

Tape: 43-A

cc 203

Side I Robert Duncan reading at Brooklyn, May 15,
1964.

1-83 Night Songs
84-200 Shelley's Arethusa Set to New Measures
201-308 After Reading H.D.'s Hermetic Definitions
309-360 Returning to a Rhetoric of an Earlier Mode
361-430 Ballad of the Forfar Witches
431-460 Country Wife Ballad
461-510 A Suite of Romantic Hymns
511-748 talk.
749-807 Sonnets 1. 2. 3.
808-1,171 Epilogos

Side II Continuation of Duncan reading; Louis
Zukofsky reading; Paul Blackburn reading;
miscellaneous music.

Duncan
23-109 Structure of Rime 20
Passages 106

109-188 mariachi music.

Zukofsky
188-293 A-7 & A-11
294-343 translations from Catullus

Blackburn
343-541 translations from Provencal.
542-869 from The Cities (variant reading in Ritual
IX)

870-875 spoken haiku.
876-1,207 poems from In. On. or About the Premises.

1,208-end 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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