

Tchor

-issue #2-



Abigor, Agathodaimon, Alghazanth, Arthame,
Cradle of Filth, Evemaster, Faerghail, Gates
of Ishtar, Graveland, Horna, Kyprian's
Circle, Malign, Mundanus Imperium, Poles
Apart, Warloghe...

EDITORIAL

Yes, here it is finally after huge delays... At first we would like apologize the differing quality of the interviews in the questioning side. Due to this fact we can't say we are satisfied to this issue totally, of course it's hell of a lot better than debut, but still not of the quality we are reaching for. We will try to correct our mistakes in third issue, which we have already started to construct, yet we don't wish to inform you with it's releasing point of time as delays always tend to occur in our activities. One fact you should know at this point is that the second editor from the times of debut issue was kicked out from the editorial staff in spring '97 due to lack of interest towards participating in constructing Ichor publications. After some time he was replaced by Juha and now things are working out much better. We haven't decided the actual content of #3 yet, but we will most likely concentrate more on the religious topics than in this issue and include some interviews with non-musical aspect, which we will not inform you yet due to uncertainty of things. Bands, editors and labels, which are able to speak about religious matters and have something good to offer with their products are encouraged to get in touch.

We also handle some sort of mailorder service with three other guys which is also runned under the name Ichor. Some demotapes are soon to be released by Ichor, ask for the details and lists from our address.

Enough of this bullshit, go ahead, read and hopefully enjoy the rest of pages. Honest critics about Ichor #2 are very welcome...

You can contact Ichor editorial staff from:

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Finland

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Darken/Graveland, Peter/Abigor, Vlad Dracul & Sathonys/Agathodaimon, Robin/Cradle of filth, Mörk/Malign, Kai/Faerghail, Kyprian/Kyprian's circle, Shatraug & Nazgul/Horna, Gorath/Alghazanth, Morath/Warloghe, Heikki /Tuonela distr., J.T/Evenmaster, Draug/Mundanus Imperium, Paulo/Primitive Art & Static Age, Sascha/Poles Apart & Skogen'zine, Henkka, Spinefarm rec., Fazer musiikki, Anno Domini, City-lehti (for extreme fun!), Sinebrychoff, Hartwall, Olvi, Alko and everybody who have supported us in any way, sorry if we have forgotten somebody!!!

Special thanks goes to:

You (for buying this 'zine), Kemppinen, Jaska, Gråsten, Tuke, Kaisa, Manu Humppi and everyone whom we have boozed with.

Playlists:

Juha:

Darkthrone-all, Celtic Frost-all up to "Into the Pandemonium", Samael-"Ceremony of opposites", Bathory-four first lp's, Deicide-all, King Diamond/Mercyful Fate-all, Dimmu Borgir-"Enthroned darkness...", Devil Doll-all, Slayer-old stuff, Sodom-"In the sign of...", Arcturus-all, Kaikkivaltias-reh.tape, Manowar-"Louder than hell" & "Kings of metal" and Mayhem-"Out from the dark" & "Live in Leipzig", Dark Funeral-all...

Striga:

Immortal-all, King Diamond/Mercyful Fate-all, Marilyn Manson-"The antichrist superstar", Dimmu Borgir-"Enthroned darkness...", Emperor-"Anthems to the...", Infestdead-"Hellfuck", Manowar-all, Gehenna-"Malice", Gehennah-"King of the sidewalk", Horna-"Hiidentorni", Thy Serpent-"Forest of witchery & Lords of twilight", Mayhem-"De mysteriis domathanas", Marduk-"Heaven shall burn... & Opus nocturne", Bathory- Blood on ice, Devil Doll-all, Abigor-last 3, Dark Funeral-all...



Faithful for metal, from left to right: Striga & Juha

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- *All interviews by Striga, except Malign & Agathodaimon by Juha and Gorna by both.
- *Reviews by Juha, except where marked *.
- *All articles by Striga
- *Front-cover photo taken by Manu Humpi.
- *Back-cover drawing by Kaisa Kaukoranta.
- *Jchor #2 is published by Jchor productions.

LAST SECOND REVIEW:

ARCANA-"Cantar de Procella" (Cold meat Industry) *

Here we have a second attempt of Swedish Arcana. Hmm... I don't know what to say really, I didn't like their previous album as it was just too boring and this album doesn't make any exception, but maybe it just comes 'cause I don't listen this kind of music so much. Arcana should use more melodies and majestic riffs, then their music could come more interesting, but now this only makes me sleepy. Still this isn't bad album, this can be good to listen when you are fucking or you are reading some book and I know that there is many people who like this album. It's just not my cup of tea, so to say... Some good melodies can be found here and there, but not much, so I really can't give a good grade for this. Decide yourself if it's worth of your money!!

Cold Meat Industry, P.O.Box 1881, S-58117 Linköping, Sweden

- NEWS -

Line-up changes in Barathrum!

*Finnish *Barathrum's* line-up has changed again, Gaurthaur is now back in the crew and Pimeä has left the band and is now replaced by Pasi from *Darkwoods My Betrothed*. Their third full-length album is now out after huge delay, but unfortunately we haven't got change to check it out yet. Their 7"ep "Jetblack" should be out in autumn.

*Finnish winter metal band *Wintermoon* has changed their name to *Sons of the fire mist*, we are not certain about the reason, but we think it's because of there is another band named *Wintermoon* in Sweden. They are planning to release new demo in the future. Time is at the moment uncertain, but write and ask from:

Sons of the fire mist
c/o Wolcahr
Joukontie 24
01400 Vantaa
Finland

*Another Finnish band *Lords of the left hand* has also changed their name for reasons unknown to us, but at least their new name is better! They are now playing under the name *Behexen* and their new demo has been out for a quite long time now. It is said to be a lot of better than their debut, so we guess it should be worth of your money. Send your 20 FIM/5 USD to:

Behexen
c/o M.S.
Kuokkalankuja 1 a 11
13500 Hämeenlinna
Finland

*Karsten from neo-classical band *Penitent* has released the book containing his poems through his own *Zodiac Press*. He has also constructed *Genocide*-internet site, which contains some cool interviews, articles and links. Check it out if you have possibility. He is also constructing an official *Devil Doll* (a great neo-classical horror music orchestra) site, we don't know if it's ready yet, but be sure to look out for it.

Autumn Verses signed to Solistitium...

*The band of Esa from *Kill Yourself!!! 'zine*, *Autumn Verses* has got a deal from Solistitium and they have already recorded their debut album, so I guess it will be out soon. We hope that it will be much better than their demo as it was quite shitty. At least sound quality

should be better! If you've anything to ask, feel free to write to:

Esa Lahdenpera
Hallikuja 8a 3
11100 Riihimäki
Finland

*Swedish metal band *Gays Of Ishtar* will probably release something new someday, but who cares?

Satan listens to Norwegian music!!

*Finnish City-magazine told us that Satan listens to Norwegian music. That's sad, fucking trend-poseur!!!

*Finnish melodic death metal band *Inearthed* has got a record-deal from Finnish Spinefarm records if we remember right. Their line-up has also changed a bit, their keyboardist has been kicked out from the band, because of serious alcohol problems. We guess that's just positive, now he can concentrate only on drinking, keep on you hero!!!

**Usva'zine* has changed the name, new name is *North Reigns Supreme* (hih hii!!!) and the third issue is already out. We haven't read it, so we can't review it, but hopefully it's better than second issue (read the review from some other page...). This third one includes interviews like: *Nefandus*, *Solistitium rec.*, *Obtained Enslavement*, *Tulus*, *Trolltjern* etc. Price is 25 FIM, but for foreigners price is unknown. Better write and ask yourself from this address:

N.R.S.
Riissuontie 8 as.3
51900 Punkalaidun
Finland

**Manu Humpi*, that Finnish photographer who took our front-cover photo will probably start to sell his photographs through Tuonela distribution. Nothing is sure yet, but you can already order some photos from *Manu* himself if you are interested. Write and ask more from:

Manu Humpi
Sahankuja 3
43500 Karstula
Finland

Ichor competition!!!

*For *Ichor #3* we will include section where you can write your own opinions about what's wrong with Christianity. Yes we know, a cliché subject, but anyway... Three best writers will receive a free copy of *Ichor #3*, so it's better to write your story and send it to us!

*Princess Diana and her beloved Dodi have entered to the other side by the tragical car-accident. Fuck, it seems that all our idols pass out; Ayrton Senna, Euronymous, Cliff Burton and now even Diana!!! We just wonder: Who will be next? God? Ehhh....



MALIGN

Mörk



Fog



No boring introduction here... You'll find all the necessary information from interview. Mörk (the evil negro guy on the left) answered...

Cheers! How is it going there?

-"I'm fine I guess. Listening to metal in this disgusting heat we have today. And you?

I guess I'm fine too, but shall we move into influences of Malign... In my ears your demo possess same kind of atmosphere as Sodom's brilliant "In the sign of evil", would you agree? Which bands were the most influential ones to your music at the beginning of Malign and have this changed during the time?

-"In the sign..." as well as "Obsessed by cruelty" are brilliant and very influential releases, but I don't know if we sound very much like 'em. You're right though there's a grim atmosphere over it that may resemble to old Sodom. I don't know. A great compliment though. The bands that have influenced our material on the demo I guess are the first and foremost Mayhem... They have always been a big influence on us. In the beginning I think you could also hear traces of (early) Venom, Bathory ("Satanic era"), and some Darkthrone (Album 2 & 3). The demo of Unanimated was and is impressive etc... I suppose it was the bands we listened to. Mainly the old ones... Influences change of course. It's hard avoiding certain resemblances with other (Black) Metal bands when you perform it yourself. We are what you call a traditional Black Metal act, but we don't naturally aim to sound as anyone else."

Since it's couple of years passed since Malign's first and so far only demo was released, I was interested to hear Mörk's opinion about it nowadays...

-"I personally can't say I think it's that great musicwise nowadays, but I still get pleasure out of listening to it. We don't regret anything, but surely it would have sounded differently if it was recorded today. It's rather "cult" to us nowadays."

The demo led Malign to record-deal with quite unknown label Holocaust records. Could you tell us something about the deal? Did any other label show interest towards Malign?

-"The deal? Well, there is no deal anymore. You see, we signed to Holocaust thinking they were an acceptable label. Then we started hearing from a lot of people what a rip-off he was and we also realized it was the same guy who used to run Miscarriage records a couple of years ago and he had ripped off Nauthis (Ex-Malign vocalist) etc. So we tried to figure out how to get rid-off the deal. When we had booked the studio we got a letter from Holocaust saying that he had been ripped off by the distributor and that they could release the 7"ep without paying the studio cost or we would break the contract. So, now the 7"ep will be released through ourselves/Pounding Metal productions instead. We're more reliable to work with. Well Holocaust were ok to us though so we don't have any reasons badmouth them. There were other labels interested as well yes. We never sent any demos to labels, they all got in touch with us I believe."

Do you feel you have reached some kind of goal with Malign after getting record-deal? What does releasing an album means to you?

-"As I said, there is no deal, but anyhow. I'm not sure what to answer, I mean most bands involved in this scene get signed before printing flyers to their demo nowadays. I could name a thousand bands who

Vonda



Nord



don't deserve their deals... It doesn't feel bad getting signed though, but we burn for other causes than economical security. I personally feel that other things are more important. There are too many bands who have nothing to do with what depths of hell hides and therefore neither with what Black Metal is. To me, this is not some "music genre" at all. It's nothing to toy around with... I won't mention any bands as I prefer staying out of prison after they've been "punished". Sure, fighting among us is not healthy, but things have gone too far now. It's a command for war... Anyway, back to your question... It would mean quite a lot to us to have an album out and it's nothing we worry about failing with as we are among the most competent bands around in our scene today (Yeah, we might be bigheaded, but who cares?). I of course long for the day when I can nail our LP to the wall, so it means a lot yes. We thought about recording more demos, but it's such a bloody mess with the whole thing. Who knows what'll happen in the future? I guess we wouldn't mind staying in the undergroundian wastelands for a couple of decades more, ha."

Do you have any material finished for the future releases? What should we expect from the debut album of Malign, any drastical changes in your style or something? Have you already thought which studio you shall use and things like that for the album?

"There have been many setbacks in our song writing due to lack of rehearsal places and additions to the line-up, but as I stated there'll be 7"ep out soon with two blackened serenades entitled "Entering Timeless Halls" and "Fireborn". Despite these two we have some finished and almost finished stuff that needs to be rehearsed. As I have no idea when our album will be out I can't say how it will sound. It'll not be a failure I can assure you. Regarding the 7"ep songs, I can say that "Entering Timeless Halls" is close to the demo material, but developed, better and more intense. "Fireborn" is the most "oldsounding" song we have done, but it just came naturally so do not fear that we'll jump on the current trend of oldschool bands, we've had the touch of the early bands since the start... I put down quite an effort in making sure the songs I write do not sound similar to each other, so if I was to comment our changes I would have to do it song by song. As for studios, we will enter "the new" Necromorbus studio soon for 7"ep. We'll see what studio we'll use for the album as we'll have to take studiobudget etc. into consideration

when the time comes."

You have got two members more since the releasing of demo. What was the reason to take more musicians into Malign and could you introduce the new members?

"Yes, Fog was brought in on bass in early '96. We met him through Goatworship as he is from the same town (Or should I say "village") as them. We liked his sickness right away and he was very enthusiastic and fast learner. He fit perfectly. We kept searching for guitarist as Nord wanted to concentrate on singing (Very much because our stagershow needed more "action" heh heh.) and found Vonda in early '97. Fog had moved into her place and after meeting her a couple of times, we gave her the offer to join and she accepted. I don't know really what to say about them as a person, but they sure as hell aren't normal fukks... Members of Malign never are or will be! In order to stand for Black Metal you have to be extreme..... And we fukkin stand for it!"

Have you performed any gigs lately? What do you think about gigs generally and could you name the basic elements of good Malign-gig?

"No, not since March '96. We've planned lotsa shit, but something always goes wrong. We've been meaning to rip apart some German stages for a long time, but trouble always occurs. Now we have some gigs scheduled in Nürberg (Ger) in August, but who knows? I can't say there have been any "successful" Malign-gigs done (We've played only three), but I enjoyed the last one we did. It was in Uppsala outside Stockholm and there were only about 40 metalheads tops, but they surely helped us scare the shit out of the grunge/punk/hippie idiots there. The "basic elements" of our future gigs will be: blood, fire, torture, pain, fear, flesh, blood again, death and all that is just dark, perverted, bizarre, evil, disgusting and essential to our music....."

You were couple of seconds on view in Dark Funeral's music video, how in the hell you ended up there? Could you ever imagine Malign doing a music video and what would be that like?

"How I ended up in it? Well, they asked me and Robert of Werewolf to help out so we did. It was a pretty bizarre time we spent down in those ruins. Cold, wet, hungry etc., but it turned out ok, I think. Anyhow, we have planned to do a video for a long time, but it sure as hell won't be showed on M(oney) T(ele) V(ision). It'll be extreme and atmospheric. I wanted us to have some old metalclische's like guitarswinging a'la

Accept and shit just for the irony and metalheritage, but I don't think the others are too fond of the idea, ha ha! Anyway, we'll do it when we have time and money (which might be never). It'll probably just be spread through the underground and played on smaller metalshows."

Do you consider Malign as a satanic band?

"FUKK YES!!! Otherwise we wouldn't call us Black Metal. I don't wish to speak for the others and I personally don't open my inner life to anyone. Not even close friends. Perhaps I discuss it when I'm in the mood, but that's not often. We are not about sex, money and bald-headed old junkies-"Satanism" and such shit though... People define the word Satanism in so many different ways you know. That's why I seldomly call myself a "Satanist", it's just another word that has lost it's true meaning. There are no names for my "religion" you could say... I can however assure you that we are all part of the dark. Different from each other, but on the same path...."

One of the titles on your demo states "Extirpate the feeble", I would like to know what do you categorize under the word "feeble" in this sentence and why should feeble be extirpated?

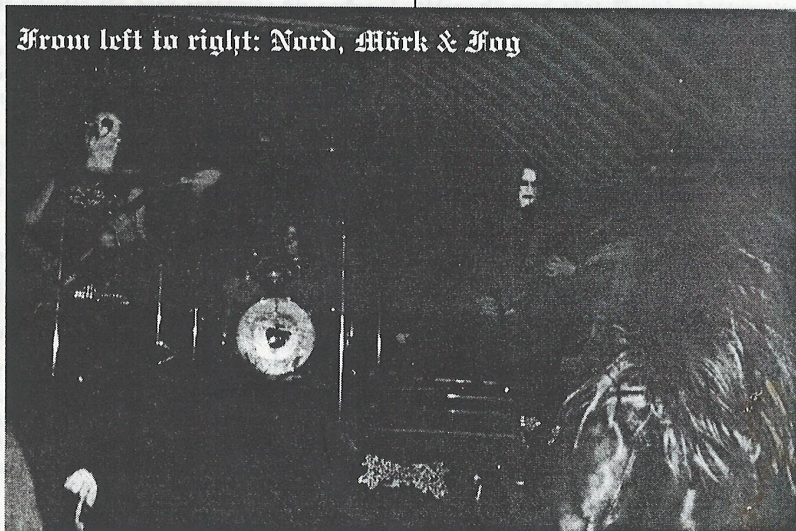
"The feeble" is in that lyric a name for all the people who worship and follow the light. Be it Christians (especially these in this particular song), Jews, Muslims... They shall be cleansed away by the fires of hell. Devoured by might's grasping around their world in unexpected forms and shapes. Most of earth's scum are feeble cunts. I don't feel like saying more. Can't stop once I get going. Hatred!!!!

You and Nord seem to be very active in the UG, you do a zine called "Scriptures of Malignancy" together, Nord has his own label "Pounding metal prod." and beside Malign you play in Werewolf. Please introduce all of this shit...

I guess I'm getting a bit fed up with the whole thing, but I'm dedicated to this lifestyle and keep the shit up despite the great moneylosses and stupid people. Don't get me wrong, I still enjoy a lot of the whole underground thing, I just loose interest from time to time. The movement has changes quite a bit too. We just released a second issue of "Scriptures of Malignancy". I've lost a lot of cash on it, but we've decided to do another issue anyway. The first issue is sold out, but #2 can be ordered from Nord's address for 5 USD (Eur), 6 USD (Elsewhere). It's 48 pages with: Dissection, Evol, Gehennah, Celestial Pain, Superior, Funeral Mist etc. Pounding Metal has only released Funeral Mist's second (and truly brilliant) demo: "Havoc" and I'm not really sure about his future plans except for our 7"ep. He used to run a distro together with EnForced of Goatworship, but the formed PMP instead. Werewolf is kind a dead right now as Robert the "frontman" has moved away from Stockholm. We've released a demo called "The werewolf is unleashed" and all I know is that Robert is gonna follow up on some interested labels and we have about 5 tracks unreleased. I just shut up and play the drums when time comes to Werewolf. Just helping them out, even though it is a real band. Malign is my only concern."

Sweden offers us many great bigger bands as Dissection, Dark Funeral and Marduk, but what about in the demo level? I know there is thousands of smaller bands so could you give us tiny (demo-) scene report?

"I don't know really. I prefer a very small amount of bands, but I'm sure I'll forget someone anyhow. Some less established bands I could



From left to right: Nord, Mörk & Fog

recommend (some mentioned because of musical brilliance and some because of an honest and pure approach I might add) would be: Funeral Mist, War, Nefandus, Ancient Winds, Nauthis, Superior, Azatoth, Vassago, Goatworship, Blackwitch, Prophecy and a few others. Sorry for not being very detailed. Not very many bands are worth support as they're morons and fakes... Then again, I suppose a lot of the audience of today might be too..."

What do you think about this current back to 80's movement with bands making money by directly copying the elder greaties? Do you prefer the music from 80's or from 90's?

"I don't care about it really. Nifelheim were together with very few others among the first of these bands and they are truly great. Very ok as persons as well. Gehennah are good, lyricwise maybe not always a hit in my eyes, but they are cool people too... I think Infernø play acceptable music, but I don't know them. We're not one of these bands so it doesn't really bother us. Surely, we've always had oldschool influences to our sound, but we're nothing like trendbands of today. I like it in a way, but of course I prefer the originals. I can't say which wave of Black Metal I prefer, but there are certainly more bands to choose from 90'ies category, but if you see to quality bands... Mayhem is (were perhaps?) supreme, that's all I can (and need to) say."

I know you are boozier of hard class, thus you must have some funny memories to share with us...

"Lots, but I don't really think this is the time and place. The Headbangers Against Disco bash in

Forshaga was really something else though. Have you heard of the time we were in Strågnäs and I ended up sleeping in Maze of Torment guitarist PK's bathtub after beating up some punkchick (who thought she was into Black Metal to impress us) with a sword and fryingpan? I also stole some stupid tractor, tore down a bunch of glasses at some bar, punched Nord and Boman (Blackwitch) etc. and tried to start fights with just about everyone. Pretty funny. Someone also fucked a cat that weekend, Ha ha! There's much now that I think about it, but I doubt people wanna read about all stupid we've done. Also, there is some stuff we need to keep untold, heheheh!"

Continuing with alcohol as a subject... Do you have any particular fave beer and how much do you consume within week?

"How much?!?! Oh man, I have no idea. It depends, I get drunk about 3 or 4 days a week and unsober the rest of days. Too much I guess, but who cares? It's metal! When it comes to beer, I prefer Lapin Kulta and Koff from your country, San Miguel, Wolfshöher, Carlsberg and just about every other beerbrand there is. Cheap beer rules!"

Many known black metallers seem to be located in Spånga, why is that? What kind of place is it to live on? Is there any certain place where metal-maniacs get together to bang their heads and booze?

"Hmm, not that many at all... The certain area me and Nord live in sucks completely. I think we have over 90% immigrants. I don't associate with

that many people nowadays... I'll skip this question. Don't know why really. Sorry. Fukk!!"

Any concrete future plans with Malign and Werewolf?

"Werewolf is as I said rather shaky so I don't know. I'll record when they tell me to. As for Malign, we'll unleash the 7"ep Fireborn upon mankind and get a new deal."

That's all by my side. Final words shall be all yours...

"I'd like to thank you for the space and very interesting 'view. I have nothing special to say except FUCK OFF AND DIE to certain bands and persons (I think most of you know who you are). We're out for blood!"

