

# Cultural Heritage and History in the Metal Scene



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**in the  
Metal Scene**



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Wageningen, October 2007

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**abstract**

abstra





This paper represents an inquiry on the use of history and cultural heritage in the metal scene. It is an attempt to show how history and cultural heritage can possibly be spread among people using an unconventional way. The followed research method was built on an explorative study that included an analysis of elements of the music, such as lyrics, performance and fashion, together with interviews of bands and people from the metal scene. However, the study focused on five different metal styles in Europe: the early metal (60's and early 70's), The new wave of British heavy metal (around the 80's), the Swedish death metal ('90-present), the Norwegian black metal ('90-present) and the folk metal (mid 90's-present). The analysis shows that cultural history plays a role in certain styles of metal or particular bands. Especially in Black metal and in the closely related Viking metal, the use of history and cultural heritage is most common. There are bands within these styles that tell stories through their lyrics and express the historical feeling by the overall image and appearances at concerts. The research shows how history and cultural heritage are used by many bands as an inspiration as well as how it can play a role in forming a common identity among fans and musicians.

*Keywords:* metal music, early metal, new wave of british heavy metal, death metal, black metal, folk metal, cultural heritage, history, inspiration



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# introduction

There is a common perception on how history and cultural heritage should be delivered and transmitted through generations. In general, it is believed that common history should be shared and presented in written or physical documents. Most of the time, these written documents are passed on from one generation to the other in educational institutes. However, this report represents an investigation on the use of history and cultural heritage in music, more specifically in Metal music. In that way, it tries to establish another opinion in how music can be a tool in communicating history and cultural heritage. The research will try to show that metal musicians, as well as their fans (youngsters most of the time), choose other uncommon ways in manifesting their history and cultural heritage and in using them for inspiration.

intro  
duction

The starting question of this research is formulated as:

## **How is cultural heritage/ history represented in the metal scene in Europe?**

**Is it just an inspiration for the metal bands and/or a message for the their fans?**

**Is the metal scene a powerful tool in transmitting history?**

### Methodology

The following paper represents an academic assignment and a result of eight weeks research (mornings). The followed methodology was based on an explorative study. In fact, the research started with a questionnaire [See appendix I ] that was first sent through the internet to personal contacts and then forwarded to a larger chain network. We made some general conclusions out of it but mainly the results were used as guiding tool and as a direction for the research. In parallel, some literature review was carried out, forming a general overview of the metal music, its history and status among other types of music.

Moreover, to narrow the subject down, the study was focused on four major metal styles and periods in Europe including Early metal (60's and early 70's), The new wave of British heavy metal (late 70's and 80's), Swedish

death metal (90's-present), Norwegian black metal ('90-present) and Folk metal (mid 90's-present). Each style was analyzed on the use or presence of cultural history in their image, performance, lyrics, instruments and concert location. The analysis was based on personal interpretation as well as on some people's opinions or thoughts (personal websites or blogs for example). In addition, a big part of the research was based on interviews made with some metal bands such as Thronar and Textures and with some people that have some interest and knowledge about the topic such as Geert Borremans, Jonathan Huurman, Mateusz Wata. [See appendix II].

Thus, the end result is based on the different explorative tools [interviews, questionnaire literature studies and personal analysis] that were carried out through the investigation.

The report starts with a description of metal music in general, consisting of a brief history and the criticism that the metal music had and still has to deal with. After that, the analysis of the four different styles follows with a conclusion for each style. In the next chapter the materials from the interviews are compared to each other and discussed. The last part will present a final reflection, some suggestions and further potential research and a conclusion.

# **the metal scene**

## **brief history**

Metal is a genre of music that emerged in the late 60's. Its origins can be found in rock and blues music. It is recognized by fast and powerful rhythms and the use of electric guitar which is considered as an important driving force. Fairly early, many styles and subgenres have emerged. Depending on the subgenres, the music is characterized by being loud and aggressive, but also can be melodic and mainstream or even extreme and underground. More than 20 metal subgenres can be identified in the genealogy of the music, spreading from the 60's until our recent times.

Elements of metal can be depicted early in bands like Cream, Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, and Deep Purple. In 1970 Black Sabbath made what many consider to be the first true metal albums. Their music represented actually the essence of the genre combining a fascination with dark mythological and religious subject matter juxtaposed against the reality of a working class life in poverty during the early 70'. In the late 70's metal became less popular with the emergence of other music genres such as punk or disco. However, it gained its popularity again in the 80's, especially with the emergence of the "New Wave British heavy Metal". By around 1990 most metal had evolved into other rock genres like hard rock, grunge, gothic rock, gothic metal, trash metal, speed metal, doom metal, and nu metal.

The main and common themes in metal music reflect the rebellion aspect of the music. Metal music as expressed by Reamon Bloem (Vocalist and songwriter of the Dutch band "Thronar") is an aggressive music style that uses rebellious themes, revolving mainly around issues that are considered sensitive or a taboo in the society. In fact, the themes range from representation of real issues such as politics, wars, sex, violence, religion, history, to themes related to fantasy, poetry, mythology, etc.

With its musicians, music, themes, fans, performance and image, metal music represents a culture in itself. Many sociologist or anthropologist have written about metal subculture. For instance, as expressed by Dunn (director of the movie "Metal: A Headbanger's Journey") [Figure 1]: "metal music is a culture; the culture brings misfits together; the music makes people feel empowered". In fact, Dunn, a metal music fan, defends in his documentary movie the metal music by showing "why heavy metal has been consistently stereotyped, dismissed, and con-

demned". Weinstein (anthropologist, sociologist), who wrote "Heavy metal: A cultural sociology", explains and analyzes the different aspects of the metal culture, that includes the music itself, the performances, the media, the fans, etc.

According to metal musicians and fans, metal music is a "way of life" (as seen in the movie). As expressed by Scott Ian, guitarist for Anthrax<sup>1</sup> "It gets under your skin, it gets in your soul." In addition, many fans believe and state that metal music is an ideology and "ethos for living".

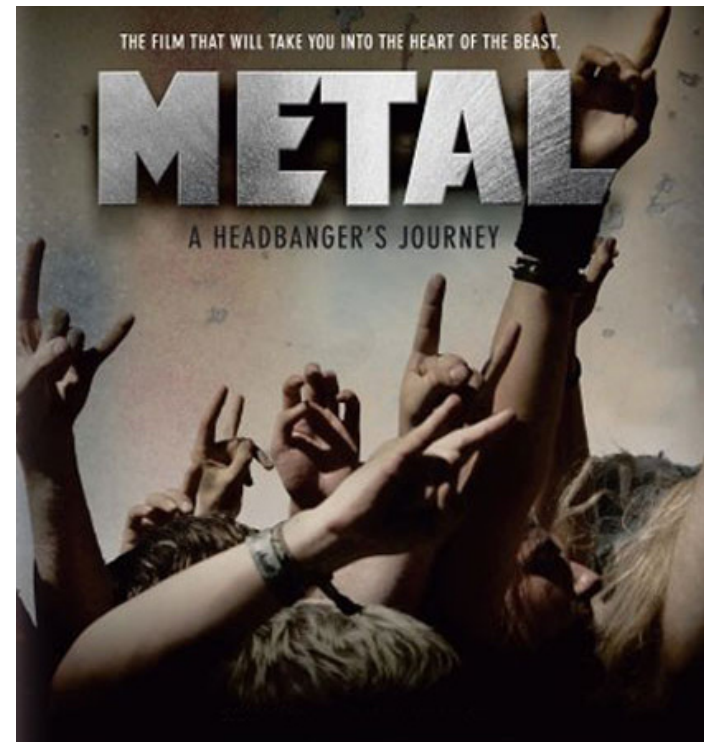


Figure 1: DVD cover of the movie: Metal: A headbanger's Journey

<sup>1</sup> Anthrax is an American, New York City-based trash metal band.



Figure 2: Sam Dunn,mMovie director of : Metal: A headbanger's Journey

critic  
critic



From the beginning, metal has been and still is a music style that certain groups of people criticize. Because of the aggressive sound, the 'darker' subjects and the fashion style of the fans, some people consider it as an outsider or evil subculture.

One of the main criticisms about metal is the possible bad influence of the music on the youth which may result in violence and even in suicide. The increase of the number of adolescent suicides has caused a widespread concern and the music preference of the youth has been pointed out as a possible cause. The Parent-Teacher Association, which is active in the United States and the United Kingdom and some other countries to improve the welfare of schools, has taken the position that there are connections between certain types of rock music and adolescent suicide (Scheel & Westeveld, 1999).

In 1985, the criticism came to a climax when the Parents Music Resource Center leaded by co-founder Tipper Gore (wife of Al Gore) instigated a Senate hearing. Singer Dee Snider of the hair metal band Twisted Sister had to defend his band from being put on a list with forbidden bands. He finally won the case but the trial resulted in a warning system for offensive material on albums which is now known as the "Parental Advisory: Explicit Content" label (Dunn et al, 2006) [Figure 2].

In a research from Stack et.al.(1994), the authors argued that metal music reflects and possibly nurtures suicidogenic alienation, despair, and hopelessness among members of the metal subculture. The researchers found that heavy metal magazine subscription rates, as a measure of the strength of the heavy metal youth subculture, correlated significantly with rates of youth suicide. Even after controlling other variables (e.g. divorce rate, poverty statistics, race and religion) the findings remained. This sociological approach is fascinating, but it is probable that unexamined factors independently influenced both the subscription rate of the metal magazine and the youth suicide rate, meaning there is no significant connection between the two (Scheel & Westeveld, 1999).

# **investigation based on five metal styles**

investiga

The investigation of the use of cultural heritage and history in metal music is based on five different styles chosen from different periods. Starting with the early metal (late 60's and early 70's) which represents the birth of metal music, followed by the New Wave British Metal, the (Swedish) Death metal, the (Norwegian) Black metal and the Folk metal. This section focuses on revealing cultural historical elements used in the metal scenes. The study consists of the analyses of lyrics, fashion/appearance, concert location/spatial analysis, name or logos of the bands. The research is limited to personal interpretation but also to fans' notes and comments and interviews of insiders and Dutch bands.

# **early metal: 1966-1970**

## **Description**

The birth of metal music occurred in the late sixties and early seventies. It is known as the early metal period for it has grown and evolved since then, spawning a multitude of genres and subgenres. The early metal music had more rock and blues influences than the metal known today. It is considered as a transitional period between the rock/blues music and the hard rock/heavy metal music. The use of electrical guitar emerged in that period. It is not really clear which band was the first metal band, but the most famous bands with whom emerged metal music are Cream, led Zeppelin, Deep Purple and Black Sabbath. For that reason, the analysis of the use of cultural heritage in metal music of that period (early metal) was focused on these four bands.

early

metal

# Use of cultural heritage and history

Reading and analyzing lyrics of the four mentioned bands above, it is clear that history and cultural history were not really the main and important inspiring themes of that style/period. However, some indication to cultural heritage and history can be found in some of the songs, referring either to mythology or to landscape and nature. In fact, reference to mythology can be depicted in one of Cream's (a classical British band) "Tales Of brave Ulysses". This song was inspired by the famous epic of Odysseus and his heroic adventures. "How his naked ears were tortured by the sirens sweetly singing...." The inspiration for writing the song was mainly based on the trip made by Eric Clapton (the vocalist) to the Greek Islands. In this case, mythology and landscape were inspiring characteristics. Led Zeppelin, another British band of that time, referred also to issues associated to history and mythology. For instance, in their song "The battle of Evermore" they refer to Celtic and British Isles "...I am waiting for the angels of Avalon [...]. The pain of war cannot exceed the woe of aftermath, the drums will shake the castle wall". "Achilles last Stand" is another song that suggests historical scenes. In fact, the song cites some historical sites such as Morocco's Atlas Mountains in the line "The mighty arms of Atlas hold the heavens from the Earth". It is actually thought that Plant (writer) was inspired through his own experience he had in Morocco. In addition, the song mentions the word "Albion" which is the most ancient name of Great Britain, reflecting a cultural heritage aspect. "Kashmir" is another famous song of Led Zeppelin, which was written by Plant during his driving trip to Sahara Desert. "...All I see turns to brown, as the sun burns the ground, And my eyes fill with sand, as I scan this wasted land...". "Immigrant song", song by Led Zeppelin, refers to

Iceland, by describing their natural landscape, "...land of ice and snow [...] from the midnight sun where the hot springs blow". In this song, the most important word was "Valhalla", which refers to heaven in the Norse or Vikings Mythology. Again, we can notice that landscape elements and mythology were used as inspirational elements. The natural landscape is also indicated in the song "House of the Holy" of Led Zeppelin.

In addition to the lyrics, some of the bands' names are thought of having some historical or even cultural heritage inspirations. For example, "Deep Purple" was inspired by an old romantic song released in the 30's "Deep Purple", which was one of the favorite songs of the guitarist. The choice of Zeppelin in the band's name "Led Zeppelin" was influenced by the Hindenburg disaster of 1937 where as led referred to metal. [Lead=led] [Figure 3]

In addition, the four different symbols on Led Zeppelin's cover album, "Led Zeppelin IV" standing for each of the group member, are indication of mysticism, which is a Greek word that "asserts the possibility of attaining an intuitive knowledge of spiritual truths through meditation". [Figure 4]



Figure 3: Led Zeppelin I, [Led Zeppelin cover album]

## Conclusion

Analyzing lyrics, performances, names and logo of the bands mentioned above, it was found that some themes such as fantasy, are most of the time inspired by nature (the landscape) and the Universe ("Symptom of the Universe", "Hole in the Sky"), but also by mythology ("Tales Of brave Ulysses"). However, we can't generalize that history and cultural heritage are the only elements used for inspiration in the metal music of that time.

But it is important to mention that although early metal style/period is not considered an important phase in the history of metal in terms of success, it can't be disregarded in terms of themes. In fact, uncommon and sensitive themes such as politics, death, war, drugs, Satan, fantasy, etc. were introduced for the first time in society, especially by Black Sabbath. In fact, while these themes reflected the sensitive issues of that time (60's/early 70's), today they can be seen as representation of history. Thus, in this sense, metal music can be in a way considered a representation of history or cultural heritage.



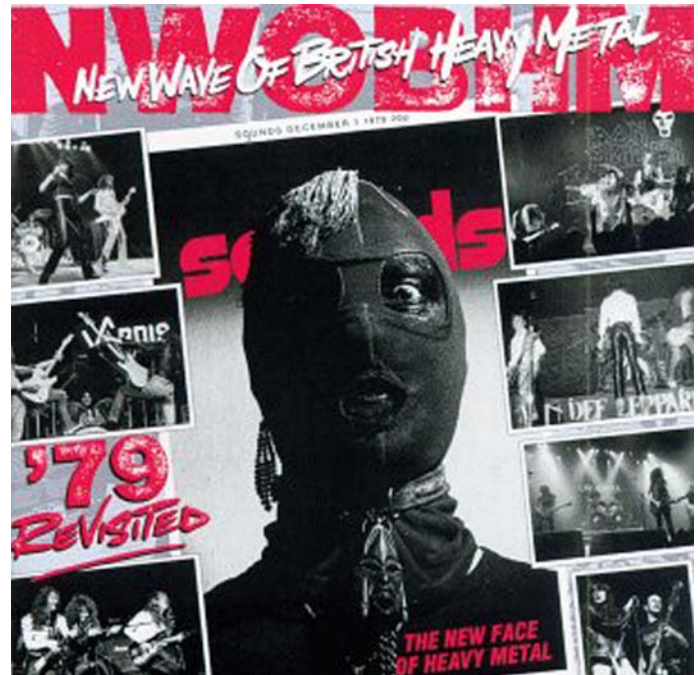
Figure 4: Led Zeppelin IV, [Led Zeppelin cover album], the four symbols

# new wave of british heavy metal

## NWOBHM late 70's & 80's

### Description

In Britain a new era for metal music started at the late 1970s and early 1980s when a group of metal bands, related to the Early Metal British Wave, emerged. This era is known as "The new wave of British heavy metal" (NWOBHM). This wave re-energized the metal scene and it was a breed of pure metal with fewer influences from the rock and blues scenes than the first metal bands. The metal bands of NWOBHM had the same sound of melody, but then there were many diversifications (epic sound, progressive sound, hard metal sound etc.). It sped up the rhythm, toughened up and made faster the sound creating a harder metal music but at the same time music, that could become extremely melodic (for example by introducing classical music) or that was "borrowing" sounds from punk music. This type of metal has no particular sound or style.





They were moving in a wide range of themes (death, drugs, etc.) but at the same time they were indebted to larger literary and cultural themes. They were inspired by fiction and mysticism, creating albums with mythological concepts, singing classical poems, and so on. However, the political and ideological themes (hidden or not) of the NWOBHM deserves closer attention. The metal bands of that time had a strong bond with the working class. The British working class had a tough pessimistic life, without education most of the times and with a different culture than the other classes. Out of these characteristics a lot of metal bands emerged.

