dates... in Italy, Germany, Spain, Belgium...

After 15.000 copies of their 'Lies' 3rd album, the brutal czech death metal band, KRABATHOR released their newest Cd entitled 'Orthodox' under the Morbid Records seal by the time you read this.





BEFORE THE INTERVIEW WITH THIS BLACK METAL CULT BAND, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN INTRODUCTION ABOUT IT... I BELIEVE THAT STILL EXIST SOME PERSONS WHO DON'T KNOW AT ALL THE "POWER" OF THEIR MUSIC AND WORDS... AND THEY DESERVE THAT!!!

'84 was an very extremely dark year for the music's history... a new band was formed by the name of Mayhem, a band which soon turned to be a CULT band in the black metal field... Two years later one demo tape was recorded and unblest by the name of "Pure Fucking Armageddon", at this time the former line-up was Necrobutcher (bass), Manheim (drums) and Euronymous (guitar and vocals). This debut work wasn't very praised into the press scene, perhaps because of his highly raw, cruel and primordial style of music...?? "Deathcrush" released in '87 was the following work by the band. This demo tape suffer many re-releases, like it was press in a limited edition Lp on the "band's label" Posercorpse and later on Cd & Lp by also their own Deathlike Silence Records. Even nowadays this work of "primitive music" is seen as a cult opus. At this time Maniac had joined the band on the vocals, and created a release full of raw brutality accompanied by an evil and twisting vocalisation from the newcomer member. After this period Hellhammer enter to the band as a drummer and Dead as vocalist from the sweden dark metal act, Morbid. This two new entries gave new blood to their music, being darker, more ideological and occult. The vocal approach of Dead is still an influence for many new bands, in those days, he used a very extreme and evil screamings...

This period was captured by two recorded tracks featured in the "Projections Of A Stained Mind" swedish compilation released just in '91 on CBR Records. One year before, the legendary tour through Germany and Turkey was recorded... and that recordings gave shape to one of the best live albums ever... "Live In Leipzig" on the market by the italian label Obscure Plasma. After this many bands start to appear fruit of their influence, such as Emperor, Darkthrone, Immortal or Enslaved to name just a few... the norwegian black metal scene was formed from that.

The following years were troubled ones... in '92 Dead killed himself with a shotgun (perhaps when he choose his "name", we could foresee it's dark future...), letting the band without his vocalizations for their upcoming debut full-length album entitled "De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas". In this period Necrobutcher leaves the band and soon was replaced by the controversial Count Grishnackh of the well known Burzum. Blackthorn of Thorns joined

forces as second guitarist, this two entries gave a significant alteration to Mayhem's sound, a much more cold and terrifying atmospheres was created. The end of '92 beginning of '93 was the period used to record the anticipated debut, with the participation of Attila Csihar as vocalist from the Hungarian black metal band Tormentor.

And what an amazing vocalist!!! Superb!! "De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas" sees the dark of night in early '94 by Deathlike Silence/Voices Of Wonder. But '93 saw another death, this time

Euronymous, who was murdered by Count Grishnackh. Necrobutcher and Maniac returned and Blasphemer was chosen to be guitarist. Their silence maintained 'til '96 when they participate in two tribute compilations. Through those controversial years Mayhem created a cult status in the black metal scene, and this as proved in the first gig after many years in a small town in germany, where the expectations were exceeded... A limited cd single edition was released denominated "Ancient Skin". Four years after their last album, "Wolf's Lair Abyss" Mcd appears, as the most extreme album, and proves that in the black metal genre there still exists many undone things... in contrary to some persons!!!

Perhaps there was no need to make this short band history, because it was many times done, but in the same way that Mayhem sees a new era arising from their graves, we ANCIENT CEREMONIES created also something very magical and unique in our own way... Read Maniac's words...

The recruitment of almost all the same old members... Maniac (vocals), Necrobutcher (bass) and Hellhammer (drums) helped yourselves creating the same concept & mysticism behind Mayhem? Perhaps Mayhem's sonority was inherent to yourselves?

Yes of course; and we are that Mayhem feeling, we live that feeling, it's just in our bones. Extreme minds demands extreme music. Sorry Maniac, but I only know the Extreme music demands extreme artists version, ah,ah!! You have read the osmose prod. brochures...

Talking about the changes that occurred in the Mayhem's music... Nowadays besides the same atmosphere, Mayhem's definetly a much more aggressive & brutal Black Metal band, right? The years of inactivity helped yourselves in a certain way to accumulate all this hatred that the Mayhem's music can transmit?

We are more brutal and aggressive as of today, but you haven't heard nothing yet; await our full-length album "A Grand Declaration Of War" that we are currently working on. Maybe the years helped us build up our anger and hate.

One of the developments/changes was the amazing vocalization of Maniac, which can now be described as not human... It's his real "voice" without any help from distortions of any kind or "studio transformations"? It will be truly reproduced in a live environment?

There is absolutely no distortion or anything else on my vocals. Absolutely nothing is overdubbed. The only thing we used was reverb, but then; everyone uses reverb it just enlightens the vocal performance, and yes I do it live.

About the choice on Misanthropy Records... it's for yourselves nowadays the most professional & honoured label? Or the choice was only based in their good deal / financial proposal?

It just seemed like a good label to sign with and they also have quite a few other good bands.

What's the concept which embodies the "Wolf's Lair Abyss" Mcd? It has a special meaning for yourselves besides your returning to the discographic world?

Of course it has a special meaning otherwise we would not have done it. I mean, we make music for ourselves. Something happens when we play together. Something is hoovering on the face of god. It is a concept of war. this world needs to survive. 2000 years of the moral codexes of christendom has made people stupid. I shall laugh the day they die and discover that they will



have lost more by living in christian pity religions, than what they eventually lose in death.

Because of your two important member fatalities... Dead and Euronymous, do you consider yourselves a cursed band? or something like that?

Mayhap could be or... Cursed in Eternity!

About your live appearance in a small town in Germany. How did you feel to be again at stage, like the first time? 6 years have passed since your tour in East Germany (1991) it was a kind of a proof to yourselves?

It was totally great to be back on stage even though the sound was totally fucking horrible.

How the gig went? Some set-backs occurred.. like the sound on stage weren't good or your requests weren't followed (the pig's heads & the barbed wire)?

Considering the lack of sound etc, I felt the gig was good.

How do you see the current Black Metal situation? Almost all the bands have atmospheric & symphonical keyboard touches... but you remained true to your origins & to yourselves, no cliches, no nothing, just 100% pure music.

It sucks, they call themselves Black Metal and their music could be played in dancehalls or for crying girlfriends. I mean, jesusfuckuntschrismas-sacre! What is going on? Many of these bands are good musicians but it's not fucking black metal.

So what is your definition to their music? Wimpy black metal...?

I do not know what to call it since I hardly listen to it.

One of the things that most of the persons doesn't know is the fact that Mayhem or some elements such as Hellhammer aren't much connected with Satanism... But almost all persons related Black Metal with Satan. In a contradictory way we can see inverted crosses in Mayhem's logo... Black Metal should only transmit strong and true emotions, being about satan, forests, occult whatsoever...

We are different persons with different personalities. Some of us are interested in the occult, but also philosophy and War - maybe we could invent a new scientific term called aggressivism or... something - I live by the codex of: "Kriegen Er Alle Tings Far"!!

What means "kriegen Er Alle Tings Far"? Can you decipher this?

It means: War is the father of all things.

What represents the song ' I Am Thy Labyrinth "? Who wrote the lyrics for " Wolf's Lair Abyss " Mcd?

I write all the lyrics for Mayhem. I really don't like to explain my lyrics they are very personal. Besides, if I should explain them you would have to write a book instead of a magazine. Ok!! When can we start? I always liked a good book... However, I am thy labyrinth in a thousand of your five thousand deaths!

What are your plans for the future of Mayhem? Are new songs being composed, arranged? In what vein?

We are working on our new album called " A Grand Declaration Of War" and we are also planning some gigs. We are going to play in Germany in January.

About your upcoming album "A grand Declaration Of War", to whom are you declaring? christ and christianity?

Yes, it is a declaration of war against christendom and their moral standards.

Can you tell us some song titles? We can expect even more hatred and brutality?

Here is some of the titles: 1) Grand Declaration Of War 2) A Time To Die 3) In The Lies Where Upon You Lay 4) Blood & Honour 5) I Am Pain I) a bloodsword and a colder sun II) science of agony III) eternal icewinter IV) future pain.

Some of the songs will be rather short but incredibly violent and fast; so expect brutality brought on to a new level...

It will be released by whom? Misanthropy records again?

Yes, Misanthropy will probably release it...

There's something you like to add?

Just remember: 2000 years has made the soul of humanity sick. It is time for a new war. Be prepared. "Kriegen Er Alle Tings Far"

Our must sincere gratitude towards you Maniac!!! Mortis En Solatium!!!



THE MAYHEMIC TRUTH...

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zines, shirts.

As Divine Grace

Looking at the pictures below you must be thinking, what the hell is doing this band in the Ancient Ceremonies's pages... For you metal lovers, As Divine Grace may not tell you nothing, but at the first moment we put their debut full length "Lumo" on our stereo we were amazing with this melodic, atmospheric finnish band. Their mixture of some metal riffs with female chants and a largely dose of good melodies... Hanna Kalske (vocals) and Jukka Sillanpää (synth) told us more details about their artistical music.

In a period of brutal music as it's black metal why the choice of making sublime/divine/melancholic music?

We don't think this kind of things. We make music in this way only for the reason that we like it. All this trend-like-thinking sucks. Every band do what they want and that's it.

Hanna you have one of the most beautiful voices that I have heard... Were you born with this "gift" or did you have singing lessons or something like that?

No, I haven't been taking any singing lessons, I just started to sing before talking anything else. Maybe being able to sing is a gift, but I consider that being able to enjoy the music is much more important. I wish that I would be able to be a bit more gentle to throat and lungs some times.

Do you do that kind of stereotyped things that bands do. drink, smoke and so on? Do you have a special care with your voice?

Smoking occasionally I considered in my life, but I will leave it behind sooner or later. I have to say that I am very satisfied with the fact that in our band those so called normal rockband problems do not exist. We have our own lives quite as adults, working, normal living is what we do. I have my own fulfillment from many other things rather than music itself.

How do you explain that 4 members of the band which are Ari, Sami & Jari used to play in a death metal band named Morpheus and have now changed one hundred percent? Were them tired of the violent, fast, aggressive aspects of that sonority?

There is the normal thing, when people are getting older, it makes a difference in everything. You have to choose and change, find something that feels your own and makes you more secure. Music is a rollercoaster and it goes on and on. So, mainly the sound that we have is a reflection of our lives.

Jukka you grow up listening to what kind of music? Do you believe your music is a reaction of your (band) youth? Or are you just melancholic persons?

We all have our own long time favourites from all kind of music styles. I personally have gone through from rhythm and blues to hard core (in my 30 years music listening period). the biggest influences in my musical life has been (and will always be) bands and artists like The Beatles (and John Lennon's solo albums), Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison and The Doors, Led Zeppelin, Uriah Heep, some of Deep Purple's songs, Ennio Morricone's film music and so on. Also all kind of Finnish melancholic-stylish thinking (we are so fucking melancholically thinking persons here in Finland!) has its own influence to our own life. I'd like to emphasise that this is only my personal view to music, though.

Your music denotes a high scale of creativity, with very different moods & speeds being all so natural. You can call me crazy but sometimes reminds

me a Jam section for his naturality, spontaneity...

The composing of our music is based much on jamming and improving. As the core members of the band have been playing so much together, the style and structure of the songs shape naturally for this band, without any further speculation.

Do you believe that your music can awake supernatural paths of the human mind...? It is all so beautiful is like making love...

All these kinds of things depend on your personal feelings when you are listening to music, how it influences your mind, how it will make you feel. Anyway, if somebody thinks that our music makes him/her feel in this way, that

would be great!

Jukka some elements of the band have also other projects/band can you tell something about it and, latest news?

My other bands (or bands in which I have been) like F, Sceptical Schizo, Lavra and This Empty Flow have broken up and have no future releases e.t.c. Our new drummer Mikko Lappalainen (ex-member of SS, and Lavra

and editor of Elysium Zine) has his own power-pop-stylish group called Ben Diapers and the one of the most legendary man of the finnish music business is going to release their 7" Ep in the beginning of year 98. I have my own long time projects, but they aren't so important for me as As Divine Grace nowadays is. The male singer of "Lumo", Jori Sjöroos (the man behind This Empty Flow) has changed his band name from This Empty Flow to Fu-Tourist and make more different music than what This Empty Flow made.

What represents "Lumo"? A small word to "define" a huge & stronger album
The name "Lumo" is Finnish language and it means the big emotion that you get when you see something that is absolutely so beautiful that you can't even breath. The word sounded so great and cause it's so short and easy to remember we decided to use it. I think that it also pictures the main feelings of the whole album very well.

Do you think that your music is born to be timeless or undead... It seems blessed by older gods...

That's the main thing what we are trying to seek entrance to; have we reached it? I don't know yet, maybe the years will show it to us.

Jukka As Divine Grace even in the studio recordings recruited two more new musicians. How that happened and who are they?

Hanna came into the band in the beginning of the recordings of "Lumo".

The band then wanted to have some male vocals on the album too, and asked for Jori Sjöroos to come and try some vocals out. They turned out well.

Jukka the conjugation of two different voices is used resulting in an harmonious singing, completing also perfectly the music. Or does the music itself asks for those different timbres?

We just thought we'd have to have some variation in the vocals and it sounded good, simple as that. In that sense, maybe the music did ask for the two voices.

Jukka how do you feel to be in a label more oriented to metal?
Metal on metal.

We finish here in perpetual beauty... Your last words.

Remember that there is also an ugly side to things. Beauty is only one feature in the wide range of human emotions. As Divine Grace stands for the whole spectrum. Thank you for the interview and good night to all. As Divine Grace have just left the building.



DEMOS & TAPES REVIEW SECTION!!!

The Eyes Of The Master...

AGALIARETH

"Nocturnal Soul"
(necromance)



What we have here is the million times done, Black metal style!! This is a one man band and I must confess that is a very mediocre one... the drums and guitar are incredible... repetitive. The vocals are screaming and is the only acceptable aspect in this demo. The work done by necromance is a very professional one, being the booklet in off-set. P.O. Box 201, 38108 Taco, S/c de Tenerife, Spain. This is a debut work which shows the lack of more musicians!!!

AGONIZING TERROR

"Ways Of Existence"



This is the second release for the portuguese band Agonizing Terror. Fortunately here in Portugal exists some good projects, and this band is definitely one of them. Recorded in one of the best studios in portugal, "Ways Of Existence" is a good Death metal effort with some melodic touches. Like 85% of the lusitanian bands, this is a "technical" project. Their music also possesses a strong Heavy metal influence combined with a death growl... A very interesting project which denotes maturity. To receive this piece of work, you just need to send a blank tape + 85\$ stamp (port.) or 2 I.R.C.'s. Tójo & Sara, R. da Tecelôa, 100, Bom Sucesso, 3810 Aveiro, Portugal.

AGONY

"The Abandonment"



We could almost call this release a cassette Lp, it has 8 musics with a total playing time of 44 minutes. If that isn't enough for you, the tape is



accompanied with a full colour cover with lyrics, all very professionally done. For that, my congratulations!! Agony's music is very complex with some violin touches. "The abandonment" is a mixture of some thrash riffs, doom melodies and some death vocals. The only down point is that I had the impression that too many keyboard touches were used, which gives sometimes a boring feeling to the music, but that's just my personal opinion. This is a very good professional release and just for \$5 (eur.) \$6 (world) to: Marcel Pokorny, Strachovského 67, 380 01

Dacice, Czech Republic.

CASTIGATE

"Plectrum Lovelless Method"



This work opens with a very irritating introduction... this seems to be a xylophone. My Loveless Labyrinth' is the second track from this tape and show us a metal act with a monotonous female singer, no not singer, a speaker!!! 'Sleepless Channels' is another story, a male death vocalisation is used and that defines the music of Castigate, Death metal. 'Strings Of Thought' is a more violent death music... The "thanks to mum and dad" and the "thanks to god for creating me" thankfulness, is what are the best in this tape... ironically speaking of course!!!



DORNENREICH

"Mein Flügelschlag"



Formed by three elements, Dragomic, Eviga and Dunkelkind, this austrian band released in may 97 their demo work. We are talking of Black metal done in a very fast and aggressive way, with a high pitched vocalisation. What else? This opus composed by seven tracks and embraced by german lyrics does have some emotional touch. But in my opinion they could explore more the original domains... The booklet was professional full colour produced and includes also a band picture. \$6 (eur.) \$7 (world) Moritz, Goethestraße 13, A-6020 Innsbrück, Austria.



DRASTIC

"Creator Of Feelings"
(beyond prod.)



