Issue 3
Hammer of Damnation
200 sfm $5 U.S.
THE THIRD STRIKE HAS COME!

...Yes, finally! Two months late from the first planned release date, but still this doesn't seem to be outdated. Naturally any kind of response is more than welcome, be it complaint of criticism or whatever.

Our second issue was surprisingly quite a hit as we sold it out faster than was expected! The response for it was also a surprise, in other words very positive. It seems there are still people asking for it as well as some distributors willing to take some copies; this means that we may possibly print a new, small edition of the second issue. It could be something around 100 or 150 copies but no more. Well, this is not absolutely sure yet but anyone interested can naturally ask for more information.

We regret that there was plenty of stuff that were not able to be included in this issue. There are two simple reasons for the fact we had to drop out some material. First, we really couldn't wait longer to get this thing out and when making say 10-15 pages more it would have delayed around a month more or so. Second, this issue would have turned out too big as we want to keep the number of pages close to 40. Much over 40 pages would turn out too expensive; first the printing expenses and second the mailing costs that would have increased more than people seem to be able to think.

Probable the most important thing that had to be left out is the gigantic "POLAND SPECIAL" -- a report including articles and reviews on many Polish underground bands. But we guarantee that this "Poland Special" will be found in the fourth issue, but of course completely updated and in even more gigantic a form!

Another thing that was left out was the column for magazine reviews. There was also certain other reasons to exclude this column, and there will hardly be any magazine reviews in the future issues.

About the fourth issue; there have been some plans to launch a bit the range of the music we feature. One of them is the group of underground Metal. We try to feature some non-Metal artists who create music that deserves to be supported. More then usual and ordinary Death or Black or Thrash of whatever Metal? this magazine prefers to feature and support any kind of music as long as it is good (the matter of taste of course...), atmospheric and original. So if you are a member of a band that doesn't produce Metal music, don't hesitate to get in touch and send your promotional material! We try to be open-minded despite who difficult it often seems to be.

The fourth issue, perhaps to be released somewhere near the end of August or the beginning of October if everything goes as planned. The release date has been set on July 31st and we hope not to slip this date. But nothing is 100% sure, you'll never know what can happen...

No more important details to be told. Enjoy reading the magazine if possible.

THE READERS' POLL:

1. BATHORY
2. VENOM
3. CELTIC FROST / HELLMHAMMER
4. MAYHEM
5. PARADISE LOST

All of you please send a list of your five all-time favourite bands / artists!

Niko Sirkiä (editor)
Everyone must know the demo, now a kind of cult release called Satanatas Te Deum. This one was the thing that raised Rotting Christ to the reputation of good, original and appreciated underground band. Honestly, they truly deserve it as they have always done their own thing and kept away from any upcoming trends. After that they have done a "too-good-for-words-to-describe" mini-lp entitled Passage to Arcuturo and a 7" ep, both on the Greek label Decapitated, both limited and now totally sold out. And I couldn't curse myself worse for not getting an original vinyl copy of especially the 12", (as an old and ex-tape recorder I have them on tape but is far from enough!) 'cause as was said they are now completely sold out! I'd pay almost anything for the gatefold-cover edition of Passage To Arcuturo!
Five songs and intro make this a splendid release, every one of them is different from each other but still easily to be recognized as the work of Rotting Christ. As a whole it is an occult masterpiece, a passage to worlds beyond our time and space, the Passage To Arcuturo...
Ade's Winds... is a new 3-song promo tape with which they give a hint to people of how the new material sounds like. These are in the true Rotting Christ vein, but even better than before! You can get it for $5 or something like that from Rotting Christ c/o Jim Mutilator, Deliasou 2, N-Ionia 14231, Athens, Greece.
Now the band has signed to Osmose Productions and their debut lp/cd will be available within a month. The title is Thy Mighty Contract and I expect it to be even better than what they've done before. How far can they go anymore is the question...

Italy brings us not only "heroes" of disgustfully football, but also some great music. Perhaps the most suitable example is Monumentum. It seems this band is however rather unknown in the international underground. Okay, what if I tell you that Roberto Mammarella, the "boss" of Obscure Plasma Records plays the guitar and the synth in this monumental band? On Obscure Plasma Records is out the last release of this band, a split-ep with the ingenious cult band Rotting Christ from Greece. 2 Monumentum songs on the vinyl are from their latest (and only?) demo from 1989 entitled Musaeum Hermeticum.

Nostalgia Of The Infinite opens both the demo and their side of the ep, and it's good as an opener; an instrumental tune that sets on the atmosphere: the music and sound of Monumentum is totally of their very own, I really can't name any band being close to this kind of musical experience. It's some kind of unique mixture of (black) Metal, Gothic/ DarkWave and Progressive music under massive shadow of mournful and doomy atmosphere! Their basic sound is of rough a type, and it really couldn't fit better to the music.

Remains Of Majesty is the next track, and it's a good one. Here Mark's vocals are pretty original with slight hints from Tom G. Warrior's (of Celtic Frost if someone didn't know) brutal type of singing. All in all this is a good song but still the better is yet to come.

Nephtali, also familiar from the split-ep, is my ultimate fav, truly genius stuff! The music added with Mark's moaning voice (close to the type that can be heard on Into The Pandemonium lp of CF) singing/weeping the deeply psychedelic and macabre lyrics including some interesting Christian topics -- now I'm close to seek in vain unearthly words enough to describe it. The release has to be felt oneself!

A Mediumistic Evening is a long an grievous journey into worlds unknown to me... fantastic, dark lands from which I'm forced to return as this song ends, And left is Mondo... which seems to be an outo-like piano-tune.

Oh, I don't know how to survive the next few, looning and painful months waiting for the debut lp/cd of Monumentum that is due to be released by Deathlike Silence Productions... It'll probably be titled In Absentia Christi... The band has also some plans to release something sooner to promote the forthcoming album, maybe another split-ep or something.
While waiting for the new material, don't waste your time; order the split-7" for $6 from Obscure Plasma Records c/o Roberto Mammarella, C.P. 19, Trecate (MI), Italy. I'm not sure if they spread the demo anymore but you have always the right and chance to ask! No more need to spend your money on drugs or other shit, good music can give you much more unearthly feelings...

Hammer of Damnation
This band comes from Germany, and surprise but they don’t play Death Metal like you’d think. Instead, their music could be categorized as technical Thrash/speed Metal...

FLAMING ANGER was formed already in 1986. They released a demo called Fall Of Pnom Penh in 1988, and I was told I got reviewed in many fanzines in the whole Europe. Soon after that did FLAMING ANGER split up.

Then in 1991 the former member Frank reformed the band with a new and different line-up that is: Frank Wittke (bass, vocals), Volker Rummel (guitar), Frederik Tönnesmann (guitar) and Elmar (drums). In August the group recorded their new demo entitled Humaneiced, and this should be the target of discussion here today.

Included are six songs in the vein of technical speed/Thrash Metal. They are recorded in a 24-track studio which means the sound quality and production is excellent. It can’t be left unnoticed that this band contains talented musicians, except for the fact Frank’s voice is not suitable, he sings in a far too powerless and inert way. If asking my opinion about the music, I must say I don’t like it at all. But I respect that they believe in what they do, it shows, and they haven’t started to play Death Metal like count less trendy idiots.

To whom who likes Techno Thrash played with talent, this is worth to notice. They sell the demo for $7 or DM10, and they accept cash, cheques and international moneyorders. And I must mention that with this demo you’ll get really great looking cover, photos and the lyrics (socially conscious, yuck!). You can write to FLAMING ANGER at c/o Frank Wittke, Dreihügelstr. 75, W-4630 Bochum, Germany.

SATYRICON hails from Norway and plays Black Metal. They have a self-titled demo tape available. It contains three songs and as the fourth, a different version of the first one (hope you got the point...). One band more to the Northern Black Metal category, but unfortunately not one of my very favorites. They have united the typical (?) Norwegian sound with some MORBID ANGELish riffing and nasty vocals, but I don’t think the result is as interesting as it could be. Some of the riffs are rather senseless and the song structuring is not the most intelligent. Oh, you can find also some FROSTian “Uh!” shoutings which sound actually pretty humorous...

This one is available for Nkr 35 or the usual $5 from S. Worgraven, Vestlia 80, 1453 Bjørnemyr, Norway. Also t-shirts will be available soon!

Sanatas (Axe Of Contraction) is a 16-song cassette by an Irish band called OGRE.

After the intro (funeral kind of, pretty good) all hell breaks loose through these sixteen mayhem blues! OGRE performs their own kind of blasphemous chaotic Grind with some Black/Death Metal influences. An interesting point is that there are lyrics (poems) for each song but the vocalists (two of them) scream, growl and gurgle everything that comes to their mind...at least it sounds so.

Soundwise the band itself is not satisfied with the demo, but I think the sounds are quite good, especially the few slow parts

Hammer Of Damnation
DEPRAVITY

"DEPRAVITY was formed in Dec.'90. We had played together as a speed metal band before this... Our drummer wasn't so good. He wasn't as fast as we wanted so we replaced him by Matti... In Spring '91 we made our 1st studio demo. It didn't sell so much. The same goes for our 2nd demo... In those demos we had Mollin in other guitar, but he wasn't so much into "Death"-Metal... so Mollin was replaced by Olji", tells Enska, the guitarist of a Finnish Death Metal group DEPRAVITY. Some time ago they released a four-track 7"ep through a new French record company - Adipocere Records.

The title of this seven-inch is Remasque-rade and it's opened by a track with the same name. This tune also seems to be the heart one due to its all-time heaviness. It reminds me a bit of BOLT THROWER and the unfortunately deceased

So DEPRAVITY is free to search for a new deal... for an lp perhaps?

Enska: "Yeah, maybe an lp, but not yet. We don't try to get an lp contract with this ep; it's not good enough! I must say that I'm a f-Kin' (this cencoring was done by Enska himself, don't blame us -ed.) perfectionist!!! Nothing is good enough for me! We'll do some kind of promo/adv/demos and then we'll see somewhere that Turkkia doesn't draw for free, and that it would be considerably expensive, too! Is it true at all?

Enska: "Well, I sent here a few marks for paints, pens etc. (for beer...) (with "a few marks" you won't get any beer here in Fineland! -ed.). He really doesn't ask much for his paintings. He just wants to draw and I think that he's as poor as me..."

If anyone's interested in this vinyl, don't be afraid as it's far from being sold out. From the 2000 copies that the label printed are only around 400 sold so far... plus some free copies for promotion. Well, it costs 20mk (Finland) or $6 (everywhere) from Adipocere Records c/o Christian Bivel, 152 Rue des Acacias, 01700 Miribel, France or from DEPRA-VITY, PL 60, 33961 Firkala, Finland.

You know we try to wake the readers' appetite by asking this "band's music as a dinner-course" -question. This time the answer might really do it, cause...

Enska: "DEPRAVITY's music would be pizza (yam! -ed.); it's very good and tasty! You'll never get it enough! You can't resist it! (Of course that was only my own opinion?)" I think it would be better for everyone to stop this now, we're all starving right? So let's go and look what the fridge has to offer! Could it be some bolognese or maybe salami instead?

AETERNUS IS COMING!!!

NEW POLISH DEATH METAL HOPE!
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POLAND
the great NECROMANTIA from Greece is one of the most original and dark bands that today's underground scene has got to offer. There is a countless horde of good reasons why we shall have some discussion going on with Morbid (bass & vocals). But first it is important to know some of the band's background.

The time of Procreation was in September 1989, in order to create something totally new. Baron Blood (6-string bass) and Slow Death (various unreal voices) fulfill the line-up with Morbid. Partly their music is occult Black/Death Metal, partly something really unclassifiable, and the rest is somewhere between those... Also it must be said that they use session players, the drums, the guitar, keyboards and other instruments.

And now, finally, we give the word to Morbid by asking how's life today, anything special happened?

Morbid: "I just finished exams! You see I study sound engineering! But anything really special hasn't happened, no."

Your split-lp with VARATHRON is now available. When and where did you record it, how much does it cost, and isn't it a lot of work, and you must be satisfied with the result?

Morbid: "We recorded it in December '91 at a '+1' studio. The sound is cool but we wanted a heavier and messier sound! You see now is great too, but very, very clear! Next time we'll get a brutalier sound!"

And the label who should release it is Black Power Records.

What do you think about them, and what about VARATHRON?

Morbid: "VARATHRON are great friends and band and we really wanted to release something together. Black Power offered a good deal so we accepted."

"Please tell us something about each track of yours on the split. Your personal opinion, the lyrics, anything?"

Morbid: "Well; Lord Of The Abyss is one of our best tracks so far! It's got darkness, power, brutality, mysticism, lunacy! It's a war anthem for the Satanic age! The Feast Of Ghouls is from our first tracks. We wrote it back in '89! Old isn't it? (A few yrs. yes! -ed.) I'm kind of bored with this song, but it's cool and fast! Evil Prayers: This new version truly kills! (That's true! -ed.) Absolute sorrow! Sax makes it really godly! Lyceanthropia - Transfrom!!!"

THE UTTER DARKNESS...

I've been told that you're going to release a full length lp with Penguin Records. When is it going to be out? Have you recorded it already? Could you give us any track titles? And have there been any other labels interested?

Morbid: "Really I don't know what will happen! The only certain thing is that we will record our new stuff in October. 'cause Baron Blood has to do his military service, f**k! It will be released somewhere in '93! Probably on vinyl. I don't know on which label, we got interested from some!"

The latest information considering their new album is that they've signed to Swedish record label No Fashion Records and the album Domini: Of Fire should be released early 1993!

The promo tape you made in 1990 must have got some good responses, at least you seem to be quite well known today... So, what has been the main reaction about your music like? Can you say how much have you spread that promo tape?

Morbid: "Yeah, people loved our music (even with not a very good sound) and found it really dark (That's the way it is! -ed.). Thank you for the support guys! We've spread it more than 500 copies."

Do you know how many of these did you send to fanzines or record labels?

Morbid: "I don't know 'cause we never sold a copy! It was not for sale, we recorded it for free!"

THE MOON IS FULL...

In this paragraph the main subject is the process of writing songs for NECROMANTIA. So, who writes the music and what kinds of things do you take as an inspiration?

Morbid: "Me and Baron Blood write the music! We have no particular preferences, everything we listen to affects our music."

I'm just wondering, is it possible that...
MERCYFUL FATE would have a slight influence on you? What do you think of this band in common?

Morbid: "We love MERCYFUL FATE so maybe you can find some of them in our songs."

Yes, I thought so. But how do you create your songs? Do you improvise a lot, or do you perhaps plan the whole song first in your brain like Mozart or something? And one thing more: Do you make the music to the lyrics or vice versa?