*“...poor British youths with no apparent future... formed bands to express their frustration by mean of a violent, explosive sound...” (Szatmary David, 1996)*

They started playing in pubs and clubs for people of the working class, expressing their feelings towards the economical, political and cultural pressures of their times. What makes Motörhead, for example, different from other bands was that they focused mostly on “the culture of the working class” as a theme; a culture that wasn’t considered as a high level one. For them this was more important than talking about economy, politics or the known history.



Famous bands of that era are: *Diamond Head, Judas Priest, Raven, Motörhead, Iron Maiden, Def Leppard, Sweet Savage, Saxon, Angel Witch, Blitzkrieg, Tygers of Pan Tang, Triarchy, Tang*, among others.

NWOBHM wasn’t music for everyone but metal music for the metal fans. It led to the fast spreading of heavy metal music all over the world and to the creation of two new types of metal music: thrash music and speed metal music (characteristic example is the famous thrash metal band Metallica that was clearly influenced by the Diamond Head, Motörhead and the Blitzkrieg). For a lot of people from the metal scene NWOBHM was one of the most creative and extraordinary eras of metal history.

# Use of cultural heritage and history

NWOBHM was taking often its inspiration from the British history. Among the most popular themes for a lot of bands were the mysterious character of the Medieval times and the Tolkien's stories. In fact, John Ronald Reuel Tolkien's books (a British author but also a philologist and professor who was known worldwide through his books: "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings") are great inspiration for some metal bands till nowadays. Battles, swords, landscapes, castles, dragons, symbols, clothing, features of that time, came into life again.

Another historical aspect that was a beloved theme among the bands of the NWOBHM is the witchcraft craze in the British society in 1550-1650. Iron Maiden's song "Hallowed be The Name" is the last song of a prisoner that was about to be executed for black witchcraft.







Figure 5: Appearances of Dio that reminds us Arthurian stories

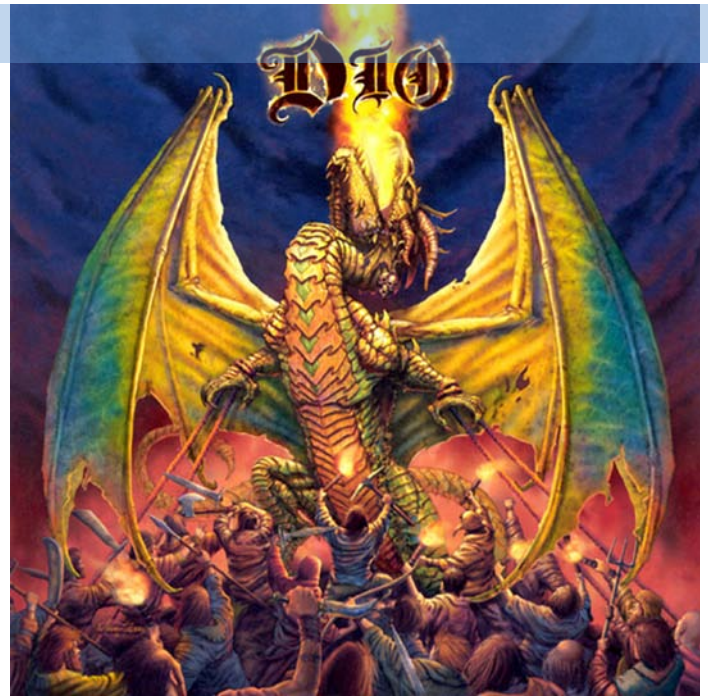


Figure 6: Cover of the album “Killing The Dragon” (2002)

Some of *Ronnie James Dio's*<sup>2</sup> lyrics, albums' artwork or appearance show his interest which started since he was a child, in the scientific fiction literature and the romantic fantastic literature, such as works from Sir Walter Scott, a Scottish historian novelist, and the Arthurian legends. [Figure 5&6]

dio

<sup>2</sup> Ronnie James Dio is a vocalist who has performed with “Elf”, “Rainbow”, “Black Sabbath” and his own band “Dio”



Figure 7: Brave new world (2000)

The title of this album has been taken from a novel of Huxley Aldous and there is an homonymous song also in the album. Eddie's face is appeared in the clouds above the city of "the future" London.

maide



Figure 8: Be quick or be dead (1992)

Robert Maxwell is squeezed by Eddie. The homonymous song speaks about scandals taking place in the political scene of those days, including also the Robert Maxwell banking scandal.

Figure 9: Sanctuary (1980)

The cover shows Eddie having just killed Margaret Thatcher, the prime minister of that time. And this is also the theme of the homonymous song:

"...I've never killed a woman before But I know how it feels..."





As mentioned above, the NWOBHM emergence coincided with a big economical crisis which was accompanied with a rise of infiltration and unemployment. Some of the NWOBHM metal bands were rejecting the situation, and expressing their feeling and thoughts about it. As an example, Iron Maiden's album "Sanctuary" illustrates a picture of Margaret Thatcher, the Iron Lady famous for her conservative beliefs, being murdered by Eddie<sup>3</sup>, a figure representing the "wasted youth" of the society of those days. [Figure 7,8&9]

*Iron Maiden* was also taking themes from mythology. A lot of their stage performances and sceneries, as well as their clothes, reflect symbols and elements from the medieval time. They even took their name from a particular nasty medieval torture device. [Figure 10] In addition, they were inspired by the Norman's invasion and conquest in Britain, what you can see for example in their song "Invaders": *"Longboats have been sighted, the evidence of war has begun, many Nordic fighting men their swords and shields all gleam in the sun..."* But also other historical representations, which are reflecting events, for example from the Second World War [Figure 11], can be found in their songs, artwork etc.

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<sup>3</sup> "Eddie" (full name: Edward the Head) fashioned by Derek Riggs, is a worldwide striking figure of the NWOBHM, the perennial iconic mascot of the Iron Maiden, who has been figured almost in all their albums and was present in their live shows.

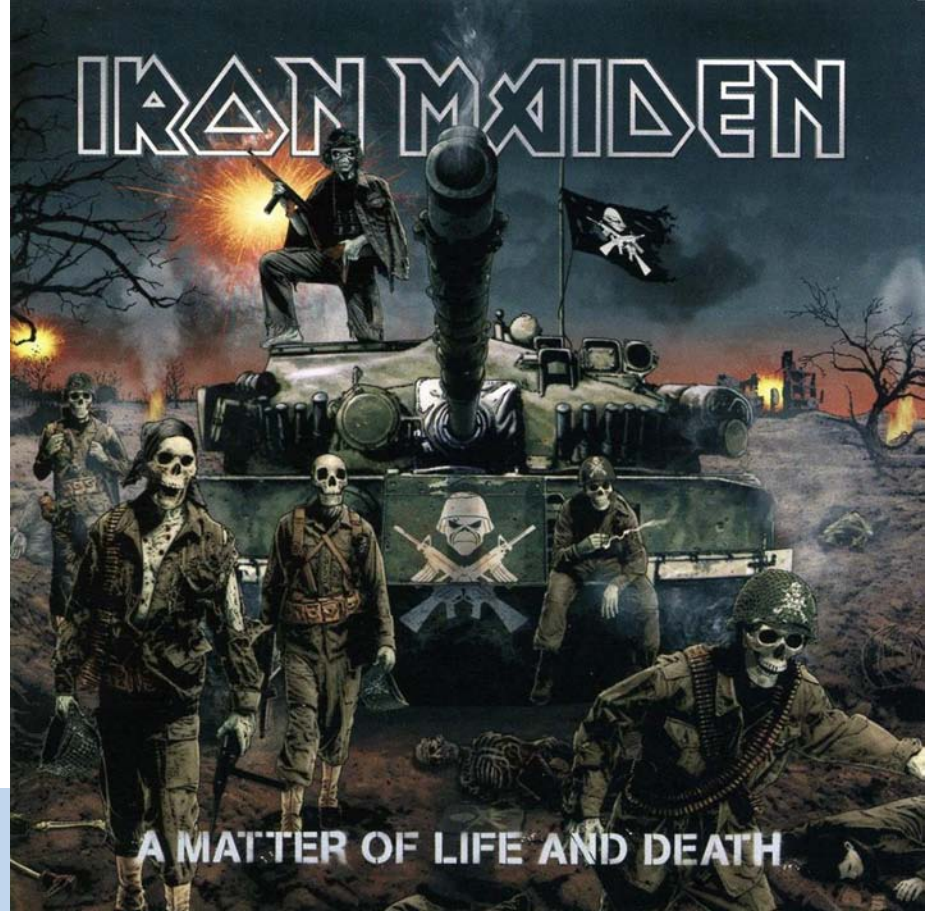


Figure 11: Cover of the album "A Matter Of Life And Death" (2006)  
Not only in the cover but in general in all the album's themes and artwork, war and religion are addressed.



Figure 10:  
The most famous iron maiden device: The Iron Maiden of Nuremberg (German)

*Saxon*, another metal band from the NWOBHM, reflects through its name, logo, lyrics, album covers, and performances, Saxon's history. In their logo two axes are represented, the main war weapon of the Saxons, and in most of their albums' covers and generally artwork you can see also other Saxon's symbols or generally representations and symbols from history and cultures.

# saxon



An album of the Saxon that should be mentioned is the “Crusaders” due to the fact that a lot of historical elements of that time<sup>4</sup> are represented.

*“Crusader, crusader, please take me with you/ The battle lies far to the east...The holy land has to be free / For Christendom’s sake, we’ll take our revenge / On the pagans from out of the east... To battle, to battle, the Saracen hordes / We follow the warrior king... Warlords of England, Knights of the Realm...Crusader, crusader, the legend is born...”*

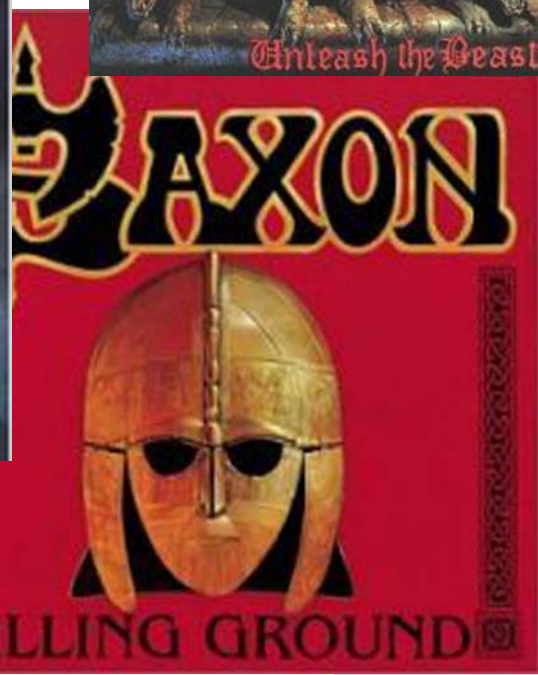
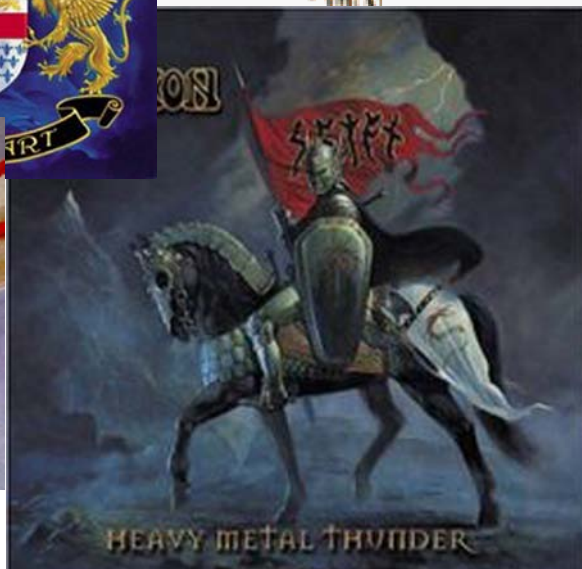
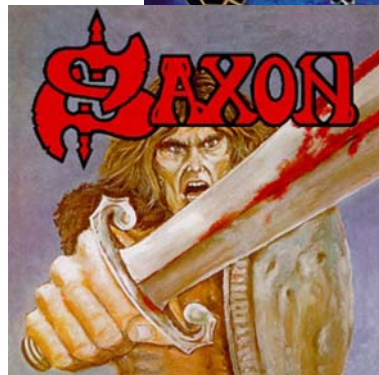
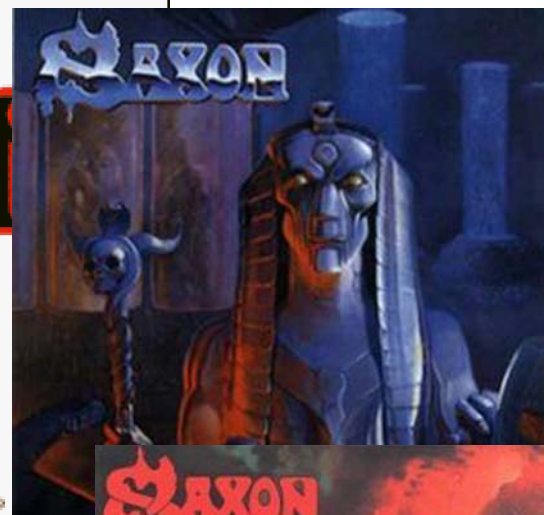
These are lyrics of the homonymous song of the Saxon’s album *Crusader* and there is also a representation of a Crusader’s battle in the cover.

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<sup>4</sup> 4 Crusaders were called the European participants in the Crusades, a series of wars and campaigns during the 11<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

# Sax





KON

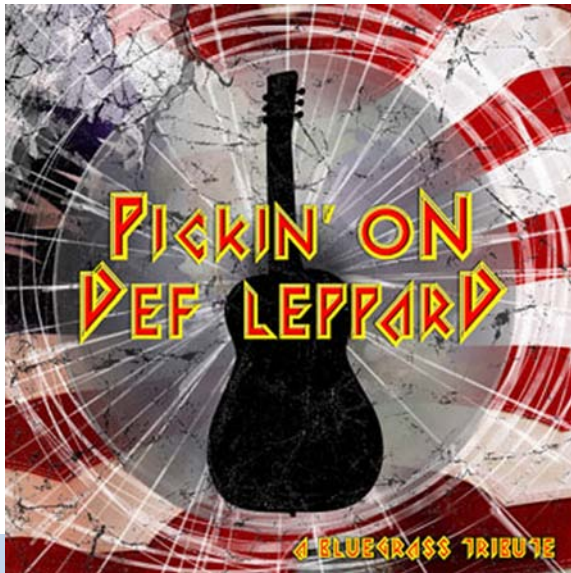
Some NWOBHM bands were also using British common culture. For instance, Judas Priest refers to Shakespeare theatrical plays, in the album “Sad Wings of Destiny” and Iron Maiden’s epic ballad “Prime of the ancient Mariner”, in their album “Powerslave”, is a summary of a poem written in 1798 by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, a Romantic poet.

# def leppard

It is quite interesting to mention the band “Def Leppard”, due to the fact that in quite a lot of their albums they were using the British flag as a cover. A symbol that most of the times was also present in their performances and on their clothes. So as it can be claimed, they were strongly connected to their country, trying to transmit this feeling to their fans as well.





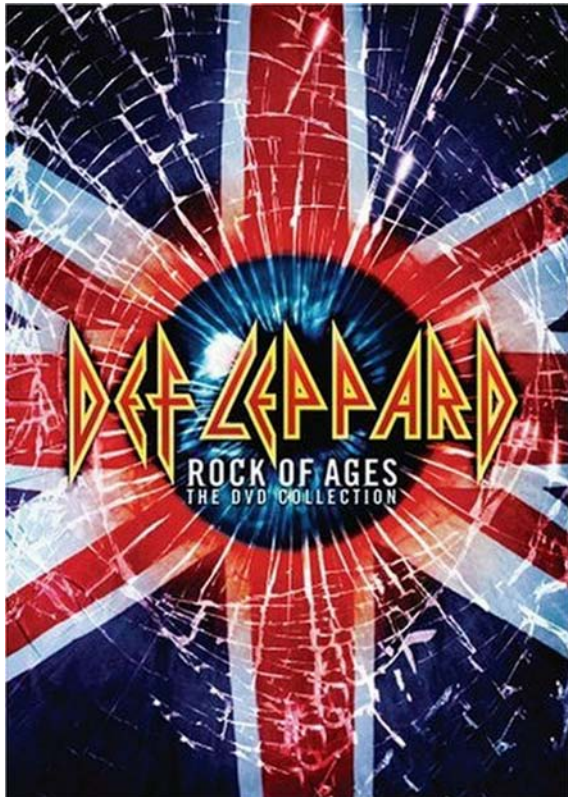


ard



## Conclusion

It can be claimed that NWOBHM is a style of metal music influenced by a broad range of British historical, cultural and sociological aspects. On the one hand, it represents historical events and has a lot of literally and artistic influences and on the other hand, it represents a new way of looking to life, provoking or rejecting events (social aspects, economical, political, etc.) that were happening in their country. They created a different metal music style to express themselves and their positions.