Drastic is a one man italian band created by Chris, who plays all the instruments in this recording, the usual one man's functions... What stands ahead in it's music is the extremely dark vocalisation, he puts his vocals in a very non-human state, giving the impression that some kind of occult creature is actually singing. There exists also the female touches, like in 'Loneliness' which she sings in ital-



Don't even bother, listening it!!

You must try harder the next time!!

Nothing very special, just a good work!!!

A very good band, you must check this out!!!

Labels what are you waiting for? Sign with them!!!



ian... This is a band that if extra persons were added, could reach somewhere... \$6 Indorato Giovanni, Via C. Menotti 51/1, 16154 Genova, Italy.

ENDTIME

"The Great Absence"



This band exists since the beginning of '95 and in '97 they recorded this work of brazilian doom metal. This tape contains 4 songs, a photocopied colour cover and 30 minutes of playing time. I really think that this band could have done a better job... their music doesn't transmit much, and the songs are too long, and boring feelings due to that emerge... the production could have been better & some keyboard parts behind the music, don't fit very well. The vocals of Luis are powerful with some doom emotion... \$6 R. Heledoro Muniz, 433, Lages, Santa Catarina, Brazil 88514-510.



FEIKN

"Visse Ting Som Haender"
(horror records)



Released by Azter of Denial Of God in his own label, "Uisse Ting.." is a mixture of female chants with screaming evil male parts and powerful raging guitars riffs. The production is good and the booklet layout could be better and more professional. But even this way, it has a good quality, especially the sound. A very promising band... \$5 (eur.) \$6 (world) Løngang 27, 3.th., DR-6400 Sønderborg, Denmark. It includes also lyrics... but only if you understand danish...



ETERNAL HATRED

"The Eve Of Destruction"



Extremely aggressive death metal is what this U.S. (what else???) band plays. 'The Eve Of Destruction' is composed by 4 well played songs and that is not all... professional produced and with a professional booklet with lyrics (Where is the photo picture of the band??), a very good package deserving the \$5 dollars that they ask for it. Their music is a mixture of Death & Thrash with a slightly technical feeling! Eternal Hatred is a band that deserves a full length deal!! GREAT!!!! P.O. Box 1250, LaGrange Park, IL. 60526, U.S.A.



EVEMASTER

"In Thine Majesty"



EveMASTER... hum!!! A very good name of a very good band. If all the debut works were like that... the labels wouldn't be enough!!! ah, ah. Black metal with an huge dark feeling, combined to an amazingly and raw double vocalisation. They even added some keyboard touches to reinforce the atmosphere. The only thing that in my opinion could be



FLAUROS

"The Myth..."



"The Myth..." is the debut '97 work of this finnish band, and a good effort indeed. Composed by three members Flauros create a mixture of contemporaneous mid tempo black metal with an old feeling... perhaps this feeling is accomplished by the werewolf lyrical subject... something that is discussed and feared for centuries. But Flauros is more than sensations, it's aggressive riffs with raw vocals and \$6 (eur.) \$7 (world) from your pockets. To me a band that arised from the nothing and created very good music with a full colour cover with photos. Poretie 10 as. 2, 80160 Joensuu, Finland.



FROSTMoon ECLIPSE

"Cold Silvery Eye"



At last a black metal band without keyboards, and Italy is it's birth country. This tape is embraced with a inkjet full colour cover, a primitive job you may think... but even this way, has a better layout than many so-called demo tapes. The production & sound could have been better, and the seven fast musics that this tape handles, with a professional job, would sound much better. \$4, Claudio Alcara, Viale Fieschi 4, 19123 La Spezia, Italy.



FIRSTBORN EVIL

"The Awakening Of Evil"



This portuguese band is one of those bands that or you love it or you hate it, simply because the vocals of Glauring are incredibly extreme, very high pitched and screamy, more than the usual blackish screams. Yes, even more... Of course that he uses other vocal approaches, less screamer and

more guttural. We could say that Firstborn Evil are the disciples of Cradle Of Filth, their music is very similar to the british "gods"... changes of speeds, orchestral atmospheres, extreme lyrics, you know what I mean... The production of "The Awakening Of Evil" is above the average so, in the whole, a good professional portuguese release, but they must practice more... to create even more complex hymns and to developed themselves. Write to the band to know the price, at: Glauring, Quinta Da Princesa, Rua De Luanda, nº7, 4ºB, 2840 A m o r a , Portugal.

FROSTMoon ECLIPSE

"...To Exalt My Triumph"



Evil Black Metal is what the band claims to play... and this '97 demo and their second one, saw some line-up changes. Now a four member band, this Italian act developed their sound in the right direction with more diversity and exploring more the acoustic parts, but as well as their first demo, the production could be better, but still has a good sound and it's only a demo tape, perhaps I'm being too exigent. But in the contrary to their first demo they now added some keyboard touches and the usual intro and outro has arranged. Seven tracks plus a photocopied colour cover is what this embraces. \$6 to the above address.

ian act developed their sound in the right direction with more diversity and exploring more the acoustic parts, but as well as their first demo, the production could be better, but still has a good sound and it's only a demo tape, perhaps I'm being too exigent. But in the contrary to their first demo they now added some keyboard touches and the usual intro and outro has arranged. Seven tracks plus a photocopied colour cover is what this embraces. \$6 to the above address.

FROZEN SHADOWS

"Empires De Glace"



Frozen Shadows was created in the Hallow's Eve of '95 and in December of '96 they released this demo-tape of fast and aggressive Black Metal with some atmospheric keyboard elements. The only down point in this opus is the drum's production which stands out in the mixture but that is something that can be ignored. Frozen Shadows' music reminds me sometimes the speed of



Immortal with more high pitched vocals and dark synth elements. A good effort with pro. dubbed tape, but nothing undone or original, still worth the \$6 that they charge for 30 minutes of hate. CP Atriums, BP 32128, Montréal Québec (Canada) H2L 4Y5.

FUNERARY CALL

"Pronounced Unholy" 7"Ep
(of god's disgrace)



Well to some of you what I will say could be nonsense, but telling the truth for you lovers of Mortis's music this act is one thousand times better and obscure than him. "Pronounced Unholy" is one of the few so-called obscure atmospheric opus that is really obscure, evil or whatever you wanna call. Embodied by orchestral synth themes, piano touches, and a very sinister vocalisation,

Funerary Call created something that many have envy... We received this opus in a promotional tape but it's real format is 7"Ep... For you REAL obscure and vinyl musical lovers a MUST and only for \$6 at P.O. Box 8458, Victoria B.C., Canada, V8W 3S1.



HOWL

"Embrace Of The Night"

(icon records)



Another portuguese debut demo-tape work, this time by the very youngish band Howl from Leiria with only two years of existence. The music here is basic Black metal with the usual keyboard touches and female vocals, nothing very original... perhaps they could look for an identity before anything else. 6 musics and a photocopied colour cover (or what pretends to be...) is what they introduces us here and little more. We must confess that not even the demo's title isn't much original. 600\$ (port.), \$5 (eur.) \$6 (world) to Ricardo R., R. Coronel J.P. Pascoal, 30, Praia de Pedrogão, 2425 Monte Real, Portugal.



HYPERION

"From Centauri Section We Came... We require The Throne For Us..." (Tape-Lp)
(dark legion tirol)



A very interesting act, is what we have here... Hailing from Austria, this three piece band plays a very passionate and sometimes astral Black metal music. Eight cruel songs is what we get here. I think the production could be better, or perhaps the "primitive" sonority helped the band to achieve what they wanted...?? If you like obscure astral philosophies you will be pleased to hear "From Centauri..." because, just to open your appetite... they based their music in higher cosmic laws... Very powerful and raw riffs, with a sick blackish voice and lots of dark atmosphere, is what Hyperion are. There exists just some small



keyboard parts which could be more complex reminding me Mortis's music..... Write to: Overdorf 9, 6161 Natters, Austria.

MANES

"Til Kongens Grav De Dode Vandrer"



Do you like Dimmu Borgir? or Covenant? or better saying orchestral black metal? If so, this is another atmospheric raw act. This isn't a very professional release (xeroxed cover, recorded in 4 tracks...), but what counts here is the essence or spirit of the music...

Performed only by two persons we can sometimes denote some repetitive-

ness in their ranks. Another thing that is starting to tired me a lot is the usual keyboardish songs, here as a outro entitled 'Natt'. From one moment to another every band have synths in their music, I think it's becoming sickness!!! Not a very original band... Write for more info at: Hammerheart, P.O. Box 277, 6300 AG Valkenburg, Holland.

MENTALITY

"Promo-Tape 97"



This tape is a sample to labels, magazines, distributors... to promote their sound and perhaps arrange any kind of deal. Mentality plays technical Grind/Death metal with an extra addition in some parts of keyboards. This isn't a very usual thing in Grindcore bands as you probably know, but this slovakian band used them in a small and intelligent way. Carvaga's vocals are very guttural but sometimes entering slightly in the black metal domains, using a more screamer voice. But Mentality is without any doubt a death/grind band.. perhaps a more technical one, alternating constantly their sound and speeds, riffs... A band which deserve some of your time. Jan Honc, Frana Stefunku 14, 03601 Martin, Slovakia.



MESSE NOIR

"The Throne Of Ninninhalgal"



A very intense form of music, it's the least that I could say about this American band. Despite being recorded in 16 tracks, this professional chrome demo featuring two before release tracks, being them 'Excommunicated' and 'Heralds Of Pestilence' plus two more new tracks, could possess a better sound, especially the drums which are a little weak for their sonority, brutal fast Death/Black metal. These four songs, creates a strong discharge of pure energy into one's hears. Very potent and diverse riffs embraces this, at last, original & creative work. With a good studio, this is a killer band!!! \$5 (usa) \$6 (world) P.O. Box 4059 Meriden, CT 06450, USA.



MORS AMARA

"Der Sonne Abgewandt..."



This demo, starts with the title track... and once again, as usual by the shape of a keyboard intro. 'Nocturna' follows it, and ads a real musical dimension to their sound as... atmospheric black metal. This band at this particu-



lar time was composed by 4 elements, being two feminine... keyboards and bass, perhaps the guys's girlfriends... The keyboard is

almost always at the back of the songs, trying to add more atmosphere to the music, and at certain times accomplishes that. Gryff's vocals, one of the former members, is a combination of the high pitched screams and the guttural approach, producing a not flesh nor fish situation, if you know what I mean... \$6 from Seestr. 74, CH-8610 Uster, Switzerland.

MORTUUM

"For Those Who Left"

(ceremony records)



Very melodic Death metal with denoted Heavy Metal influences is what is all about. Poland is a country where many Death metal emerge and good ones, indeed, Mortuum is a band that proves here to have good ideas, originality and means to put them in the paper, or better saying to play them... The vocals of Daniel are very powerful and not the usual extreme guttural approach but a little more sharper. With just six elements they create some good technical moments and the two guitar players know what they are doing, performing a large dose of aggressive riffs and giving also some space for the solo's... Definitely a very professional release by the also polish label, with full colour cover produced tapes, and 40 minutes of music which deserves the \$6 that they charge for it. T.P. 24, 86-131 Jezewo, Poland.



MY SOVEREIGN

"Demo '97"



What a pity... this could have been a lot better, if the production had been above the average. This french band plays brutal death metal with a vocalisation coming from the deepest part of the throat... the intestine, ah,ah, similar to Cannibal Corpse, Incantation's styles. My Sovereign's music is composed by constant changes of rhythms and extreme variations of speeds accompanied by Jean Faure the vocalist. As I told at the beginning, this tape lacks a good production... despite the professional package, tape and b&w cover, with lyrics. They ask \$7 for it, which I think



it's a little too much for a demo... Patrick Badets, 4 Rue De Belot, 40 270 Grenade Sur L'Adour, France.

NEOLITH

"Trips Through Time And Loneliness"

(ceremony records)



Another professional release by the polish label, ceremony records... this time a dark death doom metal band and also a polish one. This tape, which can be considered a tape Lp, contains the promo'95 stuff called "Journeys Inside The Maze Of Time" plus new brand '96 material. Well, the side of Time shows a band which needs to develop their sonority, being the vocals of Leviathan of a growling type one and their depressive instrumental riffs, sometimes doesn't fit very well... The Side Of Loneliness shows a band more depressive and tortuous, more dark, doom metal oriented. Even the vocals changed a bit, but perhaps this was due of a different production... the keyboards also changed, now being more orchestral, more symphonical. They explore more the feminine vocals, like on 'rehtona yerg yad' where the atmospheric takes absolute control... a song that reminds a folklore music... This side demonstrates a considerable progression, and a better one indeed... \$6 to the ceremony's above address.



NOCTURNAL SYMPHONY

"Monsoon Winds"



Another portuguese act, another worthy release... I think that foreign labels should turn their heads to our lusitanian lands, because everyday a new good band emerges... Continuing, Nocturnal Symphony started back in the end of '96 and now recorded what should be called as a melodic doom metal tape with an aggressive rhythm. Feminine vocals were added in the background of the music, something that doesn't fit very well... I think that this band doesn't need this kind of elements or perhaps it should add the feminine voice alone not at the same time with the vocalist... but this is just my personal opinion. Their doom metal style is one those who aren't afraid of speed up the rhythm when needed, and the vocals of Pedro are very brutal but melodic as well. An interesting project, which should give the fruits soon... This tape can be acquired just by sending a 85\$ stamp (port.) to R. Visconde Das Devesas 36, 3ªAndar, 4400 Vila Nova Gaia, Portugal.



NOSTRADAMUS

"Vanitas Vanitatum Et Omnia Vanitas"
(ceremony records)



A little chaotic... is what was constantly in my mind when I heard this work. Perhaps it isn't the right word, it's more a mad type of melodic death metal.

But what can we expect from a band that has 4 songs called 'Songs To God'? The best song is definitely 'You Say I'm Happy' with their very melodic approach and keyboard orchestration... the rest of the musics are also accompanied with synth elements to create a more symphonical atmosphere and some melody. Sometimes the vocals & even their style of music reminds me of old **Nightfall**, obscure, craziness but... of course that they have much more to learn. This is again a professional release with full colour cover, lyrics and photo, for \$5 to the ceremony records's address.

experimental Death metal with brutal variations of speeds.. maybe and just maybe this could be something for you. This demo-tape includes full colour cover and lyrics for \$7 at, P.O. Box 73, 040 11 Kosice, Slovakia.



RUBER LACRIMAE DRACO

"Elen-Sila Lúmenn Omentielvo"



This is the side project of Tiago, the keyboard player from the portuguese band Paranormal Waltz... it consists of an ambient project, where he tries to led the listener into his own state of mind... and this can be accomplished in my opinion if listened in total obscurity with only a couple of candles light on... For the beginners in this type of sounds, Tiago uses a synth to create an occult atmosphere... could have he attained this? Well, in my opinion this tape lacks a little of more aggressive and surround

you can... I'm afraid of telling... buy this... hhhhuuuccc!! \$4, Restoran Persinggahan, Tomis Jaya P.O. Box 231, 89257 Tamarui, Sabah, Malaysia.



Brutal, extreme, sickness... From slovakia comes Sanatorium is a brutal death metal band that exists since the end of '91. Angel the vocalist possesses a very extreme guttural voice which must come from the entrails, the instrumental part is handled very well by Oneqqe, Warmo and Alky. Songs like 'Autumn Shadows', 'Unreal' or 'Strange Primeval Maze Of Souls' will delight the most extreme death metal fans... Sometimes the band mix their brutal music with more rock'n'roll riffs. But in general they produce a brutal style of music extremely varied in speeds and riffs, which keeps the listener near the stereo. Embraced with this professional opus is a full colour cover with photos and lyrics. 'Autumn Shadows' worths the \$4 (eur.) \$5 (world) that they ask. Martin Belograd, Bajzova 29, Zilina 010 01, Slovakia.

This is pure speedy Black metal with no keyboards or atmospheric elements, just 100% pure hate and blasphemy. Besides being a rehearsal tape, this work composed by two musics has a very clear sound, for a rehearsal of course, and all the instruments can be heard without any difficulties. The two lusitanian warriors, L.G. Amduscias and Murrurio, who forms this band are from the north side of Portugal, and their unholy occult passion is highly noted on this tape. The vocals are extremely hateful and sharp like a deadly sword. I will wait their next release, with the hope to see their music recorded in a good studio with a professional job, just this way their aggressive primitive riffs can be totally appreciated. You can acquire this tape by sending a 85\$ stamp (port.) \$1 to, R. Pinheiro Manso 389, 4100 Porto, Portugal.

THE CALL OF THE FOUR GATES

"Host Of Chaos"
(dark legion tirol)



This 45 minute demo-tape opens with 'Intro: Desecration (initiationsritus)', you probably must know what to expect with such name... very raw riffs follow in total unholiness and desecration. This austrian band of depressive Black metal, possess a huge raw and primitive feeling in their music, something not very unusual in these ranks. They combine some melancholic keyboard and guitar touches to their intense riffs, creating a diverse and mighty atmosphere and even adding a very vigorous and harsh voice. But on the whole this demo unfortunately lacks a little from a good sound and cover. \$7 from dark legion tirol.



metal studios. With 20 minutes and four songs, 'Celestial Winds' shows band that must develop their sound in all ways. The sick vocals of Bruno Moura, or what pretends to be raw and cruel are nothing very difficult to perform and could be much more explored. Their black/death music with atmosphere is a little basic, and permits to appear a group very youngish in these fields. Maybe next time guys!! 580\$(port.) \$4(eur.) \$5(world). Ed. Jardins Da Penha, Bl.12-B, 1ºDto, Margaride Costa, 4810 Guimarães, Portugal.

