

Tape: 10

CC 165

A Christmas letter from Julio Cortazar to Paul Blackburn in December, 1960.

Side I

Cortazar speaks in English and Spanish about recent events in his life, about Blackburn's work, American music, Spanish and French literature, including readings. Blackburn made extensive notes on this tape: see ditto in tape box or Blackburn Mss. collection.

Some highlights on Side I:

62-82

Cortazar speaking of Blackburn's poetry.

215-262

Cortazar singing Paz's Piedra de Sol with drum.

759-887

Cortazar reading several of his own poems.

There are several other speakers on Side I, including Cortazar's French translator reading Henri Michaux; a man named Eduardo reading an Artaud letter; a woman named Alessandra reading a Verlaine poem; an Argentine poet named Amiand Cardacayu (?) reading his own poems.

Side II

Cortazar and others continue the letter.

Some highlights on Side II:

1-27

Cortazar reading a translation of Blackburn's poem, "Plaza Real."

96-112

Cortazar speaking of the poet and the poem, of memory and love.

112-455

Cortazar reading from his own prose.

925-1,137

Cortazar on Argentina, his job at UNESCO, description of burning ghats in India.

## 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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