# swedish death metal 90's-present

## Description

In the early 90's a new movement in death metal arose that was concentrated around the Swedish cities Gothenburg and Stockholm. Although incorporating Norwegian bands, the Swedish bands were more popular than Norwegian bands, who were influenced by Black metal and included keyboards and chaotic riffs. Many of these Scandinavian metal bands are associated with the Melodic death metal movement that makes the Scandinavian metal sound different from other death metal styles. Sweden has a very large melodic death metal scene, therefore often called 'Gothenburg metal'. The first wave of Swedish death metal was led by bands like Entombed, Dismember and Unleashed and represented the greatest success of death metal outside America. The later Gothenburg sound was created by bands like In Flames, Arch Enemy and Dark Tranquility.

As for its philosophy, Spinoza (1992) stated that: "In its own way, this music was both deconstructive and constructive. Its nihilism and alienation escaped the rules of society entirely and exceeded the limits of religion and conventional morality; it was born to be offensive and thus marked itself as not only not belonging to society but happy in that alienated view, preferring a separate truth to a compromise with something it saw as false and in denial of mortality, thus unable to seek any meaningful values (when life is infinite, and the self is the limits of perception, is there any reason to care about anything but gratification?). Unlike most genres of the time, however, its deconstruction was predicated on the notion that if enough of society were removed, a truth could be seen which was less constricting and less without value. This was years later a fulfillment of the Jim Morrison summary of William Blake's basic theory that if humankind could remove its perceptive confusion, it would see the world as it is - infinite."

# Use of cultural heritage and history

## *Bands inspired by the Vikings*

The Scandinavian Death Metal group “Unleashed” from Stockholm has dedicated quite a number of their songs to themes drawn from the Viking age and the old Norse religion. During live concerts the band members proudly wear amulets of Mjollnir, the Hammer of Thor [Figure 12], god of thunder. Mjollnir is said to be the most fearsome weapon in Norse mythology that never missed its target and, when it was thrown, returned to Thor’s right hand that wore an iron glove (Bray, 2006)



Figure 12: Hammer of Thor

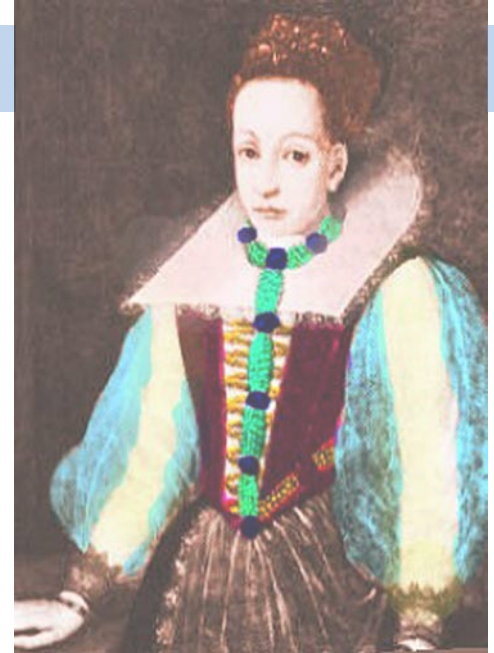


Figure 13: countess Elizabeth Bathory

At a certain point in every show, bassist Johnny Hedlund leaves the stage, to return a few seconds later with a huge Viking drinking horn filled with ale (or sometimes mead, the traditional sacred honey wine of ancient Europe). He then dedicates a song to his Viking ancestors, drinks from the horn and pours some of the liberation onto fans in front of the stage (Moynihan & Soderlind, 1998).

An example of a song of Unleashed dedicated to history is ‘Countess Bathory’ from the album ‘Shadows in the deep’ (1992). The song is about Countess Elizabeth Bathory [Figure 13], a noblewoman who was born in 1560 in one of the wealthiest families in Hungary. She was considered a vampire that bathed in the blood of virgins to maintain her youthful appearance. With more than 600 murders “The Blood Countess” still holds a place in the Guinness Book of World Records for the most murders attributed to a woman (Bexte, 2002).



Another band from Sweden that is inspired by the Vikings is the melodic death metal band Amon Amarth. The band's name refers to a location in J.R.R. Tolkien's the Lord of the rings. It is a translation of 'Mount Doom' in one of the Elvish languages (Sindarin) that Tolkien invented. The song lyrics are mostly storytelling and often refer to the Vikings or historical events. An example of an event is the song "The beheading of the king" from the album "Fate the norms" (2004). This song tells about the Battle of Foteviken. The ancient coastal village Foteviken, a centre of herring fishing from late Viking times, was the scene of a bloody battle in June 1134 between the Danish king and the would-be king of Skåne, a province in Denmark belonging now to Sweden (Mouritsen & Norum, 2006)

Also their appearance at live performances makes it clear that the band is influenced by the Vikings, wearing clothing attributes such as drinking horns and armlets, having long hair and some of the members having long beards which gives them a 'Viking' look. [Figure 14&15]



Figure 14: Amon Amarth in front of a castle



Figure 15: Amon Amarth in front of a ruin

## Conclusion

The bands described above are two striking examples of Swedish death metal bands that get their inspiration from cultural history (Vikings) or other historical events. But these kinds of bands do not form a majority in the Swedish death metal scene. In this research the ten most influential bands in the scene were evaluated on historical aspects being present in their lyrics, appearance, performance, and concert locations. Most of the evaluated bands write about other topics, mostly the darker aspects of life such as suicide, damnation, addictions, drama but also about personal experiences (e.g. relationships) and society-criticism. Their appearance and performance do not really reflect history but more the metal culture itself (long hair, tattoos). Concerts are taking place in all the different concert halls across Europe and do not seem to be influenced by the historical point of view of the bands.

# **‘norwegian’ black metal 90’s-present**

## **Description**

Black metal became to exist in the early 1980’s with bands like Venom, Bathory, and Celtic Frost. The Second Wave of Black Metal started in the later 1980’s/early 1990’s primarily in Norway, but however not limited to Norway. Burzum, Darkthrone, Immortal and Mayhem are the most important and influential bands of this period. However, these bands were just the tip of the iceberg when it came to the Norwegian black metal scene.

Many black metal bands limited the production of their albums as a statement against mainstream music and/or to reflect the mood of the music by creating a certain atmosphere. Very few of the black metal pioneers still do this, since their original limited production only was due to a minimal budget. This production style is often considered as an essential element of “true” black metal.

The musical aspects of black metal are characterized by different things. Black metal can be typified by its screeching vocals, fast guitars with tremolo picking and double bass, blastbeat, and D-beat drumming. Black metal musicians use normally tuned guitars (stark contrast to Death Metal which typically uses down-tuned guitars). Furthermore electronic keyboards are occasionally used. The harpsichord, violin, organ, and choir settings are most common, which gives the music an orchestral feel or a cathedral-like setting. They are generally placed under the symphonic black metal label. Also a distinct rasped vocal style should be mentioned; a very guttural rasp, which is reminiscent of a torture. This is basically standard in every black metal, though there are exceptions. Some bands, particularly symphonic black metal bands, incorporate clean vocals, usually of a male choir sound, though this is used for atmospheric purposes.



# Use of cultural heritage and history

Black metal has a cold, dark, sad, melancholy, reflective, tragic, meditative, or gloomy atmosphere. It is known as a music style that gives support to ideologies such as Anti-Christianity, Satanism, Misanthropy, Nazism and White Power ideology. Bands like Dimmu Borgir and Darkthrone, for example, carry out a message with a clear anti-Judeo-Christian attitude and pro-Satan. Vincent Crowley, vocalist of the Black Metal band Acheron states: “Satan always is the centre of attention in Black Metal. And band members always have a dark aesthetic. But the main thing is Black Metal has to be the most demonic music ever!” (Hawkes 2001) [Figure 16]

However, not all musicians in the black metal scene necessarily support the ideologies mentioned above. Nowadays there are also black metal bands that carry out an opposite message, for example the bands that consist of Christians. The band Antestor for example has lyrics about the same subjects like other bands, like death and the struggle of life, but also attacks Satan and praises God in the lyrics.

Nonetheless Satanic, Pagan or occult themes which blaspheme Christianity can be considered as main themes in black metal. There are many people within the black metal scene who state that Christians cannot play black metal, because black metal is from Satan and is at odds with Christianity.



Figure 16: Dimmu Borgir, looking evil, posing in front of a pentagram, related to Satanism.



Other bands have also lyrics that are related to their culture and landscape. Lyrics that celebrate the cold, darkness, forests, and other natural surroundings of northern European countries, reflecting black metal's origins in Scandinavia.

The band Immortal for example uses many landscape elements and characteristics from Norway in their lyrics, interwoven with references to Satan. Also corpse paint is used to express a Viking-look. [Figure 17]

Figure 17: Abbath and Horgh from the band Immortal with corpse paint

***“...Only seven winds are heard  
Chaiming through the dark Northern valleys  
Eternity I pass eternity I seeked  
For the darkness my spirit  
For satan my black soul...”  
(cold winds of funeral dust)***



Another band, Emperor, uses also many Scandinavian landscape elements, interwoven with darkness and elements of life and with an anti-Christianity attitude. Often terms get the predicate black and dark, to create that dark, cold and sad atmosphere.

***“...Deep Green Dark Chaos.  
Blinded I run down these paths.  
By heart I know them.  
They lead to the soaring cliffs.  
Stout they stand above the  
water’s edge,  
lifeless...”  
(With strength I burn)***

Borknagar is a band from Bergen, Norway. Borknagar’s lyrics often deal with philosophy, paganism, nature, and the cosmos. The name Borknagar is an anagram of “Ragnarök”, with a B thrown in to make it pronounceable. However, Øystein Brun stated once that the name was inspired by a Scottish legend about a man who climbed Lochnagar, a mountain in Scotland. The band uses a whole scale of instruments, like clean vocals, choirs and grim vocals, electric, acoustic and high string guitars, synthesizers, Hammond organ, grand piano, backing vocals and drums.

Slechtvalk is a Dutch black metal band that also uses cultural historical elements in their shows. Their lyrics are especially about war, which is a metaphor for the battle between good and evil. Furthermore, in their shows they wear an outfit like soldiers in the middle ages, including for example swords and axes. [Figure 18&19]



Figure 18: Live show of Slechtvalk with medieval warrior outfit, inclusive sword



Figure 19: Live show of Slechtvalk with medieval outfit, inclusive knife.

Another cultural aspect, which is really Norwegian, is the appearance of the world of trolls, witches and foreboding forests. People in Norway are interested in trolls and dwarfs; they are even represented on many mailboxes. The cultural legacy of Norwegian folk tales is full of it and these have had a profound influence on many Black metal bands. Some bands, like Ulver, have dropped traditional Black Metal imagery and symbolism for “Trollish” atmospheres. (Moynihan & Soderlind, 1998) [Figure 20]



Figure 20: Illustration of a Tolkien's troll

Many black metal musicians choose to adopt stage names, typically patterned after occult and/or fantasy characters, but this practice is not universal. It is also a fact that many black metal musicians adopt a “neo-medieval” costume style that may include leather, spikes, bondage gear, archaic armor and weaponry, and facial corpse paint.

In the nineties, church burning became a new phenomena in Norway, which was linked to black metal. Varg Vikernes, initiator of the black metalband Burzum (started as a one-man-band and nowadays again consisting of only him), incited to burn churches. He didn't admit he burnt churches himself, but played with the media by doing suggestive pronouncements about it, so it cannot be excluded that he did it. Also one member of the band Emperor, Bård Eithun, admitted that he killed a homosexual in Lillehammer and burned at least one church, the Holmenkollen Chapel.

Other churches were burnt down by teenagers. It could not be proven, they could just be pyromanias, but it's really possible that they were inspired by the anti-Christian message of black metal, proclaimed by people like Varg Vikernes. (Moynihan & Soderlind, 1998) [Figure 21]



Figure 21: Church burnings in Norway in the newspapers.

## Viking metal

Viking metal is basically a sub-genre of black metal. It takes the rich history of the ancients and uses it as influence for an anti modern stance instead of using the metaphor of Satan. (Hessian Studies Society, 2007)

Bathory started as a Swedish black metal band and developed into one of the first Viking metal bands, that has had a big influence in the development of the Viking metal. Their first albums had more satanic lyrics. Later on, starting with their album *Blood Fire Death*, there was a more epic song writing approach, where the Viking theme was introduced. On their next albums the themes of the lyrics became more and more about Vikings and Scandinavia's Norse mythology.

Another Viking band is Enslaved, which uses landscape elements from their country in their lyrics, together with elements of their old culture. They sing for example about Gjallarhorn, Heimdall, that is an old Norse god. Although they record now in English, their early albums were in Icelandic or Old Norse.



Figure 23: Cover of the Blodhemn album of Enslaved, showing the band in a Viking outfit on the rocks along near the sea.

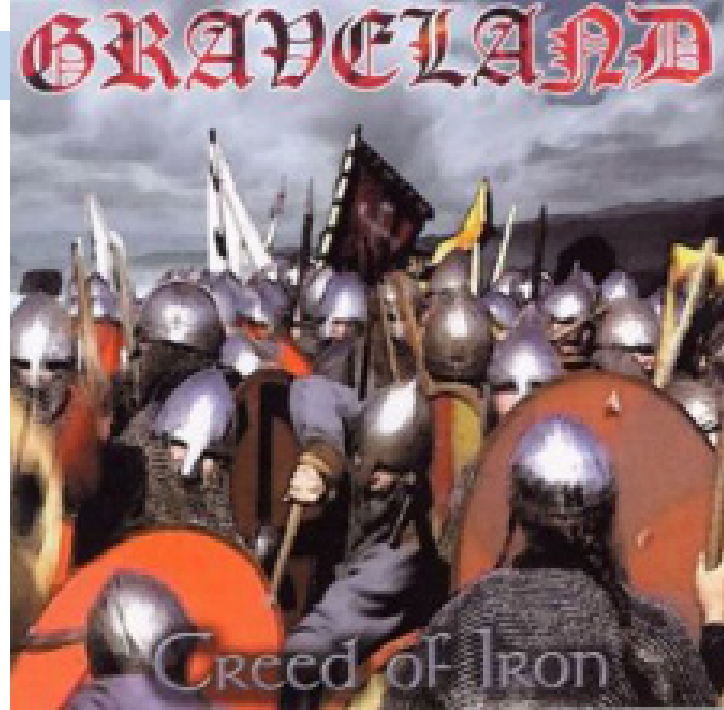


Figure 22: Cover of the Creed of Iron album of Graveland, showing an army of Vikings

Viking metal band Graveland from Poland is a band that uses the Viking theme, combined with an anti-Christian attitude and some Nazism and White Power ideology. Their Viking image can also be found in their appearance. They wear a whole Viking outfit and played for example in 2007 on a Viking-festival. [Figure 22&23]

***“...Burned landscape, where it earlier bloomed  
Battle fields for the first  
A black empire, eternal winter  
Frozen fields, eternal cold...”  
Lightening and thunder commands from the first  
Eternal storms, an evil monsoon  
A wall of darkness  
The voice is calling, the circle completed...”***

# **folk metal**

## **mid 90's - present**

### **Description**

Folk metal is a metal style which is influenced by folk elements and includes different metal styles: black metal, thrash metal, power metal and doom metal. Some bands play a particular metal style; others blend more than one style together with folk music. The folk characteristics are especially represented by the lyrics and the instruments. Most folk metal bands are from Europe, so the most used folk music is also European. The Celtic styles for example can be found with Irish bands as well as with bands that aren't from Ireland, for example Eluveitie from Switzerland.

folk



# Use of cultural heritage and history

Eluveitie consider themselves part of the new wave of folk metal by playing Celtic Helvetian pagan metal. “Eluveitie” simply means “I am the Helvetian” in the ancient Gaulish language. Switzerland’s name “Helvetia” comes from the Celtic clan “Elveti” which once indwelled this land. They were called the “Helvetians”. The Helvetians were Gauls and were one of the biggest and mightiest clan of the continental Celts. The sentence “eluveitie” has been found through an archaeological excavation, carved in a pot of clay.” (Eluveitie, 2007)

Eluveitie’s sound is traditional, authentic Celtic Folk Music combined with modern styled Melodic Death Metal, strongly influenced by the classic “Göthenburg Sound”. The band consists of eight members and uses a whole scale of instruments. Besides the basic instruments like the guitar, bass guitar and drums, they use Mandola, Tin & Low Whistles, Uilleann Pipes, Bodhran, Fiddle, Hurdygurdy, Flute, Irish Flute, Tin & Low Whistles and Gaita. [Figure 24]



Figure 24: Eluveitie with their Celtic instruments in the landscape.