SPLIT FORGOTTEN SILENCE / AGONY

(obscene prod.)



'The Hills Of Senyaan Pt.II' is the song featured by Forgotten Silence in this split tape produced by Obscene Prod. This music shows their progression within their own avantgarde Death/Doom metal style, nowadays in my opinion they are more aggressive, despite their "weird" musical structure. The vocals of Krusty still possess that death power accompanied with the feminine vocals of Hanka. The music is still extremely varied, as they also were, but they increased even more new elements... A great song.. On the other side of the tape, Agony a much more "normal" band is featured with 'Black Velvet' which starts with a dreamy keyboard intro. One of the things that I like in this song is the mighty aggressive, growling vocals of Richard. Martins's keyboard is a constant element in their music, creating a mystic sad feeling. Both bands are good in what they do... Radim of Forgotten Silence send me a promo-tape so write to him at, Alexander Novacek, Máchova 487, 665 01 Rosice u Brna, Czech Republic.



OBSCENUS

"Nocturnus Exordio"



This is the second demo, from this portuguese band, and a very good one indeed. Obscenus is a very melodic band with the doom death metal style always present in their compositions. This six azorean elements produced something to be proud of... flute, feminine vocals, keyboards are just little extras that complement their music, the guitars riffs are powerful but always melodic and the vocalist uses a varied vocalisation... but can be described as being a mixture of a clear aggressive voice, with death's growls and some parts they

even add a bit of sickness from the screamish black metal attitude... The flute parts reminds me of **Phlebotomized**... Obscenus is a band to hear in a total dark and un-civilised local, only this way the beauty that they try to transmit is understood... A total professional full colour release with photo and lyrics. Beautiful!!!! Contact them at to acquire this at: Rui Correia, Av. António Borges 2F, Calço da Furna, Fajã de Baixo, 9500 Ponta Delgada, Portugal.



SOULGRIND

"Helkavirsiä"
(regress records)



Born in late '92 and after a couple of releases, also in Cd format, this finnish now releases through regress their presentation tape to labels, magazines and to the public in general. This tape serves only to show the path of the forthcoming Cd... Soulgrind combines a feminine voice with T. MacLunone's raw death/black vocals. This band has also some mad ideas like on 'Tumma' where a strange narration takes full attention and in the background, very irritating hypnotic sound echoes. The music of Soulgrind could be better without this strangeness and female vocals. This release is based on the darker parts of the novels and folklores written by poet Eino Leino. 'Kosto' and 'Yermi' are the most extreme songs, where the band uses lesser dark experimentalisms and explore their full angers, through the means of real aggressive music. Write to C/o Enrico Leccese, C.C. 1558, 1000 Correo Central, B.S.A.S., Argentina.



UNHOLY ARCHANGEL



This is not definitely my type of release, the sound quality... what sound quality? the cover's quality... what cover quality? and the music quality... what music? This is a rehearsal tape and a very chaotic one, their brutal death/black metal style is too brutal for me... ah,ah. Sometimes the songs appears to not have any sequence or structure, my advice is... do not buy this, this tape do not possess the minimum of quality. But as I have already said before... is just my opinion. Sorry lametos, I'm just being honest with myself and to the readers. \$5, Titanon 10, Helliniko 16777, Athens Hellas, Greece.

WINTER CRY

"Celestial Winds"



This is their first and ever release, and was recorded in one of the best portuguese

PHANTASMA

"Jazz For Jesus" Tape-Lp



The impression that this tape gives to me, is that the vocalist doesn't fit perfectly in the band... and why am I saying this, you may ask. Simply because his brutal death growling vocals are too much powerful for their sometimes "experimental" attitude and because the instrumental part doesn't ask that much brutality. Also their music is a bit uncontrolled and chaotic like on the song 'Jesus Is Just A Stone'..... give me a break guys, you have the means to do something much better and you aren't taking advantage of it. If you like

sounds, it is very moody, very depressive, which is not a bad thing, on contrary, I consider this kind of projects very personal and that way who am I to tell anything... 'The Arrival at Lorien' opens... and what a strange cold fragility. I will not say anything more, I will just suggest to all ambiental music lovers, to bought this one and see for yourself... Apartado 60292, 2700 Amadora, Portugal.

RUST SAKARAZ

"Blood War Hate"
(grind empire prod.)



How can anyone call this kind of releases as demos? In my language this is a recorded rehearsal tape with a glossy b&w cover, and not a very good one... This... tape contains 7 tracks of mid tempo death metal, or what pretends to be death. I will not expand my review upon this, if you like to know how is a rehearsal tape, or how it sounds primitive un-produced music,

SUMMUM MALUM

"Rehearsal Tape"



CALLENISH CIRCLE

Callenish Circle is the name of a huge stones somewhere in England... What took yourselves to choose it has the name of the band? Tell us something about these fantastic stones.

Almost correct... Callenish Circle is a place in the north of Scotland (on one of those little islands). Ages ago a circle with very huge stones was found there and the people in that time never could have managed to get these stones in that particular circle. So a myth arised that once a year ghosts appear at

Callenish Circle. So all in all it's a mythological place on our planet. Well in the first years of our existence the band carried the monicker Genocide but a couple of weeks before the recordings of our Lovelorn-demo we noticed another band carrying that name. (Ed. It's a portuguese band!!!) We decided to look out for another name and finally we decided to choose **Callenish Circle**. This name really fits best to the music we play. It sounds a bit mystical/doomy and that's what Callenish Circle is all about.

You & Jos Evers are the only former members of Genocide, the previous name of Callenish Circle. 5 years have passed what changed in your lyrical philosophies, in your music & musical view?

Indeed Jos and I are the only original band members left nowadays and a lot of things changed during the years.

First of all you must know that when we founded the band (in 1992) we couldn't handle our instruments very well and the music we played was quite primitive. Several line-up changes followed and in 1994 things became more serious when a steady line-up with better musicians was found. Furthermore our music developed from a more standard type of Death Metal to the music we play nowadays...

Various & Melodic Death/Thrash with a Melancholic Doomy touch. Furthermore the new material is characterised by the following keywords: Heaviness, variation, catchy melodies and atmosphere. Lyrically-wise we are mostly writing about human emotions like sadness, psychotic problems, loneliness, suicidal thoughts, mourning and subjects like that.

How do you see the "Lovelorn" demo nowadays & your participations in the several compilations? Just a spring board to your recognition & musical development or something more?

Well we are still very satisfied about the Lovelorn-demo that was released in 1995. The demo got really tremendous response from the scene. Besides the tape sold extremely well and it's completely sold out now with 1.000 copies. It was the first official **Callenish Circle**

release ever and it really helped us spreading our name and finally it led us to the deal with Hammerheart Records. Of course musically-wise things could be done better but we will probably also say that in a couple of years about our current releases. That's just a logical development cause a band simply needs to develop their music constantly. You see stagnation is really bad for a band cause when there is no development there is no future!!! The participation on the compilation-

They are now preparing their new cd-ep which will fortunately be out very soon (march/april) entitled "Escape"... Also to be out at the end of '98 is their new album, which will see new fresh blood with the replacement of the former bass member John Jonsson for Roland Schuschke. Only the future will tell what changes will result from this change of line-up !!! Patrick the former vocalist explain us this and much more...

tapes was also really important for the band. You see before the release of the Lovelorn-demo nobody ever had heard of Callenish Circle and it was really important to spread our name in the scene. So all in all the Lovelorn-demo got us on the right track.

The lyrics of "Drift of Empathy" were also written with the collaboration of the other members besides you... Where do you get inspiration for it? How it's to write with the collaboration of others, more easiest..?

That's correct. You see the lyrics are mainly written by guitarist Ronny and his (ex.) girlfriend Andrea. They write the basic of the lyrics and I adapt the lyrics into the song structure. This way it really works out fine; you see I am not that good in writing lyrics so it's better that Ronny writes the lyrics instead of me... So I can't give you a honest answer to the question what inspirates me when writing lyrics.

Why haven't you renewed your deal with Hammerheart records for the recording of your second full length? You weren't satisfied with the work produced by them?

A couple of months after the release of our Drift Of Empathy-Cd we decided to split ways with Hammerheart Rec. cause our ambitions were higher than Hammerheart could and wanted to offer us at that time. That's the main-reason why we decided to leave them. So you can also say that we weren't for 100% satisfied with their work for our album. The album simply lacked a decent promotion and distribution and we consider these aspects as most important for a Callenish Circle-release.

Your music is definitely a complex one, with so many variations, moods, rhythms, vocalisations...

Do you think that the complexity of Callenish Circle is what makes it's music?

Don't you think that those variations will cut sometimes the power of the songs?

Indeed our music is full of variation, melodies, moods and rhythms and we simply like it that way. We never were an 100% brutal/aggressive band so I also don't think it will cut the power in the songs. On the other hand there is still enough aggressive parts in our music but not that way like other bands do.

About the Cd-Ep schedule to be out in the spring of 98... Some musical changes were made?

Yes we will release a Cd-Ep titled "Escape" in spring 1998 (march/april) through Dutch label Polar Bear Records (division of Killer Whale Records). The Cd-Ep contains 4 new tracks with a playing time over 21 minutes. By the way the Cd-Ep is recorded at the Beaufort-studio under supervision of producer Han Swagerman sr. (known for his work with a lot of dutch bands such as **The Gathering** "Always" and both **Phlebotomized** albums). As I already said in a previous question, the new material is characterised by heaviness, catchy melodies, variation and atmosphere. All in all the music is in the same direction as our previous stuff only far more melodic and most important of all, more wellthought.

You have played live with so many bands of so many styles... black, death, doom... in your opinion what's the band & musical style more suitable to play with?

Personally I don't really care with what bands we play as long as a lot of people are showing up. Besides I think we fit to a lot of different bands because we also use a lot of different styles in our music.

You are nowadays working in your full length, what is your vision for it? more aggressive, melodic, doomy..?

Yes we are working very hard nowadays to complete the material for our new full-length album (to be recorded during the summermonths). No huge changes in music-style only more melodic and more wellthought. Probably we will experiment a bit with keyboards again and a few female backing-vocals. Anyway, time will tell how things turn out...!!!

It will be recorded at Frankies recording kitchen under supervision of Bertus Westerhuis, who had worked with Altar, Nembrionic, God Dethroned, between others... Do you think that he's the right person to produce it & the right place?

That's right. Of course we think this is a good studio for us otherwise we wouldn't go and record there, right??? Well I agree with you that Bertus Westerhuis mostly produced brutal/aggressive bands in the past but we really want to have a killer-production on our new album. A real metal-production that blasts you away!!!

'Solitude' is definitely the best track from "Drift Of Empathy" especially when you chant "And all those... feelings deep from inside..." or when "memories from behind my mind..."... a very death metal vocalisation is used, it makes me feel wanting to headbanging like a maniac... in what consists "Solitude"? What kind of vocals you will do in the future, more moody or more brutal...?

Personally, I don't agree that Solitude is the best track of the album. We even don't play that song live anymore. I think that the tracks 'Mental Affection', 'The Dreamers Path' and 'Where The Moon Meets The Sea' are the best tracks. In my opinion 'Solitude' is a good track but a bit too technical. But of course everyone should have his own opinion about the album. In the future I will mainly use the Death-alike vocals like I did in the past but I will also add some screaming parts (for aggression) and whisperings (for moods) to keep it more variating. Besides we will experiment a bit with female vocal-lines but it's too early to give you more details about that. Anyway the female vocal-lines are just an experiment and live we will probably stay a 5-piece.

Patrick thanks for this interview, anything you like to add...

Thank for the interview/exposure and good luck with the magazine and all your other activities. To The readers I would like to say "check out our releases" and in case you can't get our stuff from your local recordshop/distributor you can also contact us for a complete merchandise-list with available Callenish Circle releases, shirts etc... official address:

Callenish Circle, C/o Patrick Savelkoul
R. D. Beerenbroucklaan 28
6123 AC Holtum-Born (L)
The Netherlands.

Promo-Cd tapes & Latest entries...

ABAZAGORATH

"Channelling The Ethereal Moons" (Mcd)
"Tenebrarum Cadent Exurgemus" (Cd)

This U.S. band plays Black metal with a dark feeling. Nyariathotep the bass player recorded me this material, but I can't ake a fair review because of the weak sound quality. Sorry!!! They are preparing their next album to be out in early '98. Perhaps a decent promotional copy reaches our hands... For more informations: 32 Hillside Terrace, Wayne NJ 07470, USA.

AGONY "...From Red Heaven" (Mcd)

⊕⊕⊕⊕

Recorded again in the same studios as their demo, "...From Red Heaven" is an Mcd with a lot more aggressive melody and atmosphere. They are definitely a very atmospheric Death metal band, but with that hint of aggressiveness which gives that special touch to their music... the vocals of Richard are more powerful. In the whole the music of Agony expanded a lot, nowadays they let the powerfulness float much more than in their previous work. For more info write to the above address!!!

CASABLANCA "Sands Of Wasted Time" Cd

⊕⊕⊕⊕

This portuguese Heavy metal band exists since '82 and that time by the name of Valium. So we are not talking about another band, but a cult band which saw the birth of the Heavy metal in portugal... This new work, is pure Heavy metal, and is the first release by the band which is singed in english, we received a promo recorded tape from the band with just 4 tracks from the album. Sixteen years of experience is more than enough to expand their own abilities, this way we can't comment about the technical aspect... You must know what to expect, pure professionalism!!! A must for all Heavy metal fans.

DESIRE "Infinity... A Timeless Journey Through An Emotional Dream" (Cd)

⊕⊕⊕⊕

Besides being an old release "Infinity..." is still a very actual and timeless opus. The vocalisations of Tear are very strong and reaches an amazing vocal ecstasy. Desire is one of the bests portuguese metal bands if not the best, and their dreamy, doomy, orchestral, emotional musical approach is of high standards. Despite their long musics, one of them reaches the 17 minutes long, they can keep the listener with an incredible attention to the music without falling into monotony. 'A Ride In A Dream Crow', 'The Purest Dreamer' are fine examples that exists very good portuguese metal bands, perhaps even better than some doomy foreign well knowned acts!!! Desire's music represents our lusitanian country in foreign lands better than some bands... Without any doubt a work to have at home, to listen in truly open state of mind, to receive the depressive message with wide open arms and a tear in the eye!!! P.O. Box 257, 2675 Odivelas, Portugal.

MUNDANUS IMPERIUM "Ode To The Nightsky" (Mcd)

(velvet music intl.)

Nattefal which was formed in 96 by two dark souls from Hamar (norway) is now known under the name of Mundanus Imperium after having signed to the french label Velvet Music Int. After having release a demo which aroused an impressive interest and after having appeared on the Hot Rec. and VMI compilation Cd's, they have now release their first digi-Mcd "Ode To The Nightsky". The result of this Mcd is just awesome, M.I. have a real musical interest. Their music will take you into the nordic dreamscapes of your mind, into another dimension in time. With their harsh vocals and beautiful keyboards, M.I. surely knows how to create transcendancy atmospheres. This band is maybe not the most original in their

style, but it really has unique tunes and hateful melodies of pain. It is simply a splendid blend of majestic symphonic music, but attention all purishs around, you might not be able to appreciate this band as their music is quite similar (when it comes to the arrangements) to Arcturus (old) without however equalling them! Anyway, if you feel that you can appreciate and enjoy the new wave of Black metal bands you'll have to check them out! Mundanus Imperium might be the new sensation to emerge from norway... Velvet Music, B.P. 902, 26009 Valence Cedex, France.

ROSA MAYLAND

RHYMES OF DESTRUCTION "Requiem/In Remembrance Of Your Gods..."

(resplendence records)

⊕⊕

The band consider this as symphonic pagan metal... considering the fact that this Cd is more mellow, has many sorroundfull sounds, melodies and atmospheric elements, yes we could consider this as symphonic and pagan metal because of the raw vocals... Sometimes is incredibly boring, with many non-playing parts, letting the listener breathe with is full lungs. But their combination of elements, and melodism must be developed and explored. This Cd has a playing time of 70 minutes, with 5 "real long instrumental songs" and the rest as ambiental, symphonical and acoustic touches. They charge just \$12 for this Cd, which is the best thing to do... and can be acquired at Bart Marescaux, Mgr. De Haerlelaan 18, 8500 Kortrijk, Belgium.