Morbid: "First we write the lyrics! They are the thing that the atmosphere of the song is depending on. (This is very well thought! -ed.) If it's going to be sorrowful or violent or anything it's upon them! Then we write some basic riffs and plan the song in our minds. And then we're looking on details and small but significant parts of it, we improve it and giving its real shape!"

You, Morbid, play in addition to NECROMANTIA also in MORTIFY, COVEN and ROTTING CHRIST. But NECROMANTIA is still the most important band for you, isn't it? Does this that you play in many bands disturb you in some way?

Morbid: "NECROMANTIA is my main band! It's the band I give in full my heart and soul! It's cool to play in other bands too! I love music in general so I have no problem."

Yet in addition to all this you also write to Blasphemous Mag! What else do you do, or do you have any spare time left from these at all? This leads to the next question: What do you do in your spare time?

Morbid: "Yes I also make Blasphemous mag with some other guys! My spare time is very limited cause I have my college studies also. But in my free time, I mostly read books of different kinds! I love reading! I manage to do it all! The bad thing is that I sleep so little time!"

THE TIME OF THE WOLF...

This should be the 13th question in this interview. Does that number mean anything special to you?

Morbid: "No, I'm not a superstitious guy! Do you know that in a lot of Satanic covens the main body of the sect is composed of 13 persons? (Yes, and in witchcraft circles, too! -ed.) An blasphemous answer to Nazarene and his 12 students!"

Is that the main reason for it? That's something I didn't know. But as the subject turned to be more close to Satanism, we might talk a bit more about it. True Satanism is actually atheistic philosophy and magic. Do you think this has anything to do with Black Metal bands whose members bathe in blood, breathe fire, look evil (facepaint, leather and nails)? (I refer to the article "Satanism, Demon Worship and Death Metal" by Mirabilis Adversarius, it's to be found in our issue 2!) Tell us what you think about this. (I however consider the image of Black Metal bands interesting and great, if they are true, not trendy...)

Morbid: "First of all Black Metal is music and not a social-religious-political movement an Satanism. Music is supposed to create intense feelings and all this bloodbath does! It doesn't mean that every Black Metal band is Satanic! The sure thing is that it is antichristian (at least the true ones). A Satanist is an anti-christian but an antichristian is not necessarily a Satanist! If true bands feel comfortable with what they're doing it's O.K. for me!"

That was a really intelligent answer! And then... what is your opinion on Satanic organizations? Nowadays, as they fight against each other about who's a real Satanist (and some seem to turn more commercial), they do remind me a bit of some Christian sects..."

Morbid: "This is a straight to the core question! I'm in contact with a lot of sects and I always tell them: "Your main philosophy is the same so why you're splitting everytime?" I think that the answer here is not commercialism but priesthood and leadership! If you can be a high priest why can't I? I hope you understand what I mean."
Yes I think I understand. I hope the readers do so, too.

...THE BEAST SHALL DRAW BLOOD!

Then we could discuss about your favourite bands. Let's see how is the direction of your musical taste. Please tell your opinion on each band/musician I say, okay?

Morbid: "Different kind of question! Cool!"

Okay, here we go! The first one is of course (7) The BEATLES.

Morbid: "Shit."

Then a bit more brutal: BERERIT...?

Morbid: "Great!"

NAPALM DEATH...

Morbid: "Fuck."

SIGILLUM S.

Morbid: "I don't know them! Are they good?"

Really good, really original! You should get to hear them! But the next one looks like the True MAYHEM...

Morbid: "Great!"

DARKTHRONE (I mean their new style...)

Morbid: "Godly!!"

VENOM.

Morbid: "Eternal gods!"

I must say that they should quit or create their original line-up and style again! Oh, the number eight is TYPE O NEGATIVE.

Morbid: "I don't care.

SKID ROW (ha...)

Morbid: "Fuck!"

BLACK SABBATH.

Morbid: "Old tracks rules!"

ARMY OF LOVERS (haha...)

Morbid: "Nice girls."

By the way, I first thought that ridiculous three-piece had two girls and a guy with a moustache! You should have seen how surprised I was when I found out that another of the girls had sidewhiskers! Haha! Hohoh! Oh, I must stop laughing and get off the floor, and say the moniker of the next band that is...oh, not a band at all, but Jean Sibelius!

Morbid: "Magnificent!"

ASPHYX...

Morbid: "Not bad."

GODFLESH.

Morbid: "Cool!"

MOTORHEAD.

Morbid: "Not my cup of tea."

SABBAT (UK - R.I.P.)

Morbid: "Old trax rule! Now SKYGLAD are better!"

POSESSED?

Morbid: "Arch-priests of Death Metal!"

ANTHRAX? (Hahahaha!) Morbid: "Shiiiiittt!!"

Really? KISS?

Morbid: "Some old trax are cool!"

Now, it's almost over, the last is XYSMA.

Morbid: "Don't like them much!"

Phew, finally we got rid of that, but most of the readers should have noticed that two extremely important bands were left unmentioned... BATHORY and CELTIC FROST of course! Now about them. I guess we can surely say that CELTIC FROST wimped out after Into The Pandemonium lp, but what do you think about the two latest albums of BATHORY? They also differ quite radically from the previous albums, but I think less people say that BATHORY has wimped out than was said about CELTIC FROST...

Why?

Morbid: "Because BATHORY never wimped out! Their music is still powerful, original and dark! The lyrics are in the same vein, they just changed the symbols! Heavy Metal is not a wimp music! Poser metal as..."

I think this is enough for now. But until you come to see me, you might add something if you wish to...

Morbid: "Thanx Niko for this interesting interview. All the best with your mag and THERGOTHON! Evil prevails!"

Thanks to you, you are welcome and...Bang. Now he's gone and we won't see him until the next sunset. But in the meantime, you can write to him at:

NECROMANTIA

c/o Morbid

F.O.Box 79006

172 02 Hilitzto

Athens - Greece.

THE IMPOSING STRIKE OF OCCULT DEATH METAL!

VARATHRON/NECROMANTIA SPLIT LP

This vinyl split is available for 10£ for Europe and 11£ elsewhere from the address:

Black Rose records, P.O. Box 31950 *10035 Athens, Greece

Bands, labels, distributors write for tradings & whole sale prices
As a whole this sounds like a mix of BOLT THROWER and some Swedish bands (the bands have a shadow of the Swedish Sunlight Studio...), but strongly added with something more personal, kind of a touch of Black Metal. Too bad I'm not able to inform anything about their lyrics...

It is said that the new material of PYOGENESIS is more in the vein of Black Metal. I've heard four new tracks of PYOGENESIS and it is a mighty promise of darker future...

Especially a song Underneath Orion's Sword is something I just have to listen to over and over again! Can you imagine, there's actually just one riff being played and the vein of slow BATHORY tracks, and this tune is not short at all! It's just so dark, heavy and malevolent!

Great!

Oh yes, to anybody who wants the demo, send $7 to Joe Azazel, Kernerstrasse 20, 6924 Neckarbischofsheim, Germany. The music is recorded in a quality chrome tape and thick covers are of course included. They have also a 7"ep plus some other merchandise available. You know what to do.

The latest news: PYOGENESIS has signed a deal with Osmose Productions and their debut mini-lp should be out early 1993!

DOOMSDAY CELEBRATION

I'm looking for bands that wanna be featured on my comp. tape "Doomsday Celebration" III. If you send your demo I'll guarantee a free copy, and of course a mini fanzine with some info about the group. Seange group's demo is so op. I want Death Metal demos or 7" with an acceptable sound, and no noise please. I'm no rip-off so send your group's demo as fast as possible, because I already have groups from Finland. Of course you can buy I and II. They are 60 minutes each and includes Swedish bands as BOSE, DISMEMBER, ARCHITECT OF HATE, VINTAGE DEATH, DAVEY JONES, DEATH BASKER, NECROPHOBIC, ALTAR, SUPPER and more. Each tape costs 20 DmK, 20 Skr or $4 US. All prices includes postage.

Write today, and please, send your demo. You won't regret it! - Erik Gotborn, Onsbo 850, S-810 65 Skärlinge, Sweden.

THRONE OF AHAZ

THRONE OF AHAZ from Sweden was actually a nice surprise to me! I thought this would be just another band playing the nowadays rather common "Northern Black Metal"...

Well, actually this is, but THRONE OF AHAZ proudly does it with their own characteristic way...

The band started in 1991. Since then they have slowed down a bit and changed their line-up a couple of times. In Summer 1992 they recorded their debut demo, At The Mountains Of Northern Storms. Honestly said, after a few listenings this seemed to turned out almost a masterpiece to me! As was said already THRONE OF AHAZ has an own style (well, a bit influenced by BATHORY and MAYHEM, it seems), the parts vary from fast to slow, and the latter ones are more common in these four good songs. Almost all their riffs are very good and well planned, and when you add the great vocal work of Fredrik (the rest of the line-up is Peter: guitars, Kalle: bass and Johan: drums & percussion) and some synth here and there, the end result is a strong, gloomy atmosphere that takes you into its cold but beautiful embrace...

Of the demo, my favourites is the opener My Kingdom Is Eternal and the title track At The Mountains Of Northern Storms, in case if anyone is interested. Hm, do NOT wait for any reason a second before you send $5 ($6 overseas) to THRONE OF AHAZ, c/o Kalle Bondesson, Atlan, 5B, 903 62 Umeå, Sweden to get this well of northern winds and darkness.

In 1993 our orchestra has been planned to release an LP for which they are busy creating new songs. I'd be interested if it's going to be a self financed piece of art or if they've signed to some label? Too bad but I wasn't informed.
"SATAN SPEAKS"

I am Satan, the manifestation of the Left-Hand Path. I am the first rebellious ideal of the Universe. I have come into being to symbolize the hidden side of the reality, the truly occult side of every individual’s innermost being.

Open your eyes and see, for the veil has been lifted and the chains have been broken. Now you are free from the seasonal, blind faith and beliefs. No longer bind your knees nor bow your heads before the crucifix or any other images, including the symbols of Satan.

It’s time for you to find the true god within yourselves and work hard to actualize it. Enough of your ridiculous devil worship! Do not act like neurotics. All the symbols of violence, doom and destruction belong to the man-made gods of death like Quirix and Jehovah and I’m not of those, for I am Satan, a true fighter, a lover of life.

Answer now, are you mere believers or are you Satanists? There’s no need for the external, objective gods. No heavenly fathers or the devils of the pit. All of them has man created to control other men. Become a God of your own! Reach towards the higher levels of your own divine being! The time of the sleepwalking is over, wake up now and become conscious of yourselves!

Remember, I’m just a reflection of you, of what you are and what you should be. By strength of the will and the power of the mind, all this you will come to understand. All the mysteries you can find from the depths of your soul, your religion is yours, you need nothing else.

So speaks Satan, within me. Recognize yours, too.

— Mirabilis —

Before Eodipus, SADNESS have released a demo called "V". I really regret that I haven't got a chance to hear that yet, but I have Eodipus the two-track pro tape in my tape deck.

Red Script and Eodipus are the titles and the songs themselves are really ingenious! Musically, SADNESS is pretty near SAMAEL; mainly slow paced stuff with simple but effective guitar & bass work. The vocals are like a crown on a Majestic head: hysteric scream/growl added with a female voice and a sad style of "normal" male vocals. Especially in the first song there's many parts with spoken or sung (not perfectly sung but well enough anyway), and they make the result very colourful and enjoyable.

Both the tapes are available from SADNESS c/o Phil Riand, Av. de France 61, 1950 Sion, Switzerland. "Y" costs SFr. 8.00 and Eodipus SFr. 10.00. They are also being distributed by at least Osmost, Obscure Plasma and Wild Rags...if you are their customers ask for prices.

SADNESS have lately signed to Witchhunt Records for an lp/ed. No more information about it is to be given yet, but let's wait.

LACERATION

Scabs is in the latest LACERATION demo. Included are 4 tracks of...maybe more some kind of heavy and slow Death Metal than Doom Metal. Rhythmic this is still slow and the vocals are quite deep and brutal, but the lack of melody in the guitar work keeps the music away from the "Doom" category. Well, at least in my opinion.

The guitar produces mainly a bit thrashy-sounding riffs and here and there recall my mind CELTIC FROST...especially slow tunes such as Procreation (Of The Wrecked). With a mild touch of BLACK SABBATH and WINTER to be added and the description is here.

Actually this isn't bad at all as a whole, the tracks work quite well and the riffs are mostly fairly good. I'm just missing the more melodic aspects that could increase the melancholic atmosphere. And Paul's vocals, although being brutal and heavy, could vary a bit more in my opinion. Anyway you should send a few bucks (the exact amount is not in my knowledge) to Jim Dobleski, 7720 S 78th Ct, Bridgeview, IL 60455, U.S.A. to get Scabs. There are plans to release an ep on Gutted Records, and it should have been available already. I don't know if it's been delayed or something but I haven't seen such a piece of vinyl around.
HARMONY DISTURBED is one of the promising speed/Thrash Metal acts from Finland. They haven't released any material yet, but they're going to record their first demo in the near future.

Sami Lehtiniemi (drums), Jani Yliniva (lead guitar) and Jussi Mella-Aho (rhythm guitar). So let's get out the crap and ask them some questions.

Tell me about the HARMONY DISTURBED's history. Where did you get the idea to start playing Thrash instead of Death Metal?

Sami: "Well, I started playing the drums with Janni about a year and a half ago. I had these shit drums borrowed from my friend who didn't play them. We made a couple of songs which we don't play nowadays very often, maybe just for fun sometimes. I bought a real drumset and we started playing more seriously. Then Jussi joined us about half a year ago. We have been searching for a bassist and a vocalist and just today when I write this we found a vocalist, but bass player's place is still open. We don't want any beginner bassist, because we are not beginners ourselves anymore. Of course we ain't professionals either. We started playing speed/Thrash 'cause we listen to it, of course. I listen to Death Metal bands also, but mostly it's speed and Thrash."

Death Metal is very popular nowadays, so what do you think about it, is it good or bad?

Sami: "I think there are many Death Metal bands, but there are also many boring bands which have made a record deal and everything so that often really good bands don't get what they deserve. But me and this will change to better direction in the future. This appears in all styles of music not just in Death Metal."

You played in a band called BERGHIST. Will me forget about it?

Sami: "I played the guitar and sang in it. We had one quite good song, that was speed metal and we recorded it in a studio. But we had so little time to record so it didn't turn out so well. We stopped playing because our other guitarist wasn't really into the whole thing and the rehearsing place was his, so we had to quit 'cause he didn't wanna play anymore."

Now you have a vocalist in your band, what do you think about him?

