

Evermore, and the timeless classic ballad "Stairway To Heaven", etc. This was to be their milestone and the album remained in the charts for more than 5 years! Led Zeppelin had come of age and they were ready to rock the world. They remained a dominant force throughout the '70s-- becoming one of Atlantic Records' money-spinners while receiving innumerable accolades from the leading rock critics and magazines (Creem, Kerang, Rolling Stones etc.). Unbeknownst to many, Led Zeppelins' vast portfolio of fans also included such luminaries like the late great Ananda Shankar (nephew of sitar maestro Ravi Shankar).

Another striking feature of the band was their album covers. Done by the legendary Hypnosis (of Pink Floyd, Yes fame), LZ's album covers were works of art. An example of Hypnosis' famed creations can be seen in Led Zeppelins 1975 classic double album Physical Graffiti - one of the most expensive album covers in the history of music. Notwithstanding the great music, one could easily spend hours just toying with the album cover. Incidentally, Physical Graffiti debuted in #1 in the album charts of UK and became one of the fastest selling albums of all time.

Tragedy struck the band with the premature death of drummer John Bonham in 1980. Eleven years and 9 albums later, Led Zeppelin disbanded in 1981. However, the band's music still reverberates across the radio airwaves, for any self respecting rock n roll station worth its name will regularly play Led Zeppelin tunes while leading rock clubs from London to New York are always paying tribute to them. At one time, some critics even labeled some bands (notably Whitesnake) as "Zeppelin clones" - disparaging perhaps, but true, nevertheless.

As for the heavy metal/hard rock aficionados, there were a number of US bands who, perhaps not as forceful as their UK counterparts, did contribute significantly towards the development of heavy metal/hard rock music. Bands like Blue Oyster Cult, Aerosmith, Steppenwolf, Grand Funk Railroad, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Ted Nugent, Iron Butterfly, Van Halen did have their outbursts of creativity in this realm of music in the '70s.

I grew up to the sounds of these bands and their music still invokes sweet memories from my bygone days. I am not ashamed to admit, that a quarter century later, I still get goosebumps and feel the adrenaline rush every time I hear Led Zeppelin's crashing intro of the track Rock'n'Roll.

It has, in the words of Led Zeppelin, "Been a long time since I Rock'n'Roll..."

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