UNCLEAN "Ten, Ktery Se Vyhyba Svetlu"

(pussy god records)

⊕⊕⊕⊕

This is a czech republic original black metal band, and this work is their debut full length album. One of the things that I like in this band is their original logo, a comical bone structure... But Unclean is more than a bone structure, is a band who performs music without no influences, they make their own thing. They possess a very strong, drum machine job with different vocals, being them feminine chants, raw magical structures of Abbé or more whispered touches. The lyrics and the whole album layout was all written in czech, but that factor doesn't took the universal power of their music. The guitar riffs, humh... no the whole musical frame is very energetical, not in the usual norwegian style, but a more complex and undone type. A fresh air into any usual black metal fan's hears... JUST for \$10, Petr Homolka, Svojsikova 2675/32, 40011 Usti Nad Labem, Czech Republic.

WALLACHIA "Wallachia"

(velvet music intl)

Wallachia was initially created in the year of 1992 by Lars Standal and in '95 Eysteinn (from Folkvang) joined the band on the synth and guitar to record their first demo which was lately re-released as a Cd in '97 on a small french label known under the name of Velvet Music Int. Wallachia's music, which is based upon visions, thoughts and experiences, has the most impressive and incredible atmospheres. Being a band inspired by the dark side (demo-possession, witchcraft, vampirism.) wallachia brings forth elements of medieval vampirism into their four songs which can be compared to symphonies of pure nocturnal art. Each of those songs stands individually eventhough they are part of that concept. The vocals are very harsh, powerful, extreme and bizarre (with strange electronic effects) that they confere almost all on their own Wallachia's mystical and original sound. Wallachia have found the right way to transform the powers of darkness into music and poetry as while listening to their album, it is as if you are transported to transylvanian lands in which ancient castles dominate past forests were are the diabolical forces of nature roam free like hungry wolves in search of a prey... The true spirit of Wallachia in this Cd... so buy it or you will never discover this band tormented world.

ROSA MAYLAND

Are you satisfied with what you have accomplished with "Forever alone. Immortal"? What do you expect of "Dionysos"? Something more?

Talking about the artistic side of both albums, we are totally satisfied. Of course I think "Dionysos" is better, more mature, but I still consider "Forever Alone, Immortal" a good album. At the time it was recorded it was 100% of our abilities...

What have we accomplished with "Forever Alone. Immortal"? well, it helped to spread the name of LUX OCCULTA worldwide, it set many dark souls ablaze with the Luciferian light.

I'm sorry, but I don't know what to expect with "Dionysos" - I just hope we will become more & more proficient in the art of Majestic Occult Metal, doesn't matter how many people will buy the album or what the journalists will write in their reviews.

I'm seeing that the Majestic Occult Metal still fits in your musical style nowadays.

Yes, it does... I believe it is our own way of playing metal & it evaluates with us. "Majestic" stands for powerful, symphonic arrangements, "Occult" means that specific, dark atmosphere and of course the lyrical domain & "Metal" stands for fucking heavy metal, always grinding and aggressive... I think this is the best description of LUX OCCULTA sound. Maybe a bit megalomaniac, but still the best... ha, ha, ha...

Jaro has the recruitment of your new drummer Kriss affected the sound of Lux Occulta? More new ideas?

Yes, it's always a difference to work with a new band member. And I have to tell you that Kriss is much more creative than the former drummer, he made the parts of this instrument more varied. He is also much faster than Aemil and that's easy to hear.

"Dionysos" is a much more speedy and aggressive album than your debut "Forever alone. Immortal." It is strange... It's much more vulgar/easy for a band to become more soft or melodic than the contrary, but with Lux Occulta it was different...

I have just said that we've got new, faster drummer now & that's why our new album is more brutal and speedy... we are the fanatics of extreme metal and we truly despise bands like PARADISE LOST, METALLICA, TIAMAT, who get more rocky (more wimpy in fact) with their every new album. We are getting more extreme as our musical abilities increase, what's so strange about it? There's nothing strange with it, but it's much vulgar the contrary. On the other hand, I cannot agree with you that we are less melodic now. Just listen to "Dionysos" very carefully & you will find out that there are a lot of melodies in our new stuff, but the music is more thick and complex now...

Perhaps I formulated the question in the wrong way. Yes "dionysos" still possess a huge amount of melody, but it isn't so direct as your debut. In your point of view, from 10 years now you will have much, much more musical abilities, right? So you will be even more aggressive and brutal then you are today?

Is it an ironic question? Well, never mind... Of course it's impossible to foresee such a distant future, I don't know if I will be still alive in 10 years, but I can assure you that at this very moment we are truly interested in penetrating most extreme dimensions of metal music. But let's not forget that fast & aggressive stuff is only one side of LUX OCCULTA. We don't want to play like a TERRORIZER nor some BRUTAL TRUTH. We love their stuff, you know, but it's not our aim to follow them. Our style is far more diversified. Listen to the new album carefully and you will discover that our compositions are filled with contrasts, they contain many contrary elements. We put stress on the brutal side of our music, that's right, but we will never forget about the melody & harmony, you know, the classical touch that we find really important... Anyway, I still think that we will get more extreme with every new release. After all, that's all we can do... we just do not feel any other music...

The concept of "Forever alone. Immortal" was based upon the luciferian doctrine, "Dionysos" is based upon a Greek god. In what way do those different aspects connect themselves or the symbolism of Dionysos is just another aspect that influences you?

Remember our chat we've had a few months ago? I told you that Luciferism is not the only science that influences us, there are many different theories and ideas that we find truly important, Yes, I know that, and it wasn't that what I said. take for example this beautiful Dionysiac myth, with its glorification of sensuality, affirmation of life. All aspects of life... and that includes death as well. Can you believe that Dionysos was a god that died and then rose from the dead? This myth was alive more than a thousand years before Christ's birth... But of course the story of Bull-horned One is much more obscure and ambiguous. And it has that sexual aspect that is very important for me.. Of course the lyrics for this album are my own, very personal interpre-

tation of this myth - I am a poet, not some specialist in matters of religion. To be honest, I think that "my" Dionysos has some Luciferian elements, I always lay stress on individualism in all its meanings. So, as you can see, I always mix a lot of different influences together, sometimes they're very far one from another. That kind of attitude can be called as cognitive pluralism. I visit strange and incomprehensible kingdoms on my way to Truth & Beauty.

Why is the sexual part of the dionysiac myth so important to you?

Why is sexuality so important for me? Are you kidding?(Ed. No... It's a kind of crazy... I, a "sexual maniac" making this question...!!! I will be forever in torment, I will not be the same... ha, ha.) It is - as far as I know - one of the most important spheres of life for every healthy human being. Maybe the most important one... (Ed. I'm starting to feel pity of for your girlfriend... ha, ha. I'm just kidding!!!) Almost everything

we do is somehow, more or less of course, connected with matters of sex... I mean both as a source of pleasure & as a procreation, giving life a new form. I am not exaggerating, I am not some damn sexual maniac who has only pussies on his mind & who is ready to fuck everything that moves (Ed. Even the poor little insects or cows...?), but what I'm trying to explain is that sexuality rules our lives and that's natural order, that's how the world turns...

Totalitarian organisations, no matter if it's Christian church or communistic party, try to push these things to some forbidden areas, sexuality becomes a taboo. Wanna know why? Yes. Because they can never really control it, this is too personal... And you know, one of the advantages of Dionysiac myth is that stress laid on eroticism; the dark and mysterious side of our erotic life, something very beautiful and inspiring...

So, the sexual part of Dionysiac myth is important for me, because sexuality itself is important. It's as simple as that.

Being sex an important matter to you, as you told, what do you think about sexual magic or tantrism? Do you believe in the power of sex? Or by other words do you think that the energy liberated during the orgasm can be used or directed to a certain thing/person?

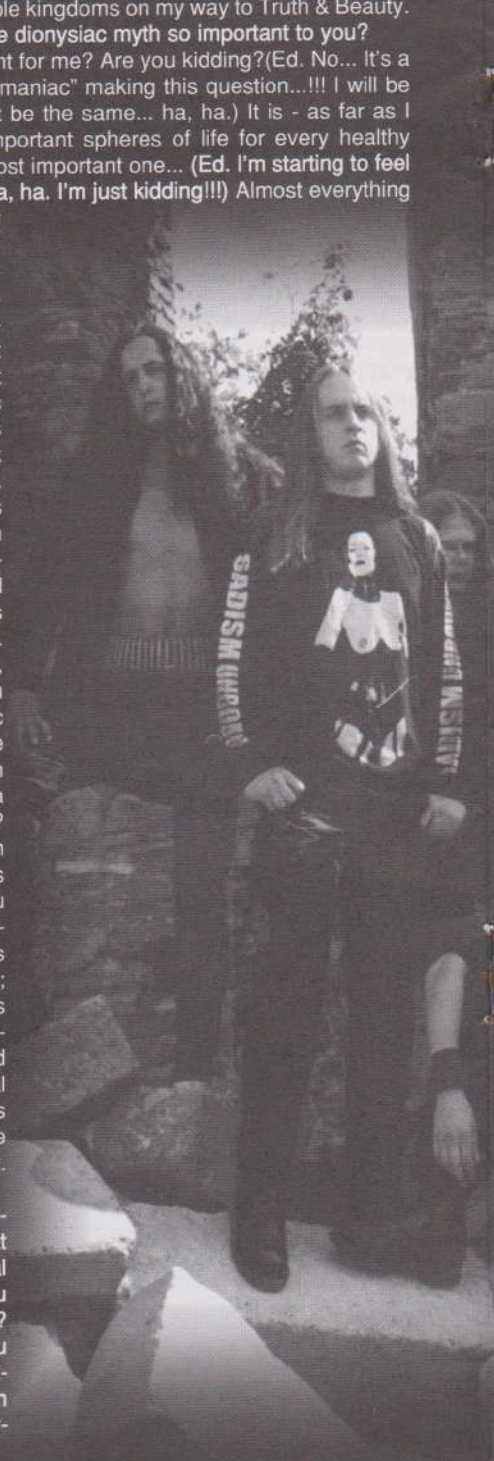
Yes, I believe in metaphysical meaning of sex, I believe in its magical power. I do not conceal that these subjects interests me a lot, but on the other hand it's a bit hard to talk about it in the interview. Not that I'm ashamed or anything, but it's still too personal to talk about it just like that so that everyone can read, I'm not an exhibitionist.

Well, about tantric sex, I believe it's even more fascinating and maybe more effective than western magic, but I don't know too much about it, that's a pity... Anyway, I still have some time to learn... And I promise

LUX OCCULTA

THIS IS, IN MY OPINION, ONE OF THE BEST...
RELEASING "DIONYSOS", THEIR SECOND...

WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW...
JARO. SLAV, THE VOCALIST OF THE BAND...



Occulta

OF THE BEST POLISH BANDS. AFTER
R SECOND AND AMAZING ALBUM,
D INTERVIEW AGAIN OUR FRIEND
THE BAND... READ AND DELIGHT...

"Dionysos" does he represents something else to yourselves than sexual ecstasy and wine's lord? Why the choice of this title for your album?

I partly answered this question already. That sexual, orgiastic side of Dionysiac myth was very important for me. You can find it for example in the song "Chalice Of Lunar Blood" which is the description of sexual intercourse (including some references to sexual magic). But Dionysos is not only the god that gets drunk

with wine and copulates with maenads. He also represents dark aspects of life, back in the ancient Greece he was called as the One Who Delights in Sword and Bloodshed... As you can see this deity is not so easy to interpret, it has a lot of different dimensions. Dionysos is a god of paradox and in my lyrics I try to explore this fantastic mystery... Hail Zagreus!!!

About your vocalisation on "Dionysos"... done in a more clear and melodical way but somehow more black metal oriented. What was your intention with this change? Do you feel more comfortable singing this way? Well, I don't see it this way. I didn't want to change my vocals, it just came out like that naturally, together with the new compositions. This is how my evolution goes... I mean as a vocalist. I guess this difference may also come from the production of these two albums. The new one was recorded in much more professional conditions and produced by the guy who really knew how to produce that kind of sick voices... Do I feel comfortable this way? Sure, I am proud of the job I did on "Dionysos".

Do you have an idea of the amount of money spent by Pagan records in the recording of "Dionysos"?

I'm not sure, but I guess the studio bill was something like \$2000, maybe a bit more. It's not much, but it's enough, especially here in Poland, where the recording studios are still not very expensive.

Have you used flute and feminine voices in order to create a more majestic dimension to your music? Majestic Occult Metal?

Yes. I think that both flute & female voices enrich our sound, make our music more colourful... and more majestic, just like you said. I have to tell you that some people were afraid of these singing girls, they warned us: "This will make your music softer" or something like that. But my opinion is that female vocals,

the way we use them, do not have to mean commercialisation. I would even say they gave us some sort of symphonic pathetism, that kind of dramatic emotions would have not be possible to achieve without them. Another thing is that these sweet voices underline the erotic sphere of the album, that was also our aim. The result is fine in my ears and I'm almost sure that we will work with these girls in the future as well.

The erotism that those girls transmit by their vocals is also seen in

other aspects? ah, ah! What is the aspect that you appreciate most in a women? I bet it's the physical aspect.... ah,ah!!

Do you want to know if I had sex with our female vocalists? Ha, ha, ha... No, I didn't & actually none of us did. ha, ha, ha... (Ed. How can you have absolute sure?...) About the physical aspect of women... Well, do you mean woman body? Of course I love it, I'm crazy about it... I nearly pray to these most beautiful shapes... ha,ha,ha.. I guess my friends in LUX OCCULTA feel the same - there is nothing more beautiful to naked woman... But you cannot say that this physical aspect is the only one that interests me. All right, it's very important, but I would never like to be with a woman that is stupid or emotionally empty (if you know what I mean). I guess these all elements - sensual, intellectual and spiritual - cannot be separated; if you put them all together, this is what makes a woman really beautiful.. You know, I have too much respect for women to treat them as a sexual object only. Sorry if I disappointed you... ha,ha,ha...

About Pagan Records this new work is obviously better than your previous one, in what concerns to sound quality. What changes had occurred on the label's attitude towards Lux Occulta? Could you usufruct better working conditions than in "Forever alone. Immortal"?

That's also quite natural. the more copies of the first album you sell the better conditions you get to record the next one. I believe Pagan Records were satisfied with the sales of "Forever Alone. Immortal" and the response to this album as a whole. that's why we've had this opportunity to negotiate new working conditions for "Dionysos". That gave us a chance to record this album in a better (and that means more expensive) studio, with one of the best metal producers in this country - Andrzej Bomba - the guy who produced last VADER album. We've also had much more time. "Forever Alone. Immortal" was recorded in a big hurry, while "Dionysos" was much more relaxing job and that means more accuracy. Yeah, we positively did more professional job this time. But you know, frankly speaking, Pagan Records could have not afford to give us higher budget for our debut album, they just did not have enough money. The label evolves with every damn year, from a very small one to a solid underground record company... And today they can give us much bigger financial support (studio bill, promotion, etc.) than they were able to do a year ago. So, this is not their attitude towards LUX OCCULTA what actually changed, but rather their bank account...

What about tours? Are you totally able to reproduce "Dionysos" alive, perhaps even stronger than the studio version?

Of fucking course we are able to reproduce "Dionysos" alive, and you are damn right Nuno, it comes out much stronger than the album version... We play live without the female vocalists, it's also impossible to reproduce all these multifarious arrangements on the average equipment in the clubs we play. That's why we are more concentrated on the energy when we play live... our shows are more brutal & aggressive than the albums, but still very dark and mysterious... just come and see.

Tours, well... it's not that easy to play tours if you're not on Nuclear Blast, Century Media or labels like these. Of course we have some plans, it's possible that we will play a tour around Poland with VADER this spring, then maybe something abroad... But nothing is sure yet. Anyway, if someone is interesting in having us live in his club, please fax our management. The number is +48 (0) 532 11015.

You have always seemed to have a special care composing the lyrics to your songs? Was it difficult to express in mere words the concept and mental image (feeling) of "Dionysos"?

Holy shit, you got me here... I can tell you friend that it's impossible to read all the dimensions, all the levels of Dionysiac myth. Frankly speaking, I didn't expect this cult to have such a plenitude of meanings... But on the other hand, I feel that Dionysiac spirit is inherent in this album, I can feel his presence somewhere very close to me when I perform these songs on stage... Thank you, Lord Of Souls, for sharing your light with me!!!

I can confess that when I began my work with lyrics for "Dionysos" I didn't know very much about this deity. Of course I didn't want to write some superficial shit and that's why I've asked my friend for help. He gave me some books about this subject (Alexandrian library was nothing in comparision to Scott's collection... ha,ha...) and then I realised how wise & beautiful this myth is. And I think my lyrics can give you the taste of what it's all about. But still, remember that it's only my own interpretation, a very free one...

Your last goal of sexual ecstasy...

Thank you Nuno & Vanda for this interview and for being one of the greatest LUX OCCULTA supporters on this miserable earth. Let the Great Hunt begin...