Eluveitie consider themselves a neutral band on topics as politics and religion. Many of their lyrics are written in the Gaulish language. In their lyrics, they describe the Celtic Helvetians, not just as simple historiography, but also with a socio critical side glance at what the Helvetians became today. They do so, because they believe that today's society could and needs to learn a lot of the old Celtic society. Furthermore, nature (and its protection) is very important to them. One of their songs in Gaulish language is a hymn of praise and love, eulogizing the beauty of nature and creation, of the mountains, the forest and rivulets. (Eluveitie, 2007)

*“...Uro si tovo keitone, e’brgant tovo bargo  
Toge si se met snibi, staj si borso anda  
Cuonos be toi se - immi spakto...  
Cuonos be toi se - vo tovo vida...”  
(Uis Elveti)*

The Scandinavian folk styles are represented by bands like Finntroll and Korpiklaani. Finntroll is a folk metal band from Finland that combines black metal with Finnish polka, called Humppa. The name Finntroll means “Troll from Finland”. The lyrics of Finntroll are about trolls, Finnish legends and fantasy. Although it is a Finnish band, Finntroll's lyrics are in Swedish, because Swedish just sounds “damn trollish”, according to Katla, the band's first vocalist whose native language is Swedish. Swedish is the second national language of Finland, along with Finnish. (Last.fm, 2007) [Figure 25&26]

Beyond the Celtic and Scandinavian folk styles, there are many other styles of folk music used by folk metal bands from the respective country or ethnic groups.

Common themes in the lyrics of folk metal are the celebration of nature, medieval culture and neo-pagan beliefs, as well as the hostility towards organized religions, particularly Christianity. The common present of pagan lyrics has led to the use of the term pagan metal instead of folk metal, but not all bands with pagan lyrics perform in a folk metal style. Also not all folk metal bands use pagan elements. Folk metal bands often write and sing their lyrics in the native language of the band members, rather than English.



Figure 25: Finntroll looking and acting like trolls strengthening their trollish image.



Figure 26: Finntroll in a 'drinking like a troll' setting.

## Conclusion

Folk metal is a metal style that has strong connections with cultural heritage and history. The music itself is inspired by folk elements, including the use of different instruments. Also, the lyrics with themes like medieval culture, neo-pagan beliefs and celebration of nature show a strong fascination for history and cultural heritage. It's also notable that many folk metal bands write and sing (partly) in their native language.

# **discussion based on the interviews**

discus



Besides our own informational study on the five different styles we had the opportunity to do a couple of interviews with Dutch metal bands Thronar and Textures and some people that have knowledge about the metal scene. In this chapter the answers that the interviewed people gave are compared with each other and form a discussion about the topics that were discussed during the interviews. [Appendix II]

ssion

As expressed by most of the interviewed persons, music is a culture in itself which makes culture important for music. For instance, Thronar stated 'that history and cultural heritage are important in music because music is actually a representation of culture'. As for Jochem Jacobs, he illustrated this say by saying "When you hear for example Flamenco music, you directly link that with the Spanish culture". Geert Borremans added on that by stating "Music is a universal language, which always tries to connect with universal historical elements or cultural symbols". For Jonathan Huurman, music is a way to proclaim ideas to people and to teach them mortality and criticism towards the future by history. He actually believes that music is a "chariot of knowledge and inspiration of minds". For Mateusz Wata personally, on the other hand, (cultural) history isn't important. It's not the theme in the music that's important, but the sound itself.

# the importance of history in music

importance

None of the interviewed persons questioned the fact that history is a used topic in metal. They all say that cultural history is a common theme in certain metal styles and bands. The style where the use of history is most common is Black metal. Jochem Jacobs (Textures) presumes that, since in Black metal they have a connection with traditions, rituals and religion. Thronar mentions that Folk metal (which is closely related to Viking metal and Black metal) is a style that is founded on the roots of the particular country where the band comes from and therefore uses the cultural history of this country. This is manifested through their lyrics, appearances and also the style of music. Thronar itself uses fantasy based themes but also general historical events or figures such as the story of Hannibal.

Metal is a very broad style of music with a very wide range of addressed topics; there are bands that write about socio-political issues and there are bands that are fully focused on fantasy. There is however a tendency (especially in the new millennium) of bands using 'their' national or religious heritage as a specific point of interest in their lyrics or even as a concept for the band in its entirety. (Album Covers, Lyrics, Stage shows and even use of instruments). That led to a new widespread range of bands often called Pagan and/or Folk metal or in case of the Scandinavian bands even Viking Metal (Geert Borremans). Jonathan Huurman thinks that the use of history and culture in both the visual and audio/lyrical expressions is a unique feature of metal because he cannot think of a music style where history and culture play such a role.

# the use of history in metal music

use

# a powerful tool in transmitting history

a tool

On one hand all the people that have been interviewed for this research believe that the majority of the metal bands use themes from history/cultural heritage just as a source of inspiration. Jochem Jacobs claimed that when metal bands are writing songs about historical battles, for example, they don't have in mind any message or statement that they want to transmit; singing about knights, nature or mythology is purely expressive and descriptive. But of course there are some exceptions, as Mateusz Wata said, depending on the band or more precisely, the genre of metal in which the band plays. He gave for example Grave Digger who only uses the history of Scotland as a theme, on which the album can be 'built'. Another example was the Iconic Polish NSBM (National-Socialism Black Metal) band, Graveland, who uses mythological Slavic gods and events from the history as a message to its fans, saying 'Poland is the greatest, our Nation is better than other'; he added that the same can be said also about various Scandinavian black metal bands.

On the other hand, Jonathan Huurman claimed that “music is message” and Jochem Jacobs acknowledged that if music is a powerful tool for transmitting history then it is the music in general and not only the metal genre. But then the question is “do people perceive it as a message”? Mateusz Wata believes that the majority of the fans do not really care about the educational aspect of music; music is meant to be relaxing, to be a hobby, and as such doesn’t have impact on the level of knowledge /awareness among the listeners. Moreover, Jonathan Huurman seems to agree by saying that the listeners don’t perceive it as a message. He believes that the majority are kids that just want to bang their heads on the crunchy sound of Nu-metal. Nevertheless, as Geert Borremans said, the bands that use their cultural heritage wisely and market it well can pass a message to the fans and you can definitely see it in the fact that a lot of fans are taking interest in what the bands are talking about and even start wearing and using the same symbols in many ways. He added that music as an influence to the youth in general (but also especially to the adolescence), should not be underestimated because it has the ability of pointing interests of one person that can resonate in hobby’s, choice of reading material or even jobs in some

cases. Therefore, as Jonathan Huurman pointed out, the metal bands should hold responsibility for what they sing about or play about.

Another thing that is worth to be mentioned is what Jochem Jacobs claimed. According to his beliefs, even if the interest in history is kept awake by the music and that people may pay more attention in history classes or may be more interested in mythological locations (for example to go to on holiday), definitely the music cannot replace history books. In his opinion it is too shallow for that. He said that, through music, it is the feeling and the mythical character that are better transmitted than the real history.

From the comparison of the interviews it can be concluded that musicians are using history and cultural heritage in most of the cases for their own inspiration but, even if they don’t have this intention, it is a message for the fans, even if just the minority of them are receiving it.

# location of meetings/ festivals

Most festivals and concerts take place in big famous halls, or in big open spaces [used for that purposes]. Bands as well as their fans, most of the time, don't have preference on where to perform or to meet. "Metal concerts or festivals are mostly just at the location that the festival directors arranged it and the concert halls that are available." as expressed by Jochem Jacobs. Mateusz Wata shares the same opinion "there is no specific preference for meetings or concerts". Although, he was not really sure, Jochem Jacobs believes that some fans for example of black metal, would prefer to meet in forests or castles because of their connection to their music or just to taste the atmosphere of these places. As for the band themselves, it is not really clear if they actually prefer some sites or locations for their inspiration "Maybe there are also bands that go to castles to get inspiration" (Jochem), but for example "Thronar" used to go, when they first started, to forests to write their songs.

On a larger scale some countries in Europe are more important than others when it comes to metal scenes. Both Jonathan and Jochem believe that Norway and Sweden have big scenes of metal and believe that it is probably related to the landscape, the atmosphere and their history. "Country like Norway has a real big scene and a lot of adherents. Therefore, there are a lot of concerts over there. I think it's because of the mysterious and mythical atmosphere both its history and today's country breathe." (Jonathan); "I can imagine that the landscape in Norway makes people fantasize about stories such as Lord of the Rings. I think the climate (long dark winters) and nature contribute to the influence in songwriting and band image" Jochem. However, others believe that Germany is the most famous for its metal scene. "Thronar" mentioned for example some of the largest and biggest festivals there such as The "Wacken Open Air" festival, but there is not any relation between location and history.

# identity

## **a common identity**

As expressed by some interviewed persons, the music itself forms a common identity. For instance, Geert Borremans, (a specialized in rock/ metal history) stated that “The common identity of a metal fan is mainly focused around the music itself”. However, we believe that some other aspects of this common identity are derived from historical events/elements. Of these aspects, fashion, stage performances, and gestures are the most significant. The following section offers an illustration of the use of historical elements and cultural heritage in the aspects mentioned above.

Metal fashion includes the style of dress, body modifications [such as tattoos], hairstyles and accessories. Although, it sometimes differs from one style to another, it can still be considered as a reflection of a common identity of a specific style or even band. The fashion of some of the bands as seen in the previous sections, are sometimes inspired by the Celtic, Viking and Chivalric. These historical cultures can be seen in the style of dress, but mostly in the accessories either used everyday or just wore on stage/performances. Among these accessories it is important to mention the most famous one: The Thor's Hammer pendant. In fact, when asked Reamon Bloem (song writer of the Dutch Battle Metal band "Thronar") about his Thor's hammer necklace, he stated that it is a representation of his belonging to the metal music, in other word a symbol of a common identity, confirming his knowledge and understanding of its historical meaning. He actually elaborates on that by stating that metal music is really wide with its symbols, so choosing to wear a certain symbol means that the person knows what it actually means and what it stands for. However, Nathalia Hoogkamer (playing synthesizer in the Dutch Battle Metal band "Thronar") believes that some people (fans or musicians) are not really aware of the meaning of these symbols; they just wear them to feel connected to the metal culture, without knowing its real meaning. Geert Borremans support the same thought by saying: "There is a bit of a tendency amongst metal fans to also wear items that can be described as for example pagan. Let's say a Thor's Hammer pendant for example. It might show a genuine interest in cultural history of pre-Christian beliefs but hey...an axe also blends in fine with the hard hitting style of metal music." Other used accessories are for example the Christian crosses or the pentagram or even the Egyptian Ankh.

fashion



In addition to the accessories, it is believed that the look, mainly the hairstyle, is inspired by the Viking and Celts. In fact, Jonathan (metal music fan, played in several metal bands: Mentation, Melisend and Darmkhatar) declared

“Long hair is an attribute that is clearly taken over from the Viking/Saxon cultures”, whereas Thronar group believes that it is just a symbol of rebellion in the 80's.



Tattoos form a big part in representing a common identity. In fact, most metal musicians and fans have tattoos representing a wide range of themes and symbols, depending on their sub-genre preference. However, as acknowledged by Reamon, these tattoos can have historical representations such as the horn, Viking ruins, Germanic transcript... and many more symbols. Tattoos are not like accessories, they are permanent, so having a Germanic transcript on the body means that the person is really connected to that certain historical element and is part of the person's identity.



For metal musicians, performance on stage is an important aspect in the metal culture's identity. The performance or the stage settings reflect most of the time the themes attributed by the band. Thus, some bands refer to historical events and present a theatrical performance. For example, Thronar's performance on stage is most of the time representing a medieval battle. Although most of their songs are about fantasy, the way they dress and act on stage represents historical events; they only do so, to add a special atmosphere to the performance.

tattoo



The “devil horn” is a famous and common gesture used by most fans and musicians. In concerts, festivals, shows “people do it because it belongs to the metal culture” as stated by Jochem Jacobs. However, Jonathan pointed out that this specific gesture has actually some cultural and ancient background. So, researching about the real meaning of the sign, and why is it used in metal scenes, it was found that the sign had different meaning depending on the context or culture. While it was an old sign used as an infidelity symbol in some cultures such as Spanish, Italians or Columbian, it was used as a salute for Satan in other cultures (popularized by Anton LaVey), founder of the church of Satan). How it got in the metal scenes, is not really clear. (Gene Simmons, from the band Kiss and Ronnie James Dio from Black Sabbath, argue about it and each one claims that he introduced it first). However, although it has some historical and cultural meaning, fans and musicians only use it to create a connection among them. Jochem Jacobs explains that by declaring “... I guess that 90% of the fans don’t know what it means. They do it because it belongs to the metal culture. I also do it on stage but our band doesn’t have anything to do with the devil”. The same opinion was stated by Thronar “most of the fans and musicians don’t know the meaning behind it. It became today just a representation of a common identity.” Another gesture was mentioned by Thronar: the hammer gesture which is used by only some specific genre.

In conclusion, most interviewers believe that the music itself forms a common identity to most of the fans and musicians. Some added aspects (fashion, performances, and gestures) provide the metal band communities a stronger identity. But as seen above, these aspects, intentionally or not, can have some historical meanings and cultural heritage references.

# conclusion

This research investigated the use of history and cultural heritage in the metal scene in Europe; Is it just an inspiration for the bands and fans, or can it also be seen as a tool of spreading historical events and the representation of cultural heritage? Through the interviews as well as our own analysis and research, we illustrated the use of history and cultural heritage in some metal styles; they can be represented in several ways: in lyrics, performances, logo's, image and fashion. In addition, we saw that historical events and cultural heritage can sometimes serve as inspirational themes, while other times, as expressed by some of the people interviewed, can be a powerful tool in transmitting history. However, since our research was limited to some metal styles, this cannot be concluded for the whole metal scene in general. In that case an investigation should be done on every subgenre, including every metal band.

Although the research was limited to metal music, we should think in a broader way and consider the importance of music in general as an educative tool. This research can be seen as an initiative to explore the use of history and cultural heritage in a different way with a different 'entertaining' tool (through music, movies, theater) that is easier accessible to youngsters, instead of the usual methods such as books and schools. Maybe people should think about the importance of music as an educative tool. While history and cultural heritage can be used as an inspiration for song writing, stage performances, and "a way of life", it can also be represented and transmitted in a new way for knowledge.

conclusio

## Reflection on the methodology

At the end of this research we looked back to see if there are things that could have been done different or in a better way. One thing that should be mentioned is the use of interviews. We found out that on this topic interviews are the most valuable source of information. There is a lot to be found on the internet but it is always the question how trustworthy this information is since there is hardly any scientific information available on this subject. The best way to find out if bands use cultural history and how and why they use it is to ask them in person by doing an interview. This is what we noticed after doing the interviews a few weeks before the deadline of the report. We would have preferred to do the interviews in an earlier stage but since there were eight weeks available and the development of the research proposal and making of the appointments took a serious amount of time, this was not really possible. Like mentioned in the conclusion, the outcomes of the research cannot be generalized for the whole metal scene. We picked five metal styles in Europe that we thought are the most important ones. This way we might have ignored a style where cultural history is very much represented.

## Final remarks and further research

The use of cultural history in music, in this case metal, is a topic that has never been investigated before. This explorative study shows that in fact there are connections between metal music and history. The findings can thus form a basis for possible follow up research. Now we know there is a connection, it can be researched how important this is for the metal community by doing more interviews with bands and fans as well as semiotic analysis of the artworks [album, posters, flyers...] of different bands, building a different approach in researching. In addition, to be able to give a generalization for the whole metal scene, more styles should be analyzed in which the American metal can be included.

It would also be nice to see if history and cultural heritage is represented in other music styles and to see if the meaning of this is comparable with the metal scene.

Another suggestion from us is to bring the history community and the metal community closer to each other. The two different cultures do not feel related while in fact there is a certain relation between them. Our suggestion is to find out if it is possible to use historical grounds for hosting concerts or festivals. For example, an idea would be to keep metal concerts in castles or in area's with ruins present in the landscape. In this way, history is presented to the youth using a modern method and at the same time it gives the festival a new dimension that increases the atmosphere positively.



