

Paul Blackburn Tape Collection

Tape: 256

Side I Anslem Poltor and James Bertolino reading
at Cortland, no date.

	Poltor
1-26	Field Witch
27-51	Stone Quarry
52-69	Eel Grass
70-85	The Gull
86-102	Messages
103-115	Hunger
116-548	A Change and other poems

	Bertolino
550-595	Love's Body Consumed
596-621	Elegy
622-644	Divide Again
645-661	I Had a Packard
662-678	Dance of Guilt
679-687	Crossing Quickly
688-695	Green Morning
696-700	The Dream
701-1,318	Lizard and other poems

Side II Harry Lewis reading at Cortland, no date.

1-28	First Long Walk in Merida
29-76	The Hidden Language
77-92	Giving Hours
93-108	Waiting in Merida
109-137	Miami
138-154	The Fear
155-162	By Afternoon
163-170	Dear Brother
171-285	Against Dark Hours
286-695	Warmth of Children and others
696-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

Digitized version made available by



Copyright: Under copyright

Use: This work is available from the UC San Diego Library. This digital copy of the work is intended to support research, teaching, and private study.

Constraints: This work is protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). Use of this work beyond that allowed by "fair use" requires written permission of the copyright holder(s). Responsibility for obtaining permissions and any use and distribution of this work rests exclusively with the user and not the UC San Diego Library. Inquiries can be made to the UC San Diego Library program having custody of the work.

The UC San Diego Library makes effort to ensure that it has appropriate rights to provide access to content through the Digital Collections Website. If you are concerned about the rights or permissions, please review the Notice and Takedown Policy: <https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/p/takedown>.