



## What Is This That Stands Before Me?

It's been more than 50 years since Black Sabbath redefined modern music with a thunder clap and Tony Iommi's ominous tritone. In the intervening years, no genre has been as venerated or as maligned as heavy metal. The contributions of Ozzy, Tony, Geezer, and Bill are well known and so, too are those of fellow pioneers Judas Priest, Blue Oyster Cult, Iron Maiden, and Motorhead. The generation that followed and the DIY culture by which thrash, death, and black, among others, transcended the Anglosphere has yet to receive the scholarship they deserve. This media underground, which appeared in the late 1970s and persisted well beyond the emergence of the internet, established metal as both a truly international and inclusive genre.

"Only Print is Real" has been the maxim by which Decibel has operated while establishing itself as the foremost authority on extreme music. This list features a 154-issue run of the magazine, as well as the extremely scarce SLAYTEAM zine created by friends of thrash pioneers Exodus – a largely unknown and absolutely essential contribution to DIY material culture in the Bay Area. Other highlights include runs of The Grimoire of Exalted Deeds by "splatterporn" filmmaker Bill Zebub and The Headbanger by veteran Los Angeles rocker Bob Nalbandian, and two issues of the influential neo-folk zine The Fifth Path.

Horns up to our friend and kvlt conspirator Kim Schwenk, without whom this list and the four to come would not be possible.

All hail, brad & jen



# TERMS

All items are subject to prior sale.

If you spot something of interest, please email or call to inquire or place an order.

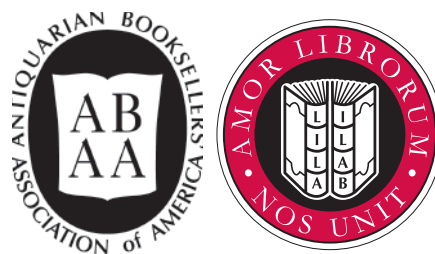
As always, if you are not satisfied with your purchase, all items are returnable within 10 days of delivery. Institutions and previously known customers can expect the usual terms. We are also happy to work with you to hold items until we all return to normalcy, which we will. Sales tax will be charged where it is applicable.

## johnson rare books & archives

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

[brad@johnsonrarebooks.com](mailto:brad@johnsonrarebooks.com)

626-967-1888



**On the cover:** Elke Johnson, Johnson Rare Books & Archives head of operations, models her battle jacket. Favorite bands include Sleep, Monolord, and Cult of Luna.



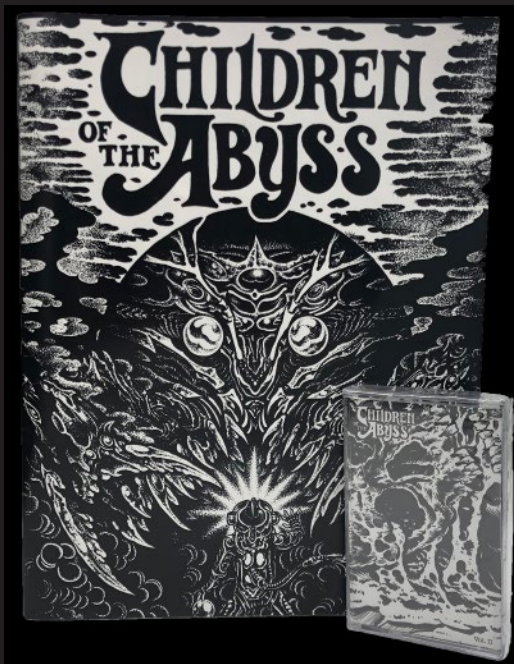
Zebub, Bill  
THE GRIMOIRE OF EXALTED DEEDS: 3, 6-19, 21-22  
Clifton, New Jersey, c.1991-2000

The Grimoire of Exalted Deeds is a tongue in cheek metal magazine published by “splatterporn” film maker Bill Zebub. It was originally published starting in 1991 as a fairly serious photocopied music fanzine, and as the magazine grew more popular within the heavy metal community, it was later published as a slick with color covers. By 1997, the magazine had become so well received among metal audiences that it was chosen as the official magazine and program of the Milwaukee Metalfest. The magazine features often humorous interviews of various heavy metal musicians, which Bill Zebub frequently conducted in Elizabethan English, for comedic effect. Occasionally, the magazine offered brief fiction pieces, and articles on various subjects relating to fantasy or mysticism. Criticism of organized religion, particularly Christianity, is another recurring topic. The magazine also included a feature called “Grimoire Girls,” specifically female metal fans who voluntarily submit photographs of themselves, some in varying states of undress and nudity. The style of humor in the magazine is brutally sarcastic, and is intentionally politically incorrect, thus had an overwhelmingly male readership. Seventeen issues (broken run) with minimal wear, staple bound, fully illustrated with some color exteriors and all black and white interiors, various paging. Scarce, hard to find early issues, 8-1/2x11”. Currently recollected and compiled in a memoir by Bill Zebub. \$450