Sami: "He isn't really in the band yet, 'cause we want to see how his voice and singing in general works out. But I think it'll turn out just fine. His name is Krisse Teräs (Chris Steel -Niko) and he's a really cool dude, so why not?"

What would you do if some little record company said "we want you to record an LP for us" and then they would rip you off?

Sami: "Of god, I really hate this rip-off thing. I think I would hang the company's asshole freaks on the tree by their dicks, so don't try to rip us off."

There are millions of 'zines in the world. What do you think about them?

Sami: "I think these 'zines are really important to bands, 'cause they spread the word around and make bands known. The situation is the same as with the bands. There are some bad 'zines, some good and some really great 'zines. I haven't read so much 'zines before, but now I've started reading them."

This one is a compulsory question (is it really? -Niko) what are your 'fave bands? Your greatest inspirations?

Sami: "I like MEGADETH, SLAYER, PANTERA, older METALLICA, SEPULTURA, DEATH, ENTOMBED, INVOCATOR and so on. I also like SOUNDGARDEN, PEARL JAM, FAITH NO MORE, but I don't like NIRVANA. Those are all my inspirations and other band members listen to the same bands. We try to create our own kind of speed/Trash by mixing those influences."

Tell me something about your songwriting process. How long does it take to make a song?

Sami: "Usually Janni has made some riffs with guitar and he plays them to me. I make the drum tracks to the riffs and then we arrange the song, we put the pieces together. We may apply something or take something off or we may compose new riffs and shape old riffs until we're satisfied with it. Sometimes I come up with a guitar riff that we can use. Jussi hasn't composed anything yet, but maybe in the future. The whole process may take a few months or it may take just a week, but usually it takes about a week or so. I have made all the lyrics so far. They aren't about Satan (do you mean that usually bands write about him? Nah. -Niko). I have written a few lyrics with so called "message" and some pure fantasy lyrics. I'm interested in these psychological things and I guess that those subjects play a big part in my lyrics."

If you played some other kind of music, what would it be? -Niko.

Sami: "I wouldn't play different kind of music, 'cause it wouldn't be fun. Why the hell should I do something I didn't like to?"

What do you think about Satanism?

Sami: "Well it isn't my hobby but if someone likes to drink blood and vomit I don't care (WHAT? Oh dear, one should not speak about things that he/she do not know anything about...what the hell has Satanism to do with blood drinking and puking? Please tell me, Sami! Or can you? -Niko, getting frustrated...). I like dark tales, but I don't take them seriously."

Tell us your plans for the future, are we going to see HARMONY DISTURBED live some day?

Sami: "I hope we will get the line-up fixed so that we can play live. We just need a capable bassist."

To the end...

Sami: "Thanks to Ville Tapio for the interview and good luck to his band DESEOLATION. I'd like to say hello to Pasi Tarvainen, Otris, Tumpii, Perttu Kemppainen and my goddaughter Laura. Also hell-o to my friends and buddies. (who were then those listed above? Enemies perhaps? -Niko, getting humorous?). Thanks to Niko-Sirkki for letting us appear in his magazine (No problem."

Hammer of Damnation

-Niko). You can ask about other demo plans and anything you like to from this address: HARMONY CORRUPTION c/o Ville Tapio, Aaronsimmari 23 A 1, 96190 Rovaniemi, Finland."
Black Metal from Turku, Finland. ARCHGOAT have released their first demo some time ago. It's entitled Jesus Spawn and features five tracks plus an intro. As a whole the band's music is of quite an ordinary type, grinding fast Black/Death with some slow parts. The vocals were a bit of a surprise, they are done in a low and deep way unlike usually in Black Metal. The vocal arrangements remind me a little of BEHERIT. The sound on the demo is okay, it fits well to the music of ARCHGOAT. The mixer/engineer has done his job well not only soundwise but also by doing the keyboards and effects wherever needed. Also the band itself has done it well as the playing is pretty tight.

In Finland people should go and see their live show as the visual side with masks, nail-bracelets, spikes etc. (look at the photo!) makes the whole thing much more interesting to watch and listen to. Well, get this demo by sending a blank tape and $1 to Kari Kulatunnen, Askaisten Tie 21, 20810 Turku 81, Finland.

Italia apparently doesn't have the strongest scene of the world but SINOATH is one of the good Italian bands I've heard (nothing can match MONUMENTUM, though!). The band was formed in May 1990 by some ex-IMMORTAL PAIN members. From November 1990 to January 1991 SINOATH recorded their debut, a demo entitled Forged In Blood. The band has gone through various changes in the line-up, and in August was formed the current line-up. And that is Rob M (guitar/vocals), Frank C (bass), Seby M (guitar), Adrian C (keyboards) and Dario C (drums).

By now they should have their second demo out, but as I don't own it yet, I'm not able to give any more words about it, but the more we'll talk about the debut, Forged In Blood. Everybody must have noticed the keyboard player in the line-up above, and he sure gives a dark atmosphere to the type of doomy Black/Death Metal that SINOATH is playing. The three songs, being Forgotten Witnesses, the title track and Black River Acheron are well above average. Partly thanks to the keyboard effects and melodies that strengthen the great occult touch of the tracks...some major vibrations are able to be felt if you are into this type of music! I really wait for more material of SINOATH, probably it'll be in the form of the demo Kingdom Of Desolation. While waiting, Forged In Blood is the salt to keep us thirsty! $5 should be enough for each of the demos. Contact Cecinnotta Francesco, Via Luigi Capuana 138 A, 95100 Catania Italy.
This five-piece comes from the Red Bank Area of New Jersey. It all happened in December 1988 under the name SADISTIC INTENT, but the true incarnation of DAMONACY happened in January 1990. The line-up is build from Jason Corr (drums), Mike Klose (bass), Nat McCluskey (guitars), Brian Worland (vocals) and Stan Zielinski (guitars).

I've been wondering the name DAMONACY, but the bio gives the answer: "The moniker, which could be explained in a number of ways, basically came about when the five good friends who comprise the band decided they needed a name for their "religion": their way of life." So it's all clear, isn't it? No. But who cares?

After all, the thing to care the most is of course the music, and in this case it can be experienced through From Within, the debut demo of DAMONACY that saw the light of day sometime in 1991. There are five songs of "demonic slam" as they label their music themselves. This account fits rather well to this outburst of brutal yet technical music.

Infernal Desolation opens the way to their demo, and it clearly shows what is to come. That term "demonic slam" seems to mean fast, technical, powerful and partly chaotic Death/Grind coloured with Brian's really outrageous, screaming vocals. Sometimes there's also a kind of VOIVOD-like riffing, or could they be called leads? You know what I mean however, don't you? Quite personal stuff, I'd say.

The remaining four tracks are in the same vein, still bringing some new highlights to this already familiar "demonic slam". Titles like Necromancer of From Within are undoubtedly too much, but it's a tiny minus. The lyrics are about the usual Death Metal subjects, such as death, rituals, mutilation and so on.

To get this demo, $5 should be sent to DAMONACY, P.O. Box 71, Belford, NJ 07718-0071 U.S.A. The band of course encourages all fanzines, the radio stations and any others to contact them.

GODFLESH...DOGMEAT?

Here is a link...at least I think so. In addition to the moniker, this one-man band uses the drum machine. Mikko Muranen is the person behind DOGMEAT, and his demo 1992 Revolution Paradise is available to everyone who is interested. Well, I'm here to talk a bit more about it.

Eight tracks are to be found. Due to the drum machine this sounds more or less like GODFLESH, but many things are different. There's some grind / noise riffs, some riffs in the vein of BLACK SABBATH, and some real strange stuff. Overall this reminds me a bit of one certain track of CELTIC FROST!

Again it's The time... the group of Holocausto strikes again with completely new line-up (which not in our chart... ledge...yet. - ed.) and a new promo tape. These new BEHERIT tracks might turn out good to even someone that didn't like the sound of the band - but the new material is far from being as fast and chaotic as for example their pic - Dawn Of Satan's Millenium. First there's of course an intro, but the main track is 100% BEHERIT! The demo's Down There...(featured with an article in our issue 2). Anyway, this being being fairly typical it's a good one.

Solomons Gate is the first real taster, and it's quite a fast one from the beginning but turns slower and truly atmospheric towards the end... The second one is The Gate Of Nanna (Two titles with the word Gate, senseless... - ed.) is slow from the beginning to the the story behind the cover bit / title of lyric sheet of the demo. When I was wondering

the snake that makes these worlds generational mayhem. The latest "revolution paradise" was a bit before the second World War. Today the situation (especially in the Eastern Europe) is alarmingly alike... I hope this made any sense!

No doubts about it anymore, right? All I have to say now is that you can get this tape from Mikko Muranen, Ruskokuja 2, 7, 27200 Varkaus, Finland. Just send a blank tape and sufficient postage (3.50mk stamp in Finland to REHIT/BEHERIT/BEHERIT JUMII's elsewhwere). I was told that fanzines and radio stations will get a free tape if they send their address and something to prove its existence.
MORDOR dwells in Switzerland, protected by everlasting snowy mountains. Born in 1987 under the moniker AKOG, in these five years the band has created a sound and style completely of their own; some have said it's a fusion of Industrial, Gothic, Black/Doom Metal and classical music but I don't think this is enough for description. One just has to hear it by him/herself...

I have now something in my hand that is very precious to me. No, not a dollar bill, but a tape called Teztre, a tape including 45 minutes, five songs of unique MORDOR music. I suppose that many people feel up when listening to it through but it's certain not meant for those with light ears...I think this music, this combination of sounds is meant for the ones who can enjoy it when lying still in a dark room letting the stream of sound flow around your soul and make you leave your physical form...to float somewhere through endless abyss to where time, space and existence is something completely different from what is familiar to human mind.

The songs are called Blood Countess, The First Birth Of The Cruel Nymph, Last Demonic Invocation, Self Immolation For Meteors, Goddess Of Dark Dawn and The Moment Of The Total Worship Of Evilution. And the line-up consists of three musicians called Scorph, Dam and Ogale Absorob. All these earthly things couldn't be less important when compared to the godlike music...

Now there is available a new version of Teztre, including all of the tunes listed above as well as three other songs from which two have been taken from their previous demo entitled Odes. So the total of 86 minutes of maybe the darkest sound and music every made! All songs are remixed and the cassette comes with a 16-page booklet with photos, artwork and stuff like that. This is released by Wild Rags Records and you can get the tapes for $6 either from WRR or from the band. Here are the addresses: MORDOR c/o Cera, B.P. 360, 1020 Remens VdL, Switzerland. Wild Rags Records, 2207 W. Whittier Blvd., Montebello, CA 90640 - 4014, U.S.A. It is said that 'zines, radio stations etc should write to Wild Rags for promo stuff.

ABYSMAL is another dark band from Norway. Actually they can't be counted as only one of the members of this nowadays rapidly increasing horde of 'Northern-Black Metallers'. Their sound is an original type of mix of Black, Death and Doom Metal, of which Death Metal is maybe the strongest element.

Since late 1990 they have been around making music. Probably CELTIC FROST was the strongest influence for them in the beginning, say the members themselves. Nebulistic Obscurity, the first and so far only demo was recorded in October 1991. There are four songs that actually turned out as an interesting moment of listening: their way to make riffs and arrange the tunes is quite original and the sound has been created.

Another interesting thing there is the song title. For example the demo's opener is called Hymn V (Lament), where the "hymn" part is the name of the music and the subtitle is the name of the lyrics. Yet the idea behind ABYSMAL's title concept is to symbolize that we separate the music from the lyrics, as the making of a song.

Well, I'm sorry if I disappoint you here but as far as I'm understood, this demo is not available anymore. You can of source give yourself a try, write to the band and ask kindly if you could somehow get the songs featured there. The contact address is ABYSMAL c/o Endre Begby, Ambolten 6, 1630 Gml. Fr.Stad, Norway.

There's also some news to tell: I've figured out that they have had some changes in the line-up but it's a pity that I'm not able to give more info about it right now. Another thing is that it's the most probable that they'll sing to Curious Gods Records (which is run by Jim Mutilator of the mighty ROTTING CHRIST).

Perhaps an LP will be the next release of ABYSMAL. You can get more info by writing directly to the band, but always remember to enclose an I.R.C. for sure reply!
Well, it seems that the first extremist French band was MORSURRE. They released their album Acceleration Process in 1985, and splitted soon after. They played a totally weird, ultrafast and original music, but most of the people hated them because of their unique style. If anybody is interested to hear this band, just send me a blank tape to L.I.C.'s and I'll record you this album: it cannot be found anymore.

It was only in 1986 or 1987 when a real Thrash scene appeared in France with bands like LOUDBLAST, MASSACRA, AGGRESSOR, DEATH POWER, NOMED followed by tons of others. But let me introduce you some of them!

LOUDBLAST -- the best French band in my opinion, after two demos in a Thrash vein, they began to play Death Metal. After their split lp (with AGGRESSOR, ed.) in 1988 they got a deal and recorded their debut album Sensorial Treatment in 1989 on Virulence Records, and a track for a compilation in 1990 on the same label. In 1991 they got a new deal on Semetary Records and recorded their second album in the famous (notorious) -- ed. -- Morrisound studios with the producer Scott Burns. This album is entitled Dissincarnate and is more brutal and gloomy that the first one which was more influenced by Thrash Metal. In November 1992 they returned in Tampa with the same producer for the recording of their new album. It'll be more doomy and melodic and it will be out in early 1993 probably.

MASSACRA -- Maybe the most famous French band in the world, and surely the most brutal in France. After three demos they recorded their debut album Final Holocaust in 1990. And their second album Enjoy The Violence in 1991; both on Shark Records. Their new album is just out now in 1992 and is entitled Signs Of The Decline.

AGRESSOR -- After two demos and a split lp with LOUDBLAST in 1988, AGRESSOR got a deal on Nolose Records and released their first album Neverending Destiny in 1991. After many changes in the line-up the band got a deal with Black Mark Productions and released recently in 1992 their second album Towards Beyond. It's more interesting that the first one which was too fast.

DEATH POWER -- This defunct band released their album The Bogeyman in 1991 on Virulence Records after some demos. They played a catchy Thrash/Death Metal, but they splitted after the failure of their drummer (who plays today in AGGRESSOR).

NOMED -- also a defunct band. After many demos they released a maxi-vinyl and a self produced lp which was released after they splitted. They played a catchy and funny Thrash Metal with some hardcore influences.

NO RETURN -- When they started in 1986 or 1987 they played speed metal. After some demos they got a deal with Semetary Records and released their first album Psychological Torment in 1991. It was good Thrash Metal in the Bay Area style but more brutal. Their second album Contamination Rises, released in 1992, was a surprise because their music moved into Death Metal. But they're still a band when they played Thrash Metal because their actual style is totally trendy Death Metal without any originality (This then was NOT a surprise or what? ed.).

