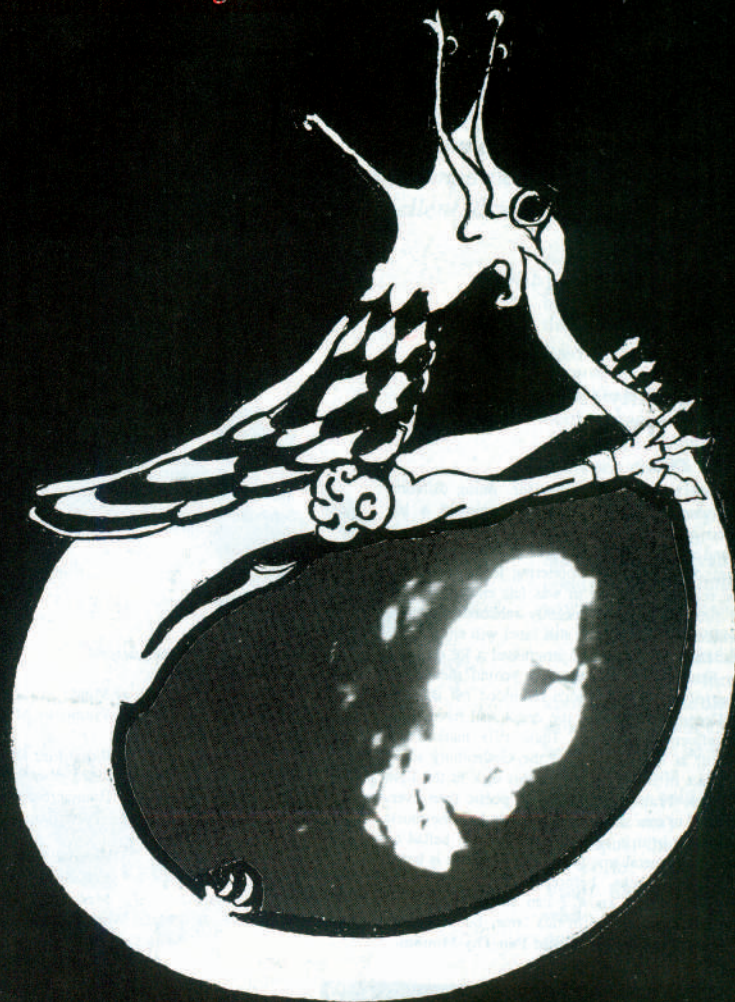


Mortician Magazine

Mortician underground metal Magazine

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coloured
issue
#4, 1993



Colour cover reviews,

MY DYING BRIDE

'a lyrical interview'

The Danish scene report,
Sindrome, Visceral Evisceration, Katatonia,
Beyond Dawn, The Eternal, Mordor,
Reviews...

Opeth,

The Chasm,

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The best item reviewed in this Magazine:

Dark Tranquillity (Swe) Skydancer CD'93 Spinefarm rec.

This is finally we have been waiting for. Being different from all the others, **Dark Tranquillity** enjoyed a big popularity referring to the tons of interviews. They made only a demo and a 7"ep. In fact they are the **Afflicted** of a new generation, but I will be wondering how silent their album will be released. Spinefarm was fair enough to pick up this band finally. With the recently released and great bands like **Sentenced** and **Beherit** this label will enjoy some golden horses. **Dark Tranquillity** progressed a lot during a long time in between. They have left behind their most aggressive way of epic metal which reminded me strongly to **Sabbat's** 'Dreamweaver'. But the debut still have a big part of this influence remained. Their riffs mark **Dark Tranquillity** still as being a part of the Gothenburg scene which lives in fact in Billdal. Holding this disk in the light of **Skyklad**, **Dark Tranquillity** is more poetic than ever. Still the vocals try to mix the text completely into the music but the new element in it is very acoustic. A real ballad by some medieval death metal troubadours! The music is better composed than all tracks before, really much more technical. Despite I don't know I can still vote them as being the best release reviewed in this 'zine, but I bet they will beat the new release of the awaited **Pan-Thy-Monium**.
Harold Dekkers



Purest Queen

Little mother why do you let them weep.
What's the reason people put their faith in you.
Purest Queen of Heaven.

You can come out of purgatory,
But never out of hell.

You took their minds and turned them
Into emotional slaves, afraid to sin.
So abandon me, let me think and act.

Hail!

Spina Bifida

Playlist Roel van Reijmersdal

- 1 Iron Maiden Piece of Mind
- 2 Therion Symphony Masses, Ho Drakon ho Megas CD'93
- 3 Bathory Blood Fire Death lp'87
- 4 Katatonia Dance of December souls CD'93
- 5 Bathory Hammerheart CD'89
- 6 Celtic Frost Morbid Tales/Emperor's return mlp's '84/'85
- 7 Messiah Extreme Cold Weather lp '87
- 8 Entombed Left Hand Path lp'90
- 9 Black Sabbath Master of Reality lp'71
- 10 Judas Priest Metal Works CD '73-'93

Playlist Harold Dekkers

- Spring:
Cynic Focus CD'93
Misanthrope Variation on Inductive Theories CD'93
Renaissance Archway demo'92
- Summer:
Death Individual Thoughtpatterns CD'93
Dark Tranquillity Skydancer CD'93
Sacrificial Forever Entangled CD'93
- Autumn:
My Dying Bride Turn Loose the Swans album'93
The Eternal demo '92
Disembowelment Transcendence into the Peripheral CD'93
Soulwound demo '93
- Winter:
Rotting Christ The Mighty Contract album'93
Burzum Burzum album'92
Master's Hammer The Jilemnice Occultist

Very special thanx to our distributors, keep up the good work, our works is depending of you: Osmose, Stevo St. Vitus & Lessons of Impetigo, Pat & Red Stream, Relapse, Russ Smith, GWB rec, Anders Jacobson, Volker & Merciless Rec, Ari & Silenced Souls, Jarkko Toivonen, Adwin v/d Zande, Stefan Lauwers, Guy Cnockaert, Jim Mutilator, Hans R., Dave & Drowned, Roberto & Obscure Plasma, Mats & Dolores, House of Kicks, Max & Napalm Rec., Heavy Sound, Oli Sallfrank, Morbito Mike, Phil & Flesh Feast, Serge &

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Thanx to everyone who contributed to this issue: Aaron & My Dying Bride, Foundation 2000, Katatonia, Syndrome, Visceral Evisceration, Opeth, The Eternal, The Chasm, Peaceville, Trechoma, Threnody, Renaissance, Beyond Dawn, MS-printingoffice, Bjarke Ahlstrand, Mordor, Jeroen Visser and some 250 bands.

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Thanx & hello to the underground, friends, labels, fans, distributors, readers, bands etc. To mention a few: Rene Bierbooms, Fernan and Mortem from Peru (you fuckin' rule!), Blackheim & Katatonia (joining forces pal!), Jussi and F. Oli, Hans and The Gath, Bart Smits (won't forget you!), Monica Johansen, King of twilight and Exorsism 'zine, Wilmar Taal and Triple six & Midian, Threnody, Micha (ex-Dead End -sniff), Morten from Trechoma rec, Metalion, Daniel & The Chasm, Dave & Human Remains, Bjarke Ahlstrand, Karin Cooman, Micke & Opeth, A.J. van Drenth, Gustaf & Defleshed, Astaroth, In the Woods, Endre and Abysmal (Nor), Bill and Altar (Gre), Dzni & Narsaak, Kristian & Liers in Wait/Decollation, Frank & Voices, Gishi, Arni, S., Johan and Furbowl, The Eternal, Hannes & Visceral Evisceration, Stefan and Expulsion, Wallan & Therion, Chris & Absurd, Wannes & Pentacle, Einar & Beyond Dawn, Mel & Earache, Dave and Eterne, Max from Napalm rec, Mark Fritsma and Foundation 200.000, The mighty Herve of Osmose productions, Adwin & Cenotaph rec, Dave & Drowned, Aaron and My Dying Bride, everyone at Peaceville, Stefan Lauers (one of our error men, thanx and Carbonized rules forever), Guy Cnockaert of Caducity, Wim Baclus, Fred Schaus, Anthony v/d Berg, Sachsa Roth, Gora and Mordor, Threnody, Wolly from Numskull 'zine (we gaan in zee, tralala!) Relapse rec together with (Michael &) Nuclear Blast rec, Thrash 'm All & Carnage recs, Displeased records, Infest Records, Spinefarm rec, Vortex from the east, Phillip from Holy Rec, Astral Rising, Misanthrope, Steph le Saux and all the other sub-Paris guys, God (Laurent Merle), Francis Cautin and Torturer, Ave to Morbid and Necromantia, Jim of Rotting Christ, Thou Art Lord, Russ Smith the ruler of England (the work you have done and will do is also giant!), Sean of Naked Eve, Niklas Sundin and Dark Tranquillity, Wisnicki Slawek, Witches, Jan Kik, Valerio & Wounded Love Records, Tundra Publishing Ltd., Mark & Dwellers End, Jarkko & Unholy, Blind Date, Willem Stentjes, Eccentric, MBR rec. & Markus, Morbid Records, Nosferatu records, Poserslaughter Rec, Massacre Rec, Tomas and No Fashion, Haemorrhage, Jonas and Dispatched, Warmaster Rec, Ari & Perpetual Demise, Michal & C.O.C.'zine, Morpheus, Dirk of Renaissance, Hans of Shiver records, Ian Lawless, Mikko Lappalainen from Elysium mag, Justin and Dark Oceans rec.+ Solenn Assembly, Runen and D.E.A.D.'zine, Rado Pezdin, Wendy Eigendaal, Baroec, Jens v/d Valk & Cantara, Roman Ivanov, Desillusion, Eric & Growing Deaf Entertainment, George Moragemos, everyone at MS-printings, Martin & drukpunt, Underground Scene Report (keep up the good work, Paul! Maybe you don't now, but you help us much!) and all those people who wrote us. Sorry, I'm sure there are people who didn't get a reply. Your response was much appreciated, but it was all too much to answer every single letter. But everyone got what he deserved, we reviewed everything and it's really a pity we couldn't interview you all; this magazine is too thin for that. The items that were sent in for a review after the deadline will be reviewed in our following issue, whatever it me be.

A secondary way to get reviewed in Mortician Magazine is to is to write our agent and free lance reviewer Cor Snijder. Playlist Cor Snijder

1. Sathanas/Bathym -Everything
2. Fester -Winter of Sin CD'92
3. Blasphemy -Blood upon the Alter demo '89
4. Dark Angel -Darkness Descends
5. Lord Bane -Age of Elegance demo'93
6. Tripphammer -It's about time demo'92
7. Occult -demo'93
8. Hellwitch -Szygial Miscreancy CD
9. Deceased -The thirteen frightened Souls MCD'93
10. Inquisitor -Blasphemous Accusation demo '93



Why have you chosen to re-release a re-mastered version of "Into The Halls of Extermination"

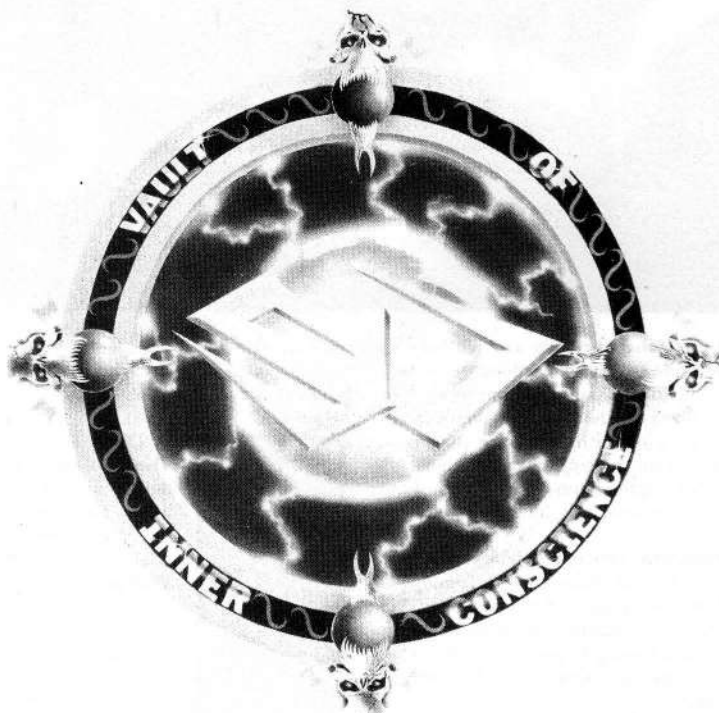
We'll always been proud of "Halls" and what it has done for us. It's built us a diehard following that any band would be happy with. We decided to re-master it because we felt that there was a lot of things in the mix that had gotten buried at the time. We also wanted to keep our first release available and give it the best sound possible. "Halls" was a great tape for the time it was released, of course it is not what *Sindrome* is about nowadays but it is still *Sindrome*. I'm sure as we develop new fans they will want to research our past as well. As long as we are around so should all of the music we record.

One of the most true underground bands is definitely the Chicago based Sindrome. Already in 1987 they released their debut demo called 'Into the halls of Extermination' which is without doubt one of the best (and first) death metal demos ever. When Sindrome entered the Morrisound Studios in Tampa, Florida by the end of '91 to record the second demo called 'Vault of Inner Conscience' they also re-mastered their first demo and now it's available again with a new lay-out. It's totally unbelievable that Sindrome is (still?) unsigned for all over these years they exist. 'Vault of the Inner Conscience' is such a great and professional tape that it would not be hard for Sindrome to get a decent deal (from a major one...?) The music is complex and heavy. Maybe some sort of Nocturnes without keyboards and also a bit comparable to the earlier albums of Coroner from Switzerland. So that means very fast and technical guitar riffs, excellent drumming and not too heavy vocals/grunts by Sindrome main-man and almost a legend Troy Dixler.

There must have been some lineup changes over all these years, and mostly concerning guitar players, what has happened? Since the release of 'Halls' we had a number of guitar players come through *Sindrome*. It gets difficult to find members that we feel have the dedication. I'm sure that here are a lot of bands that can relate to going through line-up changes. practically every band has to find their own identity and that requires a lot of work. Whenever we would bring someone into the band things would work out great in the beginning. You never know who is gonna deviate for one particular reason or another, but all you can do is watch them stand the test of time. With a few of our past guitar players each one had a particular reason why they didn't work out. Each one of them worked their hardest to contribute to *Sindrome*, but in the end our views were different and resulted in them leaving. Instead of going into depth about why each member had to leave, I'd rather talk more about the positive parts they left with us and the current members in *Sindrome*. Non of us are the type to talk negatively about ex members of *Sindrome*.

Why did it take so long for 'Vault' to emerge from the underground after it was recorded? Everything about your new release 'Vault of Inner Conscience' demo looks real professional: Tape, cover, production etc. Rather than give a thousand excuses why it took so long to put 'Vault' into the underground, I'd much rather say that between the lineup changes, professional mark we were trying to accomplish and working out all of the loose ends really took the majority of the time. With *Sindrome* we try and finish everything we start with the highest level of professionalism. A lot of times it takes longer than if we were to mindlessly write songs and release them. It wasn't so much one thing or another that took so long it was more or less a combination of everything. I think that we've kinda tried to adapt the quality ideas into everything from writing and attitude all the way to merchandise and live shows. We've put a long time in putting *Sindrome* into the underground but I think that once we get out through Europe etc... the hard work will show off when the time comes to see *Sindrome* playing out live.

Can you perhaps explain the concept behind 'Vault of Inner Conscience' demo? Are lyrics important to you? In my eyes there are two types people that listen to music. There are the ones that listen to the musicianship overall and grade on that scale. Then there are the others that really want to look into the lyrics and see what type of message is being said to support that music. When I was writing the lyrics for 'Vault' I wanted to put together a concept that would challenge the mind of the reader. Basically it's about someone who is having constantly re-occurring dreams of the future. At first



he tries to dismiss them, but they constantly keep returning. Instead of fighting off the dreams he sort of drifts with them and realizes that he is being channelled by a spirit. The spirit communicates that he has been chosen to see visions of prophecies. He separate his soul from his body and sees the coming of the Antichrist, disease and starvation that is coming to the future of the world. he then feels that it is his destiny to change the course of our predetermined future by spreading the foresight he knows. Everyone dismisses him as a reborn again Christian and he realizes that he is alone with these visions and finally separates his soul from his body so that he may live immune to the impact that is soon to face the world.

Vault has recorded quite a while ago, do you have many new songs? Actually that's all we've been concentrating on in these most recent months. We want to have a lot of material to sift through when the time comes to go in and record the

album. I can say one fact for sure. We are extremely confident with the new material that we are writing.

Do you realize that you've inspired a lot of death metal vocalists/grunters like L.G. Petrov from Entombed and Barney from Napalm Death? Yeah, it seems that I've been hearing that pretty constantly this last year. If anything it's great to know that you are influencing anyone let alone two singers that are at the top of the death metal genre of music. i happen to be pretty good friends with both Barney and L.G. not to mention liking their voices myself.

Who inspired you to start singing? What inspires you lyrically? None in particular had that type of control over me. i just knew that I wanted to try singing from when I was fairly young. In all honesty i just went for it and people supported me and kept me going. I wouldn't be where I'm at if it wasn't for the die hard fans of ours believing in us. So if anyone inspires me it's gotta be all of your readers.

Your demo is available at the House of Kicks in Stockholm, how did you get in touch with them? We have a friend in Sweden named Marc Gustavson that has gone completely out of his way to put *Sindrome* into Sweden. He helped us sell ungodly amounts of demos through the local stores etc... He's like our 6th member from Europe!

How's the Chicago scene, is there actually a scene? The Chicago scene has come a long way since we were first together. Almost every national thrash/death metal band that has come through on a major tour has either sold out or come pretty close to it. Our local scene has also come a long way. i'm sure that people in the underground are familiar with a lot of the bands. In every local scene there are the bands that are good and the others that are jumping on the trends. As for us opening doors and leading the

Chicago scene, I really don't have an ego enough to put us on a high pedestal. If other people or bands want to say that for us.. we'll take it.

How is your relationship with other bands locally? We get along with just about every band locally. Of course there are a few bands that aren't on the top of the list but you never can be everyone's friend. If you think that way your either blind or naive to what bands really talk about behind closed doors. In every local scene there are the jealous bands but as long as the majority is on your side that's what counts.

Do you play live often? To be honest with you **Sindrome** hasn't played out often in the last few years. Back when 'Halls' was released we went out on two tours to support it. Now we look at playing live in a much different

we have a lot of merchandise that we have offered through Midwest Management Exchange. Rather than going in depth with each of the designs, just write to the address below and we'll send out our list. it was done in full colour so you can see exactly what each of the designs look like. Both 'Halls' and 'Vault' are each available for \$6,- + \$1.50 for US and \$2.50 foreign postage. Also 'Halls' was recently re-mastered at Morrisound with a new lay-out, pictures etc. (It sounds way better).

Both demos are still available for \$7.- each as well as a lot of other Sindrome merchandise like shirts (\$17.-, long sleeved \$23.-), pullovers (\$27.-), hats (\$12.-) patches (\$7.-), pins, buttons, stickers and posters. But you better check out their super professional merchandise form



CHRIS JACOBS

light. Firstly, **Sindrome** isn't signed to a label currently and we have an extremely large live production. If we were to haul everything out onto a tour, and consistently turn audiences on to us, our main intention is to increase album sales. You see if a kid comes out the show and wants to tell his fiends about us, he won't be able to pick up our material in a store right now. More importantly than playing live is finishing up the negotiations for an album contract. After we release a full length album or have both of our EP's released worldwide and getting full promotion you can bet you'll be seeing **Sindrome** live quite a lot.

Does the front cover of 'Vault' symbolise your concept or lyrics? We tried to make 'Vault' a little different from the typical cliché artwork coming out nowadays. Almost every album is with some kind of figure or skull! We thought that the cover represented a different concept. Obviously all of the readers aren't looking at the cover so I'm not going to go in depth about the actual artwork in relation to the concept. The signs around the planet are all of the astrological signs in the horoscope.

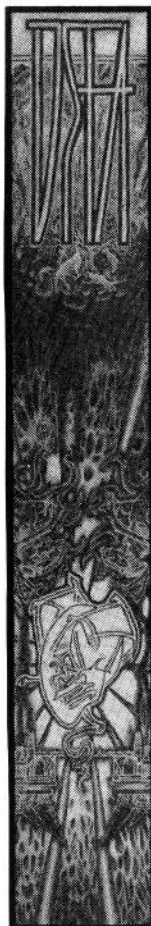
Will you record further stuff at Morrisound and are you satisfied with the production of 'Vault'? The tape was recorded quite a while ago and for the time when we went in the studio we were very happy with the production. What **Sindrome** was thinking when 'Vault' was recorded was one sound but what we've been writing in this last year is different, so are the plans for the studio next time around. I think that for a band to go into studio and consistently put out the same album with a different name year after year shows a bands lack of creativity. We are not looking to record a second 'Vault' but on the other hand we are extremely happy with the tape overall and specially the comments we have been receiving through the press. As for recording at Morrisound again we'll just have to see when the times comes up.

When can we expect to see a record deal with Sindrome? Why haven't you signed yet? Back in 1987 we had a number of labels that were writing to us. The main reason for holding out to singing with a particular company back then was more or else **Sindrome** finding where we were going to. Any company that would have signed us for the material we were writing on 'Halls' would have had a surprise when the material for 'Vault' was released. I think more than anything it was us putting everything together for the bigger picture. I've seen too many bands come up, sign with an independent label, tour a few times and fall right into the mold of the thousands of other bands on the circuit. We just have been building a much different idea for **Sindrome**. It's taken a while with all of the bullshit we've gone through, but I'm confident that we will finish negotiating by the end of '93. the sooner we can put a full length album out where everyone can buy it in stores, the sooner we get out and tour to make up for the people that have been patiently waiting for us since '87.

Can you tell us where someone can get Sindrome merchandise? Do you have any last words for our readers? Thanks a lot to Pieter van Loon and Roel van Reijmersdal from Mortician Magazine for featuring **Sindrome**, and

which contains all those items. Write to: **Midwest Management Exchange, PO Box 2112, Highland Park, IL 60035-8112, U.S.A.**

Roel van Reijmersdal.



Sascha Roth

D.S.F.A. 5 compilation cd'93 resurrection of reality

The follow up to the yearly 'Doesn't Stand For Anything' dutch compilation CD, released by the dutch metal hammer underground expert Anthony v/d Berg. Again a nice view into the kindergarten of unsigned bands from Holland. Although they're not all unsigned anymore. **Sad Whisperings** signed to Foundation 2000 and will release their debut doom/death album around fall '93 and they must try to take over the place **The Gathering** left behind after they will leave Foundation 2000. **Phlebotomized** has released their CD ep through Cenotaph rec. and the 'mustardgas' track is taken from that ep. Other bands are **Dead End**, sadly enough split up after the recording of the two tracks from this CD, **Korsakov**, **Lords of the Stone** (bandname heavily inspired by Tolkien's Lord of the rings), **Stentorian**, **Thy Shall Die**, **Ethereal Winds** and finally **Out of the System**, formerly **Abacinate**. Remarkable point is that all the bands got their own style and sound and all tracks are recorded in different studios but each of them sound heavy clean and mainly great. \$18,- to Anthony v/d Berg, Bloemenlaan 181, 4383 TC Vlissingen, Holland. Roel van Reijmersdal

UNDERGROUND SCENE REPORT

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SMALL BUT WORLDWIDE

The first time I noticed the Austrian band Visceral Evisceration was when I was reading the mighty magazine 'In My Veins' by my French friend Steph le Saux. And because of that small message in IMV I came into contact with Hannes Wuppenig, one of the tape traders of the first days, who also did a little try to play guitar. And because of his attitude: detestation of simple death metal I was very interested in his band. And soon after that Visceral Evisceration presented me an orchestral piece of death and doom metal, very classical, and highly influenced by early Paradise Lost.

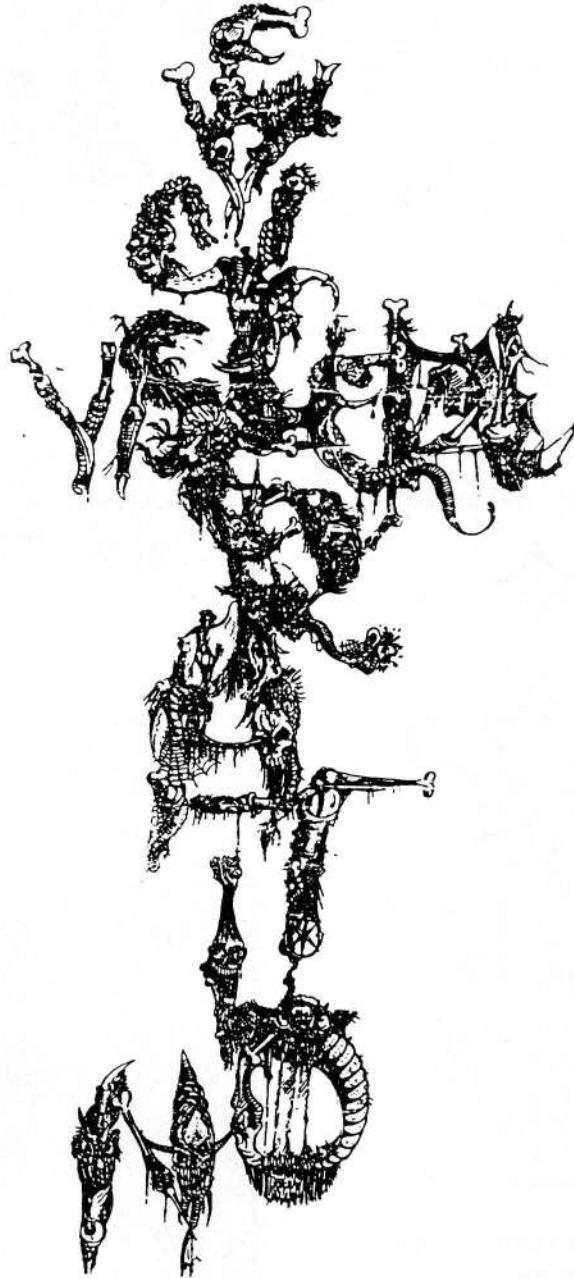
VISCERAL EVISCERATION

Well Hannes, to start with something interesting directly. The kind of music you play is almost death metal with classical influences. I don't say you are an average death metal band. The music you play is, being watched from several positions, original. At least we can call it original, but the concept of the demo is gore in it's most perverse form. Explain me, I don't understand this for a orchestral death/doom metal band with many female opera vocals. Your lyrics should handle about depressive subjects. Speaking about the musical aspect, with my band I try to bring emotions true, which are mostly sad, melancholic, depressive, philosophical influenced. Since I was a child I liked sad songs more than happy chart-breakers. With the age of 15 I went through the usual evolution of heavy metal - thrash metal - HC - grindcore/noisecore - death metal. But it was definitely my aim to create sad music, even if I like sometimes 70's stuff, aggressive and hectic death metal (**Afflicted**) or anything else. I put much work into the songs and hope people who share the same thought might appreciate the demo. I would also like to give you my personal opinion about classical music: You can not (by all means) reach a classical orchestra in its perfect performance with a death metal band. (Just taking the numbers, for example: Orchestra 30 - band 5/6) Classical music has a lot more power and efficiency in this execution, describing moods, feelings and so on.

Now let's take the lyrical point of view: It's not my aim to bore the listeners with my personal emotions, several bands already do that. I don't find it bad, but definitely talking about cliché, isn't it cliché all depressive and gothic bands must handle depressive and emotional lyrics? Alright, you will say: "But gore is cliché too!" Yeah, I agree, but then you have to admit that the whole music is cliché (pop, metal, etc.). Let people do what they want to become creative. I cannot describe you what my sense in writing for lyrics is. There's too less space, but what I can say is, that it's a psychological aspect. Question answered?

No, not deep enough... But let's go on about the music. The themes in your lead parts and solos are taken from known classical concepts. In what kind are you influenced by classical music and are there skilled musicians in the band. Yes, the concepts are taken from the Dismember lp 'Like an Everflowing stream' and all works from **Benediction/Morgoth/Sepultura** and **Unleashed**. Okay, after listing my favourite (Argh!) band, I'll get serious again. As I said, classical music is really cool, but believe me, I'm not obviously direct influenced, I listen not every tune of classical music to get influenced and create new riffs. I just know by taking the guitar what kind of riff I want to create and try and try... At the end it might not sound technical, but definitely (for me) I created the mood which I wanted to reach with the riff.

No, we aren't skilled musicians, we handle our instruments for two years. What? Well, you all are good apprentices. But I think the female vocals you used are skilled, isn't it? The classical dedication is recognizable in the way she uses the several genres of opera vocals. Can you introduce



me to her and for how many percent will she take care for the vocals on your upcoming album? The female vocals are sung of course by a professional musician. she is the teacher of our drummer. He just asked her some days before entering the music studio if she would be so kind to sing some parts, and so she did. I hope we'll do some further vocals on the new songs too.

If I'm right, in fact your music is build up in a simple way. One guitarist take care for the leading riffs and the other is riffing the solo's almost constantly, isn't there anything different to create? I really like bands which create a 'story' in the songs, listen to 'Gangling Menstrual blood-broth for supper'. You don't have to listen to the demo, just hearing the 1st guitar plays the rhythm, the second the solos, but listen to it as a whole creation, including vocals and synths. If you ask me to create something different, come down to Vienna and play our 3rd guitar! Anyway, a big 'I admire thou' to the masters of uninnovating double guitar riffing.

Well, it's possible to play with a 3rd guitarist, it will be revolutionary. I know how much you like straight forward death metal like **Benediction**. Tell me something more about such bands. People call me intolerant, but I'm not! I accept everything, I let bands do whatever they want, but don't await me that I like it. I say my honest opinion, but often it turns out in the way, that I'm intolerant. Bands I really like are **Anathema**, **Candlemas**, **Iron Maiden** and **Cathedral**. All those bands who try to be different and create music, which makes my emotions come true.

To ask you for your favourite or influences now is cliché isn't? Ha, of course it is! But I really would make a difference between favourite bands and influenced ones! I hardly listen to death metal, sometimes, but not often... I really make riffs out of my mind, using scales and just try to make an emotion filled song.

How long will it take before the Austrian myth Visceral Evisceration becomes true? And is Napalm records the right medium to help you with it?

Time will tell. In winter '93/'94 our debut CD should be released with two or three new songs and the demo tracks remixed. I guess for a debut release Napalm records is quite the right label. Small labels support much more their bands. Just take **Vader** on Earache, **Morta Skuld** on Peaceville and **Therion** on Active records as an example... The labels are big, but the bands don't get 100% supported, so surely we'll seek for a bigger label after our CD. We just wait and see how it sells. If it's running well, labels will contact by themselves.

By the way, your band has a unreadable mutilated logo formed by an unreal moniker. Don't you think a name like the Danish Thy -the shortest name I've ever heard- was a bit more practical? Yes, we just yesterday renamed to 'Bart Simpson Mutilating Orgy Razor Fleshcrawl Shredomizer Blues Band', so I guess that's more practical. There's even a guy from Belgium who always tells us to change our name to 'Viscera' or unholy satanic or evil names, hey! but what the heck, I don't care our name is practical or commercial, otherwise we would have been called 'Thy Sins',

'Monument', 'Sad Tears', 'Forest of Loveliness', 'Grief Prophecy' of something like that!

How will the upcoming debut album on Napalm records sound? Just a further progression in the death/doom Paradise Lost vein with female vocals like every gothic band tries to realize these days, or can we expect something different? The main part of the Cd are of course the demo tracks and already said, two or three new ones. The new ones will of course improve more experimental and non-straight doom/death metal. One song is quite in development right now and it's pretty more depressing and sad than the old ones. We will definitely not move into the Paradise Lost 'Shades of Grey' way. Well, just about the second part of your question. I know about five gothic bands, compared to ten thousand death metal bands, that's quite a few, isn't it? No, overlooking the underground the ratio is much bigger than you might think! But that's nice....

I'm not saying your vocals are bad, no your duets with 'the female' sounds great and brutal, but it's just about the idea: what do you think about a death metal piece only sung by female opera vocals? Like everything which is done just one way and without variety it would be getting boring very soon, don't you think? But imagine Roxette, Europe or Bon Jovi with grunted vocals, wouldn't this sound interesting?

Well Hannes, for so long... o, before I forget, the last thing I want to now from you is your opinion about your countryman in The Eternal. What do you think of the music they play? Hmmm... we rehearsed for one year in the same room, we know them quite good. I guess, they are (in a full band) better musicians than we are, but they really try to go an own way, which is original, but if it will be successful?... Well, I wish them much luck, you could describe their music as Arnold Schönberg on death metal. Yes, I know. It's time for the Last question, say what you want. Blaarghh, Lord Azagtoth will reign my living-room, buy our lp 'The undescrivable Bart Simpson mutilation orgy blues' and support original bands, they are the ones who will survive... L&R!

By this time their debut album, including the demo and some new songs, will be out on Napalm Records, Fichtenstr. 34, 8790 Eisenerz, Austria. For band contact, write to Dominik Lirsch, Postthorngasse 3/13, 1030 Vienna, Austria.

Harold Dekkers



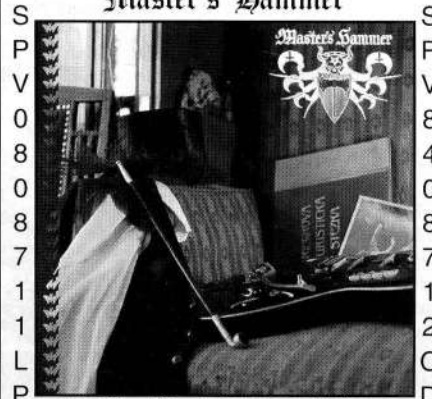
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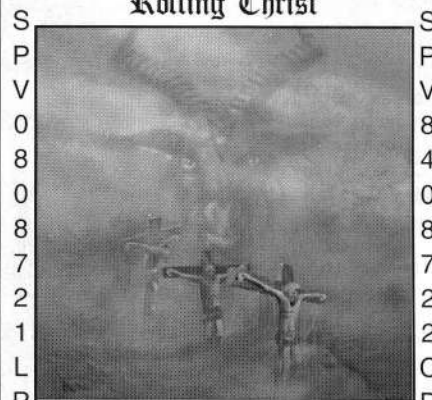
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Atmospherical gothic metal and black metal are very popular nowadays. A lot of bands try to perform one of those two styles and many of them fail... One band which absolutely doesn't fail is definitely **Katatonía**. They even couple these two styles, atmospherical metal with some black touches. And not in an ordinary way. They probably show the ultimate way... Guitarist **Blackheim** speaks: **Katatonía** somewhere between **Paradise Lost** & **Bathory**, right? Or... Well, yes, you could say that, but I think by the release of our debut album we've found our own style. We used to consider **Katatonía** a mixture between those two bands, but it would definitely be quite wrong to claim that now.

How would you describe your music then? Did it pass the borders bands like The Gathering once set? I could very easily describe our music as very emotional, deeply filled with sadness and mystical atmospheres. Sometimes you can describe certain parts as 'rocky', but for the major part it's very tragical and dark... I wouldn't label our music as death, black or doom metal



anymore, because as you said 'it passes the borders'. The music itself is still very doomy and heavy, but it isn't doom!

What are your influences? I even heard some U2 guitar parts, so it's far more than death or black metal I guess? My influences have grown stronger within my personal quest for the mysticism of my inner thoughts. I don't need any certain influences from bands any longer, you could manage

without it as long as you're musically minded. My sources of inspiration are mostly moods, thoughts and some (un)earthly elements such as forests, nightskies, fields and seas. I get very emotional through tragic and extremely sad happenings, which I try to express through the music in an adventurous structure. Of course we still listen to a lot of music and you do get influenced whether you like it or not, but in our case it's subconscious. I'm more into some deeper stuff nowadays. **Fields of the Nephilim**, **Sisters of Mercy**, **Thule**, **The Mission**, **The Cure** & **Depache Mode** are all my faves.

The songs on your debut album seem to be even more doomy than

the demo tracks, right? Yes, they're a bit more doomy/slow/heavy, but also a lot more varied. We go for the slow stuff because it's very easy to lose the feeling if you play fast. Grind even destroys the whole atmosphere.

Are you a depressed person? What caused that depression? It's true I'm a very depressed person. As soon as I experience something very mournful, I get so deep, solemn and solitary, emotionally, that I discover new dimensions within feelings; a real trance... I don't know the answer to it, but it's my crestfallen subconscious which plays the leading part.

What kind of emotion suits to your music? For me it's some sort of happy crying. Hmm, maybe that could be it! I've many times philosophized about happiness within sadness. When I'm sad and depressed I'm also happy (**Melancholic?** -ed.)... I think the last song 'Dancing December' represents happy sadness, a sort of farewell, but the other songs are more in the vein of tragic sadness. I guess quite many people don't get a shit out of this, but to all of you, nevermind...

Let's talk more about Bathory... They (or actually Quorthon) are so excellent! What's their strongest point in your eyes? Yes, let's talk about him! The mighty horde is ruling the northern landscapes! I think all and each one of the five albums represents a very chicque quality of music. All are real classics! They are a band to adore and **Bathory** is the only band I'm truly proud of to adore, hail!

Bathory changed style through the years, what's your fave album? Quite honestly I think I'm more attracted by the latest viking albums, but of course the old evil spirit totally rules, it's cult! The best album must be 'Blood Fire Death'! The title track is a killer! Also the introduction 'Odens ride over Nordland' means very much to me, it's the ultimate piece of musical art of a lonely winter night.

I've heard some rumours that Quorthon will release a solo album, do you know anything more about that and what do you expect? Well, I've also heard this rumour. Even Quorthon himself has more or less 'promised' he'll do a solo album, that's all I know. I guess many people will think it will be a sixth **Bathory** album, but I don't! Quorthon has become a great musician through all the years and I know he can write a lot of great compositions that he wouldn't really dare to write for **Bathory**. However I'm more anxious for that new **Bathory** album, what the hell can you expect after their last gigantic release? The best thing would be a 'Blood Fire Death' part two.