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# appendix I

question  
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# questionnaire

Email \* :

Nationality :

(\* Optional, probably be needed for further research on the subject)

Gender :

Age :

no	Questions	Answers		
1.	Do you know what heavy metal music is?	yes		no
2.	Do you listen to heavy metal music?	never	sometimes	BIG fan
3.	What kind of styles of heavy metal do you listen to?			
4.	Give the first words that come to your mind related to heavy metal music.			
5.	Do you consider heavy metal fans and musicians as “outsiders” ?			
6.	How do you think heavy metal has influence on people, especially the youth?			
7.	If you are a fan, does it influence your daily life? How?			
8.	What do you consider most important in heavy metal scene? (music, lyrics, appearance etc.)			
9.	Do you think heavy metal musicians/ bands are inspired by history (- cultural heritage)? If yes how do they use it? example			
10.	Do you know any dutch metal band that are inspired by dutch history (- cultural heritage)? If yes how is it represented? give example.			

# questionnaire's record

No	no1	no2	no3	no4	no5	no6	no7
1	yes	fan	Melodic/ classic	Fast guitar riffs	No		No
2	yes	never	-	choas, depression	No		-
3	yes	never	-	loud, screaming man, long hair	No	Depends on person	-
4	yes	sometimes	Progressive	Lets rock! headbanging	No	No	No
5	yes	never	-	iron	No	don't know	-
6	yes	never	-	klaplong	No		-
7	yes	fan	Death/ trash	Drums, double base, guitar, grunt, technique	No	Express themselves	playing drums
8	yes	sometimes	-	grunting, headbang, metallica, alternative	No	Yes, very much	-
9	yes	sometimes	-	Death	No	yes, violence	-
10	yes	never	-	guitars, loud, noise, screaming	yes	subculture	-
11	yes	sometimes	-	Sex, drugs & rock an roll, freedom and long hair	No	Depends on person	-
12	yes	sometimes	gentle metal-like Guns N'Roses	rhythm	yes	invoke youth to think negative side of life and society, it is good	
13	yes	sometimes	all kinds of style	bikers with long hairs	no	I don't think it has a big influence	I like to listen to it before I have a football match to push myself and to wake up
14	yes	never		Dark side	No, just different	They have more negative view on life	
15	yes	sometimes	n/a	Iron maiden	no	As much as any other kind of music	n/a
16	yes	sometimes	Power, progressive, epic, funk	Iron Maiden	no	yes	Yes. I spend more time in my car, listening to metal, because when I am at home my girlfriend gets a headache!

# questionnaire's record

no8	no9	no10	Age	Gender	Nationality	comments
Guitar solos/ Light show		-	25	M	Dutch	
	Finntroll (folk)	-	20	F	Dutch	
Combination, depends on person	-	-	24	F	Dutch	
music	Nile, Enslaved, Finntroll	-	26	M	Dutch	
music and lyrics	-	-	23	F	Dutch	
-	-	-	26	F	Dutch	
music and lyrics	Toxocara (worldwar2)	Heidevolk	23	F	Dutch	
combination	-	-	21	M	Dutch	
lyrics and voices	-	-	28	M	Suriname	
appaerance	-	-	23	M	Dutch	
music	Sepultura (lyrics)	-	29	M	Dutch	
music	I don't know	no	23	M	China	
music	Some of them are influenced by old tribes like the Celts	no	24	M	Germane	
idea of the music		no	24	F	Slovenian	Why are you guys doing that? Aren't you students of the landscape architecture??
musical performance and composition	don't know	no	29	F	Greek	
Definitely the music. I believe that heavy metal musicians are top of their class, because of the nature and complexity of the music they are playing.	Yes. See for example Manowar's epic masterpiece "Achilles, Agony & Ecstasy in Eight Parts", where the band sings about Achilles adventures. Or Iron Maiden's "The Rhyme of the ancient Mariner" which is inspired by English poet's S.T. Coleridge poem.	The Dutch bands I know are "The Gathering" and "Within Temptation" but I cannot tell if they are inspired by the Dutch history.	32	M	Greek	



No	no1	no2	no3	no4	no5	no6	no7
17	yes	never		Angry men with long hair	yes	hardly	
18	yes	sometimes		Head banging	They can be but it's not the rule	It makes them wear black and dark colors	
19	yes	never		angry	no	rebellion	no
20	yes	never		Noise and bad style	Yes, a bit	To express rebellion instinct	Not at all
21	yes	sometimes	DEATH	EXORCISM, BLOOD, PATHORY, ZOMBIES, CHRISTIANS, LIONS	no	not really	AM LOOKING FOR VLAD CHEPES AND FOR NECRONOMICON
22	yes	sometimes	no distinction	metalica	no	few nowadays	
23	yes	fan	Death-metal, trash-metal, metal-core (grind-core)	Scream your lungs out	no	On me it has an relaxing influence, I can imagine that people get angry or violence	Yes! To relax you have to hear a good peace of music every day!
24	yes	never		Screams, pogo, beer	no	catharsis	
25	yes	never		Long hair, leather, brutal sound and vocals, black	no	To express their aggressive part, the opposition to the world's situation	
26	yes	sometimes	ballads	long hair	??	Meso ektonwshs	Not a fun
27	yes	never	none	Loud, not melodic	Not really	Young people in their puberty age might become fans of this music especially if they need to relate to some kind of a group, to stand out of the crowd.	
28	yes	never		heavy electric guitars, long hair, headbanging, festivals stagediving, rough people	Yes, cause I am not an 'insider' myself.	The way they dress, act and behave is different from other sub-cultures or in the bigger frame society.	I think heavy metal is a lifestyle itself.

no8	no9	no10	Age	Gender	Nationality	comments
	Probably, mostly Scandinavian mythology	no	24	M	Dutch	
Appreciation for the music	I don't know	no	24	M	American	
music	no	no	32	M	Italian	
Music but also appearance play a big role	I think that in all the good examples of music (so also in heavy metal) you can find some social influences. In nowadays it can express the difficulties of being understood and the never reachable sense of satisfaction.	no	31	F	Italian	
VERSES	THEY HAVE BEING INSPIRED BY EARLY CHRISTIANITY, PAGAN MONOTHEISM, SOL INVICTUS, BIZANTINE-SASSANIAN WARS	DUTCH THEY DON'T KNOW EVEN WHEN SECOND WORLD WAR TOOK PLACE.THEY ARE LIVING IN "THE DISNEYLAND".THEY THINK THAT SATAN DOES NOT EXIST	26	M	Greek	
Music, lyrics sometimes, high personality	They always have a "major influence" and they usually have some kind of link to classical music being also virtuosi sometimes	no	25	M	Brazilian	
Drum player and the vocalist are always the most important things in a metal band!	In my opinion, no!	You could say: God Dethroned	28	M	Dutch	
rhythm	no	no	25	M	French	
music	Yes. E.g. bands that use traditional sounds	no	27	F	Greek	
Appearance	A little bit, Expressing it by violent dance and moves along with gothic style appearance	no	27	M	Greek	
"rough" appearance - image	Have no idea since I don't listen to the music	no	26	F	Czech	
The central thing must be their music, around that fans build up a certain image through the years of how to look like, act etc.	Storytelling and lyrics are ways to express oneself, topics which are constantly returning in heavy metal can be seen as 'their' culture/ point of view. I think they build their own enclosed heritage.	"Zeemanskoren" zijn hier een perfect voorbeeld. Maar ook 'volkszangers' (bijv. uit de Amsterdamse Jordaan ). Maar ook popmuziek als 'Blof', die het Zeeuwse landschap en cultuur bezingt.	26	M	dutch	

No	no1	no2	no3	no4	no5	no6	no7
29	yes	sometimes	Aerosmith, Led Zeppelin	Violent, loud	no	Help to express themselves (for some of them), help to belong to a group	
30	yes	sometimes	all	Power guitars	no	Definitely an influence on they're attitude towards life and society, although it depends from person to person and from the kind of HM.	Not that big fan, but it influences my behavior when enjoying this kind of music parties
31	yes	never	none	Loud, can't understand what they are singing about, screaming, mad, aggressive	No, I have metal friends as well	Yes, more aggressive	
32	yes	sometimes	Dont know the kinds...maybe is called soft	Long hair, electric guitar	no	For sure somehow yes	No, I am not
33	yes	fan	Most of them, but not the really heavy stuff like death metal or bands that just make a lot of noise.	Rhapsody! (this is the band the introduced me to Heavy Metal)	Depends on how they profile them selves. *	It can give them a certain lifestyle, because they want to belong to the social group around heavy metal.	No, I listen to the music, nothing more.
				* If you think of those guys that have hair twice their own size... yes. Or girls wearing all black clothes and drawing tears on their faces, also. Though it's not a bad thing if you ask me, just a way of life. But not really mainstream, if you get my point :) Others (like me), who just have HM as just another genre of music in their collection, no			
34	yes	fan	Heavy metal, extreme metal, hard rock, rock and roll, speed metal, thrash metal, alternative, indie, grunge	guitars	Never ever	It have been totally influence lifestyle since the 50's (way to dress, haircuts, accessories (piercing and tattoos), talk)	Influenced me in the way I see the word, the way I face people, my priorities
35	yes	sometimes	divers/unknown/dont care	loud/aggressive/symphonic	no	not really	no
36	yes	fan	Goth metal. Black metal.	darkness	no	Make people feel more powerful and strongly	Yes , when I feel not good , listen to this kind of music can make me really relax and abreaction

no8	no9	no10	Age	Gender	Nationality	comments
Music and appearance	Maybe the early metal bands, not the current ones	no	24	F	french	
Music an lyrics	I don't know	no	25	M	portuguese	
music	Yes, sometimes they look like medieval princesses or dragon slayers	Pffff...don't remember. The one with the song: Ice Queen	26	M	dutch	
music	Some yes, but example dont remember now	no	26	F	czech	
Mainly the music and the lyrics. I do not listen to any music that sort of "preaches" or that consists of grunting, talk about evil and death and that kind of things. I do not join groups of fans, do not dress odd. My interests lie mainly with the fantasy based kinds of bands like Rhapsody, Blind Guardian, who sing about things like valiant heroes, magic and dragons. Often the "softer" type of Heavy Metal.	There are bound to be some who do. I can't give any examples though, but most bands I know sing about things, and it's quite likely that part of their inspiration will come from history and/or culture.	I only really know one Dutch band in this scene (of which one of the members actually did the same study as I did at WUR, that's how I know them) but as far as I know there music is not based on anything historical.	25	M	dutch	Question 2 should have a second intermediate option, since I listen to it more often then "sometimes" but I am not really a big fan that it dominates my life...
Sound, always sound	Some of them, like the Nordic metal speaking about Vikings and so on, but it is more about girls. Some people believe that heavy metal is the sound of the kings and so on. I think when you start to listen some music is because someone influence you or you notice something that you can incorporate in your life. And in general is someone or something cool	No idea. I just know After Forever but I never paid No idea. I just know After Forever but I never paid attention in their lyrics.	30	M	brazilian	
music & vocals	just as anything else is aswell we are all but product of our own heritage	rapalje (dutch folk band) leans towards the old VOC days represented by instrument use, and vocals	28	M	dutch	
Lyrics and music	Yes ,for example ,guns and roses , < civil war >inspired from American civil war	no	21	F	chinese	

No	no1	no2	no3	no4	no5	no6	no7
37	yes	sometimes	No clue	Black, Mayhem, Long hair, Deodorant	no	yes	
38	yes	never	none	Head banging, loud guitars	no	Young people that want to shock their parent or separate themselves from “mainstream” can find what they search for!	
39	yes	sometimes	No idea, I’m really bad in remembering this types of things	Guitar, long hair, loud music, concert	A bit of a different style, and not always apprecia ted by every body. But not outsiders	There character, It can influence there position in life, how they look and interact with other people (family, friends,..) but mostly not in a hard way.	
40	yes	sometimes	Soft rock	rock	no	Sometimes depressive and dark Sometimes enlightening, it holds meaningful lyrics	no
41	yes	never		Metallica; fast- paced music; aggressive music; black; percussion instruments	no	I consider the influence of so-called ‘bad influences’ on the youth to be overrated: it depends on the person wether there is influence at all, and whether this is ‘good’ or ‘bad’ influence. If a person is susceptible to bad behaviour, they would perform this behaviour regardless of what music they would listen to.	



no8	no9	no10	Age	Gender	Nationality	comments
music	Yes, I know that with certain Scandinavian band the lyrics are full of references to ancient myths Yes, I know that with certain Scandinavian band the lyrics are full of references to ancient myths	Haha "Dutch cultural heritage", NO	25	M	dutch	
Appearance: black clothes, long hair	Don't know – maybe yes, some lyrics are quite poetic.	no	26	F	german	
Most the lyrics, than the music than the appearance	Yep, the heritage of cultic history, from ancient civilizations like the Normans, Goths, ...	no	23	M	Belgium	
Music, the power of the instruments + musicians, lyrics	No idea	no	24	F	lebanese	I am not a big fan of heavy metal therefore I may not be much of a help. The screaming and shouting gets on my nerves J But soft rock is ok.. pearl jam, pink floyd, radiohead, placebo, I don't know in what category they fit in but this is the kind I listen to.
Lyrics and presentation	No opinion: I have not enough knowledge of heavy metal to know this.	no	21	M	dutch	

No	no1	no2	no3	no4	no5	no6	no7
42	yes	sometimes	Death, Black, Heavy, Atmospheric, Power	Guitar Solos, Drums, Bass	no	Learning guitar or other musical instruments, Creating Bands, They are thinking people with strong opinions about life. They sometimes look at life from the miserable-dark side and they are not enjoying it as much as they should. Young people tend to believe the ideology of bands and myths about them even though most Metal bands act differently on stage than in their normal life and create a misleading image about them selves.	no
43	yes	never	none	people with long hair, music, noise	some-what	no idea	no fan
44	yes	never	As a teenager I listened to nu-metal, punk and ska	A lot of noise	yes	yes	
45	yes	sometimes	???? witch ones are there.....	Loud music	No.... It's a style and I respect that	Youth can go to extreme in it, but that can be by all kind of music types. So I think it can be a part of lifestyle.	
46	yes	never	n.v.t.	Loud, a lot of noise	no	Escape from daily live	n.v.t.
47	yes	never		Loud guitars and grunting	No, but it depends on if they look/ act very different because of their musical prefere- nce.	They could become deaf...	

no8	no9	no10	Age	Gender	Nationality	comments
Music, Lyrics, Creative Thinking, Fast Guitars	yes. Making music about War-Tribes and others for example like Bathory about the Vikings, Manowar about the Greeks, Septic Flesh about Knights, On Thorns I Lay about Atlantis	no	26	M	greek	
appearance	don't know/no opinion	no	26	M	dutch	I like Acid Jazz, not heavy metal
	Could be Depends on what you sing about	no	25	F	dutch	What is your definition of heavy metal music? Does it include all alternative music or the kind that bands like metallica, type o negative?
????? Music.... I think	I really don't know.....	no	29	M	dutch	
Lyrics and appearance	no idea	no	44	M	dutch	
Depending on the style of the different metal bands, either one of the three is more important. Sometimes it's only the appearance, but I think it should be about the music.	Perhaps they use other (historically imbedded) music for inspiration, or past (end present) streetcultures.	no	22	F	dutch	

No	no1	no2	no3	no4	no5	no6	no7
48	Yes, I guess.	never		Loud, Ozzfest, Anti-Music, socially isolation, get-a-life, why not act normal, find a hobby, build on your self-esteem, try to be yourself. (not very positive so...)	I'm very sorry to say and I respect every-one, but yes, out-siders.	With some awful examples in the US it is hard to deny that heavy metal (and related music) influences the mind. Thinking for yourself is traded in for the general thought of the music group. Often lyrics are against everything what seems everlasting moral standards. I think it has the same sort of influence on people as violent movies or games. Because of an instable and not so exciting life, people confront the established order, to achieve at least something.	
49	yes	never	Volbeat or Tool (if anything!)	Technical not very good musciscians (there are exceptions) just making too much noise too easy without being aware of the potential of metal as a way of expressing through noise and technical skills.	Noup – just as people with another music taste.	Its just "music"	
50	yes	never		Dark, loud, screaming singer, long hear, guitars	no	The way people dress maybe? I don't know if there are 'strong' lifestyle things with H.M. like you have with straighthedgers	
51	yes	never	no	Very loud, negative, gothics	no	Young people want to join a certain group to feel more secure about themselves and this could be to join people who like the same kind of music.	no

no8	no9	no10	Age	Gender	Nationality	comments
I think it's a combination of having the feeling of belonging to a group. Individuals seems to get attention (for example by dressing extraordinary), but in fact is not important at all! It's about the feeling, the experience, the group.	I think they sometimes are, or pretend they are. You often see (semi-)religious symbols being exaggerated or medieval icons or persons becoming contemporary idols.	no	22	M	dutch	
Technical skills would make the scene a lot better!	Yes – as all other musicians	no	23	F	danish	
total	I don't know	no	22	F	dutch	
Appearance	no idea	no	22	F	dutch	