TREPOLEM PAL -- Probably one of the most original band in the world! Their style is difficult to define, they have their own style which is a mix of different musics like Thrash, hardcore, industrial... but if you want a comparison, this band is between GODPHLESH and MINISTRY. They released two albums, Treponem Pal in 1990 and Aggravation in 1991, both on Roadracer Records.

ASSHOLE (What a name! ed.) -- It started as a joke but it became finally a very promising band. They recorded a self produced album C.Y.T.T.O.Y.L.P. which means Choose Yourself The Title Of Your LP in 1991. They played Death Metal with grind parts and a touch of fun and originality.

Well, there are so many bands in France that I can't speak about all of them, but here is a list of the actual most promising Death Metal bands: SUPURATION, PUTRID OFFAL, DAGON, BURIAL VAULT, SHUD, ASTRAL RISING, SEPULCHRAL, BROKEN FEAR, CATACOMBS, DROYS, KRUSHER, DISABLED, PROTON BURST, MISANTHROPE, OCCULT... (Yeah, and what about the other kinds of bands? ed.).

In conclusion I would like to say that the French scene is not the best scene of the world, but our bands have the advantage to not copy each other. As in every scene young bands need more originality and maturity, but the biggest ones like LOUDBLAST or MASSACRA could be more famous tomorrow because they really rule!

Le Guenic Yann
21 Bd Corneille
29490 Guilpavas
France.

(Yann runs a magazine called Necrobestiality and also a radio show called Raging Metal Mania).
REVIEWs!?!?

DARK TRANQUILLITY
A Man Called Reflection
7" ep (Slaughter Records)

15 minutes of extremely technical and variable deathrock is what this piece of vinyl offers. DARK TRANQUILLITY reminds me of a bit of the glorious days of SATURD with Martin O'Kane, especially with the way they construct their songs. Thousands of riffs come after each other without missing the idea of the song. Almost every riff sounds very good to me, they are melodic and well-though. There are quiet waters wherever suitable and suddenly it all may break to a waterfall of tremendous speed and hysteria! The vocals sound very good, not being in the most intense vein but fit to the music like a bullet to some idiot's forehead if you get my point?

This should be a limited edition of 2000 copies so order yours now from Exhumed Prod. which is ex-Slaughter Records!

ORDER FROM CHAOS
Stillbirth Machine
LP adv. (Wild Rags Records)

Here's three tunes from the new LP of this trio. Everyone knows this has been delayed for several months; but finally it should be out now and to get it straight; it has been worth waiting for!

ORDER FROM CHAOS kind of puts Death and Black Metal together and with some unknown condiments the result has turned out delicious! At the same time the music is pretty close to both Death and Black Metal but still miles away from both... Works well and besides, the vocals sound great! (tiny hints of Quorthon from 1984-1985 but it only makes this better!)

DISENTHEKY
Pathological Waste
7" ep (Slaughter Records)

Four tracks plus intro whose titles reek of CARCASS and so. Musically this is however rather far from CARCASS and much more close to some kind of industrial music -- especially droning -- still having some Crem and noisy Death sound. The vocals are brutal, mainly mixed with a harmoni- zed something else like that. The entirety can't be described as an enjoyable experiment but it's still pretty far from giving me a headache...

APRIA
7" ep (Better Than Them Records)

This is a 100% non-metal release which really gives a kick! APRIA wonders somewhere in the regions of Gothic and Progressive stuff, and the lyrics (of the 8-side song, theSIDE 1, 4-side song is instrumental) are written and sung in Italian. L.C.Gretti has a brilliant voice, so clear and sincere... And as the music sounds so...underdeehable (!?!), the result is a dreamy trip to somewhere far beyond our material everyday world...The atmosphere APRIA creates is an experiment your anus on a trip without giving it a another, deeper listening.Godly...

I'm a bit disappointed as this is just a seven-inch and not an LP or CD as I desperately NEED more! Great & mysterious-looking color covers are a nice thing to be watched and examined, by the way.

MANGOS
7" ep (Force Slaughter Records)

Here are 5 tracks of Death Metal with some influencesfrom Thrash. These songs offer absolutely nothing divisive from the music, and they lack a bit of everything. Usually when a band loses something in originality it gets it back in brutality, talent or something else but MANGOS don't. Sorry but I think there are better things to use you money for.

MASTER'S HAMMER
Elavierstuck
7" ep (Gnawcore Productions)

To me this is the best (and actually the only one that I've been listening more than usually) release of Gnawcore Productions so far. Elavierstuck has two very good songs from which another one can be found on their latest demo, too.

Truly one kind of Metal with synth as an important instrument, more or less strong Black Metal background, bloodfreezing vocal art and classical influences put together... and the end result is simply great! This one comes as a colour vinyl... Oh yes, all the Gnawcore ep's are limited to 1000 copies so get yours before they're sold out!

DARKABRAT
Therapeutic Morbidity
7" ep (Gnawcore Grinders Records)

Corpeo Grinder has brought out new two track of DARKABRAT. The band now consists of six members as they have welcomed a second bassplayer to strengthen the sound...well, I don't think I hear anything exceptional when it comes to the bass, though... The songs are entitled Carnopolent Carriion (the silly songtitles are still there!) and Prince Of Perversions. Brian's vocals are in the already familiar powerful

NUCLEAR DEATH
For Our Dead
m-cd/7" ep (Wild Rags Records)

This ultimately sick three-piece are back with a brand new release. Here are four songs in the style familiar to NUCLEAR DEATH, but they seem to have improved deeper into the maze of musical chaos.

Oh, can't describe this! It's fast, heavy, noisy, brutal and before all; EXTREME! Comple-
te chaos! But although many may consider this release as 100% pure noise, I think there's something deeper. It's interesting; the feeling when you read their morbid lyrics as hot the walls of noisy blue embracce you in a wicked and cruel way -- the feeling is undetectable! Not for the weak as it is being warmed; but get it and give it a try. The vinyl version includes a big poster with outrageous photography...

Hammer of Damnation
MAUSOLEUM
Summoning Of The Damned
7"ep (Wild Rags Records)

This is one of the licensed cassette ep's that Wild Rags has available. MAUSOLEUM comes from the USA and brings here three tunes of rather unsurprising Death Metal.

This band does it in the kind of "traditional" vein with mid/slow tempos and partly Swedish type of riffsing. It's strange but despite I'm not stunned by surprises MAUSOLEUM sounds a bit better than the others. There are quite good riffs presented that show a higher rate of inventiveness, and the whole thing works pretty well.

If you are not "ordinary" but good Death Metal get this from Wild Rags. The price is $5 + something for postage but I think you should write to WR for full details or see their ads/order forms with which you can buy 3 of any of their cassette ep's and get one with no charge.

Oh yes, the covers are multi-coloured but don't include the lyrics.

CEREMONIAL OATH
7"ep (Corpse Grinder Records)

These Corpse Grinder-ep's always seem to have two songs, and this one doesn't make any exceptions. Death Metal from Sweden. Fast, heavy and technical; and recorded in Sunlight Studio by Skogsberg. Oh, however CEREMONIAL OATH is not the most usual example of how Swedish Death Metal typically sounds like (ENTOMBED + others), maybe closer they are to AT THE GATES.

By the way, it's said that their new songs are much more original; they can be felt on their 10-song debut lp which should have been recorded some time ago. But get this ep to hear what the band sounds like before they're sold out.

SARCASM
Dimensions Of The Mind
7"ep (Corpse Grinder Records)

Kangaroo-Metal? No, nobody laugh at old jokes, right? The Australian SARCASM has two songs on this ep. The title track and The Erroinas sound Death Metal in its rather typical form. The singer's basses and screams sound quite enjoyable... The riffs are not very surprising but not very bad-sounding either.

Oh, the cover picture is quite brutal-looking if you need to know that. This, too, should be limited as these "Corpse-Grinders" seem to be.

ASTRAL RISING
7"ep (Arkham Productions)

A Death Metal seven-inch again. But actually this one is from the side of the ones with brighter future, 'cause ASTRAL RISING seems to their job well with a couple of more original ideas... at least as far as these two songs are considered. Musically this is not the most original, nor the most brutal, but the arrangements and compositions have been done well. And one "plus" point more is that they use a bit the so-called "normal", singing vocals besides this rather typical growling.

This is limited to 1000 copies, so if your interest in, do your order now.

RECKONY
7"ep (Poserslaughter Records)

Then it's the time for some CARCASS-sounding stuff. RECKONY is just like Bill Steer & co. with a bit more a Death Metalish sound. There riffing is mainly in the vein of CARCASS and so are the vocals, the rhythm and almost everything else, too. The difference is in the fact that CARCASS makes this much better.

FAN-T-THR-MONIUM
Drum II
7"ep (Obscura Flamm Records)

Most of the people may already have read their lp/id-review. If not, read it to know more about the band's style of bringing music to this world.

So all I still have to say is that these four tunes are from the top of brilliancy. The harmony among heaviness, melody, brutality and atmosphere is almost complete. A masterpiece.

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DISGRACE
Grey Misery
1p/cd (Modern Primitive Records)

The long-awaited debut album of these Finnish Deathsters is finally out!... after a long delay. This is something they were supposed to do after their latest demo. The style is still mainly the same; fast, heavy and technical Death/Grind, but now they've done it heavier and even more technically, and included some Heavy Metal & 70's influences. The result is original and fairly good.

SPLINTERED
Paraspraxis
1p/cd (Intellectual Convulsion Records)

This lp features 8 tracks (+2 as bonus on cd) of some kind of industrial grunge. It's heavy and before all: noisy! SPLINTERED with their heavy sound have been described as one hour of noise, one hour of suffering, one hour of pleasure... Personally I'd change that last sentence to something like this: "one hour or headache and irritation", but it's the matter of taste of course.

RECORD COMPANIES' ADDRESSES:

SPLINTERED PRODUCTIONS, Gerliserweg 16, 46400 Pulda, Germany.
WILD RACE RECORDS, 2207 W. Whittier Blvd., Montebello, CA 90640 USA.
POSERSLAUGHTER RECORDS, P.O. Box 61, 1017 Berlin/PA 18, Germany.
BETTER THAN THEM RECORDS, Via Cecilia Metella, 10, 00017 Roma, Italy.
OSMOS PRODUCTIONS, R.57, 62900 Beaumarchais, France.
CORPS CREMATOR RECORDS c/o Simon-Soundworks, 27 Rue Guy-Ver
HIDDEN REMAINS
Six Feet Under demo
This is a largely praised Thrash/Speed Metal band from Holland. Here's their demo...featuring 4 songs of very well done quite technical Thrash/Speed with tiny Death/Black influences. They certainly know how to make this kind of music (it really shows on the tape), but I can't help not liking it due to the lack of atmosphere. Six Feet Under is available for $7 from "Stitched" Management, Frank Klompenaar, Stanleybaan 161, 3526 TD Strathedata, The Netherlands. It comes with pro-printed covers including lyrics, photo etc.

SACRIFICIAL
Lords Of Torment demo
Death Metal from Denmark. SACRIFICIAL does it in the wire of some Florida based bands: technical and fast. Some influences from PESTILENCE can be found especially in the vocalist's style of growling. The demo demonstrates also that some talented musicians may be found in this group.

The sound and production are very strange and first the whole thing sound rather uncomfortable, but I suppose you'll get used to it after a few listenings. Send 55 ($6 overseas) to SACRIFICIAL, Knaas Meier, Österdalsaveve 116, 4760 Kibo, Denmark.

DISSECTION
Into Infinite Obscurity 7" ep (Corpse Grinder Records)
Oh, an exceptional thing to this label's habit is that here's three tracks instead of two! Well, the last one, the title song, is just a short acoustic guitar "song" which most of the people would consider as an outro.

This "outro", although not being any "hit" or "soundbreaker" or so, sounds maybe the best to me. The two other songs are fast type of thrashy Death Metal with occult/blasphemous lyrics. There are parts that recall my mind MORBID ANGEL, but I still don't think this is very much like "trashah-bridges" or whatever. The most probably this turns out to be effective to most of the Death Metallers out there.

SEPTIC FLESH
Temple Of The Last Race mini-LP (label unknown?)
SEPTIC FLESH from Greece have released a good piece of vinyl. These four tracks consist of heaviessness, a technical level above average and the most important; some good and atmospheric guitar harmonies and melodies! This is not the best Death Metal stuff that I've heard but good anyway, much better than Death Metal usually. My favo of those tracks is maybe Metal, tiny hints to be drawn towards early MORBID ANGEL.

Their lyrics have been written under a strong influence of The Necromancer, thus they turned out quite interesting. Get this album now if you want it "cause I have a certain feeling that this is a limited edition (not sure, but...) I don't know the exact price but I guess around $14 should be quite enough. It's available at least at HOLOCAUST Rec, P.O.Box 12, 86-105 Swiecicie 5, Poland.

RUHMAGIC
Alcoholic Rehearsal rehearsal tape
You can easily imagine the sound quality -- shitty. Almost all that is to be heard are the drums, vocals imitating Bourbon and some murmurs that is probably the guitar. I'm not able to say much about their own tracks on this tape, just that they are some kind of Death/Black Metal. I prefer keeping my mouth shut and waiting for a real demo with acceptable sound. The third tune, Call From The Grave covered from RATHORY rather useless here as RATHORY themselves did it like this but much, much better. Contact: RUHMAGIC c/o Nicklaus Rudolfsson, Bäckerd 125 20, 8-459 00 Ljungskile, Sweden.

GOTHIC
Missia Perpetuum demo
GOTHIC doesn't actually stand for any Gothic Darkwave or anything like that but some kind of synth-based industrial music instead. Missia Perpetuum consists of three songs (of which one is instrumental) plus intro and outro. Industrial kind of drum beats lay beneath two synths & guitar, and unusually transformed vocalized mixture was too. Bad the whole thing sound rather unprofessional and here and there even a bit childish. Original but not very enjoyable. Available for $6 at GOTHIC, Planerad 76 k.a, 2333 AS Leiden, Holland.

IMPERATION
Ceremony Of The Nine Angles demo
This Texas based band excretes grinding fast and heavy Black Metal, heading for the extremities of brutality. This demo includes four quite raging tunes that sound maybe a bit like their landmates ARARU for example.

The vocals are deep and growling. The rhythm varies from slow to ultra-fast, the latter being more present all the time. The guitars must be tuned down rather much as they sound so heavy... Some parts have been coloured with the keyboard on the background.