Many of you do not know *Obtained Enslavement's* music, but if I told you that this norwegian band started back in '89, you may be surprised... Why they aren't much more known? You may wonder. Simply because of a non decent promotional campaign!!! But only now after their self financial debut album "Centuries Of Sorrow" and after a long period of time... they could released through Avantgarde Music, their next chapter... "Witchcraft" is it's name... Perhaps not a very original name, but shows a band who progressed and developed their sonority and it will certainly delights you with a atmospheric black metal attitude... Read what the band have to say!!!



After some delays "Witchcraft" is now released. What do you feel now? It passed some "Centuries Of Sorrow" ...

Well, I'm quite satisfied that it finally was released. As you mention, it took a while but from the moment "Wounded Love Records" took over, everything went in the right direction.

"Witchcraft" was firstly to be released through the italian label Holocaust Records. What succeeded?

I'm not sure what do you mean about that. Well I'm trying to know why haven't you released the album by that label. It didn't succeed at all. Everything took a lot of time and they were not able to release it because of lack of money. We had serious problems concerning communication and so on...

Are you much more pleased with the release through Wounded Love Records. A much more professional and known label.

As mentioned, I'm very pleased with Wounded, they have done a very good job this far, and we trust them to continue in that direction. They have acted in a professional way towards us, even though I can't say that I know extremely well about their affairs. But from what I have heard they have a good/honest reputation.

Incredible changes were made since your debut "Centuries Of Sorrow". A much more symphonical and melodic approach is made but the basic is still there...

It's been some years and we have developed our skills individually and as a group. We didn't want to follow the masses concerning regular black metal, so we tried to create music which reflects our own musical interests. That's one of the reasons why it turned out with a classical touch. In my opinion it's more interesting making music which have these (melodious/symphonic) elements. The black metal needs a kind of development (though, something shouldn't change) in certain areas. But we have tried to keep it fast, intense and raw.

Eight years have passed since Obtained Enslavement's creation. You have seen for sure many things happening on the underground. How do you see the evolution of the scene and what is your position on it?

I will not define our position. We do our thing and don't really care about these matters.

Certain events have made black metal more popular during this period. But I also see the genre as a scene including very gifted musicians (look at all the direction that black metal has taken) and I don't think the end is in sight yet (concerning black metal).

Witchcraft has nothing to do with satanism as many persons and new black metal bands associate. Are you REAL Witchcraft followers?

Some of us has a genuine interest in the subject and the concept fits our beliefs in one way or another. So we're not totally indifferent towards the theme.

Witchcraft is still a very used kind of magic nowadays? Or contemporary persons don't give too much credit to spiritual matters?

Witchcraft still includes a lot of persons both individuals and organisations. As you know in several ways. Some still worship "the old way" (A big hail to them all!! Keep the old flame burning inside...) with all its magic and beliefs and some turn their heads towards newer stuff.

Do you consider your new album a revolutionary black metal sound? It includes very orchestral parts, done in an original and impressive form.

It's pretty original and progressing metal, but I won't say revolutionary. Revolutionary in the way that has a big slice of originality. You can't say that every time someone does something progressive that it automatically starts a revolution concerning black metal.

But I don't think you can compare our music to any other bands. When

you listen to our sound and use of instruments in the various compositions, it's pretty unique.

Those melodic aspects are tired used forms in black metal bands, almost all having a keyboard player in their ranks. Don't you think that the public is in some way sick of hearing so many cliches? Or do you think that bands like Emperor or old Cradle of Filth will always be the selected ones of the masses?

Both Emperor and Cradle... have used the keyboards in a very impressing way. But I don't rank them above every other band that uses keyboards. they sell albums out of other reasons too.

I judge the music out of what I get when I listen to it, not what I get from reading about it. Those cliches do not make any impression on me, I'm aware of the possibilities when using a keyboard.

After some years of playing experience witchcraft is an album full of technicism but totally expressed in songs like "Veils Of Wintersorrow", "From Times In Kingdoms" and/or "Torned Winds From A Past Star". Your music is progressively being more and more technical and orchestral? It is your future and only path?

It is a part of our future. Not the only way. It depends on what we are able to create and perform in the future. Our next album will continue from "Witchcraft", but will also include new elements.

I'm not sure that it will be as symphonic as "Witchcraft" since we now have a new keyboard player. To be honest, I don't know for the moment. We haven't started with the keyboards on our new songs yet.

What symbolizes the occult person behind the unholy fire in the cover?

It's a part of the mysticism in the album. A secret which I will not reveal.

It is time to end. Your last words...

Merchandise at "Wounded Love". Thanx to you.

That the most bright star, illuminates your path....



The REVIEWS SECTION... Master's Grades...

Make us a favour... kill yourselves!!!
. You must try harder next time...!!!!
The regular stuff.... nothing much special!!!
Very good work... they deserve all your attention!!
What are you waiting for? If you don't buy...die!!!



AETERNUS

"Beyond The Wandering Moon"
(hammerheart records)



"Beyond The Wandering Moon" is the debut album from the norwegian Aeternus. They combine very well Black metal with dark metal, creating an hateful & melancholical mixture of music. The vocalisation of *Ares* is a combination of Death's growls with the Black's obscenity almost never entering in the speed's domains. Very intense & powerful riffs, embraces all their music with some atmospheric touches. An original piece of music, but in the other hand when the end is reached, the sensation of repetition comes to mind... \$18, DM 25 P.O. Box 277, 6300 AG Valkenburg, Holland.

...melancholical mixture of music. The vocalisation of *Ares* is a combination of Death's growls with the Black's obscenity almost never entering in the speed's domains. Very intense & powerful riffs, embraces all their music with some atmospheric touches. An original piece of music, but in the other hand when the end is reached, the sensation of repetition comes to mind... \$18, DM 25 P.O. Box 277, 6300 AG Valkenburg, Holland.

AGARTHI

"At The Burning Horizon" (Mcd)
(red stream)



From the lands of mafia, Agarthi raises their swords in the air... or lets say, their horses... melodic Death metal with black influences is what this sextet plays. This is a very easy listening if you know what I mean... it has brutality, melody, black/death metal vocals & clear ones (reminding me a little of Heavy metal) in the right places at the right times. The musical and technical skills are high and they know how to take advantage of it. The production helped in the creation of this good opus. P.O. Box 342, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0342, U.S.A.



What we have here is the re edition in Cd of their 2nd demo *"Artist Of The Flesh"*. this re-release could be much more aggressive and brutal if the production was better, not so thick. Angelkill plays a kind of death metal not very brutal, more in the technical manner. The vocalisation of Blakk is done not in the guttural way like most of the Death/Thrash metal bands, but more clear. A good band, which will do a better job with a better production. 2207 W Whittier Blvd, P.O. Box 3302 Montebello, CA 90640, U.S.A.



ANGELKILL

"Beyond The Black"
(wild rags)



Another re-release from wild rags this time in the name of *"Beyond The Black"* which contains 10 tracks of technical Thrash metal with Death influences which totalizes 56 minutes. The main aspect that I dislike in Angelkill is the weak production in both releases (*Artist Of The Flesh* and this one). Besides that, Angelkill and his Thrash metal music are a fine scapegoat for the tired Black metal underground scene. The Blakk's vocals grazes the Death's vocalisations, and 8 years of playing time is more than enough to know how to handle their instruments... But take your judgements...

ANOREXIA NERVOSA

"Exile"
(seasons of mist)



Well, to start we must give them 5 skulls for the cover... two beautiful and well supplied girls are always good to see, if you know what I mean? From the ashes of Necromancia, Anorexia Nervosa aris-

ALGAION

"General Enmity"
(wounded love records)



Well, well... another great release from the swedish Algaion. I must confess that I'm a little disappointed with *"General Enmity"*... because they cut all their black metal roots, that their previous works had. Quite frankly *"Oimai Algeiou"* (debut album) and *"Vox Clementis"* (Mcd) were two good black metal albums and still are. Good old days!!! But after some entries in the band, drummer and guitar player, Algaion ex. two member band, changed their sound... for better or worse? None of both... they simply progressed, nowadays they sound more melodic, more power metal. Personally I think that this change is a reflection of their technical & composing improvements, but for someones this could mean a way to gain more money, or by other means the comercialization!!!! *"General Enmity"* is a very powerful, dynamic & heavy album with a very good production. A must for all Metal lovers!! But I have 100% sure that they loosed some loyal black metal fans, but gained much more...

es with a strange combination of avantgarde Dark wave, Gothic and industrial music. After their *"Nihil Negativum"* demo '95, they now release



"Exile" a strange opus where the listener is taken to a trip. They combine real music with strange ambiental parts done with a very wicked feeling. Besides their industrial aggressivity they possess some melodic touches. The vocals are very intense with a electronical feeling... but human... A strange work for strange persons... and good girls!!!

AS DIVINE GRACE

"Lumo"
(avantgarde music)



Well, well what we have here is simply one of the best albums of 97, now you probably are wandering about the style of their music to buy it!!! The music... is totally melodic and melancholic with some *"Katatonica"* riffs, the vocals of Hanna are nothing more nothing less than the beauty itself... *"Lumo"* is a large combination of metal and non-metal influences, the music itself could not be totally described as metal, but something like melancholic and 100% melodic and beautiful finnish music. As Divine Grace is the kind of band that even your parents would like to hear... but who cares!!! Good melodies never die. Mailorder: Sound Cave, Via Col Di Lana, 3; I-20136 Milano, Italy.

BETHLEHEM

"Dark Metal"
(red stream)



Being an enormous fan of slow and hateful dark metal, this german quartet are something that I truly like... Re-release by red stream, *"Dark Metal"* is an old release from the guys but always actual and a good listening for more melancholic moods. If you want to cultivate your depression, or awake your funeral feelings you must acquire this opus. Very powerful with slow riffs and drum beats accompanied with a cruel and slowly raw vocalisation of Chassen. Songs like *Second Coming*, *Vartimmen*, *3rd Nocturnal Prayer* or *Funeral Owlblood* makes me tremble like gelatin. P.O. Box 342, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0342, U.S.A.



BEWITCHED

"Pentagram Prayer"
(osmose prod)



We are in the eighties, NO, nineties, NO eighties, I'm confused!!! The evil spirit of the eighties still possesses some persons in the metal music and we must thank satan for that. Hail to the Beast!!! Evil, Speed, Heavy Metal is what embraces *"Pentagram Prayer"*, an album full of memories, full of powerful and old heavy riffs. Tracks like *Hallways To Hell*, *Satan's Claw*, *Hellblood*, *The Night Stalker*, *Hellcult Attack*, bla, bla... are full examples of Venom, Mercyful Fate and Celtic Frost influences. After *"Diabolical Desecration"* (debut) and *"Encyclopedia Of Evil"* Mcd, Bewitched are becoming more popular and a more cult timelost band. \$16 to Osmose, B.P. 57, 62990 Beaurainville, France.



BLOODTHORN

"In The Shadow Of Your Black Wings"
(season of mist)



The Embodied Core Of Darkness opens this debut album, with a mixture of female chants with raw male vocals and very melodic elements. The all album is full of Black melody if you know what I mean... Knarr the session drummer (now a permanent member) makes an hell of a job in this debut... Although the riffs are a little repetitive, the music has a huge darkened feeling... *March To War* is a good example of that, but besides that it's a good music with an amazing atmosphere, perhaps just a little too long for the few variations. They could have a high grade but the lack of variations doesn't helped. 24 Rue Brandis, 13005 Marseille, France.

CARPATHIAN FOREST

"Bloodlust And Perversion"
(avantgarde music)



If there's something called norwegian cult bands Carpathian Forest must be one of them. After their mini-album of 95 entitled *"Through Chasm, Caves and Titan Woods"* they now release not their full length, but rather a compilation of an old demo and rehearsal material plus two cover versions of Bathory (*Call From The Grave*) and Venom (*Warhead*). *"Bloodlust..."* shows the two sides of the band, one more raw and old Black metal and the other more symphonic. About the production of it, you can imagine what to expect, being demos and rehearsal material... NO, not that bad, just the music itself without any studio "transformations"!!! This release possesses the original Black metal feeling, so it's a 60 minutes must for all the true "demoniac" fans!!! Just hear the title track, *Return of the Freezing Winds*, *The Last sigh of Nostalgia* or *Carpathian Forest...*!! Great.

CHRIST AGONY

"Darkside"
(hammerheart)
☺☺☺

"Darkside" is the fourth album from the polishes **Christ Agony**... and, well, dissa-pointed me a lot, *Cezar* introduced elements of dance music in songs like 'My Spirit Seal (dream version)' and (blood version), both could be heard in dance discos... besides that, "Darkside" is an album full of dance beats... ughhhh!! 'Kingdom Of Abyss' is one of the few songs that has a very metal feeling, and was also featured in the double compilation tape produced by us (Ancient Ceremonies) entitled "Blessed By The Ancient Flame". Melody &

crystal clear vocals are a constant element in this opus, like in *Heredity*, *Dark Beauty*, *Dark Poem*.. If you like progressive metal music, you should check this. P.O. Box 277, 6300 AG Valkenburg, Holland.

COVENANT

"In Times Before The Light"
(mordgrimm)
☺☺☺

After hearing some songs of "in Times Before The Light" I have the sensation that I have heard that before, a couple of times... well, telling the truth **Covenant's** music isn't much original. What they play, do it very well and in the most professional way, but many bands have accomplished that, like **Gehenna** and **Dimmu Borgir** and as a matter of fact, one of their members (*nagash* of D.B.) plays in **Covenant**. This norwegian band plays a sort of majestic and symphonic Black metal. So, anyone into nordic b.m. should check this out, the production and the playing qualities of their members are the best ones!!! P.O. Boix 3305, Chelmsford CM1 3FB, U.K.

COUNTESS

"Hell's Rock & Roll" (Mcd)
(prowler prod.)
☺☺☺

After their fourth album "The Book Of The Heretic", **Countess** releases their Mcd on *Orlok's* own record company. **Countess** always had a very old evil Heavy Metal feeling in their music, and now even more... The four albums that

they release so far gave them an enormous development in their technical qualities and "Hell's Rock & Roll" is an Mini-album full of powerful and raw EVIL Heavy metal riffs and now they take more advantage in the solo's. The only down point is that just includes 3 songs and one live version of "On The Wings Of Azazel", leaving the listener wanting more. \$10 P.O. Box 3133, 2301 DC Leiden, Holland.

DARK TRANQUILITY

"The Mid's I"
(osmose records)

Sweden is one of the countries from where good bands arise, and **Dark Tranquility** could only be from there, their sound is a good product of it... "The Mid's I" is an album full of their old melodic influences but with a newer and much more intense and varied approach, the songs are more shorter and more powerful than their previous works. With a very technical Death metal style, **Dark Tranquility** "follows" the growing steps of **At The Gates** (rest in peace), **Katantonia**, **Dissection**, **In Flames** with their "gothenburgish metal sound". This is one those albums that we like it, just at the first hearing, extremely well played, fruit of 7 years of existence, a good production and an original sound... A must!!! B.P. 57, 62990 Beaurainville, France.

☺☺☺☺



DEINONYCHUS

"Ark Of Thought"
(supernal music)
☺☺☺

Deinonychus is the solo project of **Marco Kehren**, also knowned as **Odin**, which composes a very depressul and darkful Black metal style, but original which is a rare thing nowadays... The main aspect which is instantaneously noted in it's music is the extremely melancholical vocalisation. And when I say extremely melancholic, I'm not being too extreme or too confident, is what it is... pure dark melancholy, or we can say that for an extreme vocalisation just funeral speed... if you know what I mean. In the instrumental aspect... **Deinonychus** as well as almost all one man bands, suffers from it... weakness or repetition. In this case both syndromes are apparent but in tolerable quantities, the riffs are constantly the same in the Black & Doom vein. "Ark Of Thoughts" is a good album which must be heard first if you want to buy it, and then hearded from times to times, to not bother. 27 Fortis Green, East Finchley, London N2 9JL, U.K.

DIABOLIQUE

"Wedding The Grotesque"
(black sun records)
☺☺☺

Another swedish (gothenburg) act, this time from the ashes of **Liers In Wait**, **Diabolique** raised their bat wings to a more dark, gothic with metal influences sonority. Composed by 4 members, this gothic metal band introduces their world of horror and dark thoughts in a very melodic, depressive and slow way. The only huge down point in "Wedding The Grotesque" is the **Kristian Wahlin's** vocals which are performed what seems to me in a melodic chorus way... Well, imagine various persons singing in a very delayed way, producing a conjugation of several voices. **Kristian** is also the author of all the artwork of the Cd and others well knowned covers... **Emperor** "In The Nightside Eclipse", **Dissection** "Storm Of The Light's Bane" and "The Sombertain" between others. His vocalisation is embraced by melodic riffs, and a strong technical and diversified rhythms which gives to the listener a very sad but at the same time, beautiful feeling. Not for Black & Death metal brutal fans. \$18, P. O. Box 129, S-401 22 Göteborg, Sweden.

