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NEGLECTED FIELDS

YOUR SHAPELESS BEAUTY

M.U.D.

PARASOPHISMA

## Splendid be...

Greetings from the very depths of Asia Minor. It's really great for me to be in front of those who share the same interests & values of subterranea. Last two moths were nothing but perfect examples of how can "preparing a zine" be a serious source of headache. Personally I think I've put enough effort in Sonic Splendour to be proud of this final form which somehow found its way to your hands. Naturally, I can not claim that I've illustrated my ideal content in this debut issue but after all what kind of zines start without a need of improvement?

What I decided for this bunch of papers beforehand was that I would try to express my individual opinions without letting any kind of fanaticism, as objective as I could. I hope I'm succeeded.

On the other hand please do not consider Sonic Splendour as the outlets of a single person. Instead, seeing every reader of these lines as a potential contributor makes more sense to me. Due to this fact your any kind of cooperation (reviews, interviews, scene reports, articles or just feedback about the zine) is more than welcomed. OK that must be enough for this time, I wish you all a good reading.

Open your mind for the worthy sounds of universe & support those who deserve it!

-Utku-

### A pile of thank yous goes to the followings;

My Family, Emre (Rorart...when?), Can (mayor of Benelux), Marek (pub dweller), Can Elmaci (PhotoShop insani), Haluk (computer support), Behcetos (The Dual Band), Sergey & Neglected Fields, Nico & Your Shapeless Beauty, Dalibor & Parasophisma, Micha & M.U.D., Przemek & Mad Lion Records, Pavel & Metal Breath Production, Martin & shindy Productions, Rahab & Ordo Draconis, members of AFC (keep the cult alive!), Mr. Dave Mustaine, ODTU ambels, Room313 crew, Zid Muzik and several perfumeuse ostrogenum sources that make life endurable...

### SONIC TEAM

**Editor** : Utku Usta

**Contributors:** Marek Husarik, Can Baskent

**Artworks** : Emre Onol, Utku Usta

### PLAYLIST

- 1) Nile Amongst catacombs of...
- 2) Cryptopsy Whisper Supremacy
- 3) Gorefest(RIP) everything
- 4) Kovenant Animatronic
- 5) Clawfinger selftitled
- 6) Alanis Morissette Unplugged
- 7) Anathema Alternative 4
- 8) Depeche Mode The Singles...
- 9) Forgotten Silence Senyaan
- 10) Type O Negative World...

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## NEWS FROM BELOW...

◆ French doom band Synoptia's brand new CD entitled *Shades Of Ancient Memories* is out now and can be obtained from this address;

c/o Bibault  
133, Rue du Cheche-Midi  
75015 Paris/France or  
[synoptia@yahoo.com](mailto:synoptia@yahoo.com)

◆ Vegan Resistance Records is a small but at the same time interesting company. All the money coming from VRR releases is donated to a special account in order to help people who got into trouble with the law due to animal rights actions.

Agathocles/Bloodsuckers, Agathocles/Warsore EPs are available for DM 10/\$6 from the following address;  
c/o Karsten Peters  
Avenariusstrasse 9, 22587  
Hamburg/GERMANY

◆ Sculptured's second full length *Apollo Ends* should be out on The End Records when you read these lines.

[www.theendrecords.com](http://www.theendrecords.com)

The End Records  
556 S. Fair Oaks Ave. #101-111  
Pasadena CA 91105 USA

◆ If you are sure that pathological themes suit your taste then you've surely heard about Impetigo. Well, Razorback Records will be releasing an Impetigo tribute CD this year. Prepare yourself for another lesson of surgery!

[www.razorbackrecords.com](http://www.razorbackrecords.com)

◆ Pavement Music keeps on working hard for this year. Scheduled items are Altar, Malevolent Creation and Kreator. Check out [www.pavementmusic.com](http://www.pavementmusic.com) for details.

◆ Another news related to Impetigo. After the successful work for Depresy, Shindy Productions has just released an Impetigo/Ingrowing split MCD (late night necrophiliac fun+peristaltical IX). Another coming stuff that

will please those grind fans among you is Haemorrhage/ Mastic Scum live split tape (May 2000).

[http://shindy\\_prod.tripod.com/](http://shindy_prod.tripod.com/) or  
c/o Martin Brzobohaty  
Sadova 17, Adamov 67904  
CZECH REPUBLIC

◆ Cryptopsy continue writing new material. Some new titles: and then it passes, we bleed...

◆ American doom band Seasons Of Mourning will soon release their debut disc called *In Praise Of The Dark*.  
[www.seasonsofmourning.com](http://www.seasonsofmourning.com)

◆ Err Anal Cunt would be an extraordinary choice for a Pantera tribute, wouldn't it? Guys from Eclipse Records have already thought about this subject and decided to release a new CD named PANTHER\_A Tribute To Pantera. Confirmed bands are Pissing Razors, Disarray, Anal Cunt, and Lunatic...

[www.eclipserecords.com](http://www.eclipserecords.com)  
Eclipse Records Corporation  
23 Ward Avenue Butler  
NJ 07405-1117 USA

◆ Canadian Neoblast Records keeps on supporting the death metal scene. Neuraxis(CAN)+ Defiled(JAP) split CD will be available soon.

[www.neoblast.com](http://www.neoblast.com) or  
Neoblast Productions  
2540 Sherbrooke E. #2  
Montreal, Qc  
CANADA H2K 1E9

◆ Sad news; American Poets of The Plague and Japanese melodic death metal band Eternal Forest decided to quit.

◆ Samael's new video entitled *Infra Galaxia* will be available from Century Media soon.

[www.centurymedia.com](http://www.centurymedia.com)

◆ Czech Redblack has just released a long awaited tribute to legendary black metal band Master's Hammer. The whole stuff looks like a Czech scene report.

# NEGLECTED FIELDS

In order to make your gray matter work, let me name some bands; Pestilence, Atheist, Cynic, Carcass and Death! Yes, definitely I'm talking about those who convert composing music into a difficult job. Maybe nowadays technical death metal seems to have lost its mighty throne among the hearts of the masses but there are still some musicians following that glorious path. The answers are coming directly from the shores of Baltic.

***Hello Sergey! How's it going in Riga? I hope you feel eager enough to answer some of my inquisitive questions.***

Greetings Utku! Everything seems to be OK here instead of inexplicable interest to our band from Turkey, ha! It's the second intie in last two months I'm doing for a mag from your country, so it's time to be astonished. I never thought we're so well known in Turkey...

***Quite a long time passed since the release of Synthinity so let's start with band's current situation. Do you have any news from NF front that will please us?***

Yes, of course we have some news, but I can't call them very good. First of all, we've got a new member, keyboard player George, he is a professional musician and soon will be a doctor of music. After he's joined the band we've traveled to Swedish Abyss studio and recorded new album called Mephisto Lettonica. And that's the only good news since after the record we're still searching for a new deal. Also the tour with Marduk through ex-Soviet Union territory/ Belarus, Moscow, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania was planned but never happened. (I hope you've heard about it? If not, it's a theme for another big intie, very interesting!) So, yes, we have some news as you can see.

***Apart from Neat Metal, Eldethorn released Synthinity on tape format. Correct me if I'm wrong but it's***

***distribution contains only Baltic states. What was your aim in making such a decision?***

You're wrong a bit. Eldethorn never released anything on tapes, Baltic edition available for Latvia/ Lithuania/

Estonia only was released by ourselves. I don't know why Eldethorn don't deal with tapes, but believe me it was hard enough to get from them even this permission. I think they believe that everybody prefers CDs. But in our countries tapes are still very popular, that was the reason to do it.

***Could you please tell us more about your "not so well known" tape called The Single? Whose idea was it to put Iron Maiden & The Prodigy songs together? I guess it's a bit too offensive for true metal heroes to see both bands in the same place...***

First of all, I'm very astonished again! How do you know about the single tape? It was done also for Baltic states only and was released as a limited edition, and if you've heard about it you're wizard! But let's return to subject. We've already finished the recording of Synthinity in Tico-Tico, and when we were back to Latvia, guys from Eldethorn told us that album is too short(37min), and they also need bonus for Japanese edition. We've answered that Neglected Fields neither doom or gothic band and it's hard enough to find the album of technical death which is longer than 40 minutes, but if they want we could record



some covers. They agreed, and here arrived the question which songs to do. We decided to play 2 different covers, totally different. Iron Maiden song was taken as we like this band very much and it's very usual thing to do cover like this. And here we decided to do "Breathe" as something very different, even non-metal. Needless to say-when we've recorded it we were totally delighted! It's so fucking hard, dark and brutal, so very soon it became a hit between local metalheads and was played several times even on major radio stations as something very strange but attractive. Was it offensive to put together this song with "Only the good die young"? I don't think so. Everybody must listen to it and decide himself. You should find "Breathe" as a bonus on European CD version, and both of them on Japanese licensed CD.

***Regarding trends dwell in the underground scene, you seem to have chosen the difficult path for your musical career. And I know you spend a lot of time on both composing and writing. So can we speak about a perfectionist character which has a great role on above-mentioned facts?***

Yes, you can call it this way, but we prefer to say we're just trying to do everything as good as possible. Concerning difficult path...I think you're right. It's hard to compose this music and it seems not so popular. But I think it depends on promotion very much. You know our music on Synthinity was close to "Death" music. And let's remind what's happened when Death released "Sounds of Perseverance"? Who'll dare to proclaim it was unpopular album? We just have not found the right people to release Synthinity that's all.

***Anyway I'm personally wondering if I should search for a metaphorical meaning behind the name "Neglected Fields". Does it have a background, which you'd like to tell?***

It's the first time( or second?) I heard this question from the west.(West, we?/ed.)



Usually every intie coming from ex-USSR contains this inquiry, and honestly said, I never answered this. Let's do it this way-you've never tried to find any secret sense under car moniker "apel" ? The same with NF, it sounds good and that's all and if it has any meanings it's our secret. Guess!

***Purely subjective but bands from post Iron curtain countries mostly tend to sing about folkloric/ epic/ pagan themes. What's your opinion, is it because of their common "neglected" past??***

I think the main reason to use pagan themes is the fact that Iron Curtain was destroyed absolutely not so long time ago, and when it was done, pagan/ folk was the world underground music trend. And guys from ex-USSR decided: aha, they want it. They'll have it! By the way, to write lyrics/ music based on something already existing is much easier than to imagine everything yourself. I know what I'm talking about, I used this way too, ha ha ha!

**Let's change the subject: concerning your complex musical structure I guess Chuck Schuldiner & co. are still at the top of your fave lists. What do you think about their last album Sounds of Perseverance?**

Sounds of perseverance sucks! Nothing new, absolutely. It's just a mix of Individual... and Symbolic. Of course it was pleasant to hear Chuck again, but I expected something great as usually and get Sounds of... By the way, usually Chuck asked to play with him really good musicians, but this time... I don't know why he's playing with this drummer, as he's very strange for my taste... Anyway, it's my subjective opinion, let's wait for his next creation.

**And what about Latvia? Where do you recommend me to visit firstly? I've learned that the highest point of Latvia is Gaising (just 310 m)**

He he he, maybe you have some grandmother arrived from here?? You really know too much about Latvia! Honestly said, the only thing I could recommend you here are girls! For you, coming from Turkey, they'll be exotic enough, as most of them are blondes. (Yeah, blonde addicted and proud of it! /ed.) Concerning nature... We don't have anything special. The sea is better in your country (or in Norway if you prefer cold water), mountains- in Czech or Slovak Republics. Maybe forests?? But forests in Russia are better...I don't know. Come here, we'll see. Anyway, it will not be boring, ha!

**I've almost forgotten. What I also noticed on Synthinity's cover is that you've specially thanked to your all ex/present girlfriends. It seems band members spend much more time with girls than they do in search for a permanent drummer?! See question Nr. 9, ha ha ha! It seems I've already answered this question talking about girls as the biggest property of Latvia. It's much easier to find a girl than a drummer. That's a problem.**

**Well, I'm honestly running out of quality questions. Thanx a lot for your patience. Free your mind & close this chapter with a few words please.**

Thank you very much for your interest and time. All those inties have intrigued me so much, so I want to come to your country once and see those people who know about Gaizinkaln and limited single edition. Thanx again and check out "Mephisto Lettonica" as soon as it will be out!

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## Oldsletter

The first Turkish written Newsletter  
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TURKEY

e-mail: [canbaskent@yahoo.com](mailto:canbaskent@yahoo.com)



## YOUR SHAPELESS BEAUTY

*Being one of the respected exports of France, Your Shapeless Beauty has certainly covered a considerable distance on the way to reach musical maturity. Last year just before the releasing date of their second CD "Sycamore Grove" I had a chance to have a chat with vocalist Nico. But due to some ridiculous conditions interview has been delayed so many times. Yet I'm sure it will be interesting enough for you to read some opinions on Brigitte Bardot and French National Front!*

***Bonjour Nico! How's it going in Montpellier? What did you do yesterday for example?***

Hello to you! I can say that things are going quite well here, I don't think I have to complain about something special. What I did yesterday? Well, I worked as everyday, then I came back home to answer my mail and after that I spent my evening and a part of the night at a gothic pub owned by a very close friend of mine, a guy who plays in Darken. And finally I had all my night long with my Princess Sabra, as every night.

***Your new album is out now on Adipocere Records. Can you tell us something about this subject?***

The album actually should be out when you read these lines but it has been delayed so many times that nothing is really sure. All I can say about the new CD is that it lasts 69 minutes and contains 6 tracks of heavy dark metal in an Iron Maiden & Cradle of Filth way! The first digipak edition with a complete unique layout is limited to 3000 copies. Beware: It is a masterpiece of artwork!

***Your second demo tape was re-released on a silver disc by Adipocere and you have chosen this label again***

***. It seems that their work on YSB is satisfying...***

We are very satisfied with the work of Adipocere, except maybe some problems of delay but they are not really guilty for that. They realize a very good promotion for us in the national magazines and in the fanzines all around the world. They give us all we need and furthermore, they are great friends of us for years. We support Adipocere! Hail the CFTWM!!!

***Your Shapeless Beauty is defined as gothic because of the general mood and the extensive use of keyboards, as black because of vocals and so on... Where does the truth lie? Do you think that these kinds of labelizations are essential?***

The truth lies in your heart. Label it as you want as long as you appreciate it, as long as you feel it deep inside. I don't give a fuck to these stupid labelizations, it has no meaning, you see? If you like something, do you need to know if it is this or that? No! And so it's the same with YSB. It's metal, that's all. To stick a style on a band is purely commercial, it has nothing to do with music. ***Having various influences from different types certainly makes your***

**music open to development. So in which direction will it evolve?**

I guess our music will become heavier, but at the same time we try to explore new fields, new dimensions, new sounds. We will play metal for sure but we don't want to play always the same thing, it has no interest. *We evolve in music like we evolve in life.* We change and so does our music. We have so much influences that I can't say what kind of music is the most present in YSB.

**What about your lyrical inspirations, are you interested in literature?**

Yes, literature used to be one of my passion. Now that I work I have too little time to read as I did. But I like authors like Shakespeare, V. Wolf, R. Conrad, T. Gauthier, Baudelaire, F. Villon and some others like Milton. My lyrics are a mix of my life, my true experience of life and what I would crave for, my dreams. They deal with love & death, life & hate, passion & depression. It depends on my state of mind. Moods and feelings also influence me as landscapes. Everything that surrounds me can inspire me as long as it touches me deeply.

**Where does the name of the band come from or why didn't you choose "true black" ones beginning with Diabolical or Satanic???**

The name of the band is my modest contribution. It depicts the remembrance of a person who died and whose image fades away slowly but surely, all that remains is a silhouette, and all we can see is her shapeless beauty, only memories... As you can imagine, it has a great meaning for me and for my brothers of the band. We didn't want of these stupid cliché names like "mystical monkeys in the shades of frozen moon of hell, at midnight... of death". It has no sense I think it is time to grow up. Don't think that I'm a pretentious guy but these bands' names are useless and reflect the mediocrity of them.



**My previous interview mate Ahumats (Eviternity) had some complaints about fascist black metal bands in France. What do you think of this subject? Are there any movements or organizations, which can be seriously dangerous?**

Ah, the guy from Eviternity/ Stille Volk is a great friend of mine. Yes, in France there are so called fascist bands, which are totally shitty and juvenile. How can you imagine Rock n Roll and metal, which is a music of rebellion, being played by fascists? It's absurd and has no sense. In YSB our position is clear: We fuck them! The only race I hate is the race of the assholes!!! There are some organizations but we will have to be careful if we don't act now. We must stop this plague.

**As you have shared the same stage with giants like My Dying Bride, The Blood Divine Krabathor... Which gig is the most "easy to remember"?**

We love all our gigs (even the bad ones!), because we have always been dedicated 100% to the crowd in the audience. A YSB gig is pure heavy power through your face. We don't need make-up or whatever to create something because we are honest. But I have to admit that our "Live In Paris" with Forest Of Souls was our real fave one. Hail Forest Of Souls! That was our birthday: 30<sup>th</sup> gig!

***You are also running Chanteloup Creations, which released Spanish NAZGUL's demo recently. Can you give us some information upon these activities?***

Chanteloup Creations is a tape label dedicated to the underground. We released so far 23 demos and new ones are scheduled. We help the bands to get a better recognition, the whole thing is without any money for we don't have a single \$! But we give the few we have to these bands. Don't hesitate to write at my address for a full mail-order list.

***When you ask someone to speak about France, he/she will probably describe it as the land of romance, art, cafes, beautiful streets etc. But I don't think that French people completely agree with these statements. What about you?***

Well I would say it's the postcard for tourists. Our country is really marvelous but on the other hand we have a high unemployment rate, rising of extremists, indifference. That's not a dream as you could imagine. Sometimes I think of leaving this country which would make me cry but I'd like to live near experience. France becomes more and more cosmopolite, which is an interesting thing. Why don't you come to drink one of our famous coffee in our so great cafes? But the myth of French girls is not a lie! Not also concerning them we are said to be great lovers ... why not?

***Do you remember the legendary blonde Brigitte Bardot? What is she doing at the moment?***

This bitch is now really awful and she has become an ally of the National Front, the French right wing extremists' party. Some say her dog has fuck her...

***Well that's all I think. I would like to thank you for your answers and patience. Is there anything that you want to add?***

Well, first let me congratulate you for your really great& original interview. Thanx. Long live to you and your zine. I would like to

send my hails and respect to Princess Sabra, Denis, Forest Of Souls, Darken, Droys, Merrimack, Hirilorn, Matutina Noctem, Winds Of Sirius, Stille Volk, Akhenaton and many more. To you people, choose your way and don't try to imitate somebody for the copies are always worse than the original. Support the underground, support us for we are honest& sincere! Hail to you, hail CFTWM!!

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34000 Montpellier/ FRANCE

**Label Contact:**

Adipocere Records  
BP 2, 1540  
Vonnas/ FRANCE







*Parasophisma is nothing but a perfect example of what East Europe can offer to hungry souls in terms of quality music. Leaving aside their quite untraditional lyrical concept, the music of Parasophisma already represents an escape from clichés. Dalibor Figura (drums) answered my questions...*

***Hello Dalibor! I hope everything's fine there. Do you feel relaxed enough to answer the following questions?***

Hi Utku! Certainly, one more beer and we can start.

***Let's start the interview with some information about band's present situation and about the things changed after the release of "Sole Light..."?***

There haven't been many changes since the release of "Sole Light..." Maybe the only change is that we have more gigs. We have had a few offers to release our debut CD from quite known and good labels from Belgium and France but unfortunately we couldn't accept their conditions because they ask inadequate investment from the band. So, now I'll contact some labels I've chosen

and we'll see. Also a saxophone player will enrich our line up so our new record might be surprising.

***When did the idea of creating Parasophisma appear in your mind? And do you have any goals to realize with its existence, perhaps an outlet of emotions??***

The band was formed in 1994 and a year later the first demo entitled "One of never-ending possible progressions and variations, which rise maybe..." was released. The demo, which was compared to the early production of My Dying Bride, was spread in the circulation of 450 copies. New members' arrival was a good opportunity to create new material. So in September 1998 the band released their second demo called "Sole light point in void tangle of luminous rays of incompatible directions" which consisted of eight songs, surprising the world with their experimental doom death heavy jazz metal with the elements of enchanting flute and female vocal. Since July 1999 Parasophisma has been sheltered by Meret Productions' protecting shield...

When creating Parasophisma I didn't think about some special goals. Drums playing have always attracted me and that's why I started to practice it. It's understandable that a drummer can not perform his art alone and so it was necessary to find other members for the band. Later we started to take the music and the playing more seriously. Through the music I could pass my ideas and thoughts to other people with the help of the lyrics. After all nowadays, I think, we are able to express everything we want to say through the music.

***The lyrical topics you've chosen remain quite untraditional when compared to other bands. Can we say that Parasophisma plays for both brain & heart? And what's your view upon those who keep singing about "black wind, fire and steel" for ages??***

Maybe our lyrics are in comparison with other groups untraditional but it was my intention. We don't want to be similar to someone



concerning the music, lyrics and the name of our band too. There's only one Parasophisma. That's why I'll not agree with your comparison to Forgotten Silence. What we might have in common is the unorthodox approach to music, styles of music and their combination. Even these are compiled rather differently

However that doesn't concern this question. I think you can say that we play for brain and heart because we want to make the fans think about what we sing. We want them to think about the lyrics and not only to consume it thoughtlessly. Then they maybe will think even about themselves, their existence and way of living. And as for those who sing about "black wind, fire and steel" it's their choice, if they like it why not? I wouldn't dare to present with such lyrics but nevertheless everything depends on taste of groups and fans. Even these bands will surely find their supporters.

***Your both demo titles were extremely long. Can we label this as a trademark of Parasophisma?***

Yes, we could take it as a trademark of Parasophisma. But it wasn't created intentionally. We just wanted the cover picture and the whole conception of songs to be expressed as precisely and exactly as possible. That's why we have so long titles of both demos and some songs. Our next record won't be probably different. We will see. Everything changes by the time.

***Everything changes/evolves by the time so does the music. As your music has a strong progressive side, will we be able to see some more experimental elements in Parasophisma's future releases?***

As I have mentioned at the beginning of our interview there will be soon, I mean in our new songs, a soprano saxophone. There might appear more jazz elements in our music.

Who knows what will our music be like. It will be surely more technical but still melodic. Maybe it will be also a psychedelic. I can't

say anything concrete yet. But it won't be easy to listen.



***Well, this statement is a bit subjectively generalized but I think that East European bands are bringing fresh ideas while a majority of western bands keep on following trends. What's your opinion?***

I think I can agree with it. However it is really relative. Even among some East European bands you can find a lot of poseurs and bands with cliché methods and image that is the same as the western bands have. I think it is caused also by the unwillingness of the West to accept anything new or experimental and untraditional. For example in the USA there is preferred brutal death metal. Anyway you can find some western bands that are trying to go their own way and they don't care for any trends. But everything depends on the bands. If they believe in their own "music face" my previous words were useless and there is no need to talk about it.

***What do you think about your colleagues; Forgotten Silence? They***

**have an excellent musical potential but waited so long to get a record deal. Is it only mischance or are the major labels deaf enough to ignore quality music??**

I've already touched this question before so I'll continue. It is shameful but I've known FS only for several months. Now I think that it is our best band. As for waiting for label I can not answer it. As I read in their booklet, Senyaan is already their second CD (But third full-length release /ed.) and it was released by our greatest label M.A.B. However out of my own experience I can say that if the band plays at least a bit good music then some big labels offer a contract but with quite bad conditions. We have had such contracts as well but unfortunately bands which don't have good financial background can't accept it. That is our case as well because all the members of Parasophisma are students and we can just manage to finance recording of material maximum once a year and release of a few tapes. But most of the great firms, I think, don't care for a demo band and they don't either listen to the tapes they obtain. Maybe when they obtain a CD, which was released by a small label then it is different. Anyway I think they bet on their tried favorites who are already well known.

**So when should we be ready for the next strike of Parasophisma?**

Well, perhaps when we save up enough money for studio and all things concerning it. And also when we choose the best songs. I think it won't be before summer 2000. We mainly want to get "sole light..." among foreign fans and to find as many people and listeners who somehow like our music as it is possible.

**And here comes the last and the best question: Have you ever drunk Becherovka??**

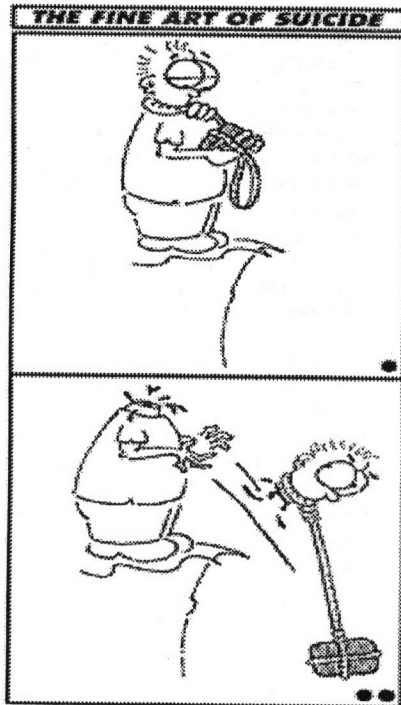
Ha ha... the best question- the best drink. Of course I've drunk becherovka. Even though it's quite an expensive drink it's one of a few that you can drink now in our country. Slivovice-plum brandy is very good too. Those who want to try the best drinks from our country can write to my address.

**Well, that's all I think. I hope you're not bored while answering. Thanx very much. Now close this chapter with a few words please.**

Thank you very much for this very interesting interview. Thanx to each fan who was interested in this interview and who read this to the end and thanx to everybody who supported us by buying our tapes. Stay thinking!!!

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CZECH REPUBLIC

**Label contact;**  
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Miroslav "Keli" Ilek  
Ukrajinska 15  
62500 Brno- Bohunice 25/ CZECH REP





# M.U.D.

*Stands for Metal Underground Distribution. Located in Germoney, MUD is quite a new activity but with its reliable work, will soon be well known. At the beginning of this year Micha & I decided to do exchange interviews with each other. He published my words in his newsletter called Nuntius Umbrarum and now it's my turn to let you know his opinions.*

***Hi Micha! I hope you are feeling eager enough to cope with some curious questions. How's life over there? Do you have any interesting details from yesterday for example?***

Well Utku, everything is alright in Germoney. We all have survived the turn of the years. I'm a little bit disappointed, because also this time didn't come the end of the world; no computer crashes, no reign of chaos, no hypertsunamis and no open bank safes (worst of all/ed.). One time, only one time in my life I wanted to experience the total world crash. Maybe next year.

***Do you remember the exact time of your falling into this swamp called underground? Whom did you contact in the very beginning?***

The absolutely exact moment I really can't remember. I have to avow that I'm engaged with metal in general not more than seven years. When I was young, I listened to various styles of music: pop, disco, funk, reggae, rock, all that stuff but no metal. I grew up in East Germany, and although there was a metal/ hard rock scene (I guess) I didn't have any interest in it. The hardest music for me was played by the Rolling Stones. They were my faves for many years. Sometimes I heard some songs

of Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden and so on, but it doesn't kick me.

Maybe it was too strange or abnormal to me, I don't know. After the breakdown of the system in East Germany I got my first contacts with other styles and suddenly I pointed out that there is fundamentally harder stuff in the world. Ass-kicking music with heart, soul and brain, describing the real or imaginary life and showing the other side of living here on earth. It was very fascinating to me and

it was holding me tight. I think all other kinds of music, certainly except the classical one, are synthetic, heartless and only there for the satisfaction of the avarice of some major label idiots. Apart from this there are enough people, classing themselves to metal scene, which are going the same way like pop or rock artists. On this occasion I have to say thanks again to a buddy called Hotte who set me going this way by tormenting my ears with Slayer, Morgoth, Sodom, Bathory, Type O Negative, Kreator and all other stuff.

***As far as I'm concerned Mud and Nuntius Umbrarum are quite new activities. When did the idea dawn in your mind?***

Last year in late summer was the point I thought: both just certain media want to talk down the metal scene and its rising generation or it is really standing on the tilt. So I want to know the reality and I checked some metal magazines in question of bands without a label deal. Then I contacted them by letters or e-mails, asking for their interest in distribution. The first bands were Nachtmahr and Sun Of Sadness from Germany and Parasophsima from Czech Republic. For naming this enterprise I called my "baby" metal underground distribution (mud). Short time later I got the idea for the newsletter, which should not only be a distro list but also give information about the bands, contain other features (a preface with my thoughts about the scene- the next text will be better, I hope). And now there

are also interviews and I found some people helping me in lay out and writing. I wouldn't call this newsletter a fanzine because it's too small. Due to the fact that "Mud distribution list or newsletter" sound really shitty to me I called it Nuntius Umbrarum.

***Could you please introduce the titles you have been distributing under the name MUD?***

Currently I have 13 bands at mud. I'll introduce them as short and complete as I can. Sun Of Sadness, a very very good gothic metal band released their second album "Picture"(see the review/ed.). It's not my favorite style but they are really fucking good. Nachtmahr, one of the first bands I contacted, are playing atmospheric black metal and their new demo "Schattenfurst" is a 5-track CD. Parasophisma from Czech Republic surprise with a very own style of experimental doom death metal. Necrobiosis call their style extreme metal with black and death influences, and so it sounds. Currently they have some line up problems and the future is not sure. Brute Chant from Latvia present a 4-track tape "Defect God" with death metal. Then we have the weirdos of Grabnebfursten, playing a crazy mix of death and black metal. The last tapes of their "Seelenpoker" demo are EXCLUSIVELY available at mud. Euthanasie emphasize that the name of the band only means easy death. More important is the very good death metal at the "Brainblasting" demo, pure death metal. Bizarr is a one-man black metal "band" with old style and raw sound. XIV Dark Centuries call their "For Your God" demo dark metal, I would say it's death/black metal in semi-professional outfit. Mortal Intention and its side project Bloody Passion devote themselves to black metal, the first one combines it with death metal, the other one celebrates pure and extreme black metal. Wald is one of the really good newcomers in the German scene by playing a clean and pushing death/black metal mixture. The demo "Lords Of Chaos" is EXCLUSIVELY available at mud. Also as highlight at mud I would rate E605. The

"Better Luck... Next Time!" CD is a demo with album length, containing straight thrash/death metal songs which throw into the shade many other bands with big deals. Sometimes I can't believe that they have to produce their material themselves. Maybe in the next time I get some new bands, one of them is playing melodic metal. It's a new and strange style at mud!

***What I noticed in the preface of NU is that you have several suspicions about the contemporary metal scene. So what does "hard, merciless and ever right in the face" mean to you personally?***

Think metal should not sound happy, easy or "digestible". Guitars have to be heavy & pushing, the drumming fast, the bass should turn up the bowels and the man (or woman) with the voice must not take prisoners. Fuck all ballads!

***So can we speak about a special policy in distributing stuff or do you have any criteria that sometimes forces you to refuse bands?***

The policy is: The band, if possible without a deal, want the distribution by mud and play metal, black, death, gothic, power, speed or whatever. There will be no band with an obvious fascist or racist attitude or such lyrics, signs and so on.

***Correct me if I'm wrong but apart from legendary speed/thrash boom in eighties, Germany does not seem so productive in terms of emerging new schools of metal. However I believe that it is strongly related to the hugeness of your scene. What's your opinion?***

Do you have time and space for a novel? That's a really difficult question and there are so many minds about it as people talking about it. In my opinion the scene is too large and will be shrink in the next year(s). Today every little shit comes on tape or CD, because it's very easy to release every brain vomit too. I hope German scene won't get same conditions as Nordic (Swedish, Norwegian) scene. We have a



strong and hopeful underground, but most people are more interested in the ever-same sounding "incest metal". It's sad!

**Can you name any promising /young German bands which you think they posses adequate potential to shake the world?**

Shake the world sounds good! I'd like to name Wald, E605 from mud (naturally!) and then Dark Shades, Spawn, Hagridden and Immortal Remains. I'm not a prophet but I think they have the greatest potential.

**Germany has an extensive industrial capacity and relatively a large amount of foreign workers. Since I know there are approximately 2 million Turkish migrants living in your country, I would like to ask if you have any Turkish friends etc.**

As long as I remember, I worked together with foreign people. I have no problems with them. We respect each other friendship is an exaggeration. In any case we get on good with each other.


**Another non-musical question, this time about Haider & Austria subject. What is your view upon that topic or should we consider those above-mentioned name as a threat?**

I know also Germans in 1933 didn't think that Hitler would bring a world war. Surely we have to pay attention. But at all we are 60 years later, the government in Austria was correctly elected by the people, in Carinthia (Karnten, the state of Austria where Haider is the head) live most of the foreigners in Austria, and strangely enough I heard that especially Turkish people like to live there and can't understand the whole commotion. And I think Austria (and Haider) is too small to become dangerous. Before they can erect a fascist Reich (with concentration camps and minorities extermination and such things) European community will strike. Times have changed.

**OK. I think that's all for now. I hope you didn't get bored while answering. Thanx for your patience. Any final words?**

Well, support underground because a house without a base is a castle in the air! The best address is mud- PO Box 1167, D-73110 Hattenhofen/ GERMANY or [m.u.d@t-online.de](mailto:m.u.d@t-online.de). And thanx for all!

**Note:** As some of the careful readers may notice, the election in Austria, which resulted as victory of Haider, was not a subject of the beginning of this year. In fact that passage was taken from one of our conversations with Micha after the actual interview date.



**DEPRESY**  
"Sighting"

CD / digipak / MC / t-shirt  
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(Includes exclusive part with video, photos and lots)

New album of these Slovak sorcerers is finally out!  
The music is atmospheric, melodic, mystic, technical, fast... but it is still DEATH METAL!!!  
Depresy will convince you that they are one of best bands coming out from Slovakia.  
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Shindy productions, Martin Brzobohaty, Sadova 17,  
679 04 Adamov, Czech Republic, e-mail: [shindy@telecom.cz](mailto:shindy@telecom.cz)



## OPINIONS...

**ARE LIKE ASSHOLES,  
EVERYBODY'S GOT ONE!**  
(Alexis Kieffer/Decibels Storm #8)

### **Samael "Eternal"**

**CD**

I think it is extremely useless to speak about the starting point of this band and of course the unquestionable evolution they got into. One thing I'm sure of is that Samael with such a manifestation of modern & mature metal music will definitely be succeeded in remaining one of the noble portraits of the scene. Futuristic themes combined with skillful musicianship... **Century Media**



### **Cryptopsy "Whisper Supremacy"** **CD**

Sometimes I really feel confused seeing how wide frames the term "death metal" possesses. OK this is one of those times because the style, which this Canadian subversive force performs, can not be compared to other death metal stuff such as...hmm... In Flames. To make things clear I must declare that Whisper Supremacy is an eight piece brutal, compact, straight in

the face death metal prescription that will strip the smile on your face off. This is how New York style works...**Century Media**

### **Promises "Understanding" MC**

Forget about all Moravian doom and Bohemian grind bands you know because we have an extraordinary stuff for this highly praised country. Understanding is Promises' second demo, which is released by Metal Breath Production on MC format. Musically speaking Understanding is more or less related to your "understanding" of Sentenced style music enriched with some doomy moments. It was pleasing at least for me to see these guys do not insist on playing retro-metal but they try to actualize it. However things will be more clear when their debut CD is out and we have to wait till March 2000.

Promises, Vaclav Aska,  
Plzenska 629/ II, Klatovy/ CZECH REP

### **The Kovenant "Animatronic" CD**

"Changing name was just a sign, they are no more playing metal, they are traitors nothing else..." Come on, things just can't be that bad. Leave these entire speculative shit asides and let the big press deal with it. After storming the world as an all-stars black metal band, it naturally turns into a painful process to start anew chapter. Although this starting smells more like an "economically correct" attitude, there's no sense in ignoring their musical quality. Well just think of two acclaimed names in the

contemporary metal scene; Marilyn Manson & Cradle of Filth. It seems just enough to describe The Kovenant as a hybrid of these two so is their space metal. Industrial arrangements and technolike beatings are perfectly combined with successful black metal feeling. Accept this as totally a new band or do whatever needed which you think will make you more flexible for Animatronic is too good to be ignored.

#### **Nuclear Blast**



#### **Cenotaph "Puked Genital Purulency" CD**

Turkish genitalian warriors gathered once again to present us another dose of emetic, trend-crushing (nice adjective/ed.) musical pandemonium. Cenotaph as the most active Turkish band in terms of underground has also proved its quality on technical musicianship in such a "difficult to perform" style like grind core. After all the production which is high above poor national standards will surely enable you to satisfy your vaginal turgor desires. If not, I kindly recommend you to get an 8mm somewhere and shoot your own snuff!!!

**Hammer**

#### **Music**

Cenotaph, Cem Devrim Dursun,  
PK 866, Yenisehir 06446, Ankara/TR  
E-mail: cemdur@yahoo.com

#### **Count De Nocte "Sorores Nocte Genitae" CD**

Without a doubt this band possesses the most informative biography I've ever read. It begins like this; Count De Nocte was formed in 1992 when four young guys from Finland decided to create extreme black metal music with Nordic touch... So I guess everything's clear about their creation in your mind. Musically speaking they have

nothing new or extreme (!) to offer but a well-played example of what their Norwegian colleagues are famous for. Tico-Tico autographed recording provides a pleasant listening. More? They have lyrics on darkness, raven etc. I'm sorry maybe I'm too dumb to feel what's called black metal elite but this kind of music was/is probably will not be my cup of tea, yet some black souls may enjoy.

Mad Lion Records, PO Box 3,  
32-606, Oswiecim, UPT6, POLAND

Count De Nocte, Jarma Hohtari,  
Puomikaari 3, 18300, Heinola KK,  
FINLAND

#### **Woeful Cry Magazine #1**

This bunch of papers brought me in tears, not woeful but cheerful tears!???

To be honest expecting such a massive improvement from a mediocre Turkish publication was the last thing to do for me. Ozan has been succeeded in burying Cemetaryzine deep and start a completely better magazine. What needs to be underlined here is that language used in Woeful Cry is really enjoyable when compared to Cemetary times. On the other hand glossy printing and neat lay out provide 100% visual satisfaction. This debut issue features interviews with some respected figures of underground such as Yearning, Night In Gales, Evereve, Paradigma... It's a pity that only Turkish version is available but after all it is worth checking out.

c/o Ozan Akoglu, 106 Sk. No:10/9,  
35290 Goztepe, Izmir/TURKEY

#### **Carpocrade "Blind Alley" DEMO**

Nothing but just this ridiculous drum sound is enough for me to throw this tape into garbage. The whole stuff is so juvenile and amateurish that I strongly believe it will be a sensible choice not to speak about details. I



hope these guys will think as much as I do for this review, before releasing anything. Somewhere in Turkey...

### **Sapikinek "Smells like teen pussy" DEMO**

Warning! If you think that you are one of those easily offended people, please skip this review. Well the story begins when 3 guys suffering from Mad Cow infection, decided to express their supreme desires for neighbour's 15- year-old daughter. After a while they managed to enlarge their perspectives with high school girl fetish. Smells like teen pussy (Congratulations for the name) offers 100% philanthropic orgasm with song titles like "purified milk dripping from sodomized cow" or "necrophiliac humanity beyond Nietzsche (Wow, talk about uber-mensch!). So if your ears can cope with grind core and you are sure of your sense of humour, check this purely underground piece out. [befendioglu@hotmail.com](mailto:befendioglu@hotmail.com)

### **Silence Diary June 99**

"It's nice to greet you all once again..." says the editorial in the first page. Well, personally speaking it is even nicer for me to be greeted by another issue of Silence Diary. With this seventh (third in English) one they guaranteed to be included in the category of long running zines, by the way new issue will be out when you read these lines. Bifrost, Ashes You Leave, Melancholy Pessimism, In Deed Hell 'zine, The End Records are Silence team's new victims and are questioned with an open mind mostly fueled by mighty Czech beer. This gathering of A4 pages has a good lay out which is enriched with some of Deather's (In deed hell) artworks. Convinced? So get in touch with Marek as soon as possible about his publication and some other things (For example he is a real expert on "Far Eastern Chicks" subject!).

c/o Marek Husarik, Vlkova 3, 62800

Brno / CZECH REPUBLIC

theredone@seznam.cz



### **Ordo Draconis "In Speculis Noctis" DEMO CD**

When the main aim is to create quality black metal, brain is something vital then evil attitude. Ordo Draconis is one of those few who seem to be aware of this fact. From the first minutes of music to the last page of booklet, one can easily feel the essence of professionalism. In Speculis Noctis consists of four distinct tracks in which the harsh aspects of black metal are perfectly balanced with stunning melodies & an extensive use of keyboards. Holding the head up in this overcrowded arena, Ordo Draconis will surely find quite positive feedback.