The demo includes professional covers printed with two colours as well as a lyric sheet of gigantic size. By the way, the lyrics are of a Black kind, blasphemous and brand $4 ($5 in the U.S.A.) to Wes Weaver - IMPERATION, 1703 Patricia Lane, Mc.City, TX 77449 U.S.A.

IMPERATION
The Time Before Time 1p (Mainstream Productions)
The Polish cult-band IMPERATION have finally released their debut 1p, and I suppose it's a classic to be. Seven tracks of brutal yet technical Black/Death Metal, tiny hints to be drawn towards early MORBID ANGEL.

Their lyrics have been written under a strong influence of The Necromancer, thus they turned out quite interesting. Get this album now if you want it "cause I have a certain feeling that this is a limited edition (not sure, but...). I don't know the exact price but I guess around $14 should be quite enough. It's available at least at HOLOCAUST Rec, P.O.Box 12, 86-105 Swiecicie 5, Poland.

REST IN PEACE
Inner Screem promo tape
REST IN PEACE plays some kind of melodic yet sometimes aggressive Thrash Metal, not forgetting the influences drawn from Punk and Blues for example. Quite original and progressive -- not good for my ears but probably for the ones into Thrash/Punk (whatever) fusion.

The promo-tape package is very professional, including 2-color covers with photo and so on, and the production is appropriate. The price is $7. Write to SBS Rock-Music c/o Rest In Peace, P.O.Box 8552 Zurich, Switzerland.
MORTICIAN is one of the most professional Metal magazines that the underground has offer you these days. Besides the ultimate quality of the printing, the layout etc. this mag goes up to the top for information and reading-enjoyment, too! Our point here is to bring up more details and news about Mortician, so read on! That’s what the text is for... Anyone wishing to get in contact with the magazine and its chief (?) editor should write to Mortician Magazine c/o Harold Dekkers, Boerestraat 66, 3312 HD Dordrecht, The Netherlands.

Well, let’s start this one by getting known of Harold’s family!
Harold: “My family? Well, quite normal, father, mother, younger brother and sister, a rabbit called ‘Koobu’ (nice name! — ed.) and some birds. The only black sheep in it is me!”

Okay, then about the magazine...tell me how it all began.
Harold: “Mmm... it was in April of 1991 I guess. I had some ideas of making a real good member underground magazine. I liked the ’zines of those days but they were always out-of-date etc. and I wanted to change that. But to start an own ’zine was too difficult and I feared there were already too much of them, especially in Belgium. Once I bought a well-written magazine called C.T.I. in a local underground record shop and they were looking for some help.”

Actually Mortician Magazine is a kind of continuation too the C.T.I. Magazine. Can you, Harold, please tell something about the early days of this C.T.I. mag. Why did you by the way change the name (quite a wise thing to do anyway) to the best English upcoming bands. In issue five we had ANATHEMA and MY DYING BRIDE, in the last one CHORUS OF RUIN.”

To become bigger we dropped the silly name C.T.I. and they guys took the name Mortician this name has much to do with the word Underground. And with all the help of René Bierbooms, Roel van Reijmersdal and me we took part with this growing process which takes much money and patients.”

Please tell something about the other editors of the magazine. What other kind of activities do you guys have?
Harold: “René Bierbooms came in during the time of C.T.I. His only hobby is Death Metal. I think he’s one of the lunatics who wants to have every piece of vinyl coming out. He had some problems with doing Mortician during his study period, but that’s over now.

“I am still studying physics at the HTS but my biggest hobby goes out to underground music.”

As for the printing and lay-out, Mortician goes for full professionalism. It must have cost a hell lot to print it, right? Now has it sold then, and do you get back the money that printing consumed?
Harold: “Yes, it’s expensive. You have to look efficient. The decision to print a magazine also means you have to sell a large number of it. Our sixth issue isn’t sold out at all. We lost almost the half of the money with it, due to the lack of Dutch buyers. So we were very scared about the last issue. It was an enormous risk, and I put all my money in it. But suddenly it’s running well. Now there
are only 80 of the 750 copies available, but soon we will become self-sufficient. But I'd like to say we also sent much magazines away to people who sent their names and addresses to the labels for our promotion. I'm not sure every band sending their demo in gets a free copy next time. But at least a copy of their review. We surely review everything we get in. Sometimes it goes wrong, but we always try to do our best.

So after all it has sold very well (I suppose that!). How is your distribution?

Harold: "A good one. First of all I contacted famous distributors like Osirae (the best one!), but many people reacted on our flyers spontaneous. And we dropped a bunch of flyers in magazine in Sweden by ourselves. Also in Holland and Belgium we are famous now, due to the fifth issue. The Belgium guys help us a lot, just like all the underground record shops in Holland (Mall to Boudique and Haddock)"

Still about the printing: it can't be done more professional. Or can it? What about the printing the next Mortician will be done in full colour or something?

Harold: "Our printing is very professional, only to shape a good atmosphere and expression, but we'll never become that multi-coloured trendy 'zines which try to damage your eyes. We're not Popphoto! I don't believe in colours but I'm open for discussion about it. But luckily it will stay too expensive for us."

How important is the professional printing in your opinion?

Harold: "He, it's important to the distributor. I don't think to the real Death Metal fan who's only looking for more obscure stuff. But to stay dark you need some professionalism, otherwise it looks shit!"

Well, I totally agree with you. But about the flyers for the sixth Mortician: I guess everyone seeing one of them can't live without ordering a copy of the mag! They must have been quite expensive, too...

Harold: "The flyers weren't the most expensive of our business, due to we printed them enough ill-flyers: Yes, I'll work out this style of flyers, but in another colour. The biggest problem was there wasn't enough place to print all you text on it and we ran out of flyers too fast."

Besides Mortician you're studying. Can you tell some more about it? You have time enough for both of these anyway, haven't you?

Harold: "As I told you, I'm studying physics. It's some kind of technical highschool instead of a university. I'm not smart enough for that, he, he! Yes, it takes much time, but now I'm working at a company with solarcells and more practical knowledge. So I'm free at the begin of the evening to start the real work!"

But if I remember right, you were also doing some management for the Dutch Death/Speed Metal band THRENODY...?

Harold: "Well, I did some, but I'm not their official manager, just a friend. I noticed their lack of knowledge of the underground and I helped them a bit. But due to many luck in our National magazine Metal Hammer, they came in touch with many people, so they don't need me help any more. But they still don't see the use of printing small light weight flyers instead of huge pamphlets of 20 kilograms each! Now they are releasing a new demo very soon.

Okay, now all the readers noticed this "ad", and all of them will be waiting for those pamphlets of 20 kilograms each advertising and telling the price for this new demo. ... Well, it could be worth checking out anyway.

In the latest Mortician one could read interesting scene reports from exotic countries like Iceland. What is going to be next? Maybe a complete report from Africa or Middle-East for example? Seriously do you think there are any Death/etc. bands in these above-mentioned places? Me, for sure Israel has a small scene but I suppose that's for the Middle East so far...

Harold: "Yeah, Israel is awakening. I'm not into bad sounding bands from strange countries but I believe there are much talent outside our western world. Just like NADEZ from Peru and bands from Chile. As far as I know, only one guy from South Africa ordered our magazine, but he told me Africa is very poor. I've also one address of a guy from Iran and I know a new movement in Bangladesh! I'm sure you will read more about it in our next issue!"

Well, what else is in the next issue going to feature?

Harold: "Well, that depends on everything. Our next issue is planned for January '92 so I can't say much about it (If you Shalt Order It! -ed.). But there will be much about the newest Death-bands from my country in it, an overcomplete English scene report, I hope also a complete report part II (with Ecuador I hope!) on the new report part II and interviews with NUNSKULL, FESTER and WINDSDELTA to play into technical metal. Enough?"

Well, for to start with, yes. But it is dark soon and the moon is full; we're getting hungry, right? So what about this Mortician Magazine as a dinner course, what on Earth could it be?

Harold: "Maybe something witches used to eat during a sabbath, but very tasteful for them. I mean, a dessert meal, made by three overworked cooks."

Well, by gues... I leave you now and let you hunt in the dead of the night for your dinner. How are you feeling now as this is about to end?

Harold: "Pucked! I'm very busy with doing Mortician and you asked me to answer this interview within a few days! Don't do that again, even I know the reason. I've always the same problem! (Okay, can I ask you now? -ed., crawling in dust and sobbing...). And after all Death Metal is too popular, we all were drowning in the underground, stay swimming in it! That's the only way to dominate the trend!"
Once there were the Bokkerijders in Belgium... the "Goatriders", the messengers of malevolence...

Today there's ANCIENT RITES, a group playing the most true Black/Power/Doom Metal with an extraordinary grip...

The bassist, also handling the mystical kind of vocals revealed some interesting things after returning home from Greece where he spent his holiday...

"I went to Greece to get inspired by those old ancient temples & crypts but also to get a tour organised with our friends of ROTTING CHRIST. It should take place in October. We're also preparing ourselves for a gig in Holland, a concert with DEAD HEAD and a gig near the Spanish border in France on the 26th of September. We're also writing new songs for our forthcoming CD which will be even more dark and obscure. No sell out whatsoever, we move in opposite ways...", tells Guenther about what has been happening with his band ANCIENT RITES lately.

The other members of the band are...? "Bart (guitars). Easy to be with, extremely violent towards his enemies but most of the time he's in a good mood. Leads a carefree lifestyle & he doesn't learn of his mistakes. Heavy drinker and has no responsibility when it comes to fast cars. Fun guy. Walter, drummer. Very fanatic musician. A guy of extreme emotions who can't stand criticism. I remember a guy of a big mag who wrote some shit about him, whenever he sees that guy he pushes him and tries to make that guy's life miserable. Walter is a guy of revenge and no mercy but a true friend on which you can count when you need him. Works in a beer factory and is a heavy drinker (does this have something to do with his job? -ed.). Pascal (guitar). Weird guy who always keeps on a distance. Never speaks much not even to us. He and Walter talked about some other stuff since the time they know each other (1 1/2 year). An antisocial case, you never know what's going on inside his head never shows any feelings. Nice person... Well, you should ask the other guys how I really am. I'm a lazy bastard who only cares about music, history & Satanism. The rest sucks or is of no importance... I like to travel and get inspired by ancient castles, ruins, temples, crypts... I believe in loyalty to the ones who deserve it and hate to the ones that stand in your way and try to put your down..."

EVL PREVAILS...

In April 1990 the band recorded their first demo, Dark Ritual. Now it's quite old (2 1/2 years), but no doubt it's a classic in thrashy Black / Power Metal.

Guenther: "We only play From Beyond The Grave from our demos. Sometimes we also include Fallen Angel in our playlist as an extra song. The Dark Ritual demo was all right, it had a clear sound. The demo was recorded with the original line-up of which I'm the only one left and therefore not representative for our sound anymore."

But still...in my opinion your new material has the same kind of touch and feeling that is noticeable. Of course there's more differences than resemblances. The new stuff is more brutal...

Guenther: "I like the Dark Ritual demo for more personal reasons, it reminds me of the time when Philip (ex-guitarist, R.I.P. -ed.) was still alive, his guitarwork can be heard on that tape. That's why I have a positive attitude towards it. Musically I prefer the ep though, we try to offer something new each time we have a new release, don't get me wrong we will always remain a Black band but we don't want to copy ourselves over & over again. The CD for instance will be different from our ep very dark but with much faster parts... Differently from our ep and TOTALLY different from our demo... all our releases are Black Metal but with a different musical approach. I have the feeling we become more and more extreme by each release... We don't want to make the same mistakes as the old Black Metal gods who 'wimped out terribly..."

THE GOATRIDERS

Well, as Guenther said already, some of our new material can be heard from their ep Evil Prevails... the CD that he mentioned is...
still waiting for its release. The ep has four excellent songs and an intro. Recommended stuff.

Günther: "We recorded the ep in a brand new studio, a made-to-order Black Metal studio which is owned by the guy who composed the Dark Ritual intro of our demo. Now he's created the Götterdämmerung intro, he's a classical composer & produces many classical music in his studio, he has no idea of Black Metal but he created a very dark, evil atmosphere with a totally different musical approach. It was great to work with him. I'm satisfied with the end result but if we had released the songs on CD the sound would've been a thousand times better. Still all in all the ep is alright. At least there's no demo songs put on it. We put a lot of money into it to get a professional end result..."

Please tell some facts about each song included.

Günther: "This intro creates a threatening, evil atmosphere. On the background you hear my voice speaking Satanic messages partly in Latin/English. The voice however is deformed to increase the weird, sickening feel. Longing For The Ancient Kingdom: This song contains some melancholic Doop parts to counter the feeling of vastness. It's a dedication to ancient cultures and empires which are buried in the old dust. A longing for the forever gone grandness of empires who had the power and knowledge like for instance ancient Greece, Mycenaen or Minoan culture, Celtic tribes, Assyrian empire, Babylon, old Rome etc. I adore the wisdom & grandness they represented. Gone forever, this creates a melancholic mood and a desire to catch the unreachable. You have to be consumed by ancient history to understand it. Darkness & Melancholy - Fields Of Flanders: the fastest song on the ep. A tribute to Be Bukkerijders' which was a Satanic horde that died for their beliefs a few centuries ago in my land Flanders and parts of Holland. These "Bukkerijders" were a real nightmare who burned down the churches and robbed religious people. They practised very blasphemous, Satanic rites and lived a life of sins which wasn't very common a few centuries ago when everyone tried to be as religious as possible. The legend says the devil helped to travel these evil men on his back when he was disguised as a black goat. In reality Be Bukkerijders were a very organised gang who did goat worship. They all got tortured and executed but kept on spitting upon the cross 'til the very end...Nol Van Geelen, Jozef Kich. Their namen still live on in my area and when you mention their names a doom atmosphere is created! I even believe that one of my relatives belonged to this gang that was very numerous because I can find my family name on a luit of Bukkerijders in my area. They didn't do it for the money because some of their leaders were doctors, mayors etc. They had the dark flames burning inside! Intense!"

"Evil Prevails describes the beauty of evil, and the powerful attitude and life Code Satanism represents. The name says it all. Darker than black... Black Plague is a very old song that was written with the old line-up when Philip was still alive. Typical old Black Metal rhythms & riffs. The lyrics deal with the black plague, the pest that wiped out many lives in Medieval Europe. It describes the fear and helplessness of a sinful person who's afraid to get infected by this black plague, in a way he already is, he's fighting a battle he already lost... I like these feelings of despair & depression."

DARKNESS & MELANCHOLY

On the demo Günther's vocals are surprisingly melodic, but it was good anyway and increased the band personal style. The ep's vocals are much deeper and even more original, still not any ordinary growl or grunt. Have you, Günther, thought of using both your new and old way of singing?