You're from Stockholm, just like Quorthon, have you ever met him? And why is he so unknown and incognito? Unfortunately there haven't been any advantage to live in Stockholm yet to be able to perhaps meet Quorthon. I think I know in which area he lives, but that's all. He doesn't make that much known of himself nowadays. All this mysteriousness and hidden atmosphere around him, it's all part of **Bathory**. I don't intrude too deep.

Back to Katatonía! Why didn't you record all the demo tracks on your first album? Will the track 'The northern silence' be lost forever? We decided to only re-record 'Without God' from the demo. At this time I regret that we didn't also include 'The Northern Silence'. We were just too fed up with the demo songs and had all the new songs ready. Although I've plans for 'The Northern Silence'. First, it will be released again on CD on some label called Vic records; wonder what that could be? Also I'm preparing 'The Northern Silence' part two!! The only song which is definitely lost is 'Palace of Frost'.

Are you satisfied with the final result of 'Dance of December Souls'? Can you compare it to your demo? I guess I'm happy with it! There are some things which I very much dislike personally, but however it's a strong debut. I think it kills the demo by far! It's very progressive and it's really breaking barriers!

What about your labelmates, do you like them? Throne of Ahaz, Marduk, Fester are all pretty good. Unanimated are great and Dissection are totally brilliant!

For how many albums have you signed? Is there some interest from other labels? We've signed just for one album, but we'll maybe sign for two more... some real major labels are interested though! We will see.

Is it really hard to find suitable musicians in Stockholm? I thought every fan over there played in a band or at least an instrument. Well, I guess we must have missed all those guys. It has been extremely hard to find suitable musicians so far, but right now it's like we're heading for better times. In december '92 we recruited a bassist called **Israphel Wing** and we're currently checking out a second guitarist, who will most likely join the band. Can you tell me something about **Dan Swanö**? that guy seems to be involved in so many bands and helping even more bands. I guess he's one of the most talented musicians in the (Swedish) scene, doing vocals as well as grunts, bass, drums, keys and running his own studio! Dan Swanö is a musical genius! He's definitely an excellent musician as well as a producer. He has really helped us a lot and he really understands what the music should sound like. He rules!

What do you think of the whole black metal trend that's going on right now? After a lot of thoughts... No comment!

How powerful are underground mags in your eyes? They're very important and powerful to bands who's name isn't that well known yet. The decent ones are also enjoyable to read. But there are some mags which (in my eyes) aren't powerful at all! Especially some 'zines from Lithuania ask for free promo packs etc. But in favour for the bands they offers nothing! Bad interviews, reviews and english they deliver. Nobody buys these mags and if no one does, then the bands get no promotion, just some totally wasted and worthless time!

What does a decent mag have to contain? The Most important thing of all, excellent interviews! Of course it depends on the band whether the interview turns out great or not, but the editor(s) has to ask deep, intellectual and interesting questions. If the 'zines have great lay-out as well, it's the best, but the interview are absolutely the most important thing. The 'zines should also feel free to include bands playing different kinds of metal. Just as long as they're great! I hate 'zines which only stick to black metal bands just because they play black metal.

You guys have played some live gigs, how did they turn out? How did the crowd react on a singing drummer? They can't see that much of him right? Well, so far so good! It could be really cool playing some gigs when the audience fits, mostly they don't! We're seeing it as good promotion anyway. hey, it's me who handles the vocals on stage! Lord sang in the studio, he's the lead singer, but I handle the vocals at gigs as well as at the rehearsal place. But it's kind of obvious we're not a typical live band, because I don't think the audience likes our doomy stage set.

Why are you guys suing the names **Lord Seth** and **Blackheim**? Is that to keep up the black metal spirit **Cronos**, **Mantas** and **Abaddon** once started? Our 'names' are very important to us. We don't use them just for the sake of it, like all these new black metallers do today; trying to name themselves as satanic as possible, fuck 'em! My name is strongly connected to my own personality and the northern ancient mythology, so it's an conscious choice to use that name.

Why is the (old) **Black Sabbath** so brilliant? Or don't you agree with me about that? 'Paranoid' and 'Master of Reality' rules! Sorry if I'm disappointing you, but I don't agree.

And what about the old **Judas Priest**? Absolutely! I've all their albums except the last one. My fave is 'Defenders of the Faith'! It's deadly as a viper!

Do you also see a major difference between bands from Stockholm and bands from Gothenburg? Which one do you like the most? Never thought of that really... but you may be right! I'm not sure... I think **At The Gates** or **Eucharist** are the best down form there and from here **Opeth** rules supreme!

Okay **Blackheim**, thanks for the answers and good luck with **Katatonía**! Thanks and hail to you **Roel**, with a few others you're the greatest beings in my southern point of the compass.

Katatonía is defenitely a band with a bright future. Their second full length album will be recorded this winter and will contain pure gothic black rock music! their full length debut album will be available through **No Fashion** records soon and their "Jhva Elohim Meth....The revival" CD-ep is available for 10\$ at my adress (Vic Records) They got also a pure black metal project called 'Djävulsk Maskerad', look out for that one as well!

Katatonía, c/o **Blackheim**, Hagagatan 17 C, 113 47 Stockholm, Sweden.
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Beyond Dawn, a Norwegian band which made a terrific debut with their first demo 'Heaven's Dark Reflection' back in 1991. That tape showed us a big progression with an alternate approximation in making death metal. Luckily this band with own style was picked up by Adipocere records who already showed the possibilities of the band with an 7"ep. Beyond Dawn isn't only a band that takes a look over the edge of death metal, just like almost all other bands on Adipocere, Beyond Dawn is a source of own identity and originality. That why we designate Beyond Dawn as coming from the corner of Afflicted and Sadness. It's a pity we hadn't the chance to do this interview with Einar, the drummer, much earlier.

BEYOND DAWN

I thought it was Arkham Productions from Joel Grevost who showed some interest in Beyond Dawn, but finally it was Adipocere Records that signed you. Why did you change from label and will there be any future releases of you on that label? We never signed any deal on Arkham, we just had his interest and a deal proposition. After a little while we had the Adipocere offer which was a better one, so...

Would you agree if I compared your style from the demo 'Heaven's Dark Reflections' to the technical finnish Phlegethon? No, I

don't like Phlegethon much, they are technical like us, but they don't have the same catchy sound or the rawness. Not that I think our demo is so fabulous, but I don't like this comparison.

And what about your change in style on your 7"ep to the direction of Afflicted and Sadness (the promo). What do you think about those bands? Both Afflicted and Sadness are among the best bands today, but I don't think we sound like them either. However, I don't mind being compared to them, as both bands are great, ha, ha!

Which bands inspire you? Also the two above mentioned ones? Hard to say, really. All the band members have totally different influences and musical backgrounds. We just listen to all kinds of crazy shit, it's hard to name bands, too many!

Where do you get all those other 'elements' from; like the cello on your debut demo and the female singer on the 7"ep? Obviously those things have been tried out before, so it's nothing new. But we're always positive to experiment with our sound and create something eerie and moody. I don't think we have succeeded 100% with this on any of the releases, but it will hopefully get better and better. On our next release we'll have a trombone on two tracks, female vocals just as 'normal' vocals (by me and Tore) and sobbing (by tore).

So your next release will be something like a Norwegian version of Pan-Thy-Monium? No, not at all, I mean I like Pan-Thy-Monium a lot, they're really one of the few original bands from Sweden these days. But our music is totally different from theirs, which I'm sure you agree on. To inform you more on our up-coming release, let's skip right to the next question, shall we?

Hey, I ask the questions. Okay then, what will be the next release of Beyond Dawn? I heard rumours it will be something like a mini-cd on Adipocere? Yes you are right, our newest stuff will be recorded in september this year and released a couple of months later as a mini-CD on Adipocere(Thanx Christian, thanx -HD). The title will be 'Longing for Scarlet Days' and it will most probably be released on Adipocere. To all those who dig our 7"ep and are anxious to hear our next recordings I can reveal that you ain't heard nothing yet! With that I mean that Beyond Dawn will never sound the same on two releases, or two songs for that matter. No two songs on the mini-CD will sound alike, for instance one of the tracks mixes grind, industrial and boogie-heavy parts! There is also a song that might be compared to The Cure and one will be a totally heavy metal song with three riffs only! He, he, I guess there are some scared fans of us out



there now, don't worry, it will all be in that twisted Beyond Dawn way of doing things. Of course i cannot guarantee that everyone who's into our earlier stuff will dig it, we simply do this because this is how we want OUR music to be, something that we'll never grow tired of and if you feel the same way, then that's cool for you!

Is the 7"ep recorded in the same studio, Studio S, like the 'Heaven's Dark Reflections'? And where will the upcoming releases be recorded? Our 7"ep 'Up through the linear shades' was recorded at Waterfall studio in Oslo, a really good studio, but still not quite what we're looking for. 'Longing for scarlet days' will be recorded at Creative studio, yes, the same place where Mayhem, Darkthrone and Mortem have recorded. Of course we don't want to have a black metal sound, the reason is simply that it is a great studio with all kinds of equipments and the place is practically next door to where we, or at least I, live. Which studios we'll use in future, no one knows. We have to find 'our' sound first.

There are tons of 7"ep's coming out, an overkill is going on. I don't like that cheap one-track-each-side vinyl but it seems to remind a good underground medium. Do you think 'Up through the linear shades' will get enough attention? Well, I think it's really bad with all these shitty singles being puked out, most of them have really a poor sound quality and the covers are even worse. I mean, it's usually just a b/w xeroxed cover open in three directions with a shitty plastic bag around! No, I prefer a great demo instead! It seems that most bands care so little about what they release, that it's just a symbol of status they have a 7"ep printed on a distro list or flyer or whatever. They don't think about what it is they're releasing! To me a single, seveninchepee or whatever is a record, equal to an album, and it's not something every shitband should have the possibility to release, like a demo. I'm sure you understand what I mean when you see the cover of our own 7"ep and when I say that Beyond Dawn will never record a song twice. 'Up through the linear shades' is our first record and it's a fuckin' shame it drowns among all these fuckin' crap records, if there is something like justice, it won't.

Well, that were strong words. What will you do with the track 'Utopia', the one you recorded in the same time as the tracks on the 7"ep? There has been a proposition from a US compilation Cd to include the song there. Also Roberto Macaroni of Obscure Plasma was keen on releasing it as a split-single, but we haven't heard from him in fuckin' months. so now I think I'll mail the DAT to that CD-guy and see what happens, as we have been kinda lazy getting back to him. In the meantime, if anyone want to

hear 'Utopia', which by the way is a terrific little piece of dandy, can send me a tape and 3 IRC's for the postage, ask for rehearsals too!

Tell me a bit about your personal hobbies to get a view on your interests which you surely use in expressing yourself in Beyond Dawn. I don't have any hobbies, I mean something that I do just to fill time. I only do what I find interesting or inspiring in some way. For instance I can tell you that I hate sports and I rarely watch television, only if there's a good movie on or something. Mmmm.... I think we have much in common. And indeed, doing sports and watching television are both unhealthy, at least for your mind. But what DO you like to do? Well, at the moment I'm just finishing a fanzine called 'Eclipse' with a friend of mine, Kris from Ulver, a new norwegian band which I will say more about later in the interview. This is a really great zine, including interviews with Monumentum, G.G.F.H., Mayhem, Lullaby, Sadness, Alastis, Mortuary Drape, Beyond Dawn (he, he) etc. Anyone interested in a copy should send five dollars to me. I'm also gonna start a zine with Tore from our band, I dunno when the first issue will be out. Apart from zine-making I also read several comic books like Sandman and all the works of Miller and some others. (Hey, just try Dave McKean's 'Cages' serial -HD) In the weekends I hang out with my pals and drink lots of beer (that's rather impossible in Norway! -HD) Oh, I nearly forgot, I collect elephants too, however my collection ain't that big yet, can anyone help?

By the way, who is the main composer of the band? Hmm, hard to say, all the guys come up with riffs and i do my drum parts, but if there's one person who always has something special and also sometimes has the tendency to go against all the others, I would have to say Petter. He's always got hundreds of things going on in his head at the same time and it can be tough to get his point or agree with him, but mostly when the song is finished we usually understand that we couldn't have done without him. I'm not saying that the other members are less important, we all add our bit to Beyond Dawn but it's most often Petter who adds that little creative spark, that touch of genius. O Petter I love you, why can't we fuck? **Tell us something more about the situation the band's location, Norway.** I know Sofiemyr isn't the biggest place in Norway. But are other places in Norway civilized enough to have an alternate scene in which you can performe plenty? We don't do much gigs, when we do it's usually in Oslo, the capital, but there aren't huge numbers of people showing up, no matter we play in Oslo or in my garden. So now we are planning on arranging some gigs abroad, we've had a proposal from Root to play with them in Czechia, that would be most thrilling I have to say. Unlike most norwegian bands we think it's cool to play live, at least when the sound ain't to fucked up or we aren't too drunk. It's of course okay to have a good response from the crowd too.

How are the relationships with other Norisch bands? Are you in contact with many other bands, and what about the black metal scene? Mostly good relations, we don't have any troubles with any black metallers yet, something I have heard certain other bands have had. However I don't know what their thoughts regarding us are, but I do know that we're not counted among the 'true' bands here, but i couldn't care less. It just goes to show how stupid and narrowminded people can be. So what if some fucking moron from Malaysia or wherever thinks Beyond Dawn isn't 'true'? I actually think that this has lost its meaning some time ago. It started with several people claiming to have been into Venom since they were in kindergarten. But, as I said, I couldn't care less, my ambition is to make music that i dig myself, not to be feared. One band I don't think we're on good terms with is Enslaved which called us a 'trend-band' on their demo-list. If they had dared to include that message on the Oslo-copies of that demo too (Enslaved are from Haugesund, a long way from here), that would have shown some courage, or should I say stupidity, coz how can you call what we do a trend? What's so fucking trendy? Ha, ha, It just makes me laugh, how silly can you be... Some bands we usually hang out are Ulver, Mysticum and Lamented Souls, which are all good bands, we also share our rehearsal place with Satyricon and it happens that I bump into Mayhem and Emperor members too.

Compered to the international movement of death metal, how large do you estimate the music scene of Norway? When it comes to black metal, I must admit that there are few bands of the norwegian standards from other countries, so I guess it's fair to say that we have a great black metal scene. I also think quite a few of those acts can become large on an international scale too, as most death metal records released lately just suck...

Are there any other interesting bands from Norway than only some black and death metal bands. Yes, you all should check out bel Canto, really moody with lots of synth and female vox. Another band is Thule which plays atmospheric progressive rock and Arcturus, the project synth band including Hellhammer of Mayhem. And as i won't call Beyond Dawn death or black metal I will of course recommend that too... Not to forget Piledriver, playing industrial (I know them, they are boogie -HD) and Lamented Souls, playing Sabbath/Cathedral influenced boogie-metal!

Last words? Well, I guess that's all for now, Harold, it's been a pleasure



putting these words on paper. and to those who haven't checked us out yet, our demo is still available from me (\$5,-) and the single can be ordered for \$6,- from Adipocere, I guess the CD's out now too, but i don't know yet how much it costs, write to Adipocere! That's it form me now. Heaven weeps for me tonight....

Einar Sjursö, H.H.Vei 30A, N-1412 Sofiemyr, Norway.

Adipocere records, 152 Rue des Acacias, 01700 Miribel, France.
by Harold Dekkers



THE CHASM

One of the better new coming bands is definitely The Chasm from Mexico. Formed by the ex-Cenotaph bass player daniel Corchado. The Chasm brings you refreshing new ideas mixed with brutal death metal. Check out the debut demo review elsewhere in this mag. Daniel answered me some questions.



At first, tell me why did you leave Cenotaph? I left Cenotaph because things hadn't been working good. I was unsatisfied with some happenings. The other band members sometimes were very lazy while I was giving all my 100% to the band, so I became very depressed and disappointed. Also my musical ideas turned into a different way, so the other members thought my new ideas didn't fit to Cenotaph that well. These were mainly the reasons for my departure.

But were you satisfied with the Cenotaph CD? I'm very satisfied and proud of the music that we recorded on 'The gloomy...' CD, also I feel that the lyrics were very different than usual and I created a whole lyrical concept for the CD. But I'm very disappointed and sad because of the fuckin' bad production, the sound is very clear and the guitars doesn't sound that powerful as we wanted to have. We liked something more raw, anyway, I think that Cenotaph with 'The Gloomy...' showed their evolution to an alternative in the mexican scene.

How is it going on with Cenotaph nowadays? Are the other members still friends of you and what about Cenotaph's second album? The guys in Cenotaph are still my friends, mainly Oscar, the drummer, he's my blood brother; as you know they signed a deal with Drowned Productions for the release of their second album and without any ass licking I can say that their new songs are one of the most original stuff. I haven't heard something like that for a long time. They are more experimental but they are not losing the Cenotaph style.

Was it difficult to find new musicians to form The Chasm? Well, I hadn't any problems to find Antonio (drums) and Luis (bass) because they were my friends since I was still in Cenotaph. They had been together in another band and sometimes I saw them playing live, so I knew that they were good musicians (even they were playing a different death metal style than the way I had in my mind for The Chasm). It gave a little difficulty to find Erick (guitar) due to the lack of good guitarists, playing death metal, here in Mexico. Most guitar players are into guitar virtuosi or Metallica shit or they are just trendy little kids who want to play death metal because that is a cool fashion now.

I didn't know you were also playing guitar besides bass (in Cenotaph)? Since I was in Cenotaph I was playing bass. But I started to practise and created music with my guitar, so I was more and more involved into guitar technics and sound, also it helped me a lot to develop my level of playing bass-guitar. Finally when our lead guitar player left Cenotaph I took over his place and then I left Cenotaph and formed The Chasm. But still I need a lot of guitar practices!

The sound on the *The Chasm* demo is very great; where did you record it? We recorded the 'Awaiting...' demo in a little studio called Ara studios, very close to my house. It's the same where the 'Tenebrous Apparitions' 7"ep of *Cenotaph* was recorded. I choose that studio because I was looking for a small studio with a good solid, but at the same time also a bit raw sound. I don't like the very clear productions of these days.

How are the Mexican studios in general? Mexican studios are fine, we have three or four where we can record a decent album. The problems there are the engineers and the technic, they're not very involved in the death metal sound and music. Some producers are very close minded.

Have you ever thought about entering the Morrisound studios? Never! I hate Morrisound and their 'mainstream sound' producer Scott Burns; he stinks! (How do you know? -ED) How is it possible to record 10 - 15 bands with the same sound? I don't understand it and also I don't understand the bands who accept this sound. They just want to sound like *Morbid Angel* or *Decide*, just to become like them! Ha, ha, poor close minded guys!

Can you compare *Cenotaph* to *The Chasm*? Nope, I can't compare this bands, we are very different from each other, maybe the only thing that we have in common is the fact that we want to be different and original without loosing the true feeling of death metal and also Oscar and I really hate the commercialization of the today's death metal (and very soon the black metal too!)

The style of *The Chasm* is very flexible, a lot of progressive guitar parts are included in almost every song. How will *The Chasm* develop in the future? We are working very, very hard on the new songs. We really want to do something to be remembered (but anyway, if 95% of the people won't like our new stuff, I don't care). I still create very progressive and melodic, dark and hateful riffs with my guitar and sometimes it's very difficult because all our music is inspired by true feelings from heart and mind. All our songs are about six to eight minutes long and I'm busy with creating a very deep concept for our debut album.

Are there already some labels interested, *Horus* or *Drowned* maybe? We've signed a one-year deal with a small and underground label from here called *Guttural* rec. The people of that label are very great and honest, they really understand and feel our music and our way of thinking. That was the reason why they signed us. We will enter the studios at the end of October '93 and the album will be out at the end of '93 or early '94. There is no title for this album yet, just wait.

Do you know European underground bands and are you in touch with them? Of course I'm familiar with the European underground scene. Most of my fave bands are from there. I like *The Gathering* for example, or *Spina Bifida*. I still praise the masters *Necroschizma* -rip (They seem to be reformed -ed). Some other European bands I like are *At the Gates*, *Liers in Wait*, *Burzum*, *Unholy*, *Mayhem*, *Therion*, *Unanimated*, *Rotting Christ*, *Emperor*, *Abruptum*, *Ophthalamia*, *Mortuary Drape*, *Disgrace*, *Dissection*, *Alastis*, *Decollation* and others.

Your voice reminds me a bit to *Esa* of *Demigod* (rip), do you agree? Mmmmh... well, I don't agree, but if you think this it's okay.

And what about *Raul Alcala* and *Hugo Sanchez*? I think that *Raul Alcala* is okay. He does what he likes, but *Hugo* is a stupid bigmouth, too many people over here hate him, but more people love him, nah I don't care!

Are you an Aztec? Relative of *Montezuma* maybe? Are you into that stuff? Well, I have some remains of Aztec blood flowing in my arteries, it's sad the most of that great race and culture is lost, they were magnificent and genius. I really respect that ancient race, but here are too many people who don't care about our roots. Mexicans must be respected for the legacy they left to the world, the Spanish conquerors like *Herman Cortes* just fucked all our great empire, they will feel the consequences in the end of our days, live and let live (or die?)...

Would you like to be in the time of *Tenchtitlan*? Maybe, maybe not, it would be interesting.

How is the Mexican scene nowadays? Is money a major problem for the young and upcoming bands? Our scene is really shit! There is just pure envy and competition between bands, there are just a few people who are real and true fans. And yes, money is a big problem for bands, we need money to buy good instruments and a good equipment and to record in a good studio.

Okay *Daniel*, thanks and good luck! Thank you very much *Roel* for your interest and support in *The Chasm*, we really appreciate you, good luck with *Mortician* mag. Stay underground and be yourself! Not all the new bands are trendy!

Their debut demo is still available for \$7,-. Write for band contact to: *The Chasm*, c/o *Daniel Corchado*, Apdo. Postal #M-2730, C.P. 06002, Mexico, I.D.F, Mexico.

Roel van Reijmersdal



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This is an article about the complex concept between historical figures, put on music on the great 'Csejthe' demo of Mordor. The story is based on the philosophy of nihilism, reflected in a goddess, a 'Feminina' that incarnated Her desires on the figures. This article is made out of a short interview with Gora and a part of an abstract of 'Csejthe', written by Gora.



When we speak about the 'concept' of 'Csejthe', it must be said that it doesn't imply, like 'The Wall' by Pink Floyd, an account, in which every detail is organized in the way of a film scenario; on the contrary, this concept is not definitely fixed on the paper, but 'evolutive', it means that, with time, certain things can become more precise so that we can apprehend it differently.

It is neither a novel, which is a piece of writing essentially based on imagination, not something 'realistic' in the actual meaning which is given to this word... The nearest view point could be the one which belongs to the 'initiativ novel' dear to Gustav Meyrink, where music and secondly lyrics constitute the different chapters and events... Every one of our musical creation try to define what we call 'the entire reality' and how a human being makes progression on the way which takes there is using the blackness. To come again on the concept of 'Csejthe', it is built on a postulate that is the existence of an 'original female entity', in other words, the nothingness prevailing before the birth of the universe, that we could qualified on 'male'. It's useful to precise that these two basic principles, 'the absence' and 'the presence', both emerged from something absolutely unspeakable because, before existing 'absence' and 'presence' meant nothing. At the human level, the equivalent of Nothingness also exist, because which is down is like which is up, microcosm equalling microcosm...

Last important thing: the history told by this concept is beyond time, that's the reason why the passages of 'Csejthe' are not in a chronological order. So they constitute on their own scale a reversal in the nature of things, mainly controlled by the past, the present and the future...

And besides their participation to this concept, every passage relate by itself an independent story, finding its root in our own life. Anyway, it is thus a constant interaction between our philosophy and our existence, which is in part translated by the music...

With this words Gora of Mordor opens the abstract of his great second demo 'Csejthe' an 'industrial' masterpiece with a deep and complex theory behind it. So this article is for the philosophers among us... zeker nu Chuck Schuldiner showed on his last album his doubt about this people.

FIRST BIRTH OF THE CRUEL NYMPH

On the great 'Csejthe' tape you can hear the dark tunes that starts to imagine a cruel fight for power of an Egyptian pharaoh queen. From that passage Mordor steps to the story of the hungarian countess (and well known by us) Erzsébet Bathori...

BLOODY COUNTESS At the end of the middle ages, Hungary... A funeral procession escorting Ferencz Nadassy Bathori, the countess' husband... The lady in black, who, for years, is seeking... What is She looking for? Something that words can't be able to describe, because they are not made for it. But, that thing can be approached by black magic, sorcery, the call of the deep powers of the night, of the femininity, of the moon, of the unconscious and finally or the... Nothingness.

From who is that female voice on your 'Csejthe' demo? Feminine vocals are carried out by Opale. The fact that we wanted to realize a concept about Erzsébet Bathori, is an idea that we wanted since a long time ago. She was convinced to come with Mordor.

And in this we see clearly the nihilism that is used by gora in a kind of dark gnostic. I guess we all now the story of the paradox of Countess Bathori: her quest for immortality and for everlasting youthfulness and in the same time the coldness and lack of interest for life. From this we follow the story of the countess until she is burned on a stake and 'united' with the capitol She.

SELF IMMOLATION FOR MY SWEET GODDESS OF DARK DAWN The light of the stake on which was burning somebody who had sacrificed for her. And, at this very moment woke in Her what was so ancient... The Egyptian queen pharaoh and the bloody countess... So Her dark beauty adorn herself with a white veil, the one of the ice and of the absolute control of herself, the knowledge of Her deep soul. Her united being used many sacrifices to call some inhabitants from the reality that we don't perceive.

THE MOMENT OF THE TOTAL WORSHIP OF EVILUTION From a human point of view, these inhabitants of the astral, often called 'demons' could be qualified as 'bad', in fact their task is simply the destruction and to dissolve and they are necessary of our universe as creation. These beings, in direct relation with subconscious and unconscious (that's why psychoanalysis is 'the devil's sacrament', in such an involuntary way) fed with the sacrificed victims' emotions and blood are going to recover their original power... ... And the dark trinity who contemplated, satisfied, the lead age is going to transcend Her three principles, Evolution, to do only one, so revealing the 'original female entity' in other words: Nothingness.

The universe turned back to the chaos from which he came... The liberating nothingness in which someone can have immense 'joy' to be nothing, this in the same time everything, and surpass both terms...

Evolution was and will be.

Are there already any plans for a next release of a demo? After the 'The Way of Nihilism' compilation demo we are working on a CD of eighty minutes, but in the moment nothing is very sure.

Will your upcoming work being a concept on historical figures too? The new CD will contain a new concept, where we will find again famous themes, often used by us like the search of the knowledge of ourself, of the entire reality, through dark and negation. How progressively, someone tumble himself more and more, not able to find any significations to life and at least to his human society, this world where he has even never asked to birth... A passage programmed for our next concept is dedicated to someone who lived in Roumania one century ago. And we continue to be haunted by certain persons.

....Words from Gora.

Harold Dekkers, Dedicated to Jarkko of Unholy.

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FINLAND REVIEWED

Now the movement of the Scandinavian capitol of death metal is replacing their citadel to Gothenburg (no, Bilal! But still there is **Carbonized** and **Afflicted**) The divided underground of Finland almost reached it's highest point. Really underground where the releases by **Xysma**, followed by some misunderstandings like **Funebre**. But **Adipocere** was the first one, I think that shows us the possibility of releasing some alternate stuff. They did it with **God Forsaken**, Morbid took **Lubricant**. But there was more interest, the final debut of **Demigod** couldn't wait any longer and the band exploded after the release. But still there was more. **Sentenced** and **Amorphis** surprised us. At first the incredible release of **Sentenced**'s 'North from here' on Spinefarm rec. and **Amorphis** on Relapse haunted the old brave visions of lost times in a brutal and epic kind of death metal. And as bonus, **Amorphis** realized to put a legendary song of their former band **Abhorrence** on CD. But of course there's more. Relapse, supporting the Finnish scene, released a single CD as an underground item called 'Lost Equilibrium'. And it's right also **Convulse** lost their balance of death metal in the two tracks the present. It's more a kind of heavy metal as a pendulum between **Xysma**'s inventions and the taste of **God Forsaken**. (Relapse, P.O.Box 251, Millersville, PA 17551 USA.) It's possible next to the real debuts of **F** and **Impaled Nazarene** and **Beherit** on the other shore. Small bands are still rising. Hail to Finland! Other bands should be checked out:

Altar/Cartilage (Swe/Fin) split-CD '93

Drowned prod.

A Scandinavian split-CD, containing 14 tracks, 7 tracks each band. **Cartilage**, another blood covered Finnish death act. They're performing a pretty original kind of death metal, good vocals, nice and original guitar parts and an really excellent drummer. (5 tracks on lp and 2 bonus tracks on CD) Vocalist Mikki Salo has also his own project band **Wings** (7"ep out on Adipocere rec.) because **Cartilage** wasn't enough to release his evil feelings (pfff... a big pathetic...) The drum sound is a bit bad, especially the snare drum sounds poor, but after all a nice band. **Altar** from Sweden shows 7 tracks of Swedish death metal on their 'Ex Oblivione' side (7 on CD, 5 on lp) they are a bit more original than the standard Swedish band, but much more better. Nice idea's and again a great drummer although also on the **Altar** side the snare drum sounds awful, just a bucket. Recorded in 8-tracks at Gorysound studios and produced by Dan Swanö, but it's definitely not the best sounding Gorysound product. lp/mc: \$12,-, cd \$22,-. **Drowned prod.** Gran Via 69, 28013, Madrid, Spain.

Roel van Reijmersdal



As Serenity Fades (Fin)

Lowering Sunset demo '92

This demo was recorded at the end of '92, so it is more a '93 release. And maybe not because of the time only, but because of the sound this band is really a '93 band. It's sure their style belongs to the more-letter-word-bands like **Chorus of Ruin**, **Paradise Lost** etc. etc. And to point out their style I've just mentioned the right bands. In fact **As Serenity Fades** is nothing more than a faster version of **Chorus of Ruin**, crossed with elements of the later **Paradise Lost**, completed with double bass drums and whisper singing (in the end of 'The Keen part I') This isn't a problem to the band, the recording is clear, but it means the so called gothic doom style has become an international style which is free as a bird to copy. Bands like **Pyogenesis**, **Godsend** and **As Serenity Fades** are surely the proof of this.

\$5,- to: **As Serenity Fades**, Sami Kotiranta, Pähkinärinteentie 26 A 5, 01710 Vantaa, Finland.

Harold Dekkers



Astaroth (Fin)

War against life demo '92

This demo was recorded at the Delta studios in Germany in co-operation with the German In Line label. It was supposed to be some sort of promo to get signed by In Line. But due to some circumstances nothing happened and **Astaroth** released the tracks as their third demo, so they are (still?) unsigned. The tape contains three tracks of death metal that is a bit thrash orientated. The vocals are not really grunting, more like a raw version of **Sepultura**'s vocalist. The riffs are not really hot, sometimes a bit standard actually. It's not typically Finnish like **Funebre**, **Xysma**, or **disgrace**, more a bit Swedish. \$5,- to: **Teemu Vähäkangas**, Jyvätie 9, 60510 Hyllkallio, Finland. (The demo has a glossy cover.)

Roel van Reijmersdal



Beherit

Drawing Down the moon CD '93

Spinefarm Records

Well **Beherit** has always caught tons of interest from the whole scene due to their extreme expression form, stage acts, statements and attitude. Musically **Beherit** seems to be more serious about the hot topics they use to express, maybe even a bit more grown up. And so is their music. Their '92 promo tape showed a decent progression and their second (???) album is actually very impressive! Well, pretty hard for me as a black metal hater (only

concerning the childish images and trend, not musically wise!) to say that this album is excellent. Yes, it is! Very atmospheric, non-chaotic tracks with a lot of doomy and catchy riffs although everything is kept pretty simple, don't expect any technical guitar riffs. But the whole album shows a dark and attractive atmosphere. The vocals are pretty unnatural, a lot of pitch shifted/harmonized stuff, but it sounds great! (and it fits even better to their music) Well, if they're the 'most satanic band' from Finland, I don't know... maybe most pathetic... (concerning satanism...) or are **Impaled Nazarene** still the most pathetic? Also included a very decent and atmospheric CD booklet with great pictures (no, no goats! LP: \$10,-, CD: \$15,- + \$3,- for postage to add.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Depravity (Fin)

Phantasmagoria promodemo '93

On this demo the guitars are a bit higher tuned, there aren't dominating keyboards, but hopefully the will be the new **Demigod** after that band split up. **Depravity** has the potential to become this! Ask for prices for this two track promo, **Depravity**, p.o.box 60, 33961 Pirkkala, Finland.

Harold Dekkers

Excrement (Fin)

Flesh & Blood demo '93

Another new band from the still growing Finnish scene: **Excrement**. Four tracks and one intro of Scandinavian death metal. It isn't typical Finnish death metal but more Swedish orientated. This tape remind me a bit to the '91 demo of the Swedish **Megaslaughter** after their 'Calls from Beyond' album they releases on Thrash records. Most of the tracks contain pretty original guitar riffs and nice leads. Recorded in two days at the Studio 17 in Finland and the sound is good. \$5,- to: **Excrement**, c/o Antti Oinonen, Polissipolku 6 B 3, 62800 Vimpeli, Finland.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Impaled Nazarene (Fin)

Tol Cormpt Norz Norz... cd '93

Osmose Productions

After hearing the opinion of some real black metal lovers (no, no, not the Norway club) I've to draw the conclusion **Impaled Nazarene** has a progression in perversity but a fall off in their music. They detach themselves from the black metal wave, that's okay, but it only ends in a back too the roots hardcoreish black/death metal in a nearly 30 minutes recorded album with 18 tracks. This album contains only a few tunes of the old black metal mixed with too many intro's mitro's etc... it's a proof they are tired to play. Is **Impaled Nazarene** bored of everything? Is dullness the reason to forbid to be seen as a common of Northern black metal? This album isn't nothing better than the **Blasphemy** albums and it's rather boring indeed due to the shortage of any feeling and any concept. That will be the reason **Impaled Nazarene** didn't make it with this album, it's almost only a perverse version of a satanic **Gwar**, but **Impaled** don't like to be reviewed on their obscene shows only. And to get them angry, say you prefer **Burzum**, just like me!

Harold Dekkers

Morningstar (Fin)

Inside the circle of Pentagram promo '93

A strong case of sub-evilsness. An unreal kind of black metal, placed between the bands like **Samael**, **Darkthrone**, **Alastis** and **Ancient Rites**. So, this band will attract his followers. Black metal can be very interesting, but tons of bands fails with an unproved lack of identity caused by a 'normal' atmosphere. **Morningstar** brings a well played demo, not fat of brilliant ideas, but in between of the boundaries of black metal. But the wrong interpretation of the black felling let this band far behind the ones who are really cult, or the ones who try as hard as they can to reach that status.

Morningstar, c/o Sinister Satyr, Kuusirinne 3 B 13, 44150 Äänekoski, Finland.

Harold Dekkers

Lubricant (Fin)

Nookeptia mini LP/CD '93

Morbid Records

The first remarkable thing of **lubricant** is definitely it's super vocalist, he sings with so many styles and pitches within one voice! He's definitely one of the best around! Besides their original rock 'n' grind riffs the best **lubricant** pint! Indeed a lot of rock 'n' roll riffs performed in a grindy way like the Finnish Godfathers did on their 'Yeah' and 'First and Magical' lp's. The sound is not really good, a bit powerless sometimes, but it isn't a real disadvantage for this great mini album. Six tracks like 'Thrombose', 'Expulsive Gastroscopic' and 'Laceration of Vasoconstrictive Emotion' are probably inspired by the **Carcass** lyrics. Available as MLP: \$14,- (Europe) or \$15,- (world) and as CD: \$16,- (Europe) or \$18 (world) from **Morbid Records**, Postfach 3, 03114 Dresskau, Germany. And check out the Morbid Records mail order catalogue of 20 pages: 1 IRC (Europe) or 2 IRCs (world)

Roel van Reijmersdal



Obfuscation (Fin)

Windows of the world demo II

The seed that **Carcass** has once sown can't be exterminate anymore! This band sounds like a band from that infected sowing-land and yes, this undestroyable mushroom isn't to be weeded. And ill weeds grow apace. Still there is the toxic influence of two communicating **Carcass**-like vocals by Tomi Rantakari and Julius Jääskeläinen, the heavy down tuned riffs, with enough melody to stay as exciting as **Carcass**. **Obfuscation** stays in action as one of those growing grind/death bands (**Adramelech**, **Depravity** etc.), but luckily they maintain some originality, which is common practice in Finland. **Obfuscation**, c/o Julius Jääskeläinen, Nikkarinkatu 12 B 11, 15001 Lahti, Finland.

Harold Dekkers

Phenomenon (Fin)

Veil of Darkness demo '93

Ha, I'm getting tons of tapes in, so there is much to criticize, just like **Phenomenon**. The lay-out of the sheer claims already a sowing of clichés that we haven't heard yet... yes, this won't become a positive article for **Phenomenon**, even the logo is that dull... but, No, what I'm saying doesn't represent the band at all. **Phenomenon** is a very original band, even they are in their first phase. The sound has an obscurity like **Burzum** or **Necromantia** shows, but it's not black metal on the whole, vocals are an echoing lullaby in the direction of **Voivod** on doom and I discovered also some thrill from the old **Necrophagia** and **Nirvana** (on 'Open your eyes'). After all, **Phenomenon** (the music has the same sound as the intonation of their name, very well chosen) is one of the bands that can be classified to the romantic category which I like to mention 'dark metal' (**Bethlehem**, **Opera IX**, etc.) I hoe we will hear more from this band. \$5,- to: **Posi Ripatti**, Koituntie 46D93, 50160 Mikkeli, Finland.

Harold Dekkers

Purtenance (Fin)

Member of Immortal Damnation CD '93

Drowned prod.

