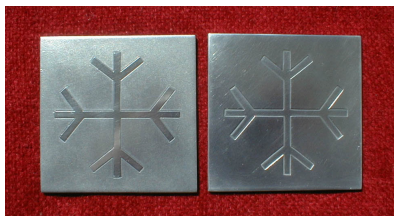


Beast Of Prey Magazin (PL)

Der Arbeiter interview by Stark (December 2006)

1. Let's start from the beginning. When did you find out that you want to be a musician? Was it an spontaneous decision or long-term process?

I think it was a rather spontaneous decision, although I've always had a close relationship with music, understood as an expression of the soul. To compose and arrange sounds is a sort of alchemical process, linked to craftsmanship. I like to work with metals...and sounds, too.



2. Could you tell me few words about your first musical experiences. Was there something before DER ARBEITER?

I started back in 2001 to use some very basic WIN95 software for editing and sequencing, first as a sort of "divertimento", then I found some results good enough to think of complete songs. At that time I was very involved with Allerseelen's music; I had just listened to Neuschwabenland CD and found it absolutely brilliant. So I sent Gerhard a couple of these "songs", he liked them and suggested some future collaboration for compilations, etc. This way I was later invited by him to take part in Wir Rufen Deine Wölfe...

3. Why "DER ARBEITER"? Is it referring to Ernst Junger works?



I just chose that name inspired in the image of the Worker, understood as a dynamic principle of transformation. From an aesthetic point of view, the worker also incarnates the idea of precision, strength, will of order, etc. In short, the negation of entropy. Later I came in touch with Jünger's work, and as you might guess it made a lot of sense...It is my will to create music that expresses the same principles.

4. What musicians were the greatest influences in the beginnings of your project?

I was very fond on some of the European dark-neofolk-industrial scene, specifically the projects related to World Serpent label. I loved Current 93, Death in June, Sol Invictus, all those great bands which today have achieved the status of "cult" (I even managed to travel to London and visit WS headquarters...this was back in 1996!). Other influences were bands like Laibach, Blood Axis, etc. all of them related by the similar aesthetics and conceptual background.

5. I suppose that in South America martial/industrial music isn't really that "popular" like in Europe, or am I wrong? How did you get in touch with this kind of music?

"This kind of music" requires a spiritual disposition which is, in general terms, absent from the average South American. (This absence increases as you get closer to the Equator line). I came in touch with some bands like DJJ and Current 93 at the university. Me and some friends, who were mainly interested in industrial acts like Einstuerzende Neubauten, Skinny Puppy, Throbbing Gristle, etc, slowly became involved in the martial-neofolk-ritual field.

6. I haven't heard your two first releases ("Trabajos" and "Nos). Could you compare them with "Reflejos del Sol"?



Reflejos del Sol is a final compilation of the songs included in Trabajos and Nos. Before these, I had made some unpublished demos. For sure, they should never see the light of day! My first attempts were based in an extensive use of sampling, then I gradually moved towards a more natural, organic sound.

7. I'd say that the trademark of "Reflejos del Sol" is that (almost "dance") beat. Did the idea of using it so extensive came naturally?



My intention was to develop a sort of conservative-avant garde posture via music. Beat & Dance technology is a trade mark of our time, so I chose to walk the narrow edge between tradition and modernity. This is directly opposed as a mere folkloric, nostalgic approach to tradition, which leads to more contemplative ways. Evola v/s Guenon...

8. I know that in case of lyrics your great inspiration are such poets and writers like Hölderlin, R. M. Rilke, Meister Eckhart, and Miguel Serrano . Could you tell me something more about their influence on you?

All of these authors are linked by the same ancestral spirit; their words are genuine "Echoes from Hyperborea". They share the same solar, aural perspective of life, and the will of absolute transcendence. Specially Miguel Serrano, an extraordinary man which I am lucky to know personally. His life is a faithful expression of these principles.

9. Tell me about your cooperation with Divine Comedy. Will the next album also be released for them?

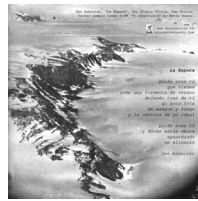
Divine Comedy was and is a very good choice for me, serious guys focused on music. Fabrice has been really kind, so my next album will probably be released by them. There are other forthcoming projects, a compilation of DC bands in which I will take part with a split song made with Horologium...

10. I'd like to ask you about next full-length DER ARBEITER album. Will it be in the same musical vein as "Reflejos del Sol"? When can we expect its releasing?