Günther: "Yeah. I'd like to combine the voice like I had on From Beyond The Grave with the present more deeper way of singing. I already did that a bit on the Black Plague track (on the "Nightmare" part). I think it'd be a great idea to combine the old Black Metal style of voice with the new Black Metal way of singing. It'd be more evil! Some people prefer my old style, some prefer the new style... You can't please everyone,"
I follow my own heart & do whatever I wanna do but your question is a very good suggestion, I already thought about it. This question shows your awareness on upcoming bands. Using both ways of singing could improve our originality a lot.

The next subject... What do you think the most important element in your music is? Gunther: "The darkness and melancholy combined with brutality...the atmosphere.

For sure yes! The atmosphere in the music of ANCIENT RITES is massive, and myself I do think that it is the most important cornerstone of the band... But it seems like the listeners are getting tired of what the songs are all about, so that he/she can let his/her go with the flow of music.

CURSED TO MISFORTUNE?

Through its existence ANCIENT RITES has had misfortune...is it some kind of curse perhaps or what do you think? Gunther: "Right from the start misfortune kept on crossing our path. Canceled tours banned concerts because of violence at our gigs, several car accidents, deaths (Philip & another close friend) being ripped off by our former drummer who stole a lot of money so we couldn't pay the studio costs, troubles with rehearsal rooms, lotsa line up changes, promises in vain and so on... The week before Philip died things were going better after a long time of misfortune; there were big concerts coming up, we had a good line-up & we bought some new equipment. Philip said "Things are going too well for us but how long will this last? I wonder what will happen next." A few days later he died. Some guys told us we'd better change religion. Haha! A strange coincidence is that years ago I wrote & did draw a book (I'm a drawer of profession) dealing with a BlackMetal band that dedicated their lives to Satanism & who were cursed one way or another till all members died. I thought it was a shocking and depressing story but now it seems to be reflecting on us... We receive more and more mail of people with very sick & even guys who are in jail for murder! One of them was trying to get a new Bokkerij gang together, he took it a bit too far. Now he's put behind bars. He wrote to us because of our Obscurity Reigns song, he says he'll contact me as soon as he's released and get this horror together again! "And the night will fall on the land of Flanders again when we ride & burn!" Intense great stuff!

STAGE OF FLANDERS

On these pages there's a really good-looking photo taken from one of the gigs of ANCIENT RITES...

Gunther: "We only use very few lights, lotsa smoke. We try to make it look very dark on stage that suits best to the character of our scene... We try to make the best we can without licking the audience's ass, no singalong "we are all happy" bullshit! Sometimes the crowd participates extremely well which is fine by us but sometimes when the audience consists of crossover/thrashcore fans they don't know how to handle our stuff which is fine by me as well. Without behaving arrogant it's take it or leave it... It's important to us to create a morbid, evil feeling...

Is there any bands in Belgium that you'd recommend?

Gunther: "There are many death, death/thrash, or grind/indust bands, some of them are great such as SPIRITHEAD and BLACKSPHERE, some of them suck & are very competitive but it's the same like that in every underground scene worldwide... There's no support between grind & metal acts, because corebands/fans like to think that they are more intelligent because their lyrics are dealing with politics and crap like that. I don't need any fucker who tells me what to believe or think! So there's no friendship between the two scenes... We're only a BlackMetal band though..."

It appears that Gunther has been involved with the underground Black/Death/etc. Metal scene since its beginning, so his opinion on today's scene could be interesting.

Gunther: "It's cool to see there's a new generation of the BlackMetal bands. I only hope they learned from the mistakes of the old godly BlackHeads like VENOM, CELTIC FROST etc. made! Their wimping out was an insult to all of their fans! I NEVER stopped wearing inverted crosses and leather when it became uncool. All bands/fans got rid of the Satanic image (POSESSED dropped the inverted cross from their logo, VENOM turned wimpy, CELTIC FROST believed they turned into POISON etc.) and crossover/thrashcore became very big. I NEVER took part in that scene... Now I see the people getting into BlackMetal again... that's cool but I hope they don't turn it into the next big trend!"

By now BlackMetal seems to be a trend but in my personal opinion, but who could do something about it?

JUKEBOX OF DAMNATION

Earlier you said you draw and paint for living... Gunther: "At the moment I'm unemployed and I'm a drawer /painter. Sometimes I create Metalshirts (they must be quite heavy and hard to wear...harsh! & logos for Metalshops which helps me to survive... I hate 9 to 5 jobs, can't live with that, I'm a lazy dog! Bart works as an electrician, Walter works in a beer factory and loves his job (It's easy to believe!-ed.)!

Pascal works the race circuit for cars..."

What are the seven records that you would pick up along the others when it's your time to leave this world?

Gunther: "Man, that's a very good but difficult question! (Thanks but don't take it as too difficult, okay?)"
-ed.) I often would be angry because I forgot some -- I have so many records that I really can't pick a few faves... But here's a few: Bathory (BATHORY), Black Metal (VENOM), Seven Churches (POSSESSED), Abominations Of Desolation (MORBID ANGEL), VARATHRON/NECROMANTIA split lp, Satan's Tedeum demo of ROTTING CHRIST, any stuff from MAYHEM & TORMENTOR (Hun)... (Pretty good choices, but I guess you'll find these all in the juke-box of Damnation... That's where you would end up to, isn't it? -ed.) However I would also like to take some Gothic & Medieval classical music with me and some soundtracks of Horror movies... I would also take many literature with me because that's another passion of mine..."

.....NIGHTMARE...

About underground mags, do you think it's important to have a great outlook such as glossy paper, colour cover, posters etc. in the vein of some bigger mags?

Gunther: "I prefer underground mags much more than those big fancy mags. I treat every mag the same... However I do like it when I see that the editors of some underground mags spend a lot of time & work in order to deliver a cool mag. It doesn't have to look rich but I like it when I see that they are seriously dedicated to their zine and do the best they can... I don't like or need posters though... Underground mags rule. At least they really know what is going on in the scene, not those big mags!"

The next subject is from the daily things for true underground maniacs, flyers...

Gunther: "I think they are effective. Sometimes I receive orders because of our flyers. When I see a cool flyer I always put them in a special box in order to contact the persons whenever I have spare time & answered all the letters I received. This is more & more difficult because I'm drowning in mail nowadays but I still keep interesting flyers aside (only one, the others I put in my mail)..."

We only did two different kind of flyers: the man/goat for our Dark Ritual demo and the female Black Sabbath for our Evil Prevails ep..."

I'd like to ask you do you ever throw away any flyers? This is because it seems some throw away all the flyers they get, and some have the principle like "never destroy flyers".

Gunther: "I don't support the people who boycott us so whenever I receive a flyer of one of my enemies (there aren't many) I'd rather burn than spread them. Also flyers who boycott Black Metal I don't pass on. One has to have self respect, why stroke a dog that bites you?! Apart from these few exceptions I don't throw away any flyers... I do pass along many in most of my letters."

This is the end: What are you going to do after this interview?

Gunther: "Infernal hailings to you Niko, really did enjoy your original questions. (The pleasure is all mine, thanks for your thoughtful answers! -ed.) Good luck to you & your mag. (Thanks, and I wish mighty future for ANCIENT RITES! -ed.) Right now I'm going to answer other people that contacted me and have a few beers this evening. Descend into Darkness, EVIL PREVAILS!"
It all began when I ordered a 7" split ep, EXMORTES on one side (see review on it somewhere near... and APATOR on the other. The latter is the one who is the target of discussion here today.

There are two so-called "songs" on his side of the vinyl; the word "songs" inside inverted commas because I'm not sure at all if I can call them songs or music at all. You see, the first is Raper Satan, the whole of it is Apator's brutal and distorted voice saying the title many times after one another, and that's it. The Satanic Bloodspraying is the second and the last one, and it's just like the first, but Apator is now saying (of course) the title of this piece. Both of the tracks last three and a half minutes. Understood?

At least I was totally amazed after it, and in addition to all mentioned above my knowledge about Apator was far below zero. Although there is always something more enjoyable to listen to, I got too interested to forget the whole thing.

Another Apator recording I've got is a demo called "En Dwirgente Stem". There's four "songs" just in the same vein as on the split-ep, crunch.

The first question that ever came to my mind considering APATOR was: Why does he do this kind of stuff? Well, he's here to answer and satisfy your lack of knowledge...

I respect your opinion. I disagree with the words "art". The Anti-Christ speaks through my mouth. Key-words for APATOR are: Torment/Hate/Violence/Agression/Black/Unholy and Devil-like. APATOR is the hateful violence brought to you in the Dark Anti-Christ...

Please describe your relationship (?? "Anti-Christ himself") to the Anti-Christ. Apator: The Anti-Christ speaks through my mouth. At those moments violence runs through my veins, my eyes spell KILL. The Anti-Christ will come to destroy all love and human life...

Well, how long will it take until the Anti-Christ arrives? Apator: The Anti-Christ has already arrived through the mouth of APATOR, love will be destroyed from now on. Hmm... I personally think that there can't be hate without love and vice versa...but everybody has the right to keep his or her own opinions.

Have you ever thought about gigs? Do you think it would work on stage? I guess it won't unless you'll have an extreme live show (rituals on stage perhaps)?

Apator: "My hate (= the hate of the Anti-Christ) is for real, even more so on stage. Yes, I will do a gig to promote the Hateful Message. On stage I'll be standing with my face full of blood
it. We regret, please take up this truckload of apologies ...The contact address for info and merchandising is the following:

APATOR
Meiendraal 99
3075 KC Rotterdam
Holland

CARNIFEX is yet another Finnish band. They were formed in the beginning of 1991, and the present line-up is: M. Liulia (guitar), A. Wennström (guitar), R. Hämuläinen (bass), V. Pulkkinen (drums) and K. Perkkiö (vocals). Decadence is the title of their debut demo which was recorded in Summer 1991. Pathological Rite is the opener, and it's mainly fast as heck! This shows the CARNIFEX style that is something I would call Grindcore (with a Death Metal louch) instead of "Grinding Death Metal" as the members say themselves.

Disturbed One has a few more slower parts, and among them a couple of rather good-sounding guitar harmonies.

The next is Purify Thy Souls...fast and technical. About K.'s (Perkkiö) voice, it's pretty agonizing in a growling way...and some snarling background voices flavour it here and there.

Necrophobia is also grinding fast, but too technical in my opinion. Aberration Into My Subconscious is the last track on the demo. It's quite much like the other songs on the demo.

Despite the fact I think this demo is maybe a bit too ordinary, the band has got very good response from Decadence. Their music is probably the most close to THERION. Also TERRORIZER and MORBID ANGEL are recalled to my mind.

The lyrics? Yes, they are made by M. Liulia, K. Perkkiö and V. Pulkkinen and these dudes write about "atheism, mental disorders and the stupidity of this whole fucking world (Oh! Hopefully not in the "save the world"-vein?)."

CARNIFEX have also released a split-demo with their friend band FESTERDAY. I got the two CARNIFEX tracks from this demo. They are called Left Behind and Release From Slavery. It's been said that these tracks are nearer their own style, but I don't think they differ very much from the demo apart from that they are of course (?) more technical.

Arjo (Wennström) kindly recorded me one of their gigs. It's from May 1992. In addition to most of the demo tracks, the two new tracks (mentioned above) were played, and also a cover track... Dead Shall Rise of TERRORIZER.

It seems they want more gigs as most of the bands do, don't they? Also a few record labels have contacted CARNIFEX but as Arjo wrote, they don't have any deal yet. Okay, you surely want these demos, or what? Decadence costs $5 (world) or 15Fm+3.50 stamp (Finland). Also that split-demo'92 is available, just send a blank tape + 2 IRC's. You can catch the band at CARNIFEX, P.O. Box 250, 67101 Kokkola, Finland.
Demonos (bass/vocals) tells here something that has been happening with BARATHRUM during the latest times: "I had lots of problems with our line-up. Our ex-drummer left and joined the MEISSIAN PARATROOPS, and our ex-guitarist Niko (quite a great name or what? -ed.) left too and he plays now in COFFIN... (Oh, I thought COFFIN disbanded quite a lot of time ago! -ed.). So I'm the only original member of BARATHRUM... Now the line-up is: Demonos, voxbass, Warrior From Darkness: guitar. I know a 2nd guitarist and a drummer but we haven't been together yet. Cos we have some problems with rehearsal room. We wait needed one from our ex-reh-please, but I think that we'll get it back or a new room perhaps. We're trying to finish our 2nd demo Battlecry's final mix with MEISSIAN PARATROOPS guitarist Jami who mixed it. I hope that it would be out when you read this interview. Witchmaster is still available for $4 ($5 overseas)."

I think we should talk more about your Witchmaster demo as it's yet your only release. How was it to record it with Holocausto (BEHERIT)?

Demonos: "I must tell you that it was truly great time in studio with Nuclear Holocausto Of Bloody Vengence. Things went smoothly or less smoothly, but we did it and I think that Witchmaster is good enough to be our debut demo..."

TAK III

I personally think that your music isn't total Doom, the more I'd say it's some kind of slow Death/Black Metal...

Demonos: "I don't think that our music is any kind of Death Metal. I gotta tell you that I haven't ever been interested so much into Death Metal...maybe some bands like old MORBID ANGEL. I think that our music is more Boom than Death...it's not total Doom and it's not total Black Metal -- it's Jetblack Doom Metal..."

"We don't make our songs for audience, we make our songs for ourselves and if people like us then they do. Our newer songs are more different and totally our own cause there have been so much changes in our line-up, I like it!"

I suppose you like the music not the line-up problems? Well, what is the direction of the new songs?

Demonos: "More primitivity, not too clean like before...more pri-

Hammder of Damnation
mitivity..."

As you're the only original member today, you seem to be some kind of a main person in BARATHRUM, don't you?

Demonos: "Well...I can't deny...you know, I write totally all of our lyrics and almost all of our music comes from me...About our line-up, there's no more problem with it. Only rehearsal room is our problem.

TAKING IV

Describe your live show. How much does it depend on the audience how good your gig is?

Demonos: "We played one gig with 5 rock bands and one Death Metal band, it was great...audience hated us. I blew fire...body paints...you know...Once one stupid wimp (who was drunk) came to me and tried to abuse me or something. I spit in his face and told him to fuck off...He went mad and after the gig he came to backstage and there was a fight, yeah...It was great (laugh). Hmm, is it really?" -ed.

and we won. And the funniest thing with that gig was that it was amnesty-rock by Amnesty Int:1...It was a cool gig. We have played about five or six gigs and I think that first one and that amnesty-gig were the best. So our live show doesn't depend on the audience, it depends on our mood.