DISABLED

"Faith Ablation" (Mcd)
(craziness musix/embassy prod.)
☺☺☺

Massacre By Slitting, **Abolish The Church**, **Stab-Wound Butchery** are some fine examples of the title songs of this Mcd... Now I ask you, what kind of music does **Disabled** play? Yes, brutal Death metal, what else? After 6 years of existence, several demos and gigs with **Morbid Angel**, **Carcass**, **Sinister**, **Dawn** this quartet released their deserved Mcd. Using the brutality of the double bass drum, the growling vocalisation of **Stéph** and the fine guitar job of **Eric** and **Pascal** on bass, their produce an "old" piece of brutality. 05 Rue De La Gare D'Harnes, 62710 Courrieres, France.

ESOTERIC

"The Pernicious Enigma" (D-Cd)
(aesthetic death reo.)
☺☺

Well, I like Doom metal, but what we have here is more than that, is super highly melancholic doom metal... but telling the truth I was not capable to listen the whole double album which is 115 minutes of playing time... in one time. The songs are too long for my liking, they have an 19 minute music; unbelievable!!! This way, their 9 songs that "The Pernicious enigma" contains, are too repetitive, too long, too slow, too tedious!!!! Their music is intense with some powerful riffs, but... Boring, with all the letters!!!! You can do better than that guys!!! \$26, Silwood, Pershore Road, Eckington, Worcestershire WR10 3AP, England.



FIFTH REASON

"Psychotic"
(heathendoom music)
☺☺☺

Featuring ex. members of **Abstrakt Algebra**, **Tad Morose**, **Memento Mori** plus one of the guitarists from the true **Hexenhaus** and **Memory Garden**, **Fifth Reason** is a group of very fine and experienced musicians... and "Psychotic" their debut album reveals this aspect, extremely well played and recorded, produced & mixed by **Mike Wead** of **Mercyful Fate** and **Memento Mori**. Their music is a combination of all those bands... Oooohhhh... is a combination of powerful Heavy Metal with a very progressive and technical background, but all very melodic indeed. The vocals of **Kristian Andrén** are very powerful but melodious. Sweden is definitively one of the best countries for new bands and musicians... \$20 to P. O. Box 36, S-114 79 Stockholm, Sweden

FORTE

"Destructive"
(massacre records)
☺☺☺

This is the third album from the US band

Forte, after the not so acclaimed "Division", **Forte** after the departure of their singer, **William Dollins** and bassist, **Rev Ghames**, produced something more powerful, more power/trash metal oriented. The musicianship of this four guys is beyond any criticism, especially the guitar work of **Jeff Scott** and the superb drumming of **Greg Scott** like on *Heal Me* or *The Hard Way* with some hyper speed blasting parts, on the other hand **Neverasleep** and especially *October* have a very rock ballad feel-



ing that I simply despised with all my body & soul. Sometimes the vocals of **David Thompson** reminds me of **Ozzy Osbourne**, but just sometimes and just in *Eternal*. **Rauheckstr.** 10, 74232 Abstatt, Germany.

HASTUR

"Macabre Execution" (Cd-Ep)
(beyond Prod.)
☺☺☺

The name **Hastur** was taken from one of the H.P. Lovecraft stories/novels entitled "Necronomicon" (also the name of an ancient potent book...) and to tell you the truth, **Hastur** is a good band with a good idea to their sound but 2 songs in one Cd totalizing 12 minutes and asking \$10 for it is a little too much for my liking. Besides that they play a mixture of melodic Death metal with hints of Black metal. The vocals of **Trevor** could be more brutal to me and the production a little bit better. But if you are rich and like to spend your money in trivial things **Hastur** is a good band to do it!!! **Indorato Giovanni**, V. **Menotti** 51/1, 16154 Genova, Italy.

HERMH

"Angeldemon"
(pagan records)
☺☺☺

Another fine release by the well knowned polish label **Pagan records**... this time by the shape of the second album from the also polish band **Hermh**. "Angeldemon" takes over where "Taran" their debut album standed... miles behind, due to the bad production "Angeldemon" on contrary, has a very good production done by **Vader**, **Christ Agony's** engineer. For the ones who don't know, and are many I know... **Hermh's** music has the beauty, erotism of Gothic, the double bass drums of Death, the darkness of Black metal and the orchestrations of classical music. **Bart's** vocals are melodic with a raw and cruel feeling and touches slightly the Death vocalisations, but being more black metal oriented. *Dreamdeath lover*, *Wolfish flower*, *Vampire the Angeldemon* and immor-



talise/outro are fine examples of their passion for vampiric matters.. \$15, P.O. Box 12, 86-105 Swiecie, Poland.

HORNA

"Hiidentorni"
(solistitium records)
☺☺☺

Producing not a very original Black metal style, **Horna** hails from finland a land of cold beliefs... The four members intro-

duce with "Hiidentorni" to their insane black metal with not a very good production and sometimes a little too repetitive. I think that Horna is in a face where is still looking for an identity because there are some similarities with other bands, such as Emperor in the beginning of *Ikuisesti*, *Kalpeina Kuoleman Muistoina* where *In To The Infinity Of Thoughts* comes to mind. But Horna is worth for their demented music and for their loyalty to their country... by singing in finnish. P. O. Box 1210, 26802 Moormerland, Germany.

Baalism are from Japan and have six years of existence but just now they release their debut album of Heavy melodic Death metal.



One of the things that this band has which I truly appreciate is the guitar work, with some good solos and powerful riffs,

even at the same time. The title track, 'Cannibal Sodom', 'Energumenus', 'Blasphemy Resurrected' are just some of the good songs which 'An Anatomy Of The Beast' contains. They even have some Blackish vocals on 'A Place Their Gods Left Behind', but the death growls prevail on the rest. There's nothing more to be said except that is a must to any Death metal fan!!!

IMPERATOR

"The Time Before Time" (pagan records)



Who said that Death metal is... well, death? Now almost seven years after the release of "The Time Before Time" for a polish label, who haven't promoted at all the album, it's re-released by Pagan records. With an incredible old feeling, Emperor with 13 years of playing experience, can claim that know what they are doing... old evil-death metal played in old times, with an incredible guitar job by Baniel is what we have here. Incredible variations of rhythms is a constant presence in their ranks, something that in my opinion cuts a little the violence of the music and the will of headbanging, but the feeling that transmits is something that cannot be forgotten... But if we think that this album was recorded back in 90/91, it's the same that hearing an old Kreator, Sodom or Slayer album... I'm now wondering if they can transmit the same feeling in their upcoming albums...? We will see about that... You can read all the story of the band in the 26 page booklet that this cd has. \$14 P.O. Box 12, 86-105 Swiecie 5, Poland.



KAWIR

"Tpos Kabeipoy's To Cavirs"



'To Cavirs' opens this release from the greek band Kawir, but soon the lack of something invades my mind... if Kawir isn't a one man Black metal band with some atmospheric parts, it seems very much. Because it reflects the lack of some originality and the weakness of a one member band... The production is not very good, the drums could have been more powerful and more diversified, the same riffs goes on and on at the entire Cd... The atmospheric parts and the vocals are the only thing that is reasonable in this Cd, but even this could be more original and creative. \$20 ??? P.O. Box 31232, 10035 Athens Hellas, Greece

LIMBONIC ART

"In Abhorrence Dementia" (nocturnal art productions)



This is an opus released by a m o t h in his own label, and what a fine taste he has... after their debut "Moon In The Scorpio", they now continue the saga but in a much better way.

What is the combination of Wagner with Black metal...? Limbonic Art without any doubt. In this band the main aspect or the focal point of their music is the amazing keyboards in all their forms, and thinking that they are only two persons... Their orchestral black metal combined with a good production produced a terrifying weapon, where the occult side of the universe is placed at your feet... Like in it's antecessor, "In Abhorrence Dementia" is still completed by a drum machine, something that, if modified would without any doubt create an even stronger and powerful work of art. P.O. Box 4, 3671 Notodden, Norway.

LUX OCCULTA

"Dionysos" (pagan records)



This is the second opus from this superb band, for me one of the best polish acts, if not the best. They combine extremely well the aggressiveness of their dark music with good melodies. 'The Birth Of The Race' opens "Dionysos", a 7 minute

MANIAC BUTCHER

"Lucan - antikrist" (pussy god records)



Czech Republic is the land of this four warriors... well, they need to "fight" a little more in my opinion, their music is sometimes very repetitive and the black czech vociferations of Barbarud are a bit funny... but luck of us in having in the Cd booklet the english version of the songs. The drums are very weak in the mixture which produced a thin Black metal. "Lucan - antikrist" is an album to hear few times a year... sorry guys you could do a lot better!! But on the other hand... it only costs \$12 to Radim Hora, Stroupecska 2144, 438 01 Zatec, Czech Republic.

MAYHEM

"Wolf's Lair Abyss" (MCD) (misanthropy records)



The gods are back... finally after more than 3 years, and in contrary to some rumours of spitup, Mayhem released their Mcd entitled "Wolf's Lair Abyss". But to tell the truth some dark essence have died with Dead and Euronymous, specially in the vocals, but who is complaining???? Not me. Maniac who appeared on the 87 "Deathcrust" Ep is now handling the vocals and doing it extremely well, very cruel raw, dark and not-human like it should be!!! Mayhem nowadays sounds even more speedy, brutal and aggressive... This Mcd reflects the enviable professionalism and technicism of the well known four musicians. Helhammer (drums), Necrobutcher (bass), Blasphemer (guitar) and Maniac. This four track is a MUST to all music maniacs. P.O. Box 9, Hadeleigh, Suffolk IP7 5AU, England.



MOON

"Daemon's Heart" (pagan records)



Moon was formed in the middle of 96 by Cezar, from the ashes of the polish metal band Christ Agony. "Daemon's Heart" features also Doc, the drummer of the well known Death metal band, Vader. Basicly Moon is a Black metal band with a good dark vocalisation, but the not human drums arruined all, the beat is extremely repetitive and tiring... and after a couple of minutes the constant tá, tá, tá, tá, tá becomes a little nauseous. The combination of some keyboards on the back of the music and some powerful riffs is what gives a non-repetitive atmosphere to Moon, but it isn't enough... I think that they could have taken advantage of the abilities and experience of Doc. \$16 from Pagan.



song, long for you??!! So, you just have to hear more 5 long ones, but Lux Occulta do that in a beautiful way leaving the listener wanting more and more and what are their revenue... originality, variety and professionalism. Time in this album is something that doesn't exist or is so superfluous that you even

OBTAINED ENSLAVEMENT

"Witchcraft"

(wounded love records)



After their "Centuries Of Sorrow" debut album and after incredible delays "Witchcraft" is finally released by the italian label wounded love... perhaps this huge delay helped the band to produce and play in the most professional way these nine songs Cd... or maybe not. But what is definetly truth is that Obtained Enslavement created a superb and very symphonical opus of Black metal music. The album was produced in the famous Grieghallen studios, where Enslaved and Emperor recorded "Eld" and "Anthems To The Welkin At Dusk" albums with the

"help" of Pytten. Based as the proper title reflects, in witchcraft, they created a huge melodic, majestic and intense ritual of sorcery. The guitar work is something that could be admirable... Very good!!!

OSCULUM INFAME

"Dor-Nu-Faughlith" (mordgrimm)



Here we have one of those bands who were completely unknown, to us (????!!) and to the majority of the persons... but this three man controversial band born in the year 92 with one promo-tape and two demos, now recorded what we think it is one of the best French atmospheric Black Metal albums in the late times. The rawness of the guitars joined with the majesty of the keyboards is what gives an extra credit to this project. "Under The Sign Of The Beast", "Vampiric Warmaster" and "The Nine Ghosts Of The Ring Of Power" are what we call of presentation cards, because those songs have all the Osculum Infame elements... melody, aggressiveness, rawness, majesty. "When Iron Has Been Blended With Blood" is a instrumental song with an incredible celtic, pagan feeling. Great.

OUIJA

"Riding Into The Funeral Paths" (repulse records)



Born in 95 from the ashes of Levial, Oulja a five member band tried to raise above all... but what surged was not very unusual melodic Black metal. Oulja combines fast parts with more melodic ones, something not very done in the Black metal circle... just one billion times, if you know what I mean!!! Don't get me wrong, "Riding Into The Funeral Paths" is a good



INCANTATION

"The Forsaken Mourning Of Angelic Anguish" (Mcd) (repulse records)



Another fine and brutal release, this time by the US's Incantation. Brutal Death Metal/Grindcore in the american fashion... double speedy bass drums of Kyle Severn, beating like possessing live, powerful guitars of John McEntee and a growling superb vocalisation by the ex.member Craig Pillard, in this Mcd as a session vocalist, is what makes Incantation acclaimed. The production of "The Forsaken..." is excellent, and the cover of Death's *Scream Bloody Gore* is simply amazing and brutal. This release will solidify even more their position in the brutal death metal scene, like being one of the bests. 'Shadows From The Ancient Empire', 'Lusting Congregation Of Perpetual Damnation (Eternal Eden)' or the title track will make all the brutal death metal fans drooling like angry dogs! P.O. Box 50562, 28080 Madrid, Spain.



INTESTINE BAALISM

"An Anatomy Of The Beast" (repulse records)



How many bands do you know from Japan? None. You are wrong. Intestine



Black Metal album but doesn't introduced nothing new to the dark scene. This album is a good presentation to new Black metal freaks, containing

raw, majestic vocals, cruel and powerful guitars accompanied by the usual keyboard touches. 'Crossing The Seventh Gate', 'Hear The Call Of The Wolves' or 'In The Witching Midnight' are fine examples of what I just said.

PSALM

"Threshold Of Escape"
(craziness musix/embassy prod.)
☺☺☺☺

Their label told us that Psalm plays a mixture of industrial music with Death metal, but to tell the truth Psalm have in their music so little industrial influences that are almost unseen. Being from France, "Threshold Of Escape" is an album full of british influences and contains 6 hymns of non repetitive Death metal. The double bass drum is something that I really like to hear in brutal bands, and they have that element in their music, but despite that, Psalm for moments seems to use some not-human beats... the vocalisation of Doussy is from the guts, but do not falls into total imperceptibility like most of Death/Grindcore bands and just sometimes enters in the crystal clear domains, something that unfortunately he doesn't make very well. They have also their share of melody in music.

PSYCO DRAMA

"Bent"
(massacre records)
☺☺

Well, well here we have some rock pseudo stars... their music are a strong inspiration from Queensryche, Sanctuary so you can image what kind of music they play, wimpy and effeminated!!! Sure, they are a good band for all the girls who still



suck their fingers and not just that... And even the vocals of Corey are in the minimum... very feminine, Psycho Drama could be a better band if he do not sing... They sometimes reminds me of Trouble, another rock pseudo stars but for you readers of Ancient Ceremonies all this names are just empty words. We do not give just one skull because one of the members of our crew had pity of them and a "half" one was added. Puke!!! Sorry massacre!!!

RITUAL

"The Summoning"
(wild rags records)
☺☺☺☺

The trend of a one man band stuck!!! Ritual is a band led by Mike (guitar & backing vocals) with the help of some session members. They play very basic mid-tempo Black metal music with some hints of melody by the use of some guitar

riffs. Ian the session member vocalist despite of his also guitar, keyboard and drum pattern functions (only that!?!?) produced some evil and raw vocalisations. 'Visions Of Souls Once Lost', 'Blood Moon' and 'Ancient God Of Winter' are the best tracks in "The Summoning". They have now release their second album entitled "Demoniac Winter Metal" which we sincerely hope that has some improvements, because they suffer a little from originality, BUT they have a very strong and evil feeling!.. and that counts a lot to us.



SABBAT

"The Dwelling (The Melody Of Death Mask)"
(evil records)
☺☺☺☺

Another good Japanese band, this time by the shape of Sabbath. They are playing since '81 with their amazing mixture of Heavy metal with old Black metal. "The Dwelling" is an album with an incredible old feeling, with powerful riffs combine by raging solo's and a mid tempo drum velocity. But if I told you that this album contains only 1 track?!! You won't buy it, right?? But if I told you that the only song contains 60 minutes you will probably reconsider it again!!! And it's the best thing to do. Temis Osmond has done an excellent guitar job which denotes his high technical skills and the vocalisation is performed by all the members, not at the same time, being more creative and dynamic combined with very evil, cruel and aggressive tones... humh... OLD. Sometimes seems a mixture of Venom with Merciful Fate... yes you can call me crazy... and you are absolutely right, ah,ah!!! \$20 to 1056, Hoshikawa, Kuwana, Mie, 511, Japan. For old metal fans Great!!!



SARGATANAS

"Sargatanas" Cd-Ep
(wild rags)
☺☺☺☺

Sargatanas is a mexican band with some stories... formed in '86 and after five years the band dismembered. In '94 Lord Sargatanas decided to re-joined the band again with different line-up members but soon the bass/vocals left the band to enter Anathama's God which has a very deep and growling vocal more Death metal inclined. This self titled release is the re-edition by wild rags of their '95 demo, this opus possesses a huge old Death/Black feeling. "Sargatanas" was recorded in a 36 track studio so you can expect a good and crystal clear production. Sargatanas is a mixture of very good



old bands like Sodom, Possessed, Kreator, Venom... so, you can image what's the type of music that they play... very HEAVY!! \$7.

