

Tape: 83

CC 247

Side I Duke Ellington jazz.

Side II Gil Sorrentino reading--no place or date listed.

13-30 There is a Sound of Birds
 31-67 The Stupid Painter Paints
 68-93 World is Aflame
 94-107 What is to be Understood
 108-134 People in Hell are Clothed
 135-153 A Stinking City Full of Stinking People
 154-173 The Way to the Rock on the Heart
 174-189 The Troops that Move in the Sun
 190-208 Here in the Center / a Vacuum
 209-238 reads Eric Weinberger's poem, For Me.
 239-269 There is a Woman in It, Always, For Me
 270-299 Take a Card, Any Card
 300-322 reads WCW poem, The Black Cat Is
 323-340 Happy / Man, He Thinks
 341-395 Pentagram
 396-416 Clairvoyant Perception of a Distant Balloon
 Accident
 417-436 Vivid is the Word
 437-473 My Old Hat
 474-500 Such a Long Walk to Get Out
 501-566 A Door That Opens On
 567-600 A Red Sun is Going Down Somewhere
 601-658 Poem for Max
 659-691 But the Light
 692-726 Mother, This is a Field of Color
 727-785 A Baffle for Rats
 786-806 A Little Song
 807-887 The Sons of Art
 888-999 The Woman has Gone Forth from Reality
 (incomplete).

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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