Ok, that was Mörk... Be sure to watch out for their future releases as Malign is certainly one of the best bands in Sweden. Send birdheads to...:

Malign
c/o Lindskog
Stora tenstagr. 8
163 63 Spånga
Sweden

...and horny cats to:

Malign
c/o Tegner
Järingegr. 19
163 63 Spånga
Sweden

Mundanus Imperium

As a trendy 'zine as Ichor is, we considered it as a must to have some Norwegian crap included here... So here we go, an article about Mundanus Imperium. Mundanus Imperium came to existence in dark autumn '94 by Grond- drums, vocals, guitars, bass, and Draug- synth & keyboards. under the name Daudmyr. The music back then was mostly based upon synth and keyboards and had less metal parts which also were in the more primitive/brutal way. A demo was planned, but after some musical changes and a strong longing for expressing their nightly visions through music, they decided to not only do a concept change but also change the name into something that stood for the music completely. This led to Hattetfall. After a while of composing, they reserved a studio-session in X-Ray studios and recorded the demo entitled "Ode to the night sky". Soon after they recorded the demo the name changed again, this time to Mundanus Imperium, the reason for this is unknown to us. "Ode to the night sky" contains 3 very majestic, melodic and atmospheric symphonies with excellent quality in both music and sound. While after this demo was released Mundanus Imperium got a contract from Velvet Music intl. they released this demo as a MCD and thou can order this brilliant masterpiece for 18 USD. Also T-shirts and Long sleeves are available, prices are for US: 20 USD and for IS: 30 USD. Address to Velvet Music is somewhere else in this 'zine. Contact Mundanus Imperium from these addresses:

Mundanus Imperium
c/o Lars "Grond" Wikk
box 4181
2301 Hamar
Norway

Mundanus Imperium
c/o Bent "Draug" Holm
box 4017
2301 Hamar
Norway

Draug



ABIGOR

Abigor, I don't find necessary to say anything more, as everyone who listens good music should already know this fucking great band. Anyway, Peter answered to my questions, his answers aren't too long, but still I find this interview quite interesting...Go ahead and read.

First of all Peter tells us about creation of Abigor and what was their main reason to start to play black metal?

- "Abigor was formed in mid-summer '93, by Peter (guitars) and T.T (drums), immediately after that Tharen joined Abigor as vocalist. The first demo "Ash Nazgh..." had been released in September '93, in December we've released "Lux Devicta Est", in February '94 the Promo-Tape, and in March '94 the last official demo "Moonrise". After "Moonrise" Tharen had been replaced through Silenius, who's also involved in Summoning. The reason for the removal of Tharen was the lack of dedication and passivity from his side, so this was the only suitable solution for Abigor. After "Moonrise" we've signed a deal at Napalm rec. for two CD's. In June '94 we've recorded "Verwustung/Invoke The Dark Age". After some problems, 'cause of press-ban in Austria and Swiss, it was released in Autumn '94. In December '94 we've recorded the MCD "Orkblut-The Retaliation", a concept album- the warrior epos. After this MCD our deal with Napalm has ended, but we've decided

to stay at NPR without any deal, co-operation works still great, everything is based on respect and honesty. In May '95 we've recorded "Nachthymnen (From The Twilight Kingdom)", in November '95 "Horns Lurk Beyond The Stars, and in May 96 "Blut Aus Aeonen", these two parts form now "Opus IV". Also are the record works for MCD "Apokalypse" finished, it'll be released in Spring this year (*it's out now!*). Black metal fits the best our view's and believes concerning this life, there for it was sure for us to select this kind of art to express our thoughts."

So, when I made this interview, Abigor's latest release was that "Opus IV", I asked Peter to tell what they think about it...

- "As we're satisfied with all our previously releases, we're also satisfied with "Opus IV" and I don't find anything which I'd like to change."

...And what about all the other Abigor releases? Is "Opus IV" the best Abigor release so far?

- "As I've written above, we're totally satisfied with all our releases, if we wouldn't have been satisfied, we wouldn't have released it. As well "Opus IV" is the best Abigor official release, since our start. Nevertheless, "Apokalypse" is on the rise, and it's of course better than "Opus IV", that's my opinion."

Yes, "Apokalypse" is a fucking brilliant piece of raw black metal, but I wondered why Abigor made as much as 4 demos before their first CD release? Didn't any record label show interest earlier?

- "As we've released our first demo, the stuff for the second one was already finished, and that has happened from demo to demo. It was not 'cause no label had shown interest, we were just creative, and Napalm have shown interest after "Lux Devicta Est", but we've still released 2 other demos after that. We wanted to realize ourselves through our art, therefore we've

release 4 demos, furthermore have the demos the best shown our progress of development, 'til we've found our musical way."

How did Abigor get in touch with Napalm records and was Napalm their only alternative? Is it good to be in such a big label as Napalm is?

- "We've known Napalm before our start with Abigor, and it was the first label which has shown interest in Abigor, so we've signed there. Of course there were other labels, but Napalm was/is the best I think, even it's an Austrian label.. I don't see it as bad to be involved in a big label as Napalm is, I mean if we would not have interest in recording and selling our albums, we would still record demos."

That's a very good point, I think. Anyway, Abigor have done as much as 8 releases so far, even though the band is only 4 years old, so does Peter see themselves as fast songwriters or what is the reason? How does Abigor's music born, any inspiration from such cliché things like: Fullmoon, winter, forests etc.?

- "We don't see ourselves as "fast" songwriters at all. We just create our songs that fast 'cause T.T and I create songs, and between our rehearsals there are about 4-5 weeks of distance. So on this 4-5 weeks each of us creates, for example, 2 songs, so it's no problem to get material for new releases, furthermore do we know how to play our instruments, so we've no problems to transform our ideas into music, and therefore into Abigor's art. I would say there are more influences, conscious and subconscious, then the mentioned topics, which one can find in Abigor's art."

Has Abigor found its own path in creating black metal, how Abigor differs from millions of other black metal bands? Does Peter think that Abigor's music is original?

- "I don't see our music that different, compared to other known bands in the genre. Of course we've our own style in using our instruments, and our own sound. But if one sum it up, we're typical black metal band. We don't see it necessary, nor do we feel the need to make "headlines", we know who we are, what we represent, and what Abigor stands for, the rest doesn't bother us."

"Devil worshipping"

I really can't agree with Peter's opinion as I see Abigor's music very original, it doesn't sound like any other band in this world, but does Peter and T.T categorize their music just black metal or is it maybe something more, like for example "Trollish winter holocaust forest metal" (or something...) and how would

Austrian landscapes ruined by Peter



Peter categorize their music without words "black" and "metal"?

- "Abigor plays black metal, without any additional description. Difficult to say how one can describe our music with other words... See it as "devil worshipping".

Well, that really tells it all. What is the meaning of word "Abigor"?

- "Abigor- Grand duke of hell. He is shown in the form of a handsome knight, bearing lance, or sceptre. He is a demon of the superior order, and responds readily to question concerning war. He can foretell the future, and instructs the leaders how to make themselves respected by the soldiers. Sixty of the infernal legions are at his command."

"We're proud for what we believe in..."

Now it's time to talk a bit about the visual side of Abigor... It is very usual to use pseudonyms, but this is where Abigor differs from most of the other bands, as only man who is using pseudonym in Abigor is Silenius, why is this? Someone could say that it's stupid when only one man in band is using pseudonym?

- "Who cares what other could think. It's the decision of Silenius, and our decision if we use pseudonyms or not. But you're right, we don't use pseudonyms, just the initial letters of our names. Maybe some could think a satanic band must use pseudonyms, but that's bullshit. We're proud for what we believe in, and hiding in the shadows is not the way of strong."

I just don't see it as way of weak either. I have seen many kind of Abigor photos, some of them are great and some of them not so great, some of them are also very usual with corpsepaints and winter forests etc., what Peter has to say...

- "For me photos are not important at all, and of course are some shit and some not, as always... We don't have done the photos on "Opus IV" in winter 95, to look like typical black metal band or whatever, just 'cause we've needed photos for the CD, and it was winter, so what?! If I wear corpsepaint satanic metamorphosis take place, and of course shows corpsepaint at best what our art stands for."

"As long as Abigor exist we'll not play live."

Then what Peter thinks about live gigs and about sentence: "No gigs in black metal"???

- "No gigs in black metal, how great! As long as Abigor exist we'll not play live."

What is the situation in Austria's black metal scene? Is there a good scene and which are the best bands? While ago I heard that Abigor had some problems with A.B.M.S and Lethal records, which were those problems?

- "There's no "scene" in Austria, the only bands which represents Austrian black metal as it's best are Abigor, Summoning and Angizia. The A.B.M.S., and the involved bands, as well Lethal aren't cramp shit and not worth any attention!"

So, what was the meaning when Peter said that Abigor doesn't belong to this scene anymore? What Peter thinks about this whole worlds black metal scene, is it true that 90% from black metal is total shit and almost all black metal bands are trends?

- "We've our own paths, and views, therefore we don't care about genre, as it's know nowadays, at all. With our art we stand far beyond all mortal values."

What is happening with Summoning, which is Silenius another band?

- "Dol Guldur, their third album is already released, and the MCD, Nightshade Forest will be released in spring this year through Napalm."

"Abigor is a black metal band and therefore satanic."

...And that MCD is also out now. As always, I have to ask something about religions, is Abigor a satanic band and what Satanism means to Peter? Does he call himself as a Satanist?

- "Abigor is a black metal band and therefore satanic. Yes, I call myself as a Satanist, I worship Satan, practice magic, blood rituals and ceremonial devil worshipping. I am not willed to make more concrete statements about my personal believes, furthermore do I see it as a personal defence if someone criticize it."

Then how much is Peter interested about witchcraft, occultism, astrology and Viking mythology? Has these subjects and black metal something to do with each other?

- "Witchcraft would be impossible without the knowledge of astrology, as well occultism without the knowledge of pagan- gods, and witchcraft is still occultism, etc. so it's a circle, where each depends on the other. Those facts should be part of the personal believe of black metal musicians, but I don't care if it's on the same line as black metal itself."

And what about satanic organizations and nazi black metal organizations?

- "My believes stand far beyond any political values, mankind isn't worth a shit in general, and I am no member of any organization."

How much Abigor means in Peter's life, is there something more important than Abigor?

- "It's a main part of my existence, but my believes and close friends are of course more important than Abigor, as well my girlfriend."

What is the mail situation of Abigor? Does Peter and T.T. answer all the letters what they get?

- "That's different, depends on the letters and on my moods."

OK, that was stupid question, but who cares... I have heard many times that some black metallist can't be in touch with normal peoples (or at least they say so), what is Peter's situation?

- "I can't, but it's a must. How should one survive without any contact to any others? Furthermore does I need money to survive, and that's the reason why I've a

job. I don't like it too much but I am not willed to hang around like an asocial parasite."

Before we end this interview, something about future plans of Abigor...

- "The MCD "Apokalypse" will be released at March/April this year, keep it in mind and watch out for it."

As I said, it's out now and everyone of you should get it, as it is brilliant! Anyway, I have nothing more to say anymore, but thanks to Peter for his answers and see you in hell... Isn't that where we all must go?

- "Maybe we'll see in hell, your hell my paradise."

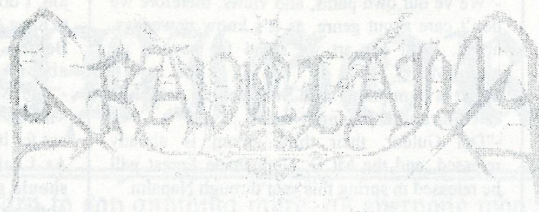
...And it's damn sure my paradise too, now if you readers are still there (?), read the review of "Apokalypse" from somewhere else in this 'zine... Address to Abigor:

Abigor
Vereinsgasse 25/20
a-1020 Wien
Austria

**Jehor on
ihan hyvä
lehti.**

Peter (front) & T.T. (back)





This is the one of the most interesting interview in this 'zine, very long and in-depth. Unfortunately I had some problems with Darken's handwriting. I also had to mention that there are some of my own opinions, very strong against Darken's opinions, but do not understand this like I am against this band. Still I respect their activities and like their music...

Hail Darken! How are the things going with Graveland right now?

Heil! In the name of rebirth of pagan Aryan empire! Thank you for the interview. With Graveland everything is ok. Gods take care of us. During autumn 1996 I and Capricornus have recorded our new LP "Following the voice of blood". This stuff was ready a lot of time ago, but we had some problems with recording it. We walked at the edges... Situation was dangerous because Capricornus was to be prisoned. So we started work and now we are very pleased with it. This third LP Graveland: "Following the voice of blood" will be released in spring '97 by No Colours rec. Now Capricornus starts work on his solo project Thor's Hammer and I prepare stuff for second LP of my solo folk project Lord Wind.

When I made this interview Graveland's last release was that "Thousand swords" CD, so I asked Darken's opinion about this CD... Does he think that it's the best Graveland release so far?

I liked this LP very much, but I was not entirely pleased with the final result. There were some things I wanted to do, but unfortunately I failed, but this LP is penetrated by specific atmosphere of barbarian paganism and war. When I created this LP only war and hatred inspired me, retribution and revenge. I created music that extolled heroic acts of our ancestors, music about war and battles, about belief and honour of pagan warrior. This music is very alive and dynamic because I did not record it on computer as many Norwegian bands do it now and so the music is artificial and dead. "Thousand swords" breathe intensity and spirit of our desires.

Then we talked with Darken about other Graveland releases: Celtic winter-MCD and Carpathian wolves-CD...

I hate music from "The Celtic winter", this stuff is our big defeat. Some months ago No Colours rec. released CD version of "The Celtic winter", they did it very well. I like the cover very much, but I still do not like this music. Stuff prepared for "Carpathian wolves" was very good, but we recorded it in a bad studio with bad people so I am not pleased with this LP. In fact I like only intro from "Carpathian wolves". I want to record this stuff once more, but I do not have time for it.

And last, but definitely not least we talked about Graveland's cult demo "In the glare of burning churches" which is also released now on CD from No Colours records...

I have always liked this demo. This music shows the spirit of our convictions and desires of that time. Darkness and hatred covered our hearts. It is very good that this demo is released on CD. Cover includes excellent photos. I dedicated this CD to all peoples who are still faithful to ideas of true black metal.

Thousand swords came first from the Lethal rec., but something happened. I asked Darken to tell about this thing a bit more and also to tell his opinion about other rip-offs...

Our co-operation with Lethalfuck rec. was our big mistake. We knew that fucking Michael Piesch was a thief and liar, but we signed a contract and you know what happened later. But this matter is still open. Vienna is not so far away from Wroclaw. This fucking scoundrel will know our hatred soon. In underground there are many shitty rip-offs, poseurs and scums of society. They do not know what honour, dignity and fatherland are. Fuck them all!

"Karcharoth is a fucking coward."

Darken told us sometime ago that they had some problems with their bassist Karcharoth, so I asked him to tell more...

Karcharoth is a fucking coward. He was afraid of consequences of spreading black metal ideas in Poland. He decided to go away and leave black metal. His schizophrenia helped him with it. He was terrified, his behaviour was anomalous. Because of it some people started to be interested in Graveland. When we decided to take control over him and his acts, he started war against us. He escaped to Sweden, but the Swedish police got rid of him, then he accused Xanpioreth from Fullmoon of trial of murder on his person. Because of it we had some problems, he accused some people from underground of burning churches. Karcharoth thought that this way he would eliminate us. Swedish police getting rid of Karcharoth from Sweden, said that Polish Satanists went to Norway and burnt churches there. It is very funny (Oh, yes it is...-ed.). Karcharoth admitted that he wanted to go to Norway to kill Fenriz (because some time ago Fenriz stole him a CD) and Grishnack (because he spread N.S. ideas). Today Karcharoth works



for the police as an informer. Besides he is member of a communist party.

A bit more about Graveland's line-up. I wondered why Capricornus was only session member on "Thousand swords"?

Capricornus is a session drummer because it suits him. Playing in Graveland is dangerous (...and when you are "only" session member, it isn't dangerous???-ed.) now because of all things that take place in Poland. Because of neo-pagan movement and N.S. ideas, many secret services are interested in underground. State Security Bureau (or something like that, could be written wrong as I really can't clear up Darken's writing...-ed.) got money from German services and now they make an investigations against all aspects of N.S. etc. So Capricornus is a session drummer because his own will.

More about Capricornus. Sometime ago I read that he had killed his own child...

I don't know who spread such stories about me and Capricornus (well, it was Capricornus himself who told this in Kill yourself!!! zine #3-ed.). In Poland we have many enemies who wants to destroy us (maybe Capricornus wants to destroy himself...-ed.). Ingeniousness of these stories is to its colossal, but we do not care about it. But there are some peoples who know us and know what we can do. If Capricornus had a child he would not kill him, but bring him properly so many people would be afraid of this child...

Well, what kind of persons Darken and Capricornus really are and what kind of people could fit to Graveland??

You know us a bit, you know our music and acts. It can tell you who we are and what we are like.

"Today Satanism does not wake so many controversies as sometime ago."

So no answer to the second part of that question, but of course I also have to ask about Darken's personal beliefs... Does he think that someone could play black metal without being Satanist...

I am a heathen and my private belief is connected with Celtic beliefs. All the time I try the develop my pagan identity by the knowledge about druids and Celtic customs and traditions, developing my spiritual power, celebrating Celtic feast as e.g. Samhain or Beltain. I live according to Celtic calendar, quarters of the lunar period. Black metal was created by people who said that they were Satanists and I think that black metal belongs to them. Unfortunately Satanistic movement is in a crisis situation, symbols and Satanistic values are commercialised. Satanism lost its true face. Today Satanism does not wake so many controversies as sometime ago. Its mysticism and mysteriousness are destroyed by fashion created by many children who do not understand it and occupy it for joy.

Then what Darken thinks about following subjects: Witchcraft, Occultism and Viking mythology. Does he think that black metal and these subjects has something to do with each other?

Today black metal does not have big connections with these things. Sometime ago B.M. was a carrier of these values. Unfortunately today a money is god and many B.M. band have respect only for it. I respect magic and pagan beliefs. I try to have as big knowledge about it as possible.

Then what Darken thinks about satanic organizations and is he member of any? What about nazi organizations?

I am not interested in Satanistic movements, but in my country paganism becomes more and more



popular among N.S. organizations. We support these people because we support the same ideas as they (to some degree).

Let's go back to Graveland... From where Darken finds his inspiration for doing music and in which mood he is when he is doing music?

I realize my destiny, I am the forerunner of the era of rebirth of paganism, rebirth of pagan Aryan empire, stronger because of two thousand years of experiences. Thousand years of Christianity in our pagan Europe failed the trial of the time. Now Christianity, strange to our lands and culture, is collapsing. It did not destroy true beliefs and traditions of our ancestor, our pagan spirit and identify is in our blood, our gods did not leave us, the time of their return is coming, along with them we will take part in a battle, many of us will die, but who will be care about it. It is honour to die (when we will get to the point, we are talking about your music?-ed.) in such a battle, the rest is not important. When dark clouds covers the sky, dark clouds of black crows, the time of final battle will come. Every man takes his sword and shield and go lead by horns sound and nobody will stint his blood.

OK, that's all about Graveland's music! But what about lyrics? How much Darken cares about lyrics and I also asked him to tell a bit about story what we can read on "Thousand swords"...

Lyrics from "Thousand swords" were inspired by old stories about great acts and battles, about heroes. I have always liked stories and poems about brave deed. I've liked their atmosphere permeated by great spiritual power. War is a good theme to write about. In every man this spirit of war is present because gods created man to fight. In me this spirit is very strong. I made an armour and weapon for me. I can imagine people from these poems and feel their feelings. I try to show it in my lyrics and music.

After that I asked about Graveland's new music...How does it differs from the old material?

After "Following the voice of blood" I am going to record fourth LP Graveland that will be more original and balladic. I buy new instruments that I

will use on second LP Lord Wind, but I do not want to write about it now. Wait, you will see soon. Tauron from Fullmoon will help me to prepare stuff for fourth LP Graveland. We will record it in winter '97-'98.

Well, Graveland's next release (Following the voice of blood) will be released by No Colours records. Is Darken totally satisfied with deal??

I am very pleased with the co-operation with No Colours rec. We started at the same time. I created band and they created No Colours rec. They understand us and do not force anything upon us. Kay and Steffen visit us in Wroclaw so we know them personally. No Colours rec. is not a commercial label. Big commercial labels stink of Jewish shit. We want to have nothing common with it. We do not want, because of big money, change our ideas and image, we do not want colour covers...

Darken has also his own label, Isengard productions, I asked him to tell a bit more about it... Graveland has also worked with Eternal Devils rec., how things went with them? I also asked what was the reason to release Graveland's music from Darken's own label?

I changed the name Isengard for Eastclan. New name is a new face of my label, new destiny. Soon I will release on CD true black metal and pagan metal hordes. I choose bands that spread neo-paganism. I want to support all bands that hate Christianity, but not only superficially as many today's Norwegian bands (Why the hell you always have to say something about Norwegians? -ed.). Through Eastclan I would like to show the world Polish neo-paganism. I want to release bands from Germany and France and other countries where true spirit of uncompromising black metal is alive. I have good relations with Eternal Devils. We still support each other.

More about labels...Graveland was planned to release something from Shivarshana records & also there was some talking between Graveland and Finnish label Demonsound, but something went wrong...

Shivarshana rec. wanted to release LP with my old stuff "Drunemeton", but I did not want it to be released as LP because of low quality of recording and realisation. Demonsound was to release "The Celtic winter", but problems with finances forced them to resign it.

"The Temple Of The Fullmoon does not exist because of the problems with police."

It seems to me that Polish black metal scene is really strong, most of bands are in very good touch with each other and I also read something about their organization called "Temple of the fullmoon", so I asked from Darken which bands are his favourites from Poland and so on...

Polish black metal scene is not big, but it is united by spreading paganism and N.S. ideas. Gromoweadny, North, Veles, Kohort, Gostynia Kry, Juvenes and particularly I recommend: Fullmoon, Thunderbolt and Wineta. In opposition there are bands that sold themselves for commercial aims: Behemoth, Mastiphal. They spread propaganda against us in shitty commercial magazines, but in fact they are afraid of us. Nergal and Flauros are trouble about their fucking asses because they were kicked several times. "The Temple Of The Fullmoon" does not exist because of the problems with the police. Now many people from T.T.F are members of legal neopagan organization as "Social National Union" or "Union of Native Faith". So now we have more freedom, but we have to be careful because secret police are still interested in us, especially in N.S. organizations.

Even if Polish black metal scene seems to be strong, of course there are also some problems and fights between some bands and those bands are Graveland and Behemoth. It is quite strange for me, because Behemoth is one of the biggest black metal bands from Poland. Darken tells more...