But don't you think it could turn you on a depressed & frustrated mood to watch down the audience that isn't interested at all? I think this way the audience could affect the live show...but who knows for sure?

TAKING V

How long have you been in the underground scene and listening to this kind of music?

Demonos: "In 1988 I was totally into early primitive Death/Black bands like: MORTAL DECAY, VENOM, MORBID ANGEL, POSSESSED and some Thrash bands like SLAYER, CELTIC FROST (a Thrash band?!?!) -ed. In 1989 I started to make my own zine called Total Massacre...its 6th issue will be out soon.

Then what do you think of that today VERY many Death Metal bands (who around 1-2 years ago played speed metal) paint their faces and claim they're true Black Metal? I do not think it's so simple to be a true Black Metal band to just keep on playing some boring mainstream Death Metal while wearing masks, spikes and leather like "everybody else"...!

Demonos: "Death to fakes! It's bad for the Black Metal if (I'd use the word "when", -ed.) goes to trend. Black Metal is underground thing and I hope that it will always be underground. Hiphop and techno-dance are for trendy wimps, so all trend Death/Black metalists go and make some MTV-music! But don't make Death or Black Metal so popular. Always in underground -- it's my motto." It's a good one but remember to keep it, okay? Hmm...how do you like to live in Kuopio?

Could you say there's some kind of an underground scene?

Demonos: "The underground scene is quiet small around here, but it's quite powerful (maybe too much) (?? -ed.). Here's bands such as MESSIAH PARA-TROOPS, DEMILICH, MYSTIFICATION (also in Poland is one... -ed.) and BARATHRUM. I don't know more. Except BEHERIT which isn't totally a band of Kuopio, but the main person that lives here. Hail to Holocausto! Also here's some zines and some compilation tapes. I hope more gigs. Here's not too much gig organizers. I have organized a couple of gigs with my friends but now I don't have times enough for all."

The next is the dinner course question... already familiar. (?)"

Demonos: "Gasoline, lots of spirit like vodka, hot spices, soil of graveyard, bats, spiders, snakes, worms (alive), cocoa, hash, poisons, led, steel and iron -- you know dinner of witch sabbath (eating from skulls). Yam, yam! Thanks not only for making me damn hungry, but also for other informative answers...That was it, the word is yours."

Demonos: "Circle is closed!! Thanks for these questions. Hail to all true perverts and Black Metal and tattoo maniacs."

BARATHRUM
c/o Demonos Sova
P.O.Box 103
70101 Kuopio
Finland.
As far as I can remember, I ordered a demo called Natorium De Mondo by a Greek band called SEPTICEMIA in late summer of 1991 or so, and I was sent it in late May 1992. So I can’t say for sure how fast they really are in mailing orders...

Anyway, this demo is recorded already in September 1989, and today it’s “quite” an old one. There are six tracks, the first being an instrumental and the last is a SODOM cover track, the legendary (?) Blasphemem. This cover version is not very good, however, the vocals are much too loud while everything else stays in the background. The other songs have a better recording, and they, although being rather primitive (understandable as we know how old they are), they have the taste of the typical Greek band...not an unpleasant taste at all!

Costas: “The demo is very old, about 2 1/2 years old (around 3 by now... -ed.) and we don’t like it anymore. Besides it doesn’t represent our sound of the band today. We’re not satisfied from the demo and this is the reason that we didn’t play a song from this except Rest In Pain.”

STRA NG E

Although the demo was recorded in September, the actual story of SEPTICEMIA began in February 1989. Until today the band has gone through a couple of line-up changes, and the present line-up consists of Costas (Drums+vocals), Sotiris (guitar) and Thamos (bass). This three-piece has just released their debut lp entitled Sabbath Conventions. It is available for 10 US dollars that should be mailed to SEPTICEMIA, Kanellopoulou 68, 185 47 N.Palio, Piraeus, Greece. It’s a pity but I’m not able to give you any information about what this lp is about, as I haven’t heard it yet. But as I understood, you released the lp totally by yourselves. Why, wasn’t there any labels interested? And had you sent any promo copies of the demo to some labels perhaps?

Costas: “No, because we haven’t done any try. Now with our lp we send copies to labels to see if we can get a deal.”

Now to all the different subject: what does the monicker of the band mean?

Costas: “SEPTICEMIA is an illness of blood, something like the blood starting to rot. It’s a very strange name with very nice spelling and this is the reason we choose it.”

POWERFUL

Can you please inform me about the underground scene in Greece? Do you think that ROTTING CHRIST is the leading and most popular Greek band?

Costas: “The Greek scene is getting bigger day by day. And there are some groups really good. I don’t think that ROTTING CHRIST is the best group in Greece. It’s a good band but groups like NIGHTFALL, SEPTIC FLESH, HORRIFIED and VARATHRON are better.”

Is it easy to get one’s band playing live in Greece nowadays?

Costas: “What gigs are you talking about? Our gigs or other bands, you don’t explain (Actually I mean both of them... -ed.)? If you’re talking about the gigs that a group can play here in Greece I have to tell you that there aren’t place here that a group can play. So it’s difficult to find a good place to play.”

How many times have you played on stage and with whom?

Costas: “We have played about 15 gigs and always we play with other bands. The EPIDEMIC, EPIC FLESH, HORRIFIED, DANGER CROSS, SATANIC NOISE, DEATH COURTIER, EPIDEMIC and others.”

Could you describe your live show?

Costas: “There is a lot of power in our shows. We are very powerful over the stage and this is a thing that likes very much to the fans and the participate with a lot of energy in our shows.”

Do you think that is the thing that makes you different from other Death Metal bands, as you know there are too many of them nowadays and too many sound all the same.

Costas: “Weird question. I want to believe that we have our own sound and avoid the copy.”

SUPERNATURAL

Next I ask you to tell some basic facts about your process in creating tracks...

Costas: “When someone has some riffs, he played to the others and if we like it we keep it. So this is a start and we connected riffs till we have a complete song.”

Who is mainly responsible about the music?

Costas: “The music at the demo is responsibility of Sotiris. At the new songs the most parts are made by Thanos.”

And what about the lyrics?

Costas: “The lyrics are written by me completely. In the lyrics of the demo I’m referring to supernatural in general and occult and Satanism. Natorium De Mondo is a story about the Apocalypse of John. Rest In Pain is talking about death and a fantastic story about what happens after death. Choir Of The Dead is also a story about a curse that someone has unleashed.”

What bands are you the most likely to listen to? Do you think they have influenced your music?

Costas: “We listen to bands like MORBID ANGEL, PARADISE LOST, CARCASS, DEATH, BATHORY, DEICIDE, KING DIAMOND, MERCYFUL FATE and more. I personally try to listen to jazz music, not because I like it but because I listen to the drummers which are fantastic.”

Are there any other things you could say out loud when describing the members of SEPTICEMIA?

Costas: “It’s difficult to talk for each one of us. We are four
different persons with their own personality and we try to work as one. Our relationship is perfect.

QUALITY

A few lines ago we were talking about your favourite bands. They are (mostly) Death Metal and stuff, and what just came to my mind is that don't you listen to any other kinds of music (well, you said you listen to jazz... -ed.)? And have you ever played any other kinds of music?

Costas: "Of course I do. I love music very much, not only heavy metal. I love the quality music. I will play other kind of music like rock, jazz rock, Latin but never garbage like glam metal or house and techno."

Can anybody say that someone is at all PLAYING house or techno? Just a machine banging a beat added with some noise... But who cares about that? The more we all should care about what is going to happen with SEPTICEMIA in the future! Do you have any plans?

Costas: "We want to sign with a good record company to have a good contract and to play live in all over the world."

What about underground magazines in common?

Costas: "There are so much zines but the most of them are bad. There are some zines that really deserves to exist, and to read it. But it's okay. I have not got the problem with our band be featured from the worst zine to the best."

Everybody should know what comes now... If the music of SEPTICEMIA was a dinner course, what would it be?

Costas: "Good question. (Thanks! This is quite a popular one in this mag! -ed.) I don't know, maybe a dismember man served as a meal to the cannibals."

Okay. I got hungry and so I have nothing more to say, and I give the word to Costas...

Costas: "Thanks for the interview. Buy our LP or die (You really leave us no choice! Where's my knife?... -ed. the ridiculous). Write us all of you. Good luck with your zine..."

HI EVERYBODY!

I'm going to start distribution called BLACK AXE. I hope you will send a sample copy of what you have for sale and fair wholesale prices for 5-20 copies and I try help you.

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Salituntie 9
SF-24800 Halikko
Finland

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Dolores Records
Drottninggatan 52
411 07 Gothenburg
SWEDEN
Phone: +46-31 15 04 18
Fax: +46-31 15 23 40

Hammer of Damnation
The Swiss DAMNATORY was formed some time in late 1989. They released two demos and gone through several line-up changes, the current one being: Wenzel Zuber (guitar), Patrick Imesch (guitar), Marco Bartolozzi (bass), Mario Burgener (vocals) and Sascha Amacker (drums).

In Summer 1991 the group recorded 3 tracks for their Hybridized Deformity EP for Infestation of Evil Records. This piece of vinyl is now available on clear vinyl, and as a limited edition of 1000 copies. These tunes present the style of DAMNATORY as some kind of grinding Death Metal with some speed Metal (?!) kind of parts here and there. The vocals are deep but rather unenjoyable. The technical side is pretty high, it can be heard that the guys have been playing for some time before the recording of this ep...

Hybridized Deformity 7"ep is available for $5 to Europe and $6 elsewhere. You'd better write to Infestation of Evil Records c/o Biong Tore Wagener, Schwarzburger Weg 30, D-3150 Peine, Germany. You can contact the band at Marco Gemmet, Dammerweg 15, 3904 Naters, Switzerland. It's said that they'll soon have a new demo out.

More and more Doom Metal bands have born (or been discovered) after the lp of CATHERAL. However, there's nobody to blame CASTLE about following the upcoming trend; they've been doing this already in 1989-90. The band was actually existing already in late 1987, but the beginning of 1990 was more important due to the discovery of the right musical direction and suitable line-up, which consists of Eric (vocals), Ilja (guitar), Jean-Marie (drums), Richard (guitar) and Lucien (bass).

Till today they have released one demo, a three-tongue tape called Chasing Unicorns. "We tried to accomplish a heavy sound, yet not too heavy (we think it's nice if you hear different instruments) with the vocals not as prominent as most bands do. I tried to mix the vocals in a way that it wouldn't be lots of vocaargh and a few instruments on the background. In the studio it sounded great but now it seems we've slightly exaggerated our effort. Still it's a good sound (for a first tape!) with space for improvements on our second", says the vocalist (growler) Eric. It's well said and describes the sound and the vocals in an excellent way. I guess I couldn't say it better so that's why it's worth to print here.

The music of CASTLE isn't totally ultra silooww, there's a couple of midpaced Death Metal parts, like for example also WINTER had. Maybe it's good and it might keep some people away from getting bored with this demo. But even without these faster parts this would not sound too boring to me, the music is more or less variable, and for example in the mighty opener Castle (it lasts almost 9 minutes...) there's here and there acoustic parts to make the entirety more colourful.

As a demo this is a good package; in addition to the music you'll get of course the cover lands. Recently the band has released their second demo called In Purple Vision, sorry but I haven't heard it and so I can't inform any more about it. Write to Eric and ask!

BALANCE OF TERROR #3 has now been released and includes INTERVIEWS: REVIEWS: WITH: AGATHOCLES, CARCASS, GRAVE, DECOMPOSED, EXTREMA, NUCLEAR DEATH, ANACRUSIS, NALSEK, and literally tons of others. 16 demo and LP reviews: 48 pages; 55 crystal clear photos; 37 zine reviews; 2 full pages of underground news; cover features Polish slaughterations WADER; condoleto highlights ETERNAL NIGHTMARE. ORDER NOW FOR $3 PLUS 1 IRC (Trev Jarvis, 384 Goward Rd, Victoria, B.C. Canada, V8X3X3)
Do you need salvation? Well, instead of religious crap, I recommend you to try a debut demo of TENEBRÆE titled of course Salvation.

Instead of walking on the safe but boring path of unoriginality like many other underground bands, this Finnish three-piece (Jussi Heikkinen : guitar, vocals, keyboard etc., Jukka Eräkangas : drums and Hannu Ojanperä : bass) is trying to cut their own kind of road through the forest.

And I'm not lying if I say they have managed doing it! Some have perhaps done it better but that's not the point...

This five-song studio recording introduces us a group that make various kinds of music, not only metal, but still keeps it (at least most of the time) in a brutish form and out of unintelligent mess. There's something from Death/Thrash and Heavy Metal. Doom and in the last song even funk! (this last one sounds rather terrible, though!) So it's pretty variable and doesn't seem to bore anyone to death.

One thing I'd like to complain is Jussi's voice. In some parts it's pretty good such as in the first vocal parts in the title track, usually his groaning is far too monotonous. It doesn't sound great at all.

In case you're in need of some flesh, the trio is again here to offer you This Divine Flesh as a completely new demo. I think it should have been released by Wild Rags, but the band seemed to turn it down or something. There's four songs and an outro in the already familiar TENEBRÆE vein, but sometimes better than in the debut.

The demos should sell for $5 (or 15 mk in Finland) each; send the cash to TENEBRÆE c/o M. Lauren, Kytösuontie 8 G 35, 00300 Helsinki, Finland.
Lately there had been a wave of vampirism in the cold Norway. The traces led us to the ancient castle of Count Grishnackh...

**BURZUM**

Grishnackh, how has it been going today?

"Quiet. It's a day outside and the sun shines... I hate sun. So I sit here in shadow... in a dark room and dream about night! I hope there will never be a new day", says the vampire Grishnackh and continues: "Um... BURZUM was "formed" in early '91 as a project band beside my other band of which I have left. I did a demo in late '91. 3 songs... later I included 9 more songs on that piece! The 3 song demo is available from DSP for an unknown price... write for details! First lp was recorded in Jan '92, out April '92 (on DSP). The second BURZUM lp is recorded containing 8 trax. It is called PÅ Svarte Troner (It's Swedish or Norwegian and means something like "On Black Thrones" or so... -ed.) and will be out on DSP late '92... it was recorded in May '92.

BURZUM is now a two piece band. Hellhammer is doing the drums. We will do an ep 7" probably on H.N.F. Records in Norway that will contain new (fucking ten times better) version of A Lost Forgotten Sad Spirit and a new track that will only be released on this 7"ep! Later we will do the third lp that will (of course) be out on DSP! Um..."

Grishnackh, the man behind BURZUM was kind enough to give us some background knowledge considering his band. It would be a wise move to take this debut lp to the subject... um, please tell some facts about each song on the lp.