Finland's **Purtenance** on CD... hm, if that makes me happy? I guess not, boring, boring and boring doom/death metal, that's all. Only three excellent tracks: 1. Intro (which promises a lot when you hear it) 2. 'Lacus Somioum, an instrumental track and 3. Joh 3:16 a keyboard track. The other 8 tracks are heavy, doomy and boring featuring a bad vocalist who lacks variation and flexibility. I can't listen to three tracks in a row, not my cup of tea. For everyone who's into brutal doom death in the Finnish style: lp/mc \$12,-; cd \$22,- to **Drowned productions**, Gran Via 69, 28013 Madrid, Spain.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Rippikoulu (Fin)

Musta Seremonia demo '93

Originally playing hardcore, **Rippikoulu** didn't find the time to change their name into an English one when they adapted a more down-tuned heavy grind sound. Well recorded basic bass tunes with thundering vocals. The usual dark grind on its lowest point, resonating with other Finnish bands in the grindy category. \$5,- to: **Anssi Kartela**, Kanervakatu 12, 37650 Valkkoski, Finland.

Harold Dekkers

Sceptical Schizo (Fin)

7"ep '93

The echoing production makes this band to a faster and colossal equivalent of all the gothic band. With strange effects in the guitars, some back ground effects like flutes, the spooky vocals, all made me remind to **Faltom**, but that band was a cheap product of the **Thergothon** slowness. It's better to refer them to **Decoryah**, but I realize everything of **Sceptical Schizo** can be pumped up by the studio producer who did undoubtful a good job. *****

Harold Dekkers

Sigillum Diaboli (Fin)

Descent into Hell demo '93

Ah, come on **Sigillum Diaboli**, what would you expect from the critical ears of the Mortician editors. That we like a cheap **Deicide** rip-off from Finland? That a simple 4 track tape with some honky-tonk death metal should impress us. If you're a local band, think twice before you send your stuff in. **Sigillum Diaboli** is recorded with an acceptable sound, but about their musical qualities I've my doubts. \$5,- to: **P. Ilvespakka**, Ratsutilantie 2D, 33960 Pirkkala, Finland.

Harold Dekkers

Thergothon (Fin)

Stream from the heavens cd '93

Obscure plasma rec.

O, the cold july wind, hear it blow. The aim of **Thergothon**, to make undeleted doom metal is out now! How slow! The tracks grips for never to reach melodies. The talented songs 'Yet the watchers Guard' and 'Elemental' in a new drape of clear dark sound, still better and still long sleeved! Brother Sirkä, I will pace this in my hart, it's underground and not objective anymore!

Thergothon, Nurmelaentie 6D3, SF-207801 Kaarina, Finland.

Harold Dekkers

It is very unique in the Mortician mag history to expose a band that hasn't released anything! So there has to be a very good reason to introduce a pretty unknown and undiscovered band. The simple reason is quality!! **Opeth** doesn't perform the wellknown brutal Stockholm down tuned deathmetal, much more in the vein of some of the ultimate Gothenburg based bands! Tonnes of catchy and flexible guitar riffs, a very skilled drummer, a lot of acoustic parts and a vocalist who uses both screams and normal voice! The line-up is Michael-vocals and guitars, Anders-drums, Peter-guitars and Stefan on bass guitar. Micke was the interviewed one:



Opeth and Crowley got some close connections in the past, one followed from the ashes of the other, can you tell me the (hi)story? It was David who formed Opeth in 1990 I think. AT that time Anders (drums) and I were playing in another black/ death metal outfit called **Eruption**. The members of **Opeth** back then were the same as **Crowley** had on their first demo (a pretty bad one-ed) except for David who was the singer. This line-up broke up after about one year. The break up is a very long and complicated story, but I can tell you that I was kinda involved in it, he, he!!

Chris from Absurd/Expulsion used to play bass in Opeth some ages ago, are you still in touch with him? I don't know any of the former members in **Opeth**, because I've never had the change to get to know them.

Also Dave Isberg used to be in Opeth some time ago, now you're doing the vocals by yourself. Why did he leave the band and was it selfevident that you would take the vocals, and had you some experience with that? David left **Opeth** in the beginning of 1992 because he didn't want to sing in a deathmetal band any longer. Strange that he started singing in another death metal band!! Anyhow...I was the singer/guitarist in the **Eruption** days so it wasn't a difficult choice to make. I had pretty much experience singing since I had done that since 1987.

When I'm right Opeth exists already for some six years but even not a demo is recorded, why does it take so long before Opeth's debut will be released? I have to correct you here...**Opeth** has not been around for six years, but **Eruption/Opeth** has. The reason why we haven't record anything during these years is that we didn't find our own sound till the end of 1991. We didn't think of recording the songs until we were completely satisfied with them. **Opeth** have had many songs that we've dropped since they weren't good enough. I think that we will record something soon, but...time shall tell!!!

Is it true that you guys rehearse every day? You must be a tight team right now I guess...We do rehearse as much as we can, sometimes it's more, and other times it's less. We really enjoy what we're doing so none of us mind rehearsing often. Right now we don't rehearse very often since we have had a burglary in our rehearsal place. The idiots who did it stole one of our guitars plus some effect pedals.

I've seen some Opeth- "The spawn of doom" stickers, what was that? That were just some stickers David printed with the help from Dudde from **Lobotomy**. I think they look like a krukväxt!!!!(uh, what does that mean? -ed?). **Is there already some label interest? Candlelight maybe?** Yes, we've had some offers from minor record labels, but we haven't decided anything. about **Candlelight** rec... one certain Mr. Blackheim from **Katatonian** told me that **Candlelight** was interested in **Opeth**. I haven't written to them so I don't know whether this is true or false...I really don't

know! **Candlelight** is indeed a very interesting record company, and I wouldn't mind releasing an album on **Candlelight** under the right circumstances.

Do you agree to me when I say that Opeth's style is something like Eucharist, Dissection and a huge dose of originality? This is a very hard question since I haven't heard any of those bands...I'm ashamed!! I have heard that both bands are great so I look forward to the day I hear them (they are both very excellent!!!!-ed). I know that uncle Adrian's (**At the Gates**) brother is the drummer in **Eucharist** (was, sadly enough!!!!-ed). I would compare us to...**Wishbone Ash**, **Black Sabbath** and **Bathory** maybe...

You're also performing some normal vocals during the rehearsals, are you getting bored of the usual grunt/scream? Do you like Quorthon's normal voice as for example on the Godly Hammerheart? Yes I do. It comes more and more. But I don't think that we will abandon the death metal vocals as it fits in our music as good as good as the normal vocals. I am not a great singer!! I think I learned singing normal in the shower!! Symfoniiiiiiiiiiiiiii!! About Quorthon's normal voice on the recent **Bathory** albums..He's a good singer with a personal voice, but I must say that I prefer the way he screamed on the four first records!!(I think I do agree!!!!-ed)

Micke, you're the Opeth textwriter/composer/guitarist/vocalist, are you Opeth? I do 95% of the **Opeth** material, but I wouldn't say that I'm **Opeth**. **Opeth** is a band and not a one man project. I would never cope without the other guys. We all have our own ideas and suggestions, and every one has to love every single riff if we'll shall use it. I just happen to write such music/lyrics that's their cup of tea aswell as mine!

Thanks for the answers and goodluck with Opeth!! Thank you Roel for the interview!

Well, you can't order anything from those guys yet but I am sure that will change soon!! This is a real great band and I'd love to sign them! Of course you can write them and maybe they'd like to record some of their excellent rehearsals for you.

Opeth c/o Michael Akerfeldt, Vedeavagslingan 34, 12474 Bandhagen, Sweden

Roel van Reijmersdal



Agonize (Den)**Promo '93**

New **Agonize** stuff after their '91 'Fall' demo. I don't know if anything happened with Nuclear Blast who contacted them. And I even heard some rumours **Agonize** split up... The should be pretty sad because this band really deserves some attention and recognition. Again recorded and produced with the help of **Invocator's** Jacob Hansen. The production is good and aggressive, not too heavy and down tuned, but that's pretty obvious cause **Agonize** doesn't perform the typical death metal. It's more thrashy death metal, a lot of changing guitar parts and aggressive leads. Also the vocals are more thrashy than the well known grunts. The vocals on this tape are also more straight ahead instead of the overdubbed vocals on their demo. I don't know if this tape is available, but try \$5,- or a blanc tape and some IRC's to **Agonize**, **Persmindevej 29, DK-7100 Vejle, Denmark.**

Roel van Reijmersdal.

Enuresis (Den)**prelisten '93**

Enuresis is a new Danish project with some Swedish members as well. The line-up consists of Bjarke from **Idiosyncrasy** on vocals, some **Detest** members from Denmark (CD out soon!) and some **Deranged** members from Sweden (7"ep out now). This tape contains two tracks, 'Beauty' and 'whatever you do, God will always love you'. It's really brutal and heavy stuff with the ultra growling vocals from Bjarke and pretty good and catchy guitar riffs. I think the demo will be out soon, if you can't wait sent a blanc tape + IRC to: **Bjarke Ahlstrand, Brandholms alle 26f, 2610 Rodovre, Denmark.**

Roel van Reijmersdal



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**Idiosyncrasy (Den)****Rehearsal '93**

This is Bjarke's main band besides **Enuresis** (and **Nagual Mag**) The line-up is Bjarke -vocals, Flemming (Rasmussen?) -guitar, Claus -bass and Michael on drums. Their debut demo will be released really soon, so this rehearsal is to taste what's coming. Again brutal stuff, much more brutal than the 'well known' Danish deaththrash. Really great and aggressive vocals, both deep growling and screaming. It's all mainly fast with some slower parts. Write to Bjarke and he'll definitely record you some **Idiosyncrasy** or **Enuresis** stuff and check out his great underground magazine. **Bjarke Ahlstrand, Brandholms alle 26F, 2610 Rodovre, Denmark.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

Danish scene-report.



By Bjarke Ahlstrand (NAGUAL Magazine)

To begin with I'd like to say that it's my opinion that the Danish scene is totally underestimated! That has mostly got to do with the fact that most of the Danish bands don't know how to promote themselves. We sure have got some great bands, as well as of course "average" bands. Fasten your seatbelts, I'll now take you with me on a journey through the Danish underground..

Not that many bands have albums out, but one of those who have are **MACERATION**. They started out as a project, but is now a 100% serious band. Their debut CD "A serenade of agony" was supposed to be released by German Turbo Music, but the band got ripped off! So Danish Progress Red Labels were the ones to release "A sere...". **MACERATION** plays DM in the vein we know if from a band like **MASSACRE**. **MACERATION**, Tinghøjs alle 20 B, 6700 Esbjerg, DK.

Another band who soon will release their debut CD (on Progress) is **DETEST**. **DETEST** has gained a very good reputation from their debut demo "Deathbreed", they've played at Roskilde Festival (which you should have heard of since it's the biggest festival in Europe), they've been on the nationwide tv and much more. Their fresh Death-Thrash really appeals to the masses. Watch out for their debut CD "Dorval"! **DETEST**, B.N.V. 72-6-4, 2605 Brøndby, DK.

If you're into mid-paced DM with a catchy edge you must check out **DOMINUS**! The first time I saw + heard this band is was convinced that they've got a future, a bright one that is! They've recently released their second demo entitled "Astaroth", which I can only recomend! 6\$ should do. **DOMINUS**, Egevej 2, 4100 Ringsted, DK.

WITCHCRAFT is a 75% female band that plays (happy!) thrash metal with a brutal growling vocalist. Their debut demo "Uncertain facts" is quite enjoyable listening to - it will make you in a good mood! Send those fanletters to **WITCHCRAFT**, Skolebakken 66 4. tv., 6700 Esbjerg, DK.

Another band from the country side is **AGONIZE** whose latest effort is their "Fall" Demo 91 which is supposed to be released on a 7" by Nuclear Blast Rec. The band possesses great musical abilities, and I'm sure that their new material blasts away their old. The only merchandise they've got available right now is a 2-sided t-shirt. Write to **AGONIZE**, Boulevarden 5. 3th, 7100 Vejle, DK.

One of Denmark's only Death-Grind bands are **FALLEN ANGEL**. They've done one demo so far which unfortunately suffers from a bad production. I've seen the guys live and I know that they can offer more than their demo shows. The "An omen..." Demo costs 6\$. **FALLEN ANGEL**, Skovhasturpevej 26, 4330 Hvalsø, DK.

If a band like **AUTOPSY** appeals to you, **MORATORIUM** certainly is your cup of tea. Real dirty and a bit primitive DM. Not original at all, but listenable. Their debut effort "Immature Massacre" has 5 songs in the abovementioned vein, and it comes with a fullcoloured cover, sticker and all that belongs to it. 6-7\$ to **MORATORIUM**, P.O. BOX 1147, Østed, 4000 Roskilde, DK.

From Ribe we have **SACRIFICIAL**, who recently released their debut CD, "Forever Entangled". **SACRIFICIAL** used to play a kinda brutal DM with "Swedish" touches, but on "Forever..." they play brutal.. Thrash, with lots of DM touches. The CD has 7 songs with good sound quality etc. It can be ordered from **TRECHOMA PROD.** which you can read about elsewhere. **SACRIFICIAL**, Lundgårdsvej 9, 6760 Ribe, DK.

A band with a real original approach is **GERONIMO**, who used to play Hard Core. Now they're playing "Dark Metal", according to themselves. I'll call their music thrasy, doomy, death metallish, weird and damn interesting! Hopefully they'll get a deal soon, they deserve it! **GERONIMO**, Mølleskoven 42, 9260 Gistrup, DK.

Denmark's most known band, **INVOCATOR**, are not playing Death-thrash anymore. It's like they're trying to get out of the underground, both soundwise and musicalwise. Their newest material is a sort of power-thrash. You can still contact them at this address: **INVOCATOR**, Kongensgade 84, 6700 Esbjerg, DK.

CYANOTIC from Næstved plays Death Metal with thrash touches. They've done one demo which has three songs all being catchy and melodic as well as brutal. A band to check out! 5\$ to **CYANOTIC**, H.C. Andersensvej 45, 2. TH., 4700 Næstved, DK.



ILL DISPOSED is far the most brutal Danish band, their demo was great and then their CD came... Woohhh!! Best Danish band, killer ultrabrutal DM! Unfortunately the band has a very lausy attitude and they haven't even got a contact adress..

Invocator (Den)**Weave the Apocalypse** adv. CD '93**Black Mark**

Invocator's second album 'Weave the apocalypse' released again on the Swedish/German label Black Mark, the label of Bathory (yez!!!) Invocator performs good deaththrash, so not the standard down tuned death metal nor the cliché thrash metal. A lot of nice and inventive riffs, mainly fast and supported by a great drummer. This style is mainly riff orientated, maybe somewhere comparable to Dark Angel, but also with a lot of own ideas. I only don't like the vocals, the typical and a bit powerless thrash voices, no grunts, growls or screams. It all sounds heavy and with a lot of great guitar parts. Check out the very impressive album cover too! The new Invocator address: Jacob Hansen, Kongensgade 84, DK-6700 Esbjerg, Denmark. Jacob is also running his own recordshop in Esbjerg, interested people should write to: Power Records, Torvegade 29, 6700 Esbjerg, Denmark and finally the merchandise/album selling address: Black Mark, Waldemar Str. 37, D-1000 Berlin 36, Germany.

Roel van Reijmersdal

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**F (Fin)****Pronimo, split-lp with Bewitched (Chi)****Warmaster records**

The most strange combination I've ever heard, the second split lp of the Colombian Warmaster Records. After their great split of Uncanny and Ancient Rites here we have a split of Bewitched from Chili and F(uncunt) from Finland. Bewitched plays serious black/doom/death metal, an impressive debut of this band but F is really something complete different, stranger and better... In fact Bewitched won't attract that much attention on the backside of F, because when you hear the one and only track 'Pronimo' you'll forget something like Bewitched is original, but not as idiotic like the former bandname of F indicates. Maybe F is censored now, their music certainly isn't. I guess everybody is expecting some low levelled humour, but F is the letter for Fun in it's best way. F is complex, strange, funny, revolutionary and hasn't much to do with any other different variation of death metal. Still it's metal, an orchestral noise of every possible variation on music. Sorry, again I can't express their music in words, try to understand F by your ears. \$13,- to Warmaster records, AA 056642 Medellin, Colombia.

Harold Dekkers

Another band to look out for is INIQUITY who have just completed the recording of their new promotape. I've heard a rough mix and it sure blasts away their demo. Death Grind with a permanent keyboardplayer. Send a blank tape to INIQUITY, Nørregade 111, 2.TH., 4600 Køge, DK.

DISASTER AREA have been around for some years. They've done two demos, and they've recorded a mini-CD which was supposed to be released on WILD RAGS a long time ago.. Who knows if it will ever be released.. DISASTER AREA plays Death-thrash with lots of tempochanges. D.A., Grønnevej 1B. St. Th., 6230 Rødskro, DK.

Ever heard of NATIONS OF DEATH? Probably not since they haven't done anything to promote themselves.. Yet?! Their second demo was recently recorded and released. It has a good sound and all that, but the music doesn't really make my piss boil. Too-many-riffs-heard-before, I suppose. N.O.D., Løvsangervej 3, 4000 Roskilde, DK.

Unlike most other Danish band CAUSTIC plays real atmospheric heavy/doomy Death. Still remaining interesting and technical. They've done two demos and they're going to release a 7" on Shiver Rec. soon! Get it!! CAUSTIC, Sejrovej 14 St. Th., 6705 Esbjerg, DK.

One of the few DK thrash bands in(to) the underground in DK are BEYOND SERENITY whose only contribution to the scene so far is a 3 track demo tape. B.S. plays harmonic and neat thrash. 6\$ to B.S., Drosselvej 7, 3600 Fr. Sund, DK.

Another of those ordinary DM bands is EXHAUST. Their first and only contribution to the underground so far being a demo tape comes with a very cool glossy cover, stickers, pictures etc. Unfortunately the music isn't at the same high standard as the promopack. Death Metal with no differences at all should be a suitable description. EXHAUST, Metisvej 33, 9210 Ålborg, DK.



Copenhagen based KONGHRA used to play thrash, but they've changed their style to the a bit more brutal - Death-thrash. Two demotapes and a CD is what shows KONGHRA musical abilities so far and a new CD is due for release. The new CD was recorded at Sunlight.. I wonder how that one sound.. KONGHRA, Lille Istedgade 5 1. Tv., 1706 KBH V., DK.

Then there's my own band IDIOSYNCRASY.. We play a sort of complex midpaced death metal, still containing many slow as well as grind parts. We'll most likely record our debut demo in 2 months.. The band can be contacted at my adress..

Of course we have other bands worth mentioning beside the abovementioned like FROZEN SUN, ENURESIS, DECRIAL, APOSTASY, INFERNAL DEATH etc. but if I should mention them all I WOULD HAVE TO GO ON FOR HOURS.. Oh, oh, we must not forget the labels and 'zines, so here we go again!

PROGRESS RED LABELS have so far released CDs with KONGHRA, ILL DISPOSED, 2 comp. CDs etc and within the following two months they'll release CDs with KONGHRA and DETEST! If their releases aren't available at your local store write to PROGRESS, Vindegade, 5000 Odense, DK.



A new label is TRECHOMA. They've released one CD so far being the debut CD with DK Death-thrashers SACRIFICIAL. The CD costs 20\$. TRECHOMA is also a magazine, a damn prof. one, all glossy pages and shit! Write TRECHOMA, Solvangen 55, 6700 Esbjerg, DK.



We have quite a few 'zines here but I'll just mention a couple of them.. One of them is the ruling EMANZIPATION! Two killer issues have been released and the 3rd issue is due for release! This 'zine crushes everything!! You MUST write to EMANZIPATION, Holbergsvej 137, 4700 Næstved, DK.

DEATH LIGHT is the kind of 'zine that could and surely will be better on a lot of fields, but it really has an underground feeling! Worth checking out, #1 costs 4\$ from D.L., Blokland 8, 2620 Albertslund, DK.

The last one I'd like to mention is my own 'zine - NAGUAL! The second is will be out as you're reading this! It will contain ints. with MERCYFUL FATE, AT THE GATES, GORGUTS, ICONOCLAST, DETEST etc. It'll also have tons of reviews and articles and along with every 25. issue there'll be a brandnew FREE NOCTURNUS 7"!!! You can't miss this one, can you? The price is 4\$ (Europe) and 5\$ (Elsewhere). Ok, that's it.. I hope you enjoyed this Danish scene-report and that you'll check out a couple of the bands. My adress is NAGUAL MAG./IDIOSYNCRASY c/o Bjarke Ahlstrand, Brandholms alle 26 F, 2610 Rødovre, Denmark.

Brutality (USA)**Screams of Anguish** CD '93**Nuclear Blast**

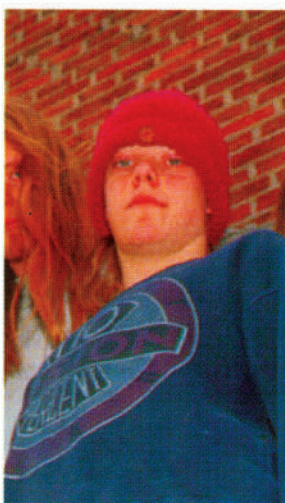
Although their cliché metal band name, this stuff is really brutal. Formed around '87, so not another 'new and quickly signed' Floridian band in any case. Now Monstrosity are no longer a part of the NBR range, Brutality are here and they're a good opportunity to forget Monstrosity. The same kind of Morriissound metal only without those nervous blast beats. Maybe also a bit comparable to Morbid Angel concerning the sometimes complex guitar parts. Ten tracks in total with a running time of 45 minutes. Great cover by the way and not a Seagrave nor McKean one. Notice the new Nuclear Blast postcode: NBR, Mittelmühlgasse 1, 73072 Donzdorf, Germany.

Roel van Reijmersdal.

Metal as music and metal as art... it seems both things aren't enough for the real underground metal audience. Under the flag of our musical genre another stream started to flow. From the beginning the first underground fans started to draw and paint their own paintings, some of them are well known like Kristian Wålhin and Paw Nielsen. But also some other artists beside the scene earned some with it, the best example is Dan Seagrave, a man who will have influenced many by his countless cover paintings. That's why we decided to pay more attention to this 'sub-culture' of artists. In fact this page was meant for a nice interview with Dave McKean, a creator of album covers but also an extremely great (comic) artist. But due to the circumstances we have to make this default. So we took some artwork that attract our attention while making this magazine and we released some of them. Of course we didn't look for the capacity of the painter only. The best developed and original drawings or photos are released, taking into account the feeling in the artwork that covers the load.

SACRIFICIAL

And of course, the first one is Paw Nielsen. Not for his average work that seems to appear on every demo tape nowadays. Again we see the 'human souls', the kind of figures he used many times. But this time he put them in such a weird colour mix of the background decoration that I really wanted to publish the work 'Forever Entangled' in its grandeur. This work is used for the **Sacrificial** debut CD. **Sacrificial** from Denmark plays an intense kind of deathrash as strong as the thrash from Denmark is in general (See Danish scene report). The fast and technical way played by **Sacrificial** makes it hard to listen the whole album at ones. There are so many intense and fast structures in their rhythms, it looks like there aren't two beats the same. It's the same effect like **Liers in Wait** on thrash soil, you're tired to death after a listen to their whole album, so it doesn't matter the album only takes half an hour.



Sebastian Nordqvist, *Sacrificial* - Guitar

The **Sacrificial** album is released by the Danish Trechoma label, coming forth from the professional magazine Trechoma of our colleague Morten Nissen. The album is distributed by Semaphore (Benelux), House of Kicks (Swe) and plastic head (UK). We are curious for the new release on Trechoma. The latest news is a band will be signing a deal soon. That, still unknown (?) band will be a mixture of **Rage Against The Machine**, **Clawfinger** and some brutal death metal! For contact with Morten, write to **Trechoma Productions ApS**, Solvangen 55, 6715 Esbjerg N, Denmark.



'Forever Entangled' Paw Nielsen

Threnody

Tons of metal releases are featuring some old and famous art in their album covers (like Jeroen Bosch). One band recently took art coming out of their own neighbourhood. The cover art of the debut album of **Threnody**, released on the German Massacre records is a detail of the painting of Yvonne Sablorolles. An impressive and depressive piece of art that suits as a modern icon to the bandname **Threnody**.



Yvonne Sablorolles

RENAISSANCE

A death metal playing baroque? Renewing ideas on the 'Archway' demo of the Belgium **Renaissance**: long note riffs in long songs, but **Renaissance** isn't playing doom metal. Both guitar and bass sounds technical and the use of keyboards makes it complex, but **Renaissance** isn't a band of wildness. It's a silent reflect upon a beautiful structure of melodies. Hence, they are the best sympho-death metal band I've ever heard till now. The best what is around in Belgium. Even the lyrics are incomparable to anything else. This demo can be ordered for \$6,- by surface mail or \$7,- for a sooner delivering by air. **Dirk Vollon, Domstraat 20, 3370 Boutersem, Belgium**. They've also released a split ep on Afterdark records and a full ep on Shiver records. And if this interest of labels isn't enough, this year there will be a debut album out: "The Death of Art". Remarkable is the art the band uses. For almost every song they released a T-shirt, Salvador Dali-art is much used in it. **Shiver records, c/o Hans de Wyngaert, Amerstraat 112, 3200 Aarschot, Belgium**.

Harold Dekkers



Salvador Dali

The Eternal

The immortal style, once found out by Trey Azagthoth is renewed to a cubistic sub-structured form, equal to the brilliant ideas of a revolutionary composer Arnold Schönberg. Of course, the tunes of Peter A. (drums, keyboards), Harald P. (guitar), Stephan B. (bass) and Frank V.N. (guitars, vocals, composer, writer and 'the answer' to all my questions) are too dark and new to compare them to the works of Schönberg. It's hard to compare Eternal's style, but the first album of the German Atrocity is the most in few. The Eternal are keepers of the new evolution in death metal that unluckily stranded on the beach of conservative releases. For me this band will be the reincarnation of Schönberg, both hated and loved.



Arnold Schönberg (1874-1951), a progressive composer, your idol isn't? Can you tell a bit more about this man.

- I. I have no idols. I respect this man and his works of art. He worked at the solution of tonality and made it to create a new composing system called "12-tone-technique" which is atonal and says that every of these 12 tones is equivalent. His tonal compositions (including the "Verklärte Nacht" one of the best pieces of art in our world") were rather successful. But for his atonal compositions in the beginning he only earned scorn and was even called a "cacophonist". It is not easy for an artist to keep going if many people are against you. You loose your self-confidence and you think of making music for the people instead for yourself. But he stayed on his path and followed his style until the end.

You connected the music close to the depressive and alternate works of Arnold Schönberg. How close is it? Are you trying to copy some musical ideas of this man?

- II. I do not really think that our music is very close connected to Schönberg and I never copy anything deliberately. A. Schönberg certainly influenced me in a way that he extended the limits of the expression of morbidity and depressive atmosphere further than anyone else I know. The only thing I maybe try to copy is the intenseness of these atmospheres.

I know, Schönberg was an innovating and progressive musician, he even want to use an unskilled female singer in a work. Do you think he would like The Eternal if he was still alive?

- III. Arnold Schönberg would start to rotate in his grave if he could listen to The Eternal. No, I do not know enough of his character to know what he would think, but to be realistic and if you consider the age when he lived, I think he would be rather shocked. The sound of distorted guitars and my voice should be enough for even an open-minded man who (born 1874) grew up with Wagner.

I also see a close connection to the 'Blessed are the Sick' album of Morbid Angel. The lines of that album are also weird. And they are also claiming to be influenced by a classical and magistral composer. Do you also find some inspiration in the music of Morbid Angel?

- IV. Morbid Angel's music belongs to the best pieces of art in this and maybe also in other world(s). Every artist is influenced by something and I won't deny that Morbid Angel have influenced my musical development. But I do not see that negative and I convinced that we created our own style.

By the way, do you like the latest album 'Covenant' of Morbid Angel?

- V. I was very disappointed when I first listened to "Covenant", because I awaited a further development into that mighty blackness and morbidity as "Day of suffering" and the title track of the "Blessed are the

sick..." album. But instead they made two steps back. Only the last track "God of emptiness" met my expectations and represents a definitive progress. Very good tracks are also "Rapture" and "Sworn to the black". The others especially "Angel of Disease" (also on their first album) are rather disappointing.

I'm glad I've found a band who totally want no indoctrination from the mass, your music is only composed for you in the first place, you told me. But don't you care to get the same problem as Arnold Schönberg, to become only respected by a small group of insiders.

- VI. I am aware of this problem and we often discuss this problem inside the band but we never know how to solve this problem. Peter A. (drums) often finds some of my compositions too morbid or too difficult for the audience. Some other people told me the same and I am afraid that it could be right. I am often sad about that, but maybe it is our faith and first of all, as you said, WE have to be satisfied with our deeds.

But what about when your music will be full accepted and even becomes a new trend?

- VII. That will never happen, because if I make it to develop our music 'till the point of my imagination it will be that dark and morbid that not many people would like to listen to that often. Most people want to listen to friendly and harmonic music. I understand that as we are harmonic creatures living in a world based on harmonic principles.

Will you become famous after your death?

- VIII. Famous is a relative term. But I will leave an impression to this world and as my soul will not be destroyed when my mortal shell withers I will continue my striving.

Your lyrics are suitable for the kind of music you play, where do you find the inspiration, some feeling like H.P. Lovecraft I guess?

- IX. No. I sometimes read H.P. Lovecraft, but he doesn't influence my lyrics. The source of our lyrics can be found in my religious (mystic, esoteric,... however) studies, my thoughts, emotions, some philosophic and poetic ideas, dreams and impressions. I am a searcher. I seek for divine impressions, wisdom, I would like to leave this world, leave my mortal shell, exalt my soul, touch god, roam with mighty spirits,.... But also, of course, the lyrics deepen the atmosphere of the music.

You seem to be the band leader, composing almost all the songs. But what about the other members? Are they also supporting the terrific ideas of Arnold Schönberg in your music?

- X. I cannot speak for the others members. So I let Stephan B. (bass) answer this question:
Stephan B.: Personally I support any progressive influence in our music, because I think that our style should have no limits whether in speed, morbidity, progressive arrangements nor in the use of other instruments and in depressive atmospheres.

And what about the newest songs? Are they sounding more depressive, technical or what ever?

- XI. Stephan B.: Our new material represents a further step away from the average in order to create our own kind of music.
Frank V.N.: Our latest songs correspond more to my musical visions. They are more The Eternal, more original. I think that I could deepen the atmosphere in every aspect and synthesizers are becoming more important. These new works are a definitive progress but everyone has to judge this by himself. I will promise you intense atmosphere and a further step towards the absolute sound - "DIVINE MORBIDNESS".

Is it possible to say, your music style is a bit similar to Atrocity?

- XII. I don't know any Dutch Atrocity. I only know the German ones and I do not think that we have anything to do with their style.

By the way, what do you think of the latest album of Atrocity?

- XIII. A good production, some good ideas, but mostly very weak riffs, terrible vocal style - not my style.

You told me it will become more difficult for you to play live. Why? Are your music too untouchable for the audience, or are there too many special effects in the ideas of your music?

- XIV. Both is correct, but the main reason is that we are not able to get support gigs for bigger acts. So we have no chance to reach greater audiences. We played about 20 gigs so far, including support-gigs for Blasphemy/Gorguts and for Mekong Delta, but these support gigs were also not very impressive.

I know you've played live before. How did the audience react?

- XV. The majority of the audience was mostly impressed and satisfied with our gigs. We are able to create an intense live-atmosphere as we use candles and burn incense which has a great effect on the crowd. On the other side some people tell me that our music is a bit difficult for live-performance and many people cannot follow exactly the musical path of our compositions.

Do you think it's still useful to do some gigs?

XVI. Of course, we love to play live and we are pleased for every good gig we are offered. We will also play for very small audiences if only a single creature would like to listen to us.

One of the bands you played with was **Visceral Evisceration**. The **Eternal** even rehearsed in the same room. You may know the honest opinion of Hannes (see interview elsewhere in this magazine) was that he put some question marks to the music of **The Eternal**. But, without any bad rumours, tell me your honest opinion about **Visceral Evisceration**.

XVII. My honest opinion on **Visceral Evisceration**? I like Hannes and respect his own kind of saying and doing things. He just brought me their demo-tape. It is of a very good recording quality, but I honestly think that **Visceral E.** sound very, very too much like **Paradise Lost**. He uses the same techniques, the same harmonies, ... I also don't like his splatter lyrics, but that is just a question of taste. Hannes has a completely different musical taste than I have. So I does not correspond to his and he does not correspond to my musical understanding.

Are there some more classic influenced (death)metal bands in Austria.

XVIII. No, I don't know any.

Coming back to classical music again. Arnold Schönberg really inspires me too... with making questions. How much do you listen to classical music? In other words, how much are you into the classical world, I suppose it's deeper than only Arnold Schönberg.

XIX. Yes, I also listen to W.A. Mozart (of course), D. Shostakovich, the Kronos Quartet, Dead Can Dance, ... I am no classic freak, but classical music may be very serious and much darker than every "themselves-dark-music-making-calling" Black-Metal-Band. Classical music is a great source of inspiration and you can learn a lot from these mighty composers.

Give me your fave work by Arnold Schönberg (and which orchestra performing it).

XX. "Verklärte Nacht", Op. 4 (1899), La Salle Quartett, and String Trio, Op. 45 (1946) - my favourite works by A. Schönberg.

This is the last question, but this time I'm not expecting you to say something to our readers, or tell people must buy your album (they won't understand your music neither eh, eh!) but give a good advice to the world's scene, okay?

XXI. I never tell people to buy our demo in my last words, because if my point of views and the descriptions of our style did not attract interest I won't compel anybody to listen to **The Eternal**. I only ask you to give black art a chance.

Write Frank V. Neubauer, Schoppenhauerg. 25/5, 1180 Vienna, Austria (Enclose ! IRC or \$6,- for their demo!)
Harold Dekkers

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MY DYING BRIDE

Of course, the fact that song texts can be taken seriously depends on a personal interpretation. It's logical that our crude expression goes against the grain with some radical moral preachers, but why should we worry about their censorship? Art is always being suppressed together with the most shocking ideas. But, actually death metal isn't no more shocking at all (besides some radicals of course.) Some of the acts are trying to get one's hand in the real artistic world. Of course this brings some new musical experiments which are drifting away from brutality. We from Mortician Magazine tried to criticize this new world that slowly opened the doors. There have always been some good lyrics in the metal concept but now the time has come to search for the real

poetry. And because of our new attention to the art of cover paintings and text I've to settle an account: My Dying Bride, the UK doom/death metal band that inspired me very much from the beginning with their immense poem 'Symphonaire Infernus et Spera Empyrium'. Their text writer deserves the Nobel price for poetry. In this article we explain why.

We will focus on the pen of Aaron, the singer in My Dying Bride. Till the second album 'Turn loose the swans' he released nineteen beautiful lyrics. All of them are watering you with the bitter and depressing moods, during gigs recited with a grandiloquent 'world upon your shoulders' feeling. And this has always to do with 'death'. *"Death is a subject I treat very, very seriously and don't mock like most of today's 'death' metal bands. Unfortunately I've experienced the deaths of three members of my family over the last few years... it's not a joke to write about"* says Aaron about the first and still monumental song 'Symphonaire Infernus et Spera Empyrium'. This song is a statue for 'death' as for the death in general: *'The pathetic stench of dying children' in the streets of Calcutta; the death in politics: 'And monuments would slowly fill the agendas of kings and queens'; the diseases and plagues: 'A hot May makes a fat churchyard' and the earth in it's innocence concerning natural disasters: 'Please put off your veil. Your heart is blameless. And I shudder for knowing it. "I believe that when nature decides there are too many people on earth, she causes a plague or flood or earthquake in order to cull the population. Man is so obsessed with preserving his own life, that he is destroying the world, so the world must fight back... So maybe she thought aids might help our cause. And when we find a cure, she will hit us with something else that will wide some of us out until we learn to stop fucking around and control our selves, but we never will."* An almighty God in nature. But is there also a God in the lyrics of Aaron, a twisted, unsafe kind of a God, taken from the bible in a mystical form: *"I think I'm mature enough to appreciate the bible for all it's grandeur and layered texts. But I don't follow it's main beliefs or accept its ideals. I don't condone people who do, because for many people it's all they have. And what right have I got to say they are wrong. Or confused by its fantastic tale. When I write some of my more religious lyrics I take all sorts of points of view. 'Gather me up for Ever' is a tale about a cripple who, after being touched by the hand of Christ becomes a normal, handsome young man. But when he realizes what his new limbs are capable of, he decides to turn to crime for pleasure. The last line of the song is '...the guilt stains my hands,' the guilt being the feeling inside and the blood on his hands. Now what I'm trying to say with this track is: if Christ was so holy and gracious, how could he have created this monstrous killer? If he had left the guy a cripple, he would have lived a simple life, begging and scrounging, but no, he had to stick his nose in and fowl the man up. That's just one point of view."*

"Erotic Literature" is pretty much on the same kind of track as 'Gather me up...' but with no definite characters. In some songs you'll hear me praising God and his fine world and asking why it's all forced upon us. Ill swear to the high hea-

KATATONIA

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vens and curse Christ 'till I'm red in the face, then beg for forgiveness. Of course it's contradiction. I'm seeing two or three ideas at once. I'm believing everything and nothing, I'm praying and cursing."