I do not have any problems with Behemoth. It is a pity you unite such things about Behemoth (*I haven't united anything, I just call them as a black metal band because they call their music as black metal. I haven't told you any my own opinions about Behemoth and I will not tell you now either because it is not your fucking business!!-ed.*), but you just do not know these peoples (*Yes, that's another reason why I'm not gonna tell you any opinions about them-ed.*). If you knew them you would agree with Randal from Absurd who named Behemoth "sunny boys". It is really strange that you do not see it in their music (*Have I really told you some of my opinions about Behemoth?-ed.*). They just only copy Norwegian bands as Mayhem, Hades, Enslaved, Emperor, Satyricon. In Behemoth's music one can only hear work of other people. Besides their music is weak, deprived of darkness and evil, they play for their women I think. But maybe you like such music?? (*Fuck you Darken!-ed.*) Behemoth is popular among pacifistic antifascist organizations and submen from underground who wants to destroy us. I despise them and I remind you that Behemoth does not represent Polish black metal scene and Nergal, this fucking scoundrel, goes to Norway to look for friend because in Poland he does not have any. Nergal is not worth of

representing Polish black metal scene because he despise it.

It is very strange that Darken is now in some kind of war against Behemoth because sometime ago he played sessions synths for them. I also asked about his other session achievements in Veles, Fullmoon and Infernum and again I got an interesting answer...

I helped Behemoth and made intros for him when I did not know Nergal well. That time Nergal was keep on all ideas spread in Norway. He created with Blasphemous from Veles an organization- "The Temple Of Infernal Fire". But Nergal resigned it when he met two peoples from Polish black metal underground, two very extremal peoples- Samoth and Leinad from Mysteries Horde to strengthen co-operation against Christianity. Nergal understood that was not a joy, he was frightened and started breaking all ties with underground. So the war between us



began. Fullmoon and Veles are faithful to B.M. underground. They are very strong, impulsive and psychopathic. But when they had problems with the police they were very hard. But unfortunately their style does not let them record music...

I have also heard some very stupid anti-Graveland and anti-Poland opinions like: You can't play black metal in Poland, because Poland is not a northern country etc. Let's see what Darken has to say...

It is a rubbish spread by envious and arrogant peoples from Norway (*Well, this really wasn't from any Norwegian people. I am still really pissed off why you always have to mention Norway in all of your answers...-ed.*). In Poland there are some good bands and some bad ones. But in my country system does not help us as in Norway. In Norway after primary school teenagers have well educated musical skills and then mothers and fathers buy for their sweat

children very expensive music equipment's and now a very good boy can play and create music. Norway is a very rich country. In Poland situation is different. We have to work for everything. In Polish social economical conditions many Norwegians would just perish.

But how would Darken compare Polish B.M. scene to Finnish one? I also knew that he is not

a biggest fan of Impaled Nazarene...

You must be kidding! Impaled Nazarene has fans? (*It is really hard to understand for me too...-ed.*) Maybe only perverse shit eaters! Unfortunately I do not know today's scene from Finland. I know only Darkwoods My Betrothed, but I do not like their music.

"I despise American pseudo culture and its values."

I read from Fullmoon's demo that they hate American peoples and U.S.A, why is that?

Fullmoon wanted to demonstrate their bias against American system, not to inhabitants who are just slaves on this system. In my country more and more people don't like United States 'cos of Americanization of our native culture and other points of life. Rich Jews from U.S.A come to Poland and demand the return of their properties. And besides they hate Polish people because Poles during second world war co-operated with Germany in extermination of Jewish race. The effect: On night from 24-25th of February someone set fire on to their synagogue in Hanar (*Sorry, I can't clear up Darken's writing so that name of the place might be wrong-ed.*). I despise American pseudo culture and its values.

Back to Graveland... Graveland is also using pseudonyms like millions of other black metal bands too. Are these names really important?

These names were very important for us some time ago, but now the situation has changed. I named myself Darken because I thought this name suited me, showed my true identity and I think that it is true because a lot of darkness is in my soul and heart.

What about Graveland photos... Sometime ago there was warpaints etc., but now the style has changed?

Are photos important to Graveland and Darken?

I like these photos very much because I would like to look like in a every day as on these pictures. To live somewhere, far away from the people, hunt and fight against my enemies (*Against who would you fight if you lived somewhere far away from the other people??-ed.*). To live according to old pagan traditions. Now I do not use warpaints on my face because I do not need it. Hatred and darkness left the mark on my face. I do not have to paint my face to add hatred and severity. I changed the style of my photos to show that I am not a Satanist, but pagan because today black metal is associated with Satanism. Although Capricornus is a Satanist, Graveland should not be connected with this movement.

So far Graveland haven't done any gigs and I also read that they don't want to do gigs, but

now situation has changed...

I think that soon we will start to play alive. Tauron and Diathyron form Fullmoon will help us in it. We want to play and meet with peoples and manifest our ideas. We want to talk to these peoples and teach them how to be strong, how to fight. We want to spread paganism and meet peoples who support us.

In the past Darken was the only member of Graveland, I asked him to tell more about those days and why he decide to took more members? I also wanted to know all releases from those days...

I needed true drums to develop my music so Capricornus joined me, drums from computer were too artificial. Fucking scoundrel Karcharoth joined us because I thought that his mental disease would make Graveland cult band (*What a smart reason!-ed.*). Unfortunately we lost control over him and he had to leave us. It somehow reminds me problems of Euronymous and Grishnackh (*only murder lacks...-ed.*). Graveland created some stuff: Demo 1- Necromanteion, Promo June '92, Promo November-Drunemeton, Demo 2'93- In the glare of burning churches, Demo 3'93 and mini-CD-The Celtic winter, Debut LP/CD-Carpathian wolves, Second LP-Thousand swords and now third LP/CD-Following the voice of blood.

I almost forgot to ask about Darken's second band, Lord Wind. All necessary comes now...

Lord Wind and Graveland represents two different, but somehow united sides of my individuality. Graveland is about pagan war, retribution and hatred. Lord Wind is full of longevity for all things that went away, full of respect for pagan beliefs and traditions of our ancestors, there are hope and faith in this music. Music of Lord Wind is inspired by old

compositions created by bands and troubadours. I name this music pagan folk. Lord Wind is to teach people how to find their pagan identity because pagan spirit sleeps in every of us, strange religion did not destroy it during these two thousand years.. Lord Wind is to wake up white peoples and show them the true way...

"My music is very original and some people cannot understand it."

It's almost time to stop this interview, but before it I asked very usual question...What does black metal means to Darken? Is it his lifestyle or just music what he likes to listen and play?

Music is for me style of living, black metal is a part of this style. It helped me to develop and realize my aims. Now I look for values and spiritual power. I can find it in old music. Black metal cannot help me here. These values can be found in my music, in Graveland and Lord Wind. So my music is very original and some people cannot understand it. But hatred to this spiritless world is the main inspiration to my music. Graveland is my weapon to fight against enemies of my faith, freedom and life.

To the very end Darken tells us future plans of Graveland and why "Following the voice of blood" will be the best Graveland release and also three good reason why everyone should buy it...

I am not sure if everybody will like "Following the voice of blood" because this LP differs from any other today's music. On this LP I wanted to create sound similar to Venom from "At war

with Satan". Do I pass or fail? You will hear...Three reason for which you have to listen to this LP: very dynamic sound, original melodies, specific atmosphere.

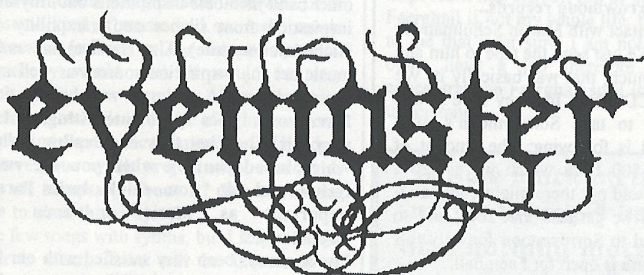
So, the last words are all Darken's...

I would like to thank you for this interview and support. Hard days for Graveland have come. We are only two: I and Capricornus. Although slanders of left wimp opposition and betrayal of man who was with us, we will never give up, we still are faithful to our ideas. The police make an absurd investigation against us so we have to be very careful and we are grateful for every support. Gods take care of us because we win for Pagan Aryan Empire! We have common ideas and common problems. So unite and help one another. Be careful and fight! Soon we will meet on the final battle...Win for Pagan Aryan Empire! So that was Darken, we thank him for his answers...I had to make few very small corrections, because of his bad English. There are still many mistakes, but I couldn't correct them 'cos I was afraid that I will change his meanings...So I just made something like "They is" to "They are" and so on. Anyway, nothing more to say anymore...Here is address for Darken...

Robert Fudali
P.O.Box 1775
50-385 Wroclaw 46
Poland

I think that it's better to use his real name in the envelope because polish mail system isn't the most reliable one...

...All photos shows Darken.



Evemaster is a quite new dark metal attack from here Finland. It has existed in EM's (so the man behind this band) back of the mind for over 2 years, but it was not until autumn '96 when it became reality. EM asked JE to join the band with his amazing vocals (as the biography tells us) and then the band was complete. EM made 3 songs during the darkest autumn and so just before new years eve '96/'97 Evemaster went into Astia-studio to record their first demo entitled "In Thine Majesty". The demo includes the songs "Lacrimae Mundi", "The Divine Lamblichus" and "Epistelium" and to say

something about the music, I was quite amazed as I never expected so much about it. The music is, as I said before, dark metal. It doesn't sound like black metal at all, but still it shows the darkness very well. There is only one thing in this demo what I don't like at all and that's the vocals. Biography says something about amazing vocals, but it would be better to say something about "funny" vocals. They doesn't sound like "dark" at all and they definitely doesn't fit to this music at all. All 3 songs on the demo are written by EM, but 3 already finished new songs features also JE's contribution to the composing work. All the lyrics are written by EM. Some songs from the demo will be included on compilations. "The Divine Lamblichus" will be included on "Battles To Come vol.1"-comp.tape with such bands as Gehennah, Night In Gales, Necromicon, A Canorous Quinten etc. Evemaster try to spread their name in the metal scene with reviews in the 'zines, radioairplay and compilation CD's. They're also trying to find a good label to work with. There have already been some talks about MCD with one label. Evemaster have planned to record some new songs next autumn. They already have some 50 minutes of finished material in total, so there is possibility to record a full-length CD, if any label shows interest. It is said that: "...The music of Evemaster forces the listener to wander into the ancient Finnish forests, to feel the mist at the dusk and to be embraced by the nature until the dawn!" The lyrics glorifies the Finnish nature and our ancestors who fought against the crusaders who were trying to eradicate the true, old traditions of the people of Pohjola... but they never succeeded...The demo cost you 20 GSM/ 5 USD and money should be send to:

EM
Majurinkatu 12 e 105
02600 Espoo
Finland

"Not of seed of Adam we are,
Nor is Abraham our father,
But the seed of proud angel we are,
Driven forth from heaven down below"

Faerghail

Tervehdys Kai! As Faerghail is quite unknown band, could you tell us about Faerghail's history first?

Hail Striga. Well, Faerghail was formed in early summer '95 by me (guitars), Tomi Kangassalo (drums) and Petri Moisio (bass). In autumn '95, Jussi Ranta joined the band as a session vocalist and Tuomas Murtojärvi came to play the keyboards as a session member. With that line-up we recorded our first tape "In Dreamful Supremacy". Soon after the release of "In Dreamful...", Jussi and Tuomas became permanent members, but this time Tuomas started to play 2nd guitar and Jussi handled the synth. The line-up has been the same ever since. You are really young band, but still you have released two tapes, let's talk a bit about the first one "In Dreamful...", tell us all necessary about it... You aren't so satisfied with it anymore, are you?

"In Dreamful..." was recorded with a 4-tracker and the sound quality is very poor (I think we shouldn't have released that tape, but we didn't think of it then so...). Of course there's some good melodies and riffs, but we aren't satisfied with it at all.

But still many people liked it, except me as for me it's awful and then it must be because my opinion is always the right one (heh...). How many copies you sold it and do you have any idea why people liked it so much?

It is sold out after 100 copies. Maybe melodies were the things that people liked the most, I

don't know. Everybody has their own opinions.

Let's move to that new release "Dark Oceans Calm", which is in my opinion much better than the first one, it's actually quite great release! Do you like it yourself or is there something you would like to change? What is your favourite song from it and why?

"Dark Oceans Calm" was made very carefully and we used a lot of time arranging and planning the songs for it. We are VERY satisfied with it, guitar sounds could be even more clearer, but it is still a great production. My favourite song on it is maybe "Talven Tahdon Jäävän" because it's moody and melodic and has a great atmosphere. All the other songs are great too.

"Dark Oceans Calm" has came out from Darkmoon prod., but when I made this interview it was planned to come out from Sorrowmoon records, which has ceased to exist. Anyway, I asked some questions about contract with Sorrowmoon records...

I have been in contact with Martin Schulman for some time now. We just send the tape to him and he liked it very much, that was basically it. We also got some MCD-offers, but they were so bad that we decided to take Sorrowmoon's offer instead. The deal is following: The amount of tapes pressed is 500 from which we get 20% (100) and if it is sold out there might come a repress from which we get also that 20%, and so on. We are signed to Sorrowmoon for only this cass.ep so the future is open for Faerghail.

"Dark oceans calm" owns just fantastic

This is a quite new and promising band coming from Finland. So far they have released one promo-tape called "In dreamful supremacy" and one cass.ep "Dark oceans calm". They label their music as dark and atmospheric black heavy metal. Kai answered...

sounds, how the things went in Akaan-MR-studio? Have you planned to record your next release there too?

Things went just the way we wanted, the sounds turned out to be excellent etc. Akaan-MR studio is good enough studio for us and it is also quite cheap so we will record our next release there too, only this time we'll be longer than 2 days maybe 4, I don't know yet.

How does Faerghail's music born... Who makes your music and from where do you get your biggest inspiration for it?

We all make songs, for example in "Dark oceans..." the first song is made by Tomi (drums) and the 2nd is Jussi's song, the 3rd song was made by me and the last one by our bassist Petri Moisio. All the songs are finished at home and in rehearsals we only try to play them correctly, so we don't make any music in rehearsals. I don't know about the sources of other band members inspirations but I myself get inspiration from silence and tranquillity (very cliché but very true). Also classical and ambient music are my inspiration sources as well as old heavy metal.

I see your lyrics quite interesting, but still very cliché... What they are dealing with? In which mood you are when you are writing lyrics and do you think lyrics are as important as music or even more important...?

I have always been very satisfied with our lyrics because in these days it is difficult to write lyrics that aren't cliché. Every band has cliché lyrics anyway. Our lyrics deal with autumnal & wintery landscapes, night, depression and other mysterious things. Tomi writes most of the lyrics nowadays. Music is of course more important than lyrics, but this doesn't mean that lyrics have no meaning to us.

What is the meaning behind your band name, Faerghail? I can't find it from any book, from where you have get it? Is your band name important to you?

I don't remember who came up with the name Faerghail, but as far as I know it means something like: a land under a curse. I have no idea where it is taken from, but it has it's own meaning to us.



"Corpse-paints and pseudonyms don't make music better."

What could be reason that you aren't wearing corpse-paints in your photos like thousands of other bands and you are also using your own "Christian" names... Is it just because you want to be more original and you don't want to follow the trend or is there some more important reason for this?

Corpse-paints and pseudonyms don't make music better... We also don't care much about the visual side and image of the band. There is no need to follow the trend as thousands of other bands seem to. We formed Faerghail because we wanted to play music, that's all.

Your music is quite original, but what would you say about it to someone who have never heard any metal music? In other words, how would you categorize your music without word "metal"?

I would describe it as melodic, dark and atmospheric music. I don't care much of categorizing anyway, but on the other hand sometimes it helps you when you are buying records or demos etc.

What about your personal beliefs... What is your attitude towards Christianity?

I am individualist, but I'm not so narrow-minded that other religious/ beliefs would bother me. Everyone can believe in what ever they want to.

How much you are interested about Satanism, occultism, witchcraft, Viking mythology, shamanism, kalevala and Finnish mythology?

Satanism, occultism and witchcraft don't interest, but I find Viking & Finnish mythology very interesting... As well as shamanism and kalevala. I don't study any of them because they don't have any special meaning to me.

Faerghail's line-up has been always the same, how the hell is this possible as it seems to me that almost all bands have some kind of problems with their line-up?

Faerghail is very democratic band, therefore we don't have musical disagreement. Everyone of us make same kind of music and we make music what we want to listen to. The line-up is perfect. If somebody would quit, it would be very difficult to find new member. All members are quite skilled and talented. We also have several years playing experience from our earlier bands.

You have your synth project also, could you tell us all necessary about it? What was the reason to start this project?

I made few songs with synths, but I stopped that. Reason is clear: There will be thousands of Mortis clones and I don't want to be one of them (*Well, your music really doesn't have to be same kind with Mortis when playing synth music-ed.*). I have some ideas to make music with piano, bass & acoustic guitar. Something original, because there's no need for music what you have heard million times before. I was also member of dark ambient band Valor, now that band is one-man band after I left. Valor tape "La lune noire" will be released by Dark Age Productions (USA). We recorded it between spring '96- summer '96.

You told me that you are very deeply in synth music, when and why did you interested about it? Don't you think it's a bit trendy to start synth project?

Yes, I listen a lot of ambient/synth music. Bands like Brighter Death Now, Lustmord, Ordo Equilibrio, Archon Satani, Tam Quam Tabula Rasa, Raison d'être etc. are great. Atmosphere is reason why I listen music like that. "Synth projects" are trendy nowadays in black metal scene. Black metal and ambient have nothing to do with each others in my opinion. That's why I

keep my ambient projects out of metal scene in the future.

Could you describe us personalities of Faerghail members? Some black metallists say that they can't be in touch with normal people, can you?

Well here we go... I really can't tell you anything specific about the other members, but let's give



it a try: Tomi Kangassalo (drums), 18 years old, I guess his lyrics speak better about his personality than I can. Tuomas Murtojärvi (guitars), 16 years old, he is nuts... (and so are the rest of members... I really don't know how to describe our personalities, sorry) All I can say that we can be in touch with so called "normal" people.

How much Faerghail means to you? Is it your whole life or is there something more important like school, job or something?

Faerghail is not my whole life, but it means a lot to me that's for sure. I am not in school and I don't have a job therefore I am able to concentrate on Faerghail so it isn't just a hobby, understand?

"To me black metal is just music which I happen to like, nothing more nothing less."

...And how big part is black/ whatever metal in your life? Is it your lifestyle or is it just music what you are listening?

I don't give a shit about any black metal lifestyle, it is a big trend to say that "black metal isn't just music, it is my lifestyle" etc., because many of those who say that kind things live what you may call a normal life. To me black metal is just music which I happen to like, nothing more nothing less.

How much do you care about underground? Do you think that black metal could die someday like what happened to death metal for example and do you care about black metal's future?

I don't care about underground so much as I few years ago did. Too many bands and 'zines and most are crap (*fortunately Ichor exists, so you have some good reading too!-ed.*). But I'm happy (*...And I'm hippie-ed.*) that 'zines are became better and better, couple years ago almost every new 'zines were total shit. I hope

that black metal trend will die. Death metal isn't dead, only trend has died (*Yes, that was I meant...-ed.*). There's not much differences between black metal and death metal. Take a look (early) Venom and Possessed, they are almost same kind. Death metal isn't low-tuned guitars, growling vocals and lyrics about human anatomy or gorethings.

Then why the hell every band like Carcass, Cannibal Corpse etc. are calling their music as death metal? Anyway, I have to mention that you are right, it isn't real death metal. Real death metal is bands like Decide, Morbid Angel, Merciless, Infestdead etc... What about Finnish scene? Do we have a good scene?

Finnish scene is ok. Not too many bands. We have unique bands like Barathrum, Sacrilegious, Soulgrind, Let Me dream for example. And great bands like Thy Serpent, Darkwoods My Betrothed, Vordven (check out their up-coming demo), Impaled Nazarene (their new album) and so on...

What bands do you respect and what bands you don't respect at all?

I respect those who play music what they like to and don't care about trends. Musically I respect bands like Centinex, Inverted, Summoning, Ildjarn, Countess, BDN, Raison d'être and few others. Naturally I don't respect bands that promote themselves by throwing shit at others.

3 good reason why everyone should buy "Dark Oceans Calm"? Thanks and bye...

First: This time sounds are professional, second: There's glossy covers and pro-printed tapes, third: It only cost you 20 FIM/5 USD Europe/6 USD world-wide. Thanks to you Striga for interview.

Contact to:

Kai Lehtinen
Pehtoorintie 3 c 25
32700 Huittinen
Finland

or... Tomi Kangassalo
Eerontie 3
32700 Huittinen
Finland

That was it folks! Unfortunately this interview is pretty old and things have maybe changed a bit... Rumours told us that there will be a full-length album coming out from Faerghail, but the label is unknown for us.

Horna

Here we have a phone-interview with Finnish black metal band Horna, materialized in one sunny day under the horrible hang-over, means that we were not the most active in this interview, but anyhow... read and enjoy! Interview is answered by Shatraug and Nazgul and questioned by Striga...

Could you tell the happenings in Horna-camp since the interview in Ichor #1?

-Nazgul: "Well, after the first number the biggest happenings were probably the recording and releasing of "Hiidentorni", and quite large line-up changes."

Line-up changes?

-Nazgul: "Before the "Hiidentorni" I joined to Horna, so I sung already in "Hiidentorni", and after that new bassist and second vocalist joined the band. Shatraug has now left singing job."

"Hiidentorni" came out little while ago as a cassette-version. Are you satisfied with it?

-Shatraug: "Yes, we are satisfied with it of course. Otherwise we wouldn't release it in the CD format."

-Nazgul: "Carsten from Solistitium compared it to Gorgoroth's "Pentagram" and Darkthrone's "A blaze in the Northern sky", which we classify as quite big compliment. So apparently it's quite quality product."

What about the response?

-Shatraug: "Nobody hasn't said anything negative, except some people have complained about intro, but it doesn't matter much."

"Hiidentorni" will come out from Solistitium in CD-format, are you going to continue in Solistitium after that?

-Shatraug: "It's our purpose, but there is no deal about that yet. So if we get better offers we are

free to accept them."

-Nazgul: "If our album won't succeed, there exist such an option that Solistitium doesn't want to continue with us"

Was Solistitium your only option to release "Hiidentorni"?

-Shatraug: "No it wasn't. There was a deal which we could have signed with Dutch Mjölir.

-Nazgul: "It's a label of person who was earlier working for Damnation records."

Nazgul also mentioned one American label, but we couldn't clear up what it was. But anyway you Shatraug told us that vinyl version is also supposed to come...

-Shatraug: "Yes, it's the purpose. Deal at least contains it with gatefold cover and it will be limited in 500 copies."

-Nazgul: "It will contain different artwork. Demonos Sova from Barathrum will paint the cover to it"

Some bonus-tracks were supposed to be included in this vinyl version...