No	no1	no2	no3	no4	no5	no6	no7
52	yes	sometimes		loud, guitar, scream	no	good	no
53	yes	sometimes	System of a down. I don't think within temptation, evanescence and nightwish are included??	Black clothing, aggression, screaming	Yes, a little and  I also get the feeling they consider themselves as outsiders and they want to be different. I try not to prejudge them, but sometimes I automatically do.	I do think it can make people aggressive. I get very aggressive and wind up, wanting to hit something or somebody. But I also like it as an emotional release, when I am angry I listen to the music and I get rid of my anger, so it is both ways I guess. I also like the lyrics because for instance system of a down has a huge complaint about the US and the western world, guns and poorness etc. So it has a good meaning sometimes too!	no
54	yes	fan	New wave of British heavy metal, Power Metal, Folk Metal, a bit of Black and Death	Solidarity, strong group-feeling	no	Not as much as it used to in the early '80's, but yes, I do think so	Not really (I stopped regarding my long hair as being influential a long time ago J)
55	yes	sometimes	Industrial, thrash, folk, stoner, progressive, power, melodic	Melodic, moody, guitars	No, although it might depend on individuals	May influence fans in many aspects from appearance to general behaviour	Depends on the day, may have a bad influence if I'm in a bad mood
56	yes	never		noise	no	yes	



no8	no9	no10	Age	Gender	Nationality	comments
music	no idea	no	25	F	dutch	
For me it is music and lyrics.	I know nightwish has some songs about history. But I don't really see a general link between this music and history, sorry!	no	26	F	dutch	
Music	I'm very positive this is the case (not with all bands of course, but that goes without saying)	Yes: through lyrics and stage performance (e.g. Grimm, Boombaerd, Volk Vermaledide; Walpurgisnacht)	27	M	dutch	I think the term Heavy metal is a bit confusing. I filled out the questions keeping the term metal in general in mind instead of Heavy metal specifically since this is just another scene. When you look at the "true" heavy metal in the early '80's I don't think they were focused on national history and or cultural heritage.
the music	Some of the bands are influenced by traditional music in the melodies they use (f.e. finntroll, using polka-like motives). Also bands are sometimes inspired by folk mythology and/or history in their lyrics (f.e. amorphis using themes from the Finnish national epic 'Kalevela' or iron maiden using themes from WW2 and other wars Britain has been in for some songs and others)	Not any Dutch bands, I do know a couple of Finnish bands though	26	M	greek	
Music and appearance	Don't know	no	26	M	dutch	

No	no1	no2	no3	no4	no5	no6	no7
57	yes	sometimes	Doom metal, death, thrash, classic 80's heavy, some black metal	Threat, heavy, epic, gruesome	No, but they forgot how it all started. Now most of them are just concerned with how they look than what heavy music is all about. the same for the artists, especially when they are becoming mainstream	For sure! when I was young it gave a twist in my head and I started look things differently. Heavy music is for not for anti-social, grumpy or violent music-it is about people passionate about music that have an alternative state of mind.	I am not a fan anymore, but I listen to selected heavy music stuff-more experimental and independent. I do not like heavy music with clean production produced by the kilo for mass consumption. Therefore I listen more to hardcore punk and similar minded groups that have a message and an edge.
58	yes	never	To none or maybe to soft (heavy) metal (only to Within temptation...is this heavy metal?)	Metallica, long hair, black, leather and metal attributes	A little bit	Aggressive/ wild	
59	yes	never		Hard, noisy, long hear males	What do you consider an outsider ...no	Maybe less open for other music?...difficult question	
60	yes	sometimes	Metallica, Guns 'n Roses, Blind guardian, Strung Out	Loud guitars, speedy riffs and long hair	no	It influenced me to stop listen to '90's house, grow my hair and to buy a "metaltank"-distortion pedal.	I've got metallica on my walkman nowadays and I like playing heavy metal solo's
61	yes	never		black	no	yes	not so much I think
62	yes	sometimes	Metallica, Epica, Nightwish (genre might be debatable)	Long hair, Black outfits, Strong message, A heavy sound formed by solid guitar play and a steady but most of times fast drum rhythm.	Every minority in a majority that does. not follow the ruling tendencies can be considered outsiders if they are regarded as a separate group. In any other way they are not different from other humans, so they seem more a sub-group then real outsiders	Yes, everything with a strong message has influence on people, and every generation different media and groups influence the behavior and thinking of the respective subjects. However, one should also say that certain people choose to pay attention to that message which fits their situation and personality the most.	No, it does not, for I regard music as a pure form of inspiration and feeling when I listen to it, but I never do anything else then just listen to it (or make music myself).

no8	no9	no10	Age	Gender	Nationality	comments
Music & lyrics-to have an image that fits it is ok, but usually image is for girls, young children and for bigger sales.	Some are, there are a lot of songs and concept albums by metal artists...also inspired from books	No, I do not know any dutch bands singing about dutch history. I only know a couple of dutch death metal bands	25	M	greek	
Volume, appearance	no	no	24	F	dutch	
		no	25	M	dutch	
Music	The gothic-scene is a well-known example. They use old (mediaeval and celtic) stories, believes, religions and clothing.	Although I like listening to a few metal / hardrock bands, I'm not a real metal-fan, so I'm not in the scene.	25	M	Dutch	
I don't know	I don't know	no	23	F	greek	
I think the one can't go without the other. All are important for the 'scene' in general. However, for me personal of all those factors the music is more important than everything else.	Since they have often a strong, not rarely political message, it seems to me they are influenced by culture. Metallica for instance made a song which protested against the use of the electrical chair. Of course this is political, not cultural, but I am sure band like Tool, with grand poetic lyrics, derive their inspiration from cultural sources.	The only two Dutch bands I know are Epica and Within Temptation, as far as they can be regarded heavy metal. Of those, Epica combines old classical opera with modern metal in a very original way, but then again, that does not count as 'Dutch' history.		M	dutch	My answers are the view of someone not devoted to the genre of heavy metal and with limited knowledge of its cultural richness, but I still think I am not that far off track. Good luck with the research!

No	no1	no2	no3	no4	no5	no6	no7
63	yes	never		Rough, dark voice, long hair, black	no	Yes, I guess so, I think there is sort of a “heavy metal fan world” around it. So, not the music itself, but mostly the style around it.	
64	yes	sometimes	It is a tricky question. Would say trash metal but there is a confusion between them.	metallica	No, but they do	A teenager fake marginalization	Maybe, if I would be a fan
65	yes	never	I don't listen	Black, hair, guitars	no	In style (clothes, strong nerves)	
66	yes	never		Hard rock, black, guitar	no	With the lyrics, the look (dark)	
67	yes	never		machines	Just a different taste I suppose	no	no
68	yes	never	none	Non-music, noise, ...	no	It could “harden” their minds	
69	yes	never		Long hair, studs and spikes, black, leather, electric guitar music	Yes, not in the negative sense	None, only a way to express themselves.	Metal fans probably have another lifestyle, but that's not because of the music. It's the other way around.

no8	no9	no10	Age	Gender	Nationality	comments
Haha, I would say: stop making noise, start making music. I think in the scene appearance is very important.	It is more a guess but I would say they mostly react on society, about behavior, friendship, commerce. They might refer to situations in the past, for instance a war, but also knights, kings and castles.	<p>Not heavy metal music, because I don't know, but:</p> <p>- Jaques Brel (belgium) sings about Vlaanderen and the Netherlands. He has a song about the upper-class and he sings about poets, writes and singers from the old days and things like this. For instance he sings about Amsterdam, about the situation in the harbor in the old days, this song is in french.</p> <p>- And so do Acda en de Munnik (dutch singers), by covering the song about Amsterdam and translating it to dutch.</p> <p>- "Doe Maar" has some songs about weed (do you consider that cultural heritage? Haha), more ska-like music.</p> <p>- I remember a song from childhood "twee emmertjes water halen" it is about getting two buckets of water on wooden shoes"</p> <p>- Yes and some rap-musicians sing about dutch political/social situations, but heritage, not really.</p>	26	F	dutch	
Guitar riffs	Led Zeppelin and Deep Purple did, the rest just followed them	Yes, far-right inspired bands that I ignore	24	M	greek	Although I respect heavy metal as *
<p>* a music genre, I think that after the 80s the scene was ridiculously developed and was a refuge for insecure teenager and lost far-right followers. So, concerning heavy metal music as far as I am concerned, I prefer restricting my listenings to mid-70s until late 80s. I would also add that the term should not be used nowadays but, as it is commonly used in the music industry and press, I kind of understand the fact that it is still a topic of discussion presently.</p> <p>Friend writing: many years ago, I went to concert of guns and roses that is not heavy metal, but also there were faith no more and soundgarden (which are not heavy metal neither). Nevertheless, I smoked too many joints there, and I don't remember anything.</p>						
Music and appearance	They try to keep the same style in music appearance etc.	no	25	F	greek	
appearance	no	no	21	F	french	
A sense of being part of a group, but still being different from the rest.... [a little foolish]	I don't know	no	22	M	Dutch	
appearance	Yes, in their texts/appearance	no	22	M	Dutch	
Music, appearance, and togetherness.	no	no	24	M	Dutch	

No	no1	no2	no3	no4	no5	no6	no7
70	yes	sometimes	Mostly Progressive, Nu-metal	Headbanging, guitars	sometimes	Influence on dressing (black clothes)	no
71	yes (more or less)	sometimes	The less heavy kind where vocalists actually sing, or whatever other people I'm with happen to put on.	Noisy, electical guitar, headbanging, grunting.	no	Well, like everything has some influence on people. Of course it has effect on hearing loss if listened to on too high volume. But psychologically nothing to worry about.	
72	I have an idea	sometimes		powerful	yes	Yes, to those who are "open" to it	hardly
73	yes	sometimes	Nightwish? Is it heavy metal, don't know? AC/DC, Iron Maiden, I don't know if these are heavy metal	hard	Musicians there's nothing wrong with these people	Maybe they will stand more harder in front of life.	no
74	yes	sometimes	I am not really an expert on heavy metal styles, but sometimes gothic or punk (if you regard that as heavy metal)	guitars, drums, headbanging, crowdsurfing, loads of noise	no	they tend to become a little introvert and "dark", however it may also be that people who are introvert and "dark" like heavy metal	no
75	no	never		rock	no	very much	
76	yes	never	none	People with long hair headbanging	yes	yes	No fan
77	yes	sometimes	Hardcore/oi/ska/punkrock/folk/psycho and rock a Billy and some other bullshit not related to popmusic	Don't like the name; metal = metal, skip the 'heavy'	Outsider? That's what people who like pop music would call anybody not their kind	There's choice? Of music...	Fan?... not for hm in particular, but music does
78	yes	sometimes	Death, black progressive	Leather, dark, devil,	no	Only for people with low intelligence	no
79	yes	sometimes	Black, death,thrash	Hair, guitars	yes	yes	Satan, violence, sex
80	yes	never		very loud music	No	No musicstyle does have	
81	yes	never		Hard, loud, beat, guitar	yes	yes	
82	yes	never		heavy guitars, terrible scream	No	No real influence	
83	yes	sometimes		black, hard, good musicians	No	Yes	
84	yes	sometimes	Melodic metal	Headbanging, loud, guitars	yes	music gives the youth a way to express frustration about society	



no8	no9	no10	Age	Gender	Nationality	comments
Music and lyrics	Yes, lyrics can be about political affairs	Backfire?	25	F	Dutch	
music	Yes, all artists are.	no	29	M	Dutch	
	Sorry, no example comes to my mind.					
I don't know the scene, so for me it 's the music		no		M		
Lyrics are important if it is a beautiful text or not and of course the music.	I think they are specially inspired by there faith in something like God or something...	no	17	F	Belgium	
lyrics and appearance	some do, gothic is a nice example, and often lyrics are about historical events or rituals	not within a minute	27	M	dutch	
	yes	no	36	F	mexican	
I don't know	Could be I don't know	no	23	F	dutch	
Original and 'not for the money'	Hope so, hate hippies ('60 and, present; disco kids)	Dutch history/cultural heritage? Not something I take into account/consider	27	M	Dutch/Belgian	What's your objective of this? Don't really see the point of your research, and you don't mention it, though I don't mind helping you out.
Music, appearance, special effects	Mostly by mythology, but also from historic persons like Alexander the great for Iron Maiden	no	26	M	greek	
lyrics	Some are. Mythology and history. Some become patriotic/nationalistic.	no	27	M	greek	
Everything has the same importance			17	F	Dutch	
music	influences from the Celths, Goths		22	M	Dutch	
first music and appearance secondly			25	M	Dutch	
Lyrics	some, in the clothing	Slechtvalk	21	F	Dutch	
music			24	F	Dutch	

No	no1	no2	no3	no4	no5	no6	no7
85	yes	never	Nu metal	guitars!	depends on how they dress	a metal is more likely to be a computer nerd or other anti-social kind of person ;-)	
86	yes	never		black, dark, guitars, low chords, shouting (not singing)	No	might influence appearance, further no influence, except for the metal incorporating dark lyrics, making people down or even aggressive	
87	yes	never		Loud mixture of indefinable sounds	no	On certain groups, yes. But are they influencing or are they product of an certain youth culture...	
88	yes	big fan	More or less everything	Sköll!	no	Yes, just as every musicstyle	not really
89	yes	sometimes		Loud music, rage, black garments, long hairs, men with beards J	no	depends on the person, probably some people	
90	yes	sometimes	The most popular styles	Black, guitar, heavy drums, long hair, rough	no	no	no
91	yes	never		long hairs, black, spikes, loud, heavy and metallic	a bit	can enhance people in their aggressiveness	
92	yes	never		wild hairs	No	No	
93	yes	never		emptyness, noise, black, hypnotising, trance, satan	yes	metal depersonificates people	
94	yes	never		loud guitars, long hair	Yes, when they act upon it, thus when it is visible	Negative, loud music which is bad for the hearing of young children, negative influence because of the negative / aggressive atmosphere	
95	yes	sometimes	can't make the distinction of styles within metal	'About a burning fire – blindside'	For that part of their life, yes I do	Could give new energy, the feeling of an escape from the madness of everyday life, but on the other hand 'promote' negative or even destructive thoughts.	No, not my daily life. Maybe in some emotional states the effects are bigger.
96	no	never		Loud, guitar, bass drums	Maybe a bit	yes	

no8	no9	no10	Age	Gender	Nationality	comments
a lot of noise	in the used symbols on cd covers or during live performances.		22	M	Dutch	
music	They might, just as any other music style might.		21	M	Dutch	
music	Yes,celtic influence in music, use of symbols (pentagram/heksenster) and referring to ancient gods	Blof	24	M	Dutch	
music	some of them in their lyrics	Heidevolk	24	M	Dutch	
music, lyrics, appearance equal important			23	F	Dutch	
music	no		24	M	Dutch	
appearance, volume, guitar	yes, celtic influences, (old) symbols like the cross or the pentagram		25	M	Dutch	
getting in trance and forgetting your problems	maybe new age?		20	F	Dutch	
			20	M	Dutch	
life style of the people involved, e.g. their appearance			26	M	Dutch	
music	They might, for example in battles of the past. On the battlefield you can find more than enough violence, madness, sacrifice, strong believes in ideologies, heroism and so on.		21	M	Dutch	
music and appearance			19	F	Dutch	

No	no1	no2	no3	no4	no5	no6	no7
97	yes	never		Speed, technical musicians, scream, ugly, nature, dark	Only when they try to act like outsiders	I think it might give you a strange kind of energy in your body and mind, because of the power within the music. On the other hand I think it decreases your emotions and increases your ratio. I don't know if there is a link between heavy metal and mental state (depressions), but I northern countries more people suffer of depressions and metal music is quite popular over there.	
98	Not really, I've heard about it and know a little bit how it sounds like	never		Loud, black, guitars and drums, gothic, not understandable	No, everyone likes a different kind of music although this style is not so common. At least, I don't know a lot of people that listen to this type of music.	I associate it with not really a positive influence. It depends on the band I think	
99	yes	never		what a terrible amount of noise	no	they dress often 'different, more extreme	I would visit more concerts
100	yes	never		noise, loud	no	Probably it has influence on what sort of clothes they're wearing, what kind of things they do, how this people behave. Especially by the youth, it can influence they're whole life.	
101	yes	never		Very hard/noisy music, darkness, it has quite often very negative lyrics.	Not all of them, but quite a few	Yes, but this influence comes in part from the scene (concerts and other metal fans) and not from the music itself (black clothes, make up and stuff)	
102	yes	never		active, much noise, made-up faces	no, just another taste of music	yes	

no8	no9	no10	Age	Gender	Nationality	comments
Music, because of the energy brought by the music	Yes, clothing.. like barbarian times. Way of living.. closer to nature like in ancient times. Of course they are inspired by early musicians, who started to make music altogether. Like traveling 'minstrelen' playing for kings and lords.		24	M	Dutch	
What I know the lyrics, instruments and appearance	I've know idea, I think like most of the songwriters they would be inspired by their own history or experiences.		22	F	Dutch	
		Dont know, seems i miss some cultural background in my life	17	F	Dutch	
pff i don't know			19	F	Dutch	
All equal	Sometimes, from classical music		24	M	Dutch	
Being different and being part of a group in being different,lyrics that are different from mainstream music. The rhythm of the music	yes this music didn't exist previously, now there is space for it and so it does have a great impact on youth		21	F	Dutch	