'Who's my saviour?
Lose myself in Gods death.
No! I can't bear all this pain.
I had watched the snow all day.
Falling.
It never lets up.
All day falling.
I lifted my voice and wept out loud,
"So this is life?"
(from 'The snow in my hand')

The lyrical centre of the **My Dying Bride** circle is certainly the text of 'The snow in my hand' In this case we see the big quest of the writer. The uncertain elements on the 'As the flower withers' album are given more depth on 'Turn loose the swans'. But the 'explanation' on this album gives us only some more questions, we can count eleven question marks in the text of the last album. The poetry of Aaron is a big paradox, based on one question: Why? *"Why?" is always on my mind. It's tearing me apart day by day. Life gets amazingly confusing sometimes and I'm baffled by it all. My mother was Irish and quite religious. She didn't go to church much but wore her St. Christopher and carried her 'saints' pictures in her purse and was terribly friendly with everyone... I could not believe it when my mother died a few years ago. I just couldn't understand why. My mind went berserk and raged with questions no-one could answer... our whole family, especially my father, were totally devastated...* This is a very private part of Aarons life. Aaron denies his activities in **My Dying Bride** has something directly to do with the tragedy. But subconscious it must be one of the main inspirations for his lyrics and one of the biggest influences for his religious quest. The last statement becomes clear by a question about his cover paintings, influenced by Dave McKean *"I don't consciously use symbolism (in my drawings) I just see in my mind what I want and use it. I suppose after I've completed a piece, I study it and start finding all kinds of messages. On one of the new lp covers (cassette format) I've used a picture of a statue that I've now decided is the virgin Mary and enclosed it in metal and wood, with nails below her face. So that she's restrained and unable to move. It's my way of saying 'okay, if that's what you*

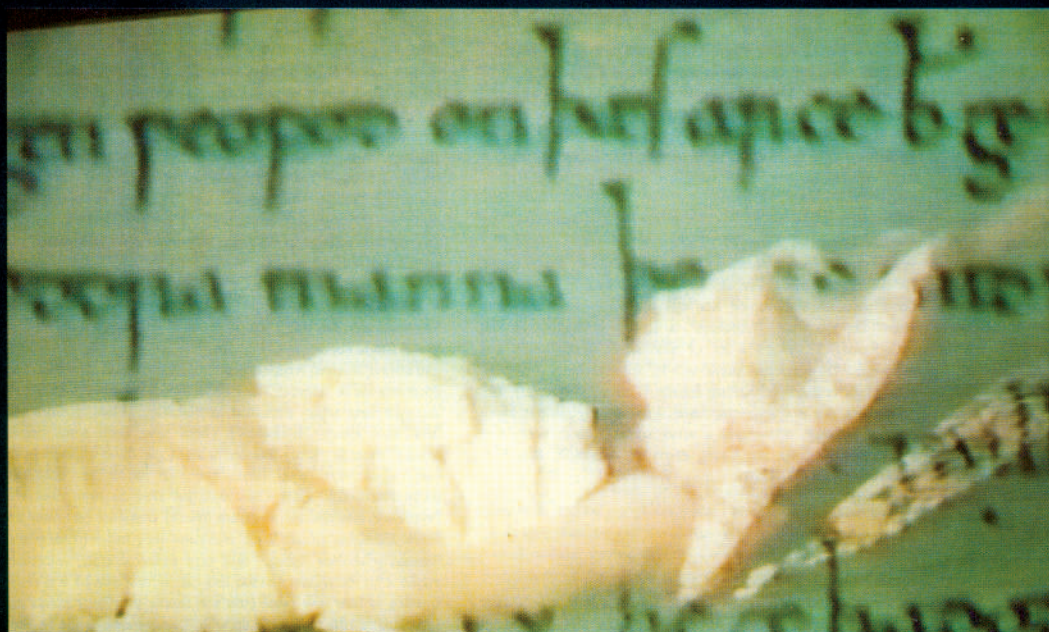


believe in, but don't force it on me'... I've kind of locked her away but she's still very much in view."

Aaron was and still is very impressed by the art of the picture strip magus Dave McKean. The work of this man is becoming plundered by more metal bands, but his real work can be found in the amazing comics 'Signal to Noise' and the ten parts of 'Cages' (the last parts are still in production). *"I've loved McKean's style for ages, so when Peaceville asked us who we wanted to design our first cover I screamed his name out loud... It was a dream come true. Dave had never done a record sleeve before, so he was as excited as we were. The cover for 'Symphonaire...' was great so we asked him to do the LP which he also agreed to do."*

All this subjects, they aren't enough. We've seen Aaron is enjoying 'God's creations' so sex is also a part in his lyrics. But this isn't translated in only a love song. The two sighs for love are 'Sear me' and 'The thrash of naked limbs' (which lyrics firstly didn't satisfy Aaron much, so the weren't published.), so there is enough stuff to be studied. The next works will be on the 'I am the bloody earth' ep and I don't think it will be that difficult to understand where this will be about after men has read this article.

Harold Dekkers



ABC Diabolo (Ger)

Last intoxication of senses lp/cd'93

Common Cause

A very strong release of **ABC Diabolo**. Their album starts with some average hardcore, but some tracks further on it catch you with better tracks, songs that won't let you go before the outro, and even that is an original one. Lyrically original, strong and powerful in the music with riffs that haven't excited me since the release of **Harter Attack**, bombs you out in an alternate way. It's maybe the same sympathy as for the old (and real!) **Napalm Death**, (luckily ABC's structure is more genius and less violent). The strongest point of this album are the melodies, taken from old rock tunes, rebuild to straight hardcore, provided with several raw positions of vocal chords. The album is distributed internationally, so look at your record shop or ask **K-Baal, P.O.Box 1024, 3300 BA Dordrecht, The Netherlands**.

Harold Dekkers

Aboth (Swe)

The Tide 7"ep'92

Corpse Grinder Records

Also an old release which should have been reviewed in our previous issue if this product had come in before the dead-line. In fact I expected some more technical work than only a raw piece of flat death metal on vinyl. This band only left some single rhythmic parts with some action in an original solo. But they didn't inspire me much more than the **Macabre End** 7"ep some years ago. I think there's too much talent around this band to give them a higher rate, even their first demo impressed me more.

\$6.- to **Corpse Grinder Records, 27 Rue Gay-Lussac, 94411 Arcueil, France**.

Harold Dekkers

Abraxas (UK)

Hexe demo'93

This Path is beyond Life and Death; It is beyond love, but that ye know not, for ye now not love.

Liber Cheth, XX.

Lyrical, yes, this tape contains a lyrical influence in their music. It's no metal at all, nor is it industrial because of the missing heaviness. It's an obscure sound of keyboards, of mixed samples all made by two men. On one side this tape contains a perfect surrounding of a real morbid atmosphere, but I'm a bit against it because of the lack of real compositions. This sampling art is really great, but it's loosing compositions on the other hand. So making this band equal to the rulers of undergrounded 'feely' industrial is overrating this band a bit too much, but they surely deserve some attention from the fans of **Mordor**. The musical nihilism of those is almost the same. Almost 60 min! for \$5.- **Nephili Koresch, 4 Verdun Terrace, West Cornforth, Country Durham, DL17 6LN, England**.

Harold Dekkers

Abhorrence (USA)

The summoning demo '93

No this is not the **Abhorrence** from Finland. This is brutal death metal from the USA, a kind of more technical **Suffocation** etc... This is not bad at all, but they can not surprise me! This is too typical death metal. The musicians are good and sometimes the music is rather technical. Vocals could be better anyway, despite two kinds of vocals are used: the usual roaring and the higher (nowadays) **Carcass** vocals.... Haven't we heard this before? Judge yourself!!

Send \$.... to: **Abhorrence, 443 Edinburgh St., San Francisco CA 94112, USA**.

Cor Snijder



Absorbed (Spa)

Abstract Absurdity 7"ep'93

In our first issue Roel already reviewed the great 'Unreal Overflows' demo of **Absorbed** as being a wonderful product. With the 'Abstract Absurdity' ep their status has become even better. The music is clear, technical and even resides in the regions of guitar techniques similar to **Death**, **Cynic**, **Nocturnus** etc. It can contribute a lot to musical innovation, some parts and solos are really terrific! Together with **Human Waste** one of the better spanish bands! Can be ordered at **Drowned of course!**

Harold Dekkers



Alastis (Swi)

The Just Law CD'93

Head Not Found

The debut release of a band from the upcoming Switzerland scene: **Alastis**. They've released two demos so far: 'Fatidical Date' in '89 and 'Black Wedding' in '90, both with **Samael's** Masmisein on bass who was one of the forming members of **Alastis**. **Alastis** plays also a bit in the same way like **Samael**: doomy black metal. They are more a doom than black band I guess, everything is mainly pretty slow, combined with atmospheric vocals such as whispering and stuff like that. But they've also got the well known black/dark lyrics and pentagrams accompanying their logo. After



some songs 'The Just Law' is becoming a bit boring to me. That could have two reasons: The music is boring and less varying or my taste is limited and different. But I guess when I say my taste is different it wouldn't be right because a lot of other doom acts can be very satisfying to me... So I fear it's the first reason, dullness which is caused by less variation concerning the guitars, no real leads and all the same sort of riffs after each other. And the vocals aren't really powerful as well. Okay, after all it's a good but not the classical and excellent debut album release on **Head Not Found** which I'd expected when someone as **Metalion** is running this label (he knows the scene for years including it's bad and good bands I guess) LP: \$15.-/100 N.O.K., CD: \$20 or 150 N.O.K. and T-shirts \$15.-. **Head Not Found, P.O.Box 447, 1701 Sarpsborg, Norway**.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Alchemist (Austr.)

Jar of Kingdom CD'93

Lethal records

Australia's **Alchemist**, always announced as something between **Carcass** and **Pink Floyd** and I was always very sceptical about that. Such a major difference within one band could not fit I thought. But I was dead wrong! **Alchemist** is an excellent band. Indeed they use different elements and influences in their music and that only makes them stronger. It's really bizarre how many original and strange parts this album contains but it's not disharmonic at all. It's very progressive but not in the new **Carbonized** vein. I think which was a bit disharmonic (but still great), **alchemist** is also very strange but still tight and heavy. Available on **Lethal Records, Wohlmutter. 15/2/16, A-1020 Vienna, Austria**. For band contact: **Alchemist, c/o Adam Agius, P.O.Box 1037, Dickson A.C.T. 2602, Canberra, Australia**.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Amebix (UK)

The power remains lp release from '87

Skuld records

A tribute to the band **Amebix**, the old crust-mastodon from the past. **Amebix** split up in 1987 but isn't still forgotten and because of that this album with old material is released. On the A-side you can find their powerful 'pagan' metal/core from '87 and even from '85, that influenced so many british bands like **Axegrinder** and **Helibastard**. It's a pity this old style from the old core/grind/crust is dead. Only a few big bands remains from that die-hard pre death metal scene. **Napalm Death** and **Carcass** had found there roots in that period, but luckily **Amebix's** power still remains! order this album and ask for their mailorder list: **K-Baal, P.O.Box 1024, 3300 BA Dordrecht, The Netherlands**.

Harold Dekkers

Anathema (UK)

Serenades CD'93

Peaceville

What a brilliant piece of metal! I really love this one! UK metal at it's best, romantic death doom metal. Not really in the vein of **Paradise Lost** or **My Dying Bride** but also very great. Beautiful songs, acoustic parts, female vocals, normal vocals, beautiful cover and excellent poems/lyrics! 'And I often cry, I often spill a tear' (Sleepless) after listening to the opus of beauty called **Serenades!!**

Roel van Reijmersdal



Angelkill (USA)

Garden of crosses demo '93

Well a nice cover... a painting. This is thrash metal, thrash vocals (in the vein of **Holy Terror**, **Near Dark**, **Kratos**), with some doom parts. A combination like this you will not discover that often. On the track 'Elizabeth' a female is singing on the background. There are a lot of nice ideas, great solo's and harmonies. On this demo I prefer side B. Not everything is original (first track reminds of **Killing Joke's** 'Looks like blood'), but believe me this is a promising band. I am already curious about their new attack, which gets a better sound I hope. Write this band!! Send \$... for the 8-song demo to: **Angelkill, Box 371, Leclaire, IA 52753, USA**.

Cor Snijder

Apria (Ita)

7"ep '93

Better than them records

By this 7"ep I discovered the positive side of a 7"ep. I've always been hating 7"eps because of their uncomfortable method of

playing. But on the other hand, it's easy when you wish to play the tracks many times after each other till the vinyl has become grey. And it's really a long time ago it happens to me, **Apria** is a perfect kind of metal, or how you like to call that harmony. Only a few favourite bands has survived my change of interest: **Watchtower**, **Dreamtheater**, **Sieges Even** and now **Apria**. The second track, the vocal 'Idolo e crine' brings what you have to expect from italians. Melodic metal with warm blood! That track, with Italian lyrics made me think to some tracks of the 'Principle of doubt' album of **Mekong Delta**. **Apria** is surely a strange release, but this band seems to be accepted in the death metal scene. And that's great, because this piece of metal baroque is at least as cult as the **Arcturus** 7"ep. \$6.- to **Better Then Them Records, Via Cecilia Metella, 10-00179 Roma, Italy**.

Harold Dekkers

Arghosent (USA)

Bastard Son of One thousand whores demo'92

I still don't know what **Arghosent** tries to say with their music. There is simply no definition for **Arghosent**, just the same case as with **Perdition Hearse**. But the problem is their music doesn't make you curious to their real identity, even **Arghosent** surely is an alternative band. No, you better can take their band project **Grand Belial's Key**, that gives a strong description of their own style of black metal. \$5.- to **Arghosent, 2413 Ansdel Ct. Reston, VA 22091, USA**.

Harold Dekkers

Asa Foetida (Fra)

Tormenta Animae CD'93

Asa Foetida is a strange band, formed by only three men. With the word 'strange' I don't mean they are totally progressive or original, but they are consuming the old and original things. On the whole **Asa Foetida** is a doom metal band, but only a few parts shows something of the **Anathema** sound. The doom isn't gothic at all, maybe more celtic in the direction of the great first **Therion** album: melodic but their grindy parts are too lustreless. **Asa Foetida** can be seen as a rolling doom metal band with some melancholic keyboards and piano parts, this forms a bizarre album with good qualities. \$16 to **Moyon Oliver, Les Landes de L'abbaye, 44750 Campbon, France**.

Harold Dekkers



Astaroth (USA)

Lost State of Dreams demo'93

In our last issue we had a review of the first demo of this Floridan band. They were described as a very brutal band in the direction of the heaviness of **Suffocation**. Well, this status stays the same, but the kind of playing is changed to a bit more well structured brutality ending into some riffs equal to the Swedish **Grave**. All is powered up to a better melody and less immense blast riffs which violent bands always use to sound mega! The music of the demo is spread out in five numbers, with references to a wide field of many other styles. It's just a band from Tampa: **Astaroth, PO Box 8552, Tampa, FL 33674-8552, USA**. \$5.-

Harold Dekkers

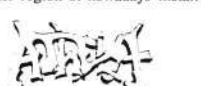


Astral Rising (Fra)

Abéana - Adeana CD'93

If we don't talk about originality, this will be a short review, it's simply too good. **Astral Rising** brings standard death metal with parts and vocals like **Trouble**. These ideas exist maybe for years, but the combination is totally new, even it sounds sometimes too forced. The death metal is meant to be too deadly, I still hear John Tardy in some growls. The brutal parts aren't that violent, but set up like some **Dark Millennium** things. So this album keeps walking on different ways but that makes it interesting. If a band still doesn't want to know what they really want be, besides being far away and alternated from the normal scene, it gives things to discover. And the fact that their normal vocals (and this time male!) are clear and very good it makes this album double interesting. Tracks like 'Skadia' and 'Tactile Link' are the best result of the band. **Astral Rising** is a struggle, but the result is amazing and belongs to the better region of nowadays metal.

Harold Dekkers



Atheist (USA)

Elements adv. cas'93

Metal Blade rec.

I've always admired **Atheist**, technical incredible skilled musicians deserve a lot of respect. Their debut 'Piece of time' was a good and refreshing album (recorded in Nov./Dec. 1988!!!). So here's their third album 'Elements'. There have been some line-up changes recently: **Kelly Shaffer** handled the rhythm guitar in the studio but will drop that live, so he'll be only the vocalist/frontman. **Tony Choy** returned after his brief time with **Pestilence**, and new members are **Marcel Dissantos** on drums and **Frank Emmi** on guitar. Well, musically they haven't changed so drastically as their line-up. Still very technical stuff, sometimes maybe a bit too techno and too less catchy, but overall it is really amazing to hear how those guys can handle their instruments and what kind of riffs they come up with. Luckily enough it's no Scott

Burns production but they worked with Mark Pinske (Frank Zappa and Steve Vai). In total 12 tracks with titles as "Water", "Green", "Air", "Fire" and "Earth". Great cover art by Kristian Wahlin (how are you pal??) in the Ed Repka vein.
Roel van Reijmersdal

At the Gates

The Red in the sky is ours album '92
Peaceville

Now **Entombed** failed completely with 'Hollowman, **Unleashed's** second album died a slow death, **Grave** is still the same since '88, Sweden needs a new musical leader... here they are: **At The Gates**. Everybody in the underground worshipped 'Gardens of Grief' and now even the main stream metalheads can enjoy **At The Gates**. This album is just brilliant!!! Nine new tracks on lp and one extra track 'City of screaming statues' on the CD. The album was recorded at the Art Studio in Gothenburg, november '91 (it took over a year to release this CD.....!!!!?) and the sound is 'awesome': not heavy but very clean so you can hear really good what's going on; and a lot is going on! Absolutely the best riffs ever! Catchy as hell and well-performed, sometimes it even seems as if there are three or four guitarists! Also the drum sound is excellent and of course there's 'Tomba screaming his lungs out as always. I die for the track 'Windows' which contains one of the ultimate riffs in the whole metal history, yeah! Lyrics are (of course) again really super and poetically written by Tomas and Alf. I really want more of this stuff!

Roel van Reijmersdal

Avulsed (Sp)

Deformed beyond belief demo '93

'Deformed..' is **Avulsed** second demo, six tracks of pure brutality. Every new song **Avulsed** has written is better, really great how they progress pretty fast. New guitarist Jose 'Cabra' had also a nice input in that progression I think. All members become better musicians and the final result is heavy and brutal death metal in it's purest form. The lyrics are again really good about dead people, their cold bodies and organs, mainly written by guitarist Luisma. Again a fabulous cover with great art work from Rob Smits (Sonic Fall out) who also did the **Demigod** album cover. This demo is released as a co-production between **Drowned** (Dave Rotten - vocals) and **Lucky** (bass) from Haemorrhage. \$5.- to one of them: **Drowned**, P.O.Box 39048, 28080 Madrid, Spain or **Lucky**, P.O.Box 37062, 28080 Madrid, Spain.
Roel van Reijmersdal

Blasphemy (Can)

Gods of War cd '93

Osmose productions

Where **Impaled Nazarene** (see review elsewhere) fails, **Blasphemy** hails. This is music with a real standing atmosphere: War! Maybe people don't see this as an evil sounding black metal band, their music prechrs the apocalypse, the real armageddon! The album starts with a battlefield intro and soon the war is going on in 'Blood upon the Alter', aggressive, metal sounding drum breaks, concrete war dance rhythms, all tracks as fast and short as a blitzkrieg. There are many riffs used for a second time in an other track, just like in 'Nocturnal Slayer' and the grotesque 'Emperor of the Black Abyss; but that's only a fact. The negative point is that some riffs are played in a bit hardcore way (O, I'm not supposed to say this I guess!) For example 'Emperor of the Black abyss' is a theatrical repetition and working out of 'Nocturnal Slayer'. But there are repetitions all over, in a positive way, because, their godly '89 demo 'Blood upon the Alter' is included in 9 bonus tracks on the CD and repeats 'War Command', 'Nocturnal Slayer' and 'Blasphemy' in their old raw form! In those tracks the few negative elements are disappeared and they show where **Blasphemy** stands for!

Harold Dekkers

Benighted (Swe)

The Master of Darkness demo '93

Straighter than straight, more medium than average, even **Cannibal Corpse** would be bored listening to this. It closes the door with this long queue already having passed it: **Fulmination**, **Vermin**, **Bekehub**, **Forsaken Grief**, **Manifest**, **Crawl**, **Evocation**... at the end Sweden will learn from it! \$4.- to **Johan Fridell**, **Snuggarpsvägen 26, 570 22 Forserum, Sweden**.

Bethlehem (Ger)

promo '93

I think Germany is still one of the unknown death metal countries in the world and that's simply due to their unoriginal and even boring scene. The only original metal bands can be counted with three fingers, the rest is simply copying each other. And I think I won't get a hand full of nice bands or I have to count **Cavalry** and **Bethlehem** too! **Bethlehem** plays really sick, but with very much own initiative. Their sick dark metal can be compared to some other black and dark metal bands but it's worked out in such an original doomy atmosphere. There are some parts like the English **Morbid Vision** (especially the vocals are flowing in that way). But the mixture with a silent bass drum sound, slow and melancholic solos (sometimes even in the direction of **Paradise Lost** connected to an insane sound of keyboards makes it worth to order the two

long tracks 'Supplementary Exegesis' and 'Wintermate' (with the oe-ah-ah grunts, brilliant!) for \$6.- to **Klaus Matton**, **Burggrafenstr. 32, W-4050 Munchengladbach 1, Deutschland**. Specially recommended to **Necromantia** fans! They have also a 7"ep out now!
Harold Dekkers

Beyond Belief (NL)

Towards the diabolical experiment CD '93

Shark records

After their two excellent demos and ep on Cenotaph records, the dutch **Beyond Belief** has released it's debut CD. The demo tracks and some new tracks are perfected in an absolute marvellous way. **Beyond Belief** is definitely the top of the international doom death scene. Totally no keyboards or female vocals are used to create a sinister and gloomy feeling. It's just dark guitar walls and macabre vocals. Especially the track 'Stranded' is very impressive with it's gigantic riffs. Produced and recorded at T & T studios in Germany and produced by Tim Bukt...

Great and solid heavy sound in any case. I think it would be great to see those guys live cause I've got the feeling that they can come up to the expectations live totally, certainly when they include their two bass players (and their two **Dead Head** members)

Roel van Reijmersdal

Broken Hope

The bowels of repugnance MC/CD '93

Metal Blade Records

"In these days of musical extremities where everyone is trying to surpass one another in sheer musical brutality and disgusting lyrical imagery, it's difficult to separate the men from the boys"- Metal Blade media info sheet. Pretty much the truth, right? Here is for example a part of the lyrics from the track "She came out in chunks": "seconds later between her legs I began to finger rot, my digits swan inside her collapsing vaginal walls, moaning with sick ecstasy, she caressed my shrunken balls...". Some say it's pathetic, I can laugh about it and see the humour of it! But it's kinda bizarre. Now you know what the lyrics are all about take a wild guess about the music itself...Blast beats, ultra low growling vocalist and heavy fast and slow guitar riffs. It's the heaviest kind of metal, weather it's original or not. Bands such as **Cannibal Corpse**, **Suffocation** and especially **Pyrexia** perform the same kind of metal. But **Broken Hope** are definitely good in what they are doing!! Including also great artwork by Rob Smits (**Demigod**, **Avulsed**)
Roel van Reijmersdal

Cabal (Swe)

promo '92

The bad cover with the typical signs suggest this is black metal... the intro starts. Yes, this is black metal with a bad recording. So bad I can hardly judge it is good or not. Their demo (1991) has a better sound. Here they play a kind of death metal. Well this is confusing me a little. Please guys when you release something, take some time for it.... There are thousands of other cool demo's. In that case I will give you an honest review. Send? \$... to: **Mikael Uimonen**, **Linneq. 38B, 41304 GBG, Sweden**.
Cor Snijder

Caducity (Bel)

The Imperishable Mystery demo '93

This is what I expected from you, Wizard of Wervik! You see, being a student brings some great ideas in your mind. This isn't a technical developed or extremely professional recorded demo, but this is the way how to create new life in the scene. **Caducity** is weird, I can hear some four dimensional **Voivod** but also **Atrocities** tunes, arranged in a weird, sub-digital way. I guess tracks like 'Praseodymium' (with Kris of **Dreft** on backing vocals) and 'Strength of druid fire' are from an other universe and so are the lyrics! I guess the Wizard is really an almighty man now he's studying. The demo is recorded in an eight track studio in more than a perfect way. Sentirlo è presagio di grandezza! \$6.-/Bfr200,- to **Guy Cnoekaert**, **Molenstraat 23, 8940 Wervik, Belgium**.
Harold Dekkers

Calvary (Ger)

Evoked damnation demo '92

An old, but remarkable demo, as galloping as the band name represents. **Calvary** produces a brave kind of metal of the category of the later **Bathory** and **Katatonnia**. With an own style of courage, full of melody, keyboards and raw vocals. What else can I say, worshippers of the ancient times should surely order this piece of teutonic and celtic metal with a sound as shrill and old as **Fester**, but more colossal. It's a small wonderful piece of barbaric metal.



\$5.- to **Joerg Goechlich**, **Am Trienensiepen 26, 4600 dordtmund 50, Germany**.
Harold Dekkers

Candiru (US)

Unloved and Weeded out CD '93

Relapse records

"Mind warping industrial death metal", reads the sticker on this CD. This sums up pretty well what **Candiru** is all about. They are on the same label as **Dead World** and the executive producers, William J. Yurkiewicz Jr. and Matthew F. Jacobson, are also the execs on **Dead World's** CD. But if you expect a sound-alike you're wrong, because **Candiru** do it quite differently. Most of their songs are built around uptempo and even danceable drum rhythms and their sound is not that gloomy or distorted. They're not wimps though, because their songs are absolutely convincing and strong. Each song reflects a different atmosphere, so your ears keep aroused, and there's still a good dose of brutality in the tunes. Listening to **Candiru** is like listening to a soundtrack of the ideal combination of **Hellraiser**, **Alien**, **Terminator** and **Blade Runner**. Get this or get unloved and weeded out!
Jeroen Visser

Candiru/Fat Hacker (USA)

split 7"ep '93

Red Stream rec.

After the excellent release of their amazing album on relapse, also now some sound released by own label. **Candiru** on a split single with **Fat Hacker**. The only real track of **Candiru** is again very strange and noisy, but I surely don't want to call it industrial. The bitterness in their hard sound is changed into some heavy and slow house beats, full of samples and some grateful guitar riffs in the middle. **Fat Hacker** however is a total weird kind of hardcore (?) Well, judge for yourself. \$5.- to **Red Stream**, **P.O.Box 342 Camp Hill, PA 17001, USA**.
Harold Dekkers

CARNAGE RELEASES

Mariusz of **Carnage** records apologizes for the delays or any form of virtual ripping-off, all is caused by the Polish mail, which is still a suspicious organization. Especially of all the orders in the **Vader** demo period. If you want anything to order from this label, please, make sure the money has reached the polish side. The tapes will cost \$5.- each.
Carnage Records, **05-119 Legionowo 5, P.O.Box 50, Poland**.

Christ Agony (Pol)

Epitaph of Christ demo '93

Carnage records

A strange kind of black metal, surely something in the direction of the modern **Samael**. But after a while, there isn't much left of the black feeling and only the long, nearly arabic riffs and the potential bass work reach the level above that of **Deicide**, but consider it as the usual death metal, **Christ Agony** is still an original stylistic band, with some urgency to sickness. Bandcontact: **Cezar**, **Pulaskiego 3/25, 14-300 Morag, Poland**.
Harold Dekkers

Corruption (Pol)

The Ultra-Florescence demo '92

Carnage records

Heavy, bombastic, down-tuned, slow and tongueless deathrash. The riffs are that colossal and full 'Atomkraft' completed with the normal trick of slowing down. The whole music is too slow for a 'bang' rhythm, too brutal to tolerate some melody in more technical riffs. **Corruption** is simply rolling on, slacking to doom metal, even to the emotional proportions of this genre: Mute Metal with heavy vocals!
Harold Dekkers

Cryptic Tales (Pol)

Anathema album tape '93

Carnage records

Underground fans will have heard the first demo of this polish group, yet they are on **Carnage** records. **Carnage** is releasing albums on tape, lp and cd, but there are also many bands who releases an album tape only. The quality of those tapes is that perfect, it is hard to call them demos. **Cryptic Tales** worked out their raw death metal to a brutal kind of semi-techno, with an acoustic equivalent to the swedish **Necrophobic**, caused by their heavy resonating down tuned underground solos. Especially the keyboards and the track 'Voices Inside The Beast' makes this demo simply wonderful and brutal. \$5.- to **Carnage** rec. Private: **Jarek Macuszek**, **37-700 Przemysl, Wyb. Kosciuszki 80/30, Poland**.
Harold Dekkers

Geisha Goner (Pol)

Catching Broadness CD '93

Carnage records

Ah, **Carnage** rec. finally released something avant-gardish, renewing, besides of that everlasting death metal and average thrash. **Geisha Goner** plays some raw, energetic techno thrash. Not in the way of the sweet **Forbidden** or that riffing like

continuing on page 28



SAD WHISPERINGS



THE GATHERING

SAD WHISPERINGS 'SENSITIVE TO AUTUMN'
FDN 2007 only CD: 16\$
THE GATHERING 'ALWAYS'
FDN 2004 CD: 16\$ LP: 14\$
MOURNING 'GREETINGS FROM HELL'
FDN 2006 only CD: 16\$
CARBONIZED 'DISHARMONIZATION'
FDN 2005 only CD: 16\$



MOURNING



The Foundation presents you the highly recommendable debut from Sad Whisperings, a one hour journey through melodic Doom, a masterpiece in the Dutch guitar-history, an album which will have perhaps the same impact as the debut of the Dutch masters of keyMetal, The Gathering, with their debut they proved that Death Metal has no boundaries, their opposite, Mourning, shows us that Death Metal even can change to Hate Metal, just make it as slow and brutal as they do and then there are no compromises left, except for a band like Carbonized, specialised in being weird, performing the unreal, they simply don't know where to stop.

NEMBRIONIC HAMMERDEATH



CARBONIZED

SKELETAL EARTH



SPECIAL PRICED!

NEMBRIONIC HAMMERDEATH 'THEMES ON AN OCCULT THEORY'
D 00021 only EP: 4\$
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SEMPITERNAL DEATHREIGN 'THE SPOOKY GLOOM'
DOL/C 8099 CD: 8\$ LP: 7\$
AGAINST ALL GODS 'COMPILATION'
D 00022 only CD: 13\$

AGAINST ALL GODS



SEMPITERNAL DEATHREIGN



SPECIAL PRICED!

A band which certainly never stops is Nembrionic Hammerdeath, brutal Grind/ Black Metal, not only on this E.P., but end of '93 also on CD with their debut 'Tempter', especially for the U.S.A. we restyled Skeletal Earth, but their music just stays as weird and overwhelming brutal as usual, a collector's item, just like Sempiternal Deathreign, the first Dutch Death Metal band, nowadays cult, back then trendsetting, also we distribute Against All Gods, a Displeased Records compilation which shows more variations in Metal, more depth in Doom and more surprises in 70 minutes!

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ASK FOR OUR FREE MAILORDER LIST!
Prices are including P & P (Ask distributors prices).



Conspiracy of Silence (Bel) demo'93

Aggressive Belgium thrash metal, **Conspiracy of Silence**. This is their debut demo, recorded live in July 1993 and contains four tracks with a pretty raw and heavy sound. Mainly thrash metal, orientated to the riffs, with the typical thrash voice: raw and screamy spoken vocals, pretty entertaining thrash metal, not really fast or extremely refreshing. **Conspiracy of Silence** is together with **Exoto** and **Unusual** available as a three package for gigs. 200 Bfr, \$10,- or \$5,- to: **Geert van de Meutter, Schoolstraat 39, 2590 Berlaar, Belgium.**
Roel van Reijmersdal

Convulsion (NZ)

A pickled feast demo'93

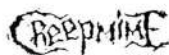
More Christchurch metal: **Convulsion**. Three tracks with titles such as 'Lobotomized Whores' and 'pickled in pus' promoted with the slogan 'Juicy chit music' Vocals by Karl in the old **Carcass** vein, grunt and dirty phlegm combined. It all sounds pretty much okay, nice ideas and different rhythms. Recorded at the Nightshift studios and engineered by Arnie van Russel (that guy must have dutch roots!) \$5,- to **Convulsion, p.o.Box 21020, Christchurch, New Zealand.**
Roel van Reijmersdal

Creepmime (NL)

Shadows CD'93

Mascot Release

After I had heard the **Spiralsea** CD with some mixed feelings and now I'm hearing **Creepmime**, I realize Mascot records is taking much risk for a professional new label. The album after the usual demo couldn't be much worse because that demo had in fact an awful recording. But what then would happen to the special sick and doomy sound on the demo? Of course the style of their first and only demo had to change when they would enter a professional studio and after the first bass drums of 'The fruits of ill virtue' I



really was scared this would be again an other normal death metal band. But it's incorrect to think their sick ideas are lost now even the half of the line up has changed. The good productions with some nice effects (by Patrick Mameli (**Pestilence**)) I thought he didn't listen to death metal anymore) made this good structured album to a copy of the new **Coroner** on death metal. But also the strange vocals of Rogier Hakkaart remains, embedded in the new element of **Creepmime**. Maybe it's due to the English influence of the two British band members, **Creepmime** has become more innovation in his search to more technical development. Listen to 'Suffer the Shadows'. And the excellent lyrics are also a very positive point. A remarkable album, despite to the cliché cover.
Harold Dekkers

Crematory (Swe)

Denial mlp'91, '92, '93

MBR Records

Finally something new from Stockholms **Crematory**. Well new...? not really, recorded at Montezuma (**Edge of Sanity**, **Candlemass**, **Therion**, **Carbonized**...) in Stockholm during October '91. so that's almost two years ago, but that doesn't make this mini lp boring our out of date. mainly fast and brutal death grind, rather not the typical Swedish stuff. The vocals are very impressive and brutal and done by the original **Crematory** member Stefan Harvik who's maybe more known as the **Necrophobic** grunter. Also a lot of nice and tight blast beats, but the main attractive point are the real great and well played leads! They give the dark and heavy riffs something refreshing! A Full length debut album should be out this year. \$12,- to: **MBR records, P.O.Box 1239, 7450 Heekingen,**

Germany.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Crematory (Ger)

Transmigration cd'93

Massacre rec.

Death metal with keyboards and gothic influences are wanted nowadays, right? Only a few are really worth listening to. I really get the strong impression when listing to the german **Crematory** that they have added a (female) keyboard player to their normal death metal band to catch some more attention. Maybe I'm totally wrong so forgive me when this doesn't prove to be right, but I really think

I'm correct this time that way. (Hi Roel, how the hell can you hear that the keyboard player is a female, is she playing so sensual? - red) I wouldn't be surprised if the keyboard player is the girlfriend of one of the members and that she's totally not into metal at all. But keys sound cool nowadays, so... Anyway, back to the review, besides the keyboards it's more or less standard death metal: well played and produced but nothing that special. Including the keys, most of the songs sound way better and more catchy. This CD is really not bad and many (new) fans will like it, I've got my doubts
Roel van Reijmersdal



Cromm Cruac (NL)

No Consolation demo'93

Surprisingly a total new band jumping into the higher regions: suddenly a new and very good act from Dutch ground has arisen. If they were known a bit earlier they should have been on the recent **DSFA** compilation CD and they probably would have been one of the best bands on that album. This demo is recorded at Harrow productions and it sounds great. Four overwhelming tracks full of brutality mixed with technically well skilled guitar parts, it all sounds refreshing and original. Of course there are again some non-metal instruments on this tape, some tunes are played by a flute and you can also hear a harp. Definitely one of the top dutch demo bands. \$5,- to **Henk Werink, Auke Vosstraat 46, 7776 AW Slagharen, The Netherlands.**
Roel van Reijmersdal

The Cross (Bra)

Demo'93

Doom metal from the Brazilian side of the scene, styled in the aggressive way of the slower **Samael** parts with a tight, fat but not too hard recorded (at least not my copy) sound. And it's not the black metal influence that activate my brain, in fact it's an own styled raw version of a death metal **Candlemas**, **Trouble** or whatever dooms you. The genius things in it are the developed techniques of soloing the guitars right through the slow brutality. It made this tape a bit classical minded but it's certainly something more than an average doom metal band. Send your (I guess) \$5,- to **Eduardo, Rua Plinio Moscoso, edf. Santo Onofre apt° 302, Av. Centenario Salvador - BA, Brazil, CEP-40.155-290.**
Harold Dekkers

Crown of Thorns (Swe)

Forever Heaven gone demo'93

Sweden? yeh! Demo? yeh! Death metal? Yes, Brutal? Yes! Well produced? Yes! Decent and glossy demo cover? Yes! Typical Swedish? Yes! Nice vocalist? Yes! Six tracks? yes! original? No! Sunlights? No! Fast? Yes! Heard before? yes! Slower parts? yes! Standard? Yes! Acoustic parts? Yes! \$5,- ? yes! **Crown of Thorns** c/o **Marko Tervoner, Soldatgatan 17, S-461 62 Trohätten, Sweden.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

Crucifer (USA)

Crown of Thorns demo 2 '92

Talking about standard death metal, this is a schoolexample.... their name shows that very well! **Crucifer** is a very brutal three-piece band. Also the vocals are brutal, but not in the way of **Sinister** or **Suffocation**. These vocals show no aggression, inspiration, frustration, only very unclear too soft roaring. When I read the cover they are well familiar with the underground.... a pity they play so standard and cliché. Demo is \$. Write to: **Cazz Grant, 938 Galbreath Avenue, Boothwyn, PA USA 19061.**
Cor Snijder

Cry (Ecuador)

Phisicofonia

This must be one of the older tapes, but it comes from a not so

well-known country. It's difficult to estimate their band to their value because the sound is connected to their own culture. To start, the lyrics are in spanish and their style is like the most Latin American bands like **Masacre**. But I like this tape. It isn't a total death metal band. But the recording quality is very great, solos are also well done and all in all it breathes the same breath like **Masacre**. Sometimes the songs begins even in the vein of the old true hungarian band **Tormentor**. It's a wonderful tape, surely for the true undergrounders. By the way, **CRY** stands for **Cremación Resurrección Y**. For further contact, I've no address, but I'm afraid the guys don't understand English very well.
Harold Dekkers

Cryptopsy (Can)

Ungente Exhumation demo'93

Autopsy, **Necropsy**, **Biopsy**... **Cryptopsy**. As you may think, this band is of the weight of **Cannibal Corpse**, nothing more and nothing less. Well, maybe **Cryptopsy** has a little bit more to offer because it sounds all a bit more intelligent and the vocals are a bit sleeky. But tracks like 'Abigor' and 'Back to the worms' show a developed brutality like tempo changes and nice solos. Maybe **Cryptopsy** is from the conventional class of grindy gore death metal bands, but going straight ahead is sometimes enjoyable. The cover is really glossy in green, black and white printed. It's a nice release next to **Gorguts** and **Purulence**. **Cryptopsy**, c/o **Gore productions, 1469 Ducas, Lasalle, Québec, Canada, H8N 1A5.**
Harold Dekkers

Damonancy (USA)

Therapeutic Morbidity 7"ep'92

Corpse Grinder Records

This is a very remarkable death metal band of the good **Immolation** standard. The drums aren't that technical like **Immolation** did (is the band dead by the way?) But the aggressive vocals and the song structure, all is a bit familiar to the old good USA status. Heaviness with brains! \$6,- to **CGR, Simon-Soundria Fabien, 27 rue Gay-Lussac, 944110 Arcueil, France.**
Harold Dekkers

Dark (Cze)

Sex 'n Death demo'92

This is the last thing I had ever expected to receive from the new Czechian republic. The former demos of **Dark** sound like early deathrash, but just like **Sepultura** took some big steps to reach the 'Beneath the Remains' **Dark** really surpasses themselves with a new great deathrash demo. Where West-European bands are codding themselves with keyboards, violins, females etc. to stay original, **Dark** still beliefs in the law of thrash: playing death metal thrash with the straight beat parts, but with originality that is incorporated in the old formula: the godly solo's. With their vocals **Dark** reminds me by fits and starts the old **Iron Angel** (of course no one remembers) but much more updated to today's heaviness and production. A heavenly tape. \$5,- to **F.C. Dark/Jirka Kretinsky, Kranicky 19, 682 01 Vyskov, Czechian Republic.**
Harold Dekkers

Dark Millennium (G)

Diana Read Peace CD'93

Massacre Records

One of the better, or maybe best German (death ?) metal bands, **Dark Millennium** released their second album. And with this album **Dark Millennium** is at front of the mainstream death metal which takes the initiative to develop a style in a different form than brutality only. **Dark Millennium** isn't one of the natural changes in the death metal like **Paradise Lost** nor are they a band that needed to be different because they were afraid their own style locked them too much. **Dark Millennium** always have been alternated and they progressed in it with this album. But it's still a pity their style is millennium too wide to make all ideas to something more solid like **Misanthrope** or example, **Diana Read Peace** is only an arrangement of tunes instead of melodies. I don't know this is a really negative point or not, but it's sure, it's in the line of their old works but also shocking for all those death metal cowards.
Harold Dekkers

Darkseed (Austria)

Sharing the Grave demo'93

this band doesn't take care about their production and any originality. With the shamefaced smile Max of Napalm records dumped this tape for a review and that shows the straightforward death metal with doomed melodic influences, slightly something from **Paradise Lost**, isn't dried up at all. It's not a bad tape if you may think, it's just good violent doom/death metal. But to ask \$8,- dollars for a level 'Disastrous Mummur' is a bit too overrated I'm afraid. **Napalm Records, Fichenstr. 34, 8790 Eisenerz, Austria.**
Harold Dekkers

Darkseed (Ger)

Darksome thoughts demo'93

Already their next demo released, with progression, but a grunt is still a grunt. Let Stefan Hertrich handle only his bass next time. In the silent doom parts, the vocals are still suitable like on 'Atoned



for Cries' but the speeded gothic, progressed thrash and other ideas aren't the right parts to carry that way of singing no longer. Certainly not in the track 'Frozen Tears' which must have been a slight influence from *Paradise Lost*. But the instrumental track 'Luctu Perditus' finally showed the music progressed in this second release we've to review. A quite interesting band, even with the average vocals! \$6,- to Stefan Hertrich, Sommerstrasse 6, 82140 Olching, Germany.