"Holzwege" (Wood Paths) has a different taste, it is more intimate and introspective than "Reflejos..." I am using more acoustic elements, vocals and guitar, but always combined with a synthetic rhythmic basis. As I've said somewhere else, it is "music for dusk time"...It should be released mid-2007. A curious fact is that it will include a cover version of an old Amon Duul II song called "Deutsch Nepal", just like the CMI band. It is a great song with a heavy martial feeling, originally composed in 1973!. Other song I would like to cover for a next release would be Hawkwind's "Master of the Universe". What a title, he he...

11. You've taken part in two fantastic compilations "Wir Rufen Deine Wolfe" and "Gloria Victis Vae Victis". Could you compare those two releases? Which one has greater value for you? (Yes, I know it's hard question ;))



This is just like comparing two good wines. Concerning the songs, "Wir Rufen..." is strong and acid, like a Cabernet from Colchagua Valley (Chile), while "Gloria Victis" is a sweet and delicate one...a Late Harvest. Both of them have the same importance for me. The song I made for Wir Rufen.. was praised by ones and criticized by others, because it did not fit with an standard neo folk tune, due to the extensive use of drum machines, synths, etc etc. A crime for the folky orthodox! The song I wrote for Gloria Victis is called "La Espera" (The Waiting), a song full of nostalgia, built up from a sample taken from an old 70's Italian song. Despite of it's apparent simplicity, it has a lot of occult meaning...

12. What 5 albums you'd take with you on a desert island?

*For those sunny, bright days, Forseti's "Windzeit"
For night time, Allerseelen's "Neuschwabenland"
For dawn, Harvest Rain's "Blood Hymns"
For dusk, DJ's "Corn Years" CD
For "abduction time", Inade's "Aldebaran"*

13. Are there any other interesting musical projects in Chile? Or maybe do you know something worth attention from such countries like for example Venezuela or Peru?

Sincerely I am not very fond on the South American scene, if there is any, neither the Chilean one. Anyway, there are interesting Chilean bands like Luna in Caelo, more in the dark-ethereal field, who signed for Palace of Worms label some time ago. Also Kutna Hora from Argentina...From Perú, just a couple of good comrades and a beautiful, impressive landscape! Venezuela, Colombia? I really doubt there might be any martial-neofolk band, considering the cultural substratum plus the warm, tropical weather, as I've stated above...could you imagine a coloured clone of Der Blutharsch performing in a tropical beach, surrounded by palms, coconuts, "señoritas", etc? Kind of surrealistic scene, isn't it?

14. I'd like to ask you about standard of living in Chile. I know that they have hard times in Argentina, but how is it in your country?

Chile is often compared with countries like Poland and others from Eastern Europe. In macro-economical terms, it shows a great, steady improvement in the last 12 years, but these statistics are dissociated from the "real life". You still find clusters of poverty, not just in the economical, but rather in a cultural sense. Despite of this, In the latin American context, we are well evaluated by the "big brother" EEUU, because Chile is a sort of "good partner" full aligned with globalism and capitalism...It's a pity.

15. Is reign of Pinochet still noticeable after all those years since its falling?

Right now he is about 88-89, and has been very ill...His influence is already weak, and will definitely disappear in one or two more generations (20-40 years), because the people that lived and suffered directly the military coup (from both sides, left&right) will all be quite old or simply dead.

16. What was the most glorious moment in the history of your country?

I wouldn't mention a specific event like a battle or something like that. As you might know, Chile is a narrow border of 4000 km between Pacific Ocean and the Andes, with the shape of a sword. This configuration generates cyclic events like natural disasters, floods, big earthquakes, etc, which lead to prove the strength and braveness of our people. The capability of rising again and again, after the disaster, is always a glorious-miraculous situation.



17. Do you believe in Eternal Love?



What is Eternal Love? For me, it's just a couple of images and ancient memories from a distant past. They re-appear from time to time, in different shapes: a special place, a person you meet, a song you hear...

18. Is there any place on Earth where you especially would like to go?

Although I went to Europe once, I just did the occidental tour: Spain-France-England. I would really like to visit the countries of Eastern Europe, like yours. Poland, Rumania, Hungary, etc...Searching for a more in-depth, ancestral experience.

19. If there would be possibility to ressurect only one person from the past, who is dead for a long time, who would you choose?

The One I would choose is actually "resurrected"...and he is not precisely Jesus Christ, he he!

20. What would you like to achieve with DER ARBEITER in the future?

I would like to make of Der Arbeiter not just a band, but rather an art collective of people sharing similar ideas, using diverse media (painting, digital media-web art, etc.) This might lead to wider horizons...

21. Thank you very much for your time, Juan. Last words are yours.

Thank you for this opportunity to share these visions. Hope to visit your country soon...Greetings from the Andes!

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