-Shatraug: "It's not certain yet. vinyl version and shirts will be handled after CD has been out 1-2 months."

"Music of Horna will always be and has always been black metal."

Nazgul-voice of the reaper



Your music has been labelled as black metal in both of your demos, so what was your reasons to play under this definition and do you believe Horna's music will always be black metal...

-Nazgul: "Yes it's black metal. There isn't much to tell you about that. Music of Horna will always be and has always been black metal, but it doesn't have to sound always same. Black metal is a path we have chosen and it possess certain summoning, it's hard to explain..."

Are you afraid of the fact that people won't pay any attention towards Horna as in our opinion your music can't be in anyway described as original?

-Nazgul: "Usually the bands who make music honestly to themselves will be noticed. We don't have to try to be original because of originality, but for the cause of music we like and we want to make music in our own way, but we don't copy any bands on purpose. Our music just comes out the way it comes, because we are honest

to the music we do. And we don't try forcedly to make original music."

-Shatraug: "Actually there was some attempts to create music in more original vein. There was some more melodic songs year ago, but it didn't felt own so we dropped the idea"

-Nazgul: "Is there any idea to make music without honesty?"

Hmm, actually not... Well, as you mentioned those melodic songs, will you use those songs in the future?

-Shatraug: "There was somewhat ten songs in this melodic vein and most likely one of them will be used in some projects. The rest we have thrown away"

"Our lyrics shouldn't be connected to Satanism."

Your lyrics are totally proper to black metal, satanic and antichristian. Do you stand behind your lyrics totally?

-Nazgul: "Actually our lyrics aren't satanic. Our lyrics shouldn't be connected to Satanism."

-Shatraug: "Our lyrics are just blasphemous"

But you still sing about the realm of Satan and stuff alike...

-Nazgul: "It's just a metaphor. Satanism and metaphors are different thing."

Ok then. Your lyrics are all written in Finnish. Doesn't it bother you that foreigners can't understand your message?

-Shatraug: "Actually we have got some negative feedback about that, especially because foreigners can't follow our lyrics. Finnish is so difficult language that you can't follow it. If we compare it for example to Norwegian which is Germanic language like German and English which are quite easy to follow for foreigners, but it's impossible to follow Finnish. In the future we will include some English songs as well."

-Nazgul: "And translations for Finnish written lyrics are included. Lyrics still are very important part."

You said your lyrics aren't satanic, but you Shatraug said that one can't play black metal without satanic background...

-Nazgul: "But black metal and Satanism is different thing. You don't have to play black metal if you are Satanist"

But as you deal with religious subjects, shouldn't you then deal with the things you believe in?

-Nazgul: "I am Satanist, but I can't tell you about our lyrics as I haven't done them."

-Shatraug: "One could say that our purpose is mainly to blaspheme Christians, because they usually follow so stupid ideologies and own stupid beliefs etc. It belongs to black metal that lyrics are antichristian and blasphemous."

What then basically got you fighting against Christians?

Gorthaur-arnageddon battery



-Nazgul: "If you base your beliefs on some book which you can't proof. If person is so ignorant that he believes this he is worth of nothing. Person has no value after he falls to believe lies, which nobody can proof. *(Can you proof that the bible is a lie then? Has the person any values if he falls to fight against lies he can't proof to be lies? -Juha)*"

"Satan represents us all that is opposite to Christian."

Just for to get the certainty... Do you believe in Satan in any form?

-Nazgul: "We don't believe in materi... or I don't believe in Satan as a superior being at all. And Satan isn't more than name from the same times as Christianity, but it doesn't mean that I would believe in horned demon, who falled down from heaven."

-Shatraug: "How would I dress this to words...? Lets say that Satan represents us all that is opposite to Christian."

-Nazgul: It's normal as the word Satan comes from Hebrew and means oppositionist. So it's quite good metaphor."

Your lyrics deals with crushing the Christianity and the Christ himself, so do you believe in this subject or is this just because you want to crush the things you stated as lies?

-Shatraug: "We can found many meanings to it. Basically it's like Christ is metaphor for all the Christian minds. In other words when we sing "Kill the Christ", it means that all the Christians should kill themselves so they kill the spirit of Christ which lives inside. Or something like that."

So the text of your promo-CD is true that Horna isn't religious band...

-Nazgul: "Yes, those are two different things. We do music on different level than we believe."

Are you fighting against Christianity with material activities or just in spiritual way?

-Nazgul: "Even if we were on it, I wouldn't tell you."

But could you imagine yourself burning a church or...

-Nazgul: "If I would ever do something like that I would do it in the way it wouldn't harm me, because I raise myself on more important level than things like that, so I wouldn't burn a church, which will be built again, go to jail and when I would be out there was a stone church standing on there"

Well then which is more important to you, music or fighting against Christians?

-Shatraug: "I think it's music, because it itself reflects our feelings."

-Nazgul: "In the name of band we are doing this interview, if you would ask me personally I would answer other way. Music is more important to Horna."

-Shatraug: "Lets say like that."

How is the daily life of Horna members... Do you go to school or have a job and how the people react upon you?

-Shatraug: "I don't have any activities, I don't have a job, I don't go to school, I pass the going out to town and spend most of the time at home, because there is anything else than stupid happy people in town and they just irritate me. Maybe once a week I go check and send out my mail. I am not interested to walk out there and waste my time especially as all the places are open just at the day-time and the summer time is a way too hot and sun shines."

Have you played any gigs lately?

-Shatraug: "Actually we haven't played any gigs after the one in Salo over a year ago."

Have you even planned to do any?

-Shatraug: "Probably in October there is one gig here in Lappeenranta. Our purpose is to do as many gigs as possible."

-Nazgul: "If somebody wants us on gig, just get in touch."

What do you demand for gig-organizers?

-Nazgul: "Travelling costs, food and drinks. Do have any stage show?

-Shatraug: "It's hard to say as we haven't constructed it yet. We haven't played any gigs with current line-up. Purpose is anyway to do really..."

-Nazgul: "...Agressive!"

What do you think about Enochian Crescents stage show in Tavastia?

-Shatraug: "It ended up Janne Kuru leaving the

stage. I personally can't say much about it as was on upper-deck drinking beer. I didn't saw much from there so..."

Have you composed any new material yet?

-Shatraug: "We are planning to record next our 7"ep which should be out at the end of year. Second album is already finished. It contains eight songs, just as debut, but playing time will be longer. New songs have been created quite much after that."

You had quite many project bands out there, are they still alive and can we expect any material from them?

-Shatraug: All of them are alive, but they have been laid on ice for now. Nothing is coming out surely, but if comes, then we can say they are existing."

-Nazgul: "I am playing also in Pest (ex-Shatargat). I joined to Warloghe and we are releasing an ep with Warloghe in near future."

This has nothing to do with Horna, but anyway... We heard some rumours about suicide of one Vornat member and as you Shatraug know these guys quite well I wonder do you know anything about it?

-Shatraug: "Yes, I heard about it about half year ago. As far as I know their ex-vocalist shoot himself. We can't talk about actual Vornat-member as he wasn't involved in the band for two years."

Any final words?

-Shatraug & Nazgul: "Thanks for the interview."

That was Shatraug and Nazgul. This interview turned to be quite short, but what the fuck. You can contact Horna-horde from:

Horna
P.O.Box 177
53101 Lappeenranta
Finland

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CRADLE OF FILTH

We made this interview, 'cause we wanted to get more money from you and we knew that all of you would buy this shitty 'zine, 'cause of Cradle Of Filth...heh heh. No, seriously, Cradle Of Filth is still one of my favourite bands and I don't care if they are trendy or not. Robin answered and of course I first wanted to know his opinions about their brilliant CD "Dusk and her embrace" ...

This is the fourth time I've been in the studio and come always less than fully satisfied, but at the same time some things about "Dusk" turned out better than I had expected. I'm not too interested about going into too much detail about the composition as this occurred too long ago it's all water under the bridge, but as far as the actual recording of "Dusk" is concerned I wasn't overly happy with the bass sound. To me it sounds a bit fat, I imagined something with more punch, so that it would have cut through the mix out being quite as loud. And I thought some of the most characteristic keyboard ideas were burned beneath everything else when it was obvious to me that they were some of the main parts of our music, but there's so many parts to our music and so many people involved. This sort of thing is to be expected.

What about your previous releases "Principle of evil made flesh" and "Vempire", what is your opinion about these and what makes "Dusk" the best Cradle Of Filth release so far? By the way, what is your favourite C.O.F song?

I feel that C.O.F.'s best material is on "Dusk", but I still regard "Principle" as my favourite album, mainly because of the memories that went with it, it's those first impressions that I find hardest to relieve, so in the future I hope musically we might be able to go deeper and not just more extreme, because there's already bands doing that and then extremity suddenly becomes very fucking normal. And for the other part of the question, I don't have a favourite C.O.F song.

After "Principle" you have had many line-up changes as you, Dani and Nicholas are the only ones left from that CD, why were these changes? How these new guys: Stuart, Damien and Gian have adjusted to C.O.F.?

The reason that only half the original line-up remains is because of the legal dispute with Cacophonous, the three that left lost faith with in the band and failed to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Now they may well say something completely to the contrary and Nick and Dani will say what a bunch of losers they are etc., but none of that is very relevant. The only thing of any real relevance is that they wimped out when the going got tough! If we had only stuck together we may have been paid for all of our trouble instead of leaving Nick, Dani and I to sit

it only so that they could cash in on the publishing later which is something Cacophonous wouldn't have coughed up! The only reason the others will be receiving publishing for "Dusk" is because the other half of C.O.F. fought like bastards. The new members of C.O.F. are doing fine thanks.

I also read that you left C.O.F after "Principle", but it seems to me that you didn't? What really happened?

Well actually I did for about 10 months and at that time it was the best thing I could have done, because it was obvious that things with in the band were getting ugly (the want of a better word) and I didn't know what else to do. When I re-joined, C.O.F. weren't any further forward than when I left except that we had a shit manager.

While ago you also joined to other band December Moon, what is going with this band today? When can we hear some new material?

I don't know, you tell me. I don't even know how many albums we've sold, it's a shame Spinefarm haven't bothered informing us what's going on. As for the new D.M. material, that's secret!

December Moon has released one CD "Source of origin" so far, of course I want to know your opinion about this release too? Are your new songs in the same style than "Source of origin"?

"Source of origin" is many styles that's the whole point about December Moon, it perpetuates without formula a bit like Sabbath in the "Ozzy days" therefore I wouldn't like to make any artistic predictions.

As Cradle Of Filth's and December Moon's music are almost of same style, I wondered why you have these two bands? Wouldn't it be easier to play only in one band, I mean that how could you have time for both bands? The answer to this is simple, there is no way I have any time for two bands, I am only ever in one band at any one time, so when I'm in C.O.F. December Moon is maturing in the cellar, so to speak.

Back to C.O.F., before "Dusk" you changed your record label from Cacophonous to Music For Nations, what was the reason? Was it just because M.F.N. is much bigger than Cacophonous?

M.F.N. is much bigger than Cacophonous and Vinyl Solution and a few more tight fisted labels put together, I'm sure you'll agree, but there's a fundamental difference... they run an honest business and supply a justifiable service to people who appreciate our music, size has nothing to do with our choosing of M.F.N., but I think I've established why they are more successful.

"Dusk" has sold very well, at least here in Finland, as it was 36th in the official top40 list for few weeks and it was also elected as best metal album of the year 1996, how does it feel? Could someone say that you are very trendy band, 'cause of these things and you are also in such a big label etc.? Is C.O.F trend band?

How does it feel? Maybe you should be asking what it feels like to be acknowledged for the blood and sweat of the last 5 or 6 years and if this is what people are calling a trend then it's one of the longest trends I've heard of in this line of music.

Ha ha, death threats? Now that would be trendy, wouldn't it!

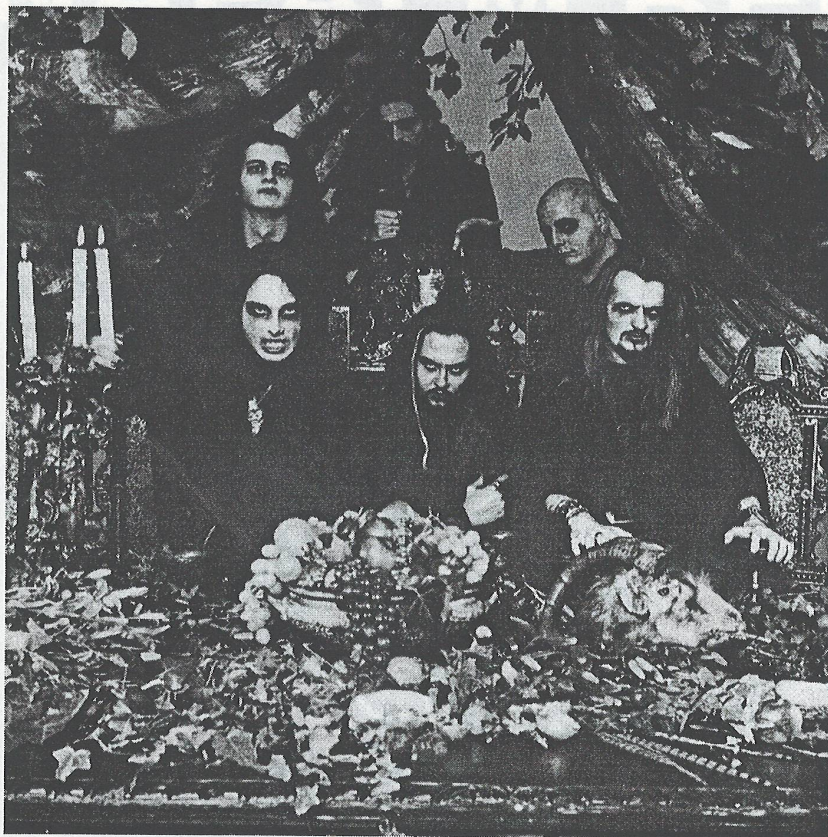
Because C.O.F. is now so fucking popular many people has started to hate you very much... Have you got any death threats, for example?

Ha ha, death threats? Now that would be trendy, wouldn't it!

It's a fact that everything is trendy nowadays, you can't walk in the street without being trendy, 'cause you use same streets as many other people too... Anyway, still one thing about "Dusk", I noticed that Cronos from Venom was speaking in the end of this CD, how did this happened? By the way, do you respect Venom as I have got the picture that you don't respect them so much?

I have always respected Venom, because they couldn't give a fuck. When Cronos recorded his piece in the studio he laid it down in the first take and then said ok, let's go to the pub!

...Sounds like a great guy! Let's talk a bit about C.O.F.'s music... From where do you get your inspirations to such a dark music? Which bands have influenced you most?



This is a question we get asked a lot (*Yes, I know that this is a fucking cliché question, but who cares!-ed.*) and I'm glad that people have to ask this question instead of telling us the answer. I honestly couldn't tell you the answer even if I wanted to. Sorry.

How do you label your music nowadays? I've heard that you still call it as black metal, but I don't think that it sounds like normal black metal and your lyrics aren't so satanic either? How would you explain your music to someone who doesn't know what black metal or even metal music is?

Eh, I wouldn't categorize C.O.F. as false black metal and if I happened across someone really ignorant I don't think I'd waste my breath, I would probably say "not your type of music mate".

Talking about C.O.F. lyrics, they are really hard to understand... You don't write them, but could you still explain a bit what they are about? Is there some special message in your lyrics?

Yeah, I agree. I didn't write them so I don't know what they all mean either. You probably want some sort of in-depth psychological or a colourful articulate analogy with maybe a hint of bullshit? That leaves you wishing you hadn't asked? No! I'll spare you the torment.

C.O.F. makes gigs, what kind of live performance you have? Some really "smart" guy said once ago: "No gigs in black metal", your opinion?

No gigs in black metal is really sensible, it means all those so called "true black metallists" can say how trendy we are, right?

I don't understand why Robin didn't answered to my question about their live performance, but luckily I have now seen one C.O.F. gig and I can tell you myself the answer: There wasn't any performance!!!! Anyway, I have seen that C.O.F.'s image has changed a bit, as there is no corpsepaints any

more, why is that? Is it just because corpsepaints are "trendy" nowadays?

We still use corpsepaints. We were wearing it on the "Dusk" portrates, although it was more experimental. It turned out that after the portrates were made transparent more "ghostly" the corpsepaint appeared to vanish. It suited our image.

It's very popular that many black metallists have some kind of pseudonym and nowadays there are too many idiots jumping in the woods and screaming that "My name is Lord Necrosatanickillermurder666" or something like that, but C.O.F. doesn't do that...

You just said "there is many idiots", well this is how we felt 5 years ago and it hasn't improved any, has it!

What's the goal of C.O.F.? To be more popular than Metallica or something else? What is your goal of life?

I have very few goals actually and I have plundered through my whole life and I've done all right so far. If it's a good idea at the time then it's a good idea full stop tomorrow could see a new idea, the fact that one or two idea's have been good for so long is pure change.

Something about past of C.O.F., when you formed this band you made some demos, could you say few words about them?

Those demo's mark the beginning of C.O.F., but musically they have little meaning, well maybe Total Fucking Darkness and I don't mind admitting this, but during that era everybody else's band was crap too! The End!

Some questions about religions... Do you call yourself a Satanist? Do you believe in some God or Satan or are you maybe your own God? This might be a stupid question, but what's your opinion about "world religions" like Christianity etc.? Do you conceive them as a problem? What kind of problems you have got because of your "antichristian ideology"?

All of this has very little to do with me. I was born and then I grow up in a unique environment, just the same as millions of people, each and everyone a unique individual, so why should I tie my self to a term that is widely misunderstood and is also adapted by individuals who have nothing in common with the next person. I have a mixture of values which I am constantly modifying because I can not because I think it sounds cool in this interview, I'm sure you know what I mean Striga. Without mentioning the "S" word. I conceive Christianity as a problem for some people who allow it to be their problem, but it's not mine. Antichrist ideology doesn't concern me, it's not my problem and until it is I'll continue ignoring it.

Back to musical questions... What's your opinion about black metal scene today? Do you think that black metal could "die" someday like what happened to punk and death metal? Do you care about black metal's future? Do you even see black metal as a trend?

Of course it's a trend, everything is a trend. Nuclear testing is a trend, even individuality is a trend and to destroy a trend you have to create one. It's a catch 22 situation. Tomorrow I could start a new trend that states that black metal is trendy, but that wouldn't be very original, would it!

What about English black metal? While ago you told in one interview that only black metal bands coming from England are Cradle Of Filth and December Moon, but now the situation has changed, hasn't it? I heard some rumours that some "evil" guys has done some crimes against Christianity in the name of Cradle Of Filth, maybe you know more about this thing?

There's probably a 100 bands in England stating to be black metal, I just don't know it yet. I don't know anything about crimes in the name of C.O.F., what's it really all about?

Well, I remember that sometime ago I heard about some grave desecrations, which were made by some kids who were wearing C.O.F.-shirts and when they got arrested they said that C.O.F. was inspired them to do that? Before we end this interview I would like to know your opinion about these bands: a) Bathory, b) Beherit, c) Burzum??

a) The band that most BM bands sounds like. Some bands copy bands who copy Bathory and seem to be totally oblivious of this fact. b) A cult band. c) popular for the wrong reasons, but still original, although not to my taste.

Any future plans? When your next CD will be out?

I don't know, it's hard to say when the album hasn't even been written.

Anything to add?

Thank you Striga. The new December Moon Merchandise is available on:

Razamataz

c/o Mike

Trap 1, the crypt

4 Derby Street

Colne

Lunchashire

BB8 9AA

England

Fax: 0044 1282 861327

...And the address to Robin is:

Robin

Ipswich

Suffolk nachton

England, IP10 OHS.



against the church. Baptized I have not been, a false name I do not need. Let them call me Striga, for that tells everything I am. For I am an owl resenting the light of day, for I am a witch who during the fullmoon shrouds in a black gown and lights the black candles. All this is being told in a vision of mine: "I have experienced myself as immortal, the soul of the black woods, the antichrist". I, Striga, am the ruler of Arthame. I shall rule this world, for I was born to rule. I am the force of which is being talked about, I am the evilness which is being feared. I shall rule this before so pitiful and loving world with hatred and destruction. When it all shall take place, let it be the dawn of a new era. A thousand times stronger, wiser and without lies. Together with Norelgar we are the end that was meant for the Christians, with Arthame we shall bring the war in which they shall meet their death. We are the horde that shall bring death. In the spells we chant can one hear all this, all in which we believe in: hate, war, sorrow and darkness. All the honour to us, all the suffering to Christians. With the strength of our hymns we mock their ridiculous God, we curse their homes, we crush the white candles which are being placed on their graves. Proud with Arthame I stand against the celestial wartroups and let the touch of Arthame be the final blow upon the neck of Christ, soon I shall call this sword as the destroyer of the Christians, the crusher of all light and white. ...And as a conclusion let this be mentioned one more time: I, Striga, am the ruler of Arthame. Norelgar is of my horde, but his presence is not more important than a life of one Christian. Norelgar chants the spells which I create and for that all honour to him, but I am Arthame. For as long as I meet with death I shall carry this sword with pride. Even the members of my horde should change, it won't decrease the witching force of Arthame.

Contact Arthame from Tchor address...

"...Child of light direct your hate against God, as this father of yours has never given anything to you. You believe no more in love, why would you wish for it to exist, why would you wish for the light to blind your eyes, when all the pleasure you find from darkness. From there where all the power rises, from there where eternity dominates. Come to our great force what will rise, when doomsday begins. "

And I arose, as was foreseen in the book, which with laughter was written to bring upon the world lies of eternal peace and endless love. I arose during the Belthane in the year of 1627 (1995, according the false timekeeping). Like the winds of corruption, along with the blackest storms. With me the bewitched sword, Arthame, against me a thousand crosses. Each cross did I invert, each heretic did I slay. I was an army of one, stronger than a thousand of men. During the nights I sang new hymns in derision for the name of Christ, in honour to witchcraft. Shortly after the Lughnasadh of the same anno a new member arrived into my horde. Norelgar arose his sword with me towards the gates of heaven, together we blackened that paradise in ashes and dethroned the greatest filth of them all. Together we sang new hymns which cannot be found in the sacred writings, resounding as flashes upon the skies and fires

Striga, the ruler of Arthame



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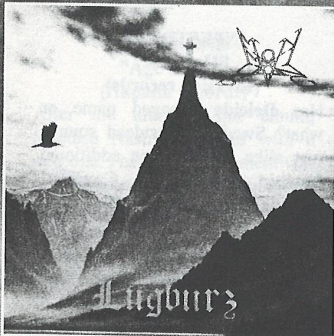


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Dol Guldur

SUMMONING

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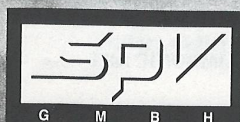
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Reviews

By Juha, except * by Striga

Amount of reviews presented here is as small it is due to first, lack of interest towards all the new releases out there. And second, we didn't get much free promo-material, what was all our fault as we didn't ask for them. We will still of course check your stuff out and review it in Schor if you can afford to send us a sample, but otherwise it will be almost impossible...