Harold Dekkers

Dawn (Swe)

Apparition demo 2 '92

A product of the wizzard of Gorysound studios, an amazingly heavy death metal release with album qualities. This goes way beyond the Swedish limits, broken by the US-sound of *Hypocrisy*. *Dawn* is even more wilder, but also better. Don't expect any Swedish shapes, but straight, direct, bass-drummed sounds. Only the riffs have a touch of variety, like on the first *Dismember* release. Unbelievable if this band stays unnoticed! \$5,- to Andreas Fullmestad, Villa Björksnäs V-g, 585 92 Linköping, Sweden.

Harold Dekkers

DDT (Pol)

Dethroned Death/ Fineness of brutality promo'92

DDT is one of the more known real underground death metal bands with some potation to develop more better tracks than on this tape. Their 'gnashing' death metal sounds like a fantastic principle for a new really good death metal band. Unluckily their sound is too primitive to get a brilliant review. I think Carnage records should have a look for this band. The can become musical genius like some polish acts. Be prepared! Jacek Zajac, 12-200 Pisz aul. Spacerowa 36, Poland.

Harold Dekkers

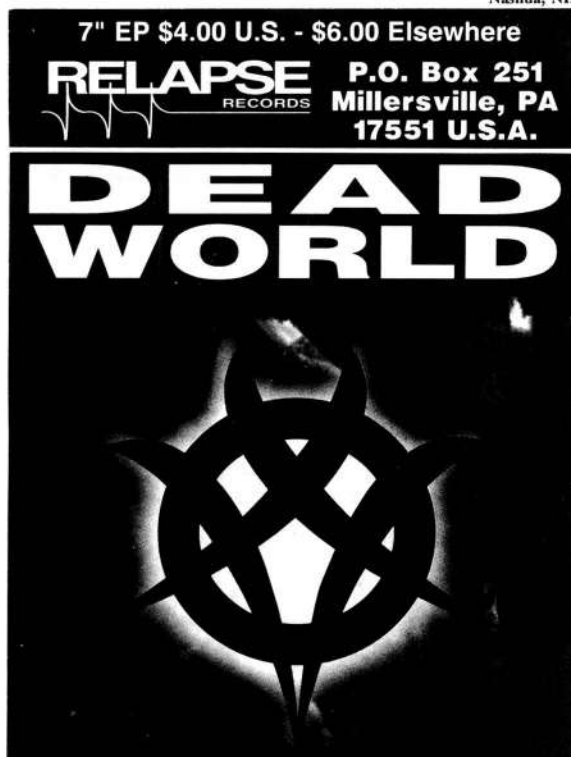
Dead World (US)

Collusion CD'93

Relapse Records

Dead World are a trio which play a kind of industrial death metal in the vein of bands like *Godflesh*, *Pitch Shifter* and early *Swans*. *Collusion* is divided into three movements which consist of eerie soundscapes with layers of echoes upon layers of echoes and slow, hammering tracks with lots of distorted vocals, weird samples and sound effects. *Dead World* bring about visions of a dark, filthy, dangerous and psychotic environment from which there's no escape. Yet there's no need for despair as they offer enough variation to keep you out of the claws of boredom. This musical mindwarp has been released by Relapse Records, P.O. Box 251, Millersville, PA 17551 USA.

Jeroen Visser



Dead World (USA)

7"ep'93

Relapse rec.

The industrializing of the death metal label is going on. From their single series we find a more or less abstract of the album release of *Dead World*. So I refer to the review of that album. You've to take in account that the first track 'Dead world' is more like digital

death metal and 'Song of Age' is an analog poem with cello and piano. It's nearly a soundtrack for a TV-documentary. \$4,- to Relapse Rec. P.O.Box 251 Millersville, PA 17551, USA.

Harold Dekkers

Decollation (Swe)

Cursed Lands MCD '93

Listenable Records

Such bands as Decollation keeps the underground alive by producing brutal and original music... it makes me happy. To the MCD, all of these tracks are already released on an earlier promo, also called "Cursed Lands". The sound of the guitars and drums reminds me of *Liers in Wait* (Swe). Explained by the fact these bands have used same studio and drummer. Do not understand me wrong, *Decollation* is not a *Liers in Wait* -rip off. Remember, I think *Decollation* original! The fast music on this MCD is (quite) technical, but have catchier parts too. A thing I can not understand is why they use keyboards in this brutal kind of music. However, it is not irritating, no it even creates some weird moods/sounds. The vocals are not a deathgrunt, but sound rather frustrating... I like them. All of you should order this great and original masterpiece. Send your money (\$) to: Listenable records, 18 Quai duquay Trouin, 62480 Le Portel, France.

Cor Snijder

Deformity (Swe)

Sickly Obsessed demo'93

Brutal death metal, nice production, no Sunlight, Swedish... mmm, it's still rising up. Really incredible how many bands Sweden is giving birth to. Really I hardly can't believe it... Okay, *Deformity* is (just) another brutal death act; everything seems to be okay. A nice printed cover, nice tape, great production, brutal vocals, heavy guitars, nice leads, fast and slow parts... but as you may have noticed one thing is really missing and that's again originality. When you're just into brutal stuff, don't hesitate at all. I could have written exactly the same review about ten or fifteen other Swedish bands... I guess the usual \$5,- will do: Nyholm, Magnegatan 6, 19552 Märsta, Sweden.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Delusion (USA)

Autumn Dawn demo'92

Are you into brutal, tight, well played US death metal? order this tape, you won't regret it. Many people are complaining about the enormous amount of almost the same sounding death metal bands from Sweden, the same goes for the US, I think. Also *Delusion* is one of those bands, convincing songs, well produced brutal vocals and almost no originality, just brutality. It's nice to listen to, but sometimes a bit standard death metal. Four tracks and a glossy demo cover for \$5,- to Brain Bergeron, 2 Sapling Circle, Apt 8, Nashua, NH 03062 USA.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Deceased

The 13 Frightened

souls

MC/CD

'93

Relapse

Records

Here

comes

Deceased

with their

second

attack on CD:

2 new songs

and a cover of

Voivod

on side A

and two oldies

from the demo

"Nuclear

Excorsist"

on side B.

It really is a pity,

there are

only two new songs

on this CD.

Their new songs

are great and even

original, still very

brutal and

energetic!

The old songs

have got a new

sound, they

sound much better

than on the demo.

King's vocals

are no deep

deathgrunt

anymore, no

this time he

cries the lungs

out of his chest,

aggressive!

I really like

his vocals now.

I have to

admit that

most death

metal releases

are

"rereleases"

(to say it

straight: unoriginal

and uninspirational),

but this release

is just fuck,

fucking great.

Everything sounds

fresh!! Buy this

Relapse Records,

P.O. Box 251,

Millersville,

PA, 17551 USA.

Bandinformation at:

5953 N.

10th st.,

Arlington,

VA, 22205 USA.

Cor Snijder

Deteriorot (USA)

Manifestated apparition of unholy spirits

7"ep'93

Drowned Productions

Another "only in for brutality" band?? They are in any case fuckin heavy! From the same area of the other mega brutal acts as the ION's and their clones. But *Deteriorot* is not the same as the above described bands, they are very down tuned indeed but they haven't got all those (confusing?) blast beats and much more melody lines.



The vocals are ultra low growling and the production is very muddy, so this is kinda "dirty" ep. Drowned has singed this band for a full length album so that one can be expected next year.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Detest (Den)

Deathbreed demo '92

This is a professional release, very good cover and sound. In the first place that is already impressive.

Very cool vocals, music.... both in the way of *Benediction*. They are their main influence I think. *Detest* has the same qualities as *Benediction*, that is sure. *Deathbreed* is an excellent release, but still it brings nothing new. If you want quality, this is a must! Send \$ 8 for this 4-song demo to: John Petersen, B.N.V. 72-6. dor 4, 2605 Brøndby, Denmark.

Cor Snijder

Disastrous Murmur (Aus)

Where the blood forever rains cd'93

Napalm Records

Disastrous Murmur, once one of the historical three-man bands from the trinity of Vienna. Unluckily their debut album 'Rhapsody in Red' wasn't a real chock in the grind scene. Like *Pungent Stench* did with the continuation of the *Carcass* sickness and like *Disharmonic Orchestra* did with a large step forwards, *Disastrous Murmur* always walked in the shadows of those big ones... Okay, they are able to produce their own style in this kind of typical Austrian grind, like two songs shows on this album. Despite their more developed new composings I prefer their older four songs, recorded with the old line up. The real old grind like 'Suppurative Frontal Sinusitis' still has the own style of atmosphere and not the smile like: 'Hi, don't be afraid, it's not too serious we're doing!' Still really rotten to the gore, the only right way of grind! \$15,- to Napalm Records, Fichtenstraße 34, 3790 Eisenerz, Austria.

Harold Dekkers

Disembowelment (Austr)

Dusk mini-CD'93

Relapse rec.

Taken from the last demo: two tacks, it's a cheap but nice idea to present a new band on your label. But this release is also good for a public birth to 'Cerulean Transience of all my imagined shores', an uncivilized psychological leading track of *Disembowelment*. If they leave their immense heavy and slow doom metal to this great, more industrialized mega heavy direction, they will be the leading pre-cultivated atmospheric band next to *Mordor*. This band can be compared to *Mordor* only for a little bit. *Disembowelment* shows more aggression along with a hang to the experiments of bands like *Thergothon*, drowning in heaviness. Awaiting it for years, their 'Transcendence into Peripheral' full length debut will show us the final result. Order *Dusk!* Relapse Rec. P.O.Box 251 Millersville, PA 17551, USA.

Harold Dekkers

Disembowelment (Austr)

Transcendence into the peripheral cd'93

Relapse records

Finally, *Disembowelment* gives an answer to the philosophy of the mystical feeling beyond doom and tender. It's a real tender, but the review will show it isn't complete. Just like on their second demo they couldn't leave their doom grind parts of beating drums and grunts from the dark. In fact this release never had the possibility to become perfect. They only can show you the feeling of an other dimension, only the ones who are making the music can step into it. Still the old and well known tracks like 'The tree of life and death', 'A burial at Ornans' and from the Dusk pre-release 'Cerulean Transience of all my Imagined Shores' are new recordings of the old song, all a bit grinded up. Finally the beginning of 'The Spirits of the tall hills' and 'Excoriate' lift it up to look over the wall into the garden of bands like *Dead Can Dance*. And it's not a public secret this is one of the band's faves. The longer you listen to this album, the more you discover the real depth in their music. It's only for underground 'ears' But all in all, I still have to get my self-overcoming, but this album shows me that boundary is near! Relapse Rec. P.O.Box 251 Millersville, PA 17551, USA.

Harold Dekkers



Disgusting (Nor)

The lament configuration demo'93

Well, when I received this demo from Norway I thought it would be an aggressive letter of hate from one of those big mouth satanic attituded bad music crap bands. But fortunately it wasn't that kind of letter but the debut demo of *Disgusting*, a real great and promising act from Norway. They label them self as fast and brutal death metal and not as black metal or something like that. Although, the vocals are extremely screaming and in the black metal vein. Well, I think they put death metal on their flyers to get more publicity and serious letters from those 'I'm true, I've always listening to black metal, hail satan, avé...' idiots who think that the whole Norwegian scene only consists of four big mouthed bands who fucked up the whole scene there. Well, back to their music (only in for the music, right?) they are indeed brutal, fast and aggressive. *Disgusting* consists of ex-Balvaz(!), Skabb and Slesk

members, so they are skilled musicians! The demo contains seven tracks recorded at the Mc Quake studio (where **Fester** recorded their debut CD 'Winter of Sin') and it resulted in a good sound. \$5.- for one of the better norwegian demos: **Lars Holt, Ringstadun 2, 1672 Krakeroy, Norway.** The (un)true Roel van Reijmersdal

Dismember (Swe)

Indecent and Obscene cd '93 Nuclear Blast

This one is pretty difficult to review, can bands, who aren't innovating, be labelled as bad? The fact is that **Dismember** was one of my absolutely fave bands. Their 'Reborn in Blasphemy' demo and 'Like an overflowing stream' had an enormous impact on me, for some months I was totally addicted to those Sunlight kings (hi Metalion!) But the time goes on, bands are searching for different approaches and new styles are being born. Doom, black and gothic metal are really popular right now. **Tiamat** has changed into an atmospherical doom/heavy metal act, **Therion** tries the more technical and dark approach **Entombed's** performing **Motorhead** on Sunlight and **Dismember**... yeah, what about **Dismember**? They are actually still the same as four years ago, just like **Unleashed** and **Grave**. So, this album would have caused tons of interest... four years ago! Well, there's actually nothing wrong, great sound, decent songs etc... But I've heard this kind of riffing so many times before. Matti's vocals are maybe the worst about this album, some sort of powerless screaming, very disappointing. He used to be such an enormous great vocalist during the **Carbonized/Carnage** period! Only the song 'Dreaming in Red' he shows he is still able to reach the absolute heavy grunting (yes, a studio power-up! -ed) Roel van Reijmersdal



Dispatched (Swe) Promo '93

This is the 2 track **Dispatched** promo tape, recorded at the Stone Studio and blessed with a poor sound for a (Swedish) studio. The sound isn't really bad, but it sounds more like a well recorded rehearsal. The songs are pretty much in the traditional Swedish vein with a nice and great keyboard part in the first song 'The Crusade of the Northern Gods'. The second track 'Act of Resurrection' has a really great lead. Only a bit sad about the cheap sound, probably with a nice (Uni/Gorysound?) production it would have been much better. I think about \$4.- will be enough: **Dispatched, c/o Jonas Kimbrell, Juristg. 2C, S-64600 Gnesta, Sweden.** Roel van Reijmersdal



Dispatched (Swe) adv. for mini-lp '93

Some new **Dispatched** stuff, recorded at the Gory/Unisound studios and produced by good old Dan Swanö. The sound is far more better than on their demo so the songs are enjoyable. **Dispatched** performs (of course) Swedish death metal with a nice original touch. Not too standard but with enough own ideas and that's a wise development, right? Also the vocals are really great, not the typical low growling grunts, more a voice somewhere between the grunt and a black metal scream. Every song contains a couple of nice leads, some acoustic parts and whispering vocals. No label found yet to release these tracks, so interested labels should write to: **Jonas Kimbrell, Juristg. 2C, 646 00 Gnesta, Sweden.** This guy is also running his own mag called **Nocuous 'Zine**, a bit chaotic, mainly Swedish orientated 'zine with a nice underground feeling. I thought the price was 3 or 4 \$.



Dissection (Swe) The Sonberlain CD '93 No Fashion Records

Sweden's black souls **Dissection** are back after their disappointing 'Into Infinite Obscurity' ep. Not the typical Swedish death metal nor the Norwegian black metal but somewhere between those (opposite?) styles. They are also friends with both camps, the Stockholm bands on one side and the Norwegian black metal circle (circus.) on the other side. Their style is maybe comparable to godly acts as **Eucharist** (their split was very tragical and definitely a loss to the scene!), maybe a little bit **At The Gates** and total undiscovered godz **Opheth**. But they've got also their strong own ideas so that's pretty refreshing. Snare drum sound sounds a bit bad, comparable to the rest of the sound, which is actually nice. I don't know where their lyrics are about, probably about the Goat himself and dark wars in the Northern woods, I don't give a fuck about their attitude in any case. Nice album! Listening to this excellent release you will get the good old heavy metal feeling. Same price as **Fester** and **Unanimated**. Roel van Reijmersdal



Divine Eve (USA) the last of the sunset faded demo '93

The demo title implicates a band inspired by Dante fines,

something like **Paradise Lost**. But in fact almost everything is infected by raw brutality. Every type of music has it's own charm and **Divine Eve** destroys everything on it's path just like like a muddy **Grave/Dismember** and other heaviness. Their death metal is completed with the everlasting american sickness that bands like **Autopsy** display and that's charm enough I think. \$5.- **Divine Eve, 3600 Sailmaier Ln. Plano. Texas 75023, USA.** Harold Dekkers

Doomed (USA) 7"ep '93 Peaceville

This is the second collectors club release, the Californian blood metal band **Doomed** featuring a certain Cursed Reefer on guitar. Guess who Cursed Reefer is? I'll bet it is Chris Reifert from **Autopsy**! Four tracks pressed on red vinyl containing doomy brutal death metal. To me the four tracks are pretty boring, there is not much variation in the guitar parts and in the monotonous vocals. I guess Chris can better use his spare time to write some fresh and decent **Autopsy** tracks. But it's nice to get their rare ep in your collection, after the 31th of July '93 the ep will be unavailable forever (so this review is much too late, ha, ha -ed.) But nevertheless, it's a great opportunity to join the collectors club from peaceville: the rates are as follows: one year membership for £17.50 and two years for £32.50. And if you're on the peaceville mailing list they'll offer you this special rate: one year £15.- or two years £30.- and you'll get some nice stuff regularly! **Peaceville, P.O.Box 17, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, WF18 8AA, UK.** Roel van Reijmersdal

Dungeon (Ita) Bleeding Cross demo '93

Yes, I already know black metal is cool, but why does every idiot play it? With no doubt you're really true by a weak copy of **Burzum** and **Darkthrone**. In the first track 'Witches Pyramid' the drummer misses sometimes the rhythm. No, even you can play **Venom's** 'Welcome to hell' (and you don't know how to write that), the black metal is still reserved to a select communion in Norway. \$5.- to **Unborn, c/o Gianluca Liburdi, Via Tondin 8N, 00158, Italy.** Harold Dekkers

Electrocution (It) Inside the unreal MC/LP/CD '93 Rosemary's Babe

This is fast, tight deaththrash from Italy. Thrashriffs are played in a brutal way. This release sounds rather fresh, but nothing more than that. Some riffs and the sound are rather familiar. I like the guitarist, he produces some great riffs and many great solo's. When this band has a singer like **Sathanas** or **Sadus** I will like **Electrocution** much more. The vocals on this tape are so standard and cliched.... a pity! Maybe their next release is a killer, they really have potentation. Write to: **Mick Montaguti, Via Belvedere 82, 40062 Zola Predosa, Bologna, Italy.** Cor Snijder



Embalmer (UK) Mephistophilian Atrocity

This brutal death metal is coming that directly to you, they even pass over the production. **Embalmer** sounds like it is recorded with a microphone straight before the speaker, a kind of radio sound. And that's a pity because, despite they seem to be a straightforward death metal band like their moniker introduce, they're some really strange rhythms to discover and a bunch of nice riffs too. Some are amazingly original and dark like in the long obscure last song. Well indulged bastards, this isn't a sunny light sounded production, don't think that luxurious, order this tape!! The longer I listen the better this demo get. \$5.- to: **Embalmer, c/o Top Flat, 2 Batchelor Road, Newport, Gwent, NP9 8GU, UK.** Harold Dekkers

Emperor/Enslaved (Nor) Emperor/ Hordanes Land Split-CD Candlelight Records

And again my CD-player is infested with evil from Norway... The previous issue of **Mortician** featured an interview with **Emperor's** drummer Faust, so I take the liberty to skip the traditional band information in this review. Instead, I'll move directly on to the music: Noisy and yet melodic sounding guitars, screeching vocals with additional deep roars and narration, tasteful Gothic synths and dark pounding drums. With this ingredients, **Emperor** have succeeded in composing some really interesting, complex and dramatic black metal songs with a true dark and evil feeling. Sadly, this first excellent CD may probably be their last because Faust has currently been charged with the murder of a homosexual (Weird But True Black Circle Tales, part 13), so the band might fall apart. **Enslaved** are a sound-alike of **Emperor**, but not a mere copy. This band plays slightly more straight-forward and their lyrics are all in Norwegian so I can't figure out what they sing about. They also focus heavily on the classical element (keyboards, acoustic guitar, massive reverb). A real killer song is the fifteen-minute



track 'Slaget i skogen bortenfor', a mini-opera that'll make Wagner turn in his grave!

This split-CD can be ordered from **Candlelight Records, Units 15 and 15a, Bushell Business Estate, Hithercroft, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX109DD, England.** Alas, I don't know the price. Jeroen Visser

The Endoparasites (Bra)

The Endoparasites + Generalized Infection demos

The first pathological metal band from Brazil, singed to V?? (hoe heet dat labeltje ook alweer Harold? O, je bedoelt dat labeltje dat door o.a. Roadrunner is leeggeroofd! -Sepultura, Sarcophago etc.) They've released two demos so far. Full of exploding drums, deep growling vocals, brutal guitar parts and lyrics about dead bodies and stuff like that. Not anything really special but heavy and brutal with grinding energy! The 'Endoparasites' demo is a bit more death metal and the 'Generalized Infection' is more grinding and the sound on it is a bit less than the other. I think you can get both demos on one tape for \$6.- **Endoparasites, c/o Adelson, Sousa, Rua Dona Francisca, 425/302, Lins de Vasconcelos, Rio de Janeiro -RJ, 20711 Brasil.** Roel van Reijmersdal



Enslaved (Ger)

Twisted Nature 7"ep

Morbid Rec.

This is the ex-DDR **Enslaved** and not the Norwegian one who have threatened so many people in the scene. And just like their name mated they are nothing really special and a bit chaotic. The vocalist is ultra deep growling, the songs are not really great, a bit boring actually. I think that they aren't structured enough, so they sound pretty chaotic besides the messy sound. 10 DM (Germany), \$6.- (Europe), \$7.- (world): **Morbid Records, Postfach 3, 03314 Drebkau, Germany.** Roel van Reijmersdal

Entombed (Swe)

Wolverine Blues

Earache Records

When 'Left Hand Path' was released in June 1990 it was absolutely my favourite album for a long time, super aggressive guitar sound and one of the best vocals ever, made that album a classic. The mini album 'Crawl' and it's session vocalist showed a development moving away from the ultimate goodness of the 'Left Hand Path'. **Clandestine** was in my eyes really not convincing, certainly when you compare it to their debut. **Hollowman** was the biggest disappointment for me. **Entombed** is dead! So, now there's their third full length album 'Wolverine Blues'. And it's more or less a new **Entombed**. The logo has changed as well as the look. And of course the musical direction is totally new. **Entombed** has lost all the die-hard 'Left Hand...' fans for ever now. But they will gain a lot of new fans. The new album is somewhere a bite like **Clandestine**, only much more **Motörhead** like and simplistic. The sunlight sound is solid, heavy and pretty aggressive. L.G. has lost his voice as he showed on the Gods of Grind tour. Now he sings like a brutal version of the **Sacred Reich** vocalist, a bit boring actually. **Entombed** chose for this new musical direction instead of becoming doomy, high technical or using the usual keyboards and female vocalists. I really think you have to see this album separated from the early **Entombed** and I think they are pretty good in what they are doing now. Roel van Reijmersdal

Eroded (Sp)

The Pact demo '93

Eroded is not a real band but a project of Xavier and Ismael, members of **Mortal Mutilation** and **Corrupt Soul**. Lay-out and demo cover look real great and professional. The music is pretty good although it's just a two piece band/project. Guitar riffs, drums and vocals are pretty much satisfying. Only the lyrics are so extremely pathetic, for example the track 'In Hell': "Satan - power of death, flogging of lucifer, people is possessed, demons hungry of flesh". Incredible; either your mental development stopped at the age of thirteen or you're dementing already. But the music is great and well produced. Xavier is definitely a great musician, he's responsible for the guitars, bass and drums on this tape! \$5.- Europe and \$6.- Elsewhere to: **Haemorrhage productions, p.o. Box 37062, 28080 Madrid, Spain** Roel van Reijmersdal

Eterne (UK)

7"ep '93

Hammer of Damnation

Together with a magazine, band/projects **Niko Sirkä** is also busy now with an own small label. And as special as his taste is, the first release is **Eterne** from South Wales. In fact **Eterne** is a strange fish in the ocean of death metal, but on the other side, many fans are known with the kind of music **Eterne** plays. It's a kind of wave/metal in the form of **Sisters of Mercy**, **Moon of Sorrow**, **Lycia** and many others. But Dave, the brain behind this band managed to get into the international metal scene with his obscure band. People who are tired of death metal, try this! \$6.- to **Hammer of Damnation, c/o Niko Sirkä, Nurmiantie 6D3, 20780 Kaarina, Finland.**



Coroner, but full of rhythm changes and breaks. Besides the well build up solos, those changes are the most important element in the music. The vocals are as powerful as their colleagues in **Pascal**, another very interesting band. This album is riff-beating technical okay and with some more guitar experience, the band will become a total topper.

Harold Dekkers

Merciless Death (Pol)
Sick Sanctities demo '93
Carnage records

The cover of the Sick Sanctities is a better version of an illustration of forbidden wisdom than the dull photo on the Covenant album of **Morbid Angel**. But the style of music is a bit the same. **Merciless Death** has the style of **Morbid Angel** on the unofficial (bootlegged by Earache!) first album, even the sound is much more civilized to the capacity of **Necrophagia**. The echoing sound and the vocal like on the first **Kreator** album makes this demo to a modernized classic colossal death metal release. Of course **Merciless Death** won't become a new **Possessed** or something like that, but didn't I hear the old raw destructive thrash is becoming popular again.

Harold Dekkers

Necrophobic (Pol)
No More life CD '93
Carnage records

Necrophobic is a total rip-off of the once so famous Bay-area thrash like **Atrophy**. The tracks remind me all to the professionalism of **Mortal Sin**, **Testament**, **Death Angel**, **Sacred Reich** but musically it's only a change of thrash rhythms and the well-known solos. For a polish band it's surely a good thrash copy. I can't find anything bad. Even the cover is better than most american bands ever did. No More Life is a nice repeating of our first **Metallica** period, completed with an usual fun track 'I like bitches'. Well, if **Annihilator** is still a big band, why shouldn't **Necrophobic** do it better? The only critic that remains is of course the wrong choice of their band name, you all know why!

Harold Dekkers

Sacriversum (Pol)
Dreams of destiny demo '93
Carnage records

Well, the polish scene is really comparable to the Spanish scene: tons of upcoming new bands and a promoter from the country itself. As we are saying all over again, the demos are professional recorded and they lay-out is super! But, but, but record labels from foreign countries won't sign any of these bands (except **Vader**), strange... Most of the bands are not really bad, most of them are only searching for their own identity. Take for example **Sacriversum** from Poland, excellent, really excellent demo out on Carnage rec, but I guess after this demo the scene won't hear anymore from them, that's sad! I haven't seen many Polish (nor Spanish) bands interviewed, but even the smallest Swedish band appears in almost every 'zine. And even almost every Finnish or Swedish band has released at least an ep. I guess when **Sacriversum** would have been from the UK, Scandinavia or Holland, they would have caught tons of interest. I really can't find a reason why those bands are given such a little chance. **Sacriversum** is a real great band, so why not checking it out? The same goes out for **Violent Dirge**, **Pascal** and **Cryptic Tales**.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Turbo (Pol)
One way albu tape '93
Carnage Records

Turbo is back, keeping their old status as a famous and one of the first Polish thrash bands. **Turbo** plays nice thrash, much rawer and brutal than all other clean-shaven thrash bands. It's sometimes sounding like **Holy Moses**, a bit unconventional but brutal and spontaneous thrash metal without changing too much from the former albums.

Harold Dekkers

Violent Dirge (Pol)
Elapse albu tape '93
Carnage records

Again a colossal demo in the area of technical capacity. After **Vader**, here is some soloing stuff again. It's all in the vein of **Vader's** 'Morbid Reich' demo. But the vocals aren't luckily the same and the whole sound is more 'grotesque' compared to the synthetic stuff of **Vader**. This demo can be ordered at **Carnage** rec. For band contact write to: **Mariusz & Wojtek**, 01-756 Warszawa, Ul. Przasnyska 17/6, Poland.

Harold Dekkers

Cantara (NL)
All Beauty demo '93

This demo starts with an intro, where in is a terrible female scream, arghhh. One thing is clear to me this no cliched death metal. Although the beginning of the first track reminds me of "Thou art lord" of **Acheron**. There are also a lot of cool riffs and solo's on this demo! Doom parts too, but it is no doom metal. The music is rather technical but not too technical. Actually I think this

band is good, recommendable! Well also on this demo the vocals are not my favourite, they are not bad either... I believe undergrounders think far too easy about the vocals, deathgrunt, death screams etc.....fools!!

Anyway check this demo and send your money (\$6) to: **Freddy Leenders, Mondriaanlaan 7, 9581 LG Musselkanaal, The Netherlands.**

Cor Snijder



Cantara (NL)
Dark... MCD '93

And shortly after their debut demo **Cantara** got a record deal for their mini-album 'Dark'. The vocals are still low, just like some over-aggressive USA bands. But the strongest point of **Cantara** is their mixture of ultra brutal metal with well melodic and emotional loaded riffs. Sometimes you get the impression to have to do with a doom-grind band. Well, in no way **Cantara** is slow, it are their riffs and solos that impress you. Their smooth style between brutality and melancholy is connected in a good way and even the vocals doesn't suit ill. No, they show the same like **Phlebotomized** or **Furbowl** did: a simple, but effective development of the violent death metal.

Harold Dekkers

Catacomb (Fra)
In the maze of Kadath 7"ep
Drowned prod.

'In the maze of Kadath' what the fuck is that? sounds like some black metal cliché and also their logo looks like shit! Well, their music hasn't got anything to do with black metal, so it is just another band who chooses that bullshit image. The music is actually pretty good, a lot of variation, catchy riffs and a lot of original guitar parts combined with atmospheric keyboard parts. The vocalist is pretty heavy, maybe a bit too heavy and too much growling for this type of death metal. Extreme death/grind would have fitted better to this voice. The sound and production are pretty much satisfying, even very good for a French studio. **Catacomb** is musical wise the top of French death metal but there isn't that much competition over there. \$5.- to **Drowned, Gran Via 69, 28013 Madrid, Spain.** for this nice ep!

Roel van Reijmersdal

Ceremonial Oath (Swe)
The book of Truth CD '93
Modern primitive

Again a band in a struggle to find the originality which is present in the Gothenburg area nowadays. **Dissection**, **At the Gates**, **Liers in Wait**, **Decollation** and surely **Dark Tranquillity**, all bands from the fast, technical developed Swedish genre with own styles. But however **Ceremonial Oath** tried to do the same: rhythmic, acoustic, violent, emotional or sensitive, I think they didn't succeed to overwhelm the other bands with an fantastic album. The sound is progressive, sure, but the originality lacks of an own identity. The guitar virtuosi are excellent and the whole album is build up in a perfect and aggressive way, but still falling down to the status of the best Stockholm death metal acts. It's a pity, but I'm afraid the big brothers of the scene really are too good to don't have any of their shadows over this band. And that means, after this excellent release, they have to fight on, there is simply only one the best!

Write to **Modern Primitive**, 51 BLVD A.Blanqui; 75013 Paris, France.

Harold Dekkers

Ceremony (NL)
Tyranny from above CD '93
Cyber Music

Follow up to their "Tribulation Foreseen" 7"ep on Cenotaph Rec. Here is the debut full length album by Rotterdam area deathsters **Ceremony**. And what kinda debut, pure aggressive brutality. Not in the vein of the NY bands but far more technical orientated stuff. Blessed with a good sound and recorded at Studio 't Pand (**Phlebotomized**, **Threnody**...) in Vlaardingen/Holland. The bass parts on this album are done by Ron van de Polder who's the former (highly talented) **Sinister** guitar player. He's only more a sort of session musician so **Ceremony** is still searching for a bass player, interested people should write to **Ceremony**!! (c/o Peter Verhoef, Watermolen 107, 2986 EV Ridderkerk, Holland). New vocalist Micha is doing a great job, he sometimes remind me a bit of Mike from **Sinister** but I must confess that he sounds live more aggressive. Overall great CD from an upcoming Dutch band! I don't know the price but **Cyber** has got a good world wide distribution, otherwise write to them: **Cyber Music, P.O. Box 2, 7050 AA Varsseveld, Holland.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

The Chasm (Mex)
Awaiting the day of liberation demo '93

When you say Mexico, you say... **Cenotaph**! After **Cenotaph** released their debut CD 'The Gloomy reflections' bass player and vocalist Daniel left the band he had joined four years before. Music

always has been a part of the man, so forming his own new band was the next step. The band was called **The Chasm** with Daniel on vocals and lead guitar(!). March '93 they released their first demo and what a debut! Hell, this tape is brilliant! A bit like the scandinavian death metal of **Demigod** (rip), some new **Carbonized** parts, UK heaviness and a doze of originality, 4 excellent tracks and well, heavy produced. For more 'hot news' about this super band from mexico, check out the interview! \$6.- to **Daniel Corchado, Apdo. Postal #M-2730, C.P. 06002, México, I.D.F. Mexico.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

Chor Chorea (Ger)
Mental Maze demo '92

Typical alternate german professionalism, it's the only thing German is really good at. Bands like **Sieges Even**, **Mekong Delta** are german. **Watchtower** is still very popular over there. Shameless they call their music custom thrash while it has as much to do with thrash as **Death** with jazz (and that isn't totally nothing). Compared to the classic **Sieges Even** album 'steps' I refer them to the alternate technical side of metal. The 'metal maze' isn't a technical masterwork when it comes to soloing or all that childish semi techno. No, their subtlety lies in item technical background work with sometimes very sublime themes in their riffs and solos. This is carved in my mind to remind them when there will be more progression. If that happens they will be at the top! \$6.- to **Veit Ullmann, Sonnenallee 275, 1000 Berlin 44, Germany.**

Harold Dekkers

Choronzon (NL)
Aiwas
Split demo of depression and hate '93

O no, not again something from **Choronzon**! This means it's true or it's shit (two synonyms). But there's hope, on this split demo with **Ostracised**, **Choronzon** succeed to put some old **Hellhammer** riffs down in a bad, cool, underground sound with it's charms. The few best tracks on this tape are even played as technical as possible in this genre. \$5.- / Hfl 10.- to: **Choronzon, Beukenstraat 18, 7471 WD Goor, The Netherlands.**

Harold Dekkers

The Circle (NL)
Symphony n°1 demo '93

The scene isn't dead at all, it's simply overcrowded and the progressive elements are overrated. Yes, how sweet are the changes to an alternative scene really? Referring to tons of well developing and own styling bands we think we are alternated. But bands like **The Circle** provide an argument against the whole keyboard hype. Why do bands use keyboards? most of them to have an easy instrument, an expensive horse makes ploughing the land a comfortable work. I wonder who will be the ingenuously one who will promote this band. Is this band different because they claim to come forth from the death metal origins? Don't let me laugh, only a ticklish look-a-like guitar sound with an expensive, (but colossal, that must be said) keyboard sound? Go home and listen to **Vangelis**! There you can find thousands of keyboard samples to enjoy. \$6.- (?) to **M. Spierenburg, Paltrokolen 122, 2406 JP Alphen a/d Rijn, the Netherlands.**

Harold Dekkers

Colour Trip
idem CD '93
Massacre rec.

Colour Trip used to act under the name of **Accessory** some time ago and **Accessory** once released their debut album on IMF records. I guess that album was

indeed a disaster, just like the name of their former record company indicates: 'Indeed Many Failures'. **Accessory** died a silent death and the members formed **Colour Trip**. They got signed to **Massacre** rec. and released their album under this name. 11 tracks with a total running time of 51 minutes of German death metal. It's really remarkable how much the **Colour Trip** vocalist sound like Johan Edlund from **Tiamat** on their **Astral Sleep** album. He doesn't sound like a rip off but he's got almost the same way of pronouncing the lyrics. The music of **Colour Trip** can't be connected with **Tiamat**, they are totally different. **Colour Trip** brings you decent and normal death metal well played but not really spectacular. The album also contains two bizarre short instrumental tracks probably composed during a XTC or LSD (colour) trip. Standard-wise, this album is maybe comparable to the **Crematory** album (also a **Massacre** product, not the Swedish one!) only a bit more exciting.