SCULPTURE

"Like A Dead Flower" Mcd
(art music)
☺☺☺☺

The first Cd review of a portuguese band, it was about time!!!! Well, Sculpture was created by Carlos, the vocalist of the grind-core band Evisceration who released their debut entitled "Hymn To The Monstrous". You are now thinking that it's another brutal death metal band, but you are completely wrong, it's Doom metal with Death metal influences in the vocal area, which are from the guts but extremely melodic. The reasons who took them to change their sound directions are beyond my knowledge... With two guitar players of Needless God (death metal) and the bass player of Oblivion (death metal), Carlos formed a band with some experience, which can be proved in their debut work "Like A Dead Flower". This work opens with an obscure intro... it seems to be an oath from a couple of persons... then "At The Gates Of Shadows World" opens the "instrumental concept" with heavy but melodical guitars. This all album is full of majesty, beauty and not forgetting technicism, something that the portuguese REAL bands do well. For musical lovers!!! 2000\$, \$13 (eur.), \$15 (world) Apartado 134, 2830 Barreiro, Portugal.



SKYCLAD

"The Answer Machine?"
(massacre records)
☺

This well knowned british act, is becoming more an more commercial, more and more rocky. Good old days of Skyclad!!! There's nothing much to say, except that they have lost all the magic that the early recordings could transmit to the listener, they even lost the special folk tones that were so much talked in their old glorious days. Now the Martin's vocals are nothing more than usual pop band, wimpy, without any aggressiveness or special essence that characterises him. I think that the giant step that massacre records claims that Skyclad have done, was to backwards. "The Answer Machine?" reminds me of a rock ballads album, something that as you can image the Ancient Ceremonies crew simply hates!!! An album to forget!!!



SOLEFALD

"The Linear Scaffold"
(avantgarde music)
☺☺☺☺

Insane, insane, in the positive sense, is what Solefald are... Their majestic approach to it's music and the Black metal madness, creates some insane variations of rhythms, sounds and even styles. In one moment they can be in total peace within the chambers of a classical composition and in another moment with a variation of just one second in total hate with speedy Black metal vocalisations

and riffs. They remind me a little of In The Woods but with a more vigorous approach. All that can be seemed in tracks like 'Jernlov', 'The Macho Vehicle', 'Countryside Bohemians' and 'When The Moon Is On The Wave'. And thought that it's all produced by just two persons, Cornelius & Lazare. Perhaps this will be the next exploring domains for Black Metal...??? I really don't think so!!! Lack of originality is what no one can accuse Solefald of!! For melodic and avant-garde Black metal lovers & for In The Woods fans.



T.A.R.

"Fear Of Life"
(heathendoom music)
☺☺☺☺

Firstly this act was called Vulture King and under this name played some gigs with wellknown bands like Dismember or Face Down, but after two demos the band decided to change it to T.A.R. and with this name recorded their demo "Are You Dead". This debut album recorded, produced and mixed in sweden by Rex Gisslén show us a very swedish progressive but basic musical approach. The guitar work of Stefan and Juan is what could be detached in "Fear Of Life" with very powerful and aggressive riffs and solo's. The whole album is based upon the life of Jacob Werner a fiction person invented by the vocalist, Torbjörn. Some spanish lyrics was also written by him, giving a more realistical feeling to them, because the mother of Jacob was spanish... But on the whole "Fear Of Life" is a progressive power metal album, is the kind of albums to hear and to feel... \$20.



THEORY IN PRACTICE

"Third Eye Function"
(pulverised records)
☺☺☺☺

"Third Eye Function" is the debut album from this quartet, on the whole what they play is progressive and technical Death metal... once more and because I'm not a big fan of these incessant changes of speeds and rhythms, this is something that I do not appreciate very much, especially when some well known bands have done something like this... like Death (not the old stuff) or Atheist. The band is formed by ex. members of Rivendell, Legia and Incarnation and denotes a high level of technicism and composition, but that isn't enough for me... Of course they have good songs like 'Astral Eyes', 'Worlds Within Worlds' or 'The Expiring Utopia' where they explore more the regular Death metal paths and adding just a few progressive elements. They have also a few good moments of gypsy (!!!?) guitar riffs, but headbanging at the sound of Theory In Practice could be a little difficult...!!! P.O. Box 109, Yishun Central, Singapore 917604.



THOKK

"Of Rape And Vampirism"
(mordgrimm)



Thokk is the side-band of Lord Kaiaphas who was the former member of Grand Belial's Key and who is now in the well known act Ancient, which have release their third album on Metal Blade entitled "Mad Grandiose Bloodfiends". We are talking of a raw black metal project, as usual, sometimes very similar with Ancient, due to his not very unsimilar vocals... but Thokk it isn't only that... "Of Rape And Vampirism" is divided into two evocations... the first one includes 5 "real" musics (drums, vocals, guitars...) the second one is composed by 3 acts of terrifying experimentalism, or better saying of industrial atmospheric horror ambientalism. The second evocation in my opinion do not fits very well into the previous musical concept, especially after 5 raging holocausts and could be much more varied.

THROES OF DAWN

"Pakkasherra"
(woodcut records)



Do you like Heavy metal? Yes. And what about Black metal? Yes, too. So you will definitely like this debut release from this finnish band, a strong combination of those styles of metal in a very original way. Throes Of Dawn uses blackish screaming high pitched vocals mixed with incredible good melodies and some heavy solo's and riffs. All of that combined, plus a touch of magic makes "Pakkasherra" an worthy finnish album like most of the nowadays finnish bands. The production is a good and was recorded in Egotrip studio 24-trax. \$20 from P.O. Box 87, 65101 Vaasa, Finland

THY GRIEF

"The Frozen Tomb Of Mankind"
(Solistitium)



Another norwegian black metal band, but to tell the truth I wasn't conscientious of their existence. I think that norge bands have a total different vision of what underground is... but talking about "The Frozen Tomb Of Mankind" is an album with a strong double bass drum beat (for a b.m. band) with a more raw vocal approach then the usual screaming stuff. There are the usual keyboard touches (it seems that nowadays a bm band who do not uses keyboards, isn't a bm band... It still exists bands without keyboards? Strange, where are they?...) performed by Christer and gladly are just a few ones... A good effort!!!

THE MIST

"Gottverlassen"
(repulse records)



The Mist it was definitely huge Sepultura influences... what a coincidence this album was recorded with Jairo Guedz as guitar player...!?? For the ones who don't know Jairo was the former member of Sepultura and recorded with them "Bestial Devastation" and "Morbid Vision"



albums. But don't get me wrong, The Mist isn't a faithful copy of it, it was other influences too, as Slayer and Prong, ah, ah! After two years of touring, the forth album "Gottverlassen" was released in '96, but just to the brasilian audience... and a year later worldwide licensed to Repulse records. This is an album for all the fans of aggressive Power/Thrash metal with a high technical playing level and a superb production. \$16 from repulse. Could be more original.

TRANSCENDENCE

"Eternal Stream"
(gaia disk)



Formed in august '94, it was only in the beginning of '97 that this progressive atmospheric metal band released their debut album based on humanity, through a fictional story divided into three chapters which are told within three albums. So the first album entitled "Eternal Stream" represents the story of humanity. Composed by four members, Transcendence can mix a huge number of instruments (piano, flute, violins, congas...) and styles in their music, such as progressive rock, classical, melodic metal atmospheres, creating a very beautiful, symphonic, melodic but personal style of music on the whole. This is the kind of albums that will be pleased by atmospheric metal and non metal audiences. \$15 us/can, \$20 world at 1950, 366 rue, Laval-Ouest, Qc, Canada, H7R 2C7.



UNBURN

"Beyond Life And Death" (Mcd)
(big big tiger records)



Another release by a portuguese band, this time by Unburn a six (!!?) member band with a Melodic Doom/Death metal sonority. A keyboard intro with female vocals opens the doors to "Beyond Life And Death", the album is composed by the not very growling vocalisation of Daniel and with some additions of Susana the female singer in some parts of the musics. The music of Unburn denotes some youth in this fields... the drums are very basic, the keyboards a little repetitive and some mistakes could be found... But still their music have some power. We will wait their next work, we hope it will be a better one. 1500\$ + 150\$ for postage to R. São João, 126 - Repeses, 3500 Viseu. Orders outside Portugal I think that \$12(eur.), \$13 (world) will be enough.



UNCREATION

"Uncreation"
(repulse records)



After their previous 3-inch Mcd "Death To Humanity" sold almost 2.000 copies, they record one year and half later their Mcd. Uncreation is one of those spanishs bands with a clearly influence from the U.S. death metal sonority. Uncreation's music is extremely brutal and aggressive

like N.Y. bands are and can be compared as Suffocation, Pyrexia or Internal Bleeding. The vocals reminds me a few times of Chris Barnes's style, from the guts, but the guy goes far beyond that... from the intestine. This Mcd was released by Black Dragon Rec. but manufactured and exclusively distributed by Repulse rec. For real brutal Death metal lovers!!! Brutal to the bones.



UNNATURAL

"Throne Of Anguish" (Mcd)
(repulse records)



Another manufactured and exclusively distributed work by Repulse records, this time a Qabalah Prod. release. And again other spanish brutal death metal band, this time a much more technical act, a crossover between Immolation & Gorguts. If I told you that the drummer of this brutal band is a woman, do you believe it? No?? You are wrong, Sonia handles the drums in a better way that many macho mens. They use some technical guitar, drums variations which gives a different touch to their brutality and brutal growls. The only downpoint is the fact that "Throne Of Anguish" only has 19 minutes, a short time, even for a Mcd...



VITAL REMAINS

"Forever Underground"
(osmose productions)



Vital Remains are definitely one of that bands which have the quality seal in their domains... "Forever Underground" is the follower of '95 "In The Cold Darkness" Cd, and with a new line-up due to the Jeff Gruslin, Paul Flynn and Rick Corbett dismisses Vital Remains bring us new blood to their '80 Death metal... Dave Susuki the new element does a very professional and brutal job, playing both drums and lead guitar. "Forever Underground" contains 6 tracks where the band mixture their own brutal style with some epic elements, creating an album of absolute "majestic" Death metal. An essential purchase!!!



VULPECULA

"Fons Immortalis" (Mcd)
(merciless records)



For the ones who read our previous issues know that my reviews to their pre-

vious releases weren't good... only because of the sound quality, especially in the vocal part. Vulpecula is one of that bands that must record their releases in a good studio with a person who knows what is doing, because they have a very obscure atmosphere, using a very distorted, cruel and stuffy vocalisation. "Fons Immortalis" is a combination of dark metal with an astral feeling. I'm anxious to hear their upcoming "Down Among Them" debut album. P.O. Box 72, 97448 Arnstein, Germany.

WHIPLASH

"Sit Stand Kneel Prey"
(massacre records)



What the fuck!! This is an Whiplash release??!! I know Whiplash from their older works ("Ticket To Mayhem" or "Insult To Injury"), and I definitely when received this album was expecting something different, something Whiplash. This reminds me of Soundgarden or Stone Temple Pilots with a more power metal feeling (perhaps I'm being to extreme...)... Nothing more to add, except my disappointment...



VARIOUS ARTISTS

"Horrible Fascination - cold taste of death"
(immortal souls prod.)



This compilation Cd was sended by the management of Mentality, one of the bands featured in this Cd. In the whole contains only Czech and Slovakia bands like: Insepultus, Acoasma, Virtual Void, Carrion, Suffocate, Imperial Foeticide and Dementor. "Horrible Fascination" contains 8 Grind/Death metal bands, and which band is featured with two songs. Talking about Mentality are featured with "Mentions.." and "Roots Of Evil" and they bring us a mixture of Death/Grind with keyboards. The band is composed by six elements and as you can imagine they are presented to us with a complex musical structure... For more info write to: Jar Honc, F. Stefunku 14, 03601 Martin, Slovakia.

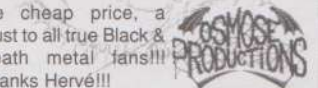


VARIOUS ARTISTS

"World Domination II"
(osmose prod.)



Perhaps you are now wandering why I have given 5 skulls to this release. I can explain that, this double compilation Cd contains 28 osmose bands (+ 2h30m) for the price of a Mcd. Besides that, the bands included, are some of the best acts of the moment musical metal scene like Vital Remains, Marduk, Necromantia, Immortal, Dark Tranquility, Enslaved, Bewitched, Absu between others. Besides that it includes some unreleased material from Impaled Nazarene "I am The Killer Of Trolls", Disfear, Swordmaster, Mystifier, and the list goes on... This is the compilation of the now extreme cult french label... For the cheap price, a must to all true Black & Death metal fans!!! Thanks Hervé!!!



Being one of the bests doom/death metal portuguese bands, *Obscenus* recorded recently their second professional demo-tape entitled "*Nocturnus Exordio*". Their professional attitude expressed towards their music and two releases, tooked *Luis Santos* (one of ours contributors) into a journey of thoughts... Like the radiance that caresses a scarlet sunset...

Obscenus

A lovely damsel

To begin this conversation, it would be interesting to hear your own definition of the OBSCENUS' sound. I know that bands don't appreciate labels but (I'm sure you understand) for a thirsty audience it's necessary to place bands in certain waves, without wanting to drown them.

Definitely, we are part of those bands that hate to be labelled let alone defining ourselves, because our sound is extremely vast and so "miscellaneous" that even for ourselves is hard to tell what we are really playing. Of course that doesn't mean we write without concern or write what's fashionable. Not at all! We just write what comes naturally leading to very diverse and multiple-influenced songs which come from each one of us. Anyway, we can say we play metal in a quite melodic and poetic manner and all the instruments have an equal share, including the violin and the female voice.

After a very well received (I think) debut demo how are the reactions to the new one so far? In the beginning you were planning to use it just for promotion and not for wider audiences.

The reactions are surpassing the expectations, it's with great delight that everyday we see excellent critiques about this new work arriving at our manager's desk. But mainly to realise that the people who are familiarised with the first demo comprehend the major evolution of our band. Also the other listeners who only heard about the band with this new demo are very curious to listen to our first recording. That's why we are preparing a second edition of *Salvatore* which is, little by little becoming a boundary in the Azorian metal.

Yes, it's true. In the beginning we were planning to release a promo-tape but we come to the conclusion that if we could get some financial support, it would be better to release it as a demo-tape. And so it turned out, we got the necessary sponsorship.

One of the things that instantly surprised me about you was your professionalism. Most bands go to a studio, record a couple of tracks, make some copies and sell them. In OBSCENUS, on the contrary there's a great concern shown not only in the music (obviously the most important) but also with the "package" of your work. That's the biggest proof you're in this for real...

All this image the band transmits is our manager's idea. He thinks a band must possess body and soul and that can only be achieved if there's personality in its whole concept, i.e., in the music and in the exterior components including the stage. In both demos, while the recording sessions were still in process, he already had everything planned about the package and the cover. He tells us that a band should be worthy in its whole and so we must concern about the small and the big details, whether it is the paper we use to correspond, the lay-out of the demo or even the clothes used in live performances.

Although in the last few years there has been some progress in heavy music it's still impossible for a portuguese band to have a tour worthy of that moniker. You have *Nocturnus Exordio* in the streets, what now? Concerts? If it's hard for a continental band in Azores it's a dream: or a nightmare.

Here in Azores things happen in a very peculiar way. There are shows in

the summertime only and always in a large scale linked with contests or festivals. In order to take part in these events we had to demonstrate our value. Fortunately, the people who are involved in it liked us and still do so we get a special treatment-however, not that much. Anyhow, we don't like to stay put and last year we got a sponsorship to go to the continent to present our debut-demo *Salvatore* and we did 3 shows that are part of our mini-tour *A Dream Tour*. This year things are getting better because we're planning to do 7 gigs in the continent which are part of our second mini-tour *Nocturnus Tour*. This will be a good opportunity to present our demo *Nocturnus Exordio* along with VERTEBRA as the opening act. On account of all that we think those bands that are always complaining about things being too hard should work more or even get themselves a proper manager in order to make things easier.

Every coin has two faces. It's true that if you left the island you would gain much more recognition but, on the other hand, perhaps that would result in the loss of the magic within you. Looking at the photos included in the demo and listening to your tracks there's only one sentence in my mind: De uma serenidade (So serene). Can we use that expression to describe you? How much do you feel inspired by the surrounding sea?

Your assertions are correct. It's pretty obvious that the band lives in Azores but also lives from it. We're sure that if we moved away our tracks wouldn't bear the same strength and mystic. It would be impossible to write the same way. Of course we are aware of the greater recognition provided by our relocation but we just wouldn't be what we are. Anyway, the only thing I regret from living in Azores is the slower evolution compared to the continent due to the lack of concerts and also to the high cost of living which leads to a greater difficulty in getting some quality material, soundwise.