Albums

ABIGOR **"Apocalypse-MCD"** (Napalm records)

Again new release from Austrian Abigor. They seem to develop more into rawer style with every of their releases, I just wonder how will their next record sound. Yet I see no reason to complain as Apocalypse is definitely the best Abigor release so far, raw and satanic black metal with magnificent vocals. No synths nor acoustic guitars, just pure aggression. Buy from Napalm!!!

ABSU **"The third storm of Cythraul"** (Osmose productions)

Third full-length album of Absu... Hmm, I already loved their second one, but hell, this one beats it easily. This time Absu caress us with their rather awesome and original speed/thrash metal with incredible drumwork and great vocals. In fact it seems that the music of Absu is more based on drums and vocals, and guitar-riffs are left to background, and I must say, the music works out really well in this way. The ruthless soundpicture of "The third storm..." makes it a lot more intense and harder than "The sun of Tipharet", which is at least for my ears positive, but I guess some people will ignore this album due to sounds. I recommend full concentration while listening this album, all the smallest details can easily fade out otherwise...

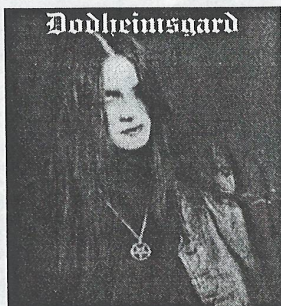
COVENANT **"In times before light"** (Mordgrimm records)

After a delay of two years, this album is finally out... I don't know exactly what was the problem, but at least Black Tower (Eiherjum-editor's label) was supposed to

release this album, but they fucked up something and the rest is unknown for me. Anyway, I had high expectations towards this album after the magnificent demo entitled "From the storm of shadows, but blaah, I was disappointed... Covenant had lost their atmosphere, the vocals went worse direction and sounds came too distant, if you know what I mean. Still I don't think this is a bad album, actually rather good one, but still disappointment...

DIMMU BORGIR **"Enthroned darkness triumphant"** (Nuclear blast records)

Third and definitely best full-length album from Dimmu Borgir. Following the style of shitty "Stormblast", but in a lot better way. Songs are intelligently structured and spiced with brilliant guitar-arrangements, also vocals are thousand times than on "Stormblast". So 56 minutes of top class black metal performed in beautiful way with cool covers, good lyrics and great production!!! Buy immediately!!!



DODHEIMSGARD **"Monumental possession"** (Malicious records)

Dodheimsgard has moved more into thrashier approach with their second full-length album. Music is still raw as hell and quite enjoyable, though I am not fond of

several rip-off riffs presented here certainly not accidentally. I hope they will concentrate more on their own riffs on their next album.

EMPEROR **"Anthems to the welkin at dusk"** (Candelight records)

Here we have long awaited second full-length album from Emperor. Majestic black metal from beginning to end with really complex arrangements and unique ideas. I guess there is no need to continue as most of you have bought this already.

GEHENNAH **"King of the sidewalk"** (Osmose productions) *

When I went to home at morning some days ago, I put this release to play in my stereos. I was so fucking drunk the day before and I had a horrible hangover, but after I listened this album about 15 minutes, I had to go buy some beer again!!! That's what this album is all about. Six-back beer, porno-magazine and Gehennah's CD, that's what my whole life is nowadays. Right now, I'm so fucking drunk that it's better to stop this review, but all of you who are still reading this shit, go to record shop to buy this CD...Oh, I'm sorry, don't buy this CD, go to your local shop and buy some beer with all your money!!!!

HORNA **"Hiidentorni"** (Solistitium records)

Well, here we have second demo of Finnish Horna released on CD consisting 40 minutes of grim black metal, so no beautiful synths nor acoustic guitars are found in here. I must say that this is nothing for those who are seeking originality as this CD does not own anything original. Sounds are great and vocals are also improved from their previous effort. Lyrics are written in Finnish and are totally

satanic and antichristian and that was a big plus if Horna would stand behind them! All in all quite an enjoyable release, available for the friends of raw black metal soon from Solistitium.

IMMORTAL **"Blizzard beasts"** (Osmose productions)

Immortal have taken couple of steps further with their new album, their songs are really complex and they have distinct themselves from usual black metal sound and sound like mixture of Morbid Angel, Possessed ("Beyond the gates") and previous Immortal stuff. Vocals on this recording just tend to annoy me and I can't understand Immortal's "winter madness", is winter really so nice that you must base many albums on that, probably just their lousy image though. Yet, in my opinion this is definitely the best Immortal release thus far and really worth of listening... "Mountains of might" rules supreme!!!

INFESTDEAD **"Hellfuck"** (Invasion records)

Has Deicide changed name or what? Swedish Infestdead sounds just alike... with some additional Morbid Angel & Cannibal Corpse influences though. I can't describe this better, but if you like Deicide you will most likely love "Hellfuck", I at least do!

ISVIND **"Dark waters stir"** (Solistitium records)

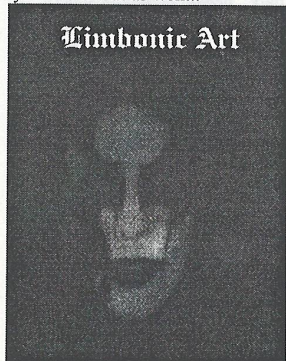
Norwegian black metal totally in the vein of Darkthrone without getting even close to the class of original. I must ask, why should one bother to listen this as the Darkthrone records are still existing? Available from Solistitium.

LIMBONIC ART

"Moon in the Scorpion"

(Nocturnal art productions)

Oh god, more Norwegian stuff here... Limbonic art combines usual black metal with classical- and pop music, and I must admit it works quite nicely. This album contains huge amount of great melodies which are spoiled with guitar sound and drum machine. Sound is overall very thin and I just keep wondering how this album would have sounded with Dimmu Borgir-like production. So correct your mistakes with your next album please!!! Oh yeah, the cover art-work is really admirable and lyrics work out as well...



Limbonic Art

MARDUK

"Live in Germania"

(Osmose productions)

Here we have Marduk's latest attack containing live-recordings from their shows in Germany from "Heaven shall burn"-tour. Songs from all of their albums are included, with the exception "Dark endless". Their older songs like "On darkened wings" and "Sulphur souls" sound just great with this kind of sounds and Legion on vocals. Playing and sounds are surprisingly good on this album and booklet is filled with cool gig-photos so maybe you should check this interesting release out.

NÄSTROND

"Age of fire"

(Napalm records)

After the ultimate shit album, Swedish Nästrond strikes with a new one. Positive development was of course certain as music couldn't get worse from their previous album. Well, Nästrond's music is rather chaotic and badly arranged black metal, but anyway there is some good riffs included in their songs unlike in "Toteslaut". I would say that Nästrond's music owns some originality, but in this case originality just makes this album worse. I can't recommend an album like this, but if you liked "Toteslaut" you will most likely love "Age of fire".

OLD MAN'S CHILD

"The pagan prosperity"

(Century media)

I counted Old man's child to the best bands of Norway already at the times of debut album and their second full-length album didn't make disappointment either. The influences from 80's metal (thrash & heavy) shine through this album clearly, but they have luckily still kept their own style. Vocals have been improved a lot from "Born of the..." and songs consist lot of variety at side of vocal performances. Songs are very well structured except for at some parts where riffs are repeated way too much like in the first minutes of "Return of the night creatures". Sounds are quite good in my opinion though some have complained that drums are too loud on the mix, but I don't see that as a problem. There is some really great details included like in the song "Doommaker" the part where Galder (ex-Grusom) sings the part: "I am this world's doommaker", fuck I love it!!! Lyrics are quite good in my opinion, yet I usually don't like these kind of straight lyrics. With two great albums Old man's child are definitely walking their path to the pagan prosperity. Buy from your local distributor!!!

RAISM

"The very best pain-MCD"

(Osmose productions) *

Raism continues the story of Diabolos Rising, so as you all know it's mixture between techno and black metal. Someone can like this, but for me it only gives headache. All I can say that if you liked Diabolos Rising albums, you will like this one too.

SATYRICON

"Megiddo-12'ep"

(Moonfog productions)

I just fucking can't understand the point of this release, the first song is kind of an industrial version of "The dawn of the new age" and it sounds just horrible, mainly just senseless noise. I just wonder, would this kind of shit be released if it was unknown band in question and not "big" name like Satyricon. Second song is luckily (?) presenting normal Satyricon, but it's just a re-recorded version of one track from "Dark medieval times", so not really exciting. Third one is a live recording of their song "Forhekset" with bad sound. And the last one is cover of Motörhead's "Orgasmatron", and this is only song here I can face with interest. So all in all, totally unnecessary release. Don't buy!!

SENTENCED

"Down"

(Century media) *

It's great to notice that one of my old favourite bands makes still enjoyable music! I must admit that this CD is even better than their

older ones like "Amok" or "North from here", which I listened few years ago. Almost all those death metal influences are now gone and all we can here is dark modern heavy metal. It might be very hard to get into this CD, but when you do, I bet your opinion will be like mine: "If "Down" would be a woman, I would fuck her everyday". "Down" is so fucking dark music (if we don't count that one fucking happy instrumental called "0132"...) that no one can ever feel happiness while listening it!!!!

SUMMONING

"Dol guldur"

(Napalm records) *

This third full-length album of Summoning continues on the same way as the previous "Minas morgul". Actually it sometimes sounds too similar as I would prefer to listen some new ideas. Still Summoning's music is great and black as the night, but I hope that they will create something new with their next album. Now this was a little disappointment!

SWORDMASTER

"Postmortem tales"

(Osmose productions) *

When I first heard Swordmaster, it was their previous MCD "Wraths of time" and at that time I counted them as one of the best bands from Sweden. This full-length album continues in the same way than "Wraths...", but this time almost whole feeling is gone. There isn't such great riffs anymore, no impressive melodies or anything what could make me listen this CD more than now. But don't misunderstand me, this isn't such bad album at all. I just expected something brilliant and unique as that's what "Wraths..." was. I just hope that Swordmaster's next album will be a lot of better than this, as now this is only quite good CD and I want something perfect!

THY PRIMORDIAL

"Where only the seasons mark the paths of time"

(Pulverised records)

Typical Swedish black/death metal in the vein of Dissection and Marduk. Boring stuff, not worth of your money.

THY SERPENT

"Lords of twilight-MCD"

(Spinefarm records)

MCD from Finnish atmospheric dark metal heroes containing re-recordings of their old demo songs and some new synth-songs. I would say if you liked their full-length album you will like this over 30 minutes long MCD.

TROLL

"Drep de kristne"

(Damnation records)

This is solo project of Nagash Blackheart from Covenant & Dimmu Borgir. After two demos, Troll have now unleashed his first full-length album which represents simple and most typical Norwegian black metal. Yet still this is quite enjoyable, mainly because of so fucking great guitar sound. Well, the music itself sounds like a mixture of Emperor and Gehenna. There is one totally unnecessary song, "Gud's fall", and as this CD only lasts 36 minutes, there remains just about half an hour of enjoyment. Available directly from Damnation.

TWIN OBSCENITY

"Where light touches none"

(Head not found)

Again a new (?) attempt from Norway and I must admit knowing nothing about this band. But anyway this reminds me heavily about Enslaved, but I would say this album contains more death metal influences, which paints kind of own identity to their sound-picture. Riffs and melodies are strongly folk-oriented and songs work goodly. Yet this album is absolutely not my cup of tea as I don't like the Viking-like atmosphere at all. So all who like Enslaved, check this out!!!

ULVER

"Nattens madrigal"

(Century media)

After an relaxing album performed mainly with acoustic guitars Ulver strikes with utterly raw black metal. They offer great and very own riffs and some fine solos with extremely raw sounds. The numerous acoustic guitar parts from their two earlier albums are not found in here, except one in the first song. All in all, 44 minutes of good black metal, buy from your local distributor.

Tapes & 7"ep's

BETHEL

"Northern supremacy"

-demo'97

(Ominous productions)

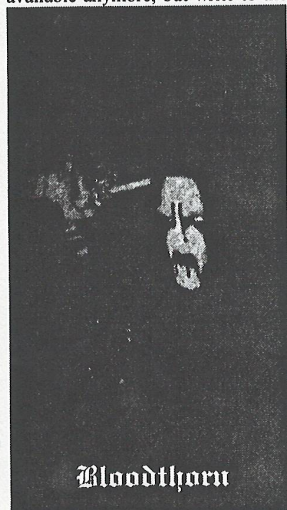
Stupid demo-title I must say... The music itself might collect some listeners though as this is really typical and boring kind of black metal. Ups, Nordic metal (hah!) I was supposed to say as you call it. Yes, typical and boring, that's what most of you seem to listen anyway. Synth is going along with most of the time, riffs are repeated way too much and songs are working badly, so nothing for me here. "Northern supremacy", what's so superior with north as everybody is talking about it? Let me guess, it's darker here? It's colder here? Am I right?

It's enough for me that my beer is cold and my inner self dark. Only good side of north is that you can go skiing with your parents here, so I don't have to see your ugly faces and **Cradle Of Filth** T-shirts!!! And not to forget, North is good tobacco!!! Order this piece of northern stupidity by sending 20 FIM/5 USD to:

Ominous Prod.
Lammasrinne 3 A 18
01710 Vantaa
Finland

BLOODTHORN
"Natteskyggen"
-promo'96

Oh yezz... This promotape definitely belongs to group of my fave releases. This Norwegian band produces us some extremely great, rather darkest kind of slow black metal.. This tape contains two long songs, filled with utter darkness! Bloodthorn has recently signed to Season Of Mist records, so I am eagerly waiting for their full-length album. I don't know if this tape is available anymore, but write to the



band and ask, believe me it's worth of it!

Bloodthorn
Box 56
7082 Kattem
Norway

FUNERAL MIST
"Havoc"
-demo'96

(Pounding metal productions)
Aaarrgh! Extremely brutal black metal from Sweden... Hell, I think I fuckin' like this piece of shit! Sounds a bit like faster version of **Malign** or something, whatever! Great vocals, raw sounds, brutal riffs and cool cover should be enough to get you order these four songs of musical terror from:

Funeral Mist
c/o Ariocho
Basunv. 39
175 48 Järfälla

Sweden



GLOOMY GRIM

"Friendship is friendship, war is war"
-demo'97

This is quite difficult to describe properly, but I try my best. It's somekind of doomy synth-based horror music with influences from metal and classical music. Reminds me slightly about **Samael** and **Devil Doll**. Quite an enjoyable tape I must say. I guess the price is 5 USD as usual.

Agathon
Kestikuja 1 E 47
00650 Helsinki
Finland

HAVEN IN SHADOWS
"Moments of honour"
-demo'97 *

I still wonder why the hell almost every band must do their first demo with such shitty soundquality? Haven In Shadows's music isn't bad at all. Slow dark metal with unique ideas, but as the soundquality is shit I will not recommend you to buy this. Hopefully they will go to real studio next time. This one costs you 20 FIM/4 USD in Scandinavia/5 USD in elsewhere and the address is:

Haven In Shadows
c/o
Sorakuja 4 D 36
01350 Vantaa
Finland



HEADBANGERS AGAINST DISCO VOL.2

-7"ep'97

(Primitive Art Records)

Here we have Primitive art's second assault against disco... Well, at first appears **Usurper** from USA with their song "Anno Satanas"... Really great song following the footsteps of **Celtic Frost**. Then we have Swedish **Unpure** with their "Metal Night"... Also quite good stuff. I like the drumming here. And then the last and in my opinion best song, **Vulcano's** "Witches sabbat" performed by Swedish **Nifelheim**. I haven't heard (or remember I've heard) the original version, so I can't say if it is a good version or not, but it at least sounds great... Support the Headbangers against disco-campaign by ordering this 7"ep for the price of 40 SEK (Scandinavia)/8 USD (world).

Primitive Art Records
P.O. Box 4049
SE-300 04 Halmstad
Sweden

HORDE FROM THE WOODS
"Thousand soul dance"
-Reh.demo'96 *

Well... how the hell anyone can review tapes with such bad sound quality as here. I can't hear any riffs clearly, all I can say is that when you order this tape you will only get some fucking cows ruminate and nothing else. Yes, here is for you good choice: Start to drink and scream and record it with shitty cassette recorder, it sounds almost same as this tape, only thing what differs is that your screaming will sound more funny. Fuck, this is like two pigs fucking and top of all it seems they have forgotten the condom!!!! Oh, I must mention that this band plays Pure Trollish Hateful Forest/Black metal... Sounds funny, doesn't it?

Horde From The Woods
c/o Nightowl
Ekenäsvägen 33
10300 Koris
Finland

IKUINEN KAAMOS
"Tulivarjot"
-demo'97 *

I don't know what to say, except that this one sucks really badly! Again a new Finnish attempt continuing the true story of Finland's black metal scene. People don't know how to play their instruments, vocalist sounds like he is singing under the water. Ridiculous riffs, quite bad soundquality and one of the most stupid band name I have ever seen (Ikuinen Kaamos means "Eternal Polar Night"). Again I can tell you little comparison: "If Ikuinen Kaamos was a human, he would probably be a nigger!". Price is unknown, but you can always ask it from:

Jarno Ruuskanen

Saarijärventie 21 C 48
70460 Kuopio
Finland

I RISE IN FLAMES
II

-demo'97 *

Even if Finnish black metal scene isn't the best one, fortunately we have some other great bands. **I Rise In Flames** could be labelled as melodic death metal, but to me it sounds definitely more than that. It sounds like they have got influences from many kind of music styles from rock to black metal and the result is very good! It's dark, heavy and atmospheric and as this four track demo includes also great soundquality, I can highly recommend you to send 20 FIM/5 USD to:

I Rise In Flames
c/o Ilpo Paasela
Angervotie 26
01390 Vantaa
Finland

MYRKHEIMR
"Ravenlord"
-demo'97

Haa, new Finnish Black Metal band... Their debut (?) demo contains four their own songs and Myrkheimr's interpretation of **Mayhem's** "Freezing Moon". At first we get their own songs... Under the awful sounds I can hear some horrible riffs and shitty vocals... I guess their guitarist had played guitar two weeks before recording of this demo. Then "Freezing Moon", sucks really badly I must say. Luckily it stops until the end (cover of the demo says that tape ran out in "Freezing Moon", hihi!) then we get something better, something from **Pantera** I guess. I don't know the price for this one, but who would care anyway? If you are true enough you can of course ask for the price from:

Tuomas Leinonen
Hevostie 4 as. 2
70780 Kuopio
Finland

NECROMORBUS
"Awaiting the arrival"
-demo'96

The second demo of Swedish **Necromorbus** includes six songs of typical black metal with some nice additional clean vocals and some not so nice folkish synth-parts. Not bad demo I think, but I must say I prefer the other bands where **Necromorbus** (the person) is beating drums named **Funeral Mist** and **Superior**. Available for 30SEK/5 USD from:

Necromorbus
c/o Stjerna
Skridskovägen 2
S-17545 Järfälla
Sweden

NEPHENZY
"Stolen Blessing"
 -demo'96

Nephenzy answers directly to the question of typical Swedish metal with their debut demo. So I guess you all know what their music is all about, but anyway... mainly fast and melodic black/death metal, some strongly Unanimated-like melodies are found here, so all you fans of Swedish melodic metal buy this four song including tape by sending 30 SEK/5 USD to:

Adrian Kaneback
 Stenstorpsv. 26
 58935 Linköping
 Sweden

SUPERIOR
"Metamorphosis"
 -demo'96

Again a great band from Sweden. Two songs and intro are included on this tape. Music is something like a mixture out of Mayhem and

Taake
 c/o Stedjeberg
 Bjorgedalen 49
 5033 Fyllingd
 Bjorgvin
 Norway

THYRFING
"Hednaland"
 -demo'96

Swedish Thyrfing performs some kind of epic Viking metal with surprisingly good quality on their second demo. I don't fucking know how to describe the music, but when thinking about their influences the first band came to mind was Storm. Hell, check this out yourself! Five songs + intro & outro are included on this professional tape with full-coloured cover. 30 SEK/5 USD to:

Patrik Lindgren
 Stjärnvägen 4 A
 135 55 Tyresö
 Sweden

uninteresting without even a slight touch of originality, to the end I might add: Withered Garden is more like a fist in your own face than fist in the face of God!!! Price is 20 FIM/5 USD...