Roel van Reijmersdal





Hammer-Damnation

Harold Dekkers

Eve of Mourning (USA)
Acheronian Winter demo'93

A depressive doom band and this time with a tomb sound. It's more heavier than *Saint Vitus* doom, going close to some of the more immense *Cathedral* tracks, but luckily the songs are ridden with those 'swinging' doom solos that were once introduced by the well-known doom metal formations such as *Trouble*. Doom metal has become undestroyable, surely after the releases of *Pentagram*, *Revelation* and others and *Eve of Mourning* shows the conservative standard once again. But they can play! Even though there are only three members in the band. \$6.- to P.O.Box 306, Palos Heights II 60463, USA.

Harold Dekkers

Eviscerate (NZ)
Severely butchered Remains demo'93

A new band from the upcoming New Zealand scene: *Eviscerate*, heavily inspired by US gore/death bands such as *Autopsy* and *Incantation*. Only *Eviscerate* is not that good. Pretty heavy sound, ultra growling vocals. The music is totally not innovating but more standard death metal, pure brutality. A lot of tempo changes, fast riffs immediately followed by a doom riff. Recorded in the same studio as the *Convulsion* demo. \$5.- to *Eviscerate*, 5 Meldrum pl. Christ Church 5, New Zealand. (after this demo *Eviscerate* changed his style, now they are playing black metal...)

Roel van Reijmersdal

Evisceration (NL)
Victim of his Frustration demo'93

A Beaufordian release again. The respected *Evisceration* (a popular word by now!) released a five track demo of almost average death metal. Arranged riffs in the usual scales, not the torrential riffs of brutality anymore. That kind is out, a good balanced sound is in and *Evisceration* shows not only by the use of the keyboards. Tracks like 'Invincible Desire' brings the band above the medium, and in the Amsterdam scene to the top, of death metal. \$6.-/Hfl 10.- to: Ronald Kools, Gele Lisstraat 32, 1531 SE Wormer, The Netherlands.

Harold Dekkers

Excision (NR)
The Drowning Tear demo'93

Developed in the direction of experienced death metal, this band recorded a new demo. Yes, indeed, all the old clichés are left behind and replaced by the new death metal etiquette, using females and keyboards. The demo cover reminds a bit to *Anathema*, but we can't take their music in such a drastically way. Maybe it's a pity the band only strikes 'the second level', so the real straight forward death metal fans will stay satisfied by brutality. But on the whole *Excision* is complex and varying enough to attract a big horde of enthusiastic people. Yeah, their demo is even that positive that they can be seen as a replacement for the missing *Dead End*. Their music is no doom but the highest point 'The Burning Mirror' rises above the doom compositions like of *Sad Whispersings* and *Dead End*. Holland: Hfl 12,50, Europe: \$6.- + 1 IRC, World: \$6.- + 2 IRC's to *Excision*, c/o Paul Verhagen, Vlassert 70, 5541 VH Reusel, The Netherlands.

Harold Dekkers

Exhumation (Gre)
The Rebirth demo'90

Exhumation was formed early '90 and recorded their debut demo in november of that year. Due to the military service *Exhumation* was forced to split up at the beginning of 1991 and no promotion for the demo was done abroad. But the flame was still burning and *Exhumation* reformed. They re-released their debut demo and I'm glad they did. Great death metal from Greece with some slight

thrash metal influences. It's very atmospherical just like country mates *Nightfall*, *Rotting Christ* or *Septic Flesh*. This tape gives me the good old thrash/heavy metal feeling from the mid 80's! (Not the bay-area shit!) like the old *Kreator*, *Sodom*, *Destruction* or the Swedish *Mefisto*, *Morbid* or *Obscurity*. Nice demo cover on glossy paper. This tape is maybe not a recent one, but it's certainly not out of dated or boring and it's great they've reformed and planned a new demo. Read the second review about that. The price is 800 DRH (Greece) or \$4.-. *Giatzoglou Panagiotis*, *Papadimitriou 19*, 55131 Kalamaria, Greece.

Harold Dekkers

Exhumation (Gre)

Sensation of Deadness adv promo/demo II'93

The 'Sensation of Deadness' is a promo track from the reborn *Exhumation* to show the scene that they're still alive and how they've progressed since their (first) formation back in 1990. Their style hasn't changed drastically, they only became better musicians and they have put more ideas into their music. *Exhumation* is currently working on new material which will be released on their second demo somewhere late '93/early '94. A blanc tape and one or two IRC's and Panagiotis will record this track for you I hope. *Exhumation*, c/o Panagiotis Giatzoglou, Papadimitriou 19, 55131 Kalamaria, Greece.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Exoto (B)

The Fifth season demo'92

In the world of Gothic sounds, female vocals and violins there is still an original band who really knows how to make something original with keyboards. It isn't the keyboards at all which makes *Exoto* a good composing band. *Exoto* plays in the death/thrash vein and is for me the first Belgian band I really appreciate. This demo doesn't contain death/thrash only, it's a good, original, self defined music part with a ruling own sound. (Finally there are still of those bands existing). It's really a huge step forward after their debut demo! Giant, especially the track 'Art of Butchery' which is placed on a 7"ep! \$6.- to Voodoo crew, Voetvelde 44, 3920 Lommel, Belgium.

Harold Dekkers

Expulsion (Swe)

A bitter twist of fate MCD'93

Cult legend Gods *Expulsion* are back!! The story about their reformation can be read in our previous edition, so this time the music will speak. 'A bitter twist of fate' is the *Expulsion* cd debut release and financed by the band itself. The cd contains 3 tracks: 'In whirling dust', 'Lain hidden' (from their unreleased 1990 7" ep) and 'With aged hands', and this song is probably the best *Expulsion* track ever (together with 'Prophecy of doom' and 'Darkside' from their first and second demo). *Expulsion* anno 1993 is a bit slower and heavier than during their early days (1988/1989), more varying guitar parts and an understandable and great grunter. Still the same are the catchy and dark riffs and acoustic guitar parts. The cd inlay booklet looks really professional and decent, but that's actually the whole cd!!! \$5 to *Expulsion* c/o, Fredrik Thörnqvist, Midgarvs. 12 2 tr., s-183 74 Täby, Sweden.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Extreme Unction (Ita)
Chronic Vision demo'92

Extreme Unction is one of the faster Italian death metal bands like *Electrocution*, *Schizo* and *Motoronko*. Also *Extreme Unction* hangs his sound from thrash and speed influences, jumping solos and of course some keyboards tunes. The intro and mitro parts are okay, bells, twinklings etc. *Extreme Unction's* vocalist sings like he's coming from one of the Brazilian thrash bands. So, in fact this tape contains a good deaththrash, but their style is still unstriking to become really praised. \$5.- to Arebi Annar Via E. Ponente 30, 40100 Bologna, Italy.

Harold Dekkers

Extreme Unction (Por)
Insane procreation demo'92

What? Another *Extreme Unction* from southern Europe? Don't confuse them with the Italian one! Well, in fact this *Extreme Unction* can be compared to the Italian one being not a big interesting band. Their music is more death metal minded with an echoing production, darker vocals and sometimes some acoustic guitars, female speaking and other things that give this demo more a gloomy attention. I think due to their good production there's hope we will hear more from them, surely because they are one of the better Portugal bands, but still not the revolutionary one! \$5.- to Duarte Nuno, Cidade Nova Edif. 2B-9°F, S°A° Dos Cavaleiros, 2670 Loures, Portugal.

Harold Dekkers

Face Reality (Ger)

Cage death syndrome demo'93

German death metal with some slight hardcore influences. I think *Face Reality* won't label themselves as a death metal act but I think they're more death metal than hard core. It reminds me sometimes a bit to the old *Master* (and that's not bad of course!)

Lyrics are about social awareness and stuff like that (racism, capitalism, religion etc.) It all sound pretty aggressive and heavy. \$5.- or DM10.- to *Face Reality*, c/o Uwe Jäck, Noackstr. 15, AP 15, 64285 Darmstadt, Germany.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Feedback Recycling (Ger)
7"ep '93

Ecocentric Records

Another death grind ep on Ecocentric rec. This time a german band: *Feedback Recycling*. Their style is more or less the same as *Hideous Mangleus* only more varied and better in the guitar parts. And of course with very deep grunting vocals and some fast drums. *Feedback Recycling* recorded 3 tracks at the 'Very-metal recordings studio' in february '92, so this ep isn't so fresh anymore. But what the hell, it's nice to listen to when you're into brutal death/grind like *Filthy Christians* on their 'Mean' lp or *Hideous Mangleus*. The lyrics are about social issues as grind lyrics are supposed to be, as for example the track 'Bhopal' is about the disaster, caused by Union Carbide in India in '84. 7 DM (Germany) \$5.- (Europe) \$6.- (rest) to Ecocentric Rec, p.o. box 572, 56002 Koblenz, Germany.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Fermento (Sp)

Only the flesh 7"ep

The Spanish scene doesn't only consist of Drowned bands... *Fermento* is an (excellent) proof of that. This band really shreds. This is really a very great ep. containing two tracks. Their musical style is a bit in the vein of *At the Gates* plus a dose of own originality. Many great guitar riffs, nice solos and a marvellous drummer! The vocals are growling a bit too much, but it's not a real problem; maybe screams would have fit better. But after all it's a very impressive and great ep. I really like to hear more from those guys, they've got a nice future to go! \$5.- to Robert Garchitorea, c/o Hachero 10, 1° PTA 3, 28018 Madrid, Spain. Support these guys!

Roel van Reijmersdal

Fester (Nor)

Winter of sin CD'93

No fashion rec.

This is the second release of the upcoming great swedish label No Fashion, founded by Putrefaction mag editor Tomas Nyqvist. And the second release is about ten million times better than the first release: the total crap *Bestial Summoning* album. *Winter of Sin* (yes, 'winter', 'dark', 'evil', 'moon' and 'forests' seem to be popular words these days) was recorded at the Mc Quad studios during may'92. The sound is pretty original: back to the old days around '85/'86. So no brutal grinding down-tuned guitars, but referring to the great old death/thrash sound which is pretty refreshing I must admit. In total there are nine tracks with a running time of over 48 minutes. To label their style is pretty difficult, as I said the sound reminds me of the early days of death metal, the guitars are more heavy metal-like and the impressive vocals are in the black metal way and this is all mixed with a bit death metal. A great and original (sounding) album. lp \$14.- (US ad \$2.-) and CD \$18.- to No Fashion rec. p.o. box 217, 64523 Strängnäs, Sweden. Or for band contact: *Fester*, Industrierg 10, 1800 Askin, Norway.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Fili Nigrantium Infernalium (Por)
Os métodos do pentagrama demo'93

Dark records

Writing your album title from right to left is evil, writing your name upside down is devilish, but writing everything on the demo cover in a reflected image is to provoke the devil himself and just as primitive as the music is. It's simple, dark screaming music. It is Slumbering in my tapedeck and I'm waiting for the real black metal explosion. But the most tracks are fading away with and empty acoustic part, flutes and more kindly thins. This demo is recorded well and that makes it at last enjoyable, but surely nor overrated in the black metal hype. After all, it's a bit *Necromentia* minded original. \$5.- to Dark Records, Apartado 142, 2830 Barreiro codex, Portugal.

Harold Dekkers

Fulmination (Swe)
Through Fire demo'92

Fulmination's second demo is out. It's a gory gorysound product which sounds more than a mastodon than the a right follow up of their first demo. The echoing vocals and drums brings again what Sweden always has to bring. Just three tracks of well produced Swedish death metal, with a sound-wise originality now and again. \$5.- to Mats Berggren, Smultrongränd 14, 774 62 Avesta, Sweden.

Harold Dekkers

Funeral Wimps (NL)
La Majesté Infernale demo'93

The three guys who are in the band have waited for the black metal trend because that kind of music is easy to play. Finally Chris and Maurits got the chance of their evil lives to climb once a stage and

ECOCENTRIC RECORDS



to perform their real satanic, evil and brutal music. It has a very big chance to become as cult as all the other black metal bands which members can't play. It's the paradoxism of the satanism...! \$5.- to: **Hellchrist, Sibeliusln 41, 3122 XA Schiedam** (must be a brutal place on earth!), **The Netherlands**.

Harold Dekkers

Genetic Mutation (Swe)

Promo '93

Genetic Mutation is a solo project of Stefan Weinerhall of the Swedish **Cerberus** who changed their style into a more melodic direction and are now called **Mithotyn** (new demo out on Chaos production soon). Four tracks of pretty good, not too hot, Scandinavian death metal. Nice produced and some good ideas in most of the songs. I don't think it will attract much attention because there are already so many bands playing this kind of (Swedish) death metal. But some people can't get enough from this stuff so why not ordering this tape? To get this demo: send a blank tape and an IRC/\$1.- or two IRC's/\$2.- when you aren't living in Europe. **Genetic Mutation, c/o Stefan Weinerhall, Prästgårdsliden 8A, 59542 Mjölby, Sweden.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

Greedkick (Swe)

Promo '93

This band used to act under the name of **Regurgitate** but changed their name into **Greedkick** because there's already a **Regurgitate** in Sweden who claimed that name. They released their debut demo in September '92. Called 'Trails of life' and that one is still available for \$5.-. They recorded this promo in June '93 and it contains a couple of really bizarre, experimental, but very great tracks. It reminds me a bit of the new **Pungent Stench** mini-lp, both soundwise and style. The promo contains a lot of weird parts/effects/sounds, for example some scratch parts, bizarre guitar riffs, trumpet, saxophone, piano... I think the use of real instruments is recorded instead of a keyboard like on the **Pan-Thy-Monium** album. Weird and great stuff! This promo can be released as a 7"ep, so labels... The promo can be obtained by sending a blank tape + 2 I.R.C.'s. **David Bock, Skräddarbov. 8, 774-92 Avesta, Sweden.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

Grief (USA)

Dismal cd/lp '93

Common Cause

The shocking reality of destroyed cities after one or another world war. That's what **Grief** tries to translate in the same way like **Winter**. **Winter** is a doom metal band that won't be associated with metal at all, **Grief** can't be associated with metal, but both have much in common, they even are almost a copy of each other. Were **Winter** gives us the lust of well recorded and produced ultra doom, slipping from the alternate scene to the willing ear of a metal fan, **Grief** bring a bit more slappy, hardcore/crust with almost the same industrial influences and even some riffs. In fact, the whole concept is equal to **Winter**, so why shall we hesitate? Get it on your record shop or burn it down and ask **K-Baal, P.O.Box 1024, 3300 BA Dordrecht, The Netherlands.**

Harold Dekkers

Hadez (Peru)

Aquelarre CD '93

Brutal Records

The first Peruvian death metal on CD! I guess there will be different opinions about this album, but for me it's an ultimate underground release. And as we know, the quality is only in the feeling for underground releases. Well, this death metal is rather blacker than any other sub-black metal bands in these days. The tracks of **Hadez** are fast, dirty and very foul. And almost every tracks starts with an devilish intro so this is a must for everyone who calls himself a true black metal fan, **Hadez** is as obscure as hell. Try to get it: **Brutal Records, Daniel Alcides Carrion 619, Magdalena Del Mar, Lima 17, Peru.**

Harold Dekkers

Harmony (Swe)

Blood Angels demo '93

At the first pint, **Harmony** seems a straight, brutal deathrash band with uncomplicated riffs and some cutting drums in a simple outline. But the first two songs surprised me a bit with some cool keyboards and dominating anti-riffs. And the whole demo is full of such unexpected breaks, it keeps the band enjoyable and even interesting. And also the rest of the five songs sounds both atmospheric and aggressive with a raw upset thrash throat of Odd Larsson. But internationally seen, this isn't a very refreshing band. \$5.- to **Harmony, Peter Karlsson, Nygatan 29 A, 645 31 Strängnäs, Sweden.**

Harold Dekkers

Hideos Mangleus (USA)

Unearthing Grandma's grave ep '93

Ecocentric rec.

Five tracks of nice death/grind in the **Filthy Christians** vein with some own originality (not too much), pretty aggressive and without

blast beats. This is their second after their vinyl debut ep on Thrash 'rip-off' records from France. The **Hideos Mangleus** full length CD will follow soon on the new german grind label **Ecocentric**. The ep cover and lay-out are very decent and professional, photos and lyric sheet are also included. DM 7.- (Germany) \$5.- (Europe), \$6.- (world) to **Ecocentric Records, p.o.box 572, 56005 Koblenz, Germany.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

Hordes (NL)

Songs to Hall up high demo '93

Indeed, this demo is for real pagan or balder souls and not for me, it's too primitive. **Hordes** is something that barbarian, their immense non-developed doom metal ritual is only for real lovers of the ancient domains, centuries ago. But I think the music of the ancients was better than this. \$6.- to **Hammerheart, Bunderstraat 82, 6231 EL Meerssen, The Netherlands.**

Harold Dekkers

Human Waste (Sp)

Promo tape '93

Once released a demo on Drowned now on the independent way: **Human Waste**. This is really a great band, pretty technical and well structured guitar parts and an excellent drummer. This promo should attract label interest and that won't be too difficult I guess. In any case it really convinced me, a lot of original parts! The vocals are maybe a bit ridiculous but somehow also exciting is a part of their originality. I don't know if this tape is available but when you'll sent \$5.- I think you'll get this excellent tape. Together with **Fermento** the Spanish top! **Human Waste, c/o Carles Matheu, c/o Despuig 36, at., 43500 Tortose (Tarragona), Spain.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

Hypocrisy (Swe)

Osculum Obscenum cd '93

Nuclear blast rec.

So the worst band from the nuclear blast stable even got a opportunity to release their second album. Nothing has changed since their debut, it's even more worse; now it's really bad actually. Powerless boring riffs in a powerful production. The guitar riffs are totally unoriginal and the vocals are too standard. There are many more better (unsigned !) bands in Sweden, so why this release?

Roel van Reijmersdal

Iconoclast (Ita)

The Unmutated revelation 7"ep

Drowned prod.

Deathmetal from Italy on an ep. Brutal grunting vocalist, not too clean and heavy sound. This ep contains two tracks and the track on side A differs a lot from the one on the B-side. The A-side track is brutal standard stuff, no special kind death metal. The track on the other side 'Impurity mine' is much better, great riffs, dark and pretty experimental guitar parts and an acoustic mitro with normal voice and whisperings followed by a melodic lead. It reminds me a bit of 'the southern most voyage' from Tiamat on their 'Astral Sleep' album, very great track! \$5.- to **Drowned in Spain.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

Infanticide (Swe)

Infanticidem '93

This is **Infanticides** third demo and the forth one will follow soon. **Infanticide** is around for about three years and they play thrash metal like they call it. Well, I wouldn't call it thrash metal, more deathrash 'cause it's a bit too heavy for thrash metal, but there are of course thrash elements: for example the tight riffing and the drums. But it's all a bit more extreme than the average thrash act. The vocals are a bit in the **Concrete Sleep** vein, so that's nice, no standard screams or grunts, also some experimental vocals in the second track of this four track demo. **Infanticide** isn't the most original band around, but they are playing well structured, aggressive and very tight deathrash! \$5.- to **Andreas Fors, Nygatan 31 A III, S-941 33 Piteå, Sweden.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

Iniuria (Swe)

Forgiveness demo '93

Well, what would you think about a mixture between: the mighty **Bathory** (Blood Fire Death and Hammerheart) + **Unanimated** and **The Gathering**? I guess **Iniuria** incorporates it all! Another great band from the Nordic forests! Really great atmospheric viking metal. Four super tracks, 2 tracks recorded in November '92 and the other ones are recorded in april '93. Great leads, super backing vocals (like on 'Blood Fire Death'), acoustic intro's, keyboards... hmmm I really love it! Only the vocalist is not so good. He sounds a bit like a hardcore vocalist or like bad Quorthon on 'Hammerheart'. The music is just excellent, especially the track 'The Golden Halls of God' (The Golden Walls of heaven part II?) is great. Nice band from the upcoming Örebro area! \$5.- to: **Stefan Karlsson, Vetevägan 70, 703 76 Örebro, Sweden.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

Inquisitor (NL)

Blasphemous Accusation demo '92

Maybe this is a less known Beaufort Studio recording, but with a more worse drumming sound than most other bands. It's a pity the music is still a bit transparent for a recording in a professional studio. **Inquisitor** claims to play heavier than **Sadus** and **Dead Head**. Well, I don't see the value of such a statement, but it's sure **Inquisitor** is a combination of the speed of both bands; a high 'grunt' and innovating riffs and solos which are surely lifting the band to the level of the two mentioned before. For the fast screaming style it's luckily a release with an own sound. \$6.- /Hfl 10.-/DM 10.- to: **Inquisitor, c/o Erik Spooten, Mandenmakerstraat 79, 3841 VD Harderwijk, The Netherlands.** New material will come out soon!

Harold Dekkers

Internal Decay (Swe)

adv. for album

Euro records

I didn't expect such a worthwhile composition from such a rather unknown band. Their progress leads them in the genre of **Tiamat**, **Dark Tranquillity**, **Katantonia** and **Cemetery**. But what **Cemetery** totally missed in their debut album is done by **Internal Decay**. Aggressive riffs, great vocals all in a special gloom that was up to **Dark Tranquillity** only. Even it's almost impossible to compare it to any other band, the style is very self-evident because of the good compositions. The right tunes on the right place, original melodies and the climaxes on the good places. Finally something really good from Sweden without being the high-techno riffing fool!

Band contact: **Kim Blomkvist, Stationsgatan 21 B, 19542 Märsta, Sweden.**

Harold Dekkers

In The Woods (Nor)

reh '93

Well, we'll start our review session with something good. It's a rehearsal recorded in four tracks, but the songs are of amazingly quality. When you've ever been in Norway you'll understand why the dark atmospheres of the black forests and grey fjords are connected to the feeling from the ancients. The subjects in the three songs on this tape are all about 'the past': 'Creations of an ancient shape', 'And all this from which was and will never come again', 'Wotan's return' (a track still without written vocals), it's all real Pagan again. The rehearsed compositions are to compare to a barbaric style of **Fester**. As long as Norway draws out the ode to the ancient black cult of our history, this country will stay interesting.

In The Woods, Bydalsøyen 58, 4628 Kristiansand, Norway.

Harold Dekkers

Invocation (Austria)

Into the twilight demo '92

These men do not play like **Pungent Stench** etc.. No, these mortals play a kind of doom metal, but not in the way of **My Dying Bride** or **Paradise Lost**. Sometimes they have a bit of an ancient sound. It is heavy, not technical, slow stuff with quiet parts (acoustic). There are some nice solo's on this demo. Doom freaks should try this band. Send \$6.- to: **H. Unterrainer, Untergimpflach 78, 8793 Trofaiach, Austria.**

Cor Snijder



Katantonia (Swe)

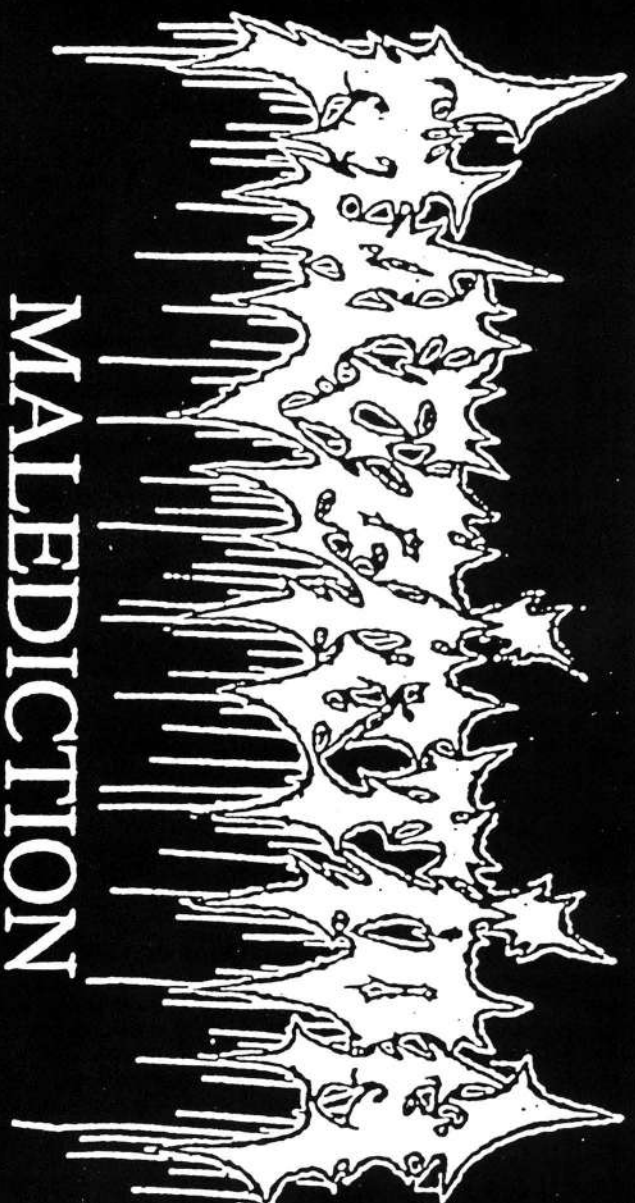
Dance of December Souls CD '93

No Fashion Records

Writing a good review is n't very easy, it's in any case easier to write a review about a good release than about something standard. But sometimes it's very hard to write a review about an excellent release. Words are not enough to express the feeling you'll get listening to an absolute masterpiece. That's why writing this review is difficult, how to describe the ultimate beauty with just a few words? 'Dance of December souls' is that extremely brilliant, the atmospheres created on this album are so gloomy, depressive, beautiful and original. Almost incredible how just two guys can fix such an enormous masterpiece. Their style is a bit doomy black death metal with super guitar parts, far away from the usual death metal riffs but still definitely metal and not wimpy. Also a lot of great keyboard parts which are played by Dan Swanö I think. The album is recorded at the Unisound (ex-Gorysound) studios of Dan and has most likely the best sound ever created in that studio! It's available from No Fashion Records from Sweden at the same price as the **Fester** and **Unanimated** releases. **Katantonia** has got the future!

Roel van Reijmersdal





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Katatonía (Swe)**Jhva Elohim Meth....The revival Mini-CD '93****Vic records**

I knew, **Katatonía** can't be an earthly band, they are a reincarnation from the Asgard, somewhere at the point of the return of **Bathory**, the border between 'Under the Sign of the Black Mark' and 'Hammerheart'. But **Katatonía** isn't an **Immortal** nor an **Unleashed** and this ex-demo/mini-CD isn't a 'Blood, Fire, Death' either. This piece of dramatic, melancholic atmosphere is like a northern wind that makes you stop breathing. With hallow eyes the atmosphere stares at you with a Bathorysch and catatonic feeling that isn't to describe. The music is so strong, it gripped the soul of my colleague to inspire him for taking action to print this demo on silver. **Katatonía** already released a full length album on No Fashion rec, but without the dummy megalomania, this grotesque release has to become an everlasting monument to the Celtic metal. Hfl 20,- or \$10,-!!! to **Roel van Rijmersdal, Tafelberg 71, 3328 SR, Dordrecht, The Netherlands.**

Harold Dekkers

Leprocide (Cze)**Consequences of Infection demo '92**

Finally, after **Root**, the mighty **Master's Hammer** also the Czechian scene is coming up with normal death metal. **Leprocide** can easily be the Czechian **Massacre**. They play heavy death in the way of **Benediction** and **Bolt Thrower** and other down tuned average death metal. But **Leprocide** shows us nice compositions with a few solo's on the right places and that makes it more interesting than all those few tunes sounding death compositions. Six colossal tracks on a professional tape for \$5,- to **Riff Raff Agency, c/o Leprocide, P.O.Box 219, 16041 Praha 6, Czech Republic.**

Harold Dekkers

Living Sacrifice (USA)**Nonexistence MC/CD '92****REX MUSIC**

There are nine tracks on this release. It has a great cover and sound. This band plays very tight. Musicians are good, which they show with their solo's and breaks. The question, is the music original? In general, no it is not original, has no surprises. It is well-played death metal. Admitting, this band is better than the average death band. I want to mention the brutal vocals. These are like I heard never before..... "love-it-or-hate-it-vocals". Judge yourself! Write to: **Rex Music, PO box 25269, Nashville, TN 3702, USA** or **Living Sacrifice, PO box 45892, Little Rock AR, USA 72214.**

Cor Snijder

Lobotomy (Swe)**Nailed promo '93****Obscure plasma rec.**

After their two demos, **Lobotomy** recorded a two track promo in december '92 which is released by the Italian **Obscure plasma** label. The songs are more or less in the same vein as on the 'Against the gods' demo. Mid tempo, pretty brutal, down-tuned Scandinavian death metal. Produced by Peter Tagtgren, the **Hypocrisy** guitar player/boss. The production is really good, heavy and well done! Two tracks with a total running time of 9.07 minutes. \$4,- to **Obscure Plasma rec, Roberto Mammarella, C.P. 19, 20010 Vanzaga (MI) Italy.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

Lordbane**Age of elegance demo '93****Warlock Productions**

If you are into power metal you must read this. **Lordbane** is a mixture of **Savatage** (Gutterballet etc.), **Queensryche** and **Crimson Glory**. Vocals are in the way of **Crimson Glory** and **Queensryche**. What you get here is pure quality; excellent sound, professional cover and great progressive music. When you want variation and quality in your collection, you absolutely have to buy this demo. 45! minutes for only \$3 (USA) or \$7 (rest).

Warlock Productions "ROK postage free cassette offer", 78 grove ave., Wilmington, MA, 01887 USA. Cor Snijder

Lords of the Stone (NL)**The Rhymes of Bitterness demo '93**

Expect the heaviness of **Trouble** mixed with the inertness of **Cathedral's** debut album on this demo ('The Quest'). Their cover song ('Paranoid') gives the direction of their style, but this cover is just like their other songs: up-dated with a heavy sound. Female vocals makes **Lords of the Stone** sounds like a nowadays ruling doom metal band, with solos of an own identity, varying original riffs ('Cold Stone') and vocals with a really own image. The vocals sometimes sounds like a doom version of **Sieges Even's** second album ('When all is forlorn'), but this comparison is only for the true music lovers of course. \$6,- to **André Dijkstra, Witte Valkenstraat 17, 9411 LG Beilen, The Netherlands.**

Harold Dekkers

Lost Century (Ger)**Natural Process of progression cd adv '93**

Besides the national soup bands there are still some progressive bands around like the title of this demo already suggest. Well played and progressive power metal which isn't that special, but it is in the vein of my faves **Mekong Delta**. Sometimes the vocals are even going too wild which doesn't really fit inside the boundaries of this music. But on the other hand, **Lost Century** tries to extract every possible thing out of this genre. They aren't that developed like **Mekong Delta**, but their music is in the slipstream of this melodious power metal band. For band contact: **Andreas Lohse, Leichlingerstr. 61, 4000 Düsseldorf 13, Germany.**

Harold Dekkers

Lugubrious (Sp)**In Nomine Domini Nostri demo '93**

The Intro of this demo is **lugubrious** and that word fits perfectly here, an immensely sinister intro, truly great and frightening. It refers to the Rostock ripper I guess 'I'm an error of the nature, I'm an evil beast' is stated in the intro... mmmh, bizarre... The other four tracks are pretty great, great sound and nice drums and guitars. The vocals are a bit in the **Phlebotomized** and **Obtruncation** vein and some pitch shifter is used on the vocals as well. Nice band, comparable to some of the brutal **Carnage** rec. (poland) releases. And of course a full colour demo cover including lyrics, photo and art. \$5,- to **Drowned Productions, p.o.box 39048, 28080 Madrid, Spain** or for band contact: **Ferando Errasquin, Luis Rodriques Ontiveros 12, 28100 Alroendas (Madrid), Spain.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

Macabre (USA)**Nightstalker 7"ep '93****Relapse**

On green-white tooth-paste coloured vinyl an indication of the sound of **Macabre**. For \$4,- only you can hear or this band is irritating with it's high Mickey Mouse vocals, or are the sick gods back on a collectors item. Money to **Relapse**, please.

Harold Dekkers

Maggoty Corpse (Jap)**Baptisma demo '93**

Ah, between all those progressive, innovating and technical developed releases I finally heard something of the old and brutal of great status. This is very heavy and not from the usual **Benediction** or **Dismember** level, no, it's up to the real heavy brutality. American orientated, perfect recorded death metal from the Japanese coasts. Order this 3-track demo for \$6,- at **Junji Takemi, 1122-1 Jamano-cho Chuo-ku, Chiba-shi Chiba 260 Japan.**

Harold Dekkers

Malaphar (Ger)**Rehearsal demo '91**

After a terrifying intro, the german **Malaphar** explodes three tracks of pretty brutal and sometimes original death metal especially the leads are nice! The guitar riffs are sometimes exciting but mainly a bit standard. This tape is already two years old so I don't know if it's still representative to the **Malaphar** capabilities. This tape shows in any case that they're capable in doing something nice. Although it's a rehearsal recording, the sound is pretty good, only a bit poor! \$5,- or 10 DM to **Malaphar, c/o Dirk Heinzen, Am Schuetzenrain 19, 64354 Reinheim/Ueberau, Germany.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

Malediction (UK)**Chronicles of Dissent live-CD '93****GWB Records**

Finally there is someone who wants to co-operate with **Malediction**. **Chronicles of Dissent** still isn't the debut studio album, this release belongs also to the row of 7"ep's, split-releases, live tapes and promos the band released in their struggle to catch some attention by bigger record labels. At least the tracks, which are almost monuments, like 'Infestation' and 'System Fear' are now on a silver disk. Raw, grindy like we knew from **Malediction**, it's a great release for a small label like **GWB**, but in fact it's poor for a great band as **Malediction**. Their social death metal deserves more! Band contact: **Mark, 49 Carlin Road, Newarthill, Motherwill ML1 5JZ, Scotland.**

Harold Dekkers

Maleficium (NI)**Question of Existence**

After drummer/vocalist Marc van Bel left **Threnody** he decided to form his own band in a doomy category. After searching for members to join him in a band like **The Gathering** and **Candlemas** he found two guitarists a bass player and a female vocalist and keyboard player. The music is maybe a bit in the genre of **The Gathering** but **Maleficium** isn't a rip off at all, maybe only a permanent keyboard player in the band is the only similarity; **Maleficium** is totally different. They are actually pretty original and very good at the thing they are doing! Meaning melodic, rather technical, doomy death metal with three different vocal styles: female vocals (again, not like **The Gathering's** vocalist) lead grunts by Marc and grunts by bassist Martijn.



Recorded at studio 'Het Pand' (**Phlebotomized**, **Ceremony**: debut CD out soon. **Threnody** (also a debut out now -HD) and the sound is great: Hfl 12,50, \$7,- to **Maleficium, Van Hogendorpstraat 101 D, 3235 BH, Vlaardingen, Holland.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

Manes (Nor)**Maanens Natt demo '93**

Crazy people, a wild country overgrown with nature and black metal. The system of black metal is working again. Well, about the real meaning of black metal there are endless discussions possible, but I like to describe **Manes** as another northern epic and catatonic metal band, somewhere between **Burzum** and **Sinoath**. They have understood the atmosphere of **Burzum** pretty well and they know how to handle the keyboard to illustrate the music too. Song lines, a speaking voice, everything seems to make clear that they are ready to record a CD like they claim on their demo cover. Well, I've got my doubt about the realization of that idea, but **Manes** isn't too bad as a demo band. **Manes, P.O.Box 18, N-7082 Katten, Norway.**

Harold Dekkers

Mangled (NL)**Perish demo '93**

This second demo of **Mangled** has got one of the best covers so far this year; definitely great and really beautiful. The music is also at the same level, pretty high actually. The sound is ultra brutal and extreme heavy, comparable to the sound of the second **Grave** album. But **Mangled** plays much more varying with more ideas like acoustic parts and a lot of catchy melody lines. Sometimes it's even like one of the UK doom acts, but certainly not a clone. **Mangled** is a very promising band and if their ideas will become more structured this band will develop in a great way. \$6,- or Hfl 10,- + IIRC to **Wilko Reynders, Hoenderstraat 95A, 5801 CJ Venray, The Netherlands.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

Marduk (Swe)**Those of the unlight CD '93****Osmose Production**

Osmose still have the image of a monumental black metal label, due to the excellent releases of **Samael**, **Master's Hammer** and **Rotting Christ**... It's a pity there are still people who follow the bands with the biggest mouth, but in fact it will be the mentioned recordings that will be the perfect cult items after the **Bathory** and **Celtic Frost** cultus. But I think Osmose also realize the black cult is also over, but I'm afraid Herve stopped signing black metal bands too late. The result of **Marduk** shows that. **Marduk** is Swedish but we can label them as one of the Norwegian minded black metal bands and as strong as the feeling of this music is, the **Marduk** album turned out into a brutal piece of black metal. But on the other side, according to their demo I expected a bit more of this band, we can't go on with the everlasting cliché of unholy black metal!

Harold Dekkers

NUCLEAR BLAST**MITTELMÜHLGASSE 1****Master (USA)****Collection of souls CD '93****Nuclear Blast**

Master used to be one of the greatest and most cult underground acts for years, to be exactly from their first formation till just after the release of their debut 'Master' album. Their second album was a more normal death metal album instead of a continuing legend. Their third album 'Collection of Souls' isn't pure death metal anymore, it's more and more a thrash album and also not a really convincing one. Again recorded with a total new line up (besides Aaron Nickleas and 'Paul Speckmann is master...' pff...) But right after the release of this album Paul 'I'm Master' Speckmann toured Europe with no one from the line up of this album, so that line-up

wouldn't have last for long. The songs are mainly thrashy and some death metal vocals with some hard core feelings sometimes. The songs are not really special, mainly riff oriented metal.
Roel van Reijmersdal



Master's Hammer

The Jilemnice Occultist cd'93

Osmose Productions

This CD split the scene in two, in a real and in a false part. And I think Osmose really support the true part because Master's Hammer isn't a false product like the most cliché black metal. Their progression is maybe equal to Bathory, but would you expect a better 'Ritual'? No, Master's Hammer (in other words Franta Storm) draw his conclusion and produced a metal product inspired on operetta! And I'm sure it's a real operetta, not only compare it to the concept this album tells. The 'Overture', a resume of the used themes, shows the well known Vienna march music on raw guitars, keyboards and in the songs they are completed with the (in Czechian language) opera bass voice from Storm itself (like on the ending song 'Sucharda's home'). Drumsounds and sometimes the riffs are monotonous, but that's the way the orchestra persecution should be! But of course there are 'Ritual' solo's enough ('A Dark Forest Spreads All Around'). And I'm sure no one from the scene will copy this style. Not because they don't like it, no, it's simply too difficult to create such a style: for that you've to be a real composer!

Harold Dekkers.



Midian (NL)

War beyond the flesh demo'93

Finally we can give you the real idea behind the style of Midian, a Zaan-area band we interviewed in our last issue. It's true that an connection with Possessed can be simply made, but that's not the real image of the band. Indeed, solo's drums and everything is very fast, but not that wild and raw like the real old Possessed. Maybe it's due to the Beaufort production (the studio isn't still a perfect one), but the image of the music is close to the lyrical concept: thriller metal! The whole band act like a serial killer, the compositions are fast, closed and without mercy, but luckily it's locked up with some tragical tunes (for example in 'A room in Hell'). The vocals suit well to the style, it makes Midian much more violent than a simple aggressive thrash band or a dull Master rip-off. \$6,- to Wilmar Taal, Dodonaesstraat 117, 1504 KG Zaanadam, The Netherlands. An 7"ep will be released soon!

Harold Dekkers.

Minotaur (Ger)

Minotaur is back. This german band that was more known during the days of Destruction and Kreator is reformed. The sent me a promo tape to prove that, but I'm afraid their reunion won't be nothing more than a revival of some up-set thrash metal of the typical German style. Styles are changing.

Harold Dekkers



Mirror of Deception (Ger)

Demo'93

Mirror of Deception isn't a really nice doom metal band like Trouble, Saint Vitus or what else. The most they have a connection to the pre-Candlemass release Nemesis. But where Nemesis sounds soft and depressive as a cold autumn rain, Mirror of Deception stays asphyxiated in it's own composition and bad vocals. A dead body can't present doom metal at it's best! \$5,-/DM 7,- to Jochen Fopp, Kirchstrasse 37/1, 73066 Uthingen, Germany.

Harold Dekkers



Misanthrope (Fra)

Variation on Inductive Theories, Architectural Screenplays album'93

Holy records



The irreversible process of fusing death metal to other music styles is going on. But the most idiotic is that we create a complete new style. To be clear, Misanthrope isn't such a gothic band that transfers the popularity of death metal to another (almost impotent) side of the scene. The size of Misanthrope is just like

those of Phlegethon, in other words, they will be underrated I'm afraid. But on the other hand it's logic that such a band, a mixture of Xysma, Syndrome and Celtic Frost (I couldn't find something more bizarre!), will be accepted immediately. It doesn't mean we have to ignore that piece of intelligence. I like to compare the composition of Misanthrope to Pyogenesis and that doesn't mean an emotional band, but a perfect musical arrangement. Like I said before, musical invention of keyboards isn't the real style of this frenchman. All the single tunes, and melody is that strange it's

hard to understand why Misanthrope is still metal. Behind all the progression in the french serenades (yes, they are still chauvinists, using french in their lyrics), still I hear the violent riffs of the wild and original death metal Misanthrope, the band used to be before this release (the split CD with Torturer for example.) Misanthrope is an luxurious French piece of avant garde decoration of alternate styles! For contact to the label or record company, write to Philippe Courtois, 4 BD Gutenberg, F-93190 Livry-Gargan, France.

Harold Dekkers

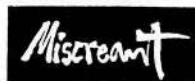


Miscreant (Swe)

Ashes demo'93 + promo '93

Sweden on top... Miscreant formed by the ex-Utumno drummer and ex-Epigraph members. Their demo already shows the urge to develop in a great violent way of aggression. But the tracks 'Illusions Infinity', 'Horizon of Dreams' and 'The Colonnades in white' on their promo shows us a very great progression. Miscreant reformed to something like the new Crypt of Kerberos or a very melodic Lobotomy with a touch of the old At the Gates and Decollation. Well, I can be short about this band. It's a new amazing Swedish top metal band of a melodic and aggressive kind. The production is wonderfully done in Unisound. We can expect a lot more of this band. \$3,- for the demo (ask for their very great promo!) or enclose 1 IRC for a sure reply: Peter Kim, Hülphergatan 9A, 722 19 Västerås, Sweden.

Harold Dekkers



Monastery (UK)

Demo'93

Monastery is a typical English folklore metal band. Which other country is able to release from it's cradle such an atmosphere which was translated by Sabbath, Snyder, Chorus of Ruin last time and by Skyclad recently again? Monastery hasn't as much to do with Sabbath as with Chorus of Ruin on their 'Blessphemy' demo'91. That first work of Monastery was a new hope for a second or a new Sabbath. Well, this new Sabbath felt into a different level, those of a rock 'n' rolling street-organ band, but with inventive combinations. They make the old true thrash live again for ever. Hopefully this demo will be released officially soon.

Sean Connolly, 46 Pen-Y-Maes Rd, Holywell, Clwyd, CH 8 7BB, N-Wales, UK.

Harold Dekkers

Monolith (UK)

Sleep with the Dead 7"ep'93

Cacophonous rec.

Monolith presents their death metal on a 7"ep. This vinyl contains the early death metal. No, not the pre-historic Death, but it's something from around the good old Entombed period. That's why they reminds me to bands from 1990 like the Swedish Aboth and Lobotomy which released their first demo in that year. \$5,- (Europe) \$6,- (World) to Cacophonous rec. 231 portobello Road, London, W11 1LT, UK.

Harold Dekkers

Moon of Sorrow (NL)

Crystal Emotions CD'93

Ignition

I guess there are several people around who have heard the Moon of Sorrow debut album 'Tears'. I was wondering about that release, a wave/hardrock band in the (death) metal scene. But in fact it isn't strange because most metal fans are always looking for some dark music and now there are more gothic and dark wave bands in the scene accepted like Eterne. The second release is similar to the first one, only their music is much more heavier. Especially my fave track 'Psychodelic Moves' is both thrashy and emotional loaded. I hope Moon of Sorrow (or let's say Patrick Harreman) will experiment a bit more with this kind of music, metal fans are still open for this music. Ask the mailorder/label for this CD: P.O.Box 9162, 1800 GD Alkmaar, The Netherlands.

Harold Dekkers

Moonspell (Port)

Anno Satanae demo'93

This is my first acquaintance with a band from Portugal (ex Morbid God -ed). When I hear this, I'm really interested in to know more Portuguese bands! This is black metal like the title shows. Anyway, this is not standard black metal. This is a kind of a Paradise Lost of the black metal. Happily Moonspell is a lot faster. This band consists of good musicians and they play their music tight. Not only tight music, on this tape are also great riffs and great spheres. Yes, this is a band with nice ideas! Their sixth bandmember is satan... for the inspiration. Black metal or not, everyone who is interested in brutal music with sphere should order this tape. This band keeps the black metal scene fresh and exciting, therefore send \$6,- to: Moonspell, c/o Langsuyser, P.O.Box 28, 27000 Brandoa, Portugal.

Cor Snijder



Morbid Symphony (UK)

Permanence in dark earth 7"ep'92

Corpse Grinder Records

Their rock'n'rolling doom metal which is still played by a very small number of band (Church of Misery -rip for example) is really worth to be given a 7"ep debut. In fact Morbid Symphony didn't change their style, compared to the 'Evil cares for it's own' demo, so there is only a description to give. Well, for the outsider, Morbid Symphony plays a rhythmic doom metal which has more to do with the Celtic Frost side than the other well known englishman like Anathema, Chorus of Ruin or My Dying Bride. \$6,- to Corpse Grinder Records, 27 Rue Gay-Lussac, 94411 Arcueil, France.

Harold Dekkers

Mordancy (NL)

The Progressive Downfall 7"ep'93

Shiver Records

A band from the Belgium part of the Netherlands: Zeeuws Vlaanderen. But living on Dutch territory, this talented band still owes to our scene, even they are picked up by the Belgium Shiver. Mordancy is a screaming aggressive deaththrash band with brains and the will to become different and progressive in the old death metal vein. Melodic and fast screaming solo's, all arranged in the Swedish style. It's perfect. Well, I think they have to belong to the better dutch bands. \$5,- (\$6,- outside Europe) to Hans de Wyngaert, Amerstraat 112, 3200 Aarschot, Belgium.

Harold Dekkers

Morta Skuld (USA)

Dying Remains CD'93

Deaf Records

Milwaukee's Morta Skuld are here with their debut album 'Dying Remains'. And it turned out to a nice debut full of clean and melodic leads, there are actually thousands of great leads on this album, every song contains a couple of them. The songs are varying a lot: tons of doom parts and fast grinding riffs, almost every track contains those two ingredients. The drummer is very good and really knows how to handle his cymbals and double bass. The voice of guitarist/vocalist Dave Gregor is very growling, and reminds me sometimes to Obituary's John Tardy concerning certain screams. Although there's a rumour Morta Skuld (bizarre and original band name by the way) has split up, but that isn't true at all, they're still alive!

Roel van Reijmersdal



Mortem (Peru)

Vomit of the Earth demo'93

It's a pity Mortem didn't work out the concept of the Evil Dead demo from '89. But still the old evil solos can be heard in their modern but pre-Obituary way of death metal. It's amazing that something like this is coming from Peru in a really professional way. Coloured cover, a terrific production. The compositions sound perfect and the old solos remind me of better bands. The vocals of Fernan sound forced, a light mixture of those of Possessed and Obituary. But in fact it's the great riffs that keeps the level up. It's really one of the best things I've heard from the southern continent, nice!

\$5,- to: Mortem, P.O.Box 210035, Lima 21, Peru (Beware of the corruption in Peru, but the band is totally honest!)

Harold Dekkers

Mortification (Aust)

Post Mortem Affliction cd'93

Nuclear Blast rec.

After their super 'Scrolls' cd Australia's Mortification is back with their 3rd release 'Post Mortem Affliction'. It's really great to hear more from these christian grind gods, but it's sad that those gigantic idiots from the norwegian black metal circle put Mortification as well as the Nuclear Blast crew on their death list. Boycott those non thinking, demented children. The production is much better and heavier than on 'Scrolls', the songs haven't changed that much, they're only a bit more varied and complex. Each track is mainly fast but also contains a lot of slower parts. Vocals are also more varying on their third CD, still not the most heavy grunting but a very aggressive screaming grunt by bass player/vocalist Steve Rawe. If you want to get in touch with those nice guys write to Mortification, 41 Worthing Rd, Vic 3189, Moorabbin, Australia. Early '94 on a European tour!

Roel van Reijmersdal





Mourning (NL)
Greetings from Hell cd'93
Foundation 2000

After the split album with *Eternal Solstice*, finally the real debut of *Mourning*. I hope the world will understand this release, because in the first place it is less varied than the split release. Maybe people will see it wrong, but *Mourning* is meant to stay straight and brutal. *Mourning* is a bulldozer without any experimental things, *Mourning* is the Dutch *Boltthrower*, even more straight than that band. What else would you expect from three full-tattooed bikers than blasting, pulverizing riffs. It's just straight going forward and that's in some ways great. No compromise, also in the lyrics ('Get aids and die', 'Only war and hell'); a real excellent release! For people who can't get it, write to *Foundation 2000*, Veldbloemenlaan 5, 3448 GH Woerden, The Netherlands.
Harold Dekkers

Musical Massacre (Ger)
Demo '92

The drawing of this demo is cliché: a vampire pulls out the intestines of a naked woman.... silly. It is also a bad drawing. The cover still is rather professional, but that drawing... The music should do the talking: it is definitely not as bad as that drawing. It is brutal death metal without the hyperspeed parts. No technical stuff.... it is just brutal heavy stuff. Vocals are brutal too, these are of the raw kind, not bad! Like many demo's, this has no surprises and originality. The demo \$5. Write to: *René Kögel*, Talstraße 9, O-8255 Nossen, Germany.
Cor Snijder

Mystifier (Bra)
Goetia CD'93
Osmose

Innovating and nice black metal this album contains, but not that ultimated as we are used to nowadays. It's great that they are playing also true black metal in Brazil but also to true market is becoming overcrowded. Took together: *Mystifier* is a black metal band of the usual status, nothing more and nothing less.
Harold Dekkers

Near Dark (NL)
demo '93

Well, now the underground scene in Dordrecht sucks so immensely I'm that glad there are some bands in the suburbs around Dordrecht. One of those bands in *Near Dark* (Near Dordt?) who recorded their debut demo during January '93 at the Via Ritmo studios in Rotterdam where also *Ceremony* recorded their debut demo once. But don't expect *Ceremony* oriented stuff or death metal. *Near Dark* brings techno thrash in an excellent way, inspired by bands such as *Mekong Delta* and *Helstar*. The four tracks on this excellent demo are maybe a bit heavier as those two acts. I guess that when heaviness is concerned, *Near Dark* can be compared to Chigaco's *Sindrome*. Many original and technical guitar parts are the main ingredient of this demo. All musicians are very skilled only the vocalist is maybe a bit less, but he's certainly not bad. It's always difficult to do the vocals in such a techno band I guess, you have to be such an enormous talented person in comparison to the other musicians.... \$6.- to: *Near Dark*, Groen van Prinstererweg 38, 2982 VC Ridderkerk, The Netherlands.
Roel van Reijmersdal

Necromantia (Gre)
demo'93

Awaiting their debut album, *Necromantia* released what will perhaps be their last demo. This demo isn't that avant garde like some older songs, but there are typical morbid tunes in it. Some weird acoustic part, surrounded with types of black metal tracks. Still with the bizarre voice of Morbid, illustrated with guitar solos of Dave from *Blood Covered*, all of it bathing in theatrical sickness! Don't think *Necromantia* lessened their occult force. I'm sure *Necromantia* is ready for their strike like *Rotting Christ* did after their very last demo. This is fuckin' cult! \$6.- to P.O.Box 79006, 17202 Himittos, Athens, Greece.

Harold Dekkers

Necromass (Ita)
Promotape '92

It's a pity, but *Necromass* is one of the thirteen-in-a-dozen black metal bands of an Italian or south European style. Echoing vocals, classical keyboards to bring the very needful atmosphere. No, they won't catch that much interest I'm afraid. \$4.- is a maximum price for this! *Bellotti Carlo*, C.P.4282, 50135 Firenze, Italy.
Harold Dekkers

Necrony (Swe)
Pathological performances CD'93
Poserslaughter rec.

It seems like the gore/Carcass metal changed its style into pathological metal. One of the true followers is *Necrony* from Sweden, 12 tracks on CD recorded in the Unisound (ex Gorysound) and produced by genius (Dan Swanö) and some backing vocals by Dan as well as by Johan Axelsson of *Furibowl*. The production and sound are maybe the heaviest and most brutal I've heard from Sweden so far! All the tracks are much more varying as on their demo and all are well entertaining. A very great and refreshing element is definitely the leads by a (jazz) guitar player, really exciting those totally different and non metal solos, great!

Also the appearance of a flute player on a gore/grind/death album is pretty much refreshing, right? Titles and lyrics are totally unreadable and unpronounceable like 'Gynopathological excav-eater' or 'Acute pyencephalus and cerebral decomposure' but what the heck. 22 DM Germany or 25 DM/\$16.- Europe or \$18.- for this Cd to poserslaughter records, P.O.Box 41, D-10205 Berlin, Germany.

Roel van Reijmersdal



Nembrionic Hammerdeath (NL)

Themes on an occult theory 7"ep'93

Displeased records

Nembrionic Hammerdeath is a band that drums against all the unwritten rules of death metal. The drums aren't heavy or dominating but the vocals and guitars are that fast and

distorted that *Nembrionic Hammerdeath* can be categorized as grind too. Their way of playing is something like a demented and inverted form of trendy death metal, in some way bizarre. I don't know if this is the right alternated way to bring something different. \$4.- to *Displeased records*, Vlusch 15, 1561 Krommenie, The Netherlands.

Harold Dekkers

Neutrone (B)
7"ep '93

Gener Records

Aaaarggh... is this finally the last 7"ep to review in this issue. I still hate ep's! First you've always to find out or it's 33 or 45 rpm. Then, after only one tracks you've to turn that disk around and you still have no real indication what the band represents. But due to good contacts with some traders, which I regularly neglect too much, I already found out *Neutrone* was a new form of doom metal. Maybe the band was a bit hardcorish, but now they are more in the ambience doom and crust way. And *Neutrone* doesn't disappoint me with two tracks of nameless doom. Their style is a bit changed from the violent crunch with vocals to the almost instrumental melancholy of this 7"ep. \$5.- to P.O.Box 447, 9000 Gent 1, Belgium.

Harold Dekkers



Nightfall (Gre)
promo'93

According to their promo'93, *Nightfall* hasn't changed that much, still that acoustic, technical keyboard death metal, even they've left

the Greece *Rotting Christ* influence a bit behind, replaced by the new *Tiamat* mentality. It's still simply brilliant, a typical band for Holy Records that also released the debut album of *Nightfall*. And I think we can expect a bit more from *Nightfall* on that release. I hope this indication will make much fans curious again. Write to *Holy Records*, 4 BD Gutenberg, 93190 Livry-Gargan, France.
Harold Dekkers

Nihili Locus (Ita)
Sub Hyerosolyma ep'93

The Italian scene is expanding enormously recently. One of the great new bands is definitely *Nihili Locus*. Two tracks of rather brutal death metal with a nice touch of originality. The production isn't all that good. I wonder how it would have sounded when it would have been recorded in a better studio. The production, sound and studio is not only an Italian problem, also some of the Spanish or France releases suffer from a (not bad but) not really satisfying sound. 'Death silence' is without doubt the best track from this two track ep, containing some marvellous, catchy and original riffs, it even includes a riff that *Eucharist* (rip) could have written... I think this ep is released by the band itself instead of a demo. \$5.- to *Curro Massimo*, Via Mazzini No2, 10042 Nichelino (Po) Italy. Also available at *Obscure Plasma* rec.
Roel van Reijmersdal

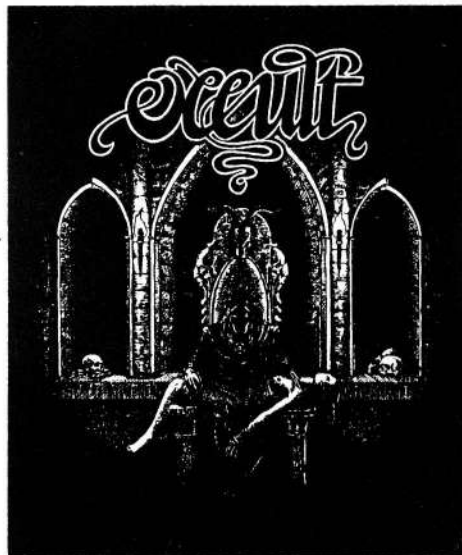
Nordor (Gre)

His fictitious grandeur demo'93
Obscure Plasma/Miscarriage rec.

This band made some inspiring occult metal on their debut demo, just things like *Necromantia*, *Mortuary Drape* and *Rotting Christ*. But now they missed their goal by moving in the direction of *Iconoclast* and *Sinoath*. With their dark honky-tonky doom metal they are placed on the second level of sub-mysterious bands. It's a pity, but luckily this recording is released as a tape instead of a silly 7"ep. \$5.- to *Obscure Plasma* c.p. 19, 20010 Vanzago (MI), Italy.
Harold Dekkers

Occult (Ned)
Studiodeemo '93

Sephiroth (drums) first started with *Bestial Summoning* in 1990. They already played black metal at that time, long before black metal was a trend. In 1992 Sephiroth started his own band, called *Occult* and since then he takes care of the vocals. *Occult*, as the name suggests, plays black metal. Happily not in a way most Norwegian bands do. This is a kind of brutal, fast and not technical



heavy metal, it sounds really good. On this tape are many riffs with a good underground feeling, the main reason I like this tape so much. I even like Sephiroth's vocals. Check out this demo, it comes with a good cover and sound! Send \$7 to: *Occult*, Antoniusstraat 109, 5912 CJ Venlo, The Netherlands.
Cor Snijder

Opera IX (Ita)
demo'92

Opera IX is maybe playing the newest invention: Dark Metal. Bands who aren't playing real brutal death metal nor true black metal but still have a mysterious atmosphere in their music are playing dark metal. Well, I don't like the idea everything has to get a name but *Opera IX* is really dark, maybe even black! It's obscure and melodic like some bizarre creations as *Nordor* and *Necromantia*. Slumbering bass sound, keyboards, all recorded in

the most hidden dungeon, it's an interesting tape. \$6,- Europe, \$7,- world. **Opera IX**, c/o Luigi D'Ambrosio, Via Tripoli, 21/A Biella, 13501 (VC), Italy.
Harold Dekkers

Ophthalmia (Swe)

Yourney into Darkness album '93

Obscure Plasma records

This greatful project of **Abruptum** and **Pan Thy Monium** members wasn't that well known, but I was hoping to hear more from them. What a surprise, they did a full length album on Obscure Plasma! But, I'm afraid the advance sounds disappointing. This time I don't blame the lack of originality. Of course **Ophthalmia** is the underground of the Swedish death metal, so it's progressive, but I can't call it a symbol of progression. Their mixture of black metal and death metal, founded with the inspiration from both bands brings nothing more than a repeating of old music like **Cathedral** does. I know, it's cool and nice to do that, and **Ophthalmia** really did a nice copy of the older and doomy NWOBHM (Transylvania of **Iron Maiden**, yes!), compared with some vague feelings from the old black bands like **Morbid** and **Tormentor**. Some of their 'repeated' ideas are really magnifico, but why are they reduced to one or two in a song and filled the rest with a good, but very bare and emotional doom sound. There aren't that dynamical sound differences on the whole, it's a completely naked version of a dark heavy metal band and that doesn't make this album to a big standard. Maybe I expected too much. \$18,- to **Roberto Mammarella**, C.P.19, 20010 Vanzago (MI), Italy.

Harold Dekkers

Oracle (USA)

As Darkness Reigns CD '93

Massacre Records

Metal from Florida.... death metal recorded at the Morissound? No, totally not! Florida's **Oracle** performs power metal like **Toxik** did on their first 'World Circus' album, only not that highly technical. The vocalist sounds a bit like Michal Kiske (**Halloween**) and Charlie Fabin (on 'Think this' **Toxik** second opus). The music is pretty inventive power metal and recorded at the Warehouse Studio in Florida and it sounds great. Nine tracks with a total running time of 60 minutes and a lot of nice riffs. An official fan club to get in touch with **Oracle** or for merchandise is located at: **The Oracle**, 6332 Anvil Rd. Jacksonville, FL 32211, USA.
Roel van Reijmersdal

Ostracised (NL)

Rain of Tears

Splitdemo of depression and hate '93

Ostracised takes care for the depressive side of the splitdemo with **Choronzon**. But the very simple industrial doom makes the demo worse. May their primitive tunes will be the foundation of a new cliché, they already have an keyboard. \$5,-/fl 10,- to **Ostracised**, **Tubstraat 5**, 3208 DS Spijkenisse (an evil place), The Netherlands. The only positive thing of this band is the release of an 7"ep of **Abhorer** from singapore by their cult destroying label **Shivadarshana** records (Snoekenveen 566, 3205 CS Spijkenisse, The Netherlands). More singaporian releases will follow soon.
Harold Dekkers

Pale Oracle (USA)

Relapse demo '92

At the very end of the year 1992 the demo of **Pale Oracle** was recorded in the Wave Digital studio in Illinois. The production kills, it's just something like **Death** or **Babylon Sad**, really a clear production. And that's okay, so we also are able to discover the immense qualities of this brutal band. **Pale Oracle** seems to be a doom metal band, but in fact it's a self-controlled brutal band, something like **Immolation**. But they don't fascinate with rolling drums and other technical changes, no, they bewilder you with controlling atmosphere in the still very fast way of rhythm with many technical changes of cymbals, snares etc. **Pale Oracle** also plays without that ever beating bass drum and high developed solos, but as a replace the fitness can be found in the leads. Well played in a melodic way, followed with a second undercover line, filled with a prominent bass. The vocals are not that unoriginal, still grunts, but in an inventive way. What I try to say is simple, **Pale Oracle** are considered to get a place in my playlist. The band is simply excellent: everyone must buy it: \$5,- **Pale Oracle**, c/o **Andy Bitzer**, P.O.Box 583, Muskegon, Michigan 49443 USA.
Harold Dekkers

Pan-Thy-Monium (Swe)

Khaooosh album '93

Osmose productions

Strange, I was wondering why I didn't vote **Pan-Thy-Monium** for the best release reviewed in **Mortician**. Well, the whole concept of **Pan-Thy-Monium** is still the same, making death metal from and into a different direction. 'Khaooosh' surely is a perfect follow up of 'Dawn of Dreams', the melodic swing is lost, more rawness replaces the great solos, but still there are other effects (like handclaps and total weird musical experiments). And the technical side of it express the same kind of 'cubic' evolution like **Morbid Angel** did on the 'Blessed are the sick' album. While **Cynic** is

changing the concept of death metal in the other side of the scene, **Pan-Thy-Monium** translates the whole to real modern art!
Harold Dekkers

Pazuzu (Swi)

Conjurations demo '93

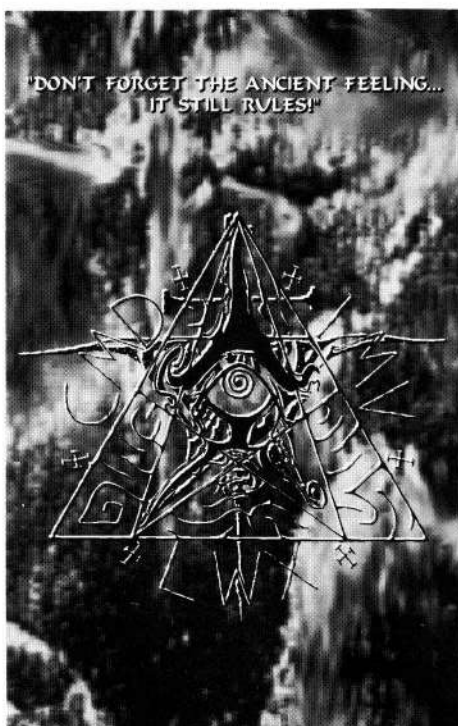
Pazuzu reminds me to a rehearsal of **Hellhammer** on high speed.

Their music is very primitive, just like the recording quality of this tape and that brings an out-dated feeling of old Morbidity. But it is a pity **Hellhammer** didn't make itself, then it would be a cult release. This band, also coming from Hellvetia lives in 1993 and that's the difference between them and **Hellhammer**. So, it's still difficult to give **Pazuzu** a good rate. Sometimes they sound like an old aboriginal sound project, at least **Pazuzu** is exotically strange. \$5,- (Europe), \$6,- (Elsewhere) to **Pazuzu**, **The Evilized One**, Ob. Muehlemastr. 52, CH-4800 Zofingen, Switzerland.
Harold Dekkers

Pentacle (NL)

Live tape 13-3-'93 Mill

First of all I don't know whether this live tape 'A tribute to **Dead End**' is available or not, but it's a nice opportunity to introduce a new Dutch band. **Pentacle** (meaning an inverse pentagram with a human in it instead of the goat) is heavily inspired by the legendary unions: **Hellhammer** and **Celtic Frost**. So the riffs are more or less in the same vein. The sound is very good for a live recording but it's difficult to judge the real capabilities of **Pentacle** from just this live tape. So, read the other review and try to get this 9 track tape (Including the **Frost** cover 'The Usurper', yeah!) **Pentacle**, c/o **Wannes Gubbels**, Franse Hoef 17, 3531 PD Bladel, The Netherlands.
Roel van Reijmersdal



Pentacle

Pentacle (NL)

Wind of the Fall demo '93

Winds of the Fall, **Pentacle**'s five track debut demo. 'Don't forget the ancient feeling... it still rules' is written on their flyers. That proves a bit the musical direction of **Pentacle**, old death metal orientated stuff. **Frost/Hellhammer** are definitely their major influences. Some will find this music old fashioned but many others will appreciate it for sure. Some backing vocals by **Micha v/d Ven** (ex-**Dead End**, now together with **Alwin** ex-**Dead End** and **Bart Smits** ex-**The Gathering** in a new band, check that one out!) On the track 'My Fall'. Guitar-wise **Pentacle** is not too technical but that's not necessary to create a certain atmosphere of course. If they've succeeded in creating the old feeling? ...I'm not sure, but it's in any case a nice demo. The vocals are maybe a bit too growling and it's pity there is too less real emotion in it. The tape and cover are both extremely professional. fl 10,- or \$6,- to **Wannes Gubbels**, Franse Hoef 17, 3531 PD Bladel, The Netherlands.
Roel van Reijmersdal

Pentagram (USA)

7"ep '93



PEACEVILLE
PO BOX 17 DEWBURY
WY 12 16A, U.K.
Phone: 01223 457271
Fax: 01223 457270

Peaceville

This 7"ep is the first in the Peaceville collectors club series. It's limited to members only, so check out the **Doomed** 7"ep review which shows you how to get involved in the collectors club. The ep contains two tracks. Relentless from their originally in 1985 released lp 'Pentagram' and re-released in '93 by Peaceville this time under the name of 'Relentless'. Definitely highly inspired by **Black Sabbath**. The second track is 'Day of Reckoning', originally released on the '87 lp 'Day of Reckoning' and also re-released by peaceville summer '93. This track shows a bit more of their own ideas and originality. The **Pentagram** 'Relentless' CD is reviewed elsewhere in this magazine!

Roel van Reijmersdal



Pentagram (USA)

Relentless CD

Peaceville

Which band in today's scene isn't influenced by **Black Sabbath**? When you'll listen carefully to the old **Black Sabbath** you'll definitely notice a lot of riffs are used in today's heavy/thrash/black/doom or death metal scene! And that's not really surprising: 'Master of Reality', 'Paranoid', 'Vol.4', 'Sabotage', 'Black Sabbath', the all are masterpieces! Also the US. **Pentagram** is highly (a bit too much I think) influenced by the old godz **Black Sabbath** with **Ozzy**. 'Relentless' was originally recorded and released back in '85 but now re-released by peaceville. 11 tracks of great doom metal (with normal vocals). Nice tracks such as 'Relentless', 'sign of the Wolf', 'All you Sins' (covered by **Cathedral** on their **In Memoriam** demo) are all nice to listen to. Not really original, but when you're heavily into old **Black Sabbath** like me it's great stuff. Don't expect any satanic black metal despite of the moniker and the well known goat sign on the album cover (the real fans will know better...).

Roel van Reijmersdal



Perpetual Demise (NL)

When Fear Becomes... demo 2 '93

The second, five track, deaththrash assault by the **Perpetual Demise**. Again recorded at the almost famous Beaufort studio in Holland. So, there's nothing wrong with the sound. It all sounds aggressive and tight, mainly thrash metal with some slight death metal touches. The vocals are very wild, almost a black metal scream, maybe like the new **Sentenced** vocalist (p.s. **Sentenced**'s cover 'The Trooper' on ep is out). A lot of flexible and original guitar parts on this demo. The usual \$5,- of fl 10,- to: **Perpetual Demise**, **Handellaan 24**, 4102 AE Culemborg, The Netherlands.
Roel van Reijmersdal

Persecution (Australia)

Encapsulated demo '92

This is brutal stuff from Australia again. Not in the vein of **Corpse Molestation**, they remind me of **God Dethroned** (Ned), as regards the sound. This is well played stuff with the usual deathgrunt... nothing new that's for sure, but it is fanatic stuff. For \$ 6 you get a well sounding demo with a professional cover. Write to: **Rod**, **PO Box 134**, Epping NSW 2121, Australia.
Cor Snijder

Piledriver (Nor)**The Dark Half demo'93**

Piledriver, the immense **Godflesh** rock act from Norway, known as **Vicious Act** before, have released a strong demo. Drums spilling industrial beat, that don't sound too mechanical though, screaming vocals that equal the northern black metal style of singing and a guitar crunch that directly hits the target. Musically it is probably only interesting for industrial fans, but these gigantic tracks certainly possess the heaviness usually only found in metal!

\$5.- to **Piledriver, Sindre Golesoyr, Ostlievein 13, 1482 Nittedal, Norway.**

Harold Dekkers

Pleurisy (NL)**My Favourite Girl demo'93**

In this time every town has a couple of his on blues, rock or jazz bands, but death metal is also integrated in that structure, just like the metropol Amersfoort does. But this doesn't mean **Pleurisy** is a great band, I won't come any further than only the few words "Nice death metal, not too heavy or fast, just going through a set of normal riffs and nice leading solo's". The scene is becoming old in a very quick way, but the same problem for the average blues, rock and jazz band goes for death metal too. Almost all local bands are a cliché of each other, but still containing a bit of their own drop of originality in a big ocean of death metal, that's all. \$5.- to **Edwin Nederkroon, Vinkenbaan 6, 3815 RD Amersfoort, The Netherlands.**

Harold Dekkers

Poison (WG)**Into the abyss demo'86**

It's pathetic how the once mighty black metal myth has grown into this ridiculous horde of would-be-blasphemers, fake occultists and pseudo-satanic losers who never gave a fuck about the music and are only in it for the sensation. As if a band's status of being 'true' depends on the weight of their chains/studs/leather/crosses, the gimmick of their 'attractive' corpse-paint and their 'evil' appearance... (W.B.)

I only can confirm this hard words of someone who's still in the scene since a long time. I only noticed the term **Poison** on the thank-list of **Kreator's** album 'Pleasure to Kill' and luckily I've copied **Poison's** last three demo's by tape trading. I noticed **Poison** should have been something special like **Celtic Frost**, **Venom** etc... by then in a small world of only **Bathory**, **Destruction**, **Kreator** (and yes, **Thanatos**). But it's a pity this root died before it had grown above the ground; their style is undescribable because of an original parallel next to **Venom** and **Helhammer**. I cannot explain this root, even it is a forgotten one (even today's blackheads never heard of it before reading this!) Forgotten? No, there was one rightful man in this Sodom.... and he pressed the latest demo on vinyl. And because of that deed I'll support him. \$10.- to **Midian Creations, Wim Baelus, Laarsveld 60, 2440 Geel, Belgium.**

Harold Dekkers

Prepuce (NL)**Laughter... is the mind sneezing demo'92**

I agree it's difficult to come up with something original like **Prepuce** tries to do. Cool, cold thrash metal with a strange sound but embedded by the same used tunes of the older thrash generation. The environment isn't friendly for this band I'm afraid, but it's still much better than the average death.... \$5.- to **M'jan, Platanenhage 108, 9501 ZW Stadskanaal, The Netherlands.**

Harold Dekkers

Primordial (Ire)**Dark Romanticism demo'93**

Well, it's nice to receive stuff from undiscovered metal countries and I think Ireland is one of them. **Primordial** plays black metal but not as shit as almost all of the new trendy black metal bands that are jumping on the new bandwagon. The demo contains four tracks of pretty original black metal in the Scandinavian vein like you know... **Bathory** and their clones. Very great vocals by Alan. Besides the screams there are original spoken parts (like **Darkthrone** did on some of the 'A blaze in northern sky' album) The sound is also pretty great somewhere between the second and third **Darkthrone** album. I wouldn't be surprised as if some **Primordial** band members played death metal before because they know how to handle their instruments. \$5.- to **Alan Averill, 22 Station Rd, Sutton, Dublin 13, Ireland.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

Psychic Pawn (UK)**Disgorged Suppuration 7"ep**
Cacophonous rec.

When I just saw the cover of this ep and the band name and the title of this vinyl I expected some sort of gory U.S.-metal, influenced by **Autopsy**; down tuned and muddy. And yes, I was right. It's indeed the gore death/grind like so may U.S. acts. In any case very heavy and brutal without being original or trying to achieve something new. Maybe this is an instruction ep for the start course to learn playing death metal. \$5.- (Europe) or \$6.- (World) to **Cacophonous rec. 231 portobello Road, London, W11 1LT, UK.**

Harold Dekkers

Psychopath (USA)**The Soul personification demo'91****Haemorrhage rec.**

This is a re-release of their demo from 1991. This time released by the Spanish **Haemorrhage**. Six original deathrash tracks with a lot of breaks and original riffs. The music is pretty technical but not in the **Atheist** nor **Atrocities** vein, more fast and better to listen to without getting mad of thousands of tempo changes and breaks. **Psychopath** has also released their debut album 'Making the transition' on a German label. It's almost superfluous to say but the cover looks again very professional and great: photos and lyrics included on the coloured cover. \$5.- (Europe) and \$6.- (Elsewhere) to **Haemorrhage prod. P.O.Box 37062, 28080 Madrid, Spain.**

Roel van Reijmersdal

Pungent Stench (Aus)**mini CD'93****Nuclear Blast Rec.**

Yeah, a new attack of originality from the weird sicko's! Well, this is probably the best there's ever released by those Vienna gore freaks. Seven tracks of real original death metal. **Pungent Stench** doesn't use melodic keyboards, acoustic guitars, violins or female vocals to get a refreshing and original sound. They just put some bizarre elements together, such as reanimated Jimi Hendrix riffs, weird getho conversations and strange keyboard parts, just great! Also a super house track on this mini CD in the vein of the best **GGFH** stuff, only a bit faster and aggressive! Some close minded 'only in for brutal death metal' fans will hate that track but I really love it! Should be cool when **Pungent Stench** will release a full album of those kind of tracks as a side project or something like that. Well, besides the computer orientated stuff, **Pungent Stench** has some real well skilled musicians!

Roel van Reijmersdal

Pyrexia (USA)**Sermon of Mockery****Drowned productions**

Another band from the brutal ION area (**Immolation**, **Incantation** and **Suffocation**): **Pyrexia** (including ex **Suffocation** member). When I listened for the first time to this release I found it very remarkable how much it sounded like countrymates **Broken Hope!!!** Really incredible, names could be changed and probably no one would have heard it (none is a bit unrealistic ok, but you've got my point...). So it is maybe a bit childish to say "read the **Broken Hope** review when you want to get an impression about this album", but you will get in the right direction... Maybe the sound on this album is a bit more brutal (a really little, little bit). Almost incredible brutal this kind of metal is, it has not that much to do with originality, just brutality!!!!!!

Roel van Reijmersdal

Quietus**The acknowledge... demo '92**

This is stupidity, this is a waste of tape and a waste of your paper Harold (Well, we've to pay attention to everything we get in -HD) Go on?? Right there are three tunes on this "demo": an intro, a "mid"tro, and an outro. They are all the same, some weird tunes. Hopeless. I will not give the address of this moneymaker!! Good-bey! Cor Snijder

Renaissance (Bel)**Tired Blood 7"ep****Shiver rec.**

Well, this track: 'Tired Blood' is taken from the demo and each half is pressed on vinyl. The whole track takes 12'56"! For a good review of this godly song I refer to the review of **Renaissance's** demo. Hans de Wyngaert did at least his duty to try to save this track from the mortal magnetic tape. And now he's doing a heroic deed by releasing a full length CD of **Renaissance**. on his label Shiver records. \$5.- (\$6.- outside Europe) to **Hans de Wyngaert, Amerstraat 112, 3200 Aarschot, Belgium.**

Harold Dekkers

Rotting Christ (Gre)**The Mighty Contract cd'93****Osmose productions**

Finally the ode to the black cult has arrived, even many people wearing the shirts of this band can't remember the release of the **Satanas Tedeum** demo. In fact the cultus of **Rotting Christ** isn't broken by this release. Their mini album showed their progression to a more mystical concept which was released on their second demo in 1992. The reason I still adore **Rotting Christ** isn't because

their music only. **Necromayhem** developed his guitar part to the best freshing of the occult wind, covered with the mist forthcoming by the unique vocals of **Mutilator**. But to understand the whole concept we have also to review the lyrics. I don't think **Mutilator** realized it before I told him, but his lyrics aren't only one sided occult ones but a handing about gnostics of the dark side of life. 'The Fourth Knight of Revelation', 'Exiled Archangels', 'Transform all suffering into plagues' are the best mystical and gnostic codices I have ever read in this scene. Still... **Rotting Christ** is an alone wandering wolf, the way it should be!

Harold Dekkers

Sadist (Ita)**Above the light album'93****Nosferatu rec.**

To start, it's an excellent and original debut of **Nosferatu** records. I can't find a band that's playing of this aggressive and technical label both. Speaking about the techniques, **Sadist** can be classified as a metal band of the old types; classical solos and a bit upset and



resonating. But the interesting thing is the connection to classical music, like **Master's Hammer** did to operetta. But man should forbid the use of digital generated orchestras, that's the only critics I can have on this classic Italian opera metal band. But performing with a real classical orchestra will be too difficult to realize I'm afraid. This genius composition is a must for every fan. By air: \$20 (CD), \$15 (LP), surface: \$18 (CD), \$13 (LP) to **Nosferatu, Casella Postale 19, 95021 Acicastello (CT), Italy.**

Harold Dekkers

Sad Whisperings (NL)**Sensitive To Autumn CD'93****Foundation 2000**

Till now **Sad Whisperings** was a rather unknown band. The only public release the brought out was the excellent track 'The Tombstone' on the mighty DSFA-compilation album. The doom metal, their promo showed, is developed in a celtic and catatonic way with keyboards, females and all the ingredients of an melancholic metal band. Well, we better call them a sentimental band, even **Anathema** would be moved to tears when they heard about the loss of at least four women. It's nowadays popular to symbolise female beauty in the lyrics and in the music. **Sad Whisperings** isn't that deadly depressive like **My Dying Bride**, but the compositions must be taken more serious than **The Gathering**. In fact the band isn't performing doom metal, it's only a mystical style of death metal. Bombastic parts with heavy fat vocals by ...? The band members like to stay unknown till the time is 'right'. Well, **Sad Whisperings** isn't such a great band to make us curious for their real identity, but it's really worth listening to.

Harold Dekkers

Salem (Israel)**Creating our Sins mlp'93****Morbid Records**

Twelve bonus tracks and three 'normal' tracks. 'Masquerade in claustrophobia', 'Creating our sins' and 'Old wounds' are the three new tracks from the leading band from Israel. Pretty original death metal, nice sound and aggressive vocals. There are a lot of nice and pretty guitar parts in almost every song, so it's more than standard. The twelve bonus tracks are the tracks from the 'Millions Slaughtered' demo. MLP: \$14.- (Europe) or \$15.- (world) and CD: \$16.- (Europe) or \$18 (world) to **Morbid Records, Postfach 3, 03114 Dresskau, Germany.** For band contact: **Salem, P.O.Box**

Psychic Pawn

5 6 6 ,
Givataym,
53408 Israel.
Roel van
Reijmersdal

Sathanas
(USA)

Rehearsal '92/
promo '93

M o s t
undergrounders
k n o w
Sathanas for
quite a while.

They have

been raging from the beginning and released their only demo in 1988 so far. Sathanas changed their name in Bathym, because Mike (vocals) left the band to join Acheron... Mike left Acheron and after a while he re-joined Bathym. From then on they called Sathanas again. I am very positive about this rehearsal, it is not typical death metal, it certain has the same energy and extremity in it, maybe even more!

Comparing the music on this tape to their older material, they play more aggressive, tighter and more technical. This is an extremely well-oiled machine. Maybe that's why this music sounds so extremely furious and aggressive. Mike is crying his lungs out of his body, it is amazing... best vocals in the scene I think. A new promo is already released, only four dollars (also for the rehearsal). I don't know if the rehearsal is still available. Write today: Sathanas, c/o Paul, 811 tenth ave, New Brighton, PA 15066, USA. Rumour: they have signed a contract with Obscure Plasma.

Cor Snijder

Sceptical Schizo (Fin)

The Plight 7"ep'93

Wounded Love Records

This 7"ep is surely better than the one which was brought out by the band itself. The sound isn't that bombastic anymore, but they paid more attention to the slow galloping rhythms and effects in their riffs. And that finesse made a bitter and strange creation of doom metal which doesn't belong to the sentimental genre of this style. \$5,- (Europe), \$6,- (World) to Wounded Love Records, Via Folli 5, 20134 Milano, Italy.

Harold Dekkers

Sexual O.C.D.

And my dream continues demo '93

This band comes from my neighbourhood. I have seen them live and even than they know how to play their music tight. This is not death or thrash metal, but it has the same power. There is one connection with death metal: the deathgrind. This demo features two kinds of vocals, the other is a kind of talking/singing in the way of Fear Factory. Both kinds of vocals are used in every track and that is a pity. These guys like to do some experimental adventures and they show that with using a spanish guitar sound here and there and some really weird riffs. This band plays original powerful metal. This band is surely worth to check out! Send \$6 to: W. de Boer, Koelstraweg 48, 9287 NT Twijzelerheide, Holland.

Cor Snijder

Shagdiel (Swe)

Fall demo'93

Shagdiel is dead... but the memory stays. 'The Fall' demo is a good deathrash demo from Örebro. Five tracks, well produced (no Sunlight nor Gorysound) and a cover booklet with lyrics and photo's. A growling vocalist and sometimes a bunch of nice guitar riffs. This is a nice demo, not far from the Swedish standard. Miesko, the ex-Shagdiel guitar player is now in Nasum together with the two Necrony guys Anders and Richard. They recorded a six track ep released on the German Poserslaughter records and it's pure grindcore. The guy is also searching for bands to feature on his 'Corpse Flesh Genitals' compilation tape. Niesko Talarczyk, Halltorpsvägen 164, 702-29 Örebro, Sweden.

Roel van Reijmersdal

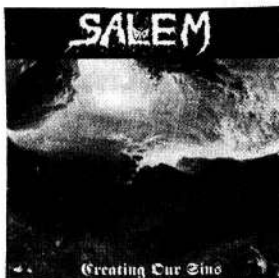
Sickness (Ger)

Final Result demo'93

One of the few full colour copied demo covers, Sickness has got it. So there are some bands who pay a lot of attention to their covers... only the front picture is a bit uh... amateuristic, but what the hell. The music is very, very tight, yeah, that's my first impression. Super drum job and tight and aggressive guitars. Sickness plays some sort of grind/death without the usual grind explosions. So a bit in the vein of the old Pungent Stench. I expected a grind attack after a each break but surprisingly enough the band bomb won't drop. So that's pretty interesting. The strangling vocals are the finishing touch... \$5,- to Marcus Klossk, Otto-Heesestraße 2, 0-1550 Naumen, Germany.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Sinister (NL)



Diabolical Summoning CD'93

Nuclear Blast

Sinister's debut album 'Cross the Styx' totally blew me away, that album was one of the most aggressive, brutal and technical albums created in Holland. Shortly after the release of their debut guitar genius Ron v/d Polder left the band and I was a bit afraid that Sinister would lose something of their super fast and very technical and tight guitar parts. And now I'm listening to their second attack a realize that my fear was well-grounded. André is definitely not a bad guitar player but I think no one from the Dutch (or maybe international) death metal scene could replace Ron's absolute devastating talented guitar style. (By the way, Ron is now playing bass in Ceremony) So this second Sinister attack is a bit less than 'Cross the Styx'. Not bad at all but less spectacular. Mike's vocals are still very brutal. Aad shows a lot of blast beats together with a lot of great and tight drum parts. Diabolical Summoning is still a brutal and devastating album, only not as good as their debut. It's recorded in the T&T studios in Germany and the sound is still great!

Roel van Reijmersdal

Sinoath (Ita)

Still in the grey dying demo'93

A lot of undergrounders are waiting for this release I think, their first demo had some great atmospheres and specially the vocals were killing me! Now they have a new singer, Andrea of Iconoclast, who sings in the way of Morbid (Necromentia).

The music is a more modern version of their older material and reminds me a bit of 'Non-technical' Death, only slower. Also on this demo Sinoath creates some dark atmospheres. This demo has a good sound, still I like their first demo more. I expected much more original and weird ideas and riffs. It is not the killer I was awaiting. However, it is a good demo with a nice cover. Check it out and judge for yourself. \$6,- to Obscure Plasma, c.p. 19, 20010 Vanzago (MI) Italy.

Cor Snijder

Solemn Assembly (Austr)

Beyond the veil of dreams demo'93

O yes, Australia also makes a contribution to misery, although the climate and atmosphere of the land doesn't fit this particular subject too well. (Disembowelment described it better.) Doom metal; Solemn Assembly belongs to the heavier side of this genre. The tempo of the music is comparable to Therogothon, and so are the normal speaking vocals. It's single tuned, 4 track recorded but still enjoyable. \$5,- for two tracks only to: Justin, 10 Danhier Cl. Berwick VIC 3906, Australia.

Harold Dekkers

Soul Drain (UK)

The innocent shall die demo'93

This is a 3-track, 18-minutes, debut demo from a new UK act. I don't think this demo is recorded in a studio because the sound is like of a rehearsal tape. I can hear what the music is about, but to have got a better impression of the capabilities of Soul Drain I would have preferred a studio demo! The music is a bit doomy death metal but not like the famous UK godfathers. You can hear some nice guitar parts but it's mainly not spectacular. \$5,- to Kev, 66 Huxley St., Castle, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 1DD, UK

Roel van Reijmersdal

Soulwound (NL)

demo'93

What a shape after the struggling of Cauteror. Cauterors last demo, reviewed in our third issue was already the step forward in this direction, but after the foundation of Soulwound they created something really good. Of course I've some doubts about their really renwiewing methode of doom metal. They are almost as symphonic as Misanthrope now, but my only point of critic is their copied parts from The Gathering and Chorus of Ruin. But that isn't their unrealized charm only, there are other godly gothic elements to correct that influence at once. I don't need to say it sounds beautiful, just spend your money, you progressors! Soulwound is with Sad Wispherings one of the famous northern dutch bands leaving the synth sound behind to The Gathering. They even managed to get a better Beaufort Studio production than our national band. And I guess that's due to the key of doom! No compromise in tunes, a synthesizer doesn't need more technical exposure than being a piano or an organ. On the way of My Dying Bride, the guitars and vocals do the rest! Soulwound will appear on the compilation of the dutch elite: D.S.F.A. isn't Anthony? \$5,- to Eems 127, 9204 CD Drachten, The Netherlands.

Harold Dekkers

Spontaneous Combustion (Spa)

Suffering Cries ep'93

Drowned rec.

Drowned ep numero 14: Spontaneous bla, bla, pretty unpronounceable name, this band comes from the Sevilla area and recorded three tracks during december '92 for this ep. The sound is pretty poor. Drums are too much in front of the mix and when the drummer plays a fast part, the guitars seem to disappear, pretty bad sound actually. This ep cannot get me excited, too standard and perhaps not even reaching that level at all. \$5,- to Drowned, Gran



Via 69, 28013 Madrid, Spain or for band contact: Mofly, Bda, El Tinte, Bloque 39, Bajo 4, 41710 Utrera (Sevilla), Spain.

Roel van Reijmersdal

The Spudmonsters

Step the Madness CD'93

Massacre records

The name of the band and album cover bore me to death. I'm really (actually totally NOT) into this kind of 'fun' metal. But a decent journalist should keep some objectivity, right? 16 tracks and most of them with a running time of two minutes, so that means hardcore... Yes, it's hardcore mixed with some thrash influences. The guitars constitute the thrash metal part and the vocals are totally hardcore and sometimes a bit in the vein of the old Nuclear Assault, the tracks are mainly fast and the lyrics are about politics and society, well actually what's wrong about that? And of course there are some fun/beer lyrics.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Thou Art Lord (Gre)

The cult of the Horned one demo'93

A band including again Morbid of Necromantia and this time the godly guitar player Necromayhem. Occult metal is quite popular in Greece, but in fact it are the original bandmembers who can't find enough bands to express their feeling in it. Necromantia and Rotting Christ dominates the greece scene with it. Well, Thou Art Lord is a guitar expression from Rotting Christ, all tracks are quite similar to The Mighty Contract album. But what else would you expect by two Rotting Christ members? Necromayhem is preforming is developed guitar sound. With a Paw Nielsen cover!!! Their next adoration to the black cult is an 7"ep 'Diabolou Archais Legeones' on Molon Lave Records. Bring your infernal hails to Gothmog, P.O.Box 79022, 172 02 Ilimitos, Athens, Greece by sending \$5,-. Both 7"ep and demo for \$8,-!

Harold Dekkers

State of Confusion (UK)

Rituals of Reality demo '91

This one is thrash metal from South Wales, a bit extremer than the Bay Area thrash. Vocals are in the vein of Nuclear Assault, only more in the metal way. The songs are good and have nice riffs. It is not a surprise, but it is just good, when you are in this kind of metal. Maybe it is a must for "Bay Thrashers". Send \$5,- to: Dorian Davies, 27 Bwich Road, Loughor, Swansea, UK, SA 4 2TA, West Glam., South Wales.

Cor Snijder

Suffer (Swe)

Global Warming MCD'93

Napalm records

Suffer is back. Suffer never got much attention, even they are from the period of first load of Swedish death metal. Well, in fact they aren't death metal but progressive deathrash. The music is very direct but also original. The weakest point of Suffer is their 'steady' sound. All four tracks are nearly the same in sound. But the heavy 'tack' of their snare drums, their unusual riffs leads Suffer to an aggressive blitzkrieg in four songs. The top lays on 'Infectious' which is the most refreshing song in their kind of deathrash. People who love the Sacrificial album of Terchoma records (see review elsewhere) will surely like this intense product. \$15,- to Napalm Records, Fichtenstrasse 34, 8790 Eisenertz, Austria.

Harold Dekkers

Temperance (Swe)

One Grave 7"ep'93



Shiver Records

Former **No Remorse** are here with their vinyl debut 'One grave' released by one of the very few Belgium labels. Shiver records brings you from the city of **Carnage Vaxjö**, two tracks with a total running time of almost ten minutes! The production is very poor, it all sounds far too muddy and untight. The songs aren't very attractive as well, standard an boring death metal with some slight thrash influences. One of the most remarkable things are the 'acoustic' or normal vocals in the tracks 'One foot in the Grave'. All in all, it's just another brick in the wall! \$5,- to **Shiver Records, Amerstraat 112, 3200 Aarschot, Belgium.**
Roel van Reijmersdal

Tenebris (Pol)

Mesmerized demo '93



An other great Polish band **Tenebris**. This demo isn't released at Carnage Records but by the band itself. Just like **Sacriversum** it's a great demo, worth checking out. The music is produced with a very good sound. The vocalist/guitarist/bassist Simon, the bass player in the polish **Pandemonium**, grunts his brutal vocals on six tracks of very heavy and violent death metal. It's already their second demo after their debut 'Solitude' in January 1992. This demo contribution to the growth of the big Polish scene. \$5,- to **Tenebris, c/o Przemyslan Simon Szymaniak, Ziolkowa 5M1, 91-364 Lodz, Poland.**
Roel van Reijmersdal

The Flower in my Garden (Spa)

Euplanarian Stagnalis demo '92

Industrial only can exist on the real inspiration of its creator, it isn't a simple music at all. Just like **Mordor** showed us all, this demo is intended to do the same. Monotone music can impress you but it shows again the difficulty to hit the personality who's listening, in this cause who is reviewing it. I confess, it's difficult to review this tape; I don't block their road by a good or bad opinion. Some elements seems to be suitable to open my nirvana, but for the ordinary riffs I have to listen over and over again. Compositions, that's what I am missing! \$3,- to **The Flower in my garden, c/o amor hermoso n°2 1°D, 28820 Coslada, Madrid, Spain.**
Harold Dekkers

The Legendary Condoms of Hell (Ger)

Reign in beer demo '93

What do you expect when you see titles like 'Popperschwein' and 'Beer makes me pissed'? Funcore? Yes, I guess it's indeed some sort of core, fun/hard/grindcore! I don't know if I can take this serious. It's just a rehearsal containing three tracks with a total play time of just two minutes. 'Popperschwein' is about two seconds, 'Beer makes me pissed' takes 30 seconds and 'Six packs from Hell' around one minute. It's funny but I don't take it serious. I guess for a blanc tape and one IRC/\$ the will copy this demo. **The Legendary Condoms of Hell, c/o Jörg 'Jülle' Petricig, Grünerweg 10, 64283 Darmstadt, Germany.**
Roel van Reijmersdal

Threnody (NL)

As the heavens fall cd '93

Massacre records

I think there will be some people who haven't heard before of **Threnody**. Of course it's their own fault because they didn't read any former issues of this magazine before. But, in the worldwide scene **Threnody** isn't a well known act and maybe that's due to the fact the band didn't attract that much attention by doing something mega-brutal or very alternative. And maybe that gives them a start. I'm not talking about clichés, but this band found the way how to give a full developed musical expression. **Threnody** is still in the category of normal death metal, but their music is very, very balanced in such a skilled musical way. Other bands try to hide

them selves by using all kind of strange, but trendy ideas, but **Threnody** shows how you've to create a pearly piece of death metal and that step is still the creator of originality. Their ideas are founded on their second demo, but it's worked out and recorded perfectly!

Harold Dekkers

Torturer (Chi)

Oppressed by the force album '93

Inist rec.

Finally here it is, I was awaiting this demo since their interview in our second issue and now I've the honour to review promo tape coming straight from Santiago. **Torturer** is already known from their former release, their demo pressed on a split lp with **Misanthrope**, that also was released by Infest Records. After that there was a small promo, containing the same sort of music, fast



and screamy death metal. Well, on this album the vocals of Francisco are still very high, raw and screamy, just like the music. Their whole style stayed the same but the technically they have progressed a lot. Everything by an old formula, but the solos are amazing. There are inventive rhythms and riffs in the songs, sometimes completed with a comfortable sound of a keyboard. Especially the title track 'Oppressed by the Force' is a jewel. And the old 'Evil Confession' is also nice to hear back in a new jacket. For people who still don't have an idea about the music, it's in the style of **Incubus**. **Torturer** is the number one from Chile. Contact: **Torturer, P.O.Box, Casilla 51171, Correo Central, Santiago, Chile, South America.**
Harold Dekkers

Trom (Swi)

demo '93

Bizarre experimental music passing the metal borders. It can't be labelled as metal I think, it's far too progressive. Although it isn't a metal band it's still very great stuff. Maybe somewhere like the new **Carbonized**. Also the lyrics are original written in English, French and Latin. Five tracks of powerful mainly guitar orientated and very dark stuff. Their debut album will be released somewhere this year. Nice band, just like their friends and country-mates **Mordor**! \$5,- to **Fabrice Enrico, Vieux-Châtel 5, 2000 Neuchâtel, Switzerland.**
Roel van Reijmersdal

Unanimated (Swe)

In the forest of the dreaming dead cd '93

No Fashion rec.

Original Swedish metal still exists! I lost my faith a bit in the Swedish scene I used to adore so much. Far too many bands with unoriginal ideas released their 'same-sounding' demos. But of course there are still some real great sounding bands, more than other countries can create. One of those great bands is **Unanimated**. After their rehearsal and demo here is their excellent debut album. One of the original parts is that their music can't be labelled as just death or pure black metal. It's more a mixture with even some thrash riffs and of course a lot of acoustic parts (which sometimes reminds me to **Bathory**) Almost every song contains a lot of original and catchy melodic guitar riffs and the vocals are not screaming nor grunting but somewhere in between those styles. This is definitely one of the Swedish highlights. I'm anxious to hear more stuff from **Unanimated** and I hope they're still together now drummer peter is also playing with **Merciless**. 11 tracks on this CD with a real decent lay out and the final song is a... **Venom** cover! (bedankt René) CD: \$18,- or LP \$15,- to: **No Fashion Rec. p.o.box 217, 645 23 Strängnäs, Sweden.**
Roel van Reijmersdal

Unexpected (NL)**demo '93**

Well, this is something better than having fun and speaking about smelling feet in the songs. I guess this band has learned a lot from the trend nowadays, but I've to say they modulated them selves to an acceptable band with a sound from 't Pand Studios. The vocals are the only remain of their old fun period. They still sounds a bit like John Tardy. Their high speed of average fast death metal (US-projected) needs still some development, but the guitar solos really brought this band again to the Rotterdam scene. After the newest gain with **Lier in Wait** we've to be alert for **Unexpected**, they finally made it: **Alexander Paul, Beverstraat 155, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.**
Harold Dekkers

Viper Brazil (Bra)

Kipera Sapiens CD '93

Massacre records

Sepultura is not the only brazilian thrash act that signed to an European company. **Viper Brazil** signed to Massacre Rec. from Germany and released a six track mini-CD. **Viper Brazil** isn't like **Sepultura** at all, they are in the vein of **Death Angel** on their 'Frolic trough the Park' and 'Act III' albums, so you know what to expect: progressive thrash with good vocals. Usually I totally hate thrash metal but this CD is nice to listen to. The 5 tracks (and one acoustic song) are all written around the early '90's but didn't appear on their previous two albums and were good enough to record on CD. The vocalist isn't a grunter at all, more like Mark Osegueda from **Death Angel** (rip) or even like Joey Tempest from **Europe** on the 'out of this world' album.
Roel van Reijmersdal

**Vermin (Swe)**

demo 1 '92

This demo should have been reviewed in our previous edition, but somehow R.B. didn't. Six tracks of brutal madness just like their second demo. Only the sound is a bit more brutal and less clean than on their second opus. Probably one of the most brutal bands from Sweden, still available for \$5,- to **Matthias Adarnsson, Dalgatan 2A, S-57023 Anneberg, Sweden.**
Roel van Reijmersdal

Vermin (Swe)

Life is Pain demo '93

Death metal in it's most brutal way... **Vermin**: pure brutality like **Grave** or **Dissect**. Pretty simplistic down-tuned guitar riffs mixed with ultra brutal growling vocalist. It's still nice to listen to such an eruption of aggressive heaviness. Five heavy and clean tracks produced in the Opus 1 studio. The demo has a nice title: Life is pain. Isn't life very painful overall? Rock 'n Roll is dead. \$5,- to **Matthias Adarnsson, Dalgatan 2A, S-57023 Anneberg, Sweden.**
Roel van Reijmersdal

Vomitory (Swe)

Moribund 7" ep '93

Witchhunt Rec.

Although **Entombed** changed their style completely, there are still some bands who are playing like the old **Entombed**. A lot of Swedish bands are trying to separate from the traditional Swedish sound but there are of course still bands who adore the old confidential style. **Vomitory** is definitely such a band. The two ep tracks reminds a lot of tracks from around '90/'91, performed by bands as **Furbowl**, **God Macabre** (**Macabre End**) and the already mentioned **Entombed**. Judge for yourself weather you like this musical direction or not. The vocals are a bit in the old **Grave** vein and the sound is a bit different than on their demo, less clean. \$5,- to the band: **Vomitory, c/o Urban Gustafsson, Grossbolskatan 2B, 667 00 Forshaga, Sweden, or the record company Witchhunt, P.O.Box 658, 8029 Zurich, Switzerland.**
Roel van Reijmersdal

Winters Bane (USA)

Heart of a killer CD '93

Massacre records

Another US power metal act on Massacre records, their debut album is very similar to the album of labelmates **Oracle**. Good produced and aggressive power metal. Maybe not that many nice guitar parts as on the debut of **Oracle**, but still entertaining. Their vocalist is definitely inspired by Rob Halford and also some of the songs on 'Heart of a killer' are a bit in the vein of the 'Screaming for Vengeance', 'Defenders of Faith' or 'Painkiller' albums but definitely not as good. For merchandise or contact: **Anvil**

Productions, 2243 Tenth St., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221, USA.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Witches (Fra)

Wind of time demo '93

Finally, a new demo of the female french thrash band is out. **Witches** released a demo on the dutch independent label Foundation 2000 and after two years the band comes back with a terrific tape. The kind of thrash is very grown up and that means they've left the fairy tale metal behind. Well, Sibylle is crying with the same throat but they brought some really professional parts in their music. The kind of thrash is up-dated to a level of **Coroner** or maybe **Skyclad**. The concept isn't that revolutionary, but the way of their own progression really is. I didn't expect such a strong come back. Wow, the tape is expensive (\$8,-), but it's a really professional one, worth the money you've to send to Sibylle Colin-Tocquaine, 65 rue Jacques Prévert, 95320 St. Leu La Forêt, France.

Harold Dekkers

Wombath (Swe)

Internal Caustic torments CD

Infest/Thrash records

After the bad ep **Wombath** got a second chance to show their capabilities. Well, again not really satisfying, just brutal scandinavian death metal, very standard. There is only one really great track on it: 'Abandon' which includes few keyboard parts, but I guess it's pretty sad that only those keyboard tunes can attract some attention. Probably one of the most standard death metal releases from Sweden after the **Authorize** cd some years ago. It's actually not really bad and when you're into Swedish metal that sounds like the the Swedish releases from about 2½ years ago, you can buy this one right away. It's released as a co-operation between Infest and thrash rec. but I'll only give you the Infest address because Thrash rec. seems to have become a dubious company, after you've sent your money to Pat/Thrash you've to beg to get the ordered stuff when a year has passed, smells like a rip off! **Infest Records** BP 197 75926 Paris Cedex, France \$18,- will be okay I guess.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Xenophobia (Ire)

Through the chaos demo '92

Sorry, maybe I was too positive referring to the Slovenian cult act, but the Irish band with the same name nearly can't understand their own single rhythm scales. By the way, they remind me a bit to the unprofessionalism of another cult band **Sempiternal Deathreign**, so this crap is really too late for a probably good review in **Mortician Magazine**! \$4,- to **Cathal Rodgers**, 3 Cub Ave, Banagher, Co Offaly, Ireland.

Harold Dekkers

Zar (USA)

From Welcome... to Goodbye

Solid Records

American orientated hardrock which is exactly the style I totally hate! This is their third album and they used to be mainly AOR. It's a kind of melodic rock nowadays like country mates **Bonfire** and **Casanova** (AaaaarggGGH!) Of course some blades, nice for MTV's headbangers bath. Guest vocals from John Lawton (ex-**Uriah Heep**, isn't that guy still not dead?) and the Jimi Hendrix cover 'Angel'. Pretty cliché stuff overall.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Abomination Path (Sp)

Compilation tape

This is the second release of the new Spanish label Haemorrhage prod. It includes tracks from **Demigod** (rip) **Unbounded Terror**, **Severance**, **Monastery**, **human Waste**, **Nocturnal Rites** with the 'I am lost' from their '92 promo (excellent track), **Pyrexia** (debut album out on Drowned), **Cartilage**, **Accessory** (now **Colour Trip**, album out on Massacre rec.), **Disembowelment**, **Carbonized** with 'Two faces' from their great '90 demo **Recarbonized**, **Necrotomy**, **Chococrispis**, **Darkified** and about 4 more bands. The sound is in general great and the cover is very professional and all addresses are included. \$6,- or 600 PTS (Spain) to **Haemorrhage prod**, P.O.Box 37062, 28028 Madrid, Spain.

Roel van Reijmersdal



Against All Gods

Sampler CD'93

Displeased Records

At last the samplers. This is a nice sampler, a new sampler, a good sampler and a up-dated sampler. People who don't know the bands **Godsend** or **Nightfall** (and they haven't followed our counsels in our former edition) got a new chance.

Crypt of Kerberos is really interesting because it contains a track from their up-coming lp on **Adipocere** records. Pity this is all old

news when you read this. Nevermind, the biggest part of this CD, mostly bands from Holland showed up with good new things, just like on the DSFA national compilation CD: **Desultory** (NL!), **Perpetual Demise**, **Radical Retard** but also **Black Death** and **Mephitic**. The most promising of this CD is the newest or renewed material of **Stentorian** and **Ulcerate Fester**. The first one developed it self to a higher technical level above **Ulcerate Fester**, but that quiet grind band put some new great doomy solos (**Anathema**?) together with a renewing straight drumsound. For me this is a great sampler, even there are some strange elements like **Slave Labour**, **O.K.D.**, **Flaming Anger** and the raving on **Titanium UNh** on this CD. NLG 25,-/\$ 15,- to: **Displeased Records**, Veeringstraat 6, 1502 NL Zaandam, The Netherlands.

Harold Dekkers

Dark Live Collection (Mal)

Compilation tape '93

Dark Journey records

Surely the best tape from Malaysia I've ever heard. It's a real cross-section of a high level. I'm not sure this is a real live tape, the quality of the 10 songs of the 6 bands are that professional and the rumour of the audience seems too big, it will be mixed through the songs, I think. The difference of quality of the bands isn't that big. From a bunch of Celtic tunes (**Brain Dead**) to the spontaneous thrash (**Nemesis**) or black metal (**Nebiras**), all the tracks sounds in one direction. But the good recording gives a nice view on **Catarrh**, **Tormentor** and **Silent Death** too, so you really get an image of those bands. \$5,- to **Dark Journey rec**, **Vortex from the east**, No 18 Lane PJS 2c/11N, Medan Garden 8th Mile, Old Klang Road, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

Harold Dekkers

Deaf Metal Sampler

Deaf Records

A new Peaceville compilation album after their "Volume 4". This time only Deaf records releases. The MC/CD contains 15 tracks: 8 tracks from earlier Deaf releases such as **Vital Remains**, **Morta Skuld**, **Therion**, **Accidental Suicide**, **Pitch Shifter** and **Prophecy of Doom**. 2 tracks from forthcoming albums: **Banished** (formerly **Baphomet USA**) and the extra CD track from the second **At The Gates** album which is a bit disappointing actually. Further more 5 non-Deaf bands: **Nightfall**, **Maimed**, great UK doom/death from **Chorus of Ruin**, a very great track from Sweden's **Dissection** (from their debut album which killz!) and probably the best song on the whole sampler: **Eucharist** with the unreleased "The View" which is absolutely one of the best (death)metal tracks ever!!!!

Roel van Reijmersdal



Head your mind comp. tape/cd

Dreamtime

dreamtime

'Sampler Celebrates acid anniversary, the tracks are aural excursions that are inspired by the motion that sound vibrations can unlock different levels of consciousness, selected from the Dreamtime catalogue to co-inside with the 50th anniversary of the discovery of L.S.D by Albert Hoffman, the CD is aimed at those who explore inner space. Head your mind will send our message of sonic sensory bliss to all psychotronic cosmonauts, this is a one way ticket to trancydelica' What else can I say...?? great opportunity to explore different areas (price only £2.99!) No black, death or doom metal, just bizarre dance music. It contains tracks of **Ship of fools**, **Hybrids**, **Tekton Motor corp.** (great!), **GGFH** -absolutely super 'band', **Kong**, the Amsterdam instrumental experimental god, **Drug free America**, **Sonic Violence** and **Minister of Noise**.

Roel van Reijmersdal

The Heralds of Oblivion

Compilation CD'93 (USA)

Roughage Rec.

68 minutes death metal by five bands, three trax by each: **Demolition**, **Brainstrom**, **Mutilage**, **Catalepsy** and **Decomposed**.

Demolition is totally unknown to me but very aggressive, just like a mixture of a very fast **Bold Throter** and **Autopsy**. And also **Catalepsy** doesn't drift away from that way of death metal. **Brainstrom's** variation is more thrash orientated and **Decomposed** brings it in a totally heavy slow grindy version. **Mutilage** is again a mixture of the last mentioned ones. Don't expect any professionalism or technical or progressive death metal. The heralds of oblivion are only meant to give ultra raw death/grind without any mercy. More extreme than the **Autopsy** quality. **Roughage Rec**, P.O.Box 39439, Los Angeles, CA 90039-0439, USA.

Harold Dekkers

Nuclear Blast

promotional CD compilation

Almost all the Nuclear Blast bands appeared on the 'death is just the beginning' low price, this new compilation costs only \$5,-. For this money you get in trade of the latest albums of: **Benediction**, **Brutality**, **Amorphis**, **Hypocrisy**, **Sinister**, **Master**, **Macabre**, **Dismember**, **Mortification**, **Pungent Stench** and **Fetish 69**. So, if you're not wealthy, but willing to get to know some nice bands, don't hesitate! And for 2 IRC's you'll also get their huge mail order catalogue containing almost everything ever released!

Roel van Reijmersdal

Radium presents Extreme Close up

compilation CD'93

Close Up is the largest (independent) 'underground' metal magazine from Sweden. I think it has a circulation of 2000 copies (hmm... **Mortician** is going to approximate that circulation). **Extreme Close up** is a compilation CD containing 11 new coming Swedish metal acts. There are a lot of different styles on the CD: speed, thrash, experimental, brutal death metal, hardrock and atmospheric black/death metal. Bands on this CD are **Captor**, female speed metal from **Cat Calls**, **Proboscis**, **Overflash** - a studio project from **Marduk's** Magnus Andersson, it's a nice track produced by Dan Swanö, **Terror Pop**, **Misery Loves Co.**, **Vermin** -brutal death metal in the vein of **Grave**, **Concrete Stuff**, **Ten Feet Tall**, **bizarre Scums** and finally the best track on this CD, **Katathonia's** 'Without God', an absolute beautiful song! I don't know the exact price but sending \$15,- will be okay I guess: **Close Up Mag.**, Box 7028, S-600 07 Norrköping, Sweden.

Roel van Reijmersdal

Rebellion der Sterblichen (Ger)

Darmstadt Sampler lp. '93

Gastarbeiter rec.

A new Gastarbeiter Rec. release after the **Norsak/Notwehr** split-ep, 8 bands, 13 tracks. The first band is **Shaft**: metalcore with the hardcore vocals, pretty boring. Next is 'good old' **Notwehr** with a much better track, more or less in the same style as **Shaft**, only much more powerful and aggressive. **Die Arschgebuiden** are next: some sort of core with slight metal influences and lyrics in german, two tracks, just like **Notwehr**. The final band on side A are the satanic metallers **Malaphar** with one track. This tracks has a better sound than on their demo which is reviewed elsewhere in de magazine, but it is still not really convincing. It's pure and brutal death metal with vocals in the vein of the godly **Reactor** (rip) grunter (also in **Babylon Sad** and now in **Sickening Gore** - debut album out soon!) Side B starts with **Dead Beat**, somewhere between hardcore and metal with hysterical vocals. **Disbelief** follows, real metal starting with a cool Slayerish riff, sounds like old thrash metal with some death metal vocals. Next is **Die Terrorpunker**, not really serious punk stuff, some parts are waste of vinyl. I prefer some **Norsak** tracks instead! Finally **Woodstock** and **The Peanutz**, German hardcore with lyrics in german. I don't know the exact price, but about \$11,- or \$12,- will be okay I think. **Gastarbeiter rec**, Schulstrasse 21, D-6101 Wersau, Germany.

Roel van Reijmersdal

The Way of Nihilism (Swi)

Compilation tape '93

The dark master of Nihilism is back! Gora, the brain of the most emotional industrial band **Mordor** grips you again. A compilation release with **Gora**, **Vorsaken**, **Art'Sneider**, **Odessa**, **Cult of Noise**, which are probably noisy projects of Gora to unload his sick mind which he used for the new **Mordor** track 'In Search of the Pure Negation' which is of course the leading track on this tape. This track is styled in the latest **Mordor** 'Way of Nihilism' what can be found on their perfect 'Csejthe' demo. Again the same vocals, also the female one. But 'In Search of...' is more industrialized than black metallised like their previous work. It's like a current spark, screaming in the dark again. The real doom fans have to order this tape (85 min!) for that only **Mordor** track! \$6,- G.O.R.A., CP 360, 1020 Renens VD1, Switzerland.

Harold Dekkers



DROWNED PRODUCTIONS



DEMIGOD
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At last!! The long awaited
 debut album by one of
 the best bands, is finally out!!
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 (DC/DL/DM-005)



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 (DC-017)



CENOTAPH
"T.B.A."
 2nd album CD
 (DC-???)



ROTTREVORE
"Iniquitors"
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 Out 01.11. '93
 (DC-010)



SHUB-NIGGURATH
"The black goatlike arise"
 CD
 (DC-???)

7"ep releases: Purtenance/Immortal Fate/Darkified/
 Belsebub/Elbereth/Intoxication/Rotten Flesh/Severance/
 Spontaneous Combustion/Iconoclast/Catacomb (Fra)/
 Deteriorot/Imprecation.

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