

Paul Blackburn Tape Collection

Tape: 78

Side I Paul Blackburn reading at Bard College,
October, 1965.

1-10 Introduction.
11-19 Political Poem
20-31 I Know a Man
32-66 The Sea & the Shadow
67-82 Lower-case poem
83-100 The Proposition
101-115 The Once-Over
116-135 Encounter
136-141 Eventide
142-166 Night Cappy
167-523 poems from In, On, or About the Premises.

Side II Blackburn reading at Bard College, continued.

1-18 Accidents
19-26 untitled stink
27-43 The Omen
44-59 In the Soup
60-86 Faces I
87-105 Out into the Bay by Night
106-110 The Siege
111-127 Torch Ballad for John Spicer
128-152 Poor Dog
153-163 A.M.
164-176 To Do, To Wake
177-185 The Leftovers
186-193 Mooncrack
194-206 The Slogan
207-212 The Pain
213-229 Hesper Adest
230-234 Ya Lift a Cold One
235-242 Political Poem 4
243-251 Chick Corea
252-268 Cancer Ejaculations
269-282 Fishing in the Dark Pools of the Mind
283-304 Getting One and Off
305-333 Origins
334-358 Slippers, Anyone?
359-367 Hands
368-381 The Latitudes
382-388 Catherine at Evening
389-409 Newsclips
410-477 poems from The Cities.
778-end blank.

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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