Back to the concerts. In the beginning of the month of July, OBSCENUS were in a contest/festival in Ponta Delgada with several azorian bands and



the portuguese kings of metal TARANTULA. Do you want to tell us more about that?

This year we participated in the festival as guests to close the first night because we won last year's edition which granted us the privilege of headlining. The show was okay, in spite of the lousy weather but most of the fans stuck with us. This time we presented a new show on stage with two classic dancers and we could relish the two feminine voices who helped us recording the demos singing together on the same stage. We also realised that most people were familiarised with the new songs.

Along the lines of the previous question, how are OBSCENUS live? Anything particular or just six (plus guests?) guys on stage playing with all the power and emotion they possess? You play songs from the new demo... and from *Salvatore*?... and covers?

As we said before in our live performances we try to transmit the best pos-

sible way our songs, that's why we always invite the people who helped us recording both our demos to play and sing with us on stage. Thus they also feel somewhat responsible for the show of the band. Along with this we have two ballerinas who get on stage in proper times of our concerts to create a more complex and beautiful ambience. As it is evident the band supports the shows on the two demos and in other songs which were never recorded. It was never our intention to play covers from any band, it's not part of our philosophy.

Most probably because of the great distance that separate us, we ("euro-peans") loose the track of things and there's a major ignorance regarding the musical scene in the Islands. Apart from OBSCENUS and SANCTIMONIOUSLY is there anything else which deserves more attention? And what about the azorean audience?

Right now, the band most worthy of your attention are the veterans of azorean Metal MORBID DEATH. In this moment, they are releasing their debut album through Independent Records and apparently receiving excellent reviews. Unfortunately there's still a long way to go because they have been apart from the Underground for quite some time but with a little support from all of us they can recover all their worthy merit.

About the audience, there's not much to say. they still have a lot to learn and to make things harder most of the metallic audience is in a band so nobody enjoys the shows of the other bands.

What's your opinion regarding the new tendencies of Heavy Music? More and more, and from all genres, bands are changing their sound clinging themselves to bullshit music (or in less rough words: industrial influences). As brief examples we have from MOTLEY CRUE and DANZING to WASP and SATYRICON. Is this the way to go?

Each band is the rightful owner of its own sound until the day it seals a contract with an important record company. From there after that same company has a major influence in the way and the path that bands follow while writing. And as we all know, labels exists because they are a business and a business must be profitable and if there is more money in these musical grounds then bands are almost forced to become a part of this trend. So, many members of already well-known bands have side-projects. Of course, and fortunately, this phenomenon is not general and we are sure that sooner or later it will reach an end because these are futile and mutable things, unlike Metal that remains attached to a solid base but always developing within the metallic frontiers.

About new songs, what's current data? Are you already writing with the debut album in sight?

We write naturally so we aren't thinking about albums. We just like to develop individually and collectively but in order to achieve that goal we must be constantly writing. However, sometimes things get complicated because we have to adjust our studies with rehearsals.

Recently, the feminine voices and the violin have been stepping more and more into these domains. Do you think that could be considered as a cliché?... even though your sound is not similar to let's say, SKYCLAD.

No, we think that's got nothing to do with clichés but instead with new paths that Metal is drawing, i.e., maintaining the same basic structure but widening itself to new sonorities which don't collide with that same structure. Of course there are always those bands that use certain instruments just because other bands use them too. Fortunately, that's not our case because when we had the intention of using the violin and the female voice in our tracks the Doom/Black/Gothic trend was still asleep so we didn't know where that would take us. we only knew it would embellish our songs.

Now... here's a question that I would like to be answered by each one of you. what music would you choose to serve as a musical background in your funeral?

The answer was unanimous among us. It would be any track as long as it would reflect faithfully our state of mind and life we had as members of OBSCENUS.

The time has come to close this interview. Thanks a lot for your patience. Tell us about your available merchandise. If there's anything left to say or if you want to leave a last message for your fans, feel free to do it. Carry on with the great music and never give up.

First of all I want to thank our friend Luis Santos for his good interview, mostly for the excellent questions (Ed. this is really good for my overgrown

ego). we take this chance to say that we're doing a 2nd edition of our debut demo *Salvatore* which can be yours for 500\$ (portugal)/ \$5 (Europe)/ \$6 (Rest Of The World) as well as our new demo *Nocturnus Exordio*. But to those who wish to have all our recordings we still have a few copies of the compilation *High Radiation Vol.2* where we participate and it costs 1700\$ (Ed. Foreign readers ask for price).

We say farewell to you all hoping you continue to support every activities of our Underground and Keep an eye open for the *Nocturnus Tour* dates, late September, early October.

Management and band contact:

Rui Correia
Avenida António Borges, 2F
Fajã de Baixo
9500 Ponta Delgada

To all the ones who might contact the above band's address... ask for the previous prices of the recordings from *Obscenus*. They released in june 1996 the debut "*Salvatore*" demo-tape which contains 5 memorial hymns... As you know de second demo "*Nocturnus Exordio*" in may '97 with 4 tracks, embrassed in a truly professional package. And finally the band participated in a portuguese Cd compilation released by the also portuguese label Independent Rec, by the shape of "*High Radiation Vol. II*".

This compilation contains 17 musics from diverse bands, being one of those 17 a music from *Obscenus*... Do not forget to mention our name when writing to them...

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Who said Death Metal is..... well, death? Certainly John doesn't think that, neither do I. Existing for 8 years this U.S. band have released two albums on Relapse and Nuclear Blast, which are two of the most death top star band labels, and achieved a cult state for the brutality lovers!!!

We had a conversation with the guitar player who told us many things about trends, death metal and much more...

Can you introduce us the four elements behind Incantation? Which were the changes of line up that Incantation suffered 'till now?

Well, it's only 3 of us now! Me (John) - guitars, Daniel - guitar & vocals, Kyle - drums, we are looking for a bass player at the moment. There was to many people in the band over the years to list here! We have learned a lot from our ex-members. And it's made us stronger!

After 8 years of band work do you keep present the musical influences that created Incantation back in '89? Like Sodom, Napalm Death, Hellhammer, Possessed...

Fuck yes! We will always stay true to where we came from. You must

never forget your roots! Without your roots you will die or be gay!

What do you think of the radical change in Napalm's sonority?

I don't like there music anymore! I'm not into what they are doing. I'm still friends with them, but I'm a fan of there first few albums when they played heavy and fast!

What's your opin-

ion on today's Death-metal bands? Is there still the same spirit? With the same power?

I think there are a lot of great Death Metal bands out there! But today most underground people don't care. All they want is trendy Black Metal! Don't get me wrong I like some Black Metal! But I like bands for there music, not if they where face paint! Anyway some of the better Death Metal bands out today are: Corpse Vomit, Infomy, Deeds Of Flesh, Diabolic, Sadistic Intent. To me Death Metal and to a lot of us, the true spirit lives forever!

About Craig Pillard, how did he came to sing again for Incantation after a long time? What was the cause for his return?

Craig was just helping out for the Ep, at the time of the recording we didn't have a vocalist. We have one now, that is great, his name is Daniel and he is also in the band called The Chasm. We now get along with Craig, but he lives in N.Y. and I live in Ohio so we only see each other maybe 2 times a year!

You have released "The Forsaken Mourning Of Angelic Anguish" Mcd firstly by Repulse Records and recently re-released by Relapse Rec. with bonus live tracks. What happen?

Yes, that is all Fucked up! It's just the way the music business is! Without getting too much into it, it's just contract bullshit that got fucked up! Things are still cool with Repulse, us, and Relapse. In the music business you never know what will happen! We thank Repulse for putting out the Mcd!

You have already played live with huge bands like: Cannibal Corpse, Entombed, Immolation, Unleashed, Autopsy, Suffocation, Sinister, Enslaved, Absu and many more. Do you feel at the same level as them? Or do they have much more recognition from the public than yourselves? I Don't know what to say about it! I'm friend with all those bands. I don't think that any of those bands are in some higher level then us. Some might have more fans then us! Maybe we don't get as much recognition

as all them. But we have a lot of true underground fans that support us.

How was playing it them and what do you have to say about gigs with younger bands?

Most of these bands I'm friend with, so is cool to play with them! If the band is bigger then us or smaller, as long as they are cool, then it's cool to play with them.

Rock stars can fuck off!

It's difficult to maintain the same sound, agressivity without loosing the originality and without fall into repetition?

It's not like we have to try to heard to sound different. We just play from our evil hearts, and not by the gay trend! When we play we are just being ourselves. When you try to

be something then you are not what you try to be! Incantation is brutal grinding Death metal, we don't try to be!

Do you think that brutal Death metal is an unrepettive style of music? Ah, ah!! Or that part is the band's responsibility?

Yes, it's the bands responsibility to make good songs! I think most bands change styles because they don't have the brains to come up with any good new riffs in the Death metal style. So when they run out of ideas they change styles! We will not do that at least with the Incantation name. If we run out of ideas we will brake up! Die heard!

How are things on the states now? Brutal death metal bands are still "appearing" like popcorns as they used to be?

Popcorn!!!!?? That sounds pretty gay! Yes there are a lot of cool Death metal bands in the states. Over all there's a lot of Death metal fans here. It's pretty cool!

Are you now planning a 3rd Incantation charm? Rumours are told that it will be called "Diabolical Conquest" and released by Visceral Prod....?

Yes, "Diabolical Conquest" is it's name. It will have 8 songs of brutal heavy grinding death metal! It will not be for trendy kids. Visceral productions is no more, so Relapse Records will put it out in March 98!

Visceral Productions...? An unknown label to us....!!!

And unknow to us too! Visceral Productions dead!

How it will sound your 3rd release? Even much more brutal?

Fuck yes! Maybe to brutal! It will have the best sound so far out of any of our recording. But It will also be the heaviest recording we ever did to date! The Relapse Records version of the Mcd "The forsaken Mourning Of Angelic Anguish" includes as we told 4 live studio tracks from your first two albums. Those bonus songs are somehow a tribute to your older works?

Yes you can say that! I think it's a good way for our new fans to hear some older songs. We still play a lot of old songs in our live set. Like I said we will never forget our roots!

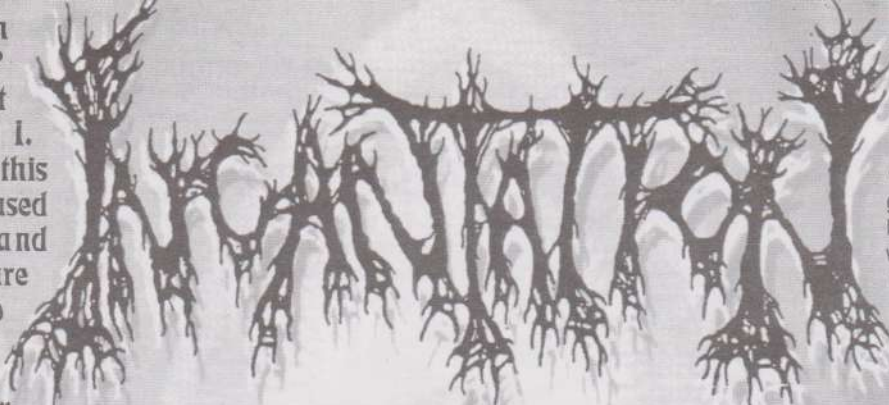
Do you use in your lyrics the gore themes that most of the brutal death metal bands use? Or more realistical approaches are used?

Did you read the Cd? They are totally blasphemous if anything I would say personal. We just write about the oppression of religion. And how it must be crushed!

Scream your lasts bloody gores...

Fuck yes! Old Death metal rules! Well, thanks for the interview! And the support! Hail to all the true Death metal warriors! Look out for our next Cd entitled "Diabolical Conquest" in March '98 and also look out for the new Chasm album in '98.

Thanx a lot John for this conversation!!! Remember the old spirit still lives in some bands... and Death to false metal!!



'Across The Loveless Horizon', 'The Night Belong To Us', 'Cosmic Seas' or 'Winter Romance' are some of the titles from their debut album entitled 'Pakkasherra'... Some of you perhaps are now questioning about what "pakkasherra" means? A new Sepultura song? A great indian warrior?... No, nothing like that... But to know that and more, we talked with Koivula, one of the members of the band.

Throes Of Dawn

What Throes Of Dawn symbolizes for yourselves? Something like the pain of daybreak...

Yes, you got it right. Our name reflects the negative attitude towards life. Each new dawn brings a new day in this human hell.

Who are the mens behind the band? What are the final aspirations that they have for Throes Of Dawn?

Me (H. Koivula) and J. Heinola can be considered as Throes of Dawn. I make all lyrics and try to answer to the mail. J. Heinola makes about 80% of all musical production. The importance of the other members has reduced a great deal. We see them purely as musicians - nothing less, noything more. (ed. We surely hope that the other guys don't read this interview, because if so, you are in big troubles!!!!)

You managed to get a good mixture of Heavy Metal with Black Metal. Are you strongly influenced by both styles? What are the Heavy Metal bands that you appreciate the most?

Weel, at the time we get influences from various sources and not only from metal music. I can't say what has influenced us most. I like old Ozzy Osborne, King Diamond and Mercyful Fate, to name a few heavy metal favourites.

From that professional mixture we get "Pakkasherra", your debut album for Woodcut Records. How surged the deal with them? Do you know them or their work before the deal that they offer you?

No, we didn't know them beforehand. They liked our "With the Northern Wind"- demo and they offered us a deal. We signed.

What's behind the word "Pakkasherra"? You used this word also in your promo-tape... Haven't you got another name who could fully personified your album?

"Pakkasherra" means, as a straight translation, the Lord of frost. I think it was a good name for the album, because it was short, it was finnish and it suited the album best.

In what themes you base your lyrics?

I base my lyrics in misanthropy, emotions, solitude and to my relationship with nature.

Throes Of Dawn has born from the ashes of two metal bands. Who were they? What were the reasons for their split-up?

Their names mean nothing, you hardly know them. (Ed. Try me!!!) They

were meaningless, small and shitty bands. The split-up became necessarily, because we wanted to play black metal and the other members didn't.

Do you consider "With The Northern Wind" demo a good piece of work? Because it was the reason of your deal with Woodcut.

Yes, I still think it is great for a first demo. One day I listened it through and I was amazed! I had forgotten how good it was. sadly the demo is no longer available. Hopefully it will be released as mini-cd someday, who knows?

What will be the next step in your carreer? The preparation of the second full length?

We have already finished the second album and it sounds great!! Quite different material than on "Pakkasherra", and much better in my opinion. It is titled "Dreams of the Black Earth", but before the release of the full-length album we will release a cd-single titled "The Weeper". This will include some other bands too.

Throes Of Dawn does not use the regular high screaming & speedy northern Black Metal style, but instead you choosed mid tempo changes & some clear voices. Were you tired of the same speedy northern Black Metal style? Do you think that it has lost is majesty? or good bands will always do good northern music?

We want to play Black metal differently, we want to bring something new into the scene. I think there are too much these bands, who play boring, ordinary black metal. Surely I admire bands like Emperor, satyricon etc. But I think it is idiotic, that thousands of bands try to copy them. We played with satyricon here in Finland. It was a great honour to play with them.

Are you satisfied with the production done in Egotrip studios of "Pakkasherra"?

No, actually I don't like the "Egotrip" sounds anymore. The sounds are ok, but they could have been better. Our second album has more professional sounds, it was recorded i the legendary Tico-Tico studio, which is the best studio in Finland.

Your last throes of dawn. End is silence...

Thanks for the interview, wait for our second album! It will be quite extraordinary stuff!



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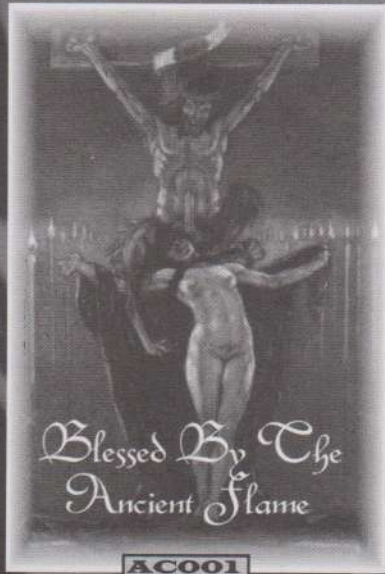
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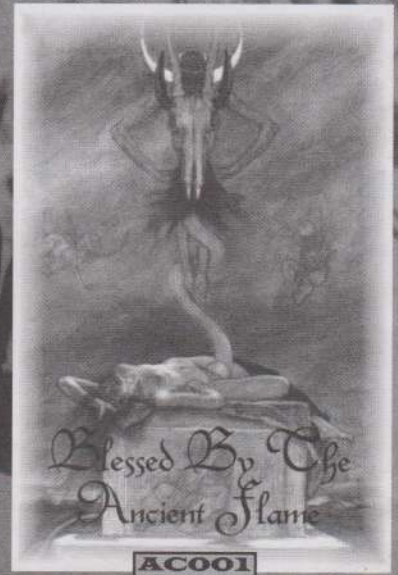


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