No	no1	no2	no3	no4	no5	no6	no7
103	yes	never		Worst noise ever invented!	no	I think it can have an influence on teenagers and youth that are unstable. But I think the lyrics is the most dangerous thing not the music itself.	
104	yes	sometimes	Ehm... Metallica, System of a Down, Nirvana (or isn't that metal?)	Loud, first without relative context, then more beautiful, many instruments (mixed up), screaming, paint :-)	Well, that's what they want, isn't it? More different than different. It's a different group of people, recognizable in the way they dress. The people who listen to metal, but have normal clothing and hair style, I don't see them as 'different'.	Not more or less than in other music styles. The question is if music leads to some behaviour, or that behaviour gives reason for music.	Not a fan, I only listen to it when I am "in the mood", angry, sad, depressive. It doesn't make me happy, but it makes me that I can let off steam
105	yes, I think so	never		long hair, leather trousers, grunting	outsiders of what? I don't think so, maybe some because of the way they dress, but many are very normal	probably it's bad for their hearing..	
106	yes	sometimes	Metal, heavy metal, death metal, trash metal, black metal, hardcore	Fight for freedom	a bit.. They make themselves a bit strange	outlet of emotions, for some people reason for depression	no it doesn't influence my daily life
107	yes	never		a bit devilish music	yes	people who listen metal music, soon come in the 'world of heavy metal'. It can have a bad influence, especially on the youth. I think they can become more violent.	



no8	no9	no10	Age	Gender	Nationality	comments
I don't like it because of the music but I think lyrics is most important.	I don't know whether they use historical and cultural heritage in a conscious way. But I'm sure it influences them as a person. An in that way it indirectly influences music and lyrics.		18	M	Dutch	
Music, The lyrics I don't understand... if the lyrics are the most important, they really should invent something else	I think so. Sometimes I think I see a couple of bushmans or cannibals jumping around a pot (is also culture), making a lot of noise. I think it's being opposed to, just like the hippies, and that their fathers were the so called 'rowdies' in the 60's. If you talk about inspirations by culture of today, I recognize some social critics, thinking for example of System of a Down, of course. Opposing against a culture, a way of life is also an inspiration.	Slechtvalk	24	F	Dutch	
the guitar solo, I don't know			20	F	Dutch	
personally: lyrics and melodic music.but I got the impression that for many people the theatrical element is very important	Yes, as inspiration for lyrics and the design of the booklets	Slechtvalk gets inspired by the middel ages	22	M	Dutch	In metal music everything can be found which can also be found in other music styles. Humour, serious, everything. The dark, some mythological things and military history (Vikings, Romans, Middel Ages etc.) have a big accent.
I don't know. Screaming?	maybe		18	F	Dutch	

No	no1	no2	no3	no4	no5	no6	no7
108	yes	never		Black clothes, scary, evil, awful music	Not always	In my opinion heavy metal is no happy music, but scary, dull and joyless. The music is close related to other evil things. Youth is quite open for all kind of things. I guess that when they do like this kind of music I think they also are open minded for other evil things	I think it does, because you'll get more and more into the world of heavy metal. Maybe not all heavy metal is bad, but in my (Christian) opinion a lot of heavy metal shows the darkest places in someone's heart. Being a fan means quite a lot of times that a fan wants to imitate his idol. Not only by wearing the same kind of clothes, but also in their behavior. Taking a look inside's the heavy metal world shows you drugs, sex, killing and a some really insane people. So It does influence a fan.
109	yes	never		Dark, loud music	If they dress and act like that, yes	I think it can make them depressive and maybe aggressive	
110	yes	never		Guitars, loud, long hair, festivals	Sometimes (if so, I think they already are, irrespective of the music)	Not really, way they dress	
111	yes	never		Loud, guitars, angry/agression	no	A little: no more than other kinds of music	
112	yes	never		Loud, friendly people	No	Can be a positive way to help you get rid of sadness and frustration (uitlaatklep)	
113	yes	almost never		Depressing music, sad, a lot of noise	No. (musicians do if they want to, for example when they dress like outsiders)	Not always, but sometimes it really does. More to youth than grown up people.	
114	yes	never		Grunt	Some of them	They can become a bit negative	
115	yes	never		Saviour Machine	No, not really, many people like the music	I think it influences in a way that people think more, because of the more radical lyrics. It can also influence your wardrobe, but that's a matter of taste :-)	
116	yes	never		loud	no	I think youth can relieve some emotions when listening to heavy metal. No aggressive side-effects or something.	no

no8	no9	no10	Age	Gender	Nationality	comments
All of these things are important. But mostly the music and the lyrics.			21	F	Dutch	
Appearance	Yes, Maybe some old melodies can be used. Also the instruments are cultural.		22	F	Dutch	
	Yes; medieval ages, gothic (although different music)		25	F	Dutch	
Music + ambiance/ atmosphere	Generally not, maybe some		24	F	Dutch	
The combination	Yes they can be. They use it in their music and lyrics		25	F	Dutch	
music			22	F	Dutch	
music	Don't think so		20	M	Dutch	
Well, mostly you have to look on the internet or in the cd-book for the lyrics, but still I think that's the most important thing in this music. No idea why they dress up like that...	Some artists are, I think. They dress up in Mid Eval clothes. But I don't know enough lyrics to know whether they are really influenced by history.	Hmm, funny question. No idea actually. I'm not so much in Dutch music...	21	F	Dutch	
music	No I don't think so, not really, maybe one or two exceptions, but I don't really know a lot about it.		15	F	Dutch	

No	no1	no2	no3	no4	no5	no6	no7
117	yes	sometimes	Punk rock (if this can be considered as heavy metal)	Loud noise, alternative music style	yes	It might have caused isolation because of their way of living.	I am not a fan, it doesn't affect my daily life
118	yes	never		Hard and unintelligible	I think most of the time they are typically people with typical clothes that's my opinion. But I know this is not a good description because there are so much different people who loves heavy metal..	I don't know	
119	yes	very very sometimes		Electric guitar rhythms, dark, loud, power, sad sound, grunt	A little	Way of thinking, way of dressing...	
120	yes	never		Noisy music, dark lyrics, depressing looks and sound, destructive	no	Bad influence, the lyrics are about destruction, murder, it gives a dark side to life, depression	

no8	no9	no10	Age	Gender	Nationality	comments
Music and appearance	No, I don't think so		25	M	Dutch	
			21	F	Dutch	
Appearance, impression they want to make, to make a difference in the world of music	It can be, but I don't know the music that good		24	F	Dutch	
The music is hard, but the lyrics are what influences, so I consider them as most important	Yes, but I don't know how		20	F	Dutch	

# appendix II

inter

views



# interviews

We had two personal interviews (Thronar, Geert Borremans) but the rest of the interviews (Jochem Jacobs, Jonathan Hurman, Mateusz Wata ) were carried out though email. From the personal interviews the answers that are given in this report are notes that we have kept.

**Jochem Jacobs** (guitarist Textures and producer Split Second Sound)

(Dutch Battle Metal band from Arnhem) **Thronar**

**Geert Borremans** (Specialized in rock/ metal history)

(metal music fan, played in several metal bands: Mentation, Melisend & Darmkhatar) **Jonathan Hurman**

**Mateusz Wata** (Person from Poland n who did his thesis on metal subculture)

# Jochem Jacobs

*Do you think that the use of history/cultural heritage is important in music? If yes, why do you think is that?*

Culture is part of music, music is culture. For example when you hear flamenco music you directly refer that to the Spanish culture where it developed around 50 years ago. Music uses traditions.

*Do you think metal bands use history and cultural heritage in their music? (Think also about the use of landscape elements) If yes, how do they use it? (In lyrics, appearance, and location of their concerts etc...)? (can you give examples)*

Within the metal there are sub styles that are most likely to use cultural history/ traditions. Especially in the Black metal they have a connection with traditions, rituals, Satanism, religion. Another style is Doom metal, where there can also be a connection with old historical things, saga and myths. We (Textures) once performed with a Finish doom like band Moonsorrow and at their performance they rubbed themselves in with the blood of cows. We asked them why they did it, they said they used cow blood because it is a natural product and then the blood isn't wasted at the slaughterhouse. They did not believe in Satanism but they liked things in nature like big woods.

*How use it?*

Bands use nature, churches, religious buildings as an inspiration for their lyrics and also artwork (cd covers, stage attributes), posters. The image of a band is built on

that. There are bands that dive into the fantasy and write about that and perform with that image (e.g. Manowar)

It can not be generalized for metal and even not for a whole style but you can appoint trends.

An interesting thing in music history: when music started every piece of music was played in C. The use of the diminished fifth was forbidden in that time just because it sounded sourish / dirty. Everyone that used this sound was considered demonic. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Wagner started to use it in classical music and nowadays it is a very common used chord in the metal music because of the evil sound.

*Why do metal bands use history and cultural heritage as themes? And is it successful the way they "present" it? Do they accomplish their goal? (Examples)*

*Is it meant to be a message to the fans, or just an inspirational theme to the musicians?*

They mainly use fantasy for themes. The choice of a music style is cultural related, for example: there is a higher chance that person from Suriname will listen to R&B/ Hip-hop than to Metal.

I don't really think that the bands have a message but use it more as an inspiration for their songs. There are of course some exceptions like some bands in Black- and Relimetal (Religious) and there are also society critical bands but the majority uses it as an inspiration and not really as a message. Sourest

Music about historical battles doesn't have a message or statement. Singing about a knights, nature, mythology is purely expression and descriptive.

For example: I am producing an album of a Dutch trash metal band and their cd describes the whole story of a comet hitting earth. There is no message, it is fantasy.

*Do you think metal fans care about the history behind the lyrics, the appearance etc of the metal bands?*

Some people don't listen to the lyrics at all. I think that the image of a band is most important for fans. A band with a poster of Stonehenge on the stage or with knight suits get a different audience than a band like Dillinger escape plan that just were shirts and pants. And I think the lyrics are also related to the image, for example: a 'knight' band will never sing about things like sex. Of course there are exceptions: The Red hot chili peppers wear also funny clothes but they sing about everything. There is a very nice band named Gwar that put up a big show at their performance. It is more like theater with stories they play. They wear very big costumes and sometimes throw sludge into the audience. The stories also tell about the devil but it is all just for fun.

*Do you consider metal music as a powerful tool for transmitting history among the youngsters?*

If it is a powerful tool I would say music in general and not especially the metal genre. The music can definitely not replace history books, it is too shallow for that. The history in lyrics might be not trustworthy and is just a minimally described. The feeling and mythical character is better transmitted than the real history. I can imagine that the interest in history is kept awake by the music. People may pay more attention in history classes or are more interested in mythological locations (for example to

go to on holiday).

*Do metal fans have specific preferences for meeting points (festivals etc.)? Is there any place considered as "ideal" for them?*

Metal concerts or festivals are mostly just at the location that the festival directors arranged it and the concert halls that are available. It could be on a smaller scale that metal fans (e.g. Black metal) go to forests or castles because of its connection with the music. Or people that want to taste the atmosphere go to these places, to enjoy. I don't know, it is just what I can imagine. Maybe there are also bands that go to castles to get inspiration.

There is a metal festival in the NL that is called Stonehenge. It is held in Steenwijk, that says something about history.

*Are there countries or regions in Europe where the most metal concerts or meetings are taking place? If yes where and why so?*

Sweden and Norway are important countries in the European metal scene. Norway has Black metal and Sweden Death metal. In Norway people are interested in trolls and dwarfs, you see drawings of them on almost every mailbox. The difference with Sweden is that Norway is more mysterious. I can imagine that the landscape in Norway makes people fantasize about stories such as Lord of the Rings. I think the climate (long dark winters) and nature contribute to the influence in songwriting and band image.

*Do metal fans use any historical elements or aspects that form a common identity?*

I don't think by historical influences but more the metal culture on its own is the reason for a common identity.

You see it in music in general. Pop music is the biggest genre where most people are into. Besides pop music you have different smaller genres like gabber, jazz and metal. These smaller 'communities' therefore feel connected and want to be identified with this group.

*Do their gestures or looks reflect any cultural history? (e.g. tattoos)*

The average metal fan maybe loves the Lord of the rings and likes to play Warcraft (computer game) but it remains shallow. The main public just likes the music and performance and don't really care about the historical meanings.

Fans wear black clothing to belong to the culture but not because it has something to do with death or darkness, at least that is what I presume. It has also to do with

to stand out of the grey mob, with the long hair or the tattoos. Tattoo's come from the culture, you often see skull tattoo's in the metal scene.

The metal sign that people give at a concert stands for the devil's horns but I guess that 90% of the fans don't know what it means. They do it because it belongs to the metal culture. I also do it on stage but our band doesn't have anything to do with the devil.

### *Conclusion remark*

In science you want to place things in boxes, you want facts, but in music this is difficult. Music flows and is in constant movement, it evolves. Even within a band the music changes, for example: the first album of Slayer sounds very different from the newer albums.

## **Thronar**

*Do you think that the use of history/cultural heritage is important in music? If yes, why do you think is that?*

All music in the world is founded in culture

The roots lies in different culture all over the world. example Brazilian different than Norwegian.

Music itself is a representation of culture so of course history and cultural heritage is important in music

*Do you think metal bands use history and cultural heritage in their music? (Think also about the use of landscape elements) If yes, how do they use it? (In lyrics,*

*appearance, and location of their concerts etc ...)? (can you give examples)*

Yes, of course. Folk metal is founded on roots of the country, it is really popular lately in Europe. Bands looking for their own roots, manifested through their lyrics, music and appearances.

As for our band: theme is based on fantasy we are not really inspired by the cultural heritage of the Dutch (Germanic) but more about General historical event or figures such as Hannibal , Tolkien

Metal music is an aggressive, so most of the inspiration

Metal music is an aggressive, so most of the inspiration comes from stories involving bloods: war and battles, medieval times.

As for their band, they create their own landscape based on fantasy (=fantasy world). They describe the landscape through their music: reference to forest, ice...winter

In the past, they use to go to the forest instead of the street to write their lyrics and songs and find their inspiration

Even not intended, most of the landscape that is described in metal songs(European bands) is actually a representation of The European Landscape (proof of cultural heritage)

In the past, looking at the history was more or less a taboo but today it is more common to recall the past and talk about it through songs [especially the Germanic roots, battles and war]

There are not a lot of cultural and historical books in Holland, because of WWII

Performing historical scenes: [shocking people or just presenting a brutal fact??]

Some Norwegian metal band, use a lot of history and cultural heritage because they are proud of their roots. It is a manifestation of their proud and patriotism (other are just influenced by other bands and they continue)

*Why do metal bands use history and cultural heritage as themes? And is it successful the way they "present" it? Do they accomplish their goal? (examples)*

*Is it meant to be a message to the fans, or just an inspirational theme to the musicians?*

The use of history /cultural heritage/landscape is not intended to be a message but it is more used for inspiration

*Do you think metal fans care about the history behind the lyrics, the appearance etc of the metal bands?*

Lyrics are taken really seriously by the metal fans. Being a metal fan means you are really appreciating not only the music but also lyrics, appearance and everything related. [ most of the albums comes with lyrics]

*Do metal fans have specific preferences for meeting points (festivals etc.)? Is there any place considered as "ideal" for them?*

*Are there countries or regions in Europe where the most metal concerts or meetings are taking place? If yes where and why so?*

Festival location: Turin in Germany, in Austria= festival in a castle, Netherlands no specific location, Germany : wacken festival,= all kind of metal, Finland= power metal and folk metal

*Do metal fans use any historical elements or aspects that form a common identity?*

*Do their gestures or looks reflect any cultural history? (e.g. tattoos)*

Reamon's necklace: Hammer of Thor. It has historical aspect, being God Thor and it is today a representation of a common identity.

