

Tape: 5

Side I Denise Levertov reading, no date or place noted.

0-22 street sounds
 22-32 The Departure
 32-45 Illustrious Ancestors
 45-56 The Birth
 56-73 The Turning
 73-166 Poems from Manhattan
 166-195 Something
 195-210 People at Night
 210-242 Central Park: Winter, after Sunset
 242-252 An Infant
 252-272 Jackson Square
 272-286 ?
 286-313 Beyond the End
 313-333 The Gypsy's Window (?)
 333-359 The Lovers
 359-374 The Fourth Dimension
 374-405 Everything That Acts is Actual
 405-417 The Marriage I
 417-425 The Marriage II
 425-439 Lame Duck
 439-467 The Mexican Poems, The Bird
 467-485 ?
 485-503 The Springtime
 503-522 Overland to the Islands
 522-550 Sunday Afternoon
 550-574 Lonely Man
 574-590 Action
 590-607 ?
 607-645 Aztec poems
 645-662 1:00 A.M.
 662-682 The Sharks
 682-699 Broken Glass
 699-718 Triple Feature
 718-745 The Lagoon
 745-770 The Whirlwind
 770-797 Scenes From the Life of Pepper Trees I
 797-823 " " " " " " " " II & III
 823-847 Supermarket in Guadalajara, Mexico
 847-889 Pleasure
 889-937 Pure Products
 937-969 The Five Day Rain

Paul Blackburn Tape Collection

Tape: 5 (continued)

Side II Denise Levertov continued; Robert Creeley
reading; pop music.

Levertov
0-77 A Letter
77-105 Notes for "The Stair"
105-135 The Artist (trans. from Toltec)
135-148 Seems Like We must Be Somewhere Else
148-164 The Lost Black & White Cat
172-189 ?
172-205 Another Journey
221 To Take-Off

Creeley
221-264 The Door
265-272 The Hill
273-294 The Hero
295-303 A Gift of Great Value
304-312 My Love

313-end pop music

AN INDEX TO THE PAUL BLACKBURN TAPE COLLECTION

The Paul Blackburn Tape Collection represents one of the great resources to modern literary history. The poet, Paul Blackburn (1926-1971) was, in addition to his talents as poet, translator and editor, a great supporter of an ongoing oral tradition in poetry. He organized and attended poetry readings in New York City during the fifties and sixties at St. Marks, Le Metro, Deux Megots, Max's Kansas City and other bars and clubs. He organized his own poetry radio show, "Contemporary Poetry" on WBAI in New York. And he collected tapes from his friends and from these readings throughout his life, maintaining what is now recognized as one of the largest oral history collections in the country.

At his death in 1971, UCSD purchased Paul Blackburn's entire Archive, including poetry manuscripts, notebooks, letters and his tape collection. Paul Dressman and I have spent the past year listening to all of his tapes, annotating which poets read and which poems are read. We found that there are a wide variety of tapes which fit, more or less, into six categories: 1) whole tapes of Paul Blackburn reading in public and in private; 2) tapes of group readings or lectures in public; 3) recordings of conversations among Blackburn and his friends; 4) recordings made from the radio and television (such significant events as the first Sputnik orbit, the first Moon landing, presidential inaugural speeches, etc.); 5) taped "letters" from friends living in various parts of the world; 6) miscellaneous music and sounds. This latter category is interesting if only for locating the particular city ambiance in which Blackburn lived (and wrote poems) day-to-day.

Michael Davidson
June 23, 1975

Paul Blackburn Audio Collection

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