

Tape: 10-B

CC 167

A tape that, on Side II, has Octavio Paz reading his poems in Spanish and Paul Blackburn reading the English translations.

Side I A conversation between Freddy (?) and Paul Blackburn, and miscellaneous music.

1-300 The conversation. It seems to have been taped from the telephone. The woman, Freddy, is speaking to Blackburn concerning her poems.

300-368 music.

368-end blank.

Side II Octavio Paz and Paul Blackburn. Blackburn marked this as a "test tape." It may have been a practice session for a reading of Octavio Paz with Blackburn doing the English translations.

1-22	Introductory remarks in Spanish and English.
23-77	No Hay Salida
79-129	The Endless Instant [Eng. trans. by Blackburn
129-133	El Dia Abre La Mano [Sp. & Eng.
134-142	Nada(?) Entrevista [" "
143-156	Dos Cuerpos [" "
157-173	La Calle [" "
174-248	El Rio [Spanish
249-318	The River [English
325-460	El Cantaro Roto [Spanish
461-589	The Broken Water Jar [English
591-660	Duracion [Sp. & Eng.
661-694	Cosante [" "
695-745	Fabula
749-end	music: Songs from the works of Chaucer.

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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