

Paul Blackburn Tape Collection

Tape: 254

- Side I
- Letter from Paul Blackburn to Julio Cortazar, with Blackburn reading poetry, miscellaneous music.
- 1-106 Blackburn and son, Carlos, speaking
- Blackburn reads
- 1-106 The ~~Slope~~ *Saigon Suite*
- 107-120 untitled
- 121-128 Changes
- 129-184 From ~~All~~ *All* Places to the Tangiers Medina
- 185-199 Journal, March, 1970
- 200-216 Journal
- 217-240 Pop music
- 241-276 Blackburn speaks to Cortazar of recent events
- Blackburn reads
- 277-377 Alice's Restaurant
- 378-399 commentary on poem
- 400-449 Ritual I
- 450-527 Spring Thing
- 528-572 Repetitions
- 573-624 High Noon
- 625-643 ~~Sump~~ *Mine Sump*
- 644-658 Puerto Rico
- 659-670 untitled
- 671-693 untitled
- 694-740 Some Silly Tree
- 741-755 Who Was With You
- 756-848 Journal, 1970
- 849-964 Directions to Get There
- Side II
- Continuation of Blackburn letter to Cortazar, pop music.
- 1-11- music
- 111-185 Blackburn speaks to Cortazar
- Blackburn reads
- 186-247 August, ~~1970~~ *1968*, Journal
- 248-290 February Journal, 1969, Heat
- 291-322 Spring Journal, 1969
- 323-330 The Beat
- 331-355 A Different Poem
- 356-890 selected Journals
- 891-912 Mayakovsky
- 913-end To Cortazar's Place

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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