Grishnackh: "Feeble Screams...(made in mid '91) is a piece describing why I hate the feeble slave race. Ea, Lord Of The Depths (in late '91) is telling how Ea looks like. Black Spell Of Destruction (made in early '91) is a dream I had. When I Destroy The Earth With A Spell... may the dream come true! Channeling The Power Of Souls is a spell manipulating souls into worship... (made in early '91). Wandering In A Song is made to remind you of BATHORY (and especially the end of their debut lp's B-sided). Its lyric explain the pleasure of dying slowly in war... (made in late '91) The Crying Orc is mourning because of natural hate of everything. A Lost Forgotten Spirit (made mid '91) is about grave desecration. "Despite Their Rest And They Shall Haunt Forever". My Journey To The Stars is a dream of mine (made Jan '92). Dungeones Of Darkness I am track by Euroonymous and me! We here create the feeling of entering the dungeons of darkness."

You told that your second lp PÅ Svarte Troner is already recorded... please tell something about it.

Grishnackh: "It's more dark and depressive... I think the first lp is more cold hate in a bit depressive way... Anyway 2nd lp is more varied songwise!" Can you give any titles?

Grishnackh: "It contains old tracks as Lost Wisdom (early '91), My Key To Purgatory (mid '91) and Dominos Sathma (early '91) and new ones as Svarte Troner (May '92), Ben Ono Kyusten (Jan '92), Han Som Reiste (May '92) Snu Mikrokosmos Tog (Feb '92) and En Ring Til A Herske (April '92)."

All these new song titles are in Swedish or Norwegian... use your dictionary to translate them!

**DARK, DEPRESSIVE**

Nowadays BURZUM is a two-man band. Are you perhaps going to build a decent line-up? And why didn't you search for any members earlier?

Grishnackh: "Earlyer I didn't need any other members to do BURZUM. Now I got Hellhammer on drums for 3rd lp (and beyond). After third lp we will look for a bass player, a second guitarist and a synth player for live performances. I will be fucking hard to find suitable members..."

Have you already planned your stage show?

Grishnackh: "Yes it will be a dark depressive live show! No fun no mosh. Trend folk still bored to death seeing BURZUM live. We are no fun..."
BLACKNESS IN MY OWN TONGUE

About how Grishnakhk makes the tracks for BURZUM, he says: "It varies a bit! Sometimes I do some riffs, and sometimes I do whole trax!"

Nevertheless you must be pretty fast in creating songs according to that your second lp is to be released very soon, and the debut has been available for only a short while!

Grishnakhk: "Hm...I did 15 tracks in '91. I've done 20 tracks in '92 (it's now end of July). I think the reason for this is firstly I'm unemployed and that enables me to dwell where I wish in the night! Deep dark woods, medieval sites, cold caves, and high mountains. My personal influences is purely dark persons to...so my dark essence is not ruined by any 'light of god'."

How did you practice your songs when you still were the only member?

Grishnakhk: "I didn't! I think how they shall be and play them like that when I record them!"

By the way, the meaning behind the name of the band isn't Blackened Undead Raging Zombie Under Mould as everybody thought (Who? - Santa Claus), but...

Grishnakhk: "It means blackness or darkness in my own tongue."

BURZUM LP is available from:

DSP
Schweiggaardsgt. 56
N-0656 Oslo
NORWAY

for:
Finland - 60fim
Norway - 130nok
Sweden - 255k
Island - 1000k
Europe - 15€

All prices include p&p.
Also ask for t-shirts!
I like MASTER’S HAMMER.
The music they play can be labeled as Black Metal. But I think it’s something more... something deep that I admire. Maybe it has something to do with the strange sounding vocals, maybe with that they sing in Czech, but I guess it’s mostly because of classical & operetta elements and song structure.

They’ve made four demos, one lp, one 7" ep and 2 tracks on a compilation lp, and every time it’s slightly different when compared to each other. The band has improved from their first demo’s fast BATHORY-influenced sound to a unique kind of playing that can be heard on their latest releases. Nowadays the line-up consists of six members from whose only one has been in from the beginning in 1987. He is Franta Storm (vocals/guitar) and we had a kind of discussion with him...

Okay, I got something unusual to start with: please tell something about your family or parents!

Storm: "My father is an architect and catholic believer, my mother is artist painter, like me. I’m living in a house inherited by my grandmother whom I killed 3 years ago..."

MASTER’S HAMMER has signed a record deal with Omose Production some time ago...

Storm: "The contract includes two lp’s, but singles and lp production for Czechoslovakian market is kept up to the band. I hope Herve (the Omose boss ed.) can make lots of good things for us. They are in deal with SPV distributors and it’s great. Also we must not export the lp/ep’s made in CSFR after signing the contract." Do you already have the material ready for your second lp? When is it going to be released?

Storm: "Yes. It’ll be 9-10 songs which we are recording now, the whole September till half of October. Believe the lp/ed will be out this year."

Let’s see about it... hopefully we’ll have it on our turntables before 1993. Well, I’d like to know what you’d like to play live the most? Or what, why?

Storm: "I think it’s BLASPHEMY, cause they can drink as fast as they play."

About author: Czechoslovakian bands?

Storm: "This may be a long storm, here’s totally lots of good bands like ROOT, D.I.R.K., INSANIA, D.A.T., GLADIATOR, TORMENTOR (oh, kind of personalities can be found of the membership of MASTER’S HAMMER...

Storm: "Difficult thing. Necrocrok and Valenta are youngest -- 20. They come from a small village near Prague and cannot play their instruments very well (I haven’t noticed that ed.). Voral (37) is a professional musician. His keyboard is his job and hobby. He’s also an expert among digital music soundcraft equipment. The bassist is cool guy, and tympanist in alcoholic like we all."

DO YOU PLAY live very often?

Storm: "Yes, sometimes we played 3 times in a month, but we didn’t any gig since January, cos we needed a time for studio work. Our show looks normal like any Death Metal band -- fans are stage-diving and lots of crazy things."

"Omose promised us an European tour with BLASPHEMY, and I think it will be the biggest physical liquidation since our band has been playing.

Is BLASPHEMY perhaps also the band with whom this must be the fifth TORMENTOR tour that I know... ed., CRUX etc."

What is the situation of your country nowadays? Has it already split in two parts? And what do you think about all this?

Storm: "I don’t care about politics -- this is just a game over money and dirty deceivers who only look for their own profit."

IN THE PHOTOS you sent me (featured in these pages...) one could figure out that you don’t use the face paint that you wore in the photo of Witchhunt Rec. compilation lp...

Storm: "No, we don’t use it because we are lazy to wash it out."

To the end: what is the most important element in your music in your opinion?

Storm: "Using special instruments like keyboard (Generally keyboard seems to be used on every ordinary demo nowadays, but not in the vein of MASTER’S HAMMER though... ed.) or tympanas. And singing in Czech."

Thanks for interesting questions. I’d like only to say hello to all fans in Finland.
and wish them brutal damnation - coz death is near!"

Well, I suppose everyone can get enough damnation from this magazine... but for the forthcoming lp of MASTERS HAMMER you should write to Osmose Prod. For Klavierstück ep one could send $6 ($7 overseas) to Poserslaughter Records (address elsewhere). The latest demo Jilemicky Okultista is available for $5 ($6 overseas). There's also t-shirts available as well their debut lp Ritual (only inlp form!).

LISTEN TO THE BRUTAL OCCULT MASTERPIECE!
Write to: MASTERS HAMMER, C/O Franta Storm
Spálova 23, 162 00 Praha 6
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

You've got better things to spend your money, but this costs $4 at Massimo Curro, Massimo (bass), Bruno (vocals) and Roby (drums). In June 1991 they recorded their debut demo Premature Exequie, and sad but true this tape is worth of nothing (to me, at least). Six boring tracks of the most ordinary and unsurprising Death Metal ever added with a stupid and simple keyboard intro. Musically this is mostly midpaced stuff added with perhaps the most ordinary Death Metal voice. Neither the lyrics can give you anything special.

In Miami, Death Metal is known as UNBOUNDED TERROR. This is the second demo release of Drowned Productions, and it proves the ultimate quality in the outlook. The covers are of full colour on glossy paper, including lyrics, a band photo and an additional sticker, too! Also the tape is a chrome one (Cr02)...

"Only what is to be found inside the tape doesn't satisfy me at all. This is like a delicious-looking cake which is actually an ordinary bread inside, bad"

"Intro : The Maleficision is a very typical one, synthesizers with a weird speaking voice. There are left four tracks, namely Slaves of Sufferance, B.N.D. (Enjoyment Near Your Death), Immortal Violence and Fear. Sad but true: UNBOUNDED TERROR doesn't offer anything new to you unless you've never heard Death Metal. It's so ordinary and typical, just like too many others!

"If you want this demo, you'd better write to Drowned Productions, P.O.Box 39048"

2B080 - Madrid, Spain, I guess $3 or $6 is enough. But UNBOUNDED TERROR have also their debut lp out, it was released in June by Drowned Productions, of course. I don't know how much it would cost, you must write and ask about it! To contact UNBOUNDED TERROR themselves, you must write to c/o Vicente J. Paya Galido, Juan Crespi, 29 - B, Bajo, 07014 Palma De Mallorca (Baleares), Spain.

Interview with Drowned Productions in our fourth issue!
UNBURIED from Finland, Lahti has something to offer for people into Doom/Death Metal. They released a three-song demo Veil Of Damnation in Spring 1992, and it is still available for $5 from Janne Riipinen, Mustamäenkatu 60, 15610 Lahti, Finland. Although I suppose that UNBURIED is still searching for their strongest identity, these three tracks are above the pure shit where today's underground scene is seriously drowning into. More background information can be found in the article that we featured in our second issue. But we'll go on anyway, 'cause the drummer Janne, despite being tired had quite a lot to say.

How has the day gone so far? Is there anything special happened lately?
Janne: "It's morning so I'm quite tired right now. We just got a second guitarist. His name is Janne (his, too?) and he's ex-AGONIZKD. This dude is so weird that you wouldn't believe it if I told you something about him. Lunatic...

Now, as you started please introduce us the other members, too.
Janne: "San-tu Ti-honen - bass. He knows very much about several things, or at least he thinks he does, hahah. He's almost as lazy as I am. Isto Rytkölä - vocals. He's alcoholic. He had some problems with this alcohol but hopefully those problems are over now. Walterti Myllynen - guitars. He's the main composer of the band. He likes too see bands live. Janna Riipinen - drums. That's me, hah, hah. I'm lazy. It's very difficult to write about myself, you know.

Yes I know. Thanks. What about the times of Veil Of Damnation demo, how was the recording session?
Janne: "We had a really great time in studio. Of course there are things that we'd like to change. F.ex. drumsound. I really hate that sound."

There's pretty much things we'd like to change, so let's only say that we are not so satisfied with that demo.

Janne: "First edition was sold out for a long time ago. We took 100 copies more. The response has been positive. There's people praising it, but of course there's people who isn't like it so much."

As we figured out already, Walterti is mainly responsible of the music of UNBURIED. He's influenced by darkness and various kinds of moods.
Janne: "Mood is the most important thing in Doom Metal. There must be melodies and crushing heaviness mixed together. Also if a band plays Doom Metal, they must be extremely slow. Our new songs are much more melodic than those demo tracks."

Janne: "We don't wanna take influences from other bands. As everybody knows there's millions of bands in the world, so it's almost impossible to be extremely original. Order our demo and judge yourself are we original or not.

Janne himself has the job of the lyric writing in UNBURIED.
Janne: "We don't write "instructive" lyrics. Don't get me wrong here, they are just tales mixed with Satanism. Veil Of Damnation demo's tracks are over a year old now, so lyrics are as old and as shitty ones.

But please tell something about them anyway!
Janne: "Blackest Cross; That's a crucifixion tale. Yeah, a cliché. Obedience; this is very difficult to explain. Words just came from my mind. Forgotten Pray; that's a story about a guy who is in deal with Satan, but he tries to break his oath.

Um, are you a Satanist then? What does it represent to you?
Janne: "Yes, I am a Satanist. I have not been in contact with any organizations so I can't say which is the most "true" existing organization (No bother as long as they all think about money and band that would have influenced you. Do you think it's possible that there exists a band or artist that hasn't got influence from any other bands or musicians (consciously or not) ?

Janne: "I can tell you this; if there hasn't been CATHEDRAL, we'd possibly play some other kind of music. We don't rip off any riffs from CATHEDRAL if you think so. (Actually I haven't said that or have I? Besides, I don't think that being influenced by a band or something means that you're copying riffs etc. from that band, ed.) CATHEDRAL was just a little inspiration for us to play Doom Metal. You can see we wanted to play slower and heavier stuff the time since the beginning. It's almost impossible to be original these days, so many bands around.

NECROMANTIA is one of the most original band I have ever heard."

One more thing about these "influences" (somebody's gonna have flue soon...), what in your opinion is THE band that has been the strongest influence to today's Metal scene and actually started it all?

Janne: "Very good question. Who knows which band was the first to start this scene. HELLHAMMER/CETIC FROST, VENOM, POSSESSED, SLAYER, SODOM... or is it BLACK SABBATH?? BLACK SABBATH has really "brutal" parts on some of their tracks that has been at least back in the 70's. SABBATH was something real brutal, I think. The band that started the scene could have been anyone!"

By the way, lately I've been thinking how much has Alice Cooper to do with the masks that almost every Black Metal band is using these days? Or what about SAMHAIN?"

Till today UNBURIED has played four times on stage in the Finnish scene such as

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**Hammer Of Damnation**

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play any covers. 7-1. (their latest gig - ed.) we played F.B.M.’s Blasphemous. It’s not actually any cover track ‘cause we have composed it ourselves. (UNBURIED was called F.B.M. earlier. Meaning Forbidden Death - Mans... - ed.) Believe it or not, Blasphemous was our very first track ever. BATHORY & BLASPHEMY - influenced.“

What is your next release going to be? I servants of the four Kings are having fun, I think for our blackest lords. What I heard was the most blasphemous words and my soul agreed with them. I still can hear them every night when the darkness falls into my mind.”

What about the music of UNBURIED being a dinner course? Janne: “Hmm... maybe eyes of priests boiled in blood.”

Maybe... or maybe not? I still don’t think any people willing to eat such crap. Anyway, to end this at once please tell me what kind of feelings you’re having! Janne: “I’m very grateful to you for this very interesting interview. I’m sorry that some of the questions weren’t so long (I guess you meant the answers...)? Anyway I think we’ll all forgive you, don’t we?” - ed.).

I’m just tired. One more time, thanks for this interview.”

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Hammer of Damnation