Metal music is really wide. You have many choices of symbols, so wearing that particular symbol means that you know what it stands for. (most of the time, they are

some exception)

[Grey area: do you wear it and then know the meaning or know the meaning and then wear it]

Tattoos: historical representation: horn, Viking ruins, Germanic transcript [his friend from the other band]. They are expression of an identity, you feel related to

what you have. It is a “way of life”. In the past, tattoos was a rebellion (80's ) as well as the long hair.

Devil sign: most of the fans and musicians don't know the meaning behind it. It became today as just a representation of a common identity.

Hammer gesture is also used in a specific style

## Geert Borremans

*Do you think that the use of history/cultural heritage is important in music? If yes, why do you think is that?*

A very general question, but the answer seems yes of course. Music will as a universal language always try to connect with universal historical elements or cultural symbols. Often linked to a specific group of people (a nation, a tribe,...) but in the end I think music refers to the general consciousness in its most broadest sense.

*Do you think metal bands use history and cultural heritage in their music? (Think also about the use of landscape elements) If yes, how do they use it? (In lyrics, appearance, and location of their concerts etc...)? (can you give examples)*

First of all metal is a very broad spectrum of bands, that can be placed on various axes, linked to specific criteria. There are for example heavy metal bands who play extremely slow (doom bands) or insanely fast (speed metal bands).

The same reasoning can be used on their use of subjects. Whilst there are some well known examples of bands who address public opinion with a range of socio-political

issues (Rage Against The Machine, Sacred Reich,...), there are also those who revel in fantasy of the dungeons and dragons type (Uriah Heep, Rhapsody,... ).

There is however a tendency (especially in the new millennium) of bands using ‘their’ national or religious heritage as a specific point of interest in their lyrics of even as a concept for the band in its entirety. (Album Covers, Lyrics, Stageshows and even use of instruments).

That even led to a now widespread range of bands often called Pagan and/or Folkmetal or in case of the Scandinavian bands even Viking Metal.

One of the first albums that really used their national heritage as an inspiration for an entire album was the Finnish band Amorphis and their album: “Tales From A Thousand Lakes”, an album that was entirely based around the kalevala, The Finish My(s)thical epos. One of the first bands to be categorized as a Pagan Metal Band was the British band Skyclad and their singer/spokesperson Martin Walkyer. Today's leading Folk metal band is probably Fintroll. (Finnish as you might have thought)

The Viking Metal ‘brand name’ can be traced back to Swedish bands like Bathory, Unleashed and Enslaved. Nowadays, perhaps the most established Viking Metal

Band is (again Swedish) band Amon Amarth and their hugely successful album "With Oden On Our Side". They even go this far as to invite Viking reenactment groups like the Jomsvikings on stage to perform mock battles to illustrate a certain atmosphere, linked to their cultural heritage.

*Why do metal bands use history and cultural heritage as themes? And is it successful the way they "present" it? Do they accomplish their goal? (examples)*

*Is it meant to be a message to the fans, or just an inspirational theme to the musicians?*

But please never forget, that most of the bands just like to set a certain atmosphere and to entertain people, the same way a good fantasy film can for example bring you back to the times of fairytales and myths. There are even a few metal bands out there that almost singularly draw their inspiration from J.R.R. Tolkien and his books.

In some cases there have been bands and band members who make a serious issue out of their interest for cultural and/or religious heritage and even see it as an alternative for what they perceive as today's material emptiness, Christianity or simply to set themselves apart from a lot of popular pop and rock artists who claim to be only entertaining.

But then again, as I mentioned you also have a lot of bands who deliberately won't have anything to do with all these fantasy and like to take reality as an inspiration. You even have quite a few heavy bands who use their Christian Beliefs as an inspiration. At one time you even had a White Metal kind of movement.

The ones that use their cultural heritage wisely and market it well can be successful in that sense, that you definitely see a lot of fans taking an interest in what the bands are talking about and even start wearing and using the same

symbols in many ways.

*Do you think metal fans care about the history behind the lyrics, the appearance etc of the metal bands?*

As with the bands, the same goes with the fans. Some don't care less what the bands are talking about, but a large following seems to care in some way (especially the European fans).

*Do you consider metal music as a powerful tool for transmitting history among the youngsters?*

I think that the influence of youth culture in general, music in particular cannot be underestimated, certainly in adolescence or pointing interests of one person that can resonate in hobby's, choice of reading material and even jobs in some cases. Metal in particular can be a very strong influence as metal is a kind of counter culture; you either love it or don't understand it. That means that a lot of metal people keep listening to metal even if they reach 30 (the example is writing these answers here), 40 or more...

*Do metal fans have specific preferences for meeting points (festivals etc.)? Is there any place considered as "ideal" for them?*

Seems a bit far fetched for me. Metal fans go where the bands perform! It's as simple as that I suppose

*Are there countries or regions in Europe where the most metal concerts or meetings are taking place? If yes where and why so?*

Very difficult question.

Metal derives of course of rock 'n roll which was and is



predominantly a western cultural (predominantly white although not solely)

As a consequence it started out as an almost exclusively Anglo-American phenomenon

Trough world wide fan interest it spread rapidly worldwide (still pre-dominantly Western) and created scenes and bands just about everywhere

Germany has always been a very strong metal market, certainly for festivals and concerts and fan interest. But let's not forget that festivals are a well known German thing, whether it is metal or not.

The last few years have seen a very important flow of metal bands from the Scandinavian countries (mainly Norway, Sweden and Finland)

Important metal festivals, fan conventions,...you nowadays find just about everywhere in the western civilization and even beyond

The why of this evolution would lead me too far to explain or is either unclear to me

*Do metal fans use any historical elements or aspects that form a common identity?*

The common identity of a metal fan is mainly focused around the music itself. Metal fans connect through wearing band shirts, long hair (to headbang to the often fast rhythms of the music), dance more violently (again in connection with the intensity of the music), etc...

There is a bit of a tendency amongst metal fans to also wear items that can be described as for example pagan. Let's say a Thor's Hammer pendant for example. It might

show a genuine interest in cultural history of pre-Christian beliefs but hey, ... an axe also blends in fine with the hard hitting style of metal music.

*Do their gestures or looks reflect any cultural history? (e.g. tattoos)*

See answer above. If you would say take a look at the common denominator of tattoos worn by metal fans, you might find an over representation of tribals, Celtic, Viking or historical items. But my guess is that most of the tattoos will still show band names and the rock 'n roll lifestyle in general. (sex, drugs and rock 'n roll)

And to conclude rock 'n roll is still a celebration of freedom and individuality in all its forms. Metal is still a huge part of that, but has become such a wide phenomenon that there are even metalbands who go against that rock 'n roll background with a very fragmented spectrum of bands and styles as a result. (From the beer-drinking fun of folk metal to the coldness of industrial metal, from the slowness and escapism of Funeral Doom to the chaotic blastsbeats and socio-political awareness of grindcore).

Geert Borremans:

I have included The Metal Genealogy Map that I made a few months ago in this e-mail, if you want to check out some ideas about the growth and diversity of the metal genre. I only ask you kindly as to not use this map without consent and certainly don't transmit it to third parties without approval.

Kind Regards

# Jonathan Hurman

*Do you think that the use of history/cultural heritage is important in music? If yes, why do you think is that?*

Suppose you define music as a way to impose certain thoughts / ideas upon people, or, even more gravely said; 'Music as a chariot of knowledge and inspiration of minds', in that case I think history and cultural heritage is very important. It's an artistic expression that is very able to tell tales from the ancient times. It's also a way of learning people things; both moral by teaching history and skeptical towards the future by knowing this very same history.

Apart from that, if you consider music as something creating/listening to purely for fun, why should history and culture be important then?

Concluding I think that both answers 'yes' and 'no' apply the question 1.

*Do you think metal bands use history and cultural heritage in their music? (Think also about the use of landscape elements) If yes, how do they use it? (In lyrics, appearance, and location of their concerts etc...)? (can you give examples)*

I think that one unique feature of metal is that there's actually a lot of history and culture in both the visual and audio/lyrical expressions. I call this unique, because I can't figure of another musical style where history and culture have such a great role.

So, how do they use it; Well first of all you have the lyrics of a considerate amount of bands, that go a lot further

than just singing 'lalalala' or 'I feel good' 20 times over. The dutch metal band 'Slechtvalk' for example, has a 12+ song CD where the entire lyrics form one story. I also know of a band called Paramaecium where the band leader wrote a novel with the same title as one of their albums: "Within the ancient Forest"

Take a band like Iron Maiden and you have nothing short but Shakespearian lyrics.

There are lot's of examples, but still I think that bands could get more out of their themes. Something I still dream about is an on-stage blend of theater and music. I've seen some examples of that, but not to the utmost experience where f.i. a choir, decor, players and musicians would form a lovely piece.

Unfortunately, however, most of the stages where metal bands play, are not fit for this kind of action and the musicians do not seem to interact with theater groups in order to get such a thing done. It's a shame, I think, because it would really take us back to the old days, where minstrels told their tales and theaters had their plays.

*Why do metal bands use history and cultural heritage as themes? And is it successful the way they "present" it? Do they accomplish their goal? (examples)*

I think I've been discussing this issue already in my answer to question number 2 :-)

*Is it meant to be a message to the fans, or just an inspirational theme to the musicians?*

To my idea it's definitely a message. Music is message.

It's the same way as talking to someone, but in a stronger way. Therefore I think bands should hold responsibility for what they sing about or play about.

*Do you think metal fans care about the history behind the lyrics, the appearance etc of the metal bands?*

Absolutely. Not all of them, though. But let's talk about the interesting guys here. I know a great deal of friends who are in the metal scene and they are seriously doing re-enactment. And I certainly believe that they are inspired to do so, by the music they listen to.

I know about a married couple who had a medieval wedding and decorate their house like it is from old times and even refrain from using plastic or modern stuff.

Actually, it is inspirational to me to. I live in a house of almost 100 yrs old and use to decorate it in a totally different fashion than people expect mediocre dutch people to do.

The music inspires me not to see life as a means to consume as much as possible from birth to death, but to observe it as something that has been given, something beautiful, something that not yields everything possible, but has it's limitations we should use our creative minds on, in order to find creative solutions for problems.

This may seem a little bit of track, but essentially I mean that in old days there were less possibilities, but I believe greater respect for life. This was instituted in lovelier architecture, more beautiful music, a fairer way of dressing for especially females and so on. Today people don't have time for these things anymore. Who would paint a church's roof like Michelangelo did the roof of the Sistine Chapel in Rome?

Today, people can only marvel at those architectural beauties and then turn around their heads and see the ugly concrete buildings with their square shapes.

My wife and I are both lovers of archeology based on these thoughts and I truly believe that the lyrics of a lot of metal bands inspired me to think this way.

*Do you consider metal music as a powerful tool of transmitting history among the youngsters?*

Not anymore. When I see the 'fifteen' year old kids and the music they listen to, it's far from the original intent. I mean, basically, these kids just want to bang their heads on the crunchy sound of Nu-metal and the superficial lyrics those bands spit out. It's a shame, but everything has it's time...

*Do metal fans have specific preferences for meeting points (festivals etc.)? Is there any place considered as "ideal" for them?*

Ideal is a place where people mutually respect each other and everyone can express him/herself in his/her own way. Yes, we do have places we do like to go to. But talking about myself, I sometimes am going through deeper thoughts, warmer moments and the most beautiful emotions when I'm alone but not lonely. Ideally this is when the right music meets the right emotions. E.g. Winter requires other music then summer, and when you are in a dark mood *doom metal* is better approved then grindcore. :-)

*Are there countries or regions in Europe where the most metal concerts or meetings are taking place? If yes where and why so?*

Certainly. A country like Norway has a real big scene

and a lot of adherents ;-). Therefore, there are a lot of concerts over there. I think it's because of the mysterious and mythical atmosphere both its history and today's country breathe.

In Norway there's also the church burnings by satanists. People who are full of hatred against Christianity. In the documentary "A headbangers' Journey" a guy stated that Christianity was forcefully pressed upon his ancestors and thus he was in a gang who planned to burn down churches.

So satanism or worshipping satan (notify these are two different things) are an inspiration for a lot of metal people too. And the above clearly shows that these intermingle with history too.

To jump back to the subject, I definitely think Norway is on the top when we talk about 'highest number of shows'. Other European countries like Germany and Poland have a lot of shows too however. Germany has more punk/gothic shows and I don't know much about Poland, but

black metal seems to be popular there too.

*Do metal fans use any historical elements or aspects that form a common identity?*

Long hair is an attribute that is clearly taken over from the Viking/Saxon cultures. Also the clothing, dressing up like a warrior, comes from these times.

*Do their gestures or looks reflect any cultural history? (e.g. tattoos)*

Well, the devil's horns even have a cultural/ancient background, will you believe it?!

This wiki can tell you all about it: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corna>

I refrain from using it, however.

Tattoos... hmm, I think you enter the terrain of fantasy then. But that is a slightly different topic :-)

Well, this concludes my answers. I hope they are appropriate. If not, feel free to ask any questions.

## Mateusz Wata

*Do you think that the use of history/cultural heritage is important in music? If yes, why do you think is that?*

For me, personally, it is not important – it is not the theme/topic that is important in music, but the sound itself. Of course, having good lyrics helps a lot in appreciating particular songs, but the theme is not important – the fact that Tankard has texts mostly about beer doesn't make the band worse than, let's say Grave Digger, with their concept-album dedicated to the history of Scotland.

*Do you think metal bands use history and cultural heritage in their music? (Think also about the use of landscape elements) If yes, how do they use it? (In lyrics, appearance, and location of their concerts etc...)? (can you give examples)*

Yes, the bands use history/cultural heritage. The lyrics are the most visible (or audible) sign of it, but we can also see the use of medieval weapons and armor (especially pagan and black metal genres). When it comes to

location of concerts or the pictures used on the covers etc. I can't really recall any specific historically important place, where the concert took place.

*Why do metal bands use history and cultural heritage as themes? And is it successful the way they "present" it? Do they accomplish their goal? (examples)*

History and culture are inspirational to the lyrics, mostly. In my opinion, songs about people known from the historical events just seem more intelligent than, let's say, about new motorbike or satan's hordes invading the Earth.

*Is it meant to be a message to the fans, or just an inspirational theme to the musicians?*

We can see both possibilities here, depending on the band, or, more precisely, the genre of metal, which the band plays. Iconic Polish NSBM (National-Socialism Black Metal) band, Graveland, uses mythological Slavic gods and exents from the history as a message to its fans, saying 'Poland is the greatest, our Nation is better than other'; and the same can be said about various Scandinavian black metal bands. On the other hand, we see Grave Digger, that was already mentioned, who only use the history of Scotland as a theme on which the album can be 'built'.

*Do you think metal fans care about the history behind the lyrics, the appearance etc of the metal bands?*

This answer is related to the previous one – fans of more 'ideological' bands pay a lot of attention to the message of lyrics as well as the looks of the musicians, while the regular, rank-and-file fans just care about the music.

*Do you consider metal music as a powerful tool for transmitting history among the youngsters?*

Frankly speaking, no – barring the exceptions, majority of fans – be them the youngsters or the adults – do not really care about the educational aspect of music. Music is meant to be relaxing, to be a hobby, and as such doesn't have impact on the level of knowledge/awareness among the listeners.

*Do metal fans have specific preferences for meeting points (festivals etc.)? Is there any place considered as "ideal" for them?*

Yes, an ideal place would be a brothel with free beer ;-)  
Getting serious again – there is no specific preference for meetings or concerts – it depends only on the particular fans where they want to meet my group used to meet in a pub, some of the fans I know were more fond of parks, and it is quite easy to get an information about groups meeting on the graveyards etc. When it comes to concerts, they are equally good when played in the pubs, on the stadiums, in the concert halls and on the open-air events.

*Are there countries or regions in Europe where the most metal concerts or meetings are taking place? If yes where and why so?*

I never researched this aspect of metal subculture, but I guess that the axis of Scandinavia/Poland/Czech Republic has the most events, with Germany and The Netherlands being 'the best of the rest' when it comes to that.

*Do metal fans use any historical elements or aspects that form a common identity?*

*Do their gestures or looks reflect any cultural history?  
(e.g. tattoos)*

The answers to these two questions are closely related to each other and to answers 3&4, so I'll just answer them together.

As a group, metal fans form the community based solely on music. Occasional historical elements that appear within the group are related mostly to sub-groups of the community, and their popularity depends on the favorite genre of the sub-group. It is hard to find thrash or death

metal fans concerned with the history – their sword tattoo is meant to look brutal – while for NSBM fan, the sword and helmet are signs of the great old Poland/Germany/Viking country.

I hope that my answers will help you in writing the paper. If there will be English version of it, I'd be more than happy to read that.

Good luck in writing and stay heavy!

Mateusz 'watman' Wata