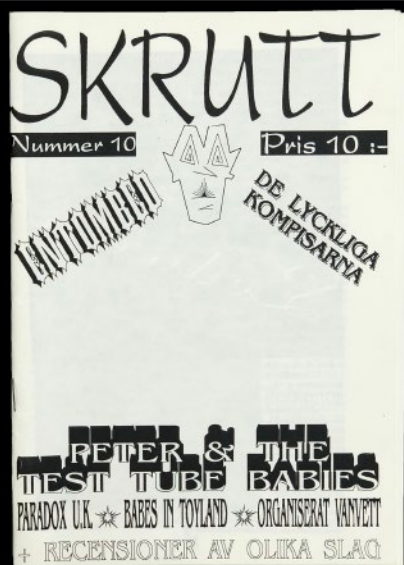
Ryan, Graham (editor)  
DEF THRASH: No. 1  
Dublin, Ireland, 1987

Irish metal and thrash core self-produced zine with typed interviews with Panic, Voivod, and record reviews of Metallica, Enticer, Angel of Death. Total thrash-style period scribble drawings. Photocopied, A4 (Euro) size. Staple bound, 20 pp. with illustrations. Edges creased, back page loose. Scarce. \$50



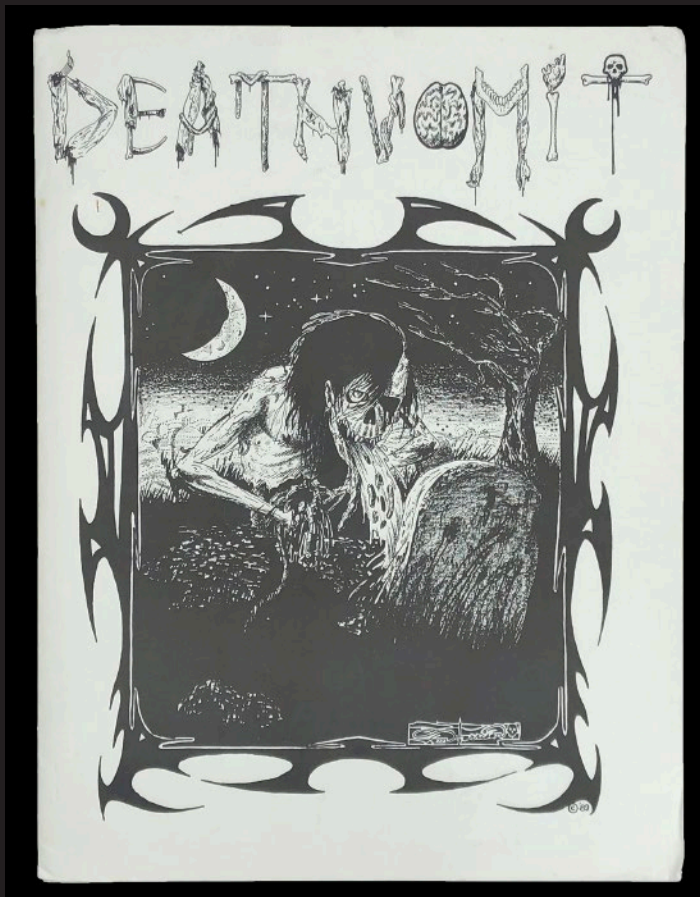
Various authors and illustrators.  
CHILDREN OF THE ABYSS: Volume II, 2017

Lovecraft inspired non-fiction horror zine with space horror inspired artwork. Unpaged, printed in black and white. Includes spoken word audio cassette, sealed in plastic. Minimal text. Slight creases on rear cover, otherwise like new. 8-1/2x11" Scarce. Out of print. \$100