Withered Garden
 Heinontie 30
 33680 Tampere
 Finland

Zineš

AMORTIZATION
 #2

Finnish black metal mag. with coloured covers, bad picture quality, Kill Yourself!!!-like lay-out and boring interviews with Gehenna, Dimmu Borgir, Azazel, Ancient, Dark Throne, Burzum, Dark Funeral and much more. Some articles about witchcraft and Satanism, which are quite badly materialized. 80 pages of dullness printed on this mag. There is better publications to waste your money on...Contact:

Toni Rachalme
 Uramontie 5
 11100 Riihimäki
 Finland

DARK MOON
 #4

Dark Moon just seems to stay on it's style, #4 is lay-out-wise almost identical with Tommi's previous publication. The quality of the content itself has increased since #3, interviews are a bit more interesting for me at least... Barathrum, Tiermes, Centinex, Proscriptor/Absu, Opera IX, En Garde and some others are interviewed. If you await lots of evil mask-photos and interviews with famous Norwegian bands, I guess this is not a 'zine for you! Rest send 20 FIM/5 USD to:

Darkmoon 'zine/prod.
 c/o Tommi Hakonen
 Elementinpolku 19 B 26
 33270 Tampere
 Finland

EXSTINCTIO SENSUS
 #2

Second issue of Spanish Exstinctio Sensus could be count as standard magazine with glossy covers. Drawing on the back cover is extremely untalented, to me it seems like it is drawn by ten years old kid. Well, to the content itself... Featured bands are Dimmu Borgir, Covenant, Melek Taus, Gehenna, Kampfar, Nattvindens Gråt, Helheim and lots of others. Lay-out is quite dull and interviews tend to bore me a bit, but maybe you will get the pleasure out of them, so check this out for price of 6 USD in Europe and 7 USD rest of the world. Contact:

Raul Jiménez
 Apartado 1043

28915 Leganés (Madrid)
 Spain

HYMNI
 #1

Hmm, new Finnish 'zine... Oh my god... Striga's shitband Arthame is featured here, he he! Well, let's get to the point now... If this 'zine is meant to introduce the Finnish scene, the editor has succeeded here. Yet I should be rather shamed to live here when looking the answers of f.ex. band called Crimson Evenfall or some others. Interviewed bands are Darkwoods My Betrothed, Diaboli, Withered Garden, Throne Of Chaos and others. Hymni contains somewhat 30 pages and glossy covers, but I must say that content sucks badly... don't get this too hard editor, it's not totally your fault. Hymni is by the way written in Finnish... 20mk to:

Hymni'zine
 Tuomas Ohman
 Kirkkojärvi 431
 49899 Hamina
 Finland

I CAME FROM DARKNESS
 #5

Here we have latest edition of Finnish I.C.F.D. magazine with good printing and ok lay-out as earlier, but somehow I feel kind of disappointed to fifth issue after it's two great predecessors. Interviews tend to get a bit dull and choice of the featured bands isn't the best possible as I am more than bored to read an interview with Behemoth and Marduk. Of course here is some interesting interviews as well like Gehennah, Tormentor and Luciferion. Beside these interviews also Emperor, Rotting Christ, Ragnarok, Det Hedenske Folk and some others are included on this 40 page strong magazine. I would still say that I.C.F.D. belongs to magazine-elite of Finland, so support by ordering issue #5 for 20 FIM/5 USD from:

I Came From Darkness Magazine
 c/o Northwind
 Karhumäenkatu 1
 53850 Lappeenranta
 Finland

IMHOTEP
 #3

Well here we have third issue of Imhotep magazine and I must say it's a really impressive one, in fact I would dare to say it's the best magazine I've ever read. Ingredients to reach this classification are mainly Roy's (the editor) intelligent and always so critical questions and good lay-out on glossy paper. Also Englishman named Russ Smith has contributed great interviews with Bal-Sagoth, Misanthropy records and Golden Dawn to Imhotep #3. Beside these the interviewed bands are Dark



Tunrida

Dissection. Ok sounds, great riffs and brilliant vocals are presented in both songs, which contain really great dark atmosphere. Only thing, which I don't like is the way lyrics are written, but at least their lyrics are satanic like it should be, so no winterforest shit here! Send 20 SEK/4 USD to:

Superior
 c/o Leviathan Forge
 Tegelbruksg. 9
 582 55 Linköping
 Sweden

TAAKE
 "s/t"
 -7"ep'96"

At first I must say I don't know who has released this or is this even released, I just have this on tape... Hmm, three songs of raw black metal with some folk-influences. First song "Blant solv &..." is quite good and the others aren't bad either, but the music is overall quite boring. Taake was by the way known earlier under the name Thule and they released two demos and one reh.demo under that name. If you're interested write to:

TUNRIDA
"Eternal twilight"
 demo-'97

This new Finnish band deliver us boring black metal with a little touch of originality. Music is quite symphonic with synths in the background almost all the time. Vocals are bad and almost everybody could write lyrics like Tunrida's in half an hour. Still I think Tunrida owns some potential, so keep the name in mind! This four-song tape costs 20 FIM/5 USD.

Tunrida
 c/o P.Peltonen
 Juvantie 4 b 18
 51900 Juva
 Finland

WITHERED GARDEN
"Watcher in the nightsky"
 -demo'97 *

It isn't the music only what sucks in this demo, but the labelling: "Atheistic black/death metal". Really, can black metal be atheistic? It sounds as stupid as "satanic Viking metal". Anyway, Withered Garden's music is nothing but boring and

Funeral, Abigor, Monumentum, Empyrium, Moonspell, Bethzaida, Wallachia and lots of others. Total amount of pages is as high as 80, so you must be total fool if you won't order this immediately. 50 NOK/8 USD should be sent to:

Imhotep Magazine
R.K.
Granneskleiva 18
4044 Hafslfjord
Norway

ISENGRIM #1

Good debut from this Finnish magazine I must say. Intelligence of the editor shines through his writings and English is surely above average. Bands featured are **Dodheimsgard, Funeral Mist, Necromorbus, Fleurety, Crimson Midwinter** and bunch of others, there is also cool article concerning Eurononymous and Varg Vikernes included. Lay-out is rather dull and simple, but as this seem to be only negative thing in this magazine I encourage you all to order Isengrim #1 for 20 FIM/5 USD from:

Isengrim Magazine
c/o Kristian Piilila
Mechelininkatu 13 A 14
00100 Helsinki
Finland

KILL YOURSELF!!! #5

Again Kill Yourself!!! have managed to deliver us some nice reading with interviews of bands like **Abruptum, Bathory, Demonic, Triumphator** and surprise **Marduk & Behemoth** + some others. This magazine is made with good and honest attitude and interviews are mainly interesting and total amount of pages is 42. Send 20 FIM/5 USD to:

Esa Lahdenperä
Hallikuja 8a 3
11100 Riihimäki
Finland

NORDIC VISION #8 & #9

Norwegian Nordic Vision must be one of the most professionally working metal magazine without being highly commercial. At least four issues in a year, full-coloured cover, totally on glossy paper, I think it tells it all. Yet consisting all this, I must admit not belonging to fans of this magazine and reason is found from the interviews, they

are mainly extremely boring as they aren't dealing with topics like religion, personal opinions etc., but only with things concerned to the band and as you might understand it gets boring quite quickly, particularly when you have read more in-depth ints with same bands from other mags. Nordic Vision also includes cool Christfighter union-section, which usually contains some nice reading. So, issue #8 feature such bands as **Borknagar, Infernø, Emperor, Dark throne** and some others. Issue #9 features **Enslaved, Immortal, Satyricon, The Electric Hellfire Club, Bolt thrower** and some others. It's good to notice that #9 shows some progression in the side of interviews, so await the issue #10.

SCRIPTURES OF MALIGNANCY #2

Well, to start with... I laughed almost all the time while reading this 'zine, because of great humour presented all the time. I don't know if many of you like to read questions like "Did you sleep well on my couch last night?", but I would say, if you drink a lot you will like this, and if not, it's about time to start! Well, the bands featured are **Dissection, Evol, Funeral Mist, Xenofanes, Gehennah, Desaster, Superior** and some others. Lay-out is quite good in my eyes, yet I don't like the fact that in the most ints the right edge isn't smoothed. This 'zine is by the way made by Mörk & Nord from Malign. Price for this is 30 SEK/5 USD. Available from

Nord's address!

SOLUZEN #4

Fourth issue of this German magazine seem to belong to the group of interesting ones. One minus must be big differences in quality of the interviews as there is eight individuals working for this mag., for example interview with **Nordlys** is hugely below the general quality of the included stuff. Here are some really great and interesting ints like the one with **Swordmaster** and of course one with **Fenriz**. With interviews of **Bathory, Decoryah, Summoning, again Behemoth, Nagelfar** and the ones mentioned above + some others, total amount of pages raises to 72 with quite small typing. So buy this printed good quality mag. for 8 DM/6 USD from:

Soluzen Fanzine
c/o Andreas Lacher
Senator-balcke-str. 101
28279 Bremen
Germany

TALES OF THE MACABRE #4

Costa has finally unleashed his fourth issue and yeah, it fulfilled my expectations after great previous issues. Negative sides on this mag. are reviews and similarity of the interviewed bands. Featured bands are **Absu, Bathory, Nifelheim, Root, Infernäl Mäjesty, Barathrum, Decayed, Warhammer, Mortem** and some others. Also interesting interview with **Merciless records** is included. Interviews are of guaranteed T.O.T.M-quality, yet as the bands

are playing so similar style of music, the answers are in some cases almost same. This mag. is nothing for the fans of Norwegian black metal, but people into the metal of 80's very recommendable magazine. 52 pages in great printing quality. I don't know the price for this, but write to:

Costa Stoios
Brunnenstr. 6
54538 Kinderbeuern Hetzhof
Germany

USVA #2 *

I don't know what to say... The quality is far more better than in the first issue, but still I have quite negative feelings about this. I just hate to see interviews with questions like "Are you a Satanist?" or "Do you want to die?", with this kind of questions the answers are also same shit, like f.ex. to the first question: "No I'm not and I'll never be.". It makes me very boring. In some interviews questions are far more better, but as it is only in few ints I would preferably close this 'zine and start to read something more interesting. Bands featured here are: **Kyprian's circle, Wizard, Muspellsheim, Reaper** and some others. Lay-out is quite good (only text could be a little bit smaller in some ints), but the contents is not my taste. Pages here are 36/A4, but I don't know the address because it's strike out for some reason. Maybe the editor has moved or something.

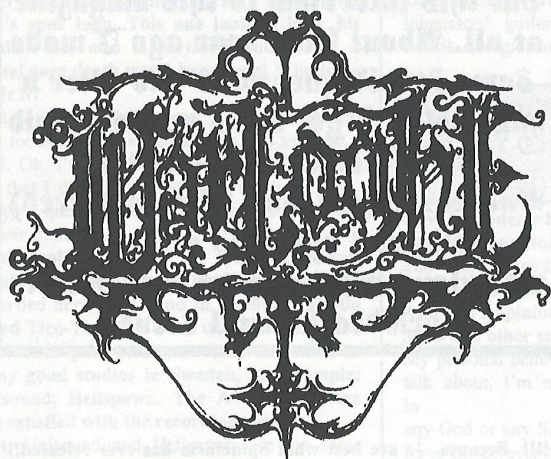
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Warloghe was found under the shining fullmoon anno 1995 by Morath and Glaurung. From the very beginning it has been Warloghe's goal to create gloomy music from the darkside with the spirit of extreme antichristianity, so the choice for the musical genre seemed quite obvious; black metal.

Warloghe's lyrical concepts are blackened tales from the lost ages, crushing spells of darkness and hymnals of death to the christianmen...

The first fist to the face of God, Warloghe's first demo, was recorded in December '96, titled "The black tower". The line-up on this release was: Glaurung of wyrmfall-vocals/guitars/bass, Morath-battery.

Demo contains 17min (3 hymns and an intro) of primitive black metal with the medieval spirit, very promising demo, but still nothing what I would praise. Anyway, it shows that this band has potential to do very mighty and evil music someday. If we have

to compare Warloghe's music to some other bands, maybe Graveland is nearest. Check it out yourself! Glaurung has written all the music and lyrics.

In the spring of '97 Warloghe's line-up grew. Nazgul from another Finnish black metal band, Horna, joined to play bass. The main reason for this was that Warloghe can now play shows of live desecration.

It has been planned that Warloghe's next release might be a 7"ep. The day of unleasment has been scheduled somewhere in the autumn. The new songs are much more complex and mightier than the songs on the debut release, but of course they too have that black primitivity of Warloghe.

Incoming is the black death for the children of light, a triumph to the glory of darkness. Warloghe is the spell that will destroy the false God and all who stand in his so-called light...

"Black tower"-demo costs you 20 fim (Finland, 5 usd (Europe), 6 usd (world and EM-countries). Watch out for forthcoming Warloghe releases!!

Warloghe
c/o Morath
Lehtishaka c1
40900 Säynätsalo
Finland

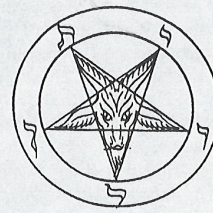
Warloghe
c/o Glaurung
Torikatu 31
40900 Säynätsalo
Finland

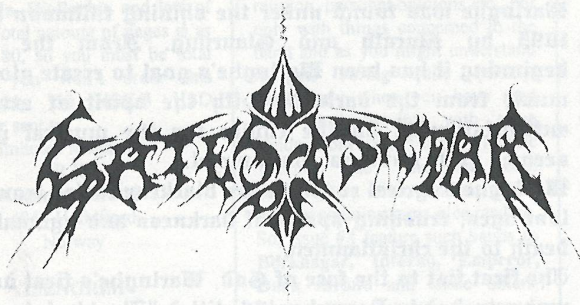


Morath & Glaurung ready for war!



Morath





Oh fuck...I first planned to not put this interview to this magazine at all. About half year ago I made some stupid questions and after a huge delay I got some really stupid answers. I must say that Andreas's (the man who answered) religious opinions are most ridiculous what I have ever seen in black/death metal scene...

Boring history...

OK, a short answer to this boring and very unusual (*what a fucking unusual?-ed.*) question. Gates Of Ishtar was formed in February 1994 from the remains of a shitband with no important name, after that the way to a first demo recording seemed to be so long, so endlessly long. After some line-up changes we finally recorded our debut demo "Seasons of frost" in May 1995 and soon after that we got our record deal from Spinefarm recs. which we signed and booked the studio for the full-length album in Finnish Tico-Tico studios, we recorded from the 20th January till the 2nd February 1996 and the release was set till 1st of June 1996. After that album Gates Of Ishtar stood still in a few months, which led to new line-up changes. We also changed record label to German Invasion recs. Now we have just recorded our 2nd full-length album entitled "The dawn of flames" in Örebro at Dan Swanö's Unisound studios. Release date 24th of March 1997.

Was that a short answer? Well, I'm waiting for long ones... Once again I had to ask about bands latest release, which was at that time a debut CD "A bloodred path"...

I'm quite satisfied with "A bloodred path", but the only reason that it's not full-pointer is because of the old material which is on it, but it's a great album to do a debut with. Our 2nd album will crush the 1st to the bottom, I can assure you buy it or die!!!

Well, I will not buy it (no money...) and I will surely not die yet (hoh hoo hoo...heh)! What was the reason to play Wasp covertrack "I wanna be somebody" in that album? Is Wasp maybe the biggest influence for Gates Of Ishtar?

The reason to take the Wasp song is maybe because Wasp is a fucking great band and "I wanna be somebody" is a great old heavy metal opus, about Wasp being an influence to us I can't agree, it's no fucking influence to us, we play the music we find great and take influences from all great stuff that we hear from every musical genre (*What is your fucking point here. First you said that Wasp is a great band, then you said that Wasp is not your influence and then you said that you take influences from all great stuff that you hear?-ed.*) Do you find some Wasp influences in our music so please name them because I can't find any in any place???

It doesn't have to be heard, you don't have to steal riffs or anything. Your music doesn't have to be same kind, I get influences to my

synth music from black metal!!!! Because Gates Of Ishtar's history is (or at least was...) very unknown for me, I had to ask if G.O.I made any demos before their debut CD...

We only released one "real" demo before the CD, but also some promos which never were for sale. Ok, what can I tell you about the demo it's called, as I earlier said, "Seasons of frost", it contains four tracks of brutal fucking melodic dark metal, it was recorded in a local studio in Luleå and the result was great in my ears!! Pierre of Immortal Underground prod. will press it up on MCD after the release of the new album, maybe in April or something.

Huuh...Again some demo released on CD. Fuck, I don't know if it is out already, but I don't even care as I have heard this demo and it sounds like shit in my ears! "A bloodred path" came out from Spinefarm rec., again I asked some boring normal questions like: "Are you satisfied with Spinefarm's work?", "Why did you choose their deal?", "Was there any other labels in alternatives?" and so on...Blaa blaa...

I don't discuss about the Spinefarm deal because we're not on that label anymore. As also earlier said we're on Invasion recs. Yes we got other offers and after Spinefarm too, but that's unimportant right now. We have a great record label which works professionally and are great people, no meaning that Spinefarm weren't, they were great guys! Hi Ewo good luck with the label!!!

"Thy Serpent and Beherit are shitbands that plays shit music."

What about other bands which are or were in Spinefarm like: Dark Tranquillity (Skydancer), Thy Serpent (Forest of witchery), Beherit (Drawing down the moon), Sentenced (North from here)...

My opinion about the other bands is that Sentenced's "North from here" is a great album and the Dark Tranquillity CD also is a masterpiece, but Thy Serpent and Beherit are shitbands that plays shit music (*What a fuck, no one has ever said me that Thy serpent plays shit music before you!-ed.*)...You can't like everything!!

Let me tell you one thing: "Forest of witchery" is far more better than "A bloodred path" (even though it's not a bad one either...) and both Thy Serpent releases

are best what Spinefarm has ever released!! Hail Thy Serpent!!!! Something about Gates Of Ishtar's music...

The music in Gates Of Ishtar is mostly made by Mikael and me, we make the music and then when we rehearse the whole group puts it together in the best way. We don't have any special source of inspiration, when you make music it just comes and it's after that you can tell if it's similar to any other bands music which in our case it never are!!! At least I hope not...

Are you saying that Gates Of Ishtar is an original band?? Well, everybody can have their own opinions... How would you categorize your music? What would you say about your music to someone who has never heard metal?

We play melodic, straight, dark heavy metal and to someone that never heard metal I can tell that it's aggressive music up in your ass or in your face.

Talking about your lyrical side...Shortly: Who makes your lyrics and what are they about?

The lyrical side stands Mikael and Harald (our ex-bassist) for, but the lyrics mostly contains about nature and other mystical stuffs, just things that are interesting.

There was some printing mistakes in the covers of your debut CD, some lyrics were changed in songs "A bloodred path" and "Into seasons of frost", besides that there wasn't lyrics for song called "The dreaming glade" at all...Were those Spinefarm's mistakes?

The printing mistakes on or in the booklet were Spinefarm's mistake, they did a shitty work for the album, I mean a professional label won't make such mistakes on a record with their name on it (*I agree!-ed.*), at least not me if I had a label, but I think they were a little bit pissed off at us for some reason, but that's between them and us!!

Talking more about your covers...Your coverdrawing looks like a fucking comic-drawing and it's very childish, what was the reason to use that drawing, isn't it a bit too colourful?

I agree with you to 11000% about the coverpainting, we were going to use a English artist in the beginning named Alex Kurtagic, but Spinefarm changed their minds and found this Finnish local hero-painter that simply couldn't paint. They behaved like shit about that and I'm still frustrated about that. Yes, it's too colourful

and besides all the wrong colours it still looks like a comic-paper drawing!!!

Well, there was also another thing in your cover which sticks out like a sore thumb and that's your logo...This one looks a little bit childish too and it certainly looks like a Brutal gore death metal-band logo! Who have made it?

Well so you think that my personally drawn logo looks like a Gore-metal logo (*Oh yes I do...-ed.*). Ok, I'm open for criticism, but I can tell you that I don't agree with you on that matter. On your question about "who did the logo" the answer is...Me!!!

It still looks terrible in my eyes, maybe you should stop drawing... "A bloodred path" was recorded here in Finland in legendary studio called Tico-Tico, but what was the reason for that? It is quite strange, 'cause there are so many good studios in Sweden, for example: Unisound, Hellspawn, The Abyss etc.? Are you satisfied with the recording result?

First, Unisound and Hellspawn are the same thing (*Yes, I knew that, I was just so fucking drunk when I made these questions!-ed.*) and second, Tico-Tico is as good as all the named studios (*...And third, rumours have told me that Unisound and The Abyss has both finished their work...-ed.*), maybe even better, but it was a choice we made with Spinefarm and a good one too because it's only 20 miles from Luleå. Ahti Kortelainen was a great man to work with, we planned to go to Tico-Tico again, but it became Unisound and the result are even better than Tico-Tico's!!!

Rumours told me that Gates Of Ishtar had another band name earlier, is that right? What does Gates Of Ishtar mean?

No, we didn't have any other band name before G.O.I, that's just rumours (*Oh, I just heard about some The Red Ishtar thing...-ed.*). Gates Of Ishtar comes from the Babylonian mythology, Ishtar is a goddess which stands for death and hate and the whole story about her is quite interesting, so read it!! (*I have already read about Ishtar, when people start to understand that I'm not making these questions only for myself. I thought if some of our readers doesn't know the meaning of Ishtar-ed.*) It's also a good band name in my way of thinking.

"Gates Of Ishtar will never be a satanic wimp band."

Tell me about your line-up changes, why Henrik Åberg left you or did you kick him out? What's your line-up nowadays?

Our line-up is now in a very stabile way and on your question why Henrik Åberg left was because we kicked him out, at that time his views on religious stuff was not shared with the other members of Gates Of Ishtar because Gates Of Ishtar will never be a satanic wimp band (*Be prepared all you Satanists, Andreas just said that you are wimps. Who knows, maybe he will come to beat you someday, ha haal-ed.*), we doesn't mix music and religion that's two completely different things (*would it be mixing of religions and music if your drummer would be Satanist? Fuck, he doesn't have to scream Satan in your releases and his drumsounds aren't really more satanic than in any other band. Get it?-ed.*), but things are better now and Henrik is back with us now behind the drums (*is he now so fucking Christian that you have brave to play with him?-ed.*). Niklas is also as Oskar gone from the Mighty Gates, Niklas is replaced

by a guy from Stockholm named Daniel Röhr and Oskar replaced by Henrik and it just works out fine, better than ever in fact. The line-up looks like this: Mikael Sandorf/Vocals, Andreas Johansson/ guitars, Tomas Jutenfäldt/guitars, Henrik Åberg/drums, Daniel Röhr/bass.

"I don't have anything against Christians, Jews or Muslims, do you?"

Now I wonder what Andreas might answer to our next question about his personal beliefs and what about those pentagrams and upside down crosses in G.O.I band photos? What is Andreas's opinion about Christians, Muslims, Jews and other stupid "faggots"?

My personal believes are something up to me to talk about, I'm not a Satanist, I don't believe in

any God or any Satan. just in the good and evil force inside every human being. Sometimes the evil takes over and sometimes the opposite. I don't have anything against Christians, Jews or Muslims, do you? (*Yes, I certainly do!!!-ed.*) I can't see what they have done for me, everyone must have right to believe what the fuck they want as well as the Satanist and his belief. (*I really have to mention one disagreement what you have said: You just told us while ago how you kicked Henrik out from G.O.I because he was a Satanist and now you are talking about everyone's right to believe what the fuck they want? Have I understood something wrong, doesn't Henrik have his right to believe what the fuck he want?-ed.*). The only thing that I can say is that I think it's silly and stupid to submit any God or anything else, be your own God and bow down to yourself. About Niklas wearing pentagrams and upside down crosses. he must speak for himself, but I know that he's not a Satanist, he just wears it in a provocative way (*I can't understand what you mean?-ed.*). Answer in your question, Gates Of Ishtar is no satanic band and will never be!!! We're just a musical constellation!!!

What kind of persons Gates Of Ishtar's members really are? Are they lonely misanthropists or smiling alcoholists? I asked Andreas to introduce all members...

I don't have time to introduce all members one on one, but I can say that we are gang of crazy people with music as our biggest love, but also the bottle fits us very good on Friday and Saturday evenings!!

Oh fuck, again a fucking usual question, what do you think about Sweden's metal scene and how would you compare it to Finland's one?

Sweden's metal scene is very good indeed, it's just petty that Dissection and At The Gates now split up, but other great bands as Dark Tranquillity, In Flames,

Sacrilege, Everdawn, Naglfar and of course Gates Of Ishtar still rules the Swedish sky!! Compared to Finland's scene I don't know, because I don't know much about it except that Sentenced that once was a great band now sucks!! (*Fuck you, Sentenced is now far more better than ever!-ed.*) That's a shame!! So you can say that Sweden's scene is greater and bigger, sorry!!!!

I know that Sweden's scene is greater and bigger than our one, but other bands than which you mentioned rules the Swedish sky, bands like: Marduk, Dark Funeral, Bathory and of course Gehennah, Bewitched, Malign (Hail Mörk!) and many others...

Rumours told me that Gates Of Ishtar have had some problems with another Swedish band called Necromicon, what problems? Is Necromicon just a joke band?

I don't know where those rumours comes from (*It just came because your drummer Henrik played in Necromicon sometime ago-ed.*), but I can't say that we are the best friends with the Necromicon guys. About their music, I don't know what to say, they can't play and when they try it just don't go, a fucking bad joke-band's what they are, yes!! They have much more attitude than musical knowledge!! So fuck off image wimps!!!

Well, I don't know who is wimp here, but at least I heard that Henrik was kicked out from Necromicon because he's a trendy-gay, weak and fatso! So, who is talking about wimps now? What bands do you respect and what bands you don't respect at all?

I respect the bands that puts their time in making good music that comes from their souls, not all those fucking image bands with their corpse-painted childish fucking faces, I don't think that that looks any bit evil just fucking pathetic (*Maybe you should watch your own photos, who is looking pathetic?-ed.*). Some bands the I respect are: At The Gates, Dark tranquillity,



**ANDREAS JOHANSSON
GUITAR**

Theatre Of Tragedy, Moonspell, Cradle Of Filth, December Moon.

Only future plans are left...

Our next release is called "The dawn of flames" and are a 44 minutes long opus of the most brutal and intense music. We recorded it in the Unisound studios as the last band there ever because Swanö is going to close the gates to Unisound forever... Release date is set to the 27th of March 1997 and it will be released on our new label Invasion records, so buy it when it comes, it will surely kill!!!!

Sorry to say, but I only hope that it will kill this band... Nothing more to say, so the end is all yours...

Thanks for this interview, mostly intelligent questions, I must say that's kind of rare these days in the fanscene!! Good luck with the 'zine and here's the new address for our band!!!

Gates Of Ishtar
c/o Invasion rec.
PO BOX 2119
15707

Königs Wusterhausen
Germany

Well, that was Andreas, I did this interview first for Niklas, but as he is now out from the band, Andreas answered...I don't know if there's anyone who agrees with me, but I found Andreas's opinions very stupid. I haven't heard their new album yet, but I have heard some opinions about it like this: Too much Bon Jovi influences (Nordic Vision nro.9), so the question is, is it the most brutal music?



permanant member later because he fitted perfectly into Alghazanth by his musical as well as spiritual side. The first Alghazanth demo "Behind the frozen forest" was unleashed on December 1996. It was recorded with a four-tracker, so the sounds aren't the best that one was heard. Demo contains 3 tracks of freezing Black Metal as the flyer said. In other words it contains 3 tracks of most typical Black Metal with mostly shitty riffs and as I mentioned earlier, the sounds are quite poor. Even if I didn't like it, it has received lots of positive comments which is kind of a mystery to me and Alghazanthians themselves (the thing is that they hate the demo from all of their frozen hearts!). Line-up change happened in the beginning of 1997. Dremnoc got kicked out from Alghazanth due to his lack of right character and poor playing skills. No new members were needed because Thasmorg took also Dremnoc's job on his shoulders. New material spawned from the dark minds of the Alghazanthians and soon they had five songs finished. That material was totally on a different level than the material on "Behind...". Now music could be described as atmospheric and majestic Black Metal as the music could have been called only "primitive" on "Behind...". On may 1997 Alghazanth entered the studio to record their second demo "Dim is the moon's light". This time we can hear some nice melodies unlike in "Behind...", but there are still some things which could be better like the vocals which are quite weak. Still this opus shows us the unbelievable progression that happened after the first demo. "Dim is..." has received piles of praises for its atmosphere, riffs, majestic synths, variation etc. That all has encouraged the Alghazanthians to try if they can get some kind of deal with this second creation. So the future is now hidden in the mist... After the second demo I have heard two new hymns from Alghazanth as a rehtape and that shows again very much progression as now the music is more original and unique, also vocals are much better than in the demo, so I think that this band really deserves some kind of deal. You can order "Dim is the moon's light" by sending them 20 FIM/ 5 USD (Europe)/6 USD (R.O.W.). By the way, demo contains great coloured and printed covers with band photos etc.

Alghazanth
c/o Sorath Moonthorn
Välitie 14
41310 Leppävesi
Finland

Alghazanth is a band that plays Black Metal in an atmospheric yet gruesome vein. The existence of this four-piece band began in September 1995 when Sorath (drums) and Veilroth (guitars) decided to form Alghazanth. Soon they realized that it didn't work out the way they wanted with only two members and so Thasmorg (vocals & guitars) and Dremnoc (bass) were added to the horde. Now the line-up was almost full, only synthplayer wasn't found yet. But after amazingly short period of search they found a capable synthplayer named Antti. He started as a session member, but became a

**Couple of frozen hearts, Sorath (up)
and Thasmorg (down)**



The four mysteries spirits from the kingdom of Alghazanth:

Sorath Moonthorn: Drums
Thasmorg: Vocals, bass, guitars
Veilroth: Guitars
Antti: Synths

Synkkää musaa Tikkurilasta

Cd:t - Lp:t - Demot - Zinet

Ostaa Myy Vaihtaa

Cd:t 40- 45- 50mk

Demot 20mk

Zinet 20mk

Tule käymään! Ei puhelintiedusteluja!

ANTIKVARIAATTI

ANNO DOMINI

Kielotie 28

01300 Vantaa

Av. ark. 10-17.30 la 10-14

Hae meiltä flyeri, jolla alennusta
50mk:n ostosta 5mk, 100mk:n ostosta 10mk...

Kyprian's Circle

...Probably the most interesting band coming from Finland. Kyprian's Circle has released two demos so far called "In the mystique of the moonbeams" and "The nightwind tunes". Nothing more to say, Kyprian answered...

Hail Kyprian! Tell us first about the creation of Kyprian's Circle. What was the most important reason to create this band, to play such a music or to spread antichristian message?

- "Salve! Kyprian's Circle was formed in the middle of the year '94. However, all this started in my mind sometime '91, but the final command to born came '94. Yes, most important thing is still this kind of music."

Kyprian's Circle... Where has that name come from? Is it something you made-up yourself or has it something to do with these rituals of witches (you know, when they draw a circle to the ground with their knife/sword...)?

- "You're right. I made-up it myself, but as you noticed, there is some "ritual-thing"..."

You also use yourself name Kyprian, it's very usual to use pseudonym, but do you even call it your pseudonym (I mean is it more important to you than your "real" name...) and how long you have used such a name? Did you used it before you created any band or did you just take it because of band?

- "I have used "Kyprian" a few years now, and I gave this name for myself before K.C. was born, but I haven't used that name so much. It's more important than my "real" name, I hate it!

"Witches & witchcraft have always brooded in my mind and soul."

Everyone can see, because of your name etc., that you are very much interested in witchcraft, but how long you have studied it and what made you interested about it? What made you choose this dark path of life? Do you call yourself as a witch?

- "Witches & witchcraft has always brooded in my mind and soul. I really don't know, why I'm still wandering on this dark, nocturnal path... Yes, sometimes I call myself as a witch."

It is very usual that many people start to study these things like Satanism and witchcraft because they listen black metal, but is it same thing with you? Did black metal somehow showed you the way or did you studied these things before you listened black metal? Do you think that you would be studying such a things without existence of black metal?

- "Black metal a main thing?! Absolutely no! (????!! did I say anything like that?-ed.) But, my interest in this kind of things are still growing, and black metal is a big part of it..."

Few years ago it was really hard to find any books about Satanism and witchcraft etc. here in Finland, but now things have changed and

you can walk to library to borrow some good books, how do you see this? Why Satanism and such things have become so popular, isn't it mostly because black metal is nowadays so popular?

- "There is some negative and positive points. Black metal is surely one of the biggest reason to that. Things change anyway... and the "trend-kids" will die, one way or another..."

"Satanism is a power, self-respect... It scared the Christians."

You call yourself as an antichristian, am I right? What makes you fighting against Christians? I personally think that it would be very stupid to fight against something about what you don't know anything, do you agree with me and do you think that you know enough about Christianity? It is for me same thing that when people are saying that Satanism is dangerous without knowledge what Satanism really is...

- "Yeah, the Christian stupidity and weakness blowing my anger to the extremes. I think, I know a lot of Christianity, but you'll never know enough... Satanism is a power, self-respect... It scared the Christians."

You told me that your "real" name is given in the name of whopper, so you have been registered in Christian church when you were younger, am I right?

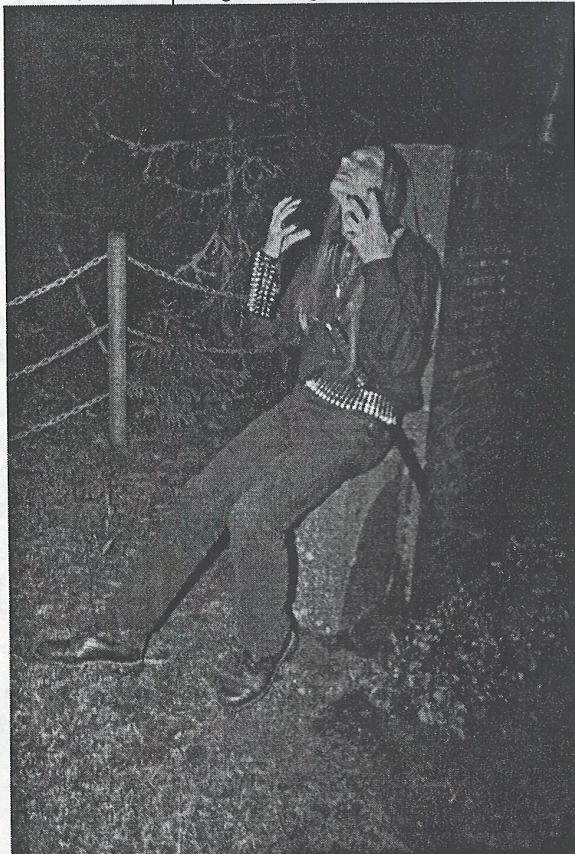
- "I don't wanna talk about this. Nothing more to say." What kind of "style" you have in fighting against Christians, are you in this burning of churches and desecrating of graveyards or are you more in legal

and emotional war against them? Do you think that whole Christianity could be destroyed someday (Doomsday...), I personally think that it is impossible because of several reasons...

- "I have not any style, I just do some music. Church burnings are ok, but I don't care about the grave desecrations. All will be destroyed someday, so I believe that the Christianity is gone, but when..."

At last it's time to talk about your music... Your second demo "The nightwind tunes" has been out quite long time now, are you still satisfied with it in all ways and have you got positive feedback about it? Please tell us few words about all songs on that demo, is some of them your favourite?

- "I'm still satisfied in that publication in every ways. Like musically also in my 1st made demo. "Into the northern crown", the darkest one of these songs. Simple, gloomy... "Dancing with trees", my own favourite. Melancholic work that includes medieval parts. "Hymn to thunders", a song including a lot of acoustic guitar with



thunder blessing. "The nightwinds tune", acoustic instrumental, funeral atmosphere and crying. I have had a lot of feedback and all excellent."

There was quite big change in your musical style after the first demo, why was that? I have to say that somehow I liked your first demo more (especially those medieval parts like intro...), but of course many things have gone to better way in this new demo. What is your opinion, how would you compare these demos? Your second demo sounds in some parts like Burzum, do you agree or not?

"I guess it was caused by the feelings at the moment. I do that kind of songs which born themselves, without any problems. I don't want to compare anymore between those two demos. It sounds like Burzum? Well, I can't answer that, 'cause I don't listen Burzum at all."

In your second demo you used many sessionplayers, what was of course good thing, but don't you think that someday you could get some permanent members to Kyprian's Circle? Will these session members from the second demo be featured in your future releases too?

"Visiting musicians will be changing, so new men is coming in. No regular members!"

Has your style changed much after second demo, what kind of music we will here next time? When it's time for you to release something new? Is there any new titles that you could give for us?

"We are going to the studio in next week. So new material is coming soon. Music has stayed pretty much "The nightwinds..."-lines. Besides those which comes up in next question, has born intro: Chryse planitian's lunarise".

"The sun's d-vitamin hasn't been near when I had been doing music or lyrics."

You said that you are not good with lyrics, but when I read your new lyrics ("Kun puhui myrskyn henki", "Surman liekki", "Hän saapuu öisin", "Verenne puhdistakaa") I find them very interesting, what the hell you are talking about (heh...)? These new lyrics has written in Finnish, what was the reason to change your language? In which mood you are when you are doing lyrics and does it matter is it day or night?

"In Finnish I can bring my thoughts better in question. The sun's d-vitamin hasn't been near when I had been doing music or lyrics."

So, you don't call your music as a black metal and I know that many have asked you why, and I think that your biggest reason is that you're not Satanist? But today it seems that many bands calls their music as black metal even tough they are not Satanists, they are just antichristian, so why Kyprian's Circle's music is not black metal? I think that using "dark metal" to describe music is still good idea, but it's very stupid when every band is nowadays using their own "labelling" like "Nordic metal", "holocaust metal", "barbaric war metal" or whatever fucking "satanic Viking metal", do you agree with this point? When reading flyers like this, people have no idea what kind of music band plays?

"Because my music really doesn't sound like it. Dark metal classification compatible there better.

You're right, that the most of the bands sounds just and only black metal, even they call themselves some fuckin' "frost metal". But there is always exceptions..."

How would you describe your music without words like "metal" etc.? In other words, how would you describe your music for someone who have never heard any metal music?

"Interesting question, hmm... It's mystic and evil, dark and cold, something that he/she has never heard before."

Isn't it truth that Kyprian's Circle will never do gigs, what is the reason? Do you think that gigs doesn't belong to this kind of music at all or has it something to do with the fact that you are only permanent member in this band? If Kyprian's Circle would do some gigs someday, what kind of live-show you would have?

"Yes, I never don't wanna do the gigs. I think that some bands are great in the platform, so gigs are welcome in bm-scene. If Kyprian's Circle sometimes play some shows, I think dark forest with torches will be rulers..."

How important Kyprian's Circle is for you, is it your whole life or is there something more important? How is your normal life anyway, have you job or school or something like that? Do you act always like a black metallist (wearing black clothes etc.) or is it just your image in Kyprian's Circle? Is it easy for you to be a black metallist in your normal life, when every brainless people are looking you like: Hey, that man worships Satan!?

"When you're making music for 8 years, you cannot live without it, so it's so fuckin' important. In black clothes I'm dressing almost every time, except in job, I'm wearing in blue clothes. I think my "normal" life is going well (I have a job). If some, as you said, brainless people think like that, it's not my problem. The main thing is that I know what I'm doing!"

"I'm not a violent person, but as you know, everything has a border."

When you have black clothes and long hair, many of these fuckin techno/hip hop kids starts to pick a fight (at least here in Vantaa), how do you act when this kind of things happens? Are you violent and do you like to use some weapons or just your fists? Do you carry weapons with you when you are walking in the street?

"Sometimes I got a knife in my pocket. A couple of times they have some problems with us, but those moments of black victory are still in my

memories... I'm not a violent person, but as you know, everything has a border."

It isn't enough that we have to fight against all those inanimate and brainless people, besides that many so called black metallist fight against each other, isn't it quite stupid? We all have our common enemy: Christians, and our common goal: to destroy Christianity. Shouldn't we gather our forces and start this war? Heaven shall burn... when we are gathered...

"I'm the individualist, so I don't care so much. That war is started a hundreds of years ago."

What will happen when death comes, you have said that there is no hell or heaven for you, what is there? Do you fear death or do you want it to come as soon as possible? How do you wanna die? Suicide... is the only way, do you agree with this opinion?

"Who knows?! I got my opinions. I'm not fearing of death! Why should I? It comes when it comes. I don't know about the suicide, or how I want to die. Time will tell."

"I'm very proud that pagan Finnish blood in my veins."

How much do you care about your (or our...) fatherland, Finland? Would you be ready for example die in war because of it? Are you proud of our lands history with all these winter wars (Antaa tulla tänne vaan!!!) etc.? Do you care about this lands future?

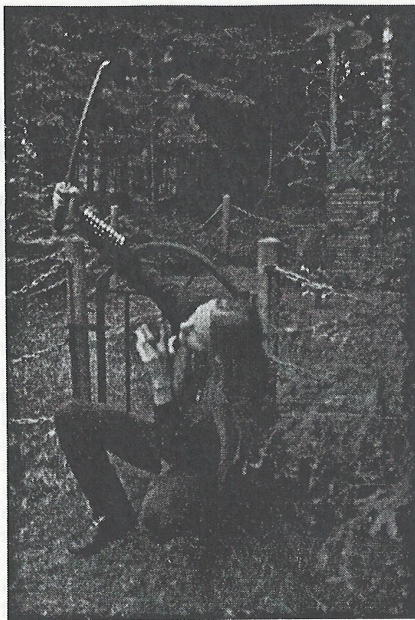
Absolutely I care my fatherland. If Finland has loosing own independence, I'll die, or... I'm very proud that pagan Finnish blood in my veins. Only this land deserves respect, not respect for the stupid popular... Again, time will tell."

Again... and again... and again we have to talk



about Finland's black metal scene. When we take a look to the past (something like 2 years ago), our scene was only full of shit, but now we have quite many great or at least good bands here like: Thy Serpent, Horna, Wanderer, Warloghe, Evemaster, Alghazanth, I rise in Flames, Maleficia and many more. I personally see our scene quite good, do you agree? Some people from other countries like to criticize our scene still, now it's your change to say something wise to them! Do you think that our scene could be someday as big as scene's from Norway and Sweden for example?

"Finnish genre is growing up all the time, but we have still a lot to do. In every scene, there's very much shit. Fuck that people who say our scene is bad. They are stupid and they don't know what is situation now. Hail Horna, Thy Serpent, Wanderer and Warloghe!" Even if our scene is quite good, still there is too much joke black metal bands coming, do you have any idea why the hell everyone starts some fuckin' joke band? Because of these joke bands, Finland has got so bad picture about its black metal scene, in the eyes of black metallists from other countries...



"Because the trend. All bands like this will be buried in forgetfulness..."

OK, I have nothing more to say... Take care Kyprian and thanks for your answers! Never give up the fight against Christians, we are here to desecrate...

"Huh! Thanks Striga. New material are coming out soon, under the title "Käärmeenkantaja". Write and ask for more info. I'll stop here now. "The moonlight shining in my black soul..." "

So, that was Kyprian. Like he said, you should ask for his new material, address is:

Kyprian Nurmi
Laurinkatu 24 A 19
08100 Lohja
Finland

Saapui Ichor niin
musta, että yökkin valoa
hohti. Ulväännä liehun
lehtemme, kun
vaellamme loppua kohti.

Poles Apart

Even if this band is already dead, I decide to put this article to here...The whole story is copied straight from biography what was made when Poles Apart still existed, so there are couple of things which has changed, but anyway...

"Poles Apart is a solo project of Sascha Falquet who might be known as the editor of the now defunct Skogen magazine. There isn't an exact date to mention as far as the forming of Poles Apart goes. The music and idea has been there for about a year so to say, but it wasn't until December 1996 everything started going for real. A name was chosen and the music that at that moment only existed as basic structure of the melodies was arranged and recorded during christmas time.

Poles Apart is an instrumental project, at least as of yet. The reason is quite simple, screaming vocals wouldn't fit in at all and at this point of time it's too early to try to work with melodic vocals because Sascha himself isn't the best singer and to find suitable personnel is not easy at all. Besides, Poles Apart's music is strong enough itself to entertain and doesn't get boring, even without lyrical outputs and without vocals.

The music is bit difficult to describe with one term because it is a mix of different types of music, but all of which share similar elements what is important for the fact that the mix doesn't sound forced. There isn't an intention to play this mix, it came naturally. Anyhow, the music is of a very atmospheric with a general melancholic tendency. There are elements of Classical music as well as slight reminiscences to Rock and Black metal music. All in all it's quite something its own. The music on the demo has gone through quite a massive development during a very short time. It all was intended to be pure ambient music without grounding instruments like guitars or drums. During the arrangement period in December it all changed though.

So, the debut demo cassette of Poles Apart incorporates both an ambient feeling as well as real moods, if you can say so. "Benevolence" includes three songs and an intro and outro which both have song-quality, what's important to say these days. The sound quality is an excellent quality as well. Another thing that's important to say nowadays, "Benevolence" was recorded at Sascha's home, directly from the synthesizer to the stereorack! And that's another special thing about Poles Apart, all music is created and recorded on a synthesizer, including guitars and drums. Anyhow, the quality of "Benevolence" proofs that this fact doesn't have negative affect on the music and the productions of Poles Apart.

Previous to Poles Apart, Sascha had only one official appearance which was on the "Sventebith" CD of the Polish black metal act Behemoth. These two songs were good for the time they were done, nowadays they are not satisfactory though. As songs itself they aren't bad, but the arranging and everything is not good due the technical utilities at that time being very poor.

Aside Poles Apart, Sascha also worked as contributor for a number of magazines, among them for the German Voices From The Darksides magazine on a regular basis."

This article turned to be quite useless, as I have lost the contact with Sascha and I don't know what he is doing nowadays. Anyway, feel free to write to Sascha and ask if you can still order that Poles Apart demo or some Skogen'zine issues...

Sascha Falquet, Jungholzstr. 60, CH- 8050 Zurich, Switzerland

AGATHODAIMON

Next we are proud to present you an interview with new promising band called Agathodaimon from the land of beer, yes you knew it, Germany! Agathodaimon belongs certainly to the elite of German metal-scene and so far they have released two great demos called "Carpe Noctem" and "Near Dark". Interview is made with Sathonys (guitar) and Vlad Dracul (vocals & keys), from which the latter one was at the moment visiting his native country, Romania... Well, at first Sathonys introduces the band...

-Sathonys: "The band was found in September after Matthias (drums) and myself (guitar) found good musicians to form a serious band. First we got in touch with Vlad (vocals & keys) and Marco (Bass), and after a few successful rehearsals we decided it would be good to take second guitarist to go for more complex structures. So just after a few weeks later Carl (guitar) joined us, and until now, we haven't changed this line-up. About all of us, as we're five individuals, it would be pointless if I'd try to describe the other guys. We differ in many things, but all have one important thing in common: The desire to create good music. And therefore we're a strong unit that works together very effective."

Next we discussed a little about Agathodaimon's musical influences...

-Sathonys: "Again, I can only speak for myself here. The bands that influenced me the most were such acts like Celtic Frost, Slayer, Iron Maiden, Samael, King Diamond, The Doors and lots of Black/Death-bands. Everyone of us has his special faves, but all in all we share the same taste of music, otherwise we'd never come to a decision how to write a song."

-Vlad Dracul: "Every interesting thing can influence us in the composing process, I, for example used to compose when I kindly slide into a melancholic, yet boring state of being. Other influences I can call the weather, the surrounding terrain, things that I've done, which I am thinking over, giving me new impressions, which lead to a sort of impulses, creating the need to express 'em through some musical vibrations etc. Also a falling leaf, in wet scenery, after a summer-rain, under the pale eyes of setting sun... or a corner of a room, that I am staring at, for a while, getting lost in it's abandoned existence... The list can easily be filled 'til infinity, but I rather stop now."

Your first release was really good "Carpe Noctem" from the last year. Are you still satisfied with it and did the result came out as you wanted Agathodaimon to sound at that time?

-Sathonys: "Yes, I'm still satisfied with it. It was recorded on only eight tracks, so therefore it's a good sound. And the songs are okay, we will use at least two of them for our debut-CD. The only thing we weren't pleased with were Vlad's vocals, but he had some problems with his throat the day we had to record the vocal lines. And as we only had eight tracks we could use,

we were limited in the song structures. But what the heck, as a first demo it was okay."

-Vlad Dracul: "I wasn't satisfied already back then, when we recorded it! Personally I was more impressed, how good it turned out, you know being our first studio-experience... Though I had some problems with my voice and we couldn't afford to record on 16 trax. Anyway it's a good demo indeed, some songs we'll re-mix", and re-arrange for our debut-album."

Recording of your latest demo "Near Dark" was partly paid by Century Media. How did you come up to that kind of deal and are you going to co-operate with Century Media in the future too? Have any other labels shown interest towards Agathodaimon?

-Sathonys: "As Century Media was the label I dreamt of (I always wanted to release something on it after "Blood ritual" of Samael was released, one of my all-time faves), they were the first label I sent a copy of our demo. But we didn't hear from them again... So I sent them again a copy, and finally Andy (A & R manager) rang me up, half a year after we sent them our demo. He said that they would be interested to hear more stuff, so we said we could record some new songs, but we couldn't afford to pay the studio costs. So they gave us some financial help. The result was our second demo "Near Dark", this time recorded on 16 tracks. They liked the new material and offered a contract, but it was quite tough contract! So I took a lawyer who gave us some hints what should be changed. We will hear from them in a few days, and then we'll see if we can sign a deal... if they insist on keeping the contract the way it is now, we'll decide for another label. We have enough other interested labels like Last Epitaph, Nuclear Blast, Merciless, Listenable, Voices etc."

Please tell us something about

your lyrics (of what they are dealing and so on). They are mainly in Rumanian at least in the first demo, so could you maybe give us some (translated) excerpts?

-Vlad Dracul: "There are always many, multiple views concerning the lyrics! Especially for the fact, 'cause I was using stories and verses from genius Romanian poets, giving the concept a pretty professional touch."





These Romanian lyrics fitted very well, and I couldn't have been writing them so efficiently and intense. For the first demo I was using more Romanian texts, that were dealing with suffering, sadness and the dark melancholic state of being ("Tristetea Vehementa, part I"), or expressing the disgust of religion and it's morale dogmas ("Sfintit cu roua suferintii"/"In umbra timpului") or even attacking the "good-side"-lyrically-trying to mention the inhuman things this Christian society isn't able to see (Dies Irae). It's more than a protest... For "Near Dark" I've taken only whole poem from the great Minulescu for "Banner of blasphemy". The title track I've written in English, being romantic story dealing with a relationship between a mortal and vampiress, not the usual stuff; it's a very long story for a very long track (like 10 min.), but I can write a little excerpt for the readers: "Near Dark":

- (Part one) - *This is a world blessed by the victims of carnal tragedy. The human ritual of love and adoration, dense-woven history. Sentiments decide existence, the artwork that I've bled. Bizarre she defined her presence with the lament of the undead. When her eyes have battled in danger and the moon had new design. In the cradle of our desire all the blood has turned to wine...*

- (Part three) - *In a park, along the alleys, stained with blood and tears. In the hour, when dusk disperses it's colors on the white statues. Then I'll wander as a phantom of posthumous regrets and my fiery lips I'll freeze with the kiss of these cold, unrivalled statues...*

- (Part four) - *Come forth, feline, tortured by our final duet, let thy pale fingers slide on the petals of the flowers that thee stained with mortal, coagulated blood... on the walls, midnight closes even the stoical eyes of the unsleeping portraits and the white-eye of a lonely candle falls asleep into it's own starling solitude...*

- (Part five) last one - *Nights were crystal clear- words were sent from pictures. The colors have seared- these pages, where as. The darkest hour revealed- the mysterious hand, which dutifully sealed- this episode's arcane end.*

Guess this will give you more than clue about our concept. It's full of metaphors."

How much you have put effort to promotion of Agathodaimon? How many copies have your demos been sold? And how the masses received your music? I suppose lots of good criticism have been received or...?

-Sathonys: "Much effort? Well, I spend between two and six hours everyday to promote this fucking band, so I'd say it's a lot of effort! I answer every letter as soon as possible and try to keep an eye on new magazines etc. Promotion is very necessary nowadays as there are so many bands out there... Sorry I can't tell you how many copies we've sold as I gave many of them to distributors like Last Epitaph, Merciless, Ars Metallii, Solistitium, Prophecy, Velvet Music etc., and I don't know how many they still have in stock. By the way, if there is any distributor in ordering some copies, write to me for wholesale prices. We still reach reliable distributors outside of Germany. How the masses (...) received our music? Well, we received very good reviews so far, from major to underground press. Many people write back after they order a demo to tell they like it very much and that they would like to get the other demo too. And concerning the label interest, we are very pleased with the resonance on our work so far."

After two successful demos, do you think you have found your own style? How do you think Agathodaimon will develop within couple of years?

-Sathonys: "Yes and no... it always sounds like Agathodaimon, but each song differs from the next, so we never know how our music will sound in the future. So it's impossible to say how our band will develop. But one thing is for sure, the music will always be dark and emotional."

-Vlad Dracul: "We are 5 members, and everyone puts something into our work, so it's hard to say we have found our own personal style. That wouldn't sound logically either, 'cause we always develop. Besides this, we combine elements from different music styles and we never create two songs, which can sound (be it just one riff) the same. Everything changes from song to song, musical concept, lyrical concept, arrangement, melody, structure etc."

How often does band like Agathodaimon need to rehearse and how long have you played your instruments? Describe your usual song writing process.

-Sathonys: "That depends on the situation. At the moment we don't rehearse very often together (between 5 and 15 hours a week),

because there is no need to rehearse more often as long as there are no more new ideas to work on, you know. As Vlad still is in Romania, I also have to care more about the song writing which takes time, don't forget that I also have to organize everything... getting a fair record-deal, distributing our demos, promoting the band, answer interviews and mail etc. About the usual song writing process; normally one of us (mainly Vlad as he is able to spend most of his time on it) has some good riffs or melodies which can be used as the "core" to a new song. Then we work together on upcoming structures, leads, and additional riffs to complete the song. Sometimes the lyrics exist first, but mostly they are written after music is finished. For how long we play our instruments? I don't know exactly when the others began playing theirs, but in my case I bought my first guitar when I was 16, now I'm 24. I took lessons for two years, but my teacher couldn't show me anything about metal as he was into Jazz/Blues, so I decided to quit. Anyway, I wouldn't say I'm a good guitarist as there are and always will be worlds between me and people like Steve Vai. But luckily this is a bad comparison as black metal doesn't need eight-finger tapping and stuff like that, hargh."

-Vlad Dracul: "We would like to rehearse as much as possible. Unfortunately there are some things that restrict our time. We used to rehearse once a week, though sometimes we are forced to make a prolonged break due to some problems, each member except me had a job or was going to university, so we hardly found some time, when all were able to come for more than 3 hr. At the time being, I haunt my native land, Romania, for more than 2 months, though the band keeps rehearsing and playing, and I eagerly wait the day I arrive into the camp. I play guitars for ca. 5 years, and keys for about 3. There is no usual song writing-process..."

I have never seen your music being labelled as black metal, so how would you categorize your music?

-Sathonys: "Hard to answer... I don't have anything against being labelled as black metal, as we course fell connected to this music. Perhaps I can tell some attributes that fit to our music; it's dark, sometimes aggressive, heavy, atmospheric, poetic, sad, emotional, evil... sort out yourselves. We often tried to categorize it, like for example "gothic dark metal" or "dark poetic metal", but it's never a complete description of our sound."

-Vlad Dracul: "I don't believe you at all. I personally never saw Agathodaimon not being labelled as black metal! Each magazine, that has written something about us come up with such definitions as: atmospheric black metal, melodic black metal, strong and complex black metal and so on! (Well, I haven't seen Agathodaimon featured in any magazine except for *Tales of the macabre* #4 (debut demo was reviewed there), and yes your music was labelled as black metal there, but I actually read that mag. after making of this interview. At the time of doing these questions, besides your flyers I had only seen your music being categorized in *Solistitium* mail-order list and if I remember right, it stated just "German dark metal". And by the way I was mainly referring to your flyers in this question... Fuck, maybe I should have put this question in the form of "You don't label your music as black metal..." , but who fuckin' cares!!!-ed.) You wanna here my definition? Here it is: Extreme, poetic, melancholic, dark, fusion metal with a little portion of bitter-sweet gothic. Well, guess that's how I categorize Agathodaimon at the moment!"

Beside Agathodaimon Vlad Dracul has also his own project band called Drusus. Three demos have been released and music was described as

"Transylvanian dark ambience", which fits quite well I think. Please give us introduction about Drusus...

-Vlad Dracul: "Ye, Drusus is a side-project, Agathodaimon having more importance. I've released 3 demos so far, but this "transylvanian dark ambience" can only be related to the first tapes. Third demo "Efemer" has more guitar and classic-influences. And I really can't find a proper definition for it! This project born out of my affinity to poetry, the texts being all just poems of great Romanian poets. Therefore the lyrics were sung in Romanian and I never translated them for the simple fact that I knew I wasn't able to return the mere essence of this incredible poetry."

You recorded an EP with Drusus little while ago. Can you tell us something about it's material? Who will release it?

-Vlad Dracul: "Right, I've re-arranged old songs, one being from the first demo, the other one from "Efemer". Both having a constant metallic aspect. The first one being a bit more darker and aggressive, the second one having a deep melancholic touch. The EP is called "Spleen" and I don't fuckin' know when it will be released. I've done it in collaboration with Sombre rec./Germany. They were supposed to print 500 copies, but this was 2 months ago. I didn't hear anything until now, whether they're ready or not. I also make video for the second song ("Nervi de toamnă") here in Romania."

What's on the future of Drusus?

-Vlad Dracul: "Well, after this video, I'll concentrate myself on Agathodaimon, we'll record our first full-length in autumn. Then, in late



autumn or in winter I'll record 3 new songs for Drusus, with some session-member here in Romania! The new stuff is completely different and sound a bit like **The 3rd and the mortal**, so it will be based on acoustic guitars and female vocals. Yet, I can't tell ya more.

You seem to be really much into poetry, could you name some of your favourite poets? Any fave lyric-writer?

-Vlad Dracul: "I could name some Romanian poets, but only a few will be familiar with their names. But Charles Baudelaire is also one of my favourite writers, and in 3, 4 or 5 years I can become myself one of my fave lyric-writer too, I guess!"

Everyone should be aware of the fascinating history of your native country, Romania, but the metal scene of Romania seems to be quite unknown for foreign people so could you introduce the Romanian scene briefly?

-Vlad Dracul: "There's no metal scene here, only a couple of bands like **Abigail** (dark/doom), **Negură Bunget** (archaic black), **Cronos** (death-black), **Archaos** (ambient, industrial, very good) and a few others. There are

instead a lot of radio-shows, not only in Bucharest, where I actually spend most of my time. I've been on TV too, in a small talkshow. There are some people, who really try to make something, to establish a scene, who organize shows and so on, but there is a big problem stepping on our toes: money. We are very poor, so the possibilities here are very restricted, but potential... a lot."

Well, from Romania we shall move to the Germany now. In the 80's Germany offered us **Destruction**, **Sodom** and **Kreator**, but what about nowadays?

-Sathonys: "Nowadays? Agathodaimon, hehe. Well, of course there are still a lot of good bands. **Lunar Aurora**, **Bethlehem**, **Ancient Ceremony**, **Impending Doom**, **Flaming Entity**, **Pavor**, **Atanatos**, **Nocte Obducta** and lots more. But sadly, we also have a huge amount of shitty bands... strange enough that some of the worst also get record-deals. But I won't mention any names here..."

-Vlad Dracul: "I know only two good bands, that I really like listening to (nowadays!). **Bethlehem** and **Impending Doom**. The rest is not of interest for my ears. Of course there are sort of good bands, but it isn't enough to be good."

Almost none of the thousands bm-bands does not include guitar solos in their songs, mainly because weak playing skills and absence of musical knowledge. What's your opinion about this? Do you think solos should be part of the songs?

-Sathonys: "None does not include? Do you mean that only few bands use solos? (Yes of course, can't you see the word "almost" in the beginning of the question.-ed.) Well I think that solos (leads) can be part of a song, if it fits to it of course. We like to use leads, but not in the excessive way **Slayer** or **Morbid Angel** do them for example. And don't forget that there are many black metal bands where lead guitar would sound strange. Imagine **Burzum** with weird lead guitars for example (I guess you are right,, guitar solos wouldn't fit for all the bands, yet still it would be fresh to hear some more solos within black metal genre.-ed.), but on the other hand there are bands like **Arcturus** which have fantastic leads and outstanding playing skills."

-Vlad Dracul: "Well, it depends on the structure and melody of the song, if it

enables a part to be overwhelmed with solos or not. In most cases, speaking of the new wave of black metal with all it's added attributes, solos, as I know them from bands like **Megadeth**, **Death**, or even **Metallica** don't fit into this image! Though, I like very much the solos played by **Arcturus**, they do perfectly fit. As I said before, it depends on the atmosphere of the song, many bands destroy this inefficient solos (due to their weak-skilled playing) the whole atmosphere of a part or even a song."

Now really annoying subject, but anyway... What do you think about current situation of black metal scene?

-Sathonys: "Huh... it's growing and growing, already there are so many bands out there, that it's becoming nearly impossible to establish a newcomer in this scene. We will have a hard time I think! Especially because the scene pukes out a lot of bands that I'd consider as crap, but due to some strange reasons, those band sometimes have success! Of course music always is a matter of taste, so just being "good" isn't enough nowadays. Either you need something very special to get recognized, or you have to follow strictly the common example. It might be possible that someday the black scene will collapse as it happened to death metal before, but the "scene" in terms of commercial potential seems to be stronger than expected. Perhaps black metal will turn into something "new" again... there will always be new trend, like this gothic-, Viking- or retro thrash-movement. Anyway, there will always be dedicated people who play this music because they like it, not only because it's the actual trend. Anyway, what I don't like about the current scene is all this talk about being "true", "trendy" or "underground". To be honest, I think it's the music that counts, so I prefer a good but "trendy" band like **Cradle Of Filth** to a "true" one that doesn't know how to handle their instruments and just suxx."

-Vlad Dracul: "You're right, it's very annoying. You really bore me with this question, I'm disappointed! But to tell you the truth (and only the truth) and I do know nothing about current black metal scene! I just like some bands and I get to know, when they'll release something new and that's all. From time to time I take a read too, but only for information (sometimes I don't have better things to do!) I read imbecile interviews some bands can state, I wonder, whether they're ashamed or not of the nonsense they're spreading around. I close the magazine, take toilet-paper clean my ass-hole, cheer up last time with the product I got rid off, say fare-well, wash my hands and make something more intelligent, like eating or... drinking, something else. This literature fits very well aside my toilet, you know, shit belongs to shit! Sure, there are some ints from interesting bands, which deserve my attention, but sorry, the most are just crap!"

As we all know, Germany offers us huge beer-supply so could you kindly recommend us some brands?

-Sathonys: "Sorry, I don't drink (*You bad boy!!!-ed.*). Only Matthias (and Marko sometimes) drink beer, but that doesn't mean we are a straight edge-band... in my case, I prefer to consume women and metal instead of beer. Sex, books and rock'n'roll."

-Vlad Dracul: "No, not at all. I personally don't drink beer, instead I enjoy champagne, martini and cocktails, but I can't get along with beer. I just don't like it! I recommend you to try the following drink: half a dose of Red Bull, mixed with a bit of Red Vodka, then pooch some martini into it! Gotta be cold, then it makes you surely *hot!*"

What's on the future plans with Agathodaimon? When can we expect new material from you?

-Sathonys: "Future plans are of course an album and then a tour. As we haven't signed to a label so far, we will see when we can release the album. But I think we will enter the studio in September or October. So I think our debut will be released at the end of the year. Be sure to watch out for it!"

-Vlad Dracul: "What's the story, morning glory? No I don't like that band, only the title of their album came up in my perverse mind! Well, we're gonna take a chance to become dirty rock-stars, I'll take a ride to the Black-Sea, meet some horny chicks and return into the fields of Agathodaimon! Gotta decide in the next future, whom we gonna sign with, then rehearse for our first album, record it, wait until it will be released, doing some gigs etc... Full-program I guess!"

Well, I have to thank you both for your answers... If you have anything to add...?

-Sathonys: "No, not much. If anyone is interested in our demos, get each for \$7 (Europe) or \$8 (world)... both for \$12/\$14. I try to make some T-shirts soon, white print on black shirt. No fuckin' colors. When writing for info, please include an IRC! That's all... Thanks for your support Juha!"

-Vlad Dracul: "No, oh, sorry yes, I wanna ask you something! Do you know any band from Romania (beside Drusus)? Do you know any chick from Romania? Then don't waste your time... Me speaked, that's Vlad, hail I don't

know what, thank you very much, I dutifully seal this episode's satanic end! Apocalypse now!

Okay, remember to try out Vlad's cocktail... and of course watch out for their new stuff. I hope you enjoyed the interview... It was the first one I ever did, so surely not of the best quality. You can contact Sathonys from:

Agathodaimon
c/o Martin Wickler
Westring 18
55120 Mainz
Germany

...And Vlad from:

A.Rusu
Im Sichler 34
61231 Bad Nauheim
Germany

Last minute reviews...

FORBIDDEN SITE

"Sturm und drang"

(Solistitium records) *

First I must admit, knowing nothing about this band before Solistitium sent this promo-CD to me. I don't know why the hell I don't like this CD at all as Forbidden Site has all the needed skills to make brilliant music. Female vocals, screamy vocals, clean vocals, melancholic riffs and majestic synths. So the question is: What's wrong? And the answer is: Just all those things which I mentioned above. The thing is that Forbidden Site uses too much different elements, there is nothing wrong to use such elements, but in this CD they are just too fuckin' overused. Music can be labelled as romantic and satanic (?) black metal opera, I don't know, maybe some people would like to listen such music as this, but I would prefer stop the CD and start to listen Alice Cooper... Enough to say.

HELHEIM

Label addresses:

Avantgarde music, P.O.Box 19, 20010 Vanzago (MI), Italy
Candlelight records, P.O.Box 328, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP15 6TY, U.K.
Century Media, Bissenkamp 11-13, 44135 Dortmund, Germany
Damnation records, Rietvkinstraat 5, 1171 TG Badhoevedorp, The Netherlands
Head Not Found, P.O.Box 447, 1701 Sarpsborg, Norway
Invasion records, P.O.Box 2119, 15707 Königs Wusterhausen, Germany
Malicious records, c/o Gerrit Weither, P.O.Box 21 04 08, 72027 Tubingen 21, Germany
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Music For Nations, 333 Latimer Road, London W10 6RA, U.K.
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Nocturnal Art productions, Box 53, 3812 Akkerhaugen, Telemark, Norway
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Osmose productions, P.B.57, 62990 Beaurainville, France
Pulverised records, Box 109, Yishun Central, Singapore 917 604
Season of mist, 24, Rue brandis, 13005 Marseille, France

"Av Norron Aett"

(Solistitium records)

Hmm... This is at least a lot better than their debut, but still actually not for my taste. The title track is really great song, but all the other songs tend to get somehow annoying. Vocals are really good and varied, they use screamy, clean and female vocals. I guess this album still will satisfy big bunch of listeners, but my case is that I just don't like these attempts to evoke the atmosphere from Viking-era. But Helheim is at least better than Enslaved in my opinion.

NATTVINDENS GRÁT

"Chaos without theory"

(Solistitium records) *

I already liked Nattvindens Grát's previous album "A Bard's tale", but this one is thousand times better. Sound quality is better, vocals are better and the music is also more original. Epic doom/heavy metal, that's what this is. Nothing more to say, very recommendable!!!!

SOLEFALD

"The linear scaffold"

(Avantgarde music)

Again for me a totally unknown band emerging from the frosty soil of Norway. Solefald's impressive debut album contains eight atmospheric and beautiful songs with good musicianship and intelligence in their compositions and arrangements. Lyrical side of Solefald seems to be rather original and unexpected what one can notice already while reading the song-titles like "Tequila Sunrise" or "Counterside bohemians". Music, or most likely the faster metal parts can be slightly compared to Emperor or Dimmu Borgir. I just love Solefald's use of synth, no some amateurishly played shit, but really well played classical music influenced synth/piano work. Sadly even this album owns some negative aspects as well; first negative point is the sounds, I can't directly tell what's wrong with them, but they just sound too weak. Second point is the screamy vocals; they are at

some parts working out quite well, but at some parts they get on my nerves. Clean vocals are enjoyable though. To sum it up: "The linear scaffold" can be classified as great album, even with it's negative aspects.

THY GRIEF

"The frozen tomb of mankind" (Solistitium records)

Again one album more to add to the pile of typical and boring releases. Anyway, I can't totally smash this album to the ground as there is quite much interesting parts thrown in the pot. Their music is fast almost all the time and at some parts reminding me about Ancient's "The Cainian Chronicle" and some Emperor stuff. The seventh song is really great and shows the potential Thy Grief have. Just leave those thousand times used riffs far away from your songs and add some variety to guitar work. Quite an ok album anyway...

Solistitium records, P.O.Box 1210, 26802 Moormerland, Germany
Spinefarm records, Box 212, 00181 Helsinki, Finland
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