Archimedesstraat 12, 2871 XL Schoonhoven, THE NETHERLANDS

### **Gnome Magazine #1**

Some coincidences are capable of making life more endurable. Meeting Gnome is certainly one of them. The main point, which should be highlighted firstly, is its content. Literally Gnome is dedicated to black, pagan, folk side of music. I like the idea of specializing on a certain genre and supporting it just because you feel this way. Secondly there is a strong underground feeling which forces the editor Onur to search for fresh bands around less privileged territories. The interviews are few; Stille Volk, Bethzaida, Opera IX, Maniac Butcher, Hagalaz Runedance. Since I got this A5 publication by chance, I can't say anything about second issue's release date and other available versions but you can always ask at:



c/o Onur Gunel, PK 47 35601, Karsiyaka,  
Izmir/TURKEY

### **Metal Breath Magazine #42**

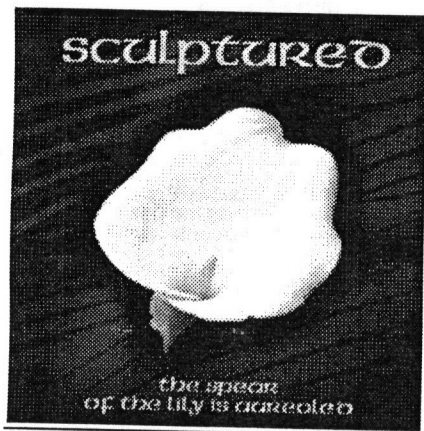
Ooops! Leaving aside two digit numbers, 7-8 are still good for a magazine. But 42<sup>nd</sup> issue is something quite amazing. Pavel Manas, who's the main person behind Metal Breath Production, continues his journalism career in this same titled publication. Having the tidiest lay-out I've ever seen, it contains detailed chats with important figures of Czech Republic such as Ingrowing, Forgotten Silence (gods!), Root... But since "Na to jsem se prave chtel zeptat" doesn't stand for anything in my ignorant mind, I could only watch band photos! (Quiz 1: In which language is above-mentioned magazine written? First correct answer will get a tremendous gift!)

#### **Metal Breath Production,**

Pavel Manas, PO Box 5, CZ-33011

Tremosna u Plzne/CZECH REPUBLIC

**E-mail: [metalbreath@post.cz](mailto:metalbreath@post.cz)**



### **Sculptured "The Spear Of The Lily Is Auroled" CD/MC**

Receiving this album was certainly one of the most important events of last year. Although they are coming from the USA-

land of mucous entrails& gynaecology- Sculptured stand as a monument of extremely melodic, emotional music. Genially arranged guitar parts (unconsciously comparable to Gothenburg style) and piano laden intermezzos make The Spear... dance in the edge of metal music. I must congratulate Polish Mad Lion because of giving opportunity to this really artistic act. Write "Sculptured" somewhere and don't forget. How many of the bands you listen to can present you a trumpet solo in the middle of a song? **MadLion**

#### **Sculptured, Don Anderson,**

817 N. W. 20<sup>th</sup>, Camas, WA 98607, USA

### **Horror High Magazine #6**

Another professionally made magazine, this time coming from Lithuania. Paulius, the editor (also the ex-vocalist of Ruination) is a very hardworking guy so it is easy to predict that 7<sup>th</sup> issue will be out soon. I don't think I'm the right person to write such reviews. Imagine your girlfriend is reviewing Laetitia Casta!! Strange & needles, isn't it? Anyway Horror High gives all essential points that you expect to find in a metal magazine. Informative interviews (Evol, Broken Hope, Profanity, Malevolence, Amalthea and many more) , clear & simple reviews, loads of contact addresses.

#### **Horror High Magazine,**

Paulius Puidokas, PO Box 2137, 2017

Vilnius, Lithuania

**E-mail: [impaled@takas.lt](mailto:impaled@takas.lt)**

### **Ingrowing "Cyberspace" CD**

After countless split releases, name of Czech grind core scene; another respected Ingrowing is ready to cause a sonic disorder with their second CD. Cyberspace indicates some worth to mention changes in Ingrowing's lyrical concept. After considerably "deformed" creations, the band has decided to float in quite original sources of inspiration. However there are still some

unchanged things such as powerful, brutal, technical song structures. Total 18 tracks (split with Contrastic is included as bonus) will satisfy every cadaveric need. **Shindy Productions + Tentamen Records**  
<http://members.xoom.com/ingrowing/>

**Shindy Productions,**

Martin Brzobohaty, sadova 17, Adamov  
67904, CZECH REPUBLIC

**E-mail:** [shindy@telecom.cz](mailto:shindy@telecom.cz)

**Cold House "Swim with me" MC**

Cold House remains quite extraordinary when compared to other features of this zine. Since I have never been into this kind of music very much, it is impossible for me to give a perfect definition. From the press I've heard that they are categorized as an ethno-jazz band but I would add a pinch of trip hop into this mixture. Really interesting arrangements combining traditional & electronic elements are structured among an impressive female voice. The main figure behind this project, M. Can Erdogan comes from a musician family perhaps this could be the reason for such a quality creation. **Aura Prod.**

**Ad Patres "Sensoria" MC**

This Polish band is certainly a proof of how huge potential East Europe has when it comes to music. Ad Patres is a young band, which succeeded in getting a deal after their first demo. I said young band but here we have no place for juvenile tricks. On the contrary Sensoria remains really mature when compared to current booming bands flooding in the market. Musically it is hard to decide on whether Sensoria is this or that. Clean vocals, doomy moments, frequently used keyboards and fast rhythmic passages are naturally not enough for you to form an opinion. But if I were you, I would count on this promising band. With a better production, they will be able to dance on the avantgarde floors. **Mad Lion**

**Ad Patres, Marek Wawrzyniak, ul. Lozowa,**  
**102/2, 61443 Poznan, POLAND**

**Tasmanian Alcoholic' zine #7**

Tasmanian Alcoholic?? Despite the name, content proves that it is not written by a bibber. Coming from Australia, TA features all characteristics of a fanzine; A5 size, imperfect Xerox, chaotic lay out and 100% DIY attitude. The musical side is mostly focused on grind/ crust/ punk scene and contains several related interviews, reports & reviews. Apart from that there is a strong political aspect which is in my opinion a really good idea. Articles about Tasmanian Aborigines and criticisms upon Serbia vs NATO concept + laws allowing more police authority surely make it interesting piece to read. Since I got TA in trade, I don't know how the preparation for next issue goes but you can always ask at:

Rodger, PO Box 990, Belconnen, ACT 2616,  
AUSTRALIA

**Ascraeus "Disgust" MC**

Ascraeus is one of the bands, which enable me to speak about a Turkish scene. I've been following them since the beginning and I'm afraid I'll be the first person disliking this third effort. I'm definitely not one of those who want to listen to the same stuff from the same band but believe me they could try a different direction/ better direction. Groovy thrash ala Machine Head does not suit my taste.

**Hammer Music, Mühürdar Cd. Akmar**  
**Pasaji, No: 70/12, 81300 Kadikoy, Istanbul/**  
**TURKEY**  
[www.hammermuzik.com](http://www.hammermuzik.com)



**Cornucopia "Boy meets the world... man hates the world! + I never killed a woman but I know how it feels"**

Thanks to Erik, I've received a 60- minute sonic assault consisting of a promo tape and an advance for split EP. Besides the cover, which is very attractive in my point of view (Wax-I Roose) the tunes Cornucopia play, are not sweet at all. Chaotic grind combined with some catchy punk rhythms will surely threaten your mental health. Unfortunately this tape deserves to be called posthumous because the band split up 6 months ago. Yet the members are involved in other projects.

Cornucopia, (Sm) Erik Minnen, Ginderbuiten 53, 2400 Mol, BELGIUM

**Sermon "Sea of meanings" DEMO**

Even though Sea of meanings is Sermon's first professional release, the guys are not simply newcomers at all. After almost countless line up & moniker changes it is really good to notice the same enthusiasm. According to the tunes I heard on this tape, sermon can be classified as a depressive doom band. Growling but deep vocals, slow paced guitar riffing, double bass kick makes me think of Tears Of Beggar (RIP) and Funeral sometimes. Leaving aside the drum programming which needs to be improved, sea of meanings is a good start. **Yucel Muzik**

Sermon, PK 661, 35213 Pasaport, Izmir/ TURKEY

Yucel Muzik, 1447 Sok. No: 1/D, Alsancak, Izmir/ TURKEY

www.yucelmuzik.com

**Depresy "Sighting" CD**

Joining forces with Depresy is doubtlessly a well-made decision for Shindy Productions. Which also released the first CD of the band entitled A Grand Magnificence. Personally I could not have a chance to listen to it but according to the positive feedback, I'm sure it gains sure success both in terms of music & commerce. Same thing, which I came

across in every Depresy review, was the statement that puts the band somewhere between Hypocrisy & Septic Flesh. Well, I can do nothing but agree. Mostly mid tempo song structures, taking shape with melodic guitarworks. Brutal vocalization and slow deep passages give enough strength to the music to be one of the honorable tunes of death metal. Maybe we can't completely speak about "fresh ideas transformed into music" but it's sure that Depresy knows how to combine existing material perfectly. (Note: The disc contains interactive part with video, photo gallery and band biography.) **Shindy Productions**  
<http://members.tripod.com/depresy/>

**Polarized "Innocence May" CASS EP**

Wow, what a nice surprise! This time coming directly from... Turkey! Yeah maybe after Pagan, Infected & Ominous Grief it seems to be the turn of Polarized to be one of the few leading figures of Turkish black metal scene. Innocence May combines elements of both Scandinavian and Greek styles with a noticeable influence from very doom acts. Really cool inlay design as well as the production quality proves how serious this quartet is. Well, what can I say more? Among the mass of featherbrained "hail Satan hail swastika" weaklings and hyper needless painted & cloned dollies... nice to meet you Polarized.

Atlantis Music, Caferaga Mh. Mühürdar Cd. No: 70/15, 81300 Kadikoy, Istanbul/ TURKEY

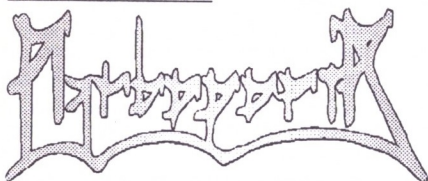
**Sun Of Sadness "Picture" Digipak**

German and gothic! Without a doubt these words are alone capable of associating some honorable names such as Lacrimosa and Empyrium. But I'm quite sure that you'll count Sun Of Sadness too in this category soon. To be honest I have a small prejudice towards Germany. According to this I mainly expect to hear thrash death from German bands but bands like SOS stand as a disproof monument. Picture contains really



impressive gothic tunes blended with the harsh, aggressive guitar riffing. Lyrics are in English, German, and French and there is a noticeable variation among songs and the use of instruments. However all these interesting features may not create something unique in the hands of young enthusiasts. Hopefully SOS has managed to realize it with their debut. This must be what is called maturity...

**SOS Records**, Nussbaumstrasse 25, D-Reinbach, GERMANY  
[www.sunofsadness.de](http://www.sunofsadness.de)



### **Mythopoeia "Scheps Ankh, Aesch Mezareph, Michani" MCD**

Thanks to some respected compilations (Breath of Doom, Blazing Obscurity) Mythopoeia's music-hermetic doom death metal as they describe themselves)- is not completely unknown to me. Leaving aside their debut which was accused of being monotonous, this second effort deserves your attention. Structured mainly among an Egypt concept, the musical side of Mythopoeia can not be examined within the frames of plain doom metal. Besides, varied vocal performances and interesting arrangements make this recording original to a certain extent. However I still think that Scheps... is not an easy piece for ordinary listeners. **Metal Breath Production/Equinox Production**

**Mythopoeia**, Pavel Kusniarik, Blatenska 12, 30702 Plzen/CZECH REP

### **Callenish Circle "Escape" MCD**

Callenish Circle was formed in 1992. And in 1995 they recorded their debut demo titled Lovelorn. After releasing it, they appeared in some compilations. In 1996 they recorded

their debut album Drift of Empathy. Only a year later Escape was released. It has 4 songs. When it is listened to, it can easily be realized that Callenish Circle is one of the masters of doom. Hard, brutal, melodic, emotional... They use hard guitar riffs and drums as a death-black band, but the result is a wonderful doom-death masterpiece. On the other hand music is not slow when compared to the other doom bands. Listen! P.S. Latest album "Graceful...yet forbidding" should be out on DSFA when you read these lines.

Line up: Jos Evers-guitar, Ronny Tyssen-guitar, John Gorissen-bass, Gavin Hartedrums, Patrick Savelkoul-vocals, Han Swagerman-keyboards

**Patrick Savelkoul**, Oude Baan, 14 61 22, AL Buchten(L), THE NETHERLANDS

**Reviewed by Can Baskent**

### **Whispering Gallery "Poems of a forgotten dream" MCD**

Whispering Gallery is a doom-metal band from Holland formed at the end of the year 1995. After some changes in line up they recorded their debut demo "Gallery of dreams" in June 97. With two clean male vocals and one grunter they combine melody and aggression with pure doom-metal art.

In April 1999 they released their first MCD Poems of a forgotten dream from Killerwhale records. It has 4 songs at 22 minutes. As they have different vocals, WG is a very interesting band. Different vocal styles and good recording & studio recording quality make this CD wonderful. Lyrics are included as well. If you are a doom fan and love the Dutch scene like me, order immediately. You won't be disappointed.

Line up: Reiner Vreeswijk- grunts /screams, Hubert ter Meulen- guitar/vocals, Pascal Spierings- drum/vocals, Barry van Trigbass, William van Dijk-guitar, Fred Provoost-synth

**William van Dijk**, Sara Burgerhartsingel, 367 3813, NZ Amersfoort, THE NETHERLANDS

## Reviewed by Can Baskent

### Fifth Reason "Psychotic" Digipak

Here comes a band from Sweden with the album dated 1997. It's a bit old but sound still exists. Heavy, melodic, feeling music with keyboard partitions. You see, Scandinavian guys do it greatly, like Fifth Reason. Their sound can be defined doomy, melodic, death metal with clear male vocals. As most Scandinavian bands, Fifth Reason has amazing and charming riffs and a great amount of rage. At the same time, as an important point for me, band members play their best. Sound is clear even more than expected. No stupid riffs, unnecessary solos or attacks. And all of them make Fifth Reason more and more listenable. Fifth Reason: There's nothing more or less than a wonderful music. Line up: Kristian Andren-vocals, Simon Johansson-guitars, Marco A. Nicosia-guitars, Marty Marteen-bass, Martin Larsson-drums

Simon Johansson, Bergsmarks v 6, S-11266  
Stockholm / SWEDEN

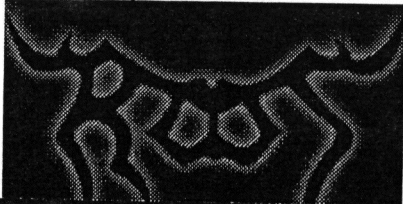
## Reviewed by Can Baskent

### The Meads Of Asphodel "The watchers of Catal Huyuk" DEMO

When I first heard this band back in 1998, I thought they'd be signed right away and yet I find them roaming the London sewers with their third demo, again very persuasive and unique. Rolling drums that sound like hoof beating, rough yet desperate vocals and lots of things very scarce to be found in black metal these days, like the eastern and oriental melodies. Seriously, this band rules and it's high time they got noticed. A G.B.H. cover song closes this chapter and settles your emotions down, back to reality.

Godreah, 33 Lilac Road, Hoddesdon, Herts,  
EN11 0PG, ENGLAND

## Reviewed by Marek Husarik



## Root "The Book"

CD

It is not easy for me to review this album, in spite of the fact that I have known the band for many years. Maybe this makes the situation even more difficult. If I didn't know the main character behind the band I would perhaps think what an interesting person he is, but my experience is quite different. Apart from that, he's a good musician and music is what this is all about, isn't it? So let's get to the impure act of criticism again. Musically a mixture of elements from their two previous releases "The temple in the underworld" and "Kargerass", of which I think the former was better, this album lacks consistency in my eyes as it appears to be shattered in several parts. However as I outlined before, being musically a very strong and persuasive form of dark black metal with great guitar parts and non interchangeable magic vocals, this still has strong potential to impress many metal heads around the world. So don't be a chicken and try it out yourself. **Redblack P.**

## Reviewed by Marek Husarik

Redblack Productions, Kopecna 7, 60200  
Brno / CZECH REPUBLIC

## Centinex "Bloodhunt"

CD

Surprisingly, some bands live long enough to release five albums without any compromises and suspicious style or image changes. Centinex are true to their roots and to their origins and their vital form of Swedish death metal sounds as good as it did some six years ago, in the era of the mighty Dismember's "Indecent and obscene" album, only to mention one I think everybody should know. This short album is full of life and raw aggression, we can even observe the similarities between old thrash metal and the contemporary style of Centinex, just consider that they made covers of Kreator and the legendary Bulldozer (not for this album though). I bet this is for fans of the above mentioned styles mainly -recommended.

## Reviewed by Marek Husarik



**Repulse records**, PO Box 50562, 28080

Madrid/ SPAIN

**Centinex**, Sturegatan 8, 77535 Hedemora,  
SWEDEN

### **Agalloch "Pale Folklore" CD**

The End Records keep their promise to bring us interesting albums and I am really glad about it. This band, although their name may appear rather black metal to some, creates wonderful and unforgettable dark atmospheres by blending black and doom metal influences, respectively beautiful guitar melodies with shrieking vocals, all mid paced, thus creating magic meditating and electronic moods. If I were to compare their music to something, I would perhaps mention Katatonia's new production. Get this CD if you want a pleasant album to keep. **The End Records**

**Reviewed by Marek Husarik**

### **Ethereal Pandemonium "Arcanum Lunae" MC**

A second MC album of a Slovak symphonic black metal band which I think could be called promising, for their music is fresh and it will surely appeal to a majority of the new generation of metal fans. No matter how good the production is, there is one thing I didn't like about their debut yet it's here again- the weird female vocal parts- Countess Ekorn sounds like she got a cold and didn't care to blow her nose before singing. It is very original indeed, but it boards with ridiculous. It sounds like she was singing with a clothes peg on the nose. Maybe it's the band's intention to have a singer like this, I don't know. Anyway, this is a quality product and EP are becoming stronger with each release. **Dark Night's Sky Productions**

**Reviewed by Marek Husarik**

### **Zombie Holocaust "Reszeg Jezus"**

What a spooky name this Hungarian outfit chose. Their blood type being uncompromising, compact and rolling death metal, it sounds good with the dark and evil

vocals. Nevertheless, it is necessary to point out that there are loads of bands like this one everywhere. Lyric translations would be cool too, how on earth am I to understand words like "emesztogodorben" ?

Atheist zine, Szalay Gabor, 8060 Paszto, Galamb Ut 27, HUNGARY

**Reviewed by Marek Husarik**

### **Satacass "Taedium Vitae" DEMO**

This demo was recorded during two days, which explains the poor production, but it doesn't definitely excuse the lack of imagination and musical skills of the musicians. I wonder why some folks sing English when it sounds ridiculous and why some bands even bother to record their stuff when they know the competition is much stronger and they can never succeed. Maybe this is not such a terrible demo after all, I guess they have to begin somehow, but I wouldn't buy this if I were you. By the way, they play black metal with COF touches (note: touches are not qualities).

Marek 'Amati' Krizan, Horny Rad 554/21, 90613 Brezova pod Bratolom, Slovakia

**Reviewed by Marek Husarik**

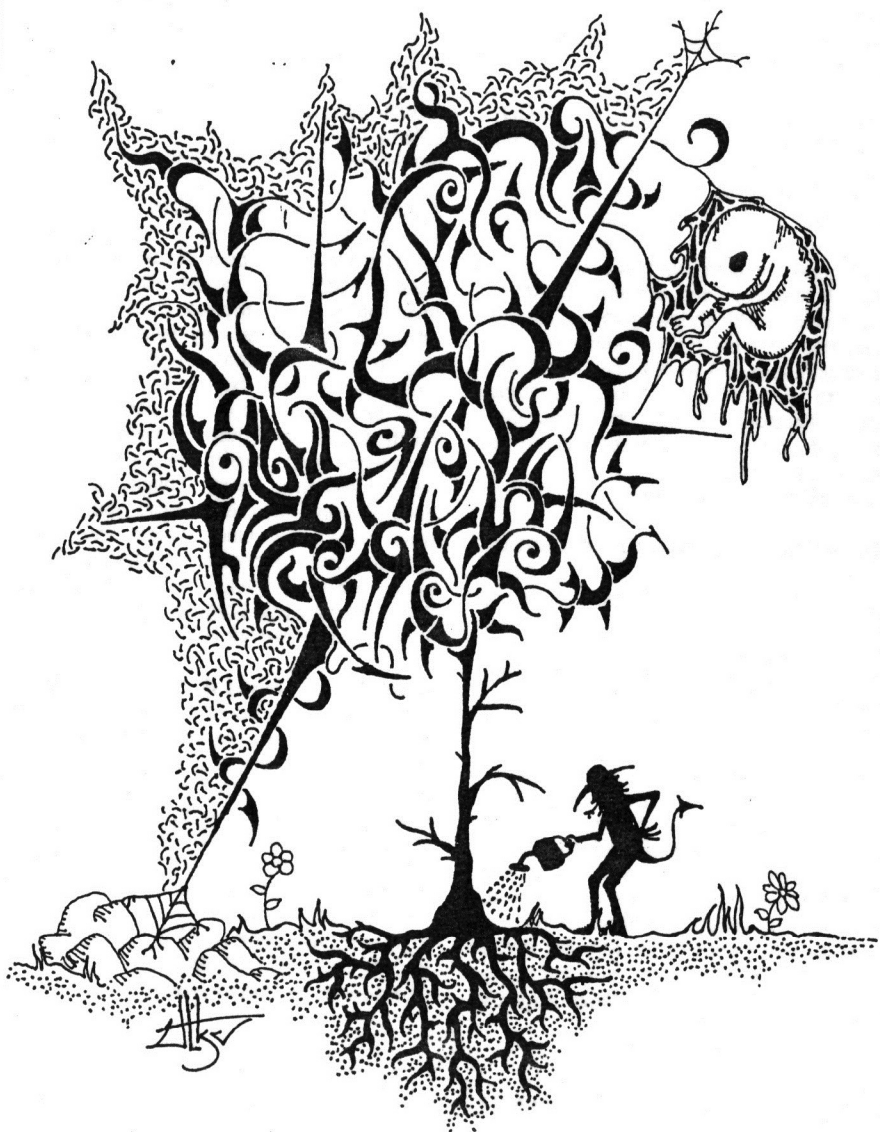
### **Dag Mora "Chaos Breed" EP**

A self released product of a young English band is what we have here. It sounds half metal half hard rock, it is full of energy and some of the songs are well catchy. It's not exactly aimed at the modern black, death or doom metal fans, but I suppose the band could catch anybody's attention as their material is both relaxing and rolling, yet full of interesting moments.

Endgame Management, 32 Balmalloch Road, Kilsyth, Glasgow, G65 9NH, UK

**Reviewed by Marek Husarik**





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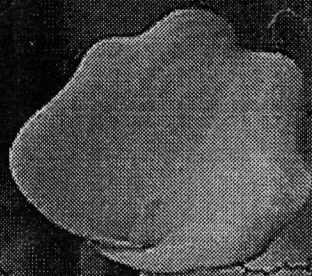
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