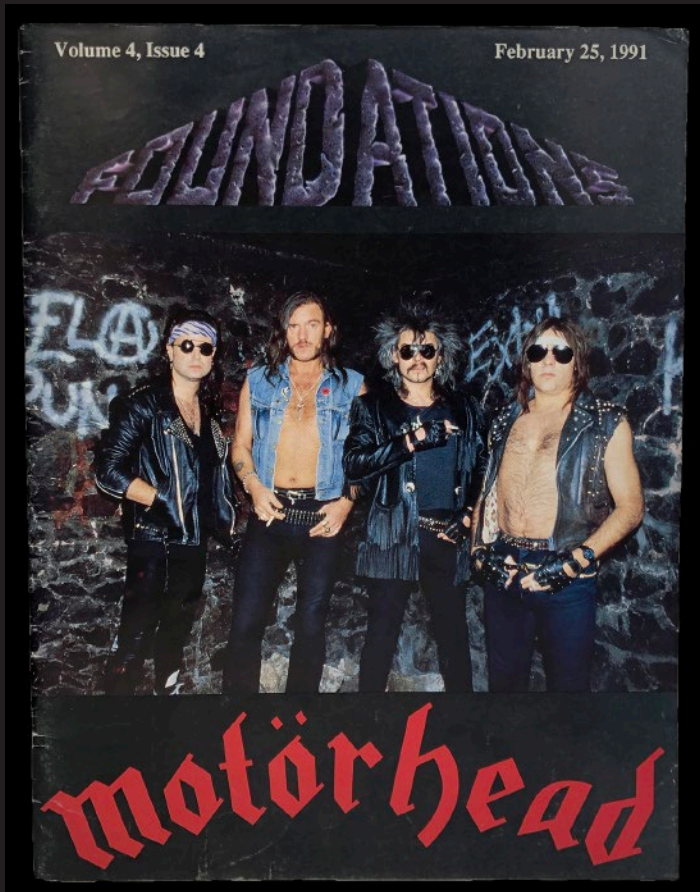
Thorsson, Peter  
SKRUTT: Nummer (number) 10  
Stockholm, Sweden, 1992

Swedish fanzine dedicated to the local scene and featuring death metal bands from Sweden: Entombed (classic death metal) and strangely Peter & the Test Tube Babies, a UK punk band from the late 1970s. 35 pp., staple bound digest size (5-1/2x8-1/2"). With illustrations and advertising. In very good condition. In Swedish. \$30



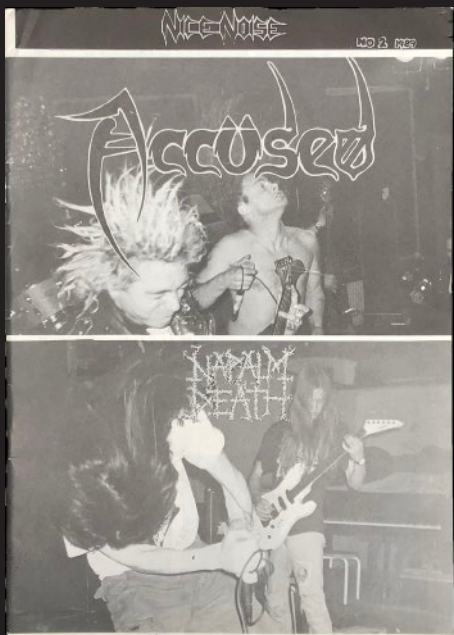
McClelland, Jeff  
DEATHVOMIT: Issue one  
Falls Church, VA, 1989

Excellent example of death metal fanzine meets fine press. Early specimen of photocopy and print technologies using off-set multi-color ink, as titles and illustrations printed in multiple colors. Clearly, attention to presentation and stylization of a zine featuring contemporary death metal in the late 1980s including Swedish death metal band Grave, Virginia's Deceased and Florida's death gore Cannibal Corpse. Also an example of how tape trading and correspondence was facilitated through these types of published zines. Unbound and unpagged with exterior wraps and interior printing on thick white cardstock paper. Folded and creased corners, otherwise in very good condition. Superb example and wide coverage of death, thrash, and black metal with illustrations. Published in a collected reproduction volume, as zine was published only from 1988-1991. 8-1/2x11" Scarce. \$175



Chiappardi, Bob (publisher) and Eric Lemasters (editor)  
FOUNDATIONS: Volume 4, Issue 4  
New York, NY, 1991

Full color slick heavy metal magazine published out of New York, quite typical of the early 1990s. Features on the cover and main interview with Motorhead. Lists metal band tours on end pages and contains numerous ads for new releases and record shops. Illustrated and unpagged. Staple bound. 8-1/2x11" Some wear, otherwise very good. Out of print. \$25

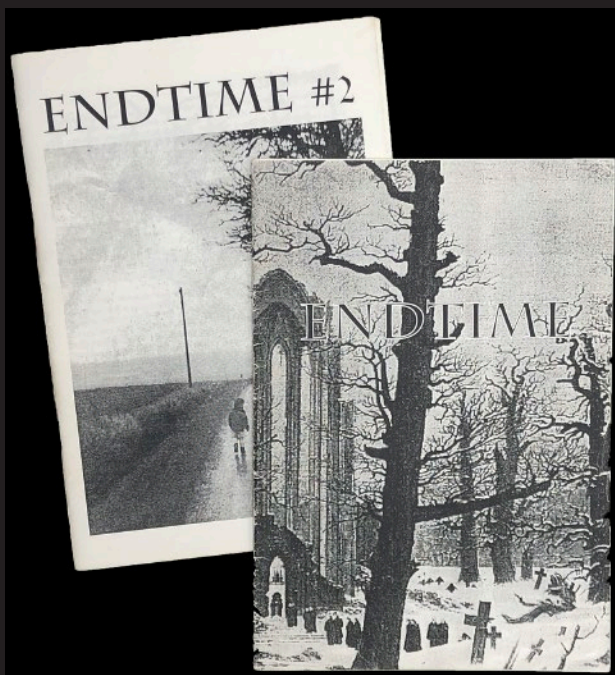


NICE NOISE: No. 2  
Roskilde, Denmark, 1988

Danish crossover hardcore, crust punk and metal printed black and white slick zine. Many European zines at this time were featuring political metal that involved leftist ideals, many US zines did not feature. Interviews with early Accused, Napalm Death, and local Danish crust bands. Includes comics In English. 35 pp., staple bound with illustrations, A4 (Euro) size. \$45

Nordin, Eric (editor)  
ENDTIME: #1 and #2  
Lidingo, Sweden, 1995

Obscure Swedish doom metal zine featuring virtually unheard of doom metal bands from around the globe. This genre was marginally known in the late 80s and early 90s and still appeals to a small subgenre of metal listeners as the music is known for its depressing, funerary, and extremely slow sound. Two issues, photocopied in black and white with illustrations, staple bound, digest size (5-1/2x8-1/2"). 27, 47 pp. respectively. Minimally worn covers, otherwise in excellent condition. Extremely scarce and unrepresented in the fanzine world. \$100



Martins, Diogo Rocha  
METAL BIBLE (IMPERIO METALICO): 18  
Lisbon, Portugal, c.1990

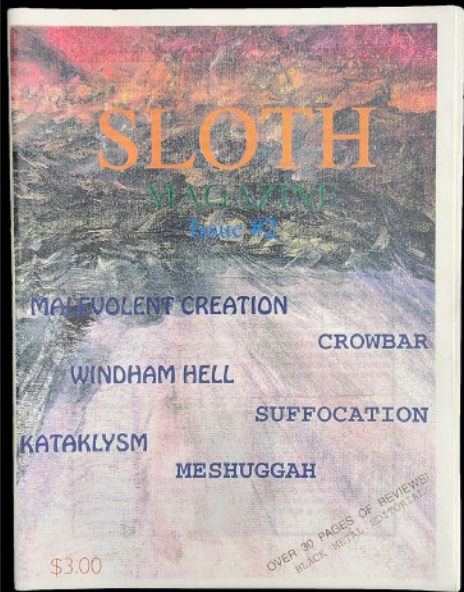
Very scarce, long running Portuguese metal fanzine featuring European and American metal bands, including the Meatshits, Malevolent Creation, and Sadistic Intent. With a big advertising sponsorship from Wild Rag Records out of Los Angeles. 34 pages, illustrated, A4 (Euro) size, staple bound. Minimal wear. In Portuguese. \$45





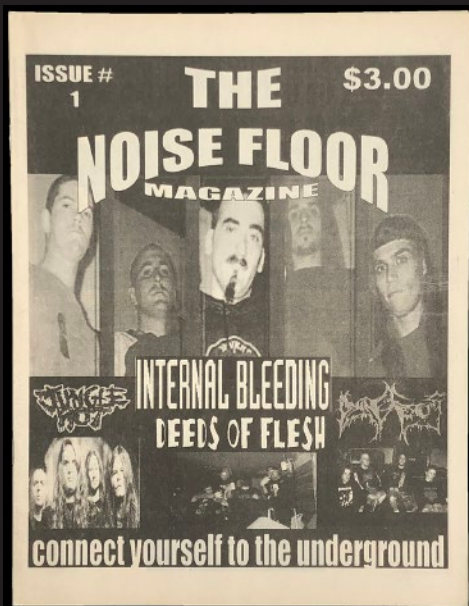
Maynard, Brandon and Shane Whaley  
 DEFILED METAL ZINE: Issue 2  
 Huntsville, AL, 2001

Review and interview heavy newsprint zine, featuring an overview of the legendary Milwaukee Metal Fest. Featuring John Christ of Danzig, Internal Bleeding, and mostly death metal snippets. Black and white newspaper, staple bound, unpagged, fully illustrated, 8-1/2x11". In very good condition. \$25



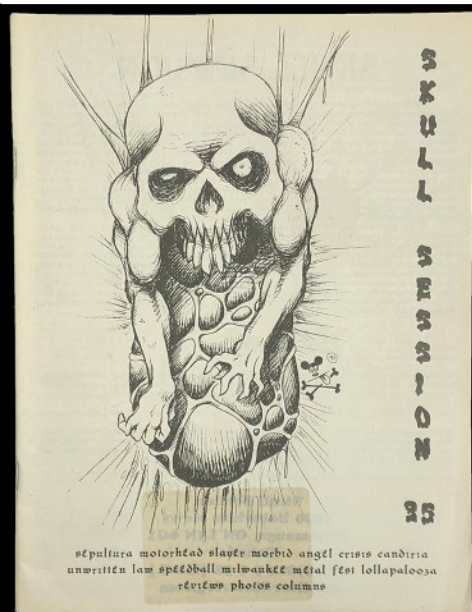
Alterman, Philip.  
 SLOTH MAGAZINE: Issue #2  
 Alexandria, VA, 1996

Primarily focusing on death/doom/black metal bands, this zine is mostly interviews and record reviews keeping in good faith with networking in the metal community. Includes a black metal editorial! Original color wrappers, staple bound, 55 pp., printed on heavy paper, in very good condition, 8-1/2x11". \$45



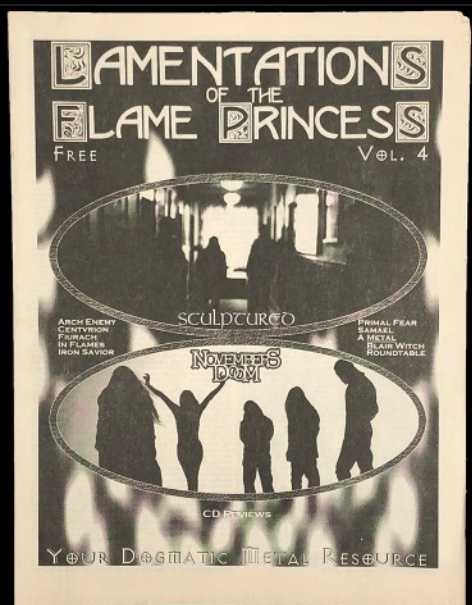
Forsythe, Kevin  
 THE NOISE FLOOR MAG: Issue #1  
 Germantown, WI, 1999

A death metal focused newsprint magazine with interviews with Deeds of Flesh, Internal Bleeding, Jungle Rot, Dying Fetus, and multiple record reviews. Keeping it underground and very do-it-yourself. In original wrappers, staple bound, unpagged, on newspaper, illustrated, in very good, non-foxed condition, 8-1/2x11". \$25



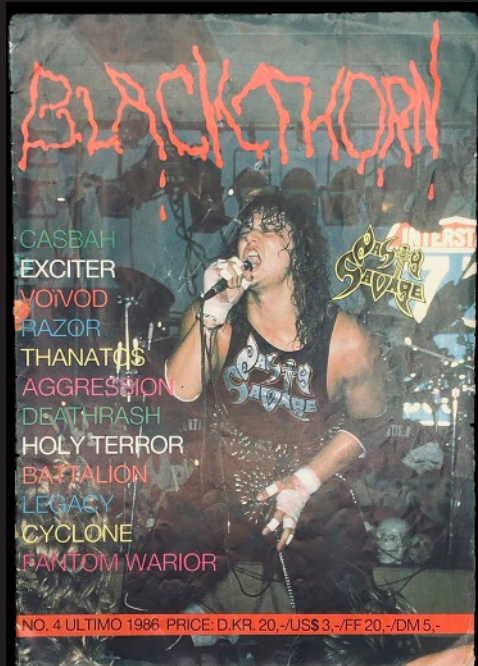
Mitchell, Brad  
SKULL SESSION: 35  
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, [1990s]

Canadian newsprint metal zine with a long print run, this being 35. Focuses on various genres of metal from death to thrash to speed metal, and heavy metal. Interviews with Slayer, Sepultura, Morbid Angel, and a rarity, Karyn Crisis of Crisis from New York. Also includes correspondent voice from an incarcerated fan. In original wrappers, staple bound, unpagged, on newspaper, illustrated, in very good condition, with sticker bleed through front wrapper, non-foxed, or marred, 8-1/2x11". \$25



Raggi, Jim  
LAMENTATIONS OF THE FLAME PRINCESS: Vol. 4  
Atlanta, GA, [1990]

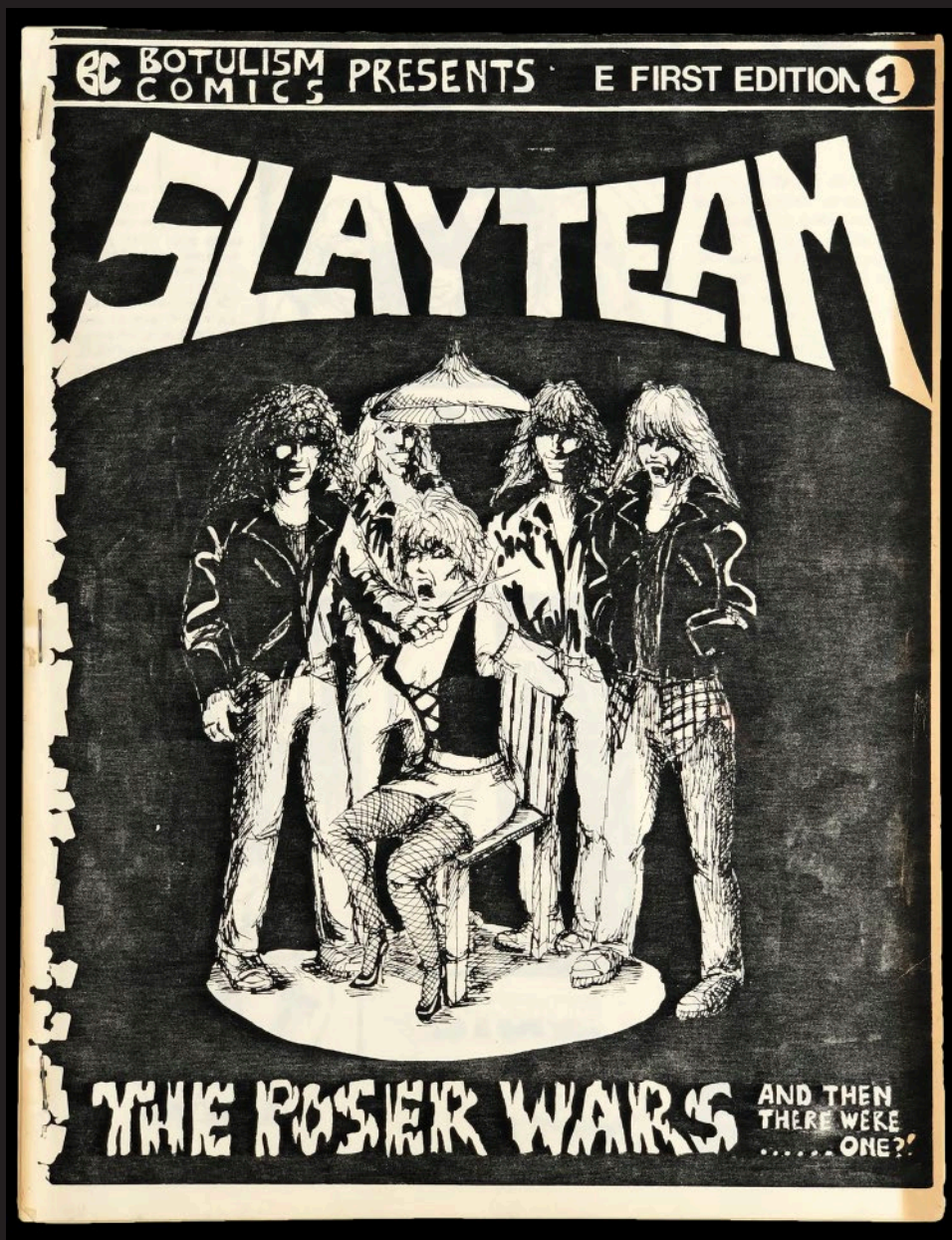
Somewhat rare and originally free newsprint metal zine. Includes many advertisers and probably promotional aspects to allow for distribution. Heavy on reviews and interviews with bands with new releases. Editorial in the beginning on the state of the overall metal scene. In original wrappers, staple bound, unpagged, on newspaper, illustrated, in very good condition, with tear in top right corner, non-foxed, or marred, 8-1/2x11". \$25



Sorensen, Esben and Henk Leviathan  
BLACKTHORN: No. 4  
Risskov, Denmark, 1986

Slick early heavy metal magazine from Denmark. Featuring mainly emerging heavy metal bands of the 80s. Full color printed covers and black and white interior. Features interviews, metal news, and reviews. Well laid out zine in columns. Staple bound, 35 pp., A4 (Euro) size, illustrated. Some wear to covers and discoloration on interior pages, otherwise in very good condition. \$45





Green, Lizzy  
 SLAYTEAM: The Poser Wars: 1  
 Bay Area, CA: 1985

Created by Lizzy Green, who was friends with Bay Area thrash band EXODUS' during the pioneering "Bonded By Blood" days, this lengthy black-and-white comic saga portrays members of the band as they slash, assault, and mow down the poodle-haired metal posers spreading falseness instead of relentless metal mania. Determining who was a real metal head was quite a thing in the 80s, as much as today. Photocopied, unpagged leaves, staple bound, with minimal discoloration to edge, 8-1/2x11". Extremely scarce. \$350

Tsarouhi, Elena  
 SEVENTH SIGN: Issue #1, #3, #4  
 Athens, Greece: 1997

Greece metal magazine that covers the gamut of extreme and obscure metal genres. Includes news, album and demo reviews with a focus on regional bands. Three issues in very condition, staple bound, various paging, A4 (Euro) size, illustrated. \$50





Mudrian, Albert (editor)

**DECIBEL MAGAZINE: Issue 1-154**

Philadelphia, PA, 2004-2017

Based in Philadelphia, PA, Decibel Magazine explores the past, present and future of extreme music. Since the debut issue (October 2004), Decibel has promoted both extreme and melodic, mainstream to underground metal, with intelligent and critical analysis. The magazine covers mostly all genres of metal and also hardcore and presents fan features, comics, and in-depth interviews; and reviews with metal artists and their music across the globe. The writing has covered controversial issues (the relationship between metal and National Socialism) and champion the underserved (spotlighting both women's and the LGBTQ+ community's presence in metal), all the while including wit and sarcasm. One of the more sophisticated metal print journals on the market that has survived into the digital age. Not shy to music history, the magazine also does not ignore the influence of punk on metal and regularly highlights hardcore punk and crossover periods of music beginning in the 1980s. The editor, Albert Mudrian, has published several books on the history of death and black metal, including, *Choosing Death*. Largely successful, the magazine has a big sponsorship with festivals as Maryland Death Fest and hosts a large metal fest in Philadelphia and other tours around the country.

A few issues in the collection have autographs including:

Issue #29 signed by Justin Broderick, of Jesu and Godflesh (UK) - Cover

Issue #69 signed by Erik Danielsson, Watain (Sweden) - Cover

Issue #104 signed by Bill Steer and Jeff Walker of Carcass (UK), "Heartwork" story

As well as a few issues with the Flexi disc series inserts, a feature starting about half way in the history of the magazine. Flexi discs are flimsy, but audible records that generally have one track and usually are a promotional feature for the band and record label. Many collectors look for Flexi discs as they were only produced for magazines or as giveaways. The collection contains all full color slick issues with illustrations (both photographic and comic) and advertising. Some issues have folding, creases, and former owner mailing label on cover. Complete run of 154 issues, with most of the early issues out of print and on the retail back issue market. The magazine is currently published and distributed. \$1200



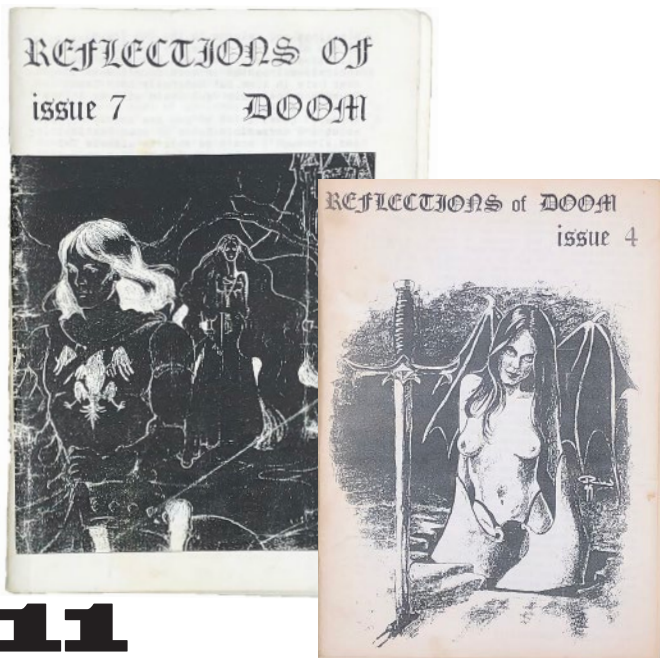
Sauer, Russ  
 STATIC ZINE: #12, #13  
 Kawkawlin, MI, 1997

Midwestern metal zine with rated metal reviews and interviews and even other published metal zine reviews of the time. A few obscurities! Part color covers and full illustrated interiors. Two issues staple bound, in good condition with minimal creasing, 8-1/2x11". \$40



Gorrie, Jim  
 CORROSION: Numbers 4, 5  
 Ontario, Canada, 1995

Black and white dot matrix printed zine with features of mainly death metal bands out of Canada. Good example of the printing technologies of the mid-1990s. Pretty obscure covers with both drawings and photographs. Two issues staple bound with various paging, 8-1/2x11. \$45



Jean, Mathues  
 REFLECTIONS OF DOOM: Issues 3-5, 7  
 Tienen, Belgium, 1996

Genre specific digest size zine doom metal zine. Thoughtful and packed with some well-known and lesser known bands that continue the depressive and slow sound of doom. Early interviews with Peaceville and Rise Above Records bands, like Electric Wizard, November's Doom, Cathedral, and Pentagram. Four issues, staple bound, photocopied, various paging, with minimal folds and wear to wrappers, 5-1/2x8-1/2". \$125

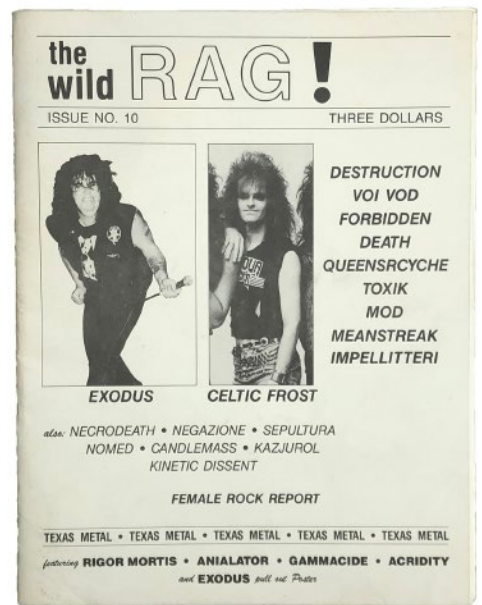


Ward, Robert (editor)  
THE FIFTH PATH: Issue 4, 5  
Carmichael, CA, 1992-1993

The Fifth Path was a self-produced zine out of Northern California only publishing five issues sporadically between 1991 and 1994, as the founder, Robert Ward, died in 2004. Michael Moynihan of Blood Axis and co-author of Lords of Chaos was a contributing writer to issue 3 and is credited as Associate Editor in issues 4 and 5. This was before Moynihan became notable for his contribution to documenting black metal history. This zine was one of the first US-based works to primarily cover the post-industrial genre that later came to be known as "neofolk" or commonly referred to as "apocalyptic folk." The sound is ballad-esque, with a traditional military drum beat and acoustic guitar, often lamenting the Old World and philosophical idealism. The magazine covered artists such as Death In June, Sol Invictus, Current 93, and Coil, as well as iconoclasts such as Boyd Rice, Feral House's Adam Parfrey (publisher), and former Church of Satan high-priestess, Zeena LaVey. Pretty controversial, as many of the topics skirt promoting "white pride heathenry" however, the interviews and articles are well-researched and presented for a small dedicated readership. Extremely rare in print. Staple bound, printed on card stock and coated paper. \$300

Campos, Richard  
 THE WILD RAG:  
 Issue No. 1, Issue No. 10  
 Montebello, CA: 1988-1989

The zine was the brainchild publication from Wild Rags Records, a record label and store in Montebello, California. It was founded in the 1980s by Ricardo Campos. Though Wild Rags started out as a record store in East LA, the zine later distributed influential releases by the likes of Nuclear Death, Impetigo, Brutality, Blood, Sigh, and Blasphemy. Richard Campos would later concentrate on distributing Brazilian heavy metal and selling catalogues. The magazine started out featuring early LA metal and thrash metal, essentially up and coming bands like Slayer, Agent Steel and Dark Angel and subsequent issues featured underground bands like Candlemass, Rigor Mortis, and death heroes from Florida, Death. Some spotting on premiere issue, otherwise in excellent condition, staple bound, various paging, 8-1/2x11". \$175



Nalbandian, Bob  
 THE HEADBANGER: No. 1, 3-4, 10  
 Huntington, CA, 1982, 1985

LA veteran rocker Bob Nalbandian started Headbanger in '82 and came up with the title because all the other magazines had the word "metal" in the title, this was something different. Nalbandian was inspired by Brian Slagel's (Medal Blade Records) zine "New Heavy Metal Revue," but even more so by Ron Quintana's "Metal Mania" zine. This is an extremely early heavy metal zine covering bands that still bridged hard rock and metal like Ratt and AC/DC, but with beginning promotion of Iron Maiden, Slayer, Metallica, and Girlschool. Four issues with minimal wear, staple bound, photocopied, various paging. Scarce